

Minister asks companies to employ PWDs

By Juliet Waswa

The gender state minister, Peace Mutuuzo, has advised government and private institutions not to deny persons with disabilities (PWDs) employment opportunities, saying they also have the ability to perform and excel.

Mutuuzo said employers have a habit of shunning PWDs, even after they prove that they have the qualifications for the advertised jobs.

Addressing journalists at the Uganda Media Centre yesterday, the minister said PWDs are exposed to limited opportunities, which leads to poverty and vulnerability.

"Poverty and disability are closely interlinked. Disability is both a cause and consequence of poverty," she said.

According to the 2014 Uganda National Population and Housing Census, 12.5% of the 36 million Ugandans are PWDs.

Mutuuzo said PWDs are still facing challenges ranging from negative societal attitudes, discrimination and insensitive policies which limit their opportunities to employment.

This year, the PWDs' day will be celebrated on Sunday in Kamwenge district, under the theme: "Employment of Persons with Disabilities: A key to sustainable and resilient society for all."

The minister explained that the Government has come up with interventions such as the provision of funds to the youth with disabilities under the Youth Livelihood Fund. About 2,000 youth with disabilities have so far benefited, Mutuuzo also said 1,800 women with disabilities have also benefited under the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship

The commissioner for disability and elderly, Sam Masaba, said all public buildings and toilets must have all the facilities for PWDs which, he is a requirement by law.