

Disability Rights Initiative Project: Accessibility (DRIPa)

DESK REVIEW

Defining Disability

The word disability is synonymous to impairments. Such impairments include visual, speech, hearing, mobility and mental impairments. This has characterized the definition or definitions ascribed to the word disability for many decades. Below are some definitions of ‘disability’;

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons 1975, defined the term “disable” to mean “any person unable to ensure by himself wholly or partly, the necessities of a normal individual and/or social life, as a result of deficiency either congenital or not in his or her physical or mental capacities”. This convention viewed disability as “deficiency” in physical or mental capacity which may have been caused by congenital factors or not, which prevents a person from personally (by himself) carrying out normal individual or social necessities and activities¹.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 of England defined a person with disability as one with a “physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities².

According to a report by **the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development**, disability is a physical or mental impairment that limits a person in one or more major life activities³.

There are several causes of disabilities which include heredity, birth defects, lack of care during pregnancy and child birth, congenital diseases, communicable diseases, malnutrition, aging, natural disaster, traffic accidents, work accidents, illnesses, terrorist violence, wars and intentional physical mutilations by the “authorities⁴. Disability could occur before birth (due to congenital factors), during birth or shortly afterwards, or any time during the lifetime of the individual. Within

¹ UN Convention on the Rights of PWDs, Art. 1; and the Protocol of 24th September 2010

² 1995 Discrimination Disability Act of England, S.1.

³ Federal Ministry of Women Affairs & social Development Report of the National Baseline Survey on Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria 2011.

⁴ L. Despouy, Huma Rights and Disability’, Final Report, United Nations Publications, 1991; Human rights and Disabled Persons, Study Series No. 6 (New York: United Nations, 1993)

the last couple of decades, the number of PWDs in Rivers State is on the increase as a result of man's inhumanity to man, traffic accidents and debilitating illnesses such as cardiovascular diseases, mental and nervous disorders, perhaps due to lifestyle and intake of alcohol, drugs and smoking; which results in physical and mental disabilities⁵

Accessibility

Accessibility can be seen as the practice of making facility easily accessible to all, it means information activities services and product are meaningful and sensible for persons with disability at all times.

Accessibility and Persons With Disabilities

Accessibility for persons with disability is about equity, giving all that is needed in other to have an equal ground, in services and structure as PWDs appear to be the most marginalized, most discriminated and poorest persons in the society⁶. They suffer marginalization, discrimination and poverty as a result of their impairments and the barriers created by society.

The Physically Challenged and Accessibility

The physically challenged is an individual who is heterotopic, who by implication has some deviations from how body structure ought to be. It can also be an individual that has health conditions that restricts him/her from usual movement and/or limits the person from exerting energy as it ought to be. They may be orthopedically impaired, crippled, physically impaired, motor impaired and the neurologically impaired⁷.

Physically challenged individuals exhibit a wide range of abilities and limitations, such as mobility impairment, visual and hearing impairment, cognitive impairment, and many others which limits their access to public places and services. However, Anne Sieberns (2018)⁸, noted that "a wheelchair-user might experience difficulty gaining access to a building not because of the

⁵ Nmabunwa, O. & Adiola, P. (2020). New Rivers Vision: Towards the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

⁶ R. Lang and I. Upah, Scoping study: Disability Issues in Nigeria (DFID 2008) p 12

⁷ Obodo, A. (2014). Educating the Physically Challenged. *Journal of Teacher Perspective*, 8.

⁸ Anne Sieberns (2018) cited from NCPWD (Dec 2021). Disability Inclusion Assessment and Diagnostic Tool. Africa Polling Institute (API) Centre Court, 46 Crescent, CITEC, 4th Avenue, Gwarinpa, Abuja, Nigeria. Downloaded from <https://ncpwd.gov.ng/pdfs/11document.pdf> on 20-3-24

wheelchair, but because of environmental barriers such as inaccessible staircases, narrow aisles, and so on”. It is thus crucial to create an accessible environment for physically challenged individuals to promote independence and doing this requires special accommodations and attention to enable a physically challenged person to use assistive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches, or prosthetics and fully participate in daily activities⁹.

Accessibility can be viewed as the ability to approach and benefit from some system or entity (Goldberg, 1996)¹⁰. It is the inclusive practice of ensuring there are no barriers that prevent interaction with, or access to the object of focus. **According to the International Standards Organization (2009)**¹¹, accessibility includes ease of independent approach, entry, evacuation, and or use of a building and its services and buildings by all of the building’s potential users with an assurance of individual health, safety, and welfare during the course of those activities.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities are “persons” and are thus humans. As humans they deserve to be accorded human rights. Human rights are rights which all humans have by virtue of their humanity (Igwe, 2002)¹². All humans are endowed with it “... whether black, white, yellow, malay or red” (M. A Ajoma)¹³. An accessible barrier-free environment is the first step towards fulfilling the right of People with Disability (PWD).

A good number of statutes have been enacted to ensure that PWDs enjoy their rights and live a life free of stigmatization and other disability challenges

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

⁹ Assembly, U. G. (2006). Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. *Ga Res* , 61, 106.

¹⁰ Goldberg, L. (1996). *“Electronic Curbscuts: Equitable Access to the Future”*. Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities and the Getty Art History Information Program, Cyberspace/Public Space: The Role of Arts and Culture in Defining a Virtual Public Sphere.

¹¹ Bumma, F. N. et. al (2020). Urban Public Buildings and Accessibility Challenges in Nigeria. *International Journal of Research and Scientific Innovation (IJRSI) | Volume VII, Issue V*

¹² O. W Igwe, Preliminary Studies in Human Rights Law (Rings and Favolit Ltd, 2002) 2

¹³ M.A. Ajoma, The Development of Individual Rights in Nigeria’s Constitutional History in *Individual Rights under the 1989 Constitutin (Nigeria Institute of Advanced Legal Studies)* 10.

The United Nations understands that Disability is a crosscutting development issue. Hence, the promotion of disability inclusion is referenced in various parts of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and specifically in **Goals 4, 8, 10, 11 and 17 (NCPWD, 2021)¹⁴**.

During the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20, Member States agreed to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), whose achievement period concludes in 2015. The SDGs are to address all three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, economic and social) and be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations global development agenda beyond 2015. The envisaged SDGs have a time horizon of 2015 to 2030.

Disability is referenced in various parts of the SDGs and specifically in parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, as well as data collection and monitoring of the SDGs, for instance¹⁵:

Goal 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of life-long learning opportunities for all focuses on eliminating gender disparities in education and ensuring equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities. In addition, the proposal calls for building and upgrading education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and also provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

In Goal 8: to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, the international community aims to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

¹⁴ NCPWD (Dec 2021). Disability Inclusion Assessment and Diagnostic Tool. Africa Polling Institute (API) Centre Court, 46 Crescent, CITEC, 4th Avenue, Gwarinpa, Abuja, Nigeria. Downloaded from <https://ncpwd.gov.ng/pdfs/11document.pdf> on 20-3-24

¹⁵ <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-and-disability>

Closely linked is Goal 10, which strives to reduce inequality within and among countries by empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, including persons with disabilities.

Goal 11 would work to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and sustainable.

To realize this goal, Member States are called upon to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, such as persons with disabilities. In addition, the proposal calls for providing universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Goal 17 stresses that in order to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, the collection of data and monitoring and accountability of the SDGs are crucial. Member States are called upon to enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), which would significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data that is also disaggregated by disability.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**¹⁶ is an international human rights treaty adopted in 2007 that reaffirms that all persons with disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is made up of two documents, the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2007**, which contains the main human rights provisions expressed as a series of Articles and the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2010**.

The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. It covers rights related to all areas of life such as equality, accessibility, education, independent living, health, employment and freedom from violence.

As regarding the right to ‘accessibility’ of PWDs, Article 9 of the Convention states;

¹⁶ UN Convention on the Rights of PWDs and the Protocol of 24th September 2010

Article 9

To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas.

1. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia:

- (a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;
- (b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures:

- (a) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- (b) To ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- (c) To provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;
- (d) To provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;
- (e) To provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;

- (f) To promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;
- (g) To promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;
- (h) To promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.

This Conventions has been ratified and domesticated in Nigeria and in line with the international communities. However, providing barrier free environment is still questionable, physically challenged persons still struggle to do their activities and needs in public facilities ¹⁷

To ensure full enjoyment of the accessibility provision of the UNCRPD, it mandates that all products should possess the feature of “Universal design” which is defined as;

Article 2

“Universal design” means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. “Universal design” shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed¹⁸.

The standard for ‘universal design’ adapted by a majority of the international community is one proposed in the **Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines (ADAAG)**. The Guideline provides specifications for designing infrastructure, public spaces to accommodate a variety of activities with special needs, such as ramps, elevators, tactile paths, and maps to ensure that they enhance the full accessibility of PWDs¹⁹.

THE AFRICAN CHARTER

¹⁷ Abdullahi, M. (December 02, 2023). The cable News. 35m people living with disabilities in Nigeria, says NCPWD. Accessed from: <https://www.thecable.ng/35m-people-living-with-disabilities-in-nigeria-says-ncpwd>

¹⁸ UN Convention on the Rights of PWDs and the Protocol of 24th September 2010

¹⁹ *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*. (n.d.). U.S. Government Publishing Office.

The **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights** of 27 June 1981 (also known as the **Banjul Charter**) is an international human rights instrument that is intended to promote and protect human rights and basic freedoms in the African continent; it emerged under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity (since replaced by the African Union). It is enforced by the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights which has the duty to ensure protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa. It complements and reinforces the functions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights also established by the African Charter²⁰. The Article 18(4) of the African Charter provides protection for PWDs. The article states that;

Article 18(4)

The aged and the disabled shall also have the right to special measures special measures of protection and keeping with their physical or moral needs;

The **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa** is a special agreement to supplement the provision of the African Charter. The Protocol is intended to promote and protect and ensure that full and equal enjoyment of all human and people's rights by all persons with disabilities, and to ensure respect for their inherent dignity in the African continent; Pertaining to 'Accessibility', Article 15 of the Charter states:

Article 15(1)

Every person with disability has the right to barrier free access to the physical environment, transportation, information, including communications technologies and systems, and other facilities and services open to or provided to the public.

Articles 15 (2) of the **Protocol to the Charter** outlines some of the steps to be taken by State Parties to facilitate the full enjoyment of Article 15(1) by persons with disabilities. The full text of Article 15(2) states:

States Parties shall take reasonable and progressive step measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right, and such measures shall, among others, apply to:

- a) Rural and urban settings and shall take account of population diversities

²⁰ The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa

- b) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities including schools, housing, medical facilities and work places;
- c) Information, communications, sign languages and tactile interpretation services, braille, audio and other services, including electronic services and emergency services;
- d) Quality and affordable mobility aids, assistive devices and technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries; and
- e) The modification of all inaccessible infrastructure and the universal design of all new infrastructure

At the regional level, Nigeria is a party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with disabilities in Africa. With respect to the applicability of these treaties within domestic framework, it is significant to note that the African Charter has been incorporated into domestic legal order.

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)

It is important to note that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2007 has been domesticated by the Nigerian National Assembly by the virtue of Section 12 of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended)²¹.

Moreso, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, as the grand norm from which other laws derive validity therein makes provision for **Fundamental Rights (Chapter IV)** which all Nigerian citizens including PWDs are entitled to enjoy by virtue of being human. Although, the Constitution does not make direct provisions for the rights of PWDs, but can be inferred from its provision in Section 42 in which '**Right to Freedom from Discrimination**' is entrenched²².

42. (1) A citizen of Nigeria of a particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion or political opinion shall not, by reason only that he is such a person:-

(a) be subjected either expressly by, or in the practical application of, any law in force in Nigeria or any executive or administrative action of the government, to

²¹ Legal Framework of People Living With Disabilities In Nigeria. <https://lawpavilion.com/blog/legal-framework-of-people-living-with-disabilities-in-nigeria/amp/>

²² The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)

disabilities or restrictions to which citizens of Nigeria of other communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religions or political opinions are not made subject; or;

(b) be accorded either expressly by, or in the practical application of, any law in force in Nigeria or any such executive or administrative action, any privilege or advantage that is not accorded to citizens of Nigeria of other communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religions or political opinions.

(2) No citizen of Nigeria shall be subjected to any disability or deprivation merely by reason of the circumstances of his birth.

(3) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall invalidate any law by reason only that the law imposes restrictions with respect to the appointment of any person to any office under the State or as a member of the armed forces of the Federation or member of the Nigeria Police Forces or to an office in the service of a body, corporate established directly by any law in force in Nigeria.

Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018²³

In 2018, the Nigerian government passed a law called the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018. This was passed by the National Assembly and signed in law by President Muhammadu Buhari on 23rd January 2018. The Law provides for the full integration of persons with disabilities into the society and establishes the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities and vests the Commission with the responsibilities for their education, health care, social, economic and civil rights.

To enhance the accessibility of persons with disabilities in Nigeria, the Act makes some provisions which are as follows:

Right of access to public premises

This guarantees a person with disability with a right to access the physical environment and buildings on an equal basis with others.

²³ Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018

Section 3

A person with disability has the right to access the physical environment and building on an equal basis with others

This provision is further complemented by sections 4 and 5 of the Bill that require public facilities to be accessible and usable by persons with disabilities. The public facilities include road-sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and special facilities such as elevators, crutches, guide canes, toilet facilities, door protective and re-opening devices.

Section 4

A public building shall be constructed with the necessary accessibility aids such as lifts (where necessary), ramps and any other facility that make them accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities

Section 5

Road-sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and all other special facilities as set out in the first schedule made for public use shall be made accessible to and useable by persons with disabilities including those on wheelchairs and the visually impaired.

Transitory Period

Section 6 of the Act gives a five years transitory period within which all public buildings or structures whether immovable or not must be modified and accessible to persons with disabilities including those on wheelchairs.

Building Plan

Section 7 provides the procedure for erecting public structures, so it conforms with a building code that has accessibility features for persons with disabilities including those on wheelchair.

Section 7(2) prohibits government bodies, agencies or individuals responsible for the approval of building plans from approving plans that fail to provide such accessibility features. Officers who do this are liable on conviction to a fine of at least N1,000,000 (One Million Naira), an imprisonment term of two years or both.

Persons with disabilities may also seek to redress this right in court by notifying the relevant authority on the existence of the state of inaccessibility- **section 8**

On notification, the relevant authority is expected to take necessary steps to remove the barrier and make the environment accessible.

Corporate bodies who fail to comply with such notice may face a fine of N10,000 in damages for every day of default. This position is slightly different for contravening individuals who face N5,000 in damages for each day of default, a six months imprisonment term or both-**section 8(2)**

Accessibility of Vehicles

Section 10 of the Act mandates government providers to make provisions for lifts, ramps and other accessibility aids that enhance the accessibility of their vehicles, parks and bus stops to persons with disabilities -section 10(1). It states that:

Section 10(1)

Government transport services providers shall make provisions for lifts, ramps and other accessibility aids to enhance the accessibility of their vehicles, parks and bus stop to persons with disabilities including those on wheelchair.

The Act also mandates every public vehicle to have functional audible and visual display of their destination within five years of commencement of this Act- **section 10(2)**

A similar provision to section 10(1) is provided in **section 11** for all transport service providers.

In addition, **section 11(4)** places a duty of care on a driver who must ensure that his vehicle comes to a stop before a person with disability alights from the vehicle. There is also a responsibility placed on all intending passengers to wait for a person with disability to board before them in **section 11(5)**

Reserved Places

The Act provides for suitable places to be marked and reserved for persons with disabilities.

Section 12(1)

At public parking lots, suitable spaces shall be properly marked and reserved for persons with disabilities.

Section 12(2)

However, to be entitled to a reserved parking space, it is expected that the car can be identified with the necessary insignia (sign, symbol etc)- **section 12(2)**

Section 12(3)

A person, organization or corporate body in control of a public parking lot who fails to provide for reserved parking spaces for persons with disabilities is liable to pay N1,000 for each day of default

A person without disability commits an offence if he/she also parks in a reserved space and could pay a fine of N5,000 on conviction. Additionally, a person who intentionally obstructs the reserved space is liable to a fine of N5,000 if convicted- **section 12(4)**

Seaports, Railways and Airport Facilities

Section 13 of the Act mandates seaport facilities and vessels, railway stations and trains to be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Likewise, **Section 14** mandates airlines operating in Nigeria to ensure that their facilities are accessible to persons with disability-**section 14 (1(a))**. For instance, making available presentable and functional wheelchairs, ensuring that persons with disabilities are assisted to go on and off board in safety and comfort and according priority to persons with disabilities in boarding and disembarking from the aircraft- **section 14(b)-(d)**

(b) Make available presentable and functional wheelchairs for the conveyance of persons with disabilities who need them to and from the aircraft

(c) ensure that persons with disabilities get assisted to get on and off board in safety and reasonable comfort

(d) ensure that persons with disabilities are accorded priority while boarding and disembarking from aircraft

It also provides for airports to make available functional assistive and protective devices to and from the airport-section **14(2)**.

There is a provision for all general information to be translated into an accessible format appropriate to the person with a disability present- section 15 states:

Section 15

Any general information shall be translated into the accessible format appropriate to the person with disability present

Following the signing into law of the National Disability Bill, it is required that all the States in the federation domesticate and implement the law accordingly. However, Rivers State has remained among the 17 states are yet to domesticate and implement the law²⁴.

The Rivers State Persons with Disability Welfare Enhancement Law No 11 2012

There are several plights PWDs face in Rivers State with regards to the enjoyment of their nature given rights- human rights. These plights include social and cultural stereotypes, and lack of adaptive or accommodating physical environment. This is reflected in education, lack of access to information, lack of access to places, transportation difficulties, health care, employment, participation in election, and others²⁵.

The main statute protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in Rivers State is the ‘**Rivers State Persons with Disability Welfare Enhancement Law No 11, 2012**’. Section 15 addresses the issues of accessibility for PWDs²⁶. It states;

15(1) All government institutions, establishment, companies, banks and public utilities shall install facilities and structural devices in their buildings to enhance the mobility of the PWDs

²⁴ The Leadership News (December 15, 2023): The Law and Persons with Disabilities. Accessed from: https://leadership.ng/the-law-and-persons-with-disabilities/#google_vignette on Saturday, March 30, 2024

²⁵ Adiola, O.N.P. (2020). New Rivers Vision: Towards the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

²⁶ The Rivers State Persons with Disability Welfare Enhancement Law No 11, of 2012

15(2) All existing public and private buildings used for public purposes, institutions, establishments, companies, banks and utilities such as streets, roads and highways shall, from the commencement of this Law, comply with the provision of subsection (1) of this Section within 2 years.

15(3) with regards to government building, streets, roads and highways, the Ministry of Works shall ensure the provisions this Law are complied with.

15(4) the Ministries of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, including the Local Government Councils shall ensure that all building designs of public institutions and companies shall enhance the mobility of persons with disabilities before approving new building plans or road constructions.

The law also provides a two year transition period and proposes the following punishments for failure to comply with Section 15 of the Law;

Section 16

Any person who constructs a building housing public institution, establishment, company, bank or utility after the commencement of this Law, which is not fitted with facilities and devices that shall enhance the mobility of persons with disabilities commits an offence.

However, the Law seem not to provide enough protection for PWDs in the State. Unlike The Part VII (sections 31-39) of the National Disability Act (2018) stipulates the establishment of a Commission for PWDs, with a Governing Council to enforce and coordinate the implementation of the Law, the Rivers State Welfare law (2012) stipulates the establishment of a ‘Council’ However, This council is yet to be functional.

With all the laws that provides for accessibility sadly there seem to be slow or no progress in some aspect for accessibility like assess to sign language interpreters in schools, hospitals and most public places visited by PWDs.

RECOMMENDATION

The Rivers state Government

The government agency should establish a council or commission to oversee matters for persons with disability

A committee be set up to for a comprehensive accessibility budget and cash backing

Civil Society Organisation (CSOs)

Commit to shadow reporting on status of accessibility as regards conventions that Nigeria is a state party to.

Sensitize private and religious organizations on the provision of the law on accessibility and time bound for implementation.

Persons with Disability

Involve in strategic advocacy for accessibility across all local government in Rivers state

Be deliberate in demanding accountability for enforcing the provision of the act

Media

Media is responsible for shaping the thoughts of people, influencing authorities and should play an integral role to educate the masses on the provision of the law and penalty for noncompliance

Traditional and Religious Leaders

Traditional and religious leaders are very influential; they bridge the gap between the people and information

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