

# 2015

## SHIVYAWATA & UNDER THE SAME SUN



9/18/2015

## **FINDINGS FOR THE DISABILITY THEMATIC REPORT**

1. We understand the fact that the government has prosecuted the perpetrators of killing of persons with albinisms as well as enacting People with Disability Act no, 9 of 2010 which has laid down a remarkable foundation in protection of PWDs still killings and mutilations of persons with albinisms still the society has not been reached and informed of the importance of PWDs protection. This work of raising awareness is mainly done by DPOs and CSOs which however lack sufficient funds, equipments and motor vehicles.
2. Findings indicate that 286 suspects are arrested and taken to court, 30 found guilty, 35 files are under police prosecution and 193 prosecutions is in progress. Nevertheless Security of Person with Albinism failed to stabilize due to ongoing attacks and killings against people with albinism.
3. Regarding the incidences of Killings PWAs the number is escalating and it is believed mostly the trend is increasing during election seasons; the Minister of home affairs spoke recently about the three killings of PWAs happened in Simiyu, Geita and Singida, and pointed out that 17 suspects were arrested, 7 were left free due to lack of evidence, 7 were taken to court and 3 are still under police prosecution.
4. Despite the development and launching of the guide to teachers on educating students with Albinism (SWAs) with their challenge of low vision in classroom settings by the minister of education and vocational training as well as inaccessible formats to visually impaired students - no more efforts are made to popularize the guide to teachers.
5. Despite the measures taken by the Government in safe guarding PWAs by sending them to centers such as Buhangija – Shinyanga, Mitindo – Mwanza and Kabanga – Kigoma to mention but some – no efforts are made to restore security for the displaced PWAs reunified back to their families.
6. Despite the Government declaration on free healthy services to PWDs, experience reveal that little is done to provide such services to them. In addition, skin cancer treatment should spread to district hospitals for PWAs.
7. Trace method should be applied by social welfare officers to identify historical background of PWAs living in centers for unification.

**Recommendation-The Government is urged to;**

8. Put more efforts with regard to education and awareness creation on the rights of persons with disabilities in the country and the process must fully involve DPOs and CSOs.
9. Government should increase commitment and seriousness in implementing the law protecting PWDs rights and PWDs have to be fully involved in the process.
10. Government should find a better way to apprehend the principle offenders against people with albinism instead of prosecuting only agents of principle offenders.
11. Launch a nationwide education and awareness campaign to prevent stigmatization of persons with albinism to ensure their security and facilitate their equal access to education and employment and the process must fully involve DPOs and CSOs.
12. The Government is recommended to provide prepaid health insurance cards to PWDs to ensure availability of free health services to PWDs.
13. Improve schools and other educational facilities and environments to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.
14. Do more to provide updated and precise statistics on crimes such as assaults on albinos and extra-judicial killings of elderly women, and that murder of elderly women based on accusations of witchcraft is defined as a specific category in police reports.
15. To improve accessibility; it is recommended to grant tax exemption to assistive devices, materials and equipments for PWDs imported from outside.