



## Rwanda Assistive Technology Access (RATA) Newsletter January-February 2019

### Introduction

Rwanda Assistive Technology Access (RATA) is a local non- governmental organization registered under the law N0 422/RGB/NGO/OC/07/2018 with mission of ensuring accessible ICTs (Assistive technologies) for people with disabilities mainly in schools and expanding access to these technologies founded on 4th January 2018 after realizing there's a big gap for PwDs in Rwanda to have access to ICTs (Assistive technologies).

RATA is a result of Rene William Ngabo's passion to help people with disabilities through technology. He had an idea to start a national NGO that He later founded it alongside with Jean Bosco Mugiraneza, a visually impaired graduate teacher who has worked for different organizations in Rwanda, conducting different projects regarding advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities.

It was respectively recognized and recommended by Rwanda Education Board (REB) on 23th May 2018 and by the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) on 5th June 2018. RATA has its headquarters in Remera Sector, Gasabo District, KG 1 AV 23.

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## Our President Speech



I have been working with Persons with disabilities mostly persons with visual impairment. It has been an amazing journey so far to me as I got to discover their inner potential and their humanity. Despite their disability, they're one of the most inspiring persons that I ever met and full of potential.

I am glad many of them are now my friends.

However, I have realized that we need to do something in order to let people being aware of their potential. One of the ways to help Pwds make their dreams come true is the use of Assistive technology in their lives that can improve their social inclusion, competing at the workplace, accessing to education and to different opportunities and finally live independently.

We therefore started working on that initiative, it's our passion and we are ready to make an impact.

**RATA Office Photos**



**Raising Awareness Pictures on Assistive Technology**



## RATA

RATA often receives visitors who want to know more about the organization.



Due to donations from Swiss cooperation and Lassiter family, RATA equipped its office with computers (with Low techs assistive applications installed inside them) that help our visitors to know more about Assistive technology and what we do.

Soon, some of the PwDs will be coming to our office to use computers and internet to explore different opportunities.



Bosco, our vice president showing to a visitor how as a visually impaired guy uses a computer with the assistance of assistive devices (software applications).



### **RATA Activities**

RATA is currently conducting awareness activities on the use and importance of Assistive technology in the lives of persons with disabilities and recently visited 4 groups of persons with disabilities in Remera and Kimironko sectors.





### **Our Upcoming Activities**

- Some youth with disabilities in Remera will be coming at our office to use internet for exploring different opportunities.
- Raising awareness on Assistive Technology in Gasabo district schools
- Digital literacy for youth with disabilities (Visually impaired) and disseminate to them appropriate assistive devices (Low techs)

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