

# NUDIPU asks members to back candidates with plans for PWDs

**GULU**

**By Rosemary Anena**

The National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU) has urged its members to vote for parliamentary candidates with clear and committed plans to improve the lives of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Founded in 1987, NUDIPU is the national umbrella organisation bringing together disability groups across Uganda. On Monday, the union held its first engagement to connect parliamentary candidates directly with PWD voters at Flight View Hotel in Bardege-Layibi division, Gulu city.

NUDIPU chief executive officer Esther Kyoziira said the workshop aimed at giving candidates a platform to present their manifestos.

"We want contestants to mention what they plan to do for persons with disabilities in areas such as food security, land rights, health, education and social protection," Kyoziira said.

The event, organised under the five-

year 'We Are Able project', covers Omoro, Nwoya, Arua city, Yumbe and Terego districts and is implemented with ZOA, VNG International and The Hague Academy.

Of the 11 candidates contesting for the PWD parliamentary seats, only five attended –

Robert Ssewagudde, Eunice Nyamuhakyi, Yona Wasswa, Rose Acayo Obol and Alex Nderi.

Nyamuhakyi, the incumbent, highlighted low education levels among PWDs, citing poverty and lack of inclusive schools. "We need

increased government sponsorship and a guaranteed percentage for PWDs in the employment sector," she said, calling for permanent sign language interpreters in public institutions.

Ssewagudde said poverty remains PWDs' biggest challenge and pledged empowerment programmes. Obol proposed health insurance for PWDs funded by MPs and civil servants, while Wasswa promised stronger electoral representation. Nderi pledged to continue advocating for PWD rights.

