



Some of the children with disabilities, parents and volunteers of SeeChild after launching the organisation at Ngobe B in Mutundwe, Wakiso district on Thursday. Photo by Mathias Mazinga

# People with disabilities call for social acceptance

WAKISO

By Mathias Mazinga

The programme officer of Uganda National Action on Physical Disabilities, Scholastica Opoti, has asked the Government and all Ugandans to be more committed to the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities.

She decried the persistent discrimination against people with disabilities, which she said, had stifled the potential of many disabled persons to develop and utilise their talents.

Opoti called for an "accessible environment," where persons with disabilities can live happily and also develop and utilise their talents with convenience.



Shammim Nantambi

need is a friendly environment. If I want to go to school, to the market or to my office, I should be able to access them," Opoti said.

She was speaking during the official commissioning of SeeChild (Sustainable and Effective Empowerment of Children with Disabilities), at the organisation's training centre at Ngobe B, Mutundwe, in Wakiso district on Thursday. SeeChild is a civil society organisation that provides effective skills to parents and children with disabilities.

Opoti later lashed out at

parents who mistreat their disabled children and at times lock them up in houses and asked them to stop the habit. Citing examples of successful individuals living with disabilities, Opoti argued that children with disabilities can be successful in all spheres of life, if they grow up in a convenient environment.

The project co-ordinator of Humane Africa, Shammim Nantambi, also gave a moving personal testimony, and she urged parents and members of the public to end discrimination against children with disabilities.

"I was born with a serious disability and I could not talk or walk until I was five years. Pupils at school never wanted to sit with me. Even when I grew up, the very man who made me pregnant refused to accept the child. He told me he could not produce a child with a disabled woman. Even my mother-in-law rejected me and my child. Good enough

my parents were supportive. They paid my tuition and I even graduated at MUBS. Today, I can look after my child without any help from my in-laws. I am also my family's problem-solver," she said.

Charles Ddungu, a clinical psychologist based in Belgium, also affirmed the potential of people with disabilities to stand on their own and sustain themselves if they are treated well.

The founding co-ordinator of SeeChild, Fred Kiriggwajjo Matovu, said the organisation would empower parents and children with disabilities to live a meaningful and fulfilled life.

The area LC1 chairman, Peter Wasswa, encouraged all the residents who were hiding children with disability in their houses to take them to the centre, where they will be given education and life skills. He also asked them to own the organisation by giving it the necessary moral and financial support.

## Caritas in Luwero progr

LUWERO

Frederick K

Kasana-Luwero Diocese is set to sh2b on t of social s development in the region.

The programe be implement Kasanaensis, services and arm of the dic Caritas

which started year after Ka Diocese was l at alleviating greater Luwero services and

The diocese Nakasongola

Father Hilla Kasanaensis, meeting that expected to c

During the r diocesan hea came from L reviewed the up plans for

Father M programmes to the needs areas of focu sanitation, tra the vulnerabl

He said Ca training insti hands-on agr

While revie said some of constraints, a agricultural p

The board policymakers more revenu advised the o retention pol over.

The Kasana on the bene in isolation, handicaps.

The benefi ordinators, b programmes were still ch programmes.

To register for the Mastercla

Offering farmers DATE FARMER