INTEGRATING BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS INTO NIGERIA'S POLITICAL SPACE: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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Political Inclusion, Political Participation, Persons with disabilities, Blind and partially sighted persons, Reforms, Implementation.

Abstract

Research Problem:
Persons with disabilities in Nigeria and many African countries face persistent barriers to full political participation, but blind and partially sighted individuals experience additional challenges that remain insufficiently understood. Although several legal and policy instruments promote inclusion, implementation gaps undermine their effectiveness. This study explores the specific challenges and prospects of integrating blind and partially sighted persons into Nigeria's political space.

Methods/Theory:
The study employs a qualitative research design using secondary data from document analysis, journal articles, election observation reports, newspapers, and credible online sources. It is guided by the human rights model of disability, which positions political participation as a fundamental right and emphasises the need to acknowledge disability-specific experiences in policy application.

Results:
Findings show that frameworks such as the UNCRPD, the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act of 2018, Section 54 of the 2022 Electoral Act, and the INEC Framework on Access and Inclusion offer pathways for political inclusion. However, blind and partially sighted persons continue to face major obstacles, including inaccessible voting materials, inadequate capacity of polling staff, transportation challenges, stigma, and persistent misconceptions.

Conclusion:
Despite progressive reforms, political participation for blind and partially sighted persons remains constrained by structural, attitudinal, and logistical barriers. Their inclusion is a matter of justice rooted in human rights principles and requires recognising disability-specific needs.

Key Contribution to Knowledge:
The study demonstrates that legal frameworks alone are insufficient without disability-sensitive implementation and highlights the distinct political experiences of blind and partially sighted persons.
Recommendation:
Stronger political commitment, improved implementation of existing laws, accessible voting materials, enhanced poll worker training, disability quotas, and public awareness campaigns are recommended.

Introduction

In all democratic societies, the freedom to engage in public and political processes is a fundamental entitlement of all individuals, regardless of gender, social rank, or ability. In Nigeria, as in numerous other African nations, those with disabilities, especially those who are blind or partially sighted, continue to be one of the most politically disadvantaged and marginalised groups. These individuals persistently face legal, administrative, and procedural obstacles (Shittu and Odeyemi, 2025; Shittu et al., 2024; Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre [PLAC], 2022; Haruna, 2017), notwithstanding the acknowledgement of their rights in multiple international and domestic instruments, including Article 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the African Disability Protocol, and the Nigerian Discrimination Against Persons with Disability (Prohibition) Act, alongside various reforms to Nigeria's electoral regulations and frameworks by the election management body (UNCRPD, 2006; INEC, 2018). The aforementioned impediments have hindered the complete actualisation of the rights of those with disabilities, especially those who are blind or partially sighted, to participate actively in political activities and processes, hence prompting essential enquiries on the inclusivity of Nigeria's democratic governance.

Research indicates that the involvement of blind and partially sighted individuals in electoral and political processes in numerous democracies is fraught with obstacles (Mileji, Matafwali, &Muleya, 2021; Prince, 2012; Schur, Virendrakumar, et al., 2018). In Nigeria, the principal method of voting involves marking a cross at a designated position on a vote paper, which is predominantly a visual activity. This method presents further difficulties for blind and partially sighted voters that individuals without visual impairments do not encounter, as they are unable to independently confirm their selections without aid. The UK Electoral Commission (2023) identifies several specific obstacles faced by blind and partially sighted voters, including the lack of supplementary equipment at polling stations, the unawareness of polling staff regarding the support needs of these voters, and the inadequacy of staff training, skills, or experience to facilitate independent and confidential voting for individuals with sight loss, among other issues. Recent research by the Royal Institute of Blind People (RNIB) on voter turnout in the 2024 general elections in the United Kingdom revealed that only approximately 25% of blind and partially sighted individuals were able to vote "independently and in secret," while 66% of blind voters at polling stations received assistance from either a companion or polling station staff (RNIB, 2024). This circumstance compromises the essential democratic right to vote confidentially. Moreover, research from various African nations, such as Nigeria by Shittu et al. (2024), Ghana by Sackey (2014), and Zambia by Magasu (2016), has consistently associated negative attitudes and inaccessible physical environments with the

diminished political participation of individuals with disabilities in general.

To mitigate these obstacles, numerous changes and policies have been suggested and enacted by governmental entities in various nations, including Nigeria. Nigeria enacted the Discrimination Against Persons with Disability (Prohibition) Act in 2018, revised the Electoral Act in 2022, and implemented many administrative reforms to its electoral norms and frameworks by the election administration body (UNCRPD, 2006; INEC, 2018). Section 54 (1&2) of the 2022 electoral reform delineates specific policy modifications, requiring election management officials to furnish diverse assistive technologies, such as braille ballot papers, to facilitate independent voting for blind and partially sighted individuals.

Considering these developments, evaluating the advancements and persistent challenges to the political inclusion of blind and partially sighted individuals provides a comprehensive framework for examining Nigeria's adherence to the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act (2018) and Article 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, along with various other reforms concerning the political inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Statement of the Problem

In Nigeria, those with disabilities encounter substantial obstacles to engaging in public and political life; moreover, blind and partially sighted individuals face further problems not experienced by those without visual impairments. These encompass inaccessible voting materials, insufficient capabilities of polling personnel to assist blind voters, transportation challenges, stigma, and enduring misunderstandings regarding disability. While existing research has explored barriers to electoral participation for individuals with disabilities in Nigeria (Shittu &Odeyemi, 2025; Shittu et al., 2024; Shittu, 2024; PLAC, 2022), there has been insufficient scholarly focus on the particular challenges faced by blind and partially sighted individuals. This deficiency in focused research creates a significant information gap, obstructing the development of successful political policies tailored for those with disabilities.

This study investigates the distinct obstacles and opportunities of including blind and partially sighted individuals into Nigeria's political landscape.

Research Objectives

Based on the background problem outlined above, this study addresses the following research objectives.

To highlight the national and international frameworks that support the political rights of blind and sighted persons.

To assess the prospects and implementation of the existing enabling laws that support the political inclusion of blind and partially sighted persons.

To explore the distinct obstacles that impede the political engagement of blind and partially sighted individuals in Nigeria.

Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research methodology and is exclusively based on secondary data. Data was obtained from pertinent policy documents, UNCRPD reports, and previously published studies on disability and political engagement. A diverse array of resources was examined, encompassing scholarly journal articles, books, and election observation reports from national and international organisations, including the European Union, the African Union, the Commonwealth, and Yiaga Africa. These sources formed the foundation for examining

the distinct obstacles and opportunities for the political engagement of blind and visually impaired individuals in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarifications

i. Political Participation

Political participation includes voting, running for office, joining political parties, engaging in civic discourse, and holding officials accountable. Norris (2001) asserts that political participation in a democracy includes diverse actions such as regular voting for representatives, involvement in policy referenda, affiliation with political parties, and participation in legitimate or unlawful protests. Political participation broadly includes various activities, such as voting, engaging in campaign efforts, participating in community initiatives, contacting government officials, protesting, attending election events, working for candidates, attending community meetings, joining lobbying efforts, participating in demonstrations, writing letters, contacting leaders, and becoming a member of different organisations (Dalton, 2002; Verba et al., 1978, p. 55). Certain political acts can be categorised into distinct typologies as delineated in the literature. The classic classification by Verba et al. (1978) delineates a typology of political engagement, categorising individuals as gladiators, spectators, communal activists, and voting specialists, among others.
The literature categorises the various types of political participation into three distinct classifications. The initial category pertains to post-election participation, encompassing activities such as draughting a petition, engaging in lobbying initiatives, attending demonstrations, composing letters, reaching out to leaders, and aligning with community or developmental organisations (Bratton et al., 2013; Pintor&Gratschew, 2002). The second category pertains to involvement on election day, especially emphasising voting actions. The third category pertains to pre-election engagement, which includes campaign activities, voter registration, and mobilisation, among other elements. Political participation for both blind and sighted individuals encompasses several actions, such as voting, running for office, joining political parties, and campaigning, among others.

ii. Defining Disability

The notion of disability in literature is a contentious topic, marked by its dynamic and intricate nature, encompassing diverse viewpoints and frameworks. To this end, numerous models of disability have developed to enhance our comprehension of the concept of impairment. This approach is essential, as our understanding of impairment and our perceptions of individuals with disabilities influence our interactions with them. Smart (2004:25–29) asserts that comprehending the diverse models of impairments not only influences perceptions of individuals with disabilities but also serves as a crucial framework for the development and execution of disability policies and programs worldwide. This study utilises social and human rights models of disability to analyse the obstacles encountered by individuals with disabilities from societal and environmental perspectives, and to explore how laws and policies might be employed to address these challenges as a human rights concern.

iii. As a critic of moral, charitable, and medical paradigms of disability, the sociamodel of disability has emerged, positing that individuals with impairments can attain equal status only by reconceptualising disability through a 'social oppression theory' (Oliver, 1990). The social model defines disability as a result of 'socially created oppression' (Oliver, 1990) by redirecting attention from the individual to societal factors. This paradigm perceives impairment as a deficiency in the human body, such as the loss of limbs or the presence of malfunctioning

body parts or organs, which should not hinder an individual's capacity to operate comparably to others in society. Society constructs physical and social barriers that convert individuals' deficiencies into disabilities. From the standpoint of the social model, disability is a socially constructed injustice inflicted by society, which may be addressed and eliminated by fundamental social transformation.

iv. The human rights model of disability, also referred to as the rights-based approach, complements the social model. The human rights perspective on disability essentially views individuals with impairments as active agents rather than passive subjects. The notion entails transforming our viewpoint from perceiving individuals with disabilities as burdens to acknowledging them as persons with intrinsic rights (Quinn, 2002). The objective of the human rights approach is to educate disabled individuals about their rights and to empower them to advocate for those rights (Chapman, 2002: 15). It also implies that those initiatives and policies should prioritise social barriers over disability. Consequently, we may hold the government and other parties accountable for their inability to execute policy programs designed to integrate disabled individuals into society. This facet is where the social and human rights frameworks converge. Both strategies aim to confront the oppressive and exclusionary circumstances encountered by individuals with disabilities and to eliminate the socio-political obstacles that hinder their integration as functional members of society (Lawson and Beckett, 2021). Both methods have been employed to advocate for legislative reforms worldwide, serving as a potent instrument for pursuing remedy in instances of rights violations. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) provides an extensive definition of disability, incorporating both socioeconomic and human rights viewpoints. The UNCRPD (2006, p. 1) defines persons with disabilities (PWDs) as individuals possessing enduring mental, intellectual, physical, or sensory impairments that, in conjunction with environmental factors, may restrict their capacity to engage fully and effectively in social activities, in contrast to individuals without disabilities. This definition indicates that impairments (such as blindness, deafness, albinism, autism, and limited or no physical mobility) do not inherently render an individual disabled; instead, it is the existing barrierssuch as the lack of Braille, sign language interpreters, audio recordings, and pictorial aidsthat impede individuals with disabilities from leading lives comparable to others.

An Overview of Legal Frameworks Supporting the Political Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, Including Blind and Partially Sighted Persons.

Numerous international agreements, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), acknowledge and advocate for the right to political participation. In Nigeria, it is essential to assert that both able-bodied and disabled individuals, including those who are blind or partially sighted, possess the same constitutional and human rights as all other Nigerians, including the ability to engage in public and political life. Consequently, substantial reforms and policies have been enacted by governmental entities to acknowledge their political rights, including the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Article 29 of the UNCPRD explicitly ensures the involvement of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in public and political life, urging state actors and electoral stakeholders to guarantee the accessibility of

voting processes and materials for all disability categories, including individuals who are blind or partially sighted (United Nations, 2006).

Nigeria ratified the African Disability Protocol, including Section 21 highlighting the political rights of those with disabilities. Nigeria enacted the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act (2018), which, in Section 30, facilitates the political participation of persons with disabilities by establishing an equitable environment for their involvement alongside individuals without disabilities (INEC, 2018). In addition to this, various more measures have been suggested and enacted in Nigeria to ensure disability-inclusive elections. This encompasses the 2022 Electoral Act and the INEC framework for the accessibility and inclusion of individuals with disabilities (INEC, 2022). Section 54 (1&2) of the 2022 Electoral Act is delineated as follows:A voter with sight impairment or any other physical disability is permitted to accompany a designated companion to the voting site. The companion must notify the officer in charge of the disability and will be permitted to accompany the voter into the voting cubicle. The companion can assist the voter in marking their ballot in accordance with the protocol established by the Commission. The Commission is tasked with guaranteeing that voters with disabilities obtain sufficient support at polling locations by offering suitable communication methods, including Braille, large print posters, technology equipment, sign language interpretation, or off-site voting as required.

Assessing the Prospects and Implementation of Legal Frameworks Supporting the Political Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria

Subsequent to the implementation of the Nigeria Discrimination against Persons with Disability (Prohibition Act) 2018, the federal government provided a five-year moratorium for ministries, departments, and agencies to execute disability-inclusive modifications. The window closed in 2024, presenting an opportunity for assessment. Although the aforementioned legal frameworks, reforms, and policies are anticipated to enhance the participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria's electoral process, existing research regarding their implementation and adherence during elections reveals divergent responses, highlighting both areas of commendable and inadequate compliance (Shittu &Odeyemi, 2025; Shittu, 2024; Yiaga Africa, 2023). Recent analyses of Nigeria's 2019 and 2023 general elections revealed significant advancements with enduring deficiencies (Shittu &Odeyemi, 2025; Shittu et al., 2024). INEC implemented priority voting for individuals with impairments, allowing them to cast their votes upon arrival at the polling location. Assistive aids such as Braille ballots, paper, and tactile guides were supplied to enable blind and partially sighted individuals to vote autonomously. Political parties currently incorporate inclusion in their constitutions and manifestos (European Union Election Observation Report, 2023; Yiaga Africa, 2023; The Albino Foundation Africa, 2023).

Notwithstanding these reforms, deficiencies persist in the execution and adherence during elections, which continue to obstruct the complete participation of individuals with visual impairments in Nigeria's political arena (Shittu et al., 2024). Factors contributing to the inadequate implementation of disability-related electoral laws in Nigeria encompass insufficient enforcement by electoral authorities, inadequate training of election personnel, ineffective replication at the subnational level, funding deficiencies, and poor collaboration among electoral stakeholders, among others (Shittu, 2024; Shittu et al., 2024). This finding aligns with numerous other researchemphasising obstacles

to political inclusion for those with disabilities. The study by Agran, MacLean, and Andren (2015) connected the challenges faced by those with impairments in casting a ballot to concrete barriers present in the built environment. Davis (2010) identified that the primary obstacles to voting participation among persons with disabilities (PWDs) encompass issues such as stigma, marginalisation, discrimination, and insufficient support. ODIHR (2017) states that when a person with disabilities' right to vote is inaccessible, their political participation is hindered. The report states that deaf or blind voters should not have access to a sign language interpreter or Braille. Friedman's (2018) research indicates that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities faced many impediments, including physical, institutional, and psychological barriers, while striving to exercise their voting rights in the 2016 US General Election.

Specific Barriers to Political Participation of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons

In Nigeria, obstacles to political participation for individuals who are blind or partially sighted can be categorised into four primary domains: structural barriers, institutional barriers, socio-cultural barriers, and economic barriers. Numerous national and international election observation reports have corroborated the presence of these barriers in their analyses of consecutive elections in Nigeria (Commonwealth Observer Group, 2023; International Foundation for Electoral System, IFES, 2022; Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre, PLAC, 2022).

Structural Barriers

Structural barriers denote the physical and infrastructural impediments inherent in electoral procedures and wider societal frameworks that obstruct equitable political participation of those who are blind or partially sighted. These obstacles encompass inconvenient voting locations, transportation limitations, and inadequate familiarity with assistive technologies, among others. These obstacles frequently stem from insufficient planning, absence of inclusive design, and ineffective policy execution.

i. Inaccessible Polling Units: Numerous polling stations in Nigeria lack accessibility considerations. For example, schools or community halls designated as polling units frequently present challenges for blind and partially sighted individuals, as many locations feature uneven terrain, elevated steps without ramps, or inadequate lighting. Consequently, navigating these environments without assistance becomes formidable and, at times, hazardous, rendering independent navigation nearly unfeasible.

ii. Absence of Braille ballot papers or audio devices: The confidentiality of the ballot is fundamental to democratic elections; but, for individuals who are blind or partially sighted, this concept is frequently undermined. Voters with visual impairments, particularly those unable to read braille, must depend on third parties—polling authorities, family members, or volunteers—to facilitate their voting, or utilise auditory equipment that announce candidates' names. This dependence heightens the potential for voter manipulation, privacy violations, and disenfranchisement, since voters may not consistently trust that their selections are appropriately represented on the ballot (Shittu, 2024; Shittu et al., 2024).

iii. Transportation Restriction:transit limitations on election day in Nigeria, coupled with the inadequacy of accessible transit options (when permitted and available), intensify the mobility difficulties encountered by individuals who are blind or partially sighted. On polling days, the distance of polling places from residential areas, along with the lack of accessible buses, adequate

road infrastructure, and dependable public transport, is a substantial obstacle. In rural areas, where polling places are notably remote, blind voters may have to rely on expensive private arrangements or aid from others, potentially deterring their participation entirely.

iv. Lack of modern assistive technologies: Contemporary assistive technology, like electronic voting machines with audio outputs, Braille-enabled voter cards, and smartphone-based accessible voting applications, are either absent or not incorporated into Nigeria's electoral framework. This technological exclusion sustains inequality and indicates a deficiency in commitment to universal participation.

Institutional Barriers

Institutional hurdles stem from the rules, procedures, and organisational cultures of official entities governing elections and political engagement. They encompass insufficient training for electoral officials and the failure of political parties to integrate disability inclusion effectively. These obstacles endure when electoral institutions, political parties, and other governance structures neglect to include disability inclusion into their frameworks (Olokor, 2022; Thompson, 2020).

i. Inadequate training for election officials: A significant number of election officials lack the requisite training and empathy to adequately assist blind and visually impaired voters. Consequently, polling personnel may improperly address requests for assistance, neglect to offer appropriate accommodations, or exhibit irritation while assisting those with disabilities. In certain instances, officials may be oblivious to the existence of provisions—such as tactile ballot guides—where they are available, thereby rendering these protections ineffective.

ii. Political parties failing to mainstream disability inclusion: In addition to electoral administration authorities, political parties act as significant gatekeepers to political participation. Regrettably, several political parties in Nigeria neglect to prioritise disability inclusion within their frameworks, manifestos, or candidate selection procedures. Party meetings and campaign rallies are typically inaccessible to individuals who are blind or have partial sight. Furthermore, party constitutions and guidelines sometimes neglect to include disability quotas or concessions, thereby restricting opportunities for visually impaired individuals to participate in elections or attain leadership positions within party frameworks. Research indicates that political parties utilise individuals with disabilities merely for superficial compliance rather than authentic inclusion (Shittu, 2024).

iii. Limited collaboration with Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs): Election authorities frequently neglect significant engagement with organisations representing those with visual impairments. This compromises feedback systems and reduces the probability of policy frameworks that genuinely reflect the experiences of those who are blind or partially sighted.

Socio-Cultural Barriers

Socio-cultural barriers arise from the conventions, beliefs, and value systems in society that influence the perception and treatment of those who are blind or partially sighted. Established customs and cultural perceptions of disability can perpetuate these obstacles.

i. Stigma and Negative Beliefs: In several groups, blindness continues to be linked with superstition, misfortune, or divine retribution, which corresponds precisely with the moral model of disability (Niemann, 2005:106). Such attitudes perpetuate stigma and discrimination, obstructing the

acknowledgement of blind individuals as equals in civic and political arenas. This stigma fosters social isolation and exclusion from decision-making processes (Lang, 2009).

ii. Stereotypes of Incapacity: A prevalent notion persists that individuals who are blind are incapable of leading or governing effectively. This misconception perpetuates the belief that political leadership is only for individuals without disabilities. As a result, those who are blind or partially sighted and seek political office encounter scepticism, derision, and outright dismissal from political parties and the people.

iii. Low societal awareness: Public knowledge on the rights and capacities of individuals who are blind or partially sighted is still inadequate. The broader populace, including political figures, frequently lacks awareness of disability rights legislation and inclusive democratic practices. This ignorance obstructs advocacy initiatives and sustains apathy regarding the involvement of visually impaired individuals in politics.

Economic Barriers

Economic obstacles are notably critical, as political engagementparticularly in seeking elected positionsdemands considerable financial resources. Structural disparities in employment and income disproportionately impact individuals who are blind or partially sighted.

i. Poverty and limited economic opportunities: Individuals with visual impairments frequently face exclusion from conventional economic activities due to labour market discrimination, difficult work environments, and insufficient assistive technologies. This economic marginalisation constrains their disposable income, hence hindering political involvement, including going to campaign venues or financing advocacy campaigns (Haruna, 2017).

ii. High rates of unemployment: Employment possibilities for individuals who are blind or partially sighted are significantly restricted in both the public and commercial sectors. High unemployment rates impede many persons from obtaining regular income, hence restricting their ability to financially support political campaigns or participate in civic activities.

iii. High cost of electioneering: Nigeria's political system is marked by costly electoral processes, wherein candidates are required to finance campaign rallies, media advertising, transportation, and the mobilisation of supporters. For those with visual impairments, who already encounter economic disadvantages, fulfilling these financial obligations becomes practically unfeasible. This situation practically precludes them from vying for elected positions, hence strengthening their marginalisation in leadership roles.

Conclusion

This study aimed to investigate the distinct obstacles and opportunities associated with the integration of blind and partially sighted individuals into Nigeria's political arena. The findings indicate that despite Nigeria's adoption of significant legal and policy frameworks—including the UNCRPD, the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act of 2018, the 2022 Electoral Act, and the INEC Framework on Access and Inclusion—these initiatives have not effectively facilitated substantial political participation for blind and partially sighted citizens. Ongoing obstacles, including inadequate voting resources, insufficient polling personnel trained to assist blind voters, transportation challenges, stigma, and prevalent misconceptions regarding disability, persistently hinder their political engagement. The study thus asserts that political participation for individuals who are blind or

partially sighted is not a charitable issue, but rather a matter of justice grounded in the human rights framework of disability. Genuine inclusion necessitates acknowledging the unique obstacles encountered by those with visual impairments and creating electoral systems that cater to these disability-specific requirements. The report advocates for enhanced political commitment, improved enforcement of current legislation, and the establishment of disability quotas within political parties and associated electoral institutions to promote political inclusion.

Recommendations

A variety of strategic measures is essential to overcome the numerous obstacles that restrict the political engagement of those who are blind or partially sighted.
The reinforcement of current legal frameworks must be enhanced. The Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018, and the Electoral Act contain provisions that must be actively implemented, not only documented. They must be adhered to and implemented to safeguard the rights of visually impaired voters and candidates. The enhancement of accessibility in electoral procedures is equally significant. This necessitates the comprehensive implementation of Braille ballots, tactile voting guides, and the introduction of assistive technologies at polling stations to guarantee that blind and visually impaired voters can cast their votes autonomously and confidentially.

In addition to infrastructural reforms, there is an urgent requirement for capacity-building efforts. Leadership development initiatives, mentorship programs, and political training specifically designed for those with visual impairments would empower them with the skills and confidence necessary to assume political positions, whether as voters, party affiliates, or candidates for elected office. Reforms inside political parties are essential. Political parties ought to establish quotas or allocated seats for those with disabilities within their frameworks, so facilitating enhanced representation and inclusive decision-making. This change would transition disability inclusion from mere talk to tangible execution.

Civic education efforts specifically aimed towards individuals who are blind or partially sighted are vital. Such activities would enhance understanding of voting rights and foster confidence in the ability to participate meaningfully in political life. Ultimately, collaborations among key stakeholders will be essential for sustained advancement. Government agencies, Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), civil society organisations, and international funders must cooperate to furnish the necessary technical skills and financial resources to maintain inclusive political participation.

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