

DISABILITY LESOTHO



From the Editor

Dear Partner,

Welcome once again to the edition of Disability Lesotho. The edition will cover news for the Month of August, 2018

The African Women's Month is an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements and the important role that women of all have played and continue to play in South African society including Lesotho.

This month to me came with so many achievements in the Disability sector, the tabling of the Disability Equity Bill before the parliament is the major one. This has come at the right time as rights of PWDs will be recognized soon. Rights of girls and women, including males with disabilities will not be denied.

It is in this month whereby persons and organisations of the disabled are given the opportunity to bring their vehicles to the government of Lesotho for hiring. I would like to show my happiness to this, as lives of persons with disabilities and their organisations

will change to the better. If this can happen as expected organisations will be able to sustain their activities. My question is; I am worried if they cannot be able to get loans from the bank to buy those vehicles to provide the government for hiring for the period of 5 years, what is going to happen?

I would like to plea to all who has power to assist, in order to sustain our organisations. The problem that is hindering persons with disabilities to access loans are the requirements needed that persons with disabilities do not have.

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 Letsau on (+266) 5905 5406 or pletsau@gmail.com

You can also Tweet us [@Infod_lesotho](https://twitter.com/Infod_lesotho)

If missed any edition please visit www.infod.org.ls

We welcome any feedback that may improve the quality and content of this free service.

Best regards,



The Editor

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

TABLING OF DISABILITY EQUITY BILL IN PARLIAMENT

By: Nkhasi Sefuthi

The Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) notes with great appreciation the tabling of Disability Equity Bill in parliament by the Honourable Minister of Social Development on the 31st August 2018. The tabling of the Disability Equity bill marks a paradigm shift in Lesotho from where people with disabilities are considered as objects of pity and charity cases to where people with disabilities are the rights holders capable of exercising their human rights on an equal basis with others.



LNFOD extended its sincere gratitude's to the Honourable Minister of Social Development for fulfilling his long standing promise of tabling the Disability Equity Bill in Parliament in realization of the rights of people with disabilities.

LNFOD is now convinced that the Honourable Minister is stepping towards the meaningful protection of the rights of people with disabilities and such deserves a credit for breaking the ground on the topic of disability as a human right issue.

The enactment of the Disability Equity Bill into an Act of parliament will undoubtedly contribute to the

human rights advancement of people with disabilities and promote disability inclusion in public and private sector.

It will give people with disabilities power to claim and enforce their rights and participate effectively in the decision making processes.

LNFOD now appeals to the Social Cluster committee to review the Bill bearing in mind the barriers faced by people with disabilities in terms of access to the social services including access to information and physical infrastructure, education, employment, and independent living for people with disabilities.

LNFOD appeals to the Parliament of Lesotho through its two houses to consider the Bill mindful of the long time taken by the executive to complete the Bill and speed up the processes as soon as it may be practicable for the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities in Lesotho.

LNFOD will monitor the work of the parliamentary portfolio committee on Social cluster to ensure that the Bill is enacted into law in full compliance with the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities from now till it is enacted into law.



GENERAL NEWS

NPC LESOTHO WANTS MORE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

By: Leemisa Thuseho

Maseru – The National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Lesotho held a one-day workshop aimed at increasing the number of women in sports leadership positions, mainly in Paralympics bodies.

The workshop was held at St. Bernardett Resource Centre for the Blinds, Maseru and it is entitled 'Increasing Women Participation in Leadership Positions.'

Talking to NPC President, Ms. Limpho Rakoto the workshop is one of the African Paralympic Committee initiative to respond to the concern that there is little number of women in sports decision making positions in the whole continent.

Rakoto disclosed that they are expecting 35 female participants made up of representatives from clubs and centers that are affiliated with NPC Lesotho.

She added the workshop will focus mainly on leadership roles, advantages women in leadership positions enjoy and the challenges for women in Africa to be elected to leadership positions.

Rakoto said in Africa it is only four countries with women in leadership of their National Paralympic Committees.

Those countries are Lesotho, Egypt, Kenya and Mozambique.

Referring to provided by the African Paralympics Committee, Rakoto said globally only 21% portion of leadership is occupied by women while the 79% is covered by men. In Africa women only make 13% leaving the 87% to men.

Based on her own experiences Rakoto pointed out that there are some challenges faced by women when it comes to being active in sports.

She blamed the cultural norms that deceive people to believe that a woman's duties lies only on household chores.

"The other reason is that as we advocate for inclusion of women in leadership positions, women do not support each other, they rather opt to promote men." added Rakoto

She further indicated that the other challenge is lack of exposure in meeting people who have knowledge and willing to share ideas and encourage participation.



GENERAL NEWS

LNFOOD WOMEN'S SEMINAR CELEBRATING WOMEN'S MONTH

By: Lipolelo Makhele

On the 30 August 2018 LNFOOD women had a seminar to commemorate women's month. The seminar was on sharing knowledge, experience, success and barriers facing women with disabilities in entering into business sector. This meeting was the result of the living conditions study 2010 conducted by LNFOOD and Sintef, where the findings



Presentations were made. Women with disabilities who are within poultry projects shared with the seminar about the opportunities they got from the ministry of Small Business. Women with disabilities also were guided on how to access those opportunities from the ministry.

I would like to encourage women with disabilities to stand up and start their own businesses in order to overcome the extreme poverty we are facing.

showed that PWDs are living under the poverty line.

The invitees in order to motivate Women with disabilities were Standard Lesotho Bank, Boliba Savings and Credit, Prof. Calvin Motabang who

GENERAL NEWS

NAPCOL HOLDS WORKSHOP

By: Moorosi Tsiane

The National Paralympics Committee of Lesotho (NAPCOL) held a one day women leadership workshop at the Resource centre for the Blind in Maseru on the 19th August

According to NAPCOL President Limpho Rakoto, the workshop is a follow-up to a three-day seminar held by African Paralympics Committee (APC) from 25-27 May this year in Gauteng province in South Africa.

At the South Africa meeting, NAPCOL was represented by Leetoane Kheoane and Itumeleng Qhoai. "This workshop is basically aimed at encouraging women to strive for leadership in sporting association," Rakoto said. "Gauteng the APC registered its worries that the statistics of leadership roles in different National Paralympics Committee throughout the continent as a number seemed to be decreasing each time."



"We therefore decided to engage women in the country so that they can pursue leadership positions in our associations." "Today we have



the participants from Gauteng meeting sharing that they learnt. The seminar was open for every woman from our clubs and centres who are in administrative roles or at least athletics who are close to retirement." She further stated that it is only 1 percent of women who are in administration across the continent and there are only 4 women presidents in 47 National Paralympics Committee in the continent.

"There are only four women presidents throughout the continent and Lesotho is much because it has four women members in NAPCOL. The target is that by our next general elections which will be in December 2019 we want to see more woman challenging for those to positions in the association." Rakoto said

NEWS IN PICTURES



Women with disabilities and parents during the celebration of women's month



This is the group attended the Paralympic workshop on leadership



NPC Lesotho President Ms. Limpho Rakoto attending Madrid 2018 IPC Membership Gathering



Masekara Makatleho Molotsi talking to women on advocacy role to tackle as women.



Ms. Keneuoe Semphi, a visually impaired woman is influencing other women with disabilities to take key



These are the products made by a Mosotho woman with disability to overcome poverty

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ADVOCACY WORK



LNFOOD

PARTNERS in Advocacy Work



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