

## History of the Organisation

Zambia National Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities (ZNAPD) was founded in 1981 with the objective of fighting for the rights and development of persons with physical disabilities and to be a platform for exchange of information. ZNAPD is affiliated to Zambia Federation of the Disability Organisations.

ZNAPD has been working at grassroots levels to build the capacity of its members to lead independent lives and be able to demand their inclusion in mainstream societal activities. The organisation has also played a key role in lobbying for the promulgation of the Zambia Disability Act as well as the National disability policy. Through its community structure, disabled people are reporting improvements in their lives and increased levels of participation in areas where the organisation has been active. ZNAPD has been an effective vehicle for sensitising the community on disability issues. The organisation has been running economic empowerment programmes for its members in various communities.

## Objectives

- Build the capacity of the membership through training and mentoring.
- Promote the welfare and development of persons with disabilities.
- Provide the platform through which the voice of persons with disabilities can be heard.
- Advocate and protect the rights, interests and needs of persons with disabilities.
- Sensitize society and other stake holders on the needs of persons with disabilities.

- Promote and foster the spirit of self-reliance and self-esteem among persons with disabilities.
- Seek representation of persons with disabilities at all levels of decision making.
- Mobilize resources to implement programmes aimed at improving the living standards of persons with disabilities.
- Ensure inclusion, involvement and participation of persons with disabilities is attained in mainstream society.
- Promote and lobby for equalization of opportunities of persons with disabilities.

## Structure of ZNAPD

ZNAPD is governed by a National Executive Board which is the policy making body of the organisation and is responsible for the overall management of the organisation. The Board is elected every three (4) years by the grassroots members through a General Assembly.

Below the National Executive Board are Provincial Committees elected to coordinate provincial activities, and they also have a three (4) year term limit.

At grassroots we have Branch Committees, that oversee the activities of the branch and they report directly to the Executive Board and the Provincial Committees.

The Secretariat is the day-to-day organ of the organisation and is headed by the Executive Director who reports directly to the National Executive Board.

## Programmes

1. **Member Mobilization and Recruitment:** The programme aims at building the organisation from grassroots levels as it forms structures up to national level.
2. **Women and Girls with Disability Support:** The programme empowers women and girls with disabilities so that they can form strong advocacy and leadership structures, and demand their inclusion in mainstream leadership as well as access to services such as sexual and reproductive health and other development programmes within their communities.
3. **Youth Support and Development:** Promote the participation of the youths (of both gender) with disabilities in the organisation, in the community by equipping them with skills on leadership and understanding of the disability issues and how the environment is affecting their effective participation
4. **Information Dissemination and Communication:** The project will seek to advocate on the rights of persons with disabilities in Zambia.
5. **Capacity Building and Economic Empowerment:** The capacity building and economic empowerment seeks to impart various skills on the members of the organisation so that they do have life skills for economic involvement or social skills for self-empowerment.
6. **Education, scholarship and Appliances Support:** This programme seeks to address the gaps that have continuously dogged the Zambian Society and impacted disproportionately on persons with disabilities.

## Activities

Various activities are being undertaken in order to fulfil the short- and long-term objectives of the organisation:

- Training members on various leadership skills.
- Empowering women and girls through workshops, exchange visits and information sharing
- Supporting members to engage in income generation projects
- Carrying advocacy and awareness campaigns at various levels of society
- Referring people for employment as part of economic empowerment

## Success stories

- The income generation projects have been a success, particularly the goat project based on the pass-on principles.



- Our groups, most of them, have been dynamic at grassroots level engaging with duty bearers to demand inclusion in mainstream development activities
- At national level we have managed to reach to high political offices to influence the thinking and perceptions.

## Where we work

Though the organisation works nationally, our activities are currently concentrated in six (6) provinces; Eastern, Western, Southern, Lusaka, Central and Copper belt. Eighteen (18) districts are actively covered by our work within these provinces

## What Underpins our Work

Our work is premised on various instruments and policies at national and international levels. The ultimate goal is to achieve inclusion of persons with disabilities in societal activities, be they political, social or economic.

The various instruments that underpin our work, inter alia, are:

1. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
2. The Persons with Disability No.6 Act of 2012
3. Zambia National Policy on Disability of 2016
4. The Constitution of Zambia
5. The Salamanca Agreement
6. The Education Policy of Zambia
7. The health Policy of Zambia



# Zambia National Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities



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