

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, 2017

This is women's Month where Africa is glorifying women. I am a woman, and would like to appreciate the hard work that that women are doing. It is factual that women cannot be strong like men when it comes to heavyweight things but I just like to highlight their power. Women are essential and should be grateful with that. Women are playing a very critical role in the society, they have been given ability to think, courage, care and talk. The approach that they are using taking care for their families, shows that they have power to change the World according to me. They always strive for their survival. Women wakes up earlier than anybody in the family, preparing for breakfast, making sure that children and husband are ready and clean before they could leave the house to their different activities of the day. A woman can persist doing the family chores afterwards. Even after working hours, a woman is the one who prepare supper, clean dishes and make the beds. She will be the last person to sleep in the family that is where we can see the power that a woman has.

Like I indicated the importance of women, women with disabilities are not exception to all that. I just like to plea to our organizations and the government to recognize availability of women and be given the opportunity to explore their knowledge.

I think women empowerment is needed. If women can be financially empowered, no family can go to bed with empty stomach. The economy of our country could also increase to the better.

I always look at how hard women with disabilities are working to make their living but there are so many obstacles for them to access loans to start or make their businesses to grow. This is a very problem that women with disabilities are facing and nobody cares about that but can only say to them; "Behold and change the world"

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

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

UN COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

By: Nkhasi Sefuthi

The Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) is implementing a three year program "Capacity development for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities" with the financial support from its partner, Diakonie Austria which is supported by the Austrian development agency.

One of the key important activity of this program is to influence the official partners of Lesotho to mainstream disability by doing the following; provide technical assistance to the government of Lesotho to pass the Disability Equity Act into an Act of Parliament.

Mainstream disability into the programs of the government of Lesotho they are funding including through making explicit disability target and indicators to measure the progress towards disability inclusion.

Support the implementation of the Social protection strategy by implementing the provision of disability grant to people with disabilities. LNFOD will also use this opportunity to encourage the official's partners of Lesotho to mainstream disability within their own organisational program to

Luckily, the United Nations is consulting with LNFOD on the common country analysis; the UN development framework of Lesotho to be supported from 2019 2022.

In this common country analysis document of the UN, LNFOD will ensure that the UN support the domestication of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities through an act of Parliament alongside its implementation.

This consultation is very important since it brings the disability agenda into the UN Lesotho and provides an opportunity for resource allocations and capacity building of the Disabled peoples' organisations during the implementation of the new development framework of the UN. In addition, LNFOD is organising another meeting with other official partners of Lesotho to take agenda of disability inclusion forward.

The consultations are taking place on the 5 September 2017 with the representatives of persons with disabilities.

GENERAL NEWS

Monitoring Visit at Mashaleng Community Council

By: Rabasotho Moeletsi

On the 15th August, Mhales'hoek Mashaleng Community Council F02 LNFOD held a meeting with Representatives of persons with disabilities from different Electoral Divisions within the Council. The participants to this essential meeting were 8 people. The purpose of the meeting was to present the development report after being trained on how to advocate for their rights. The additional item was to share experiences on how can they do it healthier. They were also enhanced with new strategies of doing advocacy. This type of meeting is held quarterly in a year.

When stating her work 'Makhauhelo Tsiu who is visually impaired from Majapereng Electoral Division said; "I started conducting public gatherings to introduce myself and tell the communities about the task am I going to do. That is where I came across the availability of children with disabilities that are not in class rooms. I worked hard to see to it that persons with disabilities are employed. In my area, there was a programme to construct the dam, I managed to convince the people who were in charge and they managed to employ 5 persons with disabilities there. I also visited homes of children with disabilities who were not enrol in school. My opinion was to make their parents recognize how important it is to send their children to school. I managed to talk to 4 parents of a 2 deaf persons and 1 intellectual disabled to be enrol in vocational school. One child who is visually impaired is at ECCD School. I also made some follow-ups to find out how she is doing. I realized that she is sitting in front in a classroom.

It is in this meeting where participants agreed to seek more help from NADL on how to help those are not aware or doesn't know sign language, in order to assist to carry on with their classes.

While Mr. Smanga Seko who is also visually impaired from Maphohloane Electoral Division said, he also started by conducting public gatherings within his area.

He managed to advocate for 5 persons with disabilities to work on dam construction within the council.

He also encouraged 5 persons with disabilities to use all services within their areas especially health services without fear. 2 deaf persons had a challenge about communication with service providers at the health centre, while 3 persons with physical disabilities managed to be assisted as the health centre was user-friendly to them. He assisted parents of children with disabilities to understand the importance of sending their children to school so that they can be able to resist for their lives during hard times.

The representative from Qhalasi Electoral Division Mr. Malimo Pebane, a visually impaired person used the same strategy of public gatherings but most people did not attend due to logistics for the local government elections. I concluded doing house to house visits whereby I managed to talk to parents of children with disabilities about schools. I met with a parent for a 10 years old who was not attending school. The parent understood and the child will enrol in school early next year. We still have difficulties with chiefs where some of them do not understand our role as Disability representative as supposed to do.

Mrs. 'Mapalesa Kali who is new in the project indicated that; "We are here only because we represent others, we are not here because we are clever than others. What we have to do is to listen carefully and pass the message to the people we are representing here. We are to unite and work hard to change the situation persons with disabilities are facing in provision of services in this country."



GENERAL NEWS

“I started from zero.....”

By Lankiri Katla

This is my significant story of my life in business. My name is Lankiri and my nickname is Papiki. I am staying in the village called Mohalalitoe Ha Nyenye Maputsoe. I am a man who was born in 1981. I only reached Std. 7 at school. I am a man who is a wheelchair – user. My disability caused by car accident in December, 2004

It was very difficult for me after having the disability. I did not know what to do, I thought there is nothing I can do and it was like everything is going to change. But there came a new thought that I can do something so that I can earn money. By the while I had nothing except the trimming machine. I put the notice board at the gate as the indication of trimming service available. People started coming and bringing their children to cut their hair to me, that is how I started.



Continuing with the trimming work, my customers gave me the morale support of what I am doing. They encouraged me to put sweets, zimba, cigarettes and one of my friends borrowed me a popcorn machine and always next to me. I did as they suggested and that worked for me. I again, thought of buying a shark and put it outside the gate. The business then went well, I was fortunate that my parents were very supportive to me. They helped me not to use the money, when there was no food in house did not enquire the money. They ensured these because they wanted me to mature the business.

Through the money I made from that shark, I managed to purchase a site with a house in it. The house is 8 roomed, I use this house as a home and a shop. The shop is known as; ‘Ten Seventy shop’. I am now willing to jump into a Saloon as I have a spare room for that and stands to be used. I hired a house somewhere for a public bar which is named; Mbazong Public Bar and it is fractioning very well. I now giving 4 people employment through those business I am doing. If I am going to manage start the saloon maybe can employ 2 more people.

It is not easy to do business if depending on it. Even though I managed to continue with the business it was not easy. The main deterrence one may encountered is when the employees are not willing to wake up earlier, especially during rush hours, they do not open shops the way I wanted. When it’s time to if buy stock, it is difficult for me, sometimes I want to go myself but may find that I have to pay for my wheelchair, myself and the stock, so it cost me a lot of money. It sometimes becomes hazardous especially when having the disability and in business, I remember I once attached by the thieves due to my disability, I deferred to go out and check, by the time I go out they were completed to steal all things they wanted to take. Business is all about compromising sometimes particularly when it comes to deal with employees. I want to be a well-known businessman in Lesotho who can also be approached to motivate other people who did not have the opportunity to go to school but eager to do business just like I did.



SPOTLIGHT



Mrs. 'Maesiah Thabane – The wife of Honourable Dr. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, Lesotho's Prime Minister

- A device to mend Basotho
- A very helpful tool to vulnerable people especially Persons with disabilities
- A devoted woman to support disability
- A conqueror to motivate young women
- You always stretches a hand to families that are in need
- Thank you for being such a supportive to persons with disabilities in this country
- In this woman's month, you brought hope where there was no light of life
- By interacting between Mrs. Likopo Lesoetsa and her family
- We thank you for the stunning role you played
- We still imagining more things from you to persons with disabilities in Lesotho, May the Almighty God bless you

NEWS IN PICTURES



Mr. Katla on a wheelchair respected by the communities as a businessman



Mbazong Public Bar owned by Mr. Lankiri Katla who is a wheelchair-user



Interview on process during the data collection on access to financials to PWDs



Rabasotho and Masekara enjoying after a hard work at Semonkong



Youth with visually impaired persons at Mohloli - oa - Bophelo after a meeting



China Embassy Lesotho is giving laptops to learners with visually impaired persons

UPCOMING EVENT

The 4th Africa – European Youth Summit, taking place 2-4 October

Where: Abidjan (Ivory Coast). The Youth Summit invites 120 youth leaders from the two continents and the objective is to come up with a joint Declaration to influence the AU – EU Summit in November.

More information visit:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfEuQXaMcZc_XI4tauPVYEY7AbADebESITAsywhxM-05GnDg/viewform

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