

**CHARTER OF DEMANDS  
DISABILITY-INCLUSION IN GOVERNANCE PROCESS**

**THE DEMANDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN LAGOS  
STATE FROM POLITICAL CANDIDATES AHEAD OF 2023  
GENERAL ELECTIONS**

**COMPILED BY  
JONAPWD-LAGOS**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH**

**BONEWS SERVICE  
(NOV 2022)**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronym	iii
Disclaimer	iv
Background	1
Methodology	3
Findings	4
Overall Performance on Disability Inclusion	4
Good Disability-Inclusive Practices	4
Key Concerns (Demands) of PWDs	6
Recommendations	9

## **ACRONYMNS**

JONAPWD	-	Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities
LASODA	-	Lagos State Office for Disability
LGAs	-	Local Government Areas
PWAs	-	Persons with Albinism
PWDs	-	Persons with Disabilities
UNCRPD	-	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
WHO	-	World Health Organization

## **DISCLAIMER**

The content of this document does not represent the personal views of the Lagos State Chapter of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) and BONews Service which conducted the survey and produced this Charter of Demands.

This survey was collected as at May 2022. Any update between May 2022 and the publication date might have been missed out.

**November 2022**

## BACKGROUND

The World Bank and World Health Organization's (WHO) data on disability<sup>1</sup> (2011) asserts that 15% of every country's population has a disability. Disability prevalence in the low middle income countries (LMIC) is about 19% and 11.8% in developed countries. Prevalence is about 12% for men while it is about 19% for women. Recent reports suggest that this is more likely to be higher in settings where there are conflicts, man-made or natural disasters as these could lead to an increase in the population of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Using the disability prevalence rate of 15%, it is estimated that there are about 30 million PWDs in Nigeria, and about 2.5 million PWDs in Lagos State.<sup>2</sup> There are different categories and clusters of disabilities, some of which include; Albinism, Deaf, Dwarfism, intellectual, Physical Disability, Psychosocial, Spinal cord Injured, Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Visual impairment etc. As PWDs, this category of people in the society are faced with numerous barriers in different sectors ranging from access to education, health services, work and employment opportunities, transportation, economy, communal life, social protection and participation in politics and leadership positions.

To address these gaps, there are local, national, and international policies, laws and frameworks that have been designed to address the challenges that PWDs encounter in different sector of the society. Before the Federal Government of Nigeria domesticated the United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD - 2010) through the passage of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act in 2019, the Lagos State Government had in 2011 adopted the Lagos State Special People's Law (SPL) and set up the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA), saddled with the responsibility of implementing the SPL.

Despite the existence of these legal frameworks, members of the disability community have not ceased to experience discrimination and non-inclusion in the plans and programmes of the government. Past administrations in Lagos State have shown some form of commitments to ameliorate the plights of PWDs in the state, though some are from a tokenism or charity

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/report.pdf](https://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://worldpopulationreview.com/world-cities/lagos-population>

based<sup>3</sup> approach, while some interventions have not been adequately addressed the core needs of members of this community.

It is in this regard that the Lagos State Chapter of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD), an umbrella body of all disability clusters and groups, in collaboration with BONews Service, an online development news platform providing media coverage and reportage to disability issues in Nigeria, conducted a rapid response survey among PWDs in Lagos, to assess the current administration of Lagos State regarding disability-inclusion, and to make specific demands that would address the needs of PWDs in the state.

This Charter of Demands represent the requests of PWDs in Lagos State and it would be used by different disability groups, organizations and individuals to demand for the mainstreaming of disability-inclusion across different sectors from political candidates (at local government, State House of Assembly, National Assembly and Gubernatorial levels in the State) participating in the forthcoming 2023 general elections, and upon emergence into office.

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.drakemusic.org/blog/nim-ralph/understanding-disability-part-4-the-charity-model/>

## **METHODOLOGY**

This Charter of Demands is a collection of the demands of PWDs in Lagos State through a rapid response survey. A structured questionnaire was designed and administered online among PWDs, whereby the responses have contributed to this Charter of Demands.

PWDs across 17 Local Government Areas (LGAs) out of the 20 LGAs in the State and from different disability clusters; Albinism, Blind, Deaf, Dwarfism, Intellectual; Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy, Physical, Psychosocial, Spina bifida and hydrocephalus, and Spinal Cord Injured, participated in the survey.

The analysed data was used to develop this Charter of Demands including the recommendations. Desk review was also conducted to provide background information to some issues raised by the PWDs.

## **FINDINGS**

The findings from the rapid response survey have been analysed and categorized into three key components; the overall rating of the performance of the current administration in Lagos State, the good practices of disability-inclusion that should be retained by subsequent administrations and the key concerns/ demands of Lagosians with disabilities from the government.

### **OVERALL PERFORMANCE ON DISABILITY-INCLUSION**

34% of the total respondents commended the Lagos State Government for mainstreaming disability-inclusion in its plans, policies, and programmes. They affirmed that the first three years of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration has been quite beneficial to them.

Of the respondents that commended the Sanwo-Olu's administration, 27% were from the Physically challenges cluster, 25% from the Albinism cluster, and 23% from the Deaf cluster with 2% from the Visually Impaired cluster.

However, 66% of the respondents opined that the Lagos State Government has not been disability-sensitive in its programming between 2019 – 2022. Among the respondents that claimed they have not gotten a 'good deal' from the Sanwo-Olu's administration were persons from the Physical disability cluster representing 42%, Deaf 13%, Spinal cord injured and Albinism at 12%, Blind at 10% and Intellectual at 8%.

Largely, PWDs in Lagos think that the current administration in the state has not consider the issues of disability-inclusion to be germane, neither has there been adequate mainstreaming of disability issues into the plans, programmes and policies of the Lagos State Government.

### **GOOD DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE PRACTICES**

The good practices that respondents indicated to be beneficial to the disability community are basically around Health, Education, Transportation, and Empowerment. These good practices were shared by the 34% of overall respondents who commended the efforts of the LASG in the mainstreaming of disability-inclusion across diverse sectors.

## **Health**

Respondents indicated that the Lagos State Health Scheme which provides insurance premium through the 1% equity fund has made selected PWDs in the state to access free healthcare. The initiative was applauded to be providing necessary treatment for the emerging healthcare needs of PWDs, and addressing out-of-pocket expenses on healthcare.

*“Free enrollment for the health insurance scheme for persons with disabilities,”* Person with Physical Disability from Ikeja LGA.

*“Free health scheme, however we are pleading government looks into getting us the right glasses to boost people's confidence and sunscreen lotion to reduce cancer,”* PWA from Ifako-ljaiye LGA.

## **Education**

Inclusive Education was also acknowledged to have received a boost from the current administration, through increase in the number of inclusive schools, recruitment of more teachers to provide quality learning to the students and LASODA's prompt response to address any queries from the inclusive units.

## **Transportation**

Though not an initiative of the current administration, but it has been sustained over the years, Lagosians with disabilities acknowledged the free transportation through the BRT buses in the state.

## **Empowerment**

Respondents acknowledged the various empowerment programmes (vocational training and financial support) that they have benefitted from, which has supported them one way or the other.

*“Though my son living with Down's syndrome has not benefitted directly the governor has supported parents from my cluster financially with a Million naira each for 8 parents and my son attended program organised by the Disability office of the state Lasoda,”* Intellectual Cluster from Alimosho LGA.

*"I have receive many opportunity and empowerment. Thanks to our Governor,"* Deaf person from Lagos Mainland LGA.

## **KEY CONCERNS (DEMANDS) OF PWDS**

The key concerns (which also represent the demands) of PWDS were collated from 66% of the total respondents who criticized the non-prioritization of disability-inclusive programming in the current administration. Some of these key demands are request from the current administration of Lagos State and incoming administration in 2023. The requests have been broadly categorized into Employment and Economy, Education, Health, and Road and Transportation.

### **Employment and Economy**

PWDS across different disability clusters lamented about how they have not gained meaningful employment, especially into the Civil Service, which has made living unbearable for them. According to the respondents, cost of living is high generally and it is worse for PWDS owing to the cost of disability because of lack of or reliable source of income.

*"I am a Master degree holder and unemployed, unlike when Ambode employed several people with disabilities into civil service. Also, the government should not only train people in skills there should be start up kits, and possibly internship should be included and establishments packages,"* Person with Physical Disability from Alimosho LGA.

*"Unlike other administration in Lagos where the welfare of PWDS are taking care of in terms of employment and empowerment but this administration has not done that,"* Blind respondent from Surulere LGA.

*"For the past 3 years, this administration has done nothing about the disability empowerment funds (500m) and no employment for persons with disabilities,"* Person with Physical Disability from Ifako-Ijaiye LGA.

### **Education**

Respondents opined that the education sector, especially the inclusive unit is not well equipped to cater for the needs of children with disabilities. Some of the things lacking in the

inclusive units according to the respondents range from inadequate special teachers and support staff, inadequate teaching facilities and educational materials, inaccessible school environments etc.

*“No provision for health, accessible house, educational, financial & occupational support,”* Spinal Cord Injured from Amuwo-Odofin LGA.

*“There is no good inclusive school with/without boarding facilities, no Special vocational schools/homes, healthcare, therapy centres, access to public facilities, etc.,”* Person from Intellectual cluster from Ajeromi-Ifelodun LGA.

*“We have submitted letter of special allowance on education but no response,”* Deaf person from Surulere LGA.

## **Health**

PWDs who require frequent medical care because of their disability believe that the health scheme in the state has not been tailored to meet their needs. The respondents noted how difficult it is to access quality and affordable healthcare, especially for those not onboarded into the Lagos State Health Scheme. Some of those who are beneficiaries of the health scheme also complained about the inefficiencies of health workers, insufficient drugs for their ailment and non-prioritization of PWDs in the health facilities.

*“The NHIS that was proposed was neglected. We suffer to get our bases, we suffered increases in cost of transport because of our disabilities. Cost of medical is too much when actually we are not working. Just this May 2022, scan result shows I have kidney stones, yet I went home because no money to further treatments. I wish I could die. My scooter spoilt, to replace I need 400k. Where do I get that? So I remain on bed 24/7. Is this life. I use to have impact but now, I feel useless,”* Person with Physical Disability from Ojo LGA.

*“There’s no asses to special health for people with special needs in hospitals,”* Parent of child with Down syndrome from Agege LGA.

*“Limited Support from Government in prompt access to health care,”* Person with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus from Mushin LGA.

*“There is nothing like Free health insurance,”* PWA from Eti-Osa LGA.

## **Road and Transportation**

Inaccessible road networks and transportation is another factor that PWDs identified as inhibiting them from living a meaningful life, and also concerned that the LASG has not paid attention to the sector specifically to meet the needs of PWDs.

*“Lack of accessible roads, unemployment high cost of living, poor welfare of PWDs, high cost of food,”* Blind from Mushin LGA.

*“Despite having the disability certificate, harassment from the BRT officials is too much,”* Person with Physical Disability from Ikorodu LGA

*“In view of my circumstance, I do not have freedom of movement because the only road to the street I live has been rendered inaccessible leaving me confined to the house,”* Spinal cord injured from Ikorodu LGA.

*“They don't think about we with disability before they bring out law for example they ban bike how do they want us to move around,”* Person with Physical Disability from Kosofe LGA.

## **General**

In general terms, PWDs shared some of their concerns about disability-inclusion as it is currently applicable, which they require urgent intervention for.

*“The current Governor of Lagos State unlike his immediate predecessor, have not execute any major plans towards the Disability community, No annual subvention or any sort of major upliftment towards people with special needs,”* Deaf person from OShodi-Isolo LGA.

*“There is no proper structure for people living with disabilities,”* Person with Physical Disability from Ikorodu LGA.

*“LASODA has been further weakened and relegated and unable to implement the special people's law,”* Blind respondent from Ikeja LGA.

*“Governor Sanwo-Olu does not love PWD in Lagos like what former Governor Ambode did to Lagosians with disabilities,”* Deaf person from Ikorodu LGA.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the concerns of PWDs collected through the rapid response survey, the following recommendations were developed to form the Charter of Demands of PWDs from the current and incoming administration in Lagos State.

**LASODA AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPL:** The State government should commit to full implementation of the SPL by ensuring that—

- Prompt constitution of the LASODA Governing Board with all disability clusters represented in order to give direction and inclusiveness in the management of the Agency.
- Qualified professionals and specialists in all the disability types be employed and deployed to LASODA with a view to ensuring that concerns of each disability type receives proper and professional attention.
- Disability Desks manned by qualified professionals are created in critical MDAs to facilitate functional and institutional interaction between LASODA and the various MDAs.
- Disability Support and Resource Centres are set-up in all the 20 LGAs and 37 LCDAs in order to reduce the challenges of PWDs having to come to the State Capital to receive necessary services from LASODA.
- PWDs and their legitimate organizations (especially those with proven expertise and experience in disability and inclusive development) be constantly consulted and carried along in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of disability inclusion in all policies, programs and projects of government at state and local levels.

**EDUCATION:** To make education more inclusive and accessible to PWDs, the State Government should—

- Review and strengthen the Inclusive Education Policy with a 5-year implementation plan that will receive annual cash-backed budget.
- A distinct Directorate for Special and Inclusive Education is established under the Ministry of Education to provide the necessary professional and institutional support

to the delivery of qualitative, functional and inclusive education to children and learners with disabilities at primary, secondary and tertiary levels respectively.

- All 49 public inclusive primary and secondary schools should be equipped with relevant assistive learning aids and provided with special teachers, care-givers and other relevant specialists.
- All 49 inclusive schools be provided with functional buses to support mobility for pupils and learners.
- Some of the inclusive schools be provided with boarding house facilities to ease learning for pupils and learners.
- Special Allowances for special teachers be implemented in order to motivate them.

**HEALTH:** The government needs to put in place a disability-Inclusive Health Framework in line with the SPL. This should—

- Detail modalities for implementing the “free health” provisions of the SPL for PWDs.
- The Lagos State Health Insurance Program and other primary health care delivery services be reviewed to mainstream the specific health needs of the various disability types.
- All public health facilities should establish disability support desks/units and equip same with sign language interpreters, social workers, therapists, etc.

**EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION:** The State Government should demonstrate real and sustained commitment to a more wholistic and systemic approach to the socio-economic empowerment of PWDs. This should be done through—

- Guidelines for Disability-Inclusive employment and economic empowerment for PWDs should be developed.
- Guidelines for delivery of disability-inclusive social protection should be developed.
- The full and transparent implementation of the Disability Trust Fund as provided for in the SPL with full consultation and involvement of legitimate organizations of persons with disabilities in Lagos State.

- Full compliance by all MDAs with the 1% quota reservation of employment slots for qualified PWDs during recruitment exercise in the State.
- All social investment programs, social protection programs and various economic empowerment programs be reviewed to specifically capture and provide for “disability costs”, and mainstream specific abilities, interests and needs of various disability types.
- Government procurements, especially those which target small and medium scale businesses should provide for specific quotas set aside for PWDs.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Mobility remains a major challenge for PWDs in a cosmopolitan state like Lagos. The state government still needs to do more to make public transportation more accessible for PWDs—

- Guidelines on accessible transport services for PwDs should be produced and disseminated to all operators of public transportation services.
- All public transportation infrastructure across the 3 modes (rail, road and water) should be made accessible to PWDs.
- Accessible bus and train services should be offered free of charge to PWDs.
- Public transportation personnel should be trained to provide support to PWDs.

**ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE:** Since the making of the SPL, there is yet to be a documented accessibility standards to guide provision of accessible public infrastructure in the State. The Government is therefore requested to—

- Develop Accessibility Standards to guaranty universal access to public infrastructure.
- Conduct accessibility audits of major public infrastructure and spaces to identify accessibility needs and requirements.
- Put in place a task force to ensure compliance with all accessibility standards in all public infrastructures and spaces.

**THE STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:** Since the passing of the SPL by the State House of Assembly, not much has been seen from the Legislature on the review and oversighting of the SPL. Accordingly, there is need for the current and next Assembly to—

- Review the SPL to meet with current realities.
- Mainstream disability inclusion into all legislations emanating from the Assembly.
- Establish a Disability Unit to support disability inclusion in all legislative activities.
- Make adequate appropriation of resources for the implementation of the SPL.
- strengthen its oversight functions to ensure and compel full compliance with the provisions of the SPL.

**THE JUDICIARY:** PWDs in Lagos State face significant difficulties in gaining Access to justice. The Lagos State Judiciary and law enforcement agencies need to rise up to their responsibilities of delivering justice to PWDs in view of protecting their fundamental rights—

- A framework to support access of PWDs to justice should be developed.
- Regular Capacity building for judicial and law enforcement officials.
- Provision of reasonable accommodations to PWDs who engage the justice system.

## **CONCLUSION**

The realities on the ground indicate that very little have been done to guaranty access of PWDs to sustainable inclusion and participation in the vast socio-economic and political opportunities in Lagos state despite the existence of the SPL for the last 10 years.

PWDs in Lagos state are therefore demanding that the current and in-coming government in Lagos state should demonstrate strong commitment to full implementation Of the SPL.

PWDs and their representative organizations in Lagos State are therefore of the strong view that if the above demands are considered and met by the current and in-coming Government in Lagos State, a lot of grounds can be covered to strengthen the foundation for a more sustainable disability sensitive and inclusive Lagos State within the next one decade on or before 2030.