

# RUB RWANDA

*Insight*



*Insightful Vision: A  
Compilation of Stories on  
the Rwanda Union of the  
Blind*

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# About us



Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB) is a local non-governmental organization legally operating in Rwanda since 1995 with the mission to work towards the improvement of the situation of blind people through education and rehabilitation to facilitate meaningful equality and integration. As years went by, RUB established various programs in line with the continuous efforts to integrate the visually impaired people into the mainstream society while not leaving behind the education as the cornerstone of the bright future among the visually impaired community.

## MISSION

To work towards the improvement of the situation of blind people through education and rehabilitation to facilitate meaningful equality and integration

## VISION

A situation where blind people access all rights as all other citizens, receive rehabilitation and education and can be employed as all other citizens

## OBJECTIVES

- Bring together blind people in a national organization to promote their fundamental rights
- Raise awareness on needs, potentials and aspirations of persons with visual impairment in Rwanda;
- Promote education and rehabilitation of persons with visual impairment through dialogue with the government and other partners in development;
- Promote prevention of blindness and provision of eye care services through dialogue with relevant authorities and partners;
- Promote the inclusion of persons with visual impairment in sport and cultural activities.



# Noble mission: a woman with a vision for thousands of lives



*Dr Donatilla Kanimba breaking the bias*

*A woman who surmounted early childhood challenges and used an extraordinary opportunity for the wider good returns to the country of her birth, Rwanda, and becomes a beacon of hope for the visually impaired.*

By DUSABEMUNGU Ange de la Victoire, bird news agency

Losing sight in both eyes at five, plucked from the place she called home and spirited to a unique school thousands of kilometres away, Dr Donatilla Kanimba would have good reason to have embraced a new life and the many successes she has experienced along the way to enrich herself. Instead, she has found her way “home”.

For the 62-year-old, the journey started in the “land of a thousand hills”.

The fifth child in a family of eight, Kanimba was born in Gisangara District in the Southern Province of Rwanda, but the family had to flee to Burundi when she was two, to escape the 1959 Rwanda civil war.

“I was born in Rwanda. When I was about two or three years old, my parents moved to Burundi as refugees,” Kanimba recalled in a recent interview.

When she lost her sight while in a refugee camp in Burundi, a benevolent couple working as Salvation Army Church missionaries among the refugees arranged for Kanimba to be sent to Kenya to attain an education.

Kanimba refers to the couple as the “two soldiers who fought for

my education.” She is forever grateful to them, saying they gave her a chance in life.

In Kenya – where there are facilities for those with visual impairments – she was able to attend primary and secondary school and go to university. She graduated with degrees in Sociology and Governance graduate from the University of Nairobi.

But while she realised she was lucky to have had the opportunity to study, she kept worrying about the plight of those back “home”, who had nobody and no structures to support them. So she decided to take matters into her own hands, and change



that. When Kanimba finally returned to Rwanda, it was with a white cane in one hand and some assistants working with her. She may not have known it but she was embarking on a life-long journey to make life better for the visually impaired. The journey would not have been easy even for an able-bodied person – and Kanimba had little idea of what lay in store for her.

While at the university, she started engaging two Rwandan classmates with the idea of forming an organisation to help those with visual impairments. At first, they wanted to set up in Burundi—the country that had sheltered them as refugees.

“Well, as we grew older, we realised that this was not very feasible. First of all, maybe we’re not so very welcome in Burundi. And then it would be a very costly thing to start a school,” she explained.

“But we began thinking about having an organisation for blind people similar to what we had seen in Kenya; The Kenya Union of the Blind. Luckily, our dream became a reality when we met a former Rwanda Patriotic Front Army soldier who had lost sight and was keen to help other blind people in Rwanda.” After graduating from the university in 1980, she started working with the

Kenya Union for the Blind as the women’s programmes coordinator. Here she built skills that would become crucial later on.

During this period, together with her former classmates, and with assistance from the former soldier, they got to work on starting an organisation that would work with the government to help the visually impaired people in Rwanda. That vehicle would be the Rwanda Union of the Blind, or RUB.

“We came up with this idea, specifically so that the Rwanda Union of the Blind would be the voice of blind people to influence government policies and programmes to ensure that blind people also receive all of their rights and services, the same as other citizens’ she said.

In 1995 Kanimba got to do what she had long dreamed of. She managed to found the Rwanda Union of the Blind and two years later, completed a circle in her life, moving back to the land of her birth, to run it.

“It is some years after graduating at the Nairobi University, I managed to return to Rwanda to run the

Rwanda Union of the Blind, which we had established some two years before I came,” she said.

“The first thing I did after we formed Rwanda Union for the Blind was to look around for blind people in their local communities, to see how they live...we went around the countryside asking them to for our first meeting.”

From 1995 to date, the Union has been able to bring together about 3,000 visually impaired members and extended support to over 10,000 others across the country.

A survey by the union shows that there are an estimated 57,000 persons with visual impairment in Rwanda, an indication of the need for more support.

Kanimba argued that since its inception, RUB has been a catalyst for public awareness and the empowerment of people living with disabilities, especially those with visual impairment. One area of improvement has been education – the springboard without which she herself would never have been able to provide assistance to others with impairments.

“There are many things that I can say I am very proud of, especially as the founder of the Rwanda Union of the Blind and as the one who has been running this organisation for nearly the last 25 years. First of all, now, it is the usual thing, all learners with visual impairment who have been in school now sit all the national exams to proceed to the next level like others,” she said.



“When I started, that was not the case. The belief was that there was no need to give an exam to learners with visual impairment before the end of primary school because they would not manage to go to secondary education. But now, they sit exams and progress into secondary school up to university.”

And looking back at the 25 years since setting foot in the land of her ancestors she hardly knew, she is happy that her mission to empower the visually impaired people has been such a phenomenal success.

Kanimba said her accomplishments were in large part due to her early learning. She used her sociology and governance skills to grow the institution she founded and modelled it along the lines of the Kenya Union of the Blind – ensuring it became a beacon of hope for the visually impaired.

Her empathy, she said, was not because she was similarly visually impaired but because, unlike her, those her organisation assisted had little or no opportunities in life, due to the lack of support structures.

Empowerment of the visually impaired, Kanimba explained, enabled them to not only compete for employment opportunities like everybody else but also to overcome stigma, neglect, and other forms of trauma. Some even no longer rely on support.

“We have many who are employed because they have the required qualifications to be in the employment, we have some even who have obtained the master’s degree. We now have several blind people who are in (a) social stratum that means that they are not at that level where they must be supported by the government.”

“That is because we have trained them to be independent and resilient. They are engaged in economic work at the

***“Before the establishment of RUB, visually impaired persons could not even reach the secondary school level. Most of them were only supposed to finish their studies at the primary level,”***

local level, most of them engaged in farming, and some of them doing other work outside of farming. We have introduced vocational training, and we have some self-employed people who are also employing other people who have no disabilities.”

Ntawiha Marie Chantal, a graduate working at RUB, credits the union’s support and public awareness initiatives for her successes.

“Before the establishment of RUB, visually impaired persons could not even reach the secondary school level. Most of them were only supposed to finish their studies at the primary level,” she said, pointing out that advocacy for inclusive education was a crucial first goal of the organisation.

“At the time, we were not less capable academically, we had skills, but the main obstacle was the society’s mindset on visually impaired persons,” Chantal says.

Sévérin Ingabire, a graduate of the former Kigali Institute of Education, concurs with those sentiments.

“After the 1994 Genocide, there were advocacy efforts to allow

visually impaired persons to do the National examinations,” adds Ingabire.

“Many people could not understand our ability to do the exams, it was in December 1995 that through RUB’s advocacy that persons with visual impairment were allowed to sit for the national school primary leaving exam,” said Ingabire, who works with the National Union of Disability Organisations of Rwanda (NUDOR) and also serves as an adviser of the Board of the Rwanda Union of the Blind.

Ingabire noted that while empowerment of the visually impaired has not been an easy journey, the government has since done a lot to create space for visually impaired persons to exercise their rights.

Kanimba is herself proof that the future for the visually impaired in the region looks promising. From 2018 to 2021, she served as the president of the World Blind Union, and during those years, used her position to further the plight of visually impaired people across the region as well as globally.

“When we have reached a point where the boss is the blind person, I feel very proud,” she said. “We have gone beyond the situation of being maskini ya mungu (helpless people).”

“I was given a chance in life, and I too will try to give others with visual impairment a chance in life... that is my mission,” she concluded.

# On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, RUB Sheds Light on Limited Accessibility for Visually Impaired Persons



**Ngoma, 3rd December, 2023:** As Rwanda celebrates the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, members of the Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB) and the Management joined the community in Ngomba District in Eastern Province to showcase their contributions towards the sustainable development goals.

The theme for 2023 International Day of Persons with Disabilities is ‘United in action to rescue and achieve the sustainable development goals for, with and by persons with disabilities’.

During the celebration, RUB also received a Certificate of Appreciation for the active participation in preparing for the Day of Persons with Disabilities and their efforts to promote disability inclusion in Ngomba District

and of course across the country. However, amidst the celebration, Dr. Donatilla Kanimba, the Executive Director of RUB, highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by persons with disabilities, particularly the visually impaired.

She emphasized that the lack of necessary equipment in schools and workplaces is hindering their progress towards sustainable development. “The main problem is the lack of necessary equipment in schools and in the workplace,” Dr. Kanimba stated. She further explained that finding a place to purchase equipment specifically designed for the visually impaired remains a challenge. The equipment they receive is often through donations or by participating in

bidding processes. This scarcity makes it difficult for those who can afford it to access the necessary tools. Dr. Kanimba also highlighted the issue of accessibility in schools. Despite the financial means some individuals may have, they are still not given the opportunity to purchase these essential materials. This lack of access to equipment further hampers the educational and professional development of persons with disabilities.

These concerns were echoed by Mr. Vuguziga Innocent, a teacher at HVP Gatagara and a member of the RUB (Rwanda Union of the Blind), and Mr. Emmanuel, a member of RUB





*Dr. Donatilla Kanimba, the Executive Director of the Rwanda Union of the Blind speaking to the media*

and a disability inclusion facilitator at the National Union of Disabled Organizations in Rwanda, who both emphasized that the lack of equipment, non-implementation of international agreements for the disabled, and other challenges continue to impede their development. Commenting on the challenges faced in accessing assistive technology for the blind, Mr. Vuguziga explained that these devices are very expensive and not readily available in Rwanda.

He said “The lack of specific traders or suppliers in the country makes it necessary to import these devices.”

Additionally, he adds, “the software programs required for assistive technology, such as JAWS, are also very costly.” JAWS, Job Access With Speech, is the world’s most popular screen reader, developed for computer users whose vision loss prevents them from seeing screen content

Vuguziga suggested that the Rwandan government should provide support to individuals who want to purchase assistive technologies, just as they do for other equipment like solar energy, equipment in agriculture among others.

“This support could include tax exemptions and financial assistance, depending on the individual’s needs.” Mr. Vuguziga said.

He also called on different institutions that have persons with disabilities to take responsibility for ordering these devices and ensuring their availability. Lastly, Mr. Vuguziga urged the private sector to engage in providing assistive technology and to advocate for the satisfaction of persons with disabilities through technological advancements.

In addition to the challenges mentioned above, Mr. Izere highlights the issue of web accessibility for visually impaired individuals.

He mentions a recruitment portal in Rwanda that is not accessible with screen readers like JAWS, making it difficult for visually impaired individuals to access government job opportunities.

“This lack of web accessibility creates a barrier for people with visual impairments to find

employment.” He said

Mr. Izere also brings attention to the discriminatory attitudes and practices faced by visually impaired persons in the job market.

He mentions instances where visually impaired individuals are rejected during the application process or deemed ineligible for positions simply because of their disability. “This mindset changes and the removal of employment barriers based on disability is crucial for creating equal opportunities for visually impaired individuals.” He added.

To address these challenges, Mr. Izere proposes several solutions. Firstly, he suggests implementing web accessibility testing in Rwanda to ensure that websites and online platforms are accessible to individuals with disabilities, including visual impairments. He emphasizes the need for practical implementation of tested accessibility standards.

Furthermore, Mr. Izere calls on the government of Rwanda to prioritize the implementation of laws and conventions that promote accessibility and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

He specifically mentions the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the Marrakesh Treaty, which Rwanda has ratified.

He urges the government to foster the implementation of these agreements and ensure that individuals with visual impairments have equal access to information and opportunities.



# PHOTOS: International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 2023









# Vision Loss Leads to Empowerment: Papi Sibomana's Journey from Despair to Empowerment



**Digital solutions consultant Papi Sibomana, who lost his sight in 2011, is harnessing innovative solutions to help others with disabilities break barriers and pursue their dreams. And it all started with a failed trip to India.**

*Patrick Nzabonimpa, bird story agency*

In 2014, Papi Sibomana travelled to India, hoping to get treatment to repair his vision, which he had lost three years earlier. Arriving full of optimism, his hopes were dashed when he was told that his impairment was incurable. Instead of treatment, he was referred to a rehabilitation centre, where for the next three months, he was taught advanced skills in assistive technology (AT) and mobility.

“After three months in India, I came back to Rwanda. That’s when I started looking for what I can do in the community,” Sibomana said during

an interview in Kigali.

He volunteered for Bright Future Cornerstone, a social enterprise that provides learning services. It would be the beginning of a busy but fruitful journey of discovery, learning and helping others learn how technology can assist those with disabilities.

“Volunteering opened doors for me to mentor young innovators and connect youth with disabilities to opportunities,” he said. “Through entrepreneurship and ICT, I empower others to break barriers and pursue their dreams.”

He also learned to empower himself.

Today, Sibomana has a smart phone as his constant companion. But this isn’t just any phone. Utilising its built-in screen reader, it vocalises messages from various apps. This allows him to use it effectively

despite his vision loss. It’s also helping him to help young, visually-impaired innovators.

Sibomana started losing his sight in 2011 at the age of 22. This happened just before he began his undergraduate studies at Rwanda’s School of Finance and Banking (now, University of Rwanda-College of Business and Economics). Battling with his sight and hoping it would improve, he enrolled anyway but soon discovered a complete lack of support. Despite this, he pressed on.

“I reached every office on the campus seeking support, but no one told me there was an assistive technology that could help me. During exams, I used to sit with an invigilator guiding me on how to write in the booklet. It was very hard,” he said.



According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), access to assistive technology in Africa is severely limited, with less than 25% of those who need AT having access to it.

According to Sibomana, many young Africans are only introduced to the technology after graduation rather than at a younger age, which hinders their ability to fully utilise it.

A recent report, “Youth in Digital Africa: Our Connections. Our Choices. Our Future,” by research and advisory firm Caribou Digital in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, points out that without early access to AT, African youth with disabilities risk being left behind in a world where the use of technology like the internet is associated with higher well-being,

The report, which Sibomana contributed to, also revealed that young African women are falling behind when it comes to utilising digital technologies.

Sibomana noted that African women, especially those with visual impairments, often lack confidence in using digital technologies. He called for heightened awareness and integration of AT in primary education for early exposure.

In spite of his own lack of access to AT in college, Sibomana managed to graduate. But his struggles were far from over. He found few job prospects or internships available to him. Seeking opportunity, he turned to Masaka Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Kigali, where he mastered Braille and mobility skills.

However, Braille’s limitations for everyday communication soon became obvious. While visiting a



*Papi Sibomana during an interview with bird story agency in Kigali, Rwanda. Photo: Patrick Nzabonimpa, bird story agency*

resource room at the former Kigali Institute of Education (now University of Rwanda-College of Education), he discovered JAWS, a screen-reading software tool.

Despite finding someone willing to teach him, the cost of the lessons (US\$2-3 per hour) however, was difficult to afford.

“It wasn’t really easy, but I managed to master JAWS. After that, I bought my first laptop and started practising independently,” he said.

Supporting local community to promote digital inclusion

In 2015, after his return from the disappointing trip to India, Sibomana started mentoring visually impaired high school students, providing business training. He also joined Uwezo Youth Empowerment, which links graduates with disabilities to internship opportunities and interned at the Yego Centre in Kigali, where he received training in entrepreneurship and ICT.

Later, he joined Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) Rwanda as a startup facilitator and business coach, focusing on youth with disabilities.

Anaise Byukusenge, a Master’s student in Translation and Interpretation at the University of Rwanda, who has become a disability rights activist, remembers that Sibomana introduced her to assistive devices that have since allowed her to work as a freelance translator.

“Growing up as the youngest in an overprotective environment, I often relied on others. Papi taught me to embrace independence both professionally and personally. He strengthened my ability to accomplish work on my own and use assistive devices like phones and computers,” Byukusenge explained.

In 2016, Sibomana applied for and attended the Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI) in Kenya, graduating in early 2017. Inspired to help his community, he founded the Urumuri Association to connect visually impaired youth with the Rwanda Union of the Blind.

While attending Youth Connect in 2019, he met Tony Elumelu, founder of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, and submitted a business idea for poultry farming. Selected as a beneficiary, he received US\$5,000 in seed capital in 2020. That was enough to start him on his project.

Recognising entrepreneurship as a path to employment for individuals with disabilities, Sibomana also applied for and received a Chevening Scholarship to pursue a Master's Degree in Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship at the University of Portsmouth in the UK.

He began his studies in October 2020. During this time, he mentored others in assistive technologies like smartphones with screen readers and Braille displays, among others.

After graduating in 2021, Sibomana became an assistant lecturer in entrepreneurship at Rwanda Polytechnic, IPRC Musanze.

He has since co-founded a consultancy firm that supports institutions in employing persons with disabilities by providing AT solutions.

His expertise also led him to join the Private Sector Federation (PSF) of Rwanda, which established a specialised cluster for persons with disabilities.

Pacifique Ndungutse, from Rwamagana District in the East of Rwanda, is another youth with disability who was supported by Sibomana. According to Ndungutse, Sibomana provided him with computer training and helped him successfully apply for the YALI 2022 cohort.

Ndungutse attended the programme in October 2022 and gained leadership skills he now uses to support others at



*Papi Sibomana during an interview with bird story agency in Kigali, Rwanda. Photo: Patrick Nzabonimpa, bird story agency*

his school and community.

“He continues to inspire us with his problem-solving approach,” said Ndungutse. “Papi always encourages those around him to be confident, self-reliant and to advocate for disability rights.”

Gaps remain in AT access for African youth with disabilities

Amani Niyoyita, an innovator known for developing smart white canes for the visually impaired and who is CEO and Founder at Polystar Nanotech, acknowledged that while advancements have been made, challenges persist, especially in making AT available in local languages such as Kinyarwanda.

“Digital inclusion means vulnerable people can access modern technology through our innovations. We must include all languages to help even those who didn't attend school,” he said.

Niyoyita further highlighted the need for affordable solutions, suggesting integrated systems for all types of mobile phones to enhance

accessibility.

“Connecting people with disabilities to the world means finding solutions that make them feel capable. We must develop affordable solutions, remembering they often can't afford many things,” he said.

Currently, Sibomana is volunteering with the Rwanda Union of the Blind, where he serves as chairperson of the advocacy committee.

“My journey taught me that disability is not a limitation but an opportunity for innovation,” he said.

“And innovation is not just about ideas; it's about empowering communities through accessible technology. I believe in the power of community and collaboration to drive inclusive innovation. Assistive technology isn't just a tool; it's a pathway to independence and equal opportunity.”

bird story agency



# Defying the odds: Rwanda Union of the Blind Shines Light on Inclusivity During Bi-Monthly Car Free Day



*Blind persons defy the odds and shine on the sports fields of Kigali City. Inclusion Matters*

By Ange de la Victoire  
DUSABEMUNGU

Kigali, Rwanda — In a remarkable display of solidarity and advocacy, members of the Rwanda Union of the Blind participated in Sunday, November 24, 2024 Bi-monthly Car Free Day, supported by the City of Kigali and MTN Rwanda.

The initiative aimed to highlight the importance of the White Cane for persons with visual impairments while promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in sports activities.

Dr. Betty Mukarwego, President of the Rwanda Union of the Blind, emphasized the significance of this participation, stating, “We felt that

we need to show that persons with visual impairment can also do sports with others. We wanted to advocate and to make sure that people who are here with us are seeing us and they are understanding our needs in sports.”

The event not only celebrated physical activity but also underscored the challenges faced by visually impaired persons.

Dr. Mukarwego added, “The challenges that affected us who are blind is because we needed people to guide us to come to this place. When we reach here, we need a person who is demonstrating to talk so that we can be able to follow

the activities.” “Sports is very important for us who are blind because most of the time we find that we are all alone,” Dr. Mukarwego articulated.

“When we come here, we shake our bodies, we exercise our bodies. Our muscles, our bodies also need exercise like this to reduce weight and illnesses.” She said.

Mugisha Jacques, Vice President of the Rwanda Union of the Blind, echoed this sentiment.

“Engaging in sports can be beneficial in two ways. Firstly, sports are an integral part of our lives. Secondly, by participating in sports, we demonstrate that



our white cane is not a limitation but a tool for navigating through various activities.”

He further elaborated, “We want to emphasize that the white cane symbolizes our independence, rights, and capabilities, enabling us to access education, employment, and all aspects of daily life with ease.”

Richard Nyirishema, Rwanda’s Minister of Sport, commended the event’s inclusivity.

“This event was unique because it was inclusive of people with disabilities. The participation of persons with visual impairments was a positive aspect of the sport, and we discussed

ways to enhance the event to increase their participation.”

The Car Free Day initiative serves as a platform to promote pedestrian safety. With the participation of the persons with the blindness, it raises awareness for those who rely on White Canes for navigation.

Minister Nyirishema noted, “It is crucial to support persons who use White Canes by giving them space to move freely and assisting them when needed.”

“The presence of visually impaired persons at the event and their willingness to share their experiences marked a significant

step toward fostering inclusivity in sports.” Minister Nyirishema said.

Throughout Kigali City, persons with visual impairments actively participate in this sport at various locations such as Kigali Heights, Kigali Pelé Stadium, IPRC Kicukiro, and the Gisozi site.

As the community continues to embrace diversity and create opportunities for all, events like these shine a light on the importance of understanding and supporting persons with disabilities.







*Minister Richard Nyirishema speaking to the Rwanda Union of the Blind Team shortly after sports activities*





# Rwanda Union of the Blind Receives Generous Donation of White Canes from NCBA Rwanda in Partnership with MTN



Kigali, Rwanda – The Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB) expressed their heartfelt gratitude to NCBA Rwanda for their donation of 50 white canes. This generous contribution will greatly support visually impaired persons in their day-to-day activities.

In a partnership with MTN Rwanda, the RUB has been working tirelessly to ensure that persons with visual impairments have access to essential tools and resources. Recognizing the limited capacity of some Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) to afford white canes, this year, during the 'Dinner in the Dark event' MTN Rwanda pledged to mobilize approximately 500 white canes to be distributed to those in need. As part of this significant initiative, NCBA Rwanda stepped forward and made a valuable contribution by donating 50 white canes to the RUB on Wednesday. The donation was received with great appreciation by the RUB officials, who emphasized the importance

of such support for the visually impaired community. White canes are essential for individuals with visual impairments as they provide a sense of independence and safety while navigating their surroundings. These canes help individuals detect obstacles, curbs, and steps, allowing them to move around with confidence and ease.

The RUB aims to enhance the quality of life for visually impaired persons

by providing them with the necessary tools and advocating for their rights. The generosity shown by NCBA Rwanda and MTN Rwanda in supporting this cause is commendable and aligns with the RUB's mission. Speaking to the NCBA representative during the handover activity, the Executive Director of the RUB, Dr. Donatilla Kanimba, expressed her gratitude and stated, "We are incredibly grateful to NCBA Rwanda and MTN Rwanda for their commitment to improving the lives of visually impaired individuals. This donation of white canes will empower our community members to move freely and independently, ultimately enhancing their overall well-being."



***NCBA Rwanda Head of Corporate Banking Diane Mukunde honored the Bank's pledge to donate 50 white canes to the blind in support of Rwanda Union of the Blind in partnership with MTN!***



# Bridging the Digital Divide: Enhancing Accessibility for Visually Impaired Rwandans



A new study unveiled by the Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB) at a conference on inclusion and digital accessibility on October 11th, 2024, highlights the current challenges faced by persons with visual impairments (PVis) in accessing digital services. Despite Rwanda's advancements in digital integration, persons with visual impairments encounter difficulties due to inaccessible digital platforms.

The study found that 48% of respondents do not use assistive technology, while 52% rely on tools like screen readers. Furthermore, 40% of respondents struggle to access digital services independently, with 50.1% requiring assistance and only 9.07% able to access them with less difficulty.

Moreover, the survey revealed that 68% of respondents find assistive technologies to be too expensive, highlighting a barrier to access

for many persons with visual impairments. Additionally, 31.4% of respondents are unaware of the costs associated with these technologies.

These statistics underscore the need for increased advocacy and action to improve digital accessibility for persons with visual impairments in Rwanda.

Dr. Beth MUKARWEGO, Chairperson of RUB, stated that RUB conducted this research on the status of persons with visual impairments using assistive technology, interviewing 306 persons from 12 districts to discuss challenges and their experiences.

She revealed that many visually impaired persons lack knowledge about technology usage, while others, particularly those with education, have some knowledge

about using smartphones and laptops.

She discussed the need for assistance in certain activities, such as reading PDF documents on smartphones. She mentioned that they may need an assistant to complete certain tasks, or the software itself may not be accessible for them to read. "If they cannot read the document, they may need to seek someone to read it for them, who may need to be paid for the service."

She said, "So, for people who are blind, most of them are financially weak, and they cannot be able to pay for these services. The technology has some services that are not disability-friendly for people who are blind. And therefore, maybe they need to be modified."



*Dr. Beth MUKARWEGO, President of Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB)*

She added, “The research aimed to explore ways to enable individuals with visual impairments to access assistive technology independently, as they often cannot afford such services relying on others.”

Dr. Mukarwego recommended that individuals with visual impairments, starting from primary school, should be educated and trained on using assistive technology, which should be accessible and affordable, as losing vision can lead to dependence.

She said, “With the use of technology today if you know how to use it, you will depend less on other people. So, the dependence will be reduced because you can even direct yourself on a motorcycle with your phone and you know where you are going. So, this will help people with visual impairments to live a life that is enjoyable and independent.”

The Executive Director of RUB, Dr. Donatilla KANIMBA, highlighted Rwanda’s successful initiative of an orbit reader, which enables

blind pupils or students to access necessary content. This allows teachers and students to download downloadable books or those made available electronically by REB, thereby increasing accessibility and inclusion for individuals with visual impairments.

She said, “It’s called an orbit reader 20; this is the one that we are using in Rwanda; it has 20 characters on the braille display. So, you can be able to use that; you can also be able to use a smartphone or a laptop to communicate with the orbit reader.”



*Calixte IKUZWE, a specialist in accessibility and assistive technology, and a member of the Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB)*

She mentioned that a braille display, accessible through smartphones, is also a potential assistive device for blind individuals, but it is not yet available in Rwanda. The cost of these devices is a significant challenge, especially for blind individuals, unless funded by someone else.

She emphasized the significant role of RUB in restoring lost skills and enabling individuals to regain functionality, highlighting examples of assistive technologies used in Masaka rehabilitation center, such as computers that talk to individuals, parking sprayers, and white canes, that help individuals regain their ability to use everyday tasks.

Calixte IKUZWE, a specialist in accessibility and assistive technology, and a member of the Rwanda Union of the Blind





*Dr. Donatilla Kanimba, Executive Director of Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB)*

(RUB) said that he studied Economics at a university, but was denied ICT subjects due to the university's belief that blind people couldn't study ICT. He attributed this to the limited choices available to blind people at the time, which forced him to choose Economics as his second option instead of ICT.

He discussed the challenges faced by people with disabilities due to stereotypes and stigma in society. People often view disabilities as limitations, this issue is present in various sectors, including education. Despite these challenges, they are gradually changing. Calixte's university experiences show that while challenges have decreased with increased involvement, stigma and stereotypes persist. The journey towards overcoming these barriers is ongoing.

Calixte, highlighted that now with his familiarity with assistive technology, can perform tasks such as identifying lifestyles, currencies, reading

documents, creating digital content, web design, coding programs, and checking website accessibility. He has completed numerous ICT courses and believes he can perform any task with reasonable accommodation.

He stated the survey they conducted involving individuals with visual impairments and stakeholders in ICT and content digitalization, revealed that they face significant challenges in accessing digital content, particularly in rural areas, due to lack of awareness about digital devices and tools.

"The survey revealed that affordable assistive technology devices are difficult to afford in rural Rwanda, and many face barriers related to technology skills and navigation. Additionally, some digital content is not accessible due to designers and developers not considering accessibility," said Calixte.

He recommended collaboration with public institutions, the government, and partners to improve accessibility of assistive technology and devices in rural areas and the Rwandan market, ensuring affordability and considering the needs of persons with disabilities in the ICT sector.

He said, "Content developers should consider including persons with disabilities in their clients and beneficiaries when creating digital content or designing digital products."

Moreover, the survey revealed challenges to the REB website, including an illogical heading structure, language attributes, and images lacking alternative text, affecting screen reader navigation and accessibility, and limiting access for visually impaired users.

# RUB and ROCOCS Celebrate Graduation of Second Cohort of Trainees in Sport and Massage Therapy



*Young people with visual impairment graduated in Sports and Massage Therapy*

**By Emmy M.**

Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB) and Rwanda Ophthalmic Clinical Officers and Cataract Surgeons Society (ROCOCS) through their Empowerment Project are celebrating the graduation of their second cohort of trainees in sport and massage therapy.

The primary goal of this project is to enhance the lives of visually impaired individuals by equipping them with practical skills and knowledge, ultimately enabling them to enter the job market with confidence. Through this project which is funded by the UNDP Rwanda, RUB and ROCOCS are paving the way for a brighter future for blind persons in Rwanda.

Speaking at the graduation event on Friday, 9th February, 2023 at Masaka Resources Centre for the Blind, Marie Jose UWISUNZE, the representative of the Rwanda Ophthalmic Clinical

Officers and Cataract Surgeons Society (ROCOCS), emphasized that the training aimed to improve the employability of individuals with visual impairment.

According to research, blind people possess a heightened sense of touch, making them well-suited for massage therapy. “Massage clients often feel more relaxed when blind individuals provide the service, so

our goal is to help them find employment in this profession to improve their lives,” she stated.

UWISUNZE noted that the program promoted maximum independence for blind trainees by integrating rehabilitation skills.

The focus on massage therapy







as a valuable skill would aid in their personal development. Joseph MUNYURANGABO, representative of the Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB), revealed that the project aimed to teach blind persons the profession of massage therapy.

He explained that the project has already assisted 16 students, with the first group recently completing their training.

MUNYURANGABO expressed pride in the project's impact on blind persons' development and appreciation for the support provided.

Lilian MUTESI, one of the participants, viewed the training as a tool to help visually impaired individuals work and thrive in their daily lives.

She appreciated the knowledge gained during the three-month course, which included understanding human anatomy and muscle treatment.

MUTESI believed this knowledge would benefit her in caring for individuals with muscle problems.

Another trainee, Joseph ITANGISHAKA, expressed gratitude to the project founders for providing massage lessons that enhanced his confidence and knowledge. He commended the teachers for their effective instruction, allowing him to

professionally learn massage therapy.

Erneste MUNYANEZA, one of the three teachers who trained the blind persons, highlighted that visually impaired Persons can excel in massage therapy and other professions. He emphasized the need for advocacy to change societal perceptions.

MUNYANEZA mentioned that the lessons included understanding the nervous and circulatory systems, providing basic care for injuries, and studying human anatomy and physiology.

He expressed the desire for continuous training to ensure blind individuals have specialized skills in the field of massage therapy, as their heightened sense of touch makes them well-suited for this profession.



*MUNYURANGABO, representative of the Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB), revealed that the project aimed to teach blind persons the profession of massage therapy.*

# Research Study shows gaps in access to Assistive Technology and UDL Based Materials for Learners with Disabilities in Rwanda



**By Ange de la Victoire  
DUSABEMUNGU**

On Wednesday, February 22, 2023, the Rwanda Union of the Blind released the findings on the research conducted on “Existing Innovative Assistive Technology and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Based Materials Facilitating Access to Learning Targeting Learners with Disabilities in Rwanda”

It is a research study commissioned by the World Bank –Inclusive Education Initiative and conducted by the Rwanda Union of the Blind in a consortium with eKitabu .

The study targeted 300 respondents in 19 districts and about 291 respondents participated in this research which gives the authenticity of the findings.

Normally assistive technology is a technology that increases, improves or maintains the functional abilities of persons with disabilities, according to the terminology taken from Document

reviewed during the study. The research has focused on three areas which included the assessment on the availability, utilization and efficacy of assistive Technology and UDL Based materials in supporting learners with disabilities in primary education.

According to this research study findings it is clear that the existing innovative technology and UDL based materials are not sufficiently enough and this creates a gap in

supporting the education of learners with disabilities in Rwanda . Possible solutions should be provided to address all these identified gaps.

Some of the key findings include lack of standardized sign language and Kinyarwanda Braille code, lack of clear implementation measures of the Special Needs and Inclusive education policy, limited UDL based materials that do not meet







all the UDL principles, insufficient assistive technologies, high cost of assistive technologies for learners with disability and limited awareness of appropriate assistive technology among others.

Presenting the findings, Umutoni Marie Françoise-Research member said that “The key findings include lack of clear implementation measures of the special needs and inclusive education policy.”

She explained that “We have the policy which is good and provides the guidance on how to even accommodate learners with disabilities. But there is that gap between the policy and the reality on the ground concerning the policy implementation”

She highlighted that there are limited UDL based materials and the available ones do not meet all the UDL principles to meet all the learning needs of learners with disabilities

On the insufficient assistive technologies, she explained that “assistive technology devices are not only insufficient but also expensive. If you look at even the smart screen boards they are expensive even to

storing huge and to embed the sign language videos, it’s another cost.”

“So it becomes more expensive when you talk of the Orbit Reader 20 which support learners with visual impairment that even the government of Rwanda launched in the effort of supporting the inclusive education however, the Orbit Reader 20 itself is too expensive, about \$950 and the available devices are insufficient compared to the needy learners in schools” Umutoni explained.

“Then again, there is limited awareness of appropriate assistive technology. Why?” She asked. She continued to explain that “Rwanda is evolving, we are now at the international standard. In other places, it’s evolving. As we talk to assistive technology everyday it evolves the same way the other technology. Today we have small mobile phones without internet and tomorrow, we have Smartphones, it’s the same also for assistive technology for learners with disabilities, it evolves all the time.”

On this, she said that the Government should put in place clear mechanisms to keep on the trend of the new versions of assistive technology.

In the meantime, the study found that on utilization of available assistive technologies, there is limited utilization, due to teacher capacity and skills, limited knowledge and available materials, and insufficient educational content in accessible format.

Umutoni said “There is the curriculum, we have the policies, but then when it’s given to the teachers, it’s still in the normal format for use and even, for the teachers, the visually impaired teachers who have been recently employed by the government are also still having challenges in accessing them.”

However, the study revealed that in special schools, there are a number of assistive technology devices compared to inclusive schools and mainstream schools.

## Meet Munyana Sauda whose Life Transformed through Massage Therapy



**Munyana Sauda, a 26-year-old woman from Kicukiro District in Rwanda, was born blind. Despite facing significant challenges due to her visual impairment, Munyana found success through the art of massage therapy. Her journey began with a project entitled “Improving Employability and Vocational Training Capacity of the Blind and Partially Sighted Persons in Rwanda,” implemented by the Rwanda Ophthalmic Clinical Officers and Cataract Surgeons Society (ROCOCS) in coalition with Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB) with support from the UNDP. Through this project, Munyana acquired a new skill that not only transformed her life but also inspired many others.**

Munyana recalls her journey towards becoming a massage therapist: “Through the Masaka Resource Center for the Blind (MRCB), a center of RUB, I was trained on massage therapy from August to November in 2023. Before acquiring this skill,

I struggled to get employment but later found hope and purpose through the training. Thanks to the skills I gained, I now earn a living through massage therapy”. Munyana said

Reflecting on the impact of her newfound career, Munyana shares, “In terms of money and economy, I wouldn’t say it’s enough, but I can handle the basic needs

as a girl.” Despite the usual challenge a blind person, she finds fulfillment in being able to support herself and others through her expertise.

The support provided by the project through a three-month training on Massage Therapy was instrumental in Munyana’s success. She emphasizes, “They didn’t ask me for school fees





which I could not afford on my own. I worked hard in what I was being trained on, and I took what I learned out into real life, and it is helping me in many ways.”

Looking towards the future, Munyana hopes to inspire employers to trust the abilities and skills of persons with visual impairments. She states, “The key message I want to give is that people should change their perception and understand that a blind person is capable of doing it like others... they can trust us, they should give us employment opportunities.”

Through her perseverance and dedication, Munyana has not only transformed her own life but also serves as a beacon of hope for others facing similar challenges. “I highly encourage persons with visual impairments to pursue their dreams and prove their capabilities to the Rwandan Community”.

At MRCB, a range of programmes are offered to empower persons with visual impairments which include massage therapy, Rehabilitation and Knitting.

The UNDP funded project closes with very inspiring stories from graduates in massage therapy who are committed to starting their own businesses or seeking employment in various institutions such as hotels. However, challenges remain, such as the lack of start-up toolkits and the mindset of employers who doubt the capabilities of persons with visual impairments entering the job market after completing their training on massage.

## **Breaking Barriers: Enrolling the Visually Impaired in TVET – A Candid Conversation with Dr. Donatilla Kanimba**



**Exclusive  
Interview with  
Dr. Donatilla  
Kanimba**

***The Executive  
Director of the  
Rwanda Union of  
the Blind***

***Breaking Barriers: Enrolling the  
Visually Impaired in TVET - A  
Candid Conversation with Dr.  
Donatilla Kanimba***

**[www.topafricanews.com](http://www.topafricanews.com)**

**Unlocking the potential of visually impaired individuals is a paramount challenge that demands our immediate attention. TOP AFRICA NEWS had a candid conversation with the Executive Director of the Rwanda Union of the Blind, Dr. Donatilla Kanimba where we delved into the pressing issues surrounding education of visually impaired persons, equipment accessibility, inclusion in technical schools, and the arduous battle against limited resources and recognition of capability.**

**What are the current image of education for Persons with visual impairment?**

The image today is that there is greater interest in the education of Persons with visual impairment, as well as in the education of individuals with special needs, compared to 20 years ago. We have teachers in the teacher training colleges who are being taught sign language and Braille, which are some of the special needs in education subjects. I think there was a time when we learned that an adapted curriculum had been set for learners with learning disabilities, mental disabilities, but it is still not in use. So that means that the government is taking interest in the education of learners with special needs, including those with visual impairment.

However, the majority of those learners with visual impairment are still in specialised schools. We are not specifically advocating for the specialised schools to be closed because we have not seen any satisfying effort in mainstream schools to include fully the learners with visual impairment. They still cannot get mathematical materials in regular schools to teach them arithmetic and mathematics. They still cannot get ways to be taught science subjects in regular schools. And the

teachers who teach them, if a few teachers have picked an interest and are beginning to understand how to teach a learner with visual impairment, after a short while they will be transferred or they will want to move to another school or to leave teaching altogether. And then the learner is starting again with new teachers or teachers who had not been trained in how to include them. So it is still a big problem. But what I would say is, if we are not ready for full inclusion in schools, let us support the specialised schools.

But the problem with the specialised schools is the distance from the children's homes and the fact that the children are going to have to leave home and stay in the residential school. So again, it is either you give up living in the family and gain a good education or you choose that your child will live with you at home but we cannot be sure of the quality of that child's education.

So yes, education for learners with special needs and especially those with visual impairment is still a problem.

**How well-equipped is the current educational system in providing quality equipment for learners with visual impairment to ensure an inclusive and effective learning experience?**

It is very difficult to say that there are adequate equipment available for learners with visual impairments. Primarily, I have noticed an issue with mathematical materials for these learners. This remains true even when considering those with visual impairments who attend TVET schools or vocational training centers. You will not find, say, measuring equipment

which is designed for people with visual impairment. You will not find weighing machines, scales, that are designed to help a person with visual impairment to be able to use the machine. You will not find equipment that will help the blind person if they want to train in cookery. And all these are things, they are in other parts of the world. But we don't have an establishment in Rwanda that stocks them, that has them and will be able to even sell to learners with visual impairment or persons with visual impairment who would like to buy these materials. So we still don't have all the equipment that we need. There is a lot of equipment that is not available.

**Are learners with visual impairment currently enrolled in TVET schools? What is the current situation regarding their inclusion in TVET schools?**

We have made attempts to include learners with visual impairments in TVET schools at certain points. Initially, we discovered that TVET schools were only willing to accommodate them in two specific locations. One of these locations is a community center in Gisenyi that caters specifically to learners with disabilities. The other location is Nyanza VTC and we had placed them there.

They were enrolled in knitting. However, in order for Nyanza VTC to accept them, we had to arrange for a trainer for the blind students who was also blind herself. As for the community center, they were already providing training for blind individuals, as well as other people with disabilities, and





they were willing to make an effort to accommodate blind people.

So it's not easy for the VTCs to be comfortable with accepting learners with visual impairments. However, I would say that many of the things taught at the VTCs can be learned by blind people, although it may take them a little longer in some cases. And then, of course, there is the problem of the kind of equipment and materials that people with visual impairment need, which are not available. So struggling to use what they are not able to use very well makes them even slower.

**Is there any message to effectively engage well-wishers, funders, and donors to support TVET education for individuals with visual impairment?**

I would greatly appreciate reaching out to individuals who possess expertise in this field, including international partners. I am aware that some international partners are involved with organizations in other countries that provide education to visually impaired learners, and they are significantly more advanced compared to us here in Rwanda.

I would like to request their assistance in introducing a specific type of training here in Rwanda. This training would be aimed at preparing the VTCs (Vocational Training Centers) and teacher training colleges. Additionally, I propose that they support RUB (Rwanda Union of the Blind) by accepting blind individuals and providing them with training. This can serve as an exemplary class, allowing others to observe the methods and techniques employed in their training. By doing so, they can witness the proper way in which blind individuals should be trained.

We require support in the form of coordinated and well-established training, which is being followed with expertise. This will enable Rwanda to effectively include and support learners with visual impairment in gaining employment, whether it be through job-seeking or self-employment.

**What steps do you think should be taken to address the challenges faced by individuals with visual impairment, including the lack of recognition**

**of their capabilities and limited financial resources to start their own projects?**

Well, that is indeed quite true because I think we have had other blind people who are trained in massage trying to establish themselves in the trade. And one of the challenges they got was that when they are working in a hotel somewhere and somebody comes for massage, they do not want a blind person to be assigned to them because they think a blind person will not know how to massage them properly, which is ironic because a blind person is better at the job.

So there is some awareness raising that needs to be done here for whether they will be able to be self-employed. That is true. We may be promised support by BDF, that is the Business Development Fund, but this is support that you will get when you already have something. You do not start from zero. We have a lot of members who do not have any start-up at all. So they will need somebody to provide them with the start-up that will help them to get the loan from BDF or any other microfinance. So that means that we are starting from far off. But somehow the number of blind people who are able to start their own businesses, whether in massage or in other areas, is very small. But at least there are some. There was a time there were none. So I think we are coming very slowly, but we are coming.

**The Interview was conducted by Ange de la Victoire DUSABEMUNGU**

# Empowering the Visually Impaired through Braille: The Story of Twagirayezu Theophile



**A Resident of Rwamagana district, Rubona sector, Kabatasi cell, Twagirayezu Theophile, a visually impaired man, is projecting to break barriers and defying stereotypes. Born in 1983, Twagirayezu is a husband and father of five children. Despite facing the challenges of blindness, he is determined to learn and thrive.**

Twagirayezu is currently learning Braille, a script designed for the blind at Masaka Resource Centre for the Blind.

In a heartfelt interview, he shared, “as soon as I was diagnosed with blindness, I felt that my hope for life was over.”

He described the initial despair he felt when he lost his sight in January 2018, leading him to isolate himself at home.

However, everything changed when Twagirayezu joined a program that

taught him valuable skills like farming, writing, and reading through Braille.

He expressed gratitude for the newfound confidence and sense of purpose this knowledge has given him.

“I have learned that a blind person can farm, write, read...we still have something to give to the country,” he said.

Twagirayezu is eager to utilize his Braille skills for reading the word of God and managing business-related information.

He emphasized the importance of equal rights for visually impaired individuals, especially in areas like voting during elections where Braille can be utilized for visually impaired persons to freely vote for themselves.

He highlighted the need for

accessible equipment and called upon the government to support the blind community by providing necessary tools for learning and communication.

Despite facing challenges, Twagirayezu remains optimistic and hopeful for a brighter future.

He expressed his desire for sponsors to help enhance accessibility for visually impaired individuals, ensuring that their writings are valued and recognized.

Through his determination and resilience, Twagirayezu is paving the way for empowerment and inclusivity for the visually impaired community in Rwanda.

From the inception of the Masaka Resource Centre for the Blind in the year 2000 to date, 986 persons with visual impairment from different district of the country



have received training in independent living skills to enable them to live as normal life as any other person.

People who were trained at the center are now living examples in their communities as they now participate fully in family and community activities.

Most of the former trainees are now the ones leading Rwanda Union of the Blind branches nationwide, others have gone back to formal education and employment while some trainees are now back at tertiary institutions after going through their primary and secondary education.

The MRCB is the only centre in the country which provides rehabilitation to persons with visual impairment and all the work done depends to donor support which is also insufficient compared to the number of applicants that we receive and not able to cater for.



## Disability is not inability, Meet Rubavu District Land Administrator



She has a permanent visual impairment since 2011! With a law degree, Mukantabana Epiphany is working in Rubavu District as Land Administrator at One Stop Center.

Born in 1975, Mukantabana lives with her caring husband with three children.

He became visually impaired after completing her University Studies in Law and before impairment she was in Social Affairs in Nyakiliba Sector of Rubavu District.

“In 2008 I have got headache” She says

“Since then I started feeling pains in my eyes and later I got a brain tumor which affected the nervous system.” Mukantabana explained.

She stopped working after getting visual impairment and that was her very difficult moment in her life.

“After being visually impaired, I will not forget the tribulation moment in 2011! I asked myself what I am going to do.” She explains.

“I really thank my husband! She took care of me and started looking everywhere searching associations that are assisting visually impaired persons!” Mukantabana said.

“In 2011 I was totally hopeless but my husband remained by my side. He is the one even who brought me at Rwanda Union of Blinds (RUB) and from then I started to regularly meet with other people who are also Blinds and we were sharing experiences which later led me to self confidence despite the blindness.” She adds.

Mukantabana was later trained to cope with her blindness. Since she was working as public servant, she



was trained with regards to her work.

“Visually impaired I was sent out of my duty as a Public Servant, however I immediately wrote a letter to public servants Commission informing them that I am doing trainings that will enable me to assume my duties.

“After completion of the trainings, the district and the commission saw that I am capable despite my disability,” she says.

“That is when I assumed my public servant duty and currently I am working as the District’s land administrator at One Stop Centre.” Mukantana reveals.

Mukabana says “Many people were questioning if I will be able to handle my tasks and some had stereotypes that visually impaired people can’t do anything!”

“I proved them wrong! I work as a normal person; you cannot even

discover that I am blind.

“Even When I attend other services I go there like rwandese woman! I don’t go there like a visually impaired women

“People should know that People with Disabilities can also work! It is a matter of mindset change. For instance the Government has allocated infrastructures meant for blinds. We learn how to use machines and computers which have significantly improved our performance.” She says with confidence.

She notes that there is a need for continuous advocacy and mindset change among people at all levels.

Mukantabana who is being trained on other software that will ease her work, adds that “For instance if someone is looking for Land title Certificates, to ensure the authenticity of the information provided, I use my



scanner! It does everything and even when you lied names or try to cheat I immediately discover that.”

“We use ICTs in Land Management. As you know ICT is changing every day! When there is new software, I ask the district to be trained. To be clear on this we don’t use machines like those ones you use, we have our special machines.” She explains

She calls for the investment in educating and training people with disabilities.

“Today I am being trained with the software that will enable me to discover errors in the dossiers without taking much time and I am sure at the end of the training I will be able to

adjust that without relying on the assistance.” She says.

Despite her life going well with her family, Mukantaba says there are still challenges that are still hindering the progress of visually impaired persons.

She explained some are quitting jobs and others quitting schools due to visual impairments.

“We need advocacy so these persons feel they are able and no reason to quit their daily activities.” She recommends.

Based on her experience, she says that there is a need for continuous support in educating people with

disabilities especially blinds.

“Education is key to visually impaired persons. Today we count many graduates who are visually impaired. They have arrived to that level because of education; there is a need to invest in their education.” Mukantabana emphasizes

Mukantabana envisions continuing advocating for her colleagues who have the same problem.

“We will continue to advocate for them at all levels” She concludes.

***“People should know that People with Disabilities can also work! It is a matter of mindset change. For instance the Government has allocated infrastructures meant for blinds. We learn how to use machines and computers which have significantly improved our performance.”***



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