

THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2013

A Bill for

AN ACT of Parliament to amend the Persons with Disabilities Act and for connected purposes.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Kenya, as follows—

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| Short title. | 1. This Act may be cited as the Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Act, 2015. |
| Amendment of section 15 of Cap 133. | 2. Section 15 of the Persons with Disabilities Act (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”) is amended in sub-section (6) by deleting the word “sixty” and substituting therefor the words “sixty five”. |
| Insertion of new section 21A in Cap.133. | 3. The principal Act is amended by inserting the following new section immediately after section 21- |
| Access to services. | 21A. (1) An institution or body offering services to the citizens shall, to enable persons with disabilities enjoy the services, avail within the institution or body, assistive devices and other equipment, including the services of a qualified interpreter for the deaf and the blind.

(2) The institution or body under subsection (1) shall, disseminate to the public information regarding the availability of sign language interpreters for the deaf and the blind within the institution, or certain branches or regions of the institution. |
| Insertion of new section 28A in Cap 133. | 4. The principal Act is amended by inserting the following new section immediately after section 28- |

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Official
language for
the deaf.

28A. (1) The official language for the deaf is the Kenyan Sign language.

(2) The Kenyan Sign language shall be equivalent to English, Kiswahili or any other language for purposes of communication, examination, qualification or any other areas of equivalence.

Amendment
of section 39
of Cap 133.

5. Section 39 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the word “or” appearing immediately after the word “inset” and substituting therefor the word “and”.

MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The primary objective of this Bill is to amend the Persons with Disabilities Act to make it accord with the Constitution of Kenya 2010. A person with disability is entitled under the Constitution to reasonable access to all places, public transport and information and hence the Government has the responsibility to make telecommunications and mass media available to persons with disabilities for their rehabilitation, self-development and self-reliance.

The Bill's objective is to make television more accessible to persons with hearing disabilities and to ensure that those who are hearing-impaired are not deprived of timely and relevant information that broadcast news provides.

This Bill is a Bill concerning county governments.

The enactment of this Bill shall occasion additional expenditure of public funds to be provided through the estimates.

WANJIKU MUHIA
Member of Parliament