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**TAF Africa**  
... Disability Inclusion Champion

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## TAF AFRICA TRAINS JOURNALISTS IN DELTA STATE TO STRENGTHEN ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Despite the existence of disability rights laws at both national and state levels, public awareness and implementation gaps remain significant barriers to full inclusion for persons with disabilities in Nigeria. TAF Africa recently held a two-day intensive

media training in Delta State as part of the Disability Rights Advocacy Project for Inclusive Development (D-RAPID), acknowledging the media's potent influence in influencing public opinion and promoting accountability.

The training brought together journalists, disability rights leaders, civil society organisations, legal professionals, and government stakeholders to strengthen disability-inclusive reporting and advance awareness of the Delta State Disability Law. The D-RAPID project is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and Christian



Blind Mission (CBM), with TAF Africa implementing the initiative in Delta State, while the National Women Trust Fund leads implementation in Benue State.

Nigeria's Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, signed into law in 2019, marked a major milestone in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. The Act prohibits discrimination and guarantees equal access to education, healthcare, employment, and public life. It also established the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) to ensure accessibility and social inclusion, including a minimum five percent employment quota for persons with disabilities in public institutions.

While Delta State has domesticated the national law, stakeholders at the training expressed concern that awareness of the state's disability law remains low, even



among employers, duty bearers, and the public. media capacity is not only enacted but also understood and implemented.

Speaking during the engagement, the D-RAPID Project Coordinator, Dr. Andrew Adaji, highlighted the urgency of bridging this awareness gap. He emphasised that strengthening

Delta State has passed the law, but a lot of people are not aware of it. We believe that by training journalists, awareness about the law will increase significantly.

— Dr. Andrew Adaji,  
D-RAPID Project  
Coordinator

“One of the things we discovered is that Delta State has passed the law, but a lot of people are not aware of it. That is why we believe that if we bring journalists on board and train them, awareness

essential to ensuring that disability rights laws are



about the law will increase significantly,” he said.

Dr. Adaji also noted critical disparities between the Delta State disability law and the national framework, particularly in employment provisions. While the National Disability Act mandates a minimum of five per cent employment quota for persons with disabilities, Delta State’s law currently provides for only one per cent per 100



employees; a provision and equity. that risks excluding persons with disabilities from employment opportunities in smaller organisations. Hestressedthe importance of aligning state-level provisions with national standards to

was the recognition that the media plays a pivotal role in advancing disability rights, not only by reporting events but by shaping narratives, influencing public perception, and holding institutions accountable.

“ Journalists must go beyond episodic coverage and consistently highlight disability issues through investigative reporting, policy analysis, and storytelling that reflects lived experiences.

— Amb. Jake Epelle,  
CEO/Founder, TAF  
Africa ”





Founder, Amb. Jake Epelle emphasized the importance of sustained and responsible media engagement in promoting disability inclusion.

“This engagement is part of our sustained advocacy to mainstream disability inclusion in public discourse. Journalists must go beyond episodic coverage and consistently highlight disability issues through investigative reporting, policy analysis, and storytelling that reflects lived experiences,” he said.

He further emphasised that sustained media attention is essential for ensuring compliance with disability laws and

advancing reforms that guarantee accessibility, equal participation, and dignity for persons with disabilities.

The training also addressed persistent gaps in how disability issues are portrayed in the Nigerian media. Facilitators guided participants through ethical reporting practices, appropriate disability language, and the importance of shifting from charity-based narratives to rights-based storytelling.

Lynn Agwuncha, Senior Communication Officer at TAF Africa, noted that media narratives often reinforce harmful stereotypes and



undermine the dignity of persons with disabilities.

“The media has not done a fair job in how it presents persons with disabilities. They are often portrayed as beggars or charity cases, instead of being reported from a rights-based perspective,” she said.

She emphasised that journalists have a responsibility to challenge stereotypes,

elevate lived experiences, and report disability issues with dignity, accuracy, and integrity.

Agwuncha further encouraged participants to take ownership of disability reporting beyond the training. “We want journalists to independently pick up stories around persons with disabilities, examine the provisions of the Act, and support disability inclusion

through their reporting. While we will provide technical support when needed, this process must be owned by the media," she added.

A key highlight of the training was its practical, hands-on approach. Participants

were equipped with tools to strengthen investigative reporting, including how to leverage the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act to access public records, budgets, and compliance data related to disability inclusion.

Journalists also engaged in group exercises, drafting FOI requests aimed at investigating accessibility of public infrastructure, employment compliance, and government accountability.

This practical component reinforced the importance of evidence-based journalism in advancing disability rights and ensuring transparency.

TAF Africa also introduced mechanisms for media monitoring and impact tracking to support journalists in sustaining disability-inclusive reporting. While refresher trainings may be organised in the future, the immediate focus is on empowering journalists to apply their knowledge independently and consistently.

The D-RAPID project is designed to improve visibility, strengthen advocacy, and promote full implementation of disability rights laws, particularly at the state level where enforcement gaps often exist.

“Persons with disabilities are often portrayed as beggars or charity cases, rather than as rights holders. The media has a critical role in changing this narrative and promoting dignity, respect, and inclusion.

— Lynn Agwuncha,  
Senior Communication  
Officer, TAF Africa”

## WHEN DEMOCRACY GETS "DEMOCRAZY": A NEW PODCAST THAT SAYS WHAT EVERYONE IS THINKING

What happens when the headlines make you laugh, sigh, and question everything at the same time? You get DemoCrazy, the bold new podcast from the CEO and Founder of TAF Africa, Amb. Jake Epelle.

In a country where politics often feels like theatre,

D e m o C r a z y pulls back the curtain, not with long speeches, but



with sharp, 60 to 120-second episodes that cut straight to the heart of the issue. With satire as his scalpel and wit as his voice, Amb. Epelle dissects the political moments shaping Nigeria today, exposing contradictions, questioning leadership, and providing a serious reminder that democracy is not a spectator sport.

Beyond just commentary and humour, the DemoCrazy is clarity and its accountability.

It's a civic wake-up call.

Each episode delivers a powerful reminder: behind every absurd headline are real people, real rights, and real consequences, especially for marginalized communities, including persons with disabilities, whose voices must never be drowned out by political noise.

**W h y  
DemoCrazy  
matters now  
more than ever:**

- It makes politics accessible, engaging, and impossible to ignore.
- It challenges citizens to think, question, and stay informed.
- It transforms frustration into awareness, and awareness into action.

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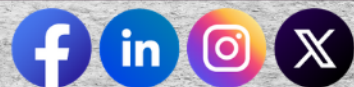
*Think,  
ask questions,  
and stay informed*



Watch on YouTube Shorts



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## Join the Conversation

Democracy works best when citizens are informed, alert, and engaged. DemoCrazy invites you to listen, reflect, and share.

## Listen, laugh, think, act.

Follow **Jake Epelle's** social media platforms, subscribe when episodes drop, and share with your networks. Because when citizens pay attention, democracy becomes less "DemoCrazy" and more powerful.

Subscribe now and join the conversation.  
Your voice matters, your awareness

matters, and your engagement could  
make all the difference.

The logo for TAF Africa's MICDISABILITY Podcast. It features the text 'TAF Africa' in red at the top left. Below it, 'MICDISABILITY' is written in large white letters, with a red 'X' over the 'DIS' part. At the bottom right, 'PODCAST' is written in red. The background is black with a red border on the right and bottom.

## CATCH UP ON TAF AFRICA'S MICDISABILITY PODCAST – ALL EPISODES NOW ON YOUTUBE!

Missed an episode of TAF Africa's MICdisAbility Podcast? No worries, the conversation is still happening, and it's just a click away! Each episode is packed with knowledge, humor, and practical suggestions, ranging from highlighting disability rights and breaking down obstacles in education and employment inclusion to sharing the inspirational tales of Nigerian changemakers.

Whether you're a student, professional, advocate, or simply curious about creating a more inclusive society, there's something here for you.

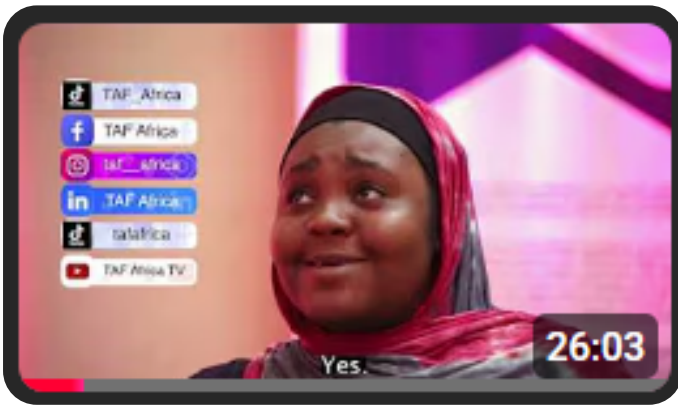
**All episodes are streaming now on**

**TAF Africa TV;** your go-to space for thought-provoking conversations on disability inclusion.

### Why watch?

- Gain practical insights on disability rights and inclusive policies.
- Hear inspiring stories from persons with disabilities and advocates.
- Stay informed on Nigeria's evolving disability inclusion landscape.

Don't just read about inclusion, experience it! Subscribe, watch, and share our episodes with friends, colleagues, and anyone who cares



Making Inclusive Education A Reality...



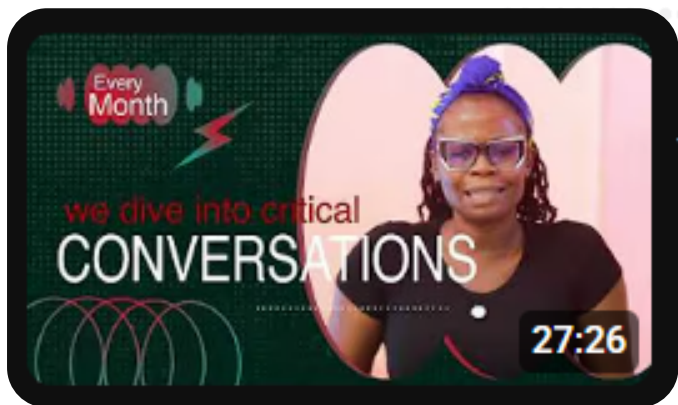
Part 2: Access to Work Scheme ...



Part 1: Access to Work Scheme ...



Part 2: Love or Fetish? The Struggles...



Part 1: Love or Fetish? The Struggles...



Can you marry a person with disability?

about building a more inclusive Nigeria.

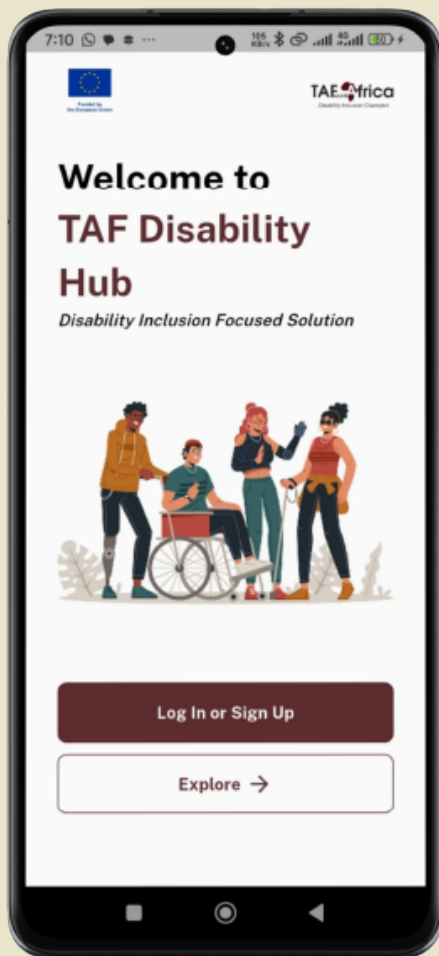
Your view counts, your voice matters, and together we can amplify change!

Watch now and be part of the movement: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPDmBjtWTrhJBdKXyffayE5zTxVFirUC9&si=IDCXuS0BkF5ilv28>

# TAF Africa

... Disability Inclusion Champion

## TAF Disability Hub App



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