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Uganda: Albinos Demand Special Seat in Parliament

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Kampala — A special interest group is lobbying for a seat in Parliament to defend the rights and aspirations of the albino community in Uganda.

Lawmaker Wilson Nokorach, who represents persons with disabilities from northern Uganda, tabled a petition on behalf of the Uganda Albino Association in Parliament yesterday, making a passionate call for affirmative action for the minority community.

Albinism is a congenital lack of the melanin pigment in the skin, eyes and hair, which protects the human skin from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Mr Nokorach said the albino community is in dire need of special parliamentary representation because of societal injustice. He said albinos suffer the brunt of community segregation because people continue to regard them as "social misfits."

The association said in its petition, which was first presented to deputy Speaker Rebecca Kadaga on Monday, that they want Parliament to reserve a seat for the minority group, in part because of a string of murders in Tanzania and Burundi targeting albinos over the past two years.

Ms Kadaga referred the petition to the parliamentary Gender, Labour and Social Development Committee.

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