

Guidelines on Elections of People with Disabilities

To

Local Government and Administration Councils 2001/2

October 2001

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 1995 Uganda Constitution clearly spells out under the National Directive Principals of state Policy and objectives that: - " The State shall ensure gender balance and fair representation of marginalized groups on all constitutional and other bodies". Subsequent to fulfilling this objective, the Local Government Act of 1997 took into account representation of people with disabilities into Local Government structures. The term of their office is expiring soon; preparations are under way by Electoral Commission and NUDIPU to get new people in the next round of elections. These guidelines, therefore, are to equip NUDIPU mobilisers with relevant information and techniques to ensure successful formation of structures for election of people with disabilities to the Local Government and Administration Councils for the period 2002 – 2006/7.

2. PURPOSE OF THE ELECTIONS

The purpose of the elections is to ensure that persons with disabilities actively participate in the Local Government decision making bodies on matters that affect their lives so as to bridge the existing gap between them and the rest of the other citizens.

3.0 DEFINITION OF A PERSON WITH DISABILITY

A person with a disability is defined as a person with functional limitations and or activity restrictions. (*According to the Local Government Act, persons with disability(ies) are defined as persons having individual physical or mental impairment which in their individual capacities substantially limit one or more of the major life activities of those persons*).

Such people include people affected with polio, epilepsy, leprosy, hunchbacks, deformed limbs(arms and legs), amputated legs and arms, visually impaired (Blind), hearing impaired(deaf) and people with mental defects, skin disability i.e. albinos. People with scars, bald heads, and such conditions that have no bearing on functional limitations and stigma are not people with disabilities.

3.1 Functional limitations

These include some of the following difficulties:

- Moving including fingering, gripping and holding
- Seeing difficulties excluding eye defects that can be corrected
- Speaking, hearing, understanding speech
- Feeling (reduced skin sensation)
- Learning (acquisition of knowledge) skills + behaviour
- Memory
- Self-awareness or decreased awareness

- Impaired consciousness

3.2 Activity restrictions

These include some of the following difficulties a person has with: -

- Personal care (dressing, bathing, eating, drinking, toileting etc)
- Mobility (moving in bed, sitting, standing, walking, running)
- Communicating
- Participation in education
- Work performance
- Behaviour and socialising
- Childcare

Functional and activity restrictions may vary from very light to very severe conditions depending on individuals and the availability of or access to assistive devices and other support services e.g. personal assistants such as sign language interpreters, sight-guiding and helpers.

4.0 COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCILS

Councils shall be composed of representatives from electoral areas such as the women, youth and persons with disabilities. This is at all levels from village council (LC I) up to the District Council(LCV). For the purposes of this document, emphasis will be put on representatives of persons with disabilities to the councils.

(a) Local Government Councils:-

These councils have legislative Executive and Administrative functions. These Councils will be structured as follows and do include:

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--|
| (i) | <u>District Council(LC V)</u> | -Two persons with disabilities specifically one male and one female. The chairperson of the District Council will appoint his Executive Committee. |
| (ii) | <u>Sub County Council</u> (LCIII) | -Two persons with disabilities i.e. one female and one male. |
| (iii) | <u>City Council(LC V)</u> | -Two persons with disabilities i.e. one female and one male. |

- (iv) Municipal Council(LC IV) -Two persons with disabilities i.e. one female and one male.
- (v) Town Council(LC III) -Two persons with disabilities i.e. one female and one male.
- (vi) Division Council(LC III) -Two persons with disabilities i.e. one female and one male.

(b) Administrative Councils

These councils have mobilisation and advisory roles among other functions and they include:

(i) County Council(LC IV)

Persons with disabilities may or may not have councillors at county level depending on whether they have representation on the Executive Committees of the Sub-county councils. The county council therefore constitutes members of the Executive committees from each sub-county in that county.

(ii) Parish Council (LC II)

The number of Councillors representing Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) at the Parish Council level shall be equivalent to the total number of villages in that parish. The chairperson of the Parish association becomes the Secretary for disability at this level.

(iii) Village Council (LC I)

All citizens with disabilities qualified to vote in a given village shall become members of that village council. There shall be a Secretary for disability affairs who shall be a person with disability at the village level. She/he will be elected by persons with disabilities and shall be the chairperson of the village organisation of persons with disabilities.

(iv) Ward Council (LC II)

A ward is the equivalent of a parish except that it is situated in an urban area. Representation here is similar to that one in a parish.

(v) Zone Council (LC I)

A zone is the equivalent of a village except that it is situated in an urban area. Representation here is similar to that one in a village.

NB In the event of there being no person with disability at village or zone level the positions shall remain vacant until such a time when a legible person is available.

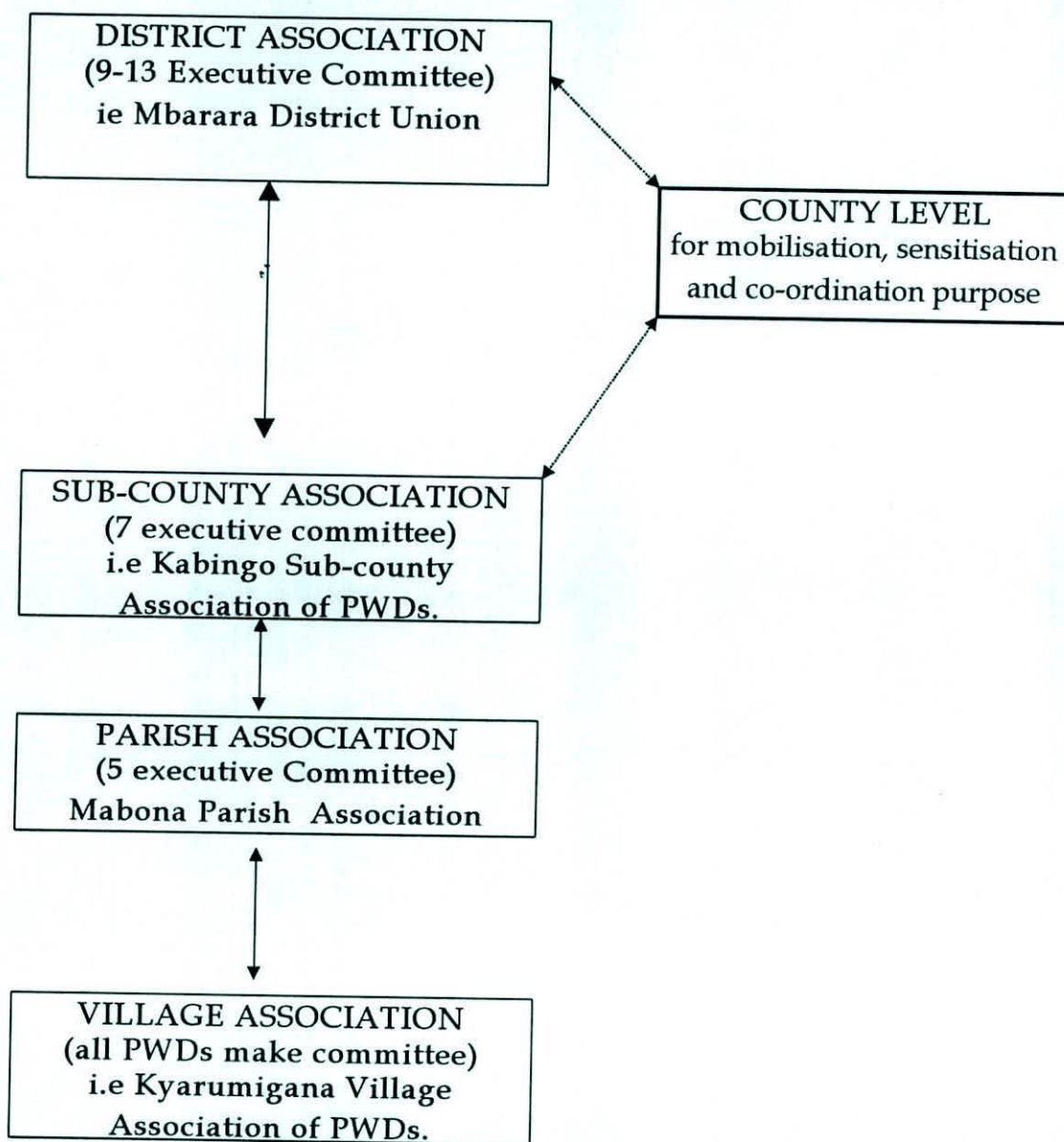
5.0 APPOINTMENTS ON LOCAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

It is a Constitutional function for the chairpersons at both the District (LC V) and sub-county(LC III) levels to appoint members of the Executive Committee. The other councillors only approve names nominated by the Chairperson. Whether persons with disabilities have representatives on the Executive Committee or not depends on their capacity to lobby the chairperson of the sub-county and the quality of the persons with disabilities elected. The Local Government Act (Amendment 2001) provides for the post of Disability and elderly to be held by one of the Secretaries..

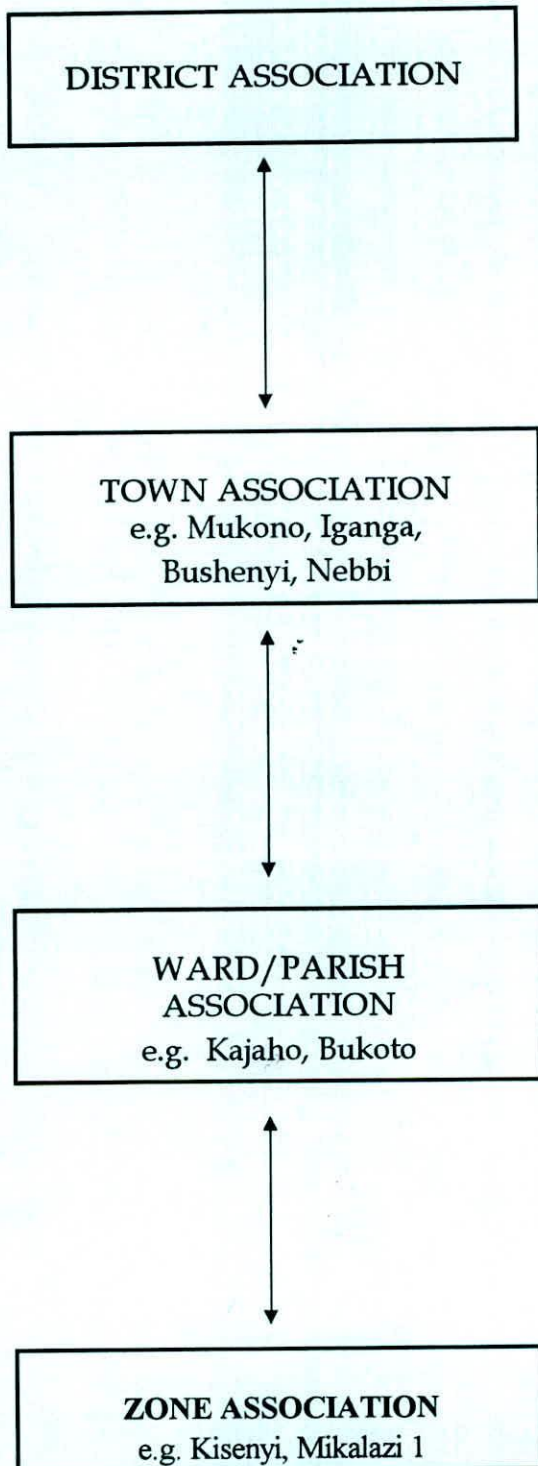
6.0 STRUCTURES OF NUDIPU

6.1 STRUCTURE OF NUDIPU AT DISTRICT LEVEL

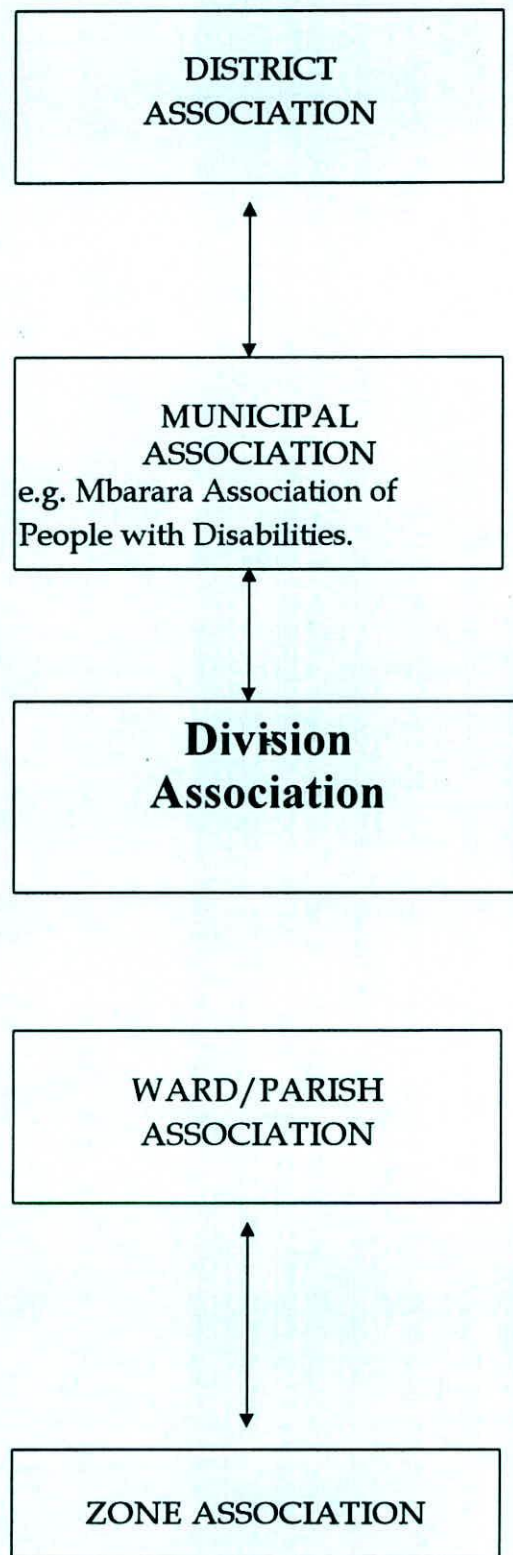
NUDIPU STRUCTURE AT DISTRICT LEVEL - RURAL AREA



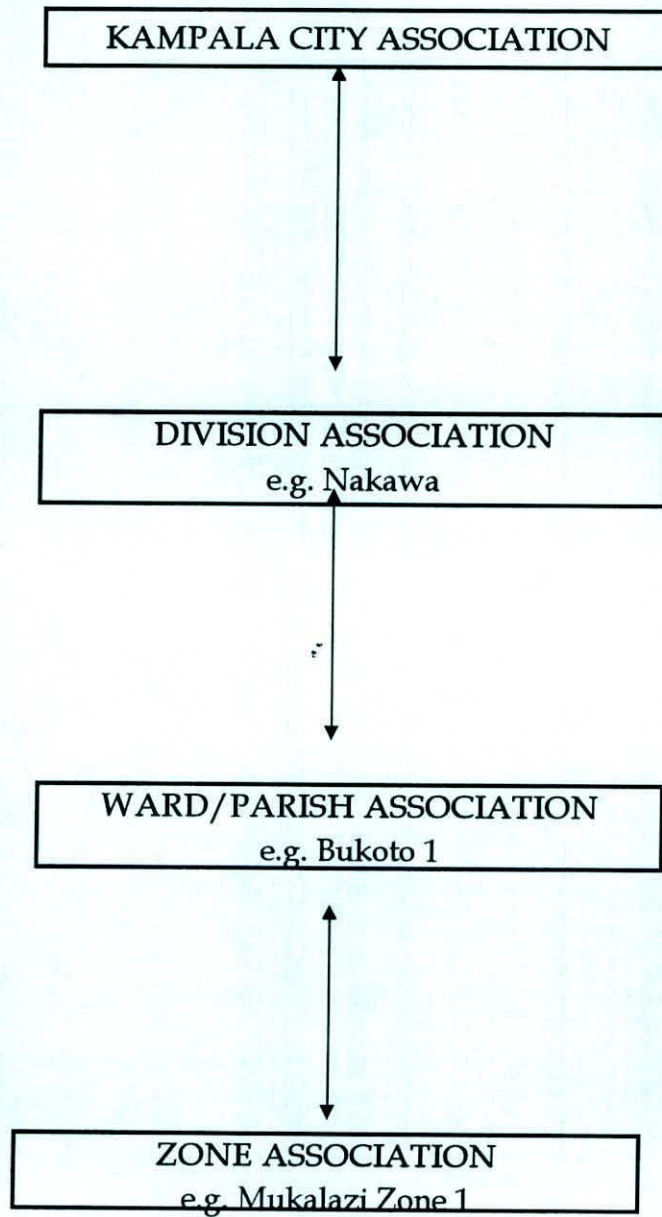
6.2 NUDIPU STRUCTURE IN A TOWN COUNCIL



6.3 NUDIPU STRUCTURE IN A MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



6.4 NUDIPU STRUCTURE IN A CITY



7. PROCEDURE OF ELECTING THE COUNCILLORS

(a) Local Government Councils

(i) District Councillors

- Shall be elected by an electoral college composed of the Executive Committees from sub counties in that District plus the Executive Committee of the District Union.
- Each sub-county Executive Committee shall be composed of 7 people taking into account gender, disability balance and a representative of parents of children with disabilities.
- The number of the members of the District Union Executive Committee will depend on the Constitution of the District Union.

(ii) Sub county councillors

- The Electoral College for the elections of Subcounty Councillors shall be composed of Five persons with disabilities from each parish in the sub-county plus 7 members of the Subcounty Association.
- In electing people to constitute the electoral college, gender, disability balance and representatives of parents of children with disabilities shall be considered.

(iii) City Councillors

- A city is the equivalent of a District and as such the Electoral college is similar to that one in a district.

(iv) Municipal Councillors

- Representation is similar to that one in a sub-county except that the electoral college will be formed from the divisions and the municipality itself, rather than being formed by Executive Committee members from Parishes and the Sub-county as in a (ii) above.

(v) Town Councillors

- The electoral college shall be composed of the Executive Committee members from each ward or parish and the Executive Committee members of the Town association of people with disabilities.
- Gender, disability balance and representation by parents and guardians shall be respected while forming electoral colleges.

- The representatives of parents of children with disabilities shall have the right to vote but not to be voted for.

(vi) Division Councillors

The Electoral college will be formed from wards and the Division itself. The Composition of the electoral college is similar to that one of the sub-county.

(b) Administrative Councillors

County councillors

County Councillors will only be elevated from those already elected as the Executive committees of sub counties i.e.

- No elections are required here
- No Executive Committee is required as well

(ii) Parish/ward councillors

Parish/ward councillors shall be elected from the Executive Committee members of each village or zone.

From the information given above, we need to form associations where these do not exist/ are weak at each of the following levels before elections take place:

- Village
- parish or ward,
- sub-county
- Division
- Town
- Municipality
- District and
- City.

The association at the village level must be formed before the elections of the Secretaries for disability at LC I and LC II and councillors at subsequent levels take place.

8. Specific Tasks for all the Actors/Players

- To establish entry points for mobilisation e.g. LC V Chairperson, RDC, CAO, District Unions, MPs, Stake holders etc. etc.
- To identify venues for the meetings in respective counties i.e. there will be a day sensitisation seminar per county.
- To fix dates ^{time} for the County meetings
- To hold meetings to sensitise PWDs on the electoral process as contained in nos. 1 - 7 above.
- To identify areas that require more attention before the elections are held.
- To report back to NUDIPU using the format given.
- To discuss the report with NUDIPU and lay strategies for the way forward.
- To plan and implement the administrative arrangements with NUDIPU.

9. Central tasks for NUDIPU

- Co-ordination of the above activities
- Mobilisation of resources
- Publicity
- Monitoring and evaluation *of the overall process/Exercise and report back to the electoral commission*
- Laying new strategies *for future*

10. **GUIDELINES FOR SENSITISATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND CHIEFS IN COUNTIES.**

1. **Purpose of the Exercise**

The purpose of the exercise is to provide information on the electoral process of persons with disabilities to councils, formation of associations and structures that will be used in electing the councillors.

2. **Expectations**

The meeting should start with peoples expectations on the elections of persons with disabilities to councils so as to get issues that are not provided for in the main document.

3. **New issues**

The mobiliser should ensure that his/her presentation includes new issues raised in the expectations.

4. **Content of the Presentation**

The presentation should include the following :-

- (a) Types of councils within that District or city.
- (b) Difference between the councils i.e. Local Government Councils and Administrative Councils.
- (c) Number of representatives on each council
- (d) How the councillors will be elected
- (e) Actions required before elections take place
 - Formation of associations at Sub-county and Parish levels in rural areas and at municipal, town, division and ward level within urban areas.
 - Hold General Assemblies for election of Executive Committees at the Subcounty and Parishes.

Actions needed to ensure these happens include:

- (i) Establishment of the sub-county and Parish Executive committees who will follow-up the above process.
 - (ii) Involve the Community Development Assistants and Chiefs to support the work of (i) above.
 - (iii) Lobby the chief Administration Officers RDCs and LC IV Chairpersons to instruct their lower Cadres to support the work of (i) above.
- Identification of issues that will be discussed in the councils i.e. those affecting persons with disabilities.
 - Providing information to the commission on the associations formed and their physical addresses.
- (f) Actions required after elections have taken place.
- Training of councillors in lobbying and advocacy and other relevant areas.
 - Establishing a method to be used by councillors to consult and report back.
- (g) Review of the expectations raised and agreeing on what needs to be done next.
- (i) AOB and Departure.

REPORT FORM FOR MOBILISATION TO FORM ASSOCIATIONS TO ELECT COUNCILLORS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

1. District _____

2. County _____

3. Total number of sub-counties in the county _____

4. Number of sub-counties represented _____

5. Number of sub-counties not represented _____

6. Total number of people who have attended _____

7. Government Officials present:

Names

Titles

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

8. Other NGOs present

Names

Titles

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

9. Summary of peoples expectations on the elections of PWDs

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

10. Summary of reactions from presentation

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

11. Expectations not met

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

12. Reactions not answered

13. Contact people (persons) for each sub-county

Sub-county

Name

Sub-county	Name
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14. Recommendations

15. (a) Name of the mobiliser _____

(b) Name of the organisation mobiliser comes from _____

(c) Signature _____

(d) Date _____

ROLES OF COUNCILLORS FOR PWDS AND THOSE OF NUDIPU ASSOCIATIONS LEADERS

By: Macline Twimukye - Executive Director - NUDIPU

Roles are defined as specific functions an individual or group is expected to perform to achieve a given objective or purpose. The roles of Councillors therefore are a set of functions that they are expected to fulfil and these include:

- To make by-laws for effective governance at all levels in the district.
- To influence by-laws and policies in favour of people with disabilities.
- To initiate the formulation of by-laws and policies for the improvement of the welfare of people with disabilities at all levels in the district.
- To advocate for allocation of resources for programmes of people with disabilities in the district.
- To mobilise people with disabilities at different levels for development.
- To lobby for effective delivery of services to people with disabilities.
- To mobilise resources for the implementation of Councillor's work.
- To attend council sessions and committee meetings regularly.
- To take part in communal and development activities in their electoral area and District as a whole.
- To sensitise the council and the community about disability issues purposely to change the negative attitude of the society towards PWDs.
- To constantly learn and seek information on issues and developments in the disability movement.
- To consult and provide feedback to their Constituencies.
- To network with MPs for PWDs and other political leaders in the District.
- To co-operate with the other Councillors, District Rehabilitation Officer, and leaders of Associations of people with disabilities in District.

For purpose of my presentation I am also focusing on the leaders of the district Unions which are affiliated to NUDIPU.

The role of NUDIPU Associations leaders include the following:

- To formulate policies and make decisions on behalf of the members.
- To supervise the implementation of the district programmes including monitoring the, in and outside the district budgets and expenditure of the Union funds.
- To lobby and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities in the District.
- To monitor and evaluate the District programmes.
- To mobilise resources at district level.
- To identify problem areas that need policies and by-laws at the district and share them with the Councillors for presentation to the council.
- To diagnose and resolve conflicts within the Associations when they arise.
- To determine the criteria for membership and accept or approve membership.
- To identify and propose amendments to the constitution of PWDs organisations and present them to the General Assembly for approval.

In conclusion the two organs of NUDIPU in the Districts are different in that the Councillors belong to a government structure while the Association Leaders are from a non-government structure. The Councillors sit in Council meetings to fulfil their obligations while the Associations leaders meet in their committees. At the end of the day, they are all leaders from the disability movement, whose main focus is improving on the situation of people with disabilities.

TENTATIVE DOCUMENT

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTIES	SUBCOUNTIES	PARISHES	VILLAGES
1	ADJUMANI	1	11	28	129
2	APAC	5	22	120	1,914
3	ARUA	7	36	228	2,056
4	BUGIRI	1	16	86	474
5	BUNDIBUGYO	2	10	40	697
6	BUSHENYI	5	29	170	2,031
7	BUSIA	1	10	35	475
8	GULU	5	23	121	400
9	HOIMA	2	13	52	694
10	IGANGA	4	25	139	760
11	JINJA	3	12	50	393
12	KABALE	4	19	117	1,734
13	KABAROLE	3	14	58	795
14	KABERAMIDO	2	8	30	316
15	KALANGALA	2	7	17	85
16	KAMPALA	5	5	99	791
17	KAMULI	4	23	135	1,297
18	KAMWENGE	2	9	51	678
19	KANUNGU	1	9	49	516
20	KAPCHORWA	3	16	64	626
21	KASESE	2	21	112	894
22	KATAKWI	3	18	91	658
23	KAYUNGA	2	9	61	407
24	KIBAALE	3	19	77	967
25	KIBOGA	1	14	81	511
26	KISORO	1	14	36	386
27	KITGUM	2	13	63	700
28	KOTIDO	3	20	103	630
29	KUMI	3	16	214	429
30	KYENJOJO	2	13	70	908
31	LIRA	7	28	157	2,122
32	LUWERO	3	20	135	892
33	MASAKA	4	23	124	1,384
34	MASINDI	4	14	44	889
35	MAYUGE	1	7	66	356
36	MBALE	4	31	137	1,411
37	MBARARA	8	47	244	2,332
38	MOROTO	3	11	46	210
39	MOYO	2	8	24	158
40	MPIGI	3	17	119	837
41	MUBENDE	4	20	137	1,243
42	MUKONO	4	28	144	1,205
43	NAKAPIRIPIT	3	10	43	171
44	NAKASONGOLA	1	9	45	308
45	NEBBI	3	19	84	1,221
46	NTUNGAMO	3	14	84	865
47	PADER	2	14	72	843
* 48	PALLISA	4	28	136	696
49	RAKAI	4	26	128	891
50	RUKUNGIRI	2	11	70	813
51	SIRONKO	2	18	115	1,137
52	SOROTI	4	17	67	520

53	SSEMBABULE	2	7	33	366
54	TORORO	4	21	82	836
55	WAKISO	3	16	131	861
56	YUMBE	1	8	42	317
TOTAL		169	946	5,106	46,235

↓
170

↓
950

↓
5200

↓
46300

NB : The villages are not yet stable. More changes are continuously being made by increasing the villages. The number 46300 approximated is likely to shoot-up.

The Parishes are relatively stable - hence a working figure of 5200 is recommended. Similarly, the subcounties & the counties do stand ~~as~~ as quoted.

29/10/01

NB* Strictly for planning purposes only.

**NUDIPU's SENSITIZATION/PLANNING WORKSHOP OF
MOBLISERS OF THE PWD COUNCILLORS**

VENUE: ELLY'S MOTEL SEETA - MUKONO

DATE: 1ST - 2ND NOVEMBER 2001

DATE	TIME	Topic/Activity	Facilitator(s)
30.10.2001	3:00 - 5:00	Arrival of Mobilisers and Registration	NUDIPU
	5:00 - 5:30	EVENING	
	7:00 - 8:00	SUPPER	
30 /10/2001	7:00 - 8:00	BREAKFAST	
	8:00 - 9:00	Welcome Remarks, Introduction/Expectations	NUDIPU
	9:00 - 10:00	The Role of NUDIPU Structure at various levels	NUDIPU
	10:00 - 10:30	TEA BREAK	
	10:30 - 11:00	The Role of Local Government Structures	Electoral Commission
	11:00 - 12:00	Role of Mobilisers	NUDIPU
	1:00 - 2:00	LUNCH	
	2:00 - 3:00	Role of Sub-county Chiefs	NUDIPU/MOLG
	3:00 - 4:00	Role of DU and Sub-county Chairpersons and DU EC members at County Level	NUDIPU
	4:00 - 4:30	EVENING TEA	
	4.30 - 5:00	Open	NUDIPU
	7:00 - 8:00	SUPPER	

2/11/2001	7:00 - 8:00	BREAKFAST	
	8:00 - 9:00	Definition of a person with a disability	NUDIPU
	9:00 - 10:00	Composition of Councils and procedure of Electing Councillors, and Council Executive Committees	Electoral Commission
	10:00 - 10:30	TEABREAK	
	10:30 - 11:30	Guidelines for sensitisation of PWDs.	NUDIPU
	11:30 - 1:00	Specific tasks for all actors/plans	NUDIPU
	1:00 - 2:00	LUNCH	
	2:00 - 3:00	Guidelines on Accountability	NUDIPU
	3:00 - 4:00	Planning for the Mobilisation	NUDIPU
	4:00 - 4:30	EVENING TEABREAK	
	4:30 - 5:00	Activity Reports	NUDIPU
	5:00 - 6:00	Departure	