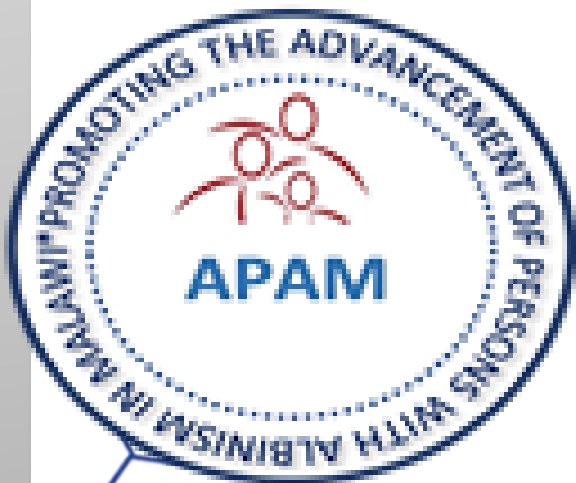


OVERSTONE KONDOWE

VIOLENCE ON PERSONS WITH ALBINISM IN AFRICA: A SECURITY GOVERNANCE CHALLENGE REQUIRING NEW APPROACHES



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**INCLUSION, INTEGRATION
AND TRANSFORMATION:**
Social Protection for Persons with
Disabilities in the SADC



1. Violence against Persons with Albinism (PWA) is a security governance challenge particularly acute in Africa.
1. Since 2006, over 600 attacks and other violations against persons with albinism have been reported in 28 countries in the Africa region.
1. While the violations take many forms, the most common forms are verbal abuse, abduction, killing and exhumation of remains of deceased PWA.

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- In Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya and Malawi the cases are widespread.
- Malawi has a register of 115 cases since 2015 with 20 murder cases.
- TZ from 2006 onwards 74, 34 attempted murders, high number of mutilations.
- UN reports: \$3,000 or \$4,000 for a limb, or as much as \$75,000 for the whole body
- Incidents crease in election years with bias towards women and children.
- The clients which are witch doctors are rich, the hunters are poor – lacking alternative livelihoods (?)

Discrimination of People with Albinism (PwA) – a double jeopardy



- ◆ The reasons for *discrimination* of PWAs are based in superstition, illiteracy, cultural beliefs, ignorance
- ◆ The *killing* of PWAs is based on superstition, ignorance, poverty, economic (and political) reasons – witchcraft
- ◆ Turning into slow genocide? PWAs seen to lack full humanity
- ◆ Police, relatives, politicians, neighbors involved; no security to those who identify the killers – who is going to protect?
- ◆ The states do not put in full effort despite clear human rights violations; the state obligations not met

- ◆ Inherent human dignity and security has been reduced to the lowest levels ie
- a) PWAs have reduced their participation in socio-economic activities
 - b) High school drop out rate
 - c) Parents are being burdened to escort their kids to and from schools
 - d) There is growing fear among PWAs
 - e) Worsened discrimination
 - f) Diversion of resources
 - g) Displacement
 - h) Mutilations
 - i) Deaths

- ◆ Law reforms.
- ◆ Establishment of rescue and restoration centres.
- ◆ Public awareness.
- ◆ Investigative research.
- ◆ Security intensification ie police patrols.
- ◆ Capacity building of law enforcing agents.
- ◆ Capacity building of community structures.
- ◆ **NB: Most of these are coordinated by states.**

- a. Markets are not yet discovered.
- b. Poor quality of investigations and slow speed of prosecutions.
- c. Inadequacy of witchcraft legislation.
- d. Poverty and corruption
- e. No regional action plan
- f. Reactive approaches to the attacks.
- g. Sticking to traditional responses to crimes.
- h. Poor coordination of response strategies.
- i. Invisibility of PWA on socio-economic spaces.

- ◆ Regional studies and sharing of best practices
- ◆ Engaging non state actors in coordination of response strategies.
- ◆ Engaging private firms in investigations and prosecutions.
- ◆ Regional and local integration of PWAs in social security programmes.
- ◆ Engagement of non-conventional/socio-technological solutions ie Z-assert GPS trackers.
- ◆ Increasing PWA visibility in all programmes

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