

**Community Empowerment for Progress Organization CEPO**

**The Republic of South Sudan Juba**

 **Email:** ceposouthsudan@gmail.com ***Date: 17th June. 2023***

***Press Release***

**Disability Inclusion Desk in National Elections Commission (DI-NEC)**

Juba. 17th June, 2026. South Sudan is state party to the United Nations on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and its optional protocol. CEPO and the Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) jointly engaged on championing the government ratification of the UNCRPD and its optional protocol in 2024. CEPO drives influential within the national legislative assembly with full support of Right Honorable Speaker Nunu and on the other hand CEPO engaged effectively with the National Ministry of gender, Child and Social Welfare in partnership with Light for the World, ZOA-Dorcas and among other partners on Disability Inclusion

Mr. Edmund Yakani, Executive Director of CEPO says today dated 17th June, 2025, another progress step is under progress on establishment of disability inclusion desk in our national Elections Commission. In genuine cooperation and collaboration between civil society and the leadership of National Elections Commission possibilities of establishing Desk for Disability Inclusion for meaningful participation and representation of the population of persons with disabilities in South Sudan forthcoming elections in December 2026 is very high. Elections are inclusive if it is easier accessible to the population of persons with disabilities, otherwise the elections will be discriminative to the population of persons with disabilities besides South Sudan being state party to UNCRPD and its optional protocol

CEPO have successful campaigned for similar inclusion of persons with disabilities in national institutions namely National Constitution Review Commission; Panel for selection of Commissioners for the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Commission and the Reparation and Compensation Authority; Establishment of National Parliamentary Allies for Disabilities Inclusion, Establishment of Disabilities Inclusion Technical Team for National Ministries Directors for Budget and Planning and National Network on Prevention of Genocide. CEPO have sound experiences on championing disability inclusion in national decision-making institutions. Mr. Yakani stressed

Finally, CEPO strongly believe that having Disability Inclusion desk in the national Elections Commission is essential for strengthening accessibility to electoral processes and setting an inclusive electoral process that does not embrace any electoral discrimination act in any form. This best practice demonstrates our country compliance with the UNCRDP article 29 and its optional protocol. CEPO will be triggering UNCRPD article 29 for detailed promotion and protection of meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in South Sudan 22nd December 2026 Elections