

Amule  
Date of the  
2/3/19

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO  
CREATE AWARENESS ON DOWNS SYNDROME IN UGANDA**

*(Moved under Rules 55 & 56 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament)*

**WHEREAS** the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, under objective XVI of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy enjoins Society and the State to recognize the right of persons with disabilities to respect and human dignity;

**ANDWHEREAS** Uganda is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966, the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities which conventions specifically enjoin government to among others protect and guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities;

**AWARE THAT** in 2019, Parliament enacted the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2019, a law that is intended to ensure the respect and promotion of the fundamental and other human rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities;

**FURTHER AWARE THAT** Down's Syndrome is a debilitating condition which has no cure and causes a multiplicity of other medical complications affecting the Heart, gut, hearing, vision and is known to cause thyroid, dementia as well as increased risk of infections among its victims;

**NOTING THAT** Down's Syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that causes impairments in both cognitive ability and physical growth that range from mild to moderate developmental disabilities and associated medical issues;

**FURTHER NOTING THAT** in Uganda today, Down's Syndrome is one of the most common genetic causes of learning difficulties in children and one of the causes of disability amongst children;

**RECOGNISING THAT** according to the United Nations, Down's Syndrome affects about 1 in 800 births worldwide, while in Uganda, about 37,000 people have been diagnosed with Down's Syndrome;

**FURTHER RECOGNISING THAT** the United Nations Body recognised the seriousness of Down's Syndrome as a global health issue and the General Assembly declared 21<sup>st</sup> March of every year as World Down's Syndrome Day in order to raise public awareness of Down's Syndrome;

**CONCERNED THAT** whereas the United Nations body has recognised the seriousness of Downs syndrome as a global health issue, Uganda has not put in place mechanisms for detecting, supporting, creating awareness, designing specific medical interventions as well as educating the general public on Downs Syndrome;

**NOW THEREFORE** be it resolved by this Parliament that Government-

- (1) takes interest in the affairs of persons with Downs Syndrome;
- (2) creates awareness on Downs Syndrome in Uganda;
- (3) recognises Downs Syndrome as an emerging health issue in Uganda and devises mechanisms to ensure-
  - (i) early detection of Downs Syndrome in unborn babies; and
  - (ii) pre-natal genetic screening for Downs Syndrome and other genetic conditions in all expectant mothers; and
- (4) Declares the 21<sup>st</sup> March of every year as a day to commemorate the international Downs Syndrome Day.

**Moved by:           Hon. Hood Kiribedda Katuramu; PWD Representative**

**Seconded by:   Hon. Lyandro Komakech;  
                          Gulu Municipality**