

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD)

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**REPORT FOR VISITING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN UNIVERSITIES
AND HIGH LEARNING INSTITUTIONS**



Dean of Students and Students with Disabilities at PIASS

December, 2012

CHAPTER ONE: GENERALITIES

1.1 Introduction and background

National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) was established by the law no 03/2011 of 10/02/2011 with the purpose of determining its responsibilities, organization and functioning and its relationship with other State organs. This law is among the greatest achievements of Rwandan Government and is based on the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities with a purpose of promoting, protecting and ensuring 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.

As highlighted in the same laws, among the responsibilities of NCPD are:

- To coordinate activities aimed at the advancement of persons with disabilities,
- To gather and examine views of all persons with disabilities,
- To advocate on the issues affecting persons with disabilities,
- To build the capacity of persons with disabilities,
- To collaborate with non- governmental organizations engaged in the activities benefiting to persons with disabilities, to mention a few.

To achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives, NCPD needs to gather views of persons with disabilities with the purpose of developing a strong tool for advocacy. It is within this framework NCPD wants to visit high learning Institutions and Universities to share with the students with disabilities on challenges encountered in their academic life. This will also be an occasion of meeting academic authorities to share with them NCPD priorities in terms of promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in general and the students with disabilities in particular.

1.2. Overall objective of this visit

The overall objective of this visit is to identify in high Institutions and Universities, the real needs of the students with disabilities and see how to advocate accordingly to their rights.

1.2.1. Specific objectives

- To meet the academic authorities to share the NCPD expectations in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities,
- To explain to the students with disabilities the NCPD mission ,
- To determine the needs of students with disabilities,
- To assess the knowledge of students with disabilities on their rights.

1.3. Target group

To reach the objectives stated above, the visit to be conducted in high learning Institutions and Universities will involve the following people:

- Academic authorities,
- The Students with disabilities,
- The representative of students association,
- The student in charge of social affairs.

1.4. Expected Output

The strategies to address the challenges faced by students with disabilities in academic affairs will be determined.

1.5. Methodology

During this field visit, the following methodology was used:

- The staff of National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) made a short presentation on its mission regarding rights of people with disabilities,
- The students with disabilities explained the challenges they meet in their academic life and their needs,
- By the end of this visit, the staff of NCPD made a report highlighting the identified needs, challenges that will contribute to develop an advocacy tool.

1.6. Participants

This field visit to the Students with disability in Universities and High learning Institutions was participated by NCPD Staffs'. Those are:

- **KARAMIRA Jacques:** Legal Affairs Officer
- **NDIKUMANA Sosthene:** Training and Skills Development Officer.

1.7. Schedule of field visits

| INSTITUTIONS AND UNIVERSITIES TO BE VISITED | DISTRICTS | DATES | NIGHTS |
|---|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Université Libre de Kigali - ULK Kigali Campus | Gasabo | 30/11/2012 | Kigali |
| Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) | Nyarugenge | 30/11/2012 | Kigali |
| Rwanda Tourism University College RTUC, Gisenyi Campus | Rubavu | 04/12/2012 | Rubavu |
| Tumba College of Technology | Rulindo | 05/12/2012 | Musanze |
| Institut Polytechniques de Byumba, IPB | Gicumbi | 06/12/2012 | Gicumbi |
| Rukara College of Education, RCE | Rwamagana | 07/12/2012 | Rwamagana |
| Institut Laïque Adventiste de Kigali, Campus Rwamagana | Rwamagana | 07/12/2012 | Rwamagana |
| Kavumu College of Education KCE | Muhanga | 10/12/2012 | Muhanga |
| Kabgayi College of Nursing, KSNM1 | Muhanga | 10/12/2012 | Muhanga |
| Institut Laïque Adventiste de Kigali, Nyanza Campus | Nyanza | 11/12/2012 | Muhanga |
| Institute Catholique de Kabgayi ICK | Muhanga | 11/12/2012 | Muhanga |
| Catholic University of Rwanda | Huye | 12/12/2012 | Huye |
| Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences, PIASS | Huye | 13/12/2012 | Huye |
| Institut Laïque Adventiste de Kigali, Kigali Campus, INILAK | Kicukiro | 14/12/2012 | Kigali |
| Rwanda Tourism University College RTUC, Kigali Campus | Kicukiro | 14/12/2012 | Kigali |
| Institut d'Agriculture de Technologie et Education de Kibungo, INATEK | Ngoma | 17/12/2012 | Ngoma |
| Kigali Institute of Management, KIM | Kicukiro | 18/12/2012 | Kigali |
| Adventist University of Central and East Africa | Gasabo | 18/12/2012 | Kigali |
| Kicukiro College of Technology, KCT | Kicukiro | 19/12/2012 | Kigali |

CHAPTER TWO: FIELD VISIT PROCESS

2.1. Visiting at ULK and KIST

Those two universities were visited on the same date 30/11/2012 in the afternoon. The students were explained the vision and mission of National Council of Persons with Disabilities on one side. We find that all those students have physical disabilities. On the other side they told us the challenges they meet in their academic life. Those are the following:

- Lack of school fees,
- The inaccessibility of the infrastructures,
- Lack of transport facilities,
- The time allocated to the exams is not enough especially those who have the problem in writing.



Students at ULK explaining the challenges they meet

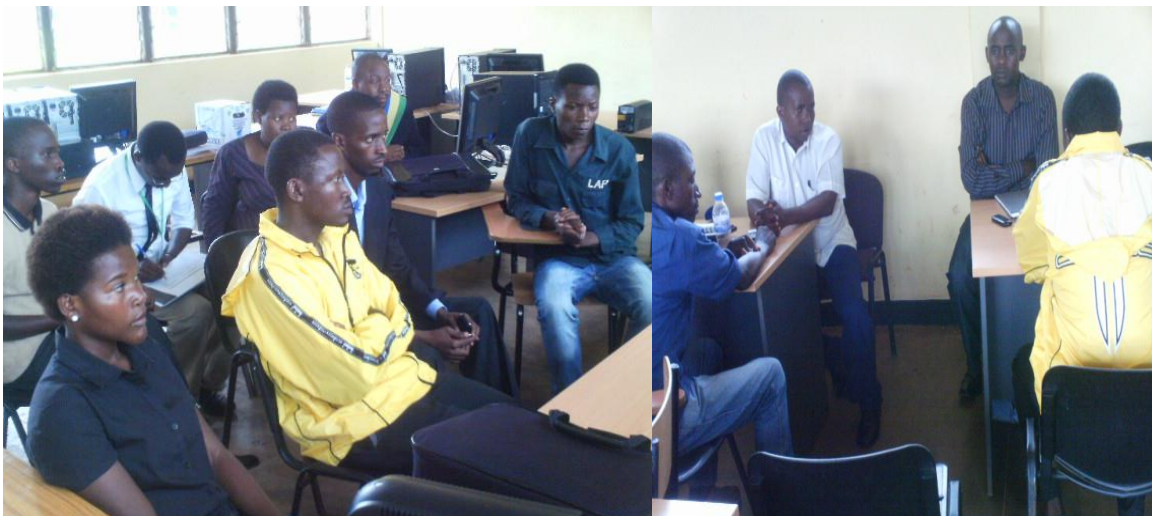
2.2. Visiting Rwanda Tourism University College (RTUC), Gisenyi Campus, Tumba College of Technology and Institut Polytechniques de Byumba (IPB).

Rwanda Tourism University College was visited on 04/12/2012. It is located at Rubavu District. It is a new University. It has planned all facilities that may help students with disabilities. Tumba College of Technology located at Rulindo District was visited on 05/12/2012. Even if it has few students with disabilities, the college has planned to help the students with disabilities. Polytechnic Institute of Byumba was visited on 06/12/2012. It is located in Gicumbi District.

2.3. Rukara College of Education, RCE and Institut Laïque Adventiste de Kigali, Campus Rwamagana

Rukara College of Education was visited on 07/12/2012. It is the same date that we visited Institut Laïque Advantiste de Kigali, Rwamagana Campus. At Rukara College of Education the students provided the following challenges:

- There is problem of transport of chairs from one class to another which is a big challenge to the students who have physical disability,
- There are not known by the authorities,
- There was a girl student with physical disabilities once she makes a presentation in class, the others ashamed to her and she gets few marks.



The students with disabilities of Rukara College of Education

In Institut Laique Advantist de Kigali, Campus Rwamagana, the students with disability told us that they have problem of school fees. There was one who has stopped to continue to study because of lack of financial support. The authorities told us that they try to help him so that he can continue to study.



The academic authority explaining us the challenges of the students meet

2.4. Visiting Kavumu College of Education (KCE) and Kabgayi College of Nursing, (KSNM1)

Kavumu College of Education was visited on 10/12/2012 at the same time of Kabgayi College of Nursing. At KCE most students have mental problems. They meet different problems such as:

- Lack of medical facilities,
- Lack of appropriate accommodation,
- Forgetting easily the lessons learnt,
- Lack of financial support to look for medicines,
- Lack of guidance and cancelling.



The students explaining their problems

At the time we meet the authorities, the Vice Principle told us that “the problems of our students are known. We do not have students with physical disability. The students we have are those ones with mental issues which is a big challenge to us. We try to help them so that they can study easily”. The Principle of Kabgayi College of Nursing told us that” the school does not have the students with disabilities. Even our infrastructures are not accessible. But we are in the process of rehabilitation because as you see they are very old. Thus at that time, we will make them accessible to all people with disabilities”.



The Principal of Kabgayi College of Nursing & Vice Principal of KCE

2.5. Visiting Institut Laïque Adventiste de Kigali, Nyanza Campus and Institute Catholique de Kabgayi (ICK).

On 11/12/2012 we visited those two universities. At INILAK Nyanza Campus, the authorities told us that” we try to help our students with disabilities. Those who have problem in writing they get extra time. Our infrastructures are accessible except some areas, but we are in the process of changing and making them more accessible.



The Rector of INILAK, Nyanza Campus The students with disability at INILAK
 Concerning the students with disabilities, all they have physical disabilities. They have the problem of school fees. One of them was rejected by his brothers and sisters. He does not have where to live.

At ICK, the students with disabilities have many problems. Some of them are the following:

- Lack of school fees,
- Lack of appropriate accommodation,
- Inaccessibility of the infrastructures,
- They do not given extra time for the students with problems in writing.



The students with disability at ICK

In the discussions with the Dean of students, she told us that they do not know the problems of the students with disabilities because they did not explain before.

But once we know any problem of a student with disability, we try to help that problem. For example you can ask Aimable, at the time we identify and explain his problem; we have tried to help him so that he can continue to study.

The Dean of students told us that she will help those students with disability in the process of inaugurating their association. They will get a representative of students with disability in the students committee.



The Dean of students at ICK



The student of ICK

2.6. Visiting Catholic University of Rwanda

On 12/12/2012 we visited Catholic University of Rwanda. The Rector of the University told us that "we try to help our students with disabilities. Those who have problem in writing they get extra time. Our infrastructures are accessible except some areas, but we are in the process of changing and making them more accessible."



The Rector of Catholic University of Rwanda

On the side of the students with disabilities, they mostly have the problem of financial support to pay for school fees, problem of accommodation, and academic equipments. Some of them risk stopping their studies.



The students with disability of Catholic University of Rwanda

2.7. Visiting Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences, PIASS

The PIASS was visited on 13/12/2012. In the discussions with the authorities, they told us that the students with disabilities are helped so that they can study in a good mood. The infrastructures are accessible to the students with disabilities. The students with disabilities on the other side they told us that the major problem is the lack of school fees. If possible you should make advocacy to the Rwanda Education Board so that we can get sponsorship.



The authorities of PIASS

The students with disability of PIASS

2.8. Institut Laïque Adventiste de Kigali (INILAK), Kigali Campus and Rwanda Tourism University College (RTUC), Kigali Campus

On 14/12/2012 we visited INILAK Kigali Campus and RTUC Kigali Campus. The infrastructures are not accessible to the students with disabilities. RTUC has taken the measures to help the students with disabilities. Those who have problems in writing they get extra time during the exams. The university provided a job to the students with disability. They have also a permanent worker who take care the students with disabilities. For the students who have hearing impairment, the University allows her to have interpreter.

2.9. Institut d'Agriculture de Technologie et Education de Kibungo, INATEK

On 17/12/2012 we visited INATEK where the Rector told us that the students with disabilities are helped within the Institute. There are some areas which are not accessible to the students with disabilities but they have planned to make them accessible. The Rector suggested that as NCPD you should take some strategies in which you can request Private Universities and High Learning Institutions to help some students with disabilities. NCPD might ask the academic authorities to take a given number of students with disabilities to help on school fees.



The Rector of INATEK



The students of disability of INATEK

2.10. Kigali Institute of Management, KIM, Adventist University of Central Africa and Kicukiro College of Technology, KCT

On 18/12/2012 we visited KIM and Adventist University of Central Africa. At KIM the infrastructures are not accessible. The authorities told us that they are in the process of making them accessible. At KIM we find a student with disability who gets a problem related to the transport and school fees. To him it is very difficult to arrive to school.



The student with disability at KIM

At Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) we found the students with hearing and speaking impairment. They do not have any interpreters. All lecturers do not know sign languages which is a big problem to teach those students.



The Authorities and Students with disabilities at AUCA

On 19/12/2012 we visited Kicukiro College of Technology. We find a student with physical disability who needs prosthesis. The infrastructures are very old and not accessible.

CHAPTER THREE: CHALLENGES

During this field visit, the following challenges have been found:

- All students with disabilities were not meet as prepared because of different programs in their studies,
- Some authorities were not found as it has planned,
- Lack of digital camera to be used,
- There is implementation gap to the Ministerial order concerning students with disabilities,
- The students with hearing and speaking impairment are not assisted at all in their education.

CHAPTER FOUR: CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

4.1. Recommendations and Suggestions

- There should be a representative of students with disabilities in students committees in all Universities and High Learning Institutions in order to make the advocacy on the needs of students with disabilities,
- NCPD should make advocacy to the Students with disabilities in extreme poverty in order to get scholarship from Rwanda Education Board,
- NCPD should make advocacy to the students with disabilities in extreme diseases to get medical support from Ministry of Health,
- NCPD should train students with disabilities to know their rights,
- NCPD should provide training to the Lectures in all Universities and High Learning Institutions to know the rights of students with disabilities,
- NCPD should make advocacy so that Lectures in Universities and High Learning Institutions are trained in signs languages,
- NCPD should make advocacy to the MINEDUC so that teachers in secondary schools are trained in sign languages,
- NCPD should make advocacy to MINEDUC by promoting the education of people with disabilities because there is still very few children with disabilities go to school and huge problems remain, including appropriate instructional materials like braille material and books in braille and qualified teachers,
- The students with hearing and speaking impairment should be well assisted in their education, or there should be special classes or special schools to those students,
- Sing Languages should be recognized as a national language and be known by Rwandan Constitution.

4.2. Conclusion

We conclude by saying that this field visit in Universities and High Learning Institutions was very important in the sense that challenges meet by students with disabilities were identified and NCPD should provide possible solutions through advocacy. The field visit should be extended up to the students with disabilities in secondary's schools and even primary's schools.

Done at Kigali January 07, 2013

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