



**MAY 10, 2018**

## **PRESIDENT LUNGU OPENS 6TH CBR CONFERENCE**



*By Arthur Mwansa*

President Edgar Lungu has said that mobilisation of comprehensive data on the number of persons with disabilities is an important measure to guarantee inclusive development.

The head of State observed that the absence of reliable data on the incidence, distribution and nature

of disability explains why limited progress has been made on issues of disability.

“A comprehensive database is indispensable to the foundation for inclusive development. In fact we don’t know who is disabled and how many are disabled and in what manner. So we cannot provide for them unless we know,” President Lungu said while officially opening the 6th Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa Network conference organised under the theme:

***“Community Based Rehabilitation for Resilience Building and Sustainable Development: Leaving no one behind”***

The on-going conference has attracted over 500 delegates from Africa and beyond and runs from 7th to 12th May. The head of State also told the delegates that his government through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services has commissioned the disability survey in 2016 whose information was ready to inform programming of not only government interventions but also non-governmental organisations and From



**CBR FOR RESILIENCE BUILDING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT : LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND**

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Community Based Rehabilitation  
(CBR) Africa Network (CAN)

## CBR MUST PRODUCE EVIDENT RESULTS—CBR CHAIRPERSON



Mr Musonda Siame

By Mercy Nyangu

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa Network (CAN) Chairperson Musonda Siame has told delegates at the ongoing Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa 2018 Conference to strive for visible results in the delivery of CBR as a service to Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).

Mr Siame was speaking on Wednesday when he gave his address during the official opening of the sixth CBR conference that opened in Lusaka on Tuesday. The official opening was graced by His Excellence Edgar Lungu, president of the Republic of Zambia.

“This conference is an opportunity for information sharing; a lot has been achieved in our various countries. We are working towards a shift from CBR to Community Based inclusive Development (CBID) because it is important for grassroots not to be left behind. The transition must be visible in our programming and service delivery because CBR is about inclusion which must translate into resilience” He said

Mr. Siame further commended the Zambia’s Government’s demonstrated commitment to working towards inclusiveness of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the development agenda. Mr. Siame also commended various stakeholders attending the conference for showing concerted efforts and partnership in driving the disability agenda.

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cooperating partners.

The President has since requested the Ministry of Health to work with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services to ensure that the disability policy was formulated. Mr. Lungu further said there was lack of sufficient data on social demographic characteristics of persons living with disabilities and on their livelihood circumstances.

The President also challenged

engineers in Zambia to ensure they build infrastructure that should be accessed by everyone including persons with disabilities. “We have to change the way we look at persons with disabilities, engineers and planners should think of those who are disabled as they do their planning, policy providers and people who think for the advancement of mankind should not live behind persons who are disabled because we are all

one family,” he said.

“We are deeply honoured that the hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> CBR conference is being hosted in Zambia. This is a manifestation of the confidence that the CBR Network have in the Republic of Zambia. We do not take the hosting of this important gathering lightly because it gives us time and the chance to raise the disability banner even higher in inclusive development,” said President Lungu.

Mr Lungu observed that the com



## WUKASHI WA NZAMBE – “HELPING CWDs TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOD GIVEN PURPOSE”.

By Mercy Nyangu

“Society must learn to look at the child and not the disability” says Joyce Mutembu, a disability rights activist particularly passionate about empowering Children with Disabilities (CWDs) with education. Joyce and her Husband run an organisation called Wukashi Wa Nzambe translated as “The Help of God”. The organisation operates from the Copperbelt province of Zambia.

Joyce was explaining the work of her organisation during a side workshop of the on-going CBR- Africa Conference in Lusaka. Joyce emphasised on the need for tailor-based interventions based on the specific disabilities in order to achieve effective results.

Joyce explained that her organisation works to break down disabling barriers that prevent Zambian children from fulfilling their God-given potential.

“We are a faith- centred programme striving to draw CWDs out of isolation and into the community. We provide physical, practical and spiritual support to children and families; we also assess children and act as a hub for reference to other support systems (medical, schools, mobility aids)” She explained.

Joyce bemoaned the discrimination that continues to exist with regards to access to education for CWDs. She explained that lack of inclusive



schooling hampers opportunities to fulfil potential. She noted that most schools choose to enrol children with a high level of independence from the onset.

“The limited inclusion in education facilities is what pushed us to establish classes to provide initial preparation for the children for easier integration in the education system. We have three classes, based on needs we identified working with the children” she said.

She explained that they have a beginners’ Class which focuses on teaching the children self-care and how to communicate their basic needs. She said this helps children to increase their independence and to fit in to their communities. She further explained that the Academic preparatory class aims at nurturing the intellectual capacity of children, including those with physical impairments which prevent them from

writing

She said after passing through these two classes the children go on to integrate into special schools and sometimes mainstream schools.

“If the children are unable to integrate fully into the education system, we put them in a skills class and they learn activities such as basket weaving and beadwork, which increase coordination and practical skills. We also employ a continuation of intellectual stimulation (numbers, colours, basic literacy etc.) as appropriate. Our aim is to continue activities for daily living. Some develop well and go on to the National Vocation and Rehabilitation Centre in Ndola” she said.

***Lack of inclusive schooling hampers opportunities to fulfil potential. She noted that most schools choose to enrol children with a high level of independence from the onset.***

## PRESIDENT LUNGU'S SPEECH EXCITES DELEGATES



By Lillian Banda

Delegates at the on-going Sixth Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) conference have lauded Zambian Republican President His Excellency Edgar C. Lungu for delivering what they called a warm and progressive speech.

Those we talked to; said the head of state demonstrated commitment and assurance with regard to addressing disability issues in the country. They feel that the speech has a waken interest in everyone to work around issues of PWDs.

“I feel it was a very inspiring and encouraging speech in that the president sought to reach out to PWDs in a warm way. He demonstrated passion for inclusive programmes for PWDs,” enthused Lackson Chipato.

Mr. Chipato who is visually impaired also said the fact that the president came in person was encouraging and has built hope that the government will be putting emphasis on disability issues as well as other development issues. He also appealed to government ensure that PWDs also occupy strategic positions so as to influence policy formulation and implementation.

“Everyone wants to run with what the president shows interest in. It is now expected that there will be tangible investments in issues of disabilities,” says Programme Manager Archie Hinchcliffe Disability Intervention (AHDI), Ms Getrude Kapulisa.

Ms. Kapulisa adds that it was also good that planners and engineers have been challenged to ensure that they design and come up with infrastructure that is user friendly to PWDs.

“The head of state said that they should be mindful when they are putting up structures so that they can be accessed by PWDs. Engineers should receive training in matters of disability so that they can ensure improved access to public buildings and other infrastructure, because accessibility is key,” said during the on-going sixth Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Conference.

Ms Kapulisa, further pointed out that the transition from CBR to Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) requires investing in technologies and ideas that not only focus on PWDs but also the environment and the general population.

The Federation of Disability Organisation in Malawi (FEDOMA) described the president’s speech as one which carried some good promises. The organisation observes that the fact that the president acknowledged the gaps that currently exist with regard to addressing issues of PWDs in the country makes dialogue around coming up with sustainable solutions to challenges confronting the disability population much easier.

“It is one thing for a country or a government to acknowledge its shortcomings. It gives some room and time to work on those gaps that currently exist and measures that can be put in place to enhance the lives of PWDs,” explains Action Amos, FEDOMA Executive Director.

Mr. Amos has also commended Zambia for having in place fairly good laws and policies aimed at responding to challenges confronting the disability community and implore the Zambian community to focus on ensuring that what is contained in the said documents is made a reality.

“Zambia has good laws and policies to respond to challenges affecting PWDs compared to other African countries. What remains is just enforcement and of these laws and policies. One lesson that we can share is having a mainstreaming strategy for disability. Disability should no longer be an issue for any relevant line ministry but should cut across all ministries so that they all take on issues of disability,” Mr. Amos observed.



Lackson Chipato

## POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IS KEY TO EFFECTIVE INCLUSION

*By Arthur Sikopo*

Implementation of disability related policy documents have significant implication on the realisation of inclusiveness of persons with disabilities in most African countries, delegates at the 6th CBR Africa Conference held in Lusaka, Zambia have observed.

According to Dr. Martha Banda Chalwe of the University of Zambia's School of Health Sciences, lack of implementation of existing policy documents and guidelines often disadvantages persons with disabilities.

Speaking during the second day of the conference, Dr. Chalwe further expressed concern that in certain instances policy documents do not even exist which makes it even more challenging in attaining inclusiveness for persons with disabilities.

She thus observed the need to have increased awareness on the Rights of persons with disabilities. She said Human Resource Officers both in Private and Public entities ought to be sensitised on the provisions of a number of policy documents

such as the Persons with Disability Act of 2012 which states that a certain percentage of jobs should be allocated to persons with disabilities. Dr. Chalwe said the recruiting officers must be made to start implementing such.

The Act demands that every institution or company must ensure that a defined percentage of their workers must be persons with disabilities. But who can attest to say the 'in my ministry as PS (permanent secretary) I have so many persons that have been employed in my time here'. She has since suggested that there should be penalties for defaulting institutions that do not fulfil the

required percentage as outlined in the legislation.

She however commended Zambia's President His Excellence Edward Lungu for showing commitment on promoting rights of PWDs. The President in his opening address of the 6th CBR Africa conference expressed interest in actualisation of policy documents and further promised do more in terms of inclusion of persons with disability in national and developmental issues.

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## PHOTO FOCUS



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mitment to host the conference depicts the tremendous country's firm belief of not living anyone behind, thereby upholding the values of Christianity for each other.

He added that the country's constitution upholds people's right to freedom of conscience, belief or religion and their right to freely participate in national development regardless of their disability, gender or ethnicity.

President Lungu said the constitution which is the supreme law of the land also underscores the equal worthiness of children, women and men regardless of their disability and social status. The head of State also told the delegates the Government through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services commissioned the disability survey in 2016 whose information was ready to inform programming of not only Government institutions but non-governmental organisations and cooperating partners.

# Persons with disability need more political participation opportunities

By Lillian Banda

Lack of quality data on disability issues has hindered progress with regard to developing policies that adequately respond to poverty reduction in general and among Persons with disabilities in particular asserts Dr. Jack Bwalya.

Dr. Bwalya was speaking during the parallel sessions and discussions, dubbed Action Research, documentation, and information sharing, at the on-going sixth CBR Africa conference.

While presenting a paper we shall not leave anyone behind; Zambian electorate's perception of people with disabilities and their voting preferences, Dr Bwalya noted the need to come up with programmes that remedy PWDs under representation in the political space because there is currently nothing to talk about.

He explained that PWDs are disproportionately discriminated against and they are underrepresented in the political arena. "There is no information to us to make sound policies that respond to the needs of the people in general and persons with disabilities because we have not invested in research. Much of the information is based of quantitative research, which in itself is not enough for the development of sound policies," he argued.

He notes that calls to have PWDs fully engaged in politics will not be realised unless no proper mechanisms are put in place. "Persons with disabilities lack access to information for them to actively participate in political processes. Some of them have openly indicated that they would like to vie for political office but lack information about how to go about it," said Dr. Bwalya.

According to the Afrobarometer Round five (5) for



Zambia, 64.2 % of the respondents indicated that they would vote for a candidate with a disability for political office. The survey questioned respondents as to whether or not they would vote for a political candidate with a disability.

The Afrobarometer survey is an independent research project that measures the social, political and economic atmosphere in Africa. "There is a statistically significant difference between young and old age in the inclination to vote for disabled candidates. On the other hand, there is no statistically significant difference between middle age and old age group. Compared to respondents in the younger age group, respondents in the older age group are reported more likely to vote for a disabled candidate. Regarding education, it was found that people with middle and high levels of education reported themselves as more likely to vote for a candidate who has a disability for political office," explained Dr. Bwalya.

An international disability rights advocate from Nigeria observed that leaving no one behind is something that requires investing in the visibility of PWDs. "There still exist stereotypes resulting from disability. We need political will and to work collectively to remove barriers that impede PWD to participate effectively in the development processes.



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