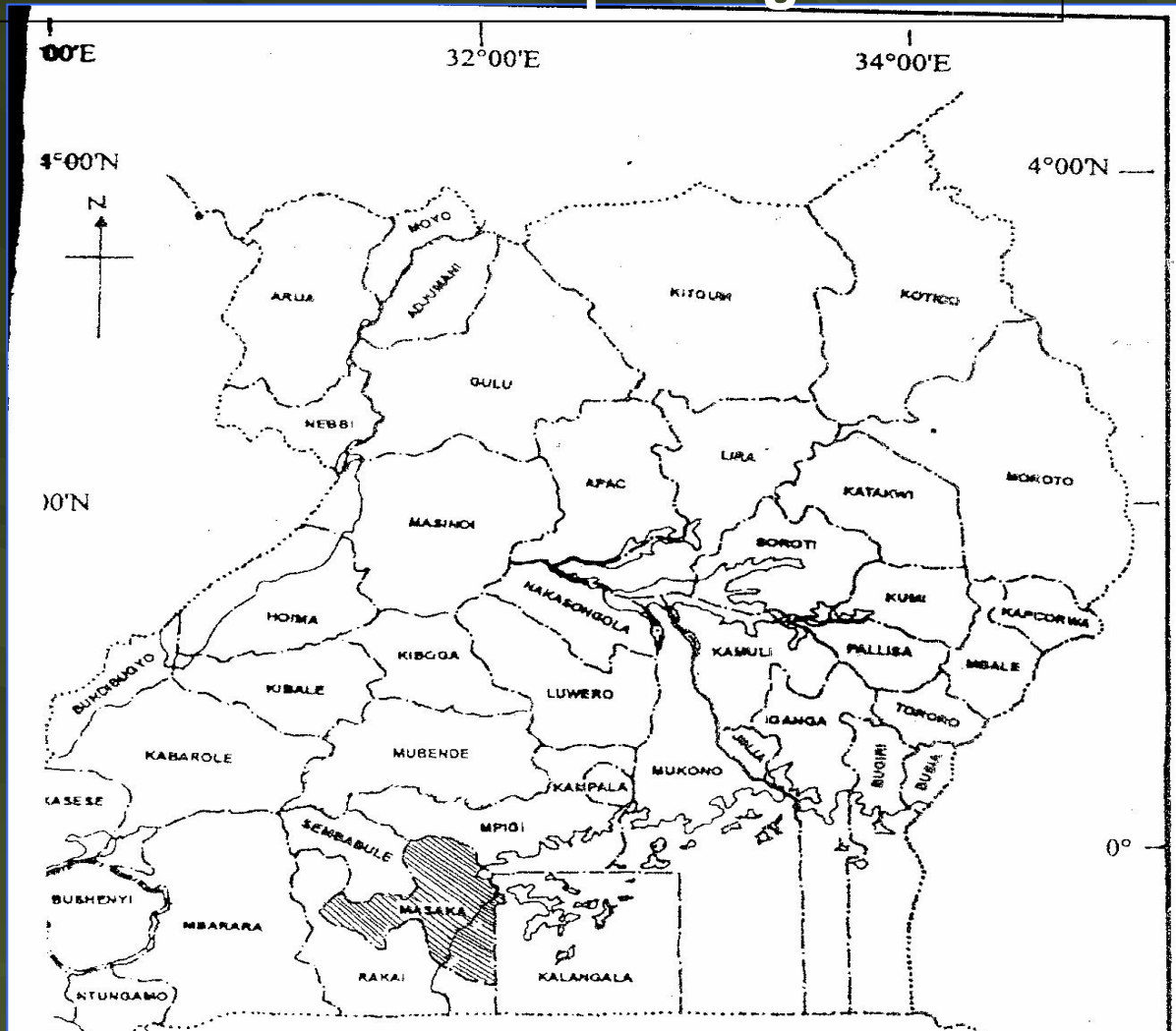


# A PRESENTATION ON THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN UGANDA



# A Map of Uganda:



# ORGANISATION STRUCTURE:

- Ministry of Labor, Gender and Social Development.
- Government of Uganda
- It addresses the development concerns of the people **holistically**.
- It is therefore mandated to promote social protection and transformation of communities for meaningful development of the community
- The functions of the ministry revolves around **promoting**, **protecting**, **mainstreaming** and **advocacy of the rights** of the disadvantaged social groups including women, youth, children, people with disabilities (PWDs), workers, the elderly and the illiterates.
- The Ministry operates through a structure consisting of two specialized Directorates, (Gender, Culture and Community Development; and Labour) and other seven (7) departments consisting of disability and elderly, youth and children affairs, poverty eradication, economic and civic rights, gender culture and community development, labour employment and industrial relations and occupational safety and health.

## VISION

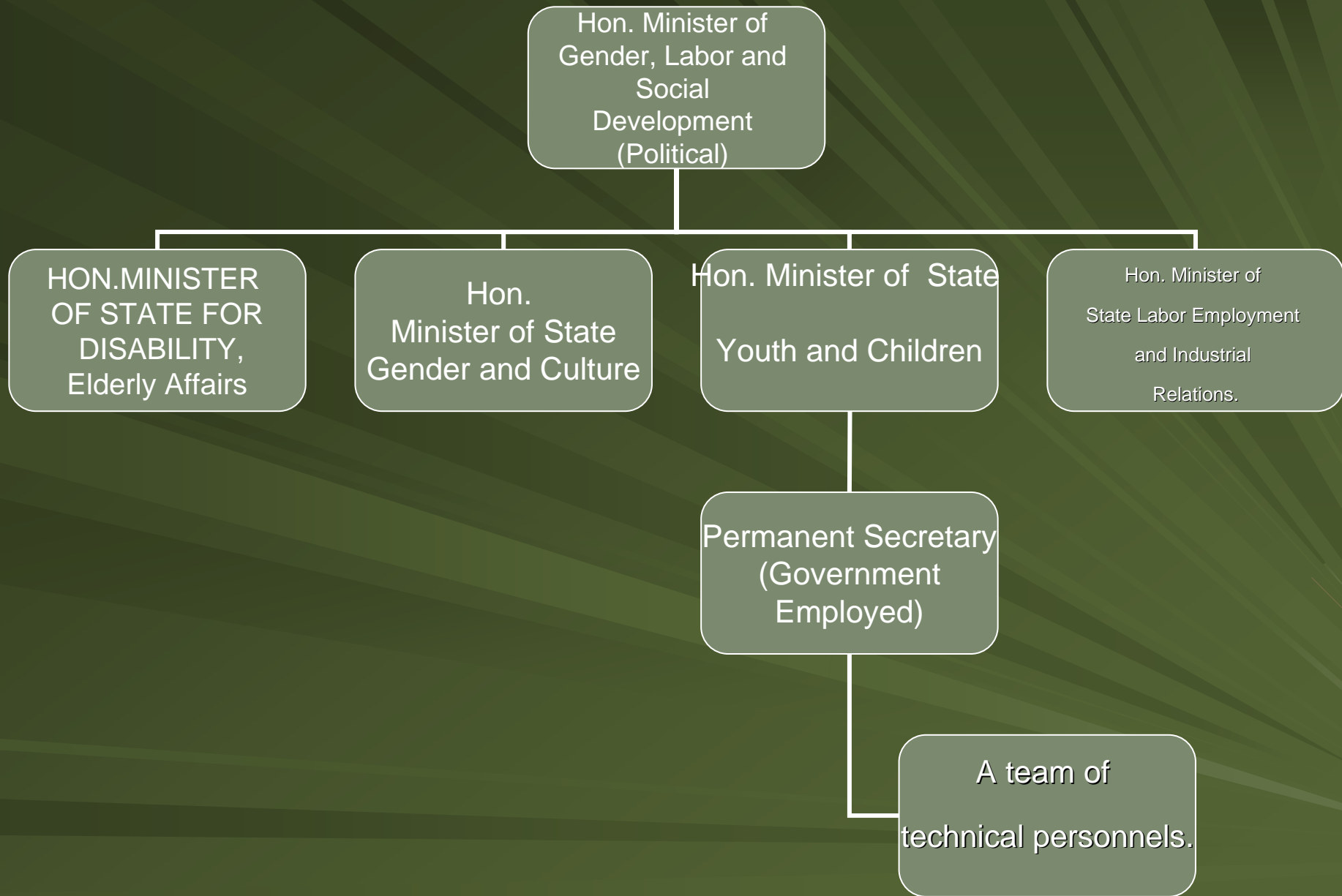
The vision of the Ministry: **A better standard of living, equity and social cohesion for all especially the poor and the vulnerable groups.**

## MISSION

The Mission: **To create an enabling environment for social protection and social transformation of communities**

# LINKAGE TO THE LOWER LEVEL:

- The ministry also is linked to the Local Governments through the Departments of Community Based Services, headed by the District Community Development Officer (DCDO).
- The Department consists of Rehabilitation, Probation and Welfare Labor Employment and Industrial Relations and community Development.
- At the Lower Local Government Level (LCIII), the Community Development Officers (CDOs) and their Assistants are responsible for all the Community activities and report back to the above officers.
- The Department also works in partnership with CBOs, NGOs, the National Youth, Women's and persons with disabilities' councils.



# ROLES OF THE MINISTRY

- Mobilize and empower communities particularly the Persons with Disability (PWDs).
- Formulate and review policies, develop legislation, provide policy direction to all stakeholders, monitor and evaluate policy implementation.
- Promote affirmative action and equal opportunities for the PWDs and the vulnerable
- Mainstream social development concerns, in particular disability, gender, equity and rights
- Promote skills development for employability of the PWDs and vulnerable groups
- Promote skills development for employability of the PWDs and vulnerable groups
- Promote Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

# Department of Disability and Elderly

## Staffing

■ Paid staff	127 people
■ Persons with disability	30
➤ Physical	25
➤ Deaf	04
➤ Blind	01

## Partnership

- ✓ Both local organizations and International organizations involved in disability work.
- ✓ These organizations don't pay for services rendered to the Ministry.

## Finances

- Central Government through the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
- Donor supported activities

## Weakness

- Inadequate Government funding
- Inadequate disability track data system for PWDs

## Strength

- Qualified and committed resource personnel
- Availability of vocational and Rehabilitation centres that train PWDs.
- Good administrative structure and accountability procedure.
- Good working relationship between National and International NGOs in areas of Disability.

# THE DETAILED ACTIVITIES OF A SENIOR REHABILITATION OFFICER (SRO)

- To create awareness among communities for positive attitude towards persons with Disability and Elderly.
- To ensure that strategic plans, programmes policies and laws addressed to concerns of PWDs.
- Empower PWDs and Elderly to effectively participate in developmental initiatives.
- Develop and review relevant guidelines programmes and policies that address the plight of PWDs and Elderly.
- Coordinate, monitor and evaluate PWDs and elderly activities.

## **Why and when I joined the department?**

- ➔ I wanted to serve my people both PWDs and the entire community for the good of the department and Uganda as a nation. As well as acting as a role model for the fellow persons with disability in Uganda

When?

On 25th March, 2004

## **Problems/Difficulties I find in my work**

- Inadequate funding
- The high negative attitude of the parents of PWDs and the entire community.
- Inadequate training in CBR at the lower village level

# Uganda's country data

- 241,038sq.km (Land area 197,323 square kilometers)
- The capital city is Kampala and now Uganda has 82 districts
- 24.2 millions people (Population census 2002) 31.1% of these live below the income poverty line and 7.5 million Ugandans are chronically poor.
- Life expectancy (2002) 50.4 years (Female 52.0 and Male 48.8)
- Infant mortality rate (2006) 76 per 1,000 live births
- Maternal mortality rate (2006) 435 per 100,000 live births
- Education (2002) total enrollment 86% primary and 23% secondary
- Literacy rate (2002) 70% (female 62% and male 77%)
- Unemployment rate (2002) 5% (5% male and 4% female)

## Ethnic groups

- 56 legally recognized ethnic groups.
- However, 9 ethnic groups are mostly recognized and these are: Baganda, Banyankole, Basoga, Bakiga, Iteso, Langi, Acholi, Bagishu and Lugbara.

## Languages

- English (Official language), Swahili, and languages of the above ethnic groups.

## Religion

- The religions are: Catholic, Anglican/Protestants, Moslems, Pentecostal, SDA, Orthodox, other Christian, Bahai and others.

# Disability related information

## ■ Disability definition

- Disability is a permanent substantial functional limitation of daily life activities caused by physical, mental or sensory impairment and environmental barriers resulting in limited participation (National Council for Disability Act 2003).

## NOTE:

One is NOT “disabled” but has “a disability” and the factors above if not handled well and fast ,then he/she becomes disabled.

## ■ Classification:

- Mobility difficulties
- Hearing difficulties
- Sight difficulties
- Mental difficulties
- Speech difficulties
- Multiple disabilities

# Population of PWDs in Uganda

Type of Disability	Age	Causes	Male (%)	Female (%)
Mobility difficulty	0 – 59	Diseases/illness,accidents, ageing, wars, congenital and others	16.0	12.9
Multiple disabilities	0 – 59	Diseases/illness,accidents, ageing, wars, congenital and others	9.1	4.6
Hearing difficulties	0 – 59	Diseases/illness,accidents, ageing, wars, congenital and others	10.1	6.5
Sight difficulties	0 – 59	Diseases/illness,accidents, ageing, wars, congenital and others	15.0	10.4
Mental difficulties	0 – 59	Diseases/illness,accidents, ageing, wars, congenital and others	9.3	4.4
Speech difficulties	0 – 59	Diseases/illness,accidents, ageing, wars, congenital and others	0.7	0.8

# Population of PWDs

- The population census (2002) shows that Uganda has a total population of 838,000 PWDs. Approximately (3.5%) of the total population and 2.5% of these are estimated to be chronically poor.

## The laws that are specifically targeting persons with Disabilities

- The National council for Disability Act 2003, mandates the council to bring PWDs' issues to the attention of the Government, NGOs, Private sector and individuals to improve the lives of PWDs
- The persons with disabilities Act 2006 makes the provisions for the elimination of all forms of discriminations against PWDs towards equalization of opportunities and related matters

## Finances

PWDs are getting financial assistance from;

- The Government through the National Council for Disability.
- At the district level, districts allocates finances from their local revenue to help in running their activities
- Other sources include the National and International NGOs

## Disability related organizations

1. National Council for Disability
  - To monitor and evaluate the impact of the Disability Policy and its Program.
2. National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU)
  - Promote the dignity and well being of PWDs
  - Strengthen the capacity of PWD members at the village and sub county levels
  - Supplement government efforts in delivery of services to PWDs.

# Personal Experience

- I was born on 23rd December, 1977, at the age of one (1), I acquired a polio virus which crippled me and do use a tricycle for mobility.
- Due to my disability, I delayed schooling and on my first day at school (Wheeling Preparatory Centre), it was a disaster! as the school not being a special one, so I was the first disabled pupil, when the pupils saw me crawling to class, they all ran away crying, I had to spend a week not going back to school, because of this nasty experience. However, my mum convinced me and took me back to school. With the help of the class teacher, the pupils accepted me without discrimination, I was able to complete Primary seven (1992) where I was among the best pupils in the school.
- High school level was also a tag of war as mum did not have money to pay school dues as she didn't have a paying job yet I hated begging on the streets as most PWDs I saw. So, I started part time teaching at our home (coaching) and the money got helped me complete "O" level (1996).
- With this struggle, I thought I shouldn't continue studying but the idea was changed when the Head teacher of a nearby Primary school refused me on a basis of my disability that all his students would go away from his school. So, I was so disappointed and through struggle, I reached University.
- Now the Ministry employs me as a Senior Rehabilitation Officer and acting as a role model to the rest of the Disability Community in Uganda.

# The Status of PWDs in Uganda

- The government of Uganda has played a great role in improving the lives of PWDs like enacting policies, free access to hospitals and schools, which has enabled them to access education, health and rehabilitation services.
- However, the status is still bad more especially with rural population of PWDs and it worsens with the nature of disability like deaf blindness, cerebral palsy and mental illness.
- The rural population of PWDs is still discriminated right from their homes (families) as the parents look at them as useless, less worth and contributing nothing to the family. Much as I have tried through my department to change this scenario by sensitizing the parents and the entire community, discrimination is still a big huddle in my professional work.
- The discrimination of PWDs right from their families, has led to other issues like illiteracy, high poverty levels and failure to receive the necessary services from the service providers, hence leaving a lot to desire.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION!!



*YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO  
UGANDA*