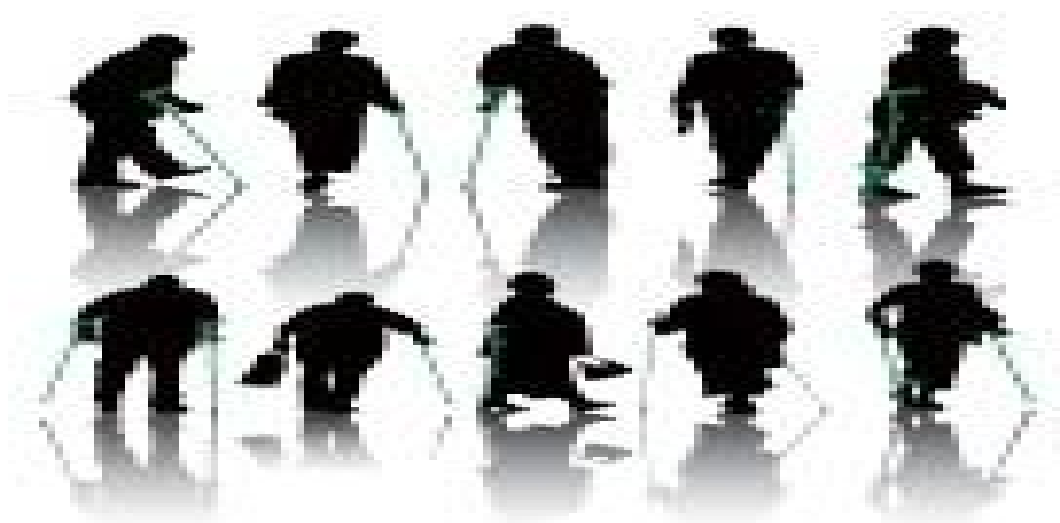


DISABILITY LESOTHO



From the Editor

Dear Partner,

Welcome again to the August edition of Disability Lesotho, the monthly email newsletter from disability sector will cover news for August, 2013.

This e-newsletter is a platform whereby partners in the disability sector share the good work they do and learn from the work of others. This includes news, events, updates, activities and all issues affecting people with disability in Lesotho. We therefore welcome contributions of any nature from all organizations working to improve the lives of people in Lesotho, including those with disability.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all women over the world. Being a woman is to have interests and duties sparking out in all directions. Women must be open to all points of the compass; husband, children, friends, home, community.

There are those women who need to be given awards to the work they have done but it doesn't mean that if not given any we have to lose our responsibilities.

lets be strong and face challenges of this world. Wish you all luck for your beautiful different work

If you would like to contribute to the next issue or have received this newsletter from a third party and wish to be included on the mailing list please contact Pascalina a Letsau on 5905 5406 or pletsau@gmail.com

Your feedback is very much appreciated within the Disability Lesotho. Please help us improve the quality of the content of this publication by letting us know what you would like to read about.

Best regards,
The Editor

ADVOCACY ASPECTS

No budget for programmes of women with disabilities:

By Nkhasi Sefuthi

It is now established practice that, in the month of August each year women from around Africa if not the whole world celebrates the successes and contributions made by the women in the development of their communities. In this respect, Lesotho is no exception as it is part of the international community. Let me also join the rest of the world in paying my special and sincere thanks to my mother who taught me to face the world no matter the circumstances. I convey my gratitude to all women who are advocating for the change in the world. With this note, I would like to focus on the women with disabilities in Lesotho so as to establish whether they are specifically and equally recognised by the laws and policies of Lesotho.

Lesotho has acceded to the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD) on the 2nd December 2008. It is now five years down the line with no sign of implementation of this unique international human rights instrument that promote and protect the rights of women with disabilities in Lesotho. Article 6 of this Convention states that women with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination due to the fact that, they have disabilities, they are women and they also live in the least developing countries.

As a result, Convention call upon Lesotho as a member state to take appropriate measures in ensuring that women with disabilities are uplifted through provision of specific programmes and services geared towards enhancing lives of women with disabilities. National disability and rehabilitation policy does not have specific provision that promotes the issues of women with disabilities.

Worst of all, the Ministry of Social Development did not find it worthy to budget for the implementation of our only disability specific

policy for the enhancement of the lives of women with disabilities in the fiscal year 2013-2014.

Apart from that, article 24 of the Convention calls up member states such as Lesotho not to discriminate people with disabilities from the general education system on the basis of their disabilities. It further encourages state parties to provide educational equipment that enable people with disabilities to access general educational systems on equal basis with others. However, Lesotho does not have a significant number of women with disabilities who access general education systems as compared to their counterparts due to the existing educational barriers facing women with disabilities in Lesotho.

However, the current legal system of Lesotho is too general to respond to the needs of women with disabilities. For instance, Legal capacity of married persons act of 2006 which only equalize the status of women as opposed to men in terms of legal capacity in the courts of law. Sexual offences act of 2003 which criminalizes certain acts committed against women by violent men.

Unfortunately, the mentioned acts do not directly respond to needs of women with disabilities. This is the reason why LNFOD will not stop from calling upon the Social Development to speed up the processes of enacting a disability specific law that will specifically address the needs of women with disabilities.

I therefore once again appeal to the government of Lesotho through the Ministry of Social Development to consider passing disability specific legislation as soon as it is practicable. Otherwise People with disabilities will fairly conclude that, the government is failing people with disabilities.

GENERAL NEWS

Congratulations to LNFOD new Executive Committee

On the 3rd . 4th August 2013 Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) held its General Assembly at Institute of Extra Mural Studies (IEMS) Maseru.

LNFOD welcomes members of the Executive Committee on their newly elected posts.

These elected members are:

Mrs. Regina Lephoi . Chairperson

Mrs. Masenate Tau . General Secretary

Mrs. 'Mabataung Khetsi . Treasurer

Mr. Lehlohonolo Makhebesela . Publicity Secretary

Mr. Simphiwe Letima . 1st Vice Chairperson

Mr. Lehlohonolo Molisana . 2nd Vice Chairperson

Ms. Limpho Rakoto . Vice General Secretary

Ms. 'Mathapelo Masao . Vice Publicity Secretary

Mr. Moseli Moseli . Member

Miss. Theko Mooki . Member

Ms. Lipolelo Makhele . Member

Mr. Thabiso Masenyetse . Member

These individuals were chosen at the General Assembly held in Maseru and will serve on the LNFOD Executive Committee for the next four years. LNFOD wishes to thank all of those who served on the previous Executive Committee for their commitment and dedication to the cause of achieving equal rights for people with disability in Lesotho.

LNFOD Unwraps Disability Equity Act



Sefuthi Nkhasi joined by Director of disability Services at Seboping

This month LNFOD has implemented a number of awareness activities aimed at unwrapping the possible implications of the Disability Equity Act for different segments of society. Currently, the Disability Equity Act is still in its initial phases of development with the Ministry of Social Development waiting on funds to be released from the Ministry of Finance to engage a consultant entrusted with the task of developing and drafting the Act. However, there are still a number of misconceptions about what practical on the ground implications the Act will have for different people.

On Wednesday 14th August two LNFOD ATT members, Masenate Tau and Tiisetso Sebota, appeared on PC FM to address the misconceptions and discuss what types of features might appear in the Act.

On 22nd August LNFOD Human Rights and Advocacy Officer Nkhasi Sefuthi was joined by Director of Disability Services Mahlapane Makalole-Bodiba and Senior Inspector, Special Education Unit Mapuseletso Sakoane on the Seboping Live show to discuss frequently asked questions about current disability services and how they might change as a result of the act.

If you want to learn more about the Disability Equity Act, please listen to the Seboping Live interview in the News section of the LNFOD website or download the Disability Equity Act Q&A from the resources section of the website.

GENERAL NEWS

Women with disability provide inspiration for Women's Month



Pascalina and Selloane close off women's Month at Thahameso show LTV

This August, Women with disability have been busy proving to Lesotho that disability does not mean inability. Public Eye conducted a full page feature on visually impaired grandmother and entrepreneur Mamabina Mahlelebe who started a poultry farming business at the age of 58 after losing her sight and with it her profession. Mamabina's story shows that when one door closes, another door opens and it is never too late to reinvent yourself. A link to the article is available on the LNFOD website under the News section.

To close off Women's Month two irrepressible physically disabled women appeared on the Thahameso Show to discuss their experiences rising above the challenges posed by negative attitudes. Pascalina is a successful self-advocate and extension officer for Itjareng Vocational Training Centre (and, incidentally, Editor of this newsletter!) whilst Selloane has earned local renown for her skills as a seamstress which has helped her small business to grow.

Bring on the girl power!

Relief for mother and child

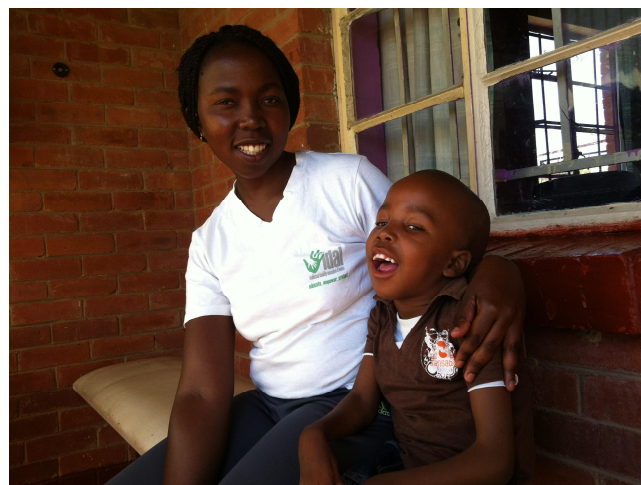
Earlier this month Limpho Mohapi, a Lithabaneng mother of two, was offered life saving nutritional formula thanks to the prompt actions of the Ministry of Social Development. Limpho's six year old son Khotso has a severe intellectual and physical disability and must be fed special formula through a tube in his stomach. The milk, which costs M250 for three days supply, was provided by the Ministry of Social Development but has been unavailable since January due to a misunderstanding between Limpho and the Ministry. As a result Khotso's weight dropped from 15kg to a mere 7kg.

Limpho approached IDAL for help and IDAL contacted the Department of Child Services on her behalf.

The department of Child Services reacted immediately to resolve the situation and Khotso has since been reinstated with his supply of milk.

We are extremely grateful for the actions of the Department of Child Services with regards to this situation. They took action as soon as we alerted them to the severity of the situation and the Head of department herself was involved. We would like to commend the Department for the commitment they have shown to the welfare of children with disability. + Commented May Ng, Communications Officer, IDAL.

A link to Limpho's story on Public Eye newspaper is available on the IDAL website www.idal.org.ls



GENERAL NEWS

Tolerance and hope on menu in disability inclusive kitchen

Written by May Ng



Motaung Masetse serving people

Motaung Masetse, a 21 year old physically disabled youth from Tsaknolo in Mafeteng is changing perceptions of disability inclusion in the workplace as he cooks up a storm at No.7@Kick4Life, the new restaurant set to change the face of Maseru's dining scene when it opens later this year.

The aroma of frying onions wafts from the kitchen as I sit with Motaung at a table in the No.7@Kick4Life restaurant. The kitchen is a hive of activity with trainees dicing, sautéing and garnishing in preparation for the lunch hour rush. Today's customers have the choice between potato soups with sausage or roasted beef stew with rice. From the look and smell of the food I am sorely tempted to order both.

No7@Kick4Life, which is scheduled to open before the end of the year, will be a high-end restaurant offering a diverse menu of international and fusion cuisines.

Motaung is one of the 15 youths taking part in No7@Kick4Life's OVC Catering Training School program.

Motaung, who was born with a physical disability which affects his ability to walk, was unable to complete his high school education due to lack of money. Instead, he obtained a placement at Itjareng

Vocational Training Centre in Mazenod, where he specialized in carpentry. It was at Itjareng that Motaung discovered his passion for cooking and as a result was recommended to try out for the program by the Itjareng Extension Officer.

"I've always loved food and enjoyed preparing meals for my classmates at Itjareng but had never really considered a career in the hospitality industry. When I heard about the program at No7@Kick4Life I saw it as an opportunity to learn more about food but I have learned a lot more than just cooking," explains Motaung.

"My favourite part of the job is learning about different types of food from all around the world and learning how to talk to people of different backgrounds. I used to eat just pap, meat and spinach but now I'm learning to cook and appreciate creamy chicken and mushroom soup, risottos and lasagnas."

The program focuses on proving disadvantaged young people with the skills and experience to enable them to obtain employment in the food and hospitality industry or even to start their own business. This includes training in customer service, different aspects of food preparation, business and administration and personal hygiene. The majority of the trainees accepted in to the program are below the age of 25 and from what is considered a disadvantaged background, including two trainees with disability.

"We selected the trainees based on their cooking experience and their determination to succeed. At first I had my doubts about employing a trainee with disability as you need be physically fit and mentally quick to work in a professional kitchen environment

GENERAL NEWS

We don't really have the luxury of supporting team members who do not pull their full weight in the kitchen. Motaung has more than proved his right to be here on the training program," comments Chef David Lease, No7@Kick4Life's Executive Chef.

"We had another very strong candidate who was deaf. Unfortunately we couldn't accept him into the program because we could not communicate with him in the kitchen. Aside from Motaung, none of our Motaung works two days per week rotating between preparing food in the kitchen and serving customers in the dining area. He is paid a stipend for transport and his share of the tips which are shared between the kitchen and floor staff.

Motaung works two days per week rotating between preparing food in the kitchen and serving customers in the dining area. He is paid a stipend for transport and his share of the tips which are shared between the kitchen and floor staff.

"I'm so proud of what Motaung has achieved over the past 3 months at No7@Kick4Life," comments Mamosae Lesia, the Sous Chef and trainee mentor.

"I can notice a definite difference in his level of confidence and the way he carries himself. Before, he used to be nervous speaking to our customers, especially the non-Basotho, but now he loves serving customers. I have always believed that people with disability have the same right to be employed as everyone else but I thought that we would need to make special exceptions and provide extra attention for a trainee with disability.

All trainees have their strengths and weaknesses and we do our best to cater towards them but Motaung has proven that he requires no special treatment and can perform at least as well as his colleagues. It has been a good lesson in what disability inclusion really means." Concludes Mamosae.

When asked about his plans after he completes the 12 month training program at No7@Kick4Life Motaung states: "First, I want to obtain employment in a food and beverage industry so that I can gain more experience and save some money. Then I want to go back to school and finish my education. Finally, my dream is to start my own restaurant in Mafeteng which serves international food. I want to teach Basotho that there is more to food than papa and braai."

Building Capacity of parents and caregivers of children with disabilities

Intellectual Disability Association of Lesotho (IDAL), held capacity building training for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities in Butha Buthe and Mochale's Hoek. On the 12th to 16th August 2013 the training was in Butha Buthe and on the 27th to 30th August 2013 Mochale's Hoek.

30 caregivers were trained on Basic Business Management, deemed necessary for economic strengthening as it provides skills and knowledge needed for successful wealth creation avenues within family settings, as most parents are confined to their homes by the conditions and severity of disabilities on the part of their children.

These trainings are of help to families of children with disabilities, as the skills they acquire will help to bring income in the families to benefit their children

GENERAL NEWS

SAWAL gives out presents



Itjareng trainees, staff and SAWAL happy together

South Africa Women's Association in Lesotho (SAWAL), celebrated a women's Month by giving out presents to trainees with disabilities at Itjareng Vocational Training Centre. SAWAL members indicated that they did not know about the centre, they knew only after meeting one lady by the name of Rosaliao o who told them about the centre.

Realizing that the centre is training people with disabilities, SAWAL decided to bring some gifts to the trainees and the centre. They gave all trainees blankets; the blankets will help them while at the centre even after the completion of their courses at Itjareng.

"We are aware that people with disabilities most of them are from poor families, so we are doing this so that these blankets can help them and their families as well," concluded Salome Debeila.

The centre also got some gifts to use on its daily use. The centre got a wheelbarrow, hosepipe, watering can and a

The centre appreciated all the help is getting, as mandate of Itjareng is to help everybody with disability in every aspect of life.

Wish the best for SAWAL and other NGOs including individuals that are helping in any form of help.

Disability movements welcome the world of social media



Communication officers enjoying their training

LNFOOD Communication desk organized the second training workshop on online communication; focusing on social media. The participants were from LNFOOD and its member affiliates.

Participants were taught how to interact with many people at the same time globally. The social networking is the fastest growing active communication.

"Online technologies and practices that people use to share content, opinions, insights, experiences, perspectives and media themselves. Media for social interaction," says May Ng LNFOOD communication officer.

People with disabilities should actively use social media to share issues of their work and stories to the World as well. The participants were enjoying using Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, LinkedIn and creating websites.

Let us walk the walk and talk the talk by using social media channels up until the grassroots level



GENERAL NEWS

Disability Mainstreaming Training by the Japanese International Cooperative Agency (JICA)



Examples of beneficiaries of universal design

The training was organized by JICA and took place at the President Hotel in Bloemfontein for the 26th . 30th August. Four participants Lesotho attended the training namely; the Director of Disability Services Ms. Mahlapane Makakole . Bodiba, Inspector from the Ministry of Education & Training Mrs. Mapuseletso Sakoane, Mr. Sefuthi Nkhasi LNFOD Advocacy & Human Rights Officer, Mr. Rabasoth Moeletsi LNFOD HIV/AIDS Coordinator.

The delegation made representations on the status of Disability in Lesotho; South Africa also made its representations on their status. Of paramount importance was status of disability in other countries that are more advanced in terms of services and issues of PWDs, like Japan. Japan has what is referred to as 'The Universal Design', which is creating a conducive environment for all, not specifically looking into one sector of the community. The infrastructure is designed to accommodate everyone. The roads, streets, buildings, transport systems etc, are accessible to all; be it PWDs, elderly, parents with strollers for babies, injured people using assistive devices like walking frames etc.

The Senior Management of the National Department of Social Development and the Free State Provincial Department of Social Development, attended the last day of the training. They were very impressed by Lesotho's status of Disability and have indicated great interest to visit Lesotho and learn from it.



Example of universal designs

GENERAL NEWS

FODSWA exchange visit to Lesotho

Federation of the Disabled in Swaziland (FODSWA) visited Lesotho from the 12th . 16th August.

The idea of visiting Lesotho for this federation was to learn from Lesotho Federation of the disabled how they things. FODSWA together with its development partner by its representative Save the children Swaziland met LNFOOD secretariat and Executive committee members, DPOs that are member affiliates to LNFOOD. In the meetings like this; they were focusing on programmes including how to do advocacy and more.

They met again with existing project of people with disabilities in Lesotho. This includes among others Itjareng Vocational Training Centre, whereby people with disabilities are doing vocational skills like carpentry, sewing, leatherworks, agriculture and leatherworks. This delegate from Swaziland was very interested in goods sold by the trainees and bought a lot. They wanted also to visit other projects outside Maseru to see other projects at the communities but failed to reach Leribe where arranged to meet people that formed a group and doing planting of trees to earn income. There were some constraints that failed the trip to get there.

It is interesting to see countries exchanging visits to learn, hoping Lesotho will also do the same if there is somewhere they see a gap and want to fill it by using another country. Wishing FODSWA to continue and improve lives of disabled people in Swaziland.

Passionate to deal with disability



Itjareng women as Basotho

In this woman's month women working at Itjareng met and discuss how they can do their work properly and increase the spirit of caring, supporting and protecting rights of PWDs in general. These women wear blankets to show how a real Mosotho woman should look like.

Women are very strong in this country, there are women who can care and know exactly the challenges faced by different disabilities, those women are women who have given their hearts to deal with people with disabilities. They have empathy and they are feeling what parents of disabled people are feeling.

They all promised in this month to be mother, caregivers, instructors, supervisors to the current and ex . trainees and to all people with disability regardless their disability and where they come from.

"We women working at Itjareng see ourselves as people who are called for challenges and we have to do as called.+ When continuing says "We plea to people who support to provide with services to people with disability, if we can all have passion we can do it, let us be the real Basotho and not focusing on our children but every child, every person is unique.+says Mamebello Phalali

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Receptionist at US Peace Corp

I have so many names my maiden name is Lebohang Rorisang Masakale and since I am married I go by Mapitso Ranooe, but I do not mind if you call me Lebo.

Type of disability

I have a physical disability, actually I was not born disabled, but I got polio when I was two years old and have been walking with an assistance of a calliper and crutch my entire life. I encourage mothers to take their children to the clinics to be immunized against polio, during our period there were no immunizations and the disease was not known in Lesotho. I spend 6 months in a hospital and doctors did not know what the problem was.

Position and company (work details)

I secured a job with the United States Peace Corps as a face and the voice of that organization for some time, meaning, I work as a receptionist/secretary.

What about your age?

I am a mature woman, very wise; you can rely on me for information as I have been exposed to many challenges in life. I have seen enough to the extent that I could be consulted on a number of issues, specializing in issues concerning people with disabilities in Lesotho.

What does your job involve?

My job entails meeting people who seek services from our office from all walks of life, and assisting them with whatever they may need and the ordinary stuff that receptionist and secretaries do, like welcome visitors show them who to see, where to find them and any other duties that may be assigned from time to time.

What is the best or interesting part of your job?

I am a sociable person; I like people no matter their age and like meeting new faces every day. To me every person is unique.

What do you think about making reproductive health education for women and girls with disabilities?

This requires effort and awareness for a girl's entire life, such as having an annual physical exam, can sometimes make a huge difference toward better health and a better life for girls with disabilities. Girl children let alone a girl with disability, who are seen as sick and not expected to know anything.

What inspires you being disabled and working with non – disabled people?

You are always the centre of attraction and you get the best attention ever. I get on very well with my co-workers and employers, they do not

discriminate me on the basis of my disability. I sometimes forget that I have a disability, because they understand me and know what I am capable of doing and they always pitch in whenever I need help even without asking.

What involvements are you taking to help in the mainstream of disability issues in the workplace?

Every time there is a new group of volunteers coming in a country, I make presentations on disability and talk about personal experiences, that serve as an eye opener on issues faced by people with disabilities in the country and how best they can interact as they work with the communities they are assigned to. I also have regular discussion with colleagues on a personal level about myself and others.

How can the government raise awareness on the right of a girl child with disability to inclusive education?

“Educating a woman is educating the whole nation.” You want an educated nation educate a woman.

Education is a right not a privilege in our country so spells out our constitution, whether a child is a girl or a boy or both, whether they have disability or not we should be fully bound to see that education is given to every child and has to be accessible to all.

What is the best advice you have ever been given and did follow regarding education while young?

My mom and dad taught me to follow my dreams taught me that education is the best weapon and a tool that open doors to fighting ignorance I thank them for that because if it was not for them I could not have been where I am today. So I would like to appeal to all young people with disabilities that stop pitying yourselves follow your dreams and make use of what you have. Obviously, I believe that there nothing wrong with disability any person

can learn whether in school or out of school only our negative attitudes and stereotypes prevent us from seeing the other positive part of life.

If you would be chosen a prime minister of Lesotho what would you do to improve lives of girl children?

What a question? Anyway children need to grow in a safe environment where there is no violence; they need love shelter and clothing. They need to have good morals, discipline. I would improve the current situation of education to cater for every child move from the banking concept of education which does not allow our children to be self-employed. I would visit communities and find out the needs and status of girls and find means and ways of improving their lives. Have laws that protect girls against gender violence.

What do you do for fun?

Hang out with colleagues and chat about everything

How would you spend your last day on Earth?

Probably I would love to be with my husband he has been so supportive and loving, we would reminiscence about the years we have been together and all the challenges we have overcome would therefore die peacefully knowing that I will see my saviour.

If you had to date a celebrity whom would you date

Nelson Mandela, he is a survivor and experience has taught me that life is all about knowing where you come from and where you want to be and try to make a meaning out of life. They say there are things that you can't choose in life like your parents but you can choose what you want to be.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Building Capacity of parents and caregivers of children with disabilities

Intellectual Disability Association of Lesotho (IDAL) from the 3rd to 5th September 2013 shall provide food packages to the selected sibling headed and granny headed households in districts of Butha-Buthe and Berea. The selected households are those with children with disabilities severely marginalized and lack capacity for self-help projects pending their elderly age and young age and mostly compromised by the level of disability.

Needs assessment for children with disabilities

IDAL will continue with the needs assessment from the 4th to 13th September 2013 for children with disabilities and their siblings in Lithipeng and Khoelenya Community Councils and as way of informing interventions needed to address needs of an individual child within the catchments area.

Conduct IDAL for more information

Lobbying for the domestication of CRPD

Disabled women in Africa will be holding its third capacity development workshop from the 9th - 13th September in Johannesburg. The workshop is targeting Education and Training of girls and women with disabilities. Lesotho will be represented and sharing experiences on issues of education and training.

Disability Policy Validation

The National Disability Policy & Rehabilitation Policy that came into effect in 2011 has now been translated into Sesotho version. It is awaiting validation by major stakeholders, which is scheduled for October, 2013. The policy was translated with support from our partner, Human Resources Alliance for Africa (HRAA)

Round Table Meeting and COPDAM

There is a programme called The Communities of Practice in Disability Advocacy for Mainstreaming programme (COPDAM) which has been introduced by the Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities. The programme is geared towards Disability Mainstreaming in six African countries namely; Lesotho, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Madagascar.

The above mentioned countries together with other countries who are members of SADC representatives from AU will be having a Round . Table Meeting from the 1st - 5th December, 2013 in Lesotho.

International Disability Day

Disability celebration day for the year 2013 will be celebrated in Maseru not Qachas nek as it was supposed to be. There are some reasons that everybody will know about when time is ready. LNFOD would like to apologise for the inconvenience caused by this change.

We invite everybody to celebrate with us this wonderful year.

For more information relating to this, please conduct LNFOD office
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