

DISABILITY LESOTHO



From the Editor

Dear Partner,

Welcome once again to the nineteenth edition of Disability Lesotho, the monthly email newsletter from Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled. This newsletter will cover news for December, 2013. There are more activities done this Month, some might appear in January due to the space of our newsletter.

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 this opportunity to wish you a happy and prosperous new year of 2014. The year 2013 has been a hard working year in the disability movements. If we can all remember we have been going through hard times including the loss of our beloved the late Director of Intellectual Disability Association of Lesotho (IDAL) Ms. Kgomoco Motsamai and others even in our continent

We even had news that has been pleasant to our movement. There are many achievements in our sector e.g. Deaf learners at Kananelo Centre for the Deaf managed to pass their Primary Level proceeding to Secondary Level. This is the achievement indeed.

We therefore thank God for that and ask him once again to help us for next year.

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

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

Best regards,
The Editor

ADVOCACY ASPECT

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN DISABILITY ADVOCACY FOR MAINSTREAMING (COPDAM)



Hon. Minister 'Matebatso Doti signing on behalf of Lesotho – Picture by Pascalina Letsau

Lesotho hosted the Continental Disability Roundtable Meeting from the 1st – 4th December at Maseru Sun Hotel Maseru Lesotho

We, the representatives of fifteen (15) Continental and six (6) National Disabled Persons Organisations from across the continent of Africa, four (4) African Governments and five (5) Development Partners, convened in Maseru, Lesotho, under the auspices of the LNFOD with support from the Secretariat of African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (SADPD), to reflect and discuss on the theme “BREAK BARRIERS, OPEN DOORS FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY FOR ALL”.

Acknowledge that since the African Union (AU) declared the extension of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2010 – 2019, a number of African countries are implementing initiatives of the Continental Plan of Action [CPOA], which are helping to address poverty, full participation, equality and empowerment of disabled persons on the continent;

Cognisant of the fact that Africa holds the largest share of the one and half billion persons with disabilities in the world; poverty, food insecurity, man-made and natural disasters,

the effects of HIV/AIDS and conflict in the continent continue to increase the vulnerability of persons with disabilities;

Recognise the pivotal role of Disabled Persons Organisations in promoting an inclusive society and the necessity to ensure disability forms part of sustainable development in and beyond 2015 development agenda;

Aware those 36 African countries have ratified the UNCRPD and several are in the process of domestication through Disability specific legislations and policies; and that support for disability mainstreaming initiatives requires continued support from governments and development partners



The Disability Ambassadorial Country Award Certificate to Lesotho

Submit that governments, Disabled Persons Organisations (DPO's), Civil Society Organisations (CSO's), the private sectors, international development partners and other stakeholders are partners in enhancing mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in government development plans and should work together to:

- Enhance awareness and knowledge to stimulate and continue to demand for Disability Mainstreaming as part of governments' national development planning;

GENERAL NEWS

- Ensure that Disability Focal Points are appointed, trained and monitored at all levels of governments' structures for coordination and supervision of mainstreaming disability; and that those appointed should be in positions of seniority and influence;
- Advocate for increased national budget allocations and strong collaboration with private sector to enhance their social responsibility for sustainability of disability mainstreaming programmes;
- Increase research, collection of data and statistic and documentation of evidence of best practice on disability mainstreaming and disseminate widely;
- Increase the capacity of Disabled Persons Organisations in advocacy and mobilization of resources for mainstreaming;
- Promote access to justice and an end to violence against women and children with disabilities;
- Ensure the participation of people with disabilities in the development planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting on disability issues;
- Develop and strengthen national sign languages, to ensure deaf person's and their indigenous cultures rights are protected
- Ensure that people with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities are included in all political processes especially guaranteeing their right to vote;
- Ensure that mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in development plans clearly includes persons with severe and multiple disabilities in service provision for instance the Deaf-Blind and persons of short stature.
- Call for active participation of persons with disabilities in the drafting of the African disability rights protocol.



Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Mothetjoa Metsing and LNFOD Chairperson Mrs. Regina Lephoi holding the Disability Ambassadorial Country Award on behalf of Lesotho after receiving it – Picture by Pascalina Letsau

GENERAL NEWS

Barriers of Transport towards wheelchair – users



Retataise Moqhobi programme – Radio live show with harvest fm and Rea ikamohela Peer Group – Picture by Mokae Moepi

By Mokae Moepi

On the 11/12/13 Harvest Fm came live to Lithabaneng as a result of Mabalane Taxi Association in collaboration with REA IKAMOHELA PEER GROUP. Amongst those who were present was Mr. Mathe Khalane the Chairperson of Mabalane Taxi Association and his committee, Mr. Motsamai John Talla who is the presenter of the Retataise Moqhobi programme and 3 of REA IKAMOHELA PEER GROUP representatives Chairperson Ms Mokae Moepi, Advisor Ms Ernestina Ramathinyane and spokesperson Mr. Mphonea Nketu.

Mabalane Taxi Association and Harvest FM decided to take action as a result of receiving a letter from REA IKAMOHELA which stated problems that wheelchair users face in the transport industry and among the few stated included were that unlike any person with any kind of disability people with mobility disabilities (wheelchair – users) pay double the amount of transport as opposed to others, the main reason being most of the taxis do not have boots for wheelchairs to be packed in so the wheelchair will have to occupy a seat and therefore pay double the amount and most passengers tend to complain that the wheelchairs are dirty and they make them filthy.

Moreover, people on wheelchairs tend to be discriminated in the taxi industries that is; the fact that they take some time to get in the taxi seemed to have resulted into some certain taxis refusing them their right to freedom of movement as they marginalized them denying them access in some public transport claiming they are wasting other passengers time.

The Chairperson of REA IKAMOHELA stated that in some areas like where she lives there are no cab taxis known as 4+1; she indicated that she lives far from the main road meaning and had to hire a cab all the time which is too expensive for a person who is unemployed like her.

Mr. Mphonea Nketu stated; “a person doesn’t need to apply to have disability. I am very concerned that time and again accidents are happening and people end up having Spinal Cord Injuries and being on wheelchairs, it is the responsibilities of Taxi Associations and Taxi Owners to ensure that their vehicles are in good condition.” What does the government do about this? Asked Ms. Moepi

Moreover, it was suggested that Mabalane and other transport association should hire someone with mobility disabilities as the form of opening doors for an inclusive society for all and that would be advocating for people with mobility disabilities in the employment sphere.

It was again discovered that Motor Vehicle Order No: 1985 need to be reviewed, most of the time if there are accident and people die or end up having disabilities the owners of those vehicles compensate for them at the early stage of their injuries and do not ensure that they can still meet their basic human being and look after their families regardless of their disabilities so Mabalane was given assignment to look into such issues.

As Mabalane Taxi Association did not realized how much wheelchair user are having difficulties in the taxi industries until REA IKAMOHELA opened their eyes and we are sorry for all the ill treatment have been caused by industry and we promise we will take action and ensure that we correct our mistakes’. Mr. Khalane concluded.

GENERAL NEWS

Resource Mobilisation Training



Trainees – Picture by Simon Leburu

By Pascalina Letsau

LNFOOD held a training workshop on Resource Mobilisation to its member affiliates from the 9th – 13th December. The training was facilitated by Institute of Development Management (IDM) through its facilitator Mrs. Limakatso Mosese.

The idea of the training was to equip members with skills on how to mobilize resources for organizations and institutions meant to train people with disabilities. The facilitator discussed these topics with the participants;

1. Resource mobilization framework
2. Relationship between resource mobilization and fundraising
3. Skills for planning resource mobilization work
4. Aligning resource mobilization with strategic plan
5. Planning for resource mobilization work
6. How to review current organization resource situation
7. How to identify resource gaps
8. Researching resource mobilization mechanisms
9. Identification of resource providers
10. How to develop Resource Mobilization Action Plan
11. Developing the concept paper

12. Developing project proposal

The training has been so helpful to all participants as they were not aware that fundraising is part of resource mobilization not resource mobilization in its entirety. They showed that; they were trying to mobilize resources not aware that they had to plan the work like other work.

'I was not aware that it is important to identify gaps on the resources that we have as the organization. It really helps because we cannot ask for what we already have, as that will not be helpful or benefit our clients.' Indicated Ms. Nteboheng Lefuma

We hope this can continue even next year in order to be checked by the facilitator whether we have developed our Resource Mobilization Action Plan for our organizations and institutions correctly.

When concluding Mrs. Mosese said; 'it has been good to train this group of people, it is my first time to train people with disabilities. I was not expecting such participation from you ladies and gentlemen, because most of the time groups that we do help are different as they are slow to understand but this group was amazing. I think this is a new knowledge to our institution that it is not difficult to work with people with disabilities as most people use to say. I am really amazed.'



Participants in a training workshop listening to the Facilitator – Picture by Pascalina Letsau

GENERAL NEWS

Her Majesty Calls for Action to improve the lives of persons with disabilities

By Marorisang Mafethe



Her Majesty Queen Masenate Mohato Bereng Seeiso is a patron of the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled.

Speaking at the Commemoration of the international day of persons with disabilities 2013 at the Kick4life grounds, Her Majesty the Queen 'Masenate Mohato Bereng Seeiso applauded all who made the celebration to be in dignified manner. "It is therefore important that the speeches of today are turned into practical action in order for persons with disabilities to live meaningful and fulfilling lives." Emphasized Her Majesty.

Queen 'Masenate, further mentioned that, following the living conditions study of 2010 which depicted that persons with disabilities were still living under abrupt poverty and lack access to education, healthcare and other basic services and following the ratification of UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, it was distressing that not much has been done especially when it comes to legal reforms.

"People with disabilities especially those with intellectual disabilities are specifically excluded in the court proceedings on the ground that they lack legal standing in Courts of Law, for example, Section 219 of the Criminal procedure and evidence Act of 1981 clearly stipulates that if it appears that the victim or the accused has

some intellectual disability, such a person will not have standing in the court of law.

As a result, the perpetrators are taking advantage of this law by attacking and sexually harassing women and girls with disabilities with the full knowledge that the case against him will not proceed because the harassed individual with disability does not have legal standing in the court of law and therefore the victim will not testify against him in the court proceedings."

The Queen continued saying; "I also call upon all government ministries, private sector and the public at large to change our attitudes towards people with disabilities and start to engage them in all issues affecting them."

Her Majesty called upon the government of Lesotho to comply with international obligations and responsible authorities to revise the discriminatory legislation to offer protection to persons with disabilities to ensure live enjoyable lives.

GENERAL NEWS

Celebrating Human Rights Day



By Moliehi Sejane

What are human rights?

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

It is then that Master of Healing Foundation (an organization formed by Lesbians) decided to come to Itjareng Vocational Training Centre to celebrate Human Rights Day with People with Disabilities as they share the same stigmatization and discrimination. Lesbians are being discriminated by the society just like people with disabilities. The reason for choosing this centre as the place to celebrate this year was to share challenges and experiences. The sharing was marvelous as we, people with disabilities learnt things that we were not aware of before. We are now in the clear picture of whom, what, and why, other than before. We would like to thank Master of Healing Foundation with this endeavor of affiliating with disability to fight this enemy of ours, which stigmatization and discrimination.

We together celebrated this day by cleaning the centre and after cleaning, we ended our celebration by having refreshments which were supplied by the Ministry of Social Development.

The Master of Healing Foundation played a major role by mobilizing resources for IVTC. In collaboration with IVTC approached the Central Bank of Lesotho and our requisition has been accepted and the bank paid for 34 beds and their mattresses to benefit students at Itjareng.

This took place at Lehakoe Recreational Centre on the 19th December, 2013. We real appreciate the support given to us by the Central Bank of Lesotho and Master of Healing Foundation.

Lastly, we would like to wish all our supporters a Prosperous New Year. May God Almighty bless and keep you till we meet again in the coming year.



Pascalina receiving cheque from the Governor of Central Bank of Lesotho Mrs. A.R.Matlanyane

GENERAL NEWS

Celebration of International Disability Day



Started with the procession from Roman Cathedral premises to Kick4life grounds



In between Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Seeiso, left hand side Hon. Minister 'Matebatso Doti and right side Hon. Minister Rachel Kachaje



Mr. Svein the representative of Norwegian Association of the Disabled (NAD)



The Hon. Minister of Disability and Elderly Affairs Malawi – Rachel Kachaje giving her speech



Principal Chief of Matsieng, Chief Seeiso Bereng Seeiso giving his welcome speech

OPINION PIECE

Do people with disabilities have to be educated?

By 'Makanono Mofammere
Secretary General – Lesotho Association of Teachers

The government of Lesotho and educational authorities at all levels; public and private sector must work with teacher organizations through processes of social dialogues to concentrate greater attention and resources to create a safe and healthy environment for person with disabilities in education.

The commitment to build new Lesotho provides a new basis and more opportunities for Lesotho to better manage its transitions towards equity and sustainable development. I think Lesotho as a member of SADC must follow policy and strategy for environmental and sustainable development not only in the SADC region but even in the country by observing inclusive education.

Awareness must be raised among all stakeholders on the importance of improving access and quality basic education to all children including those with disability. There must be dialogues to promote effective partnership with other stakeholders in education both at district and national level.

Partnership is a major challenge to the Ministry of education where a forum with a section of parliamentarian who deals with education in parliament should bring in a strong partnership between law makers, the implementers of policies, development partners and other groups of civil society organizations. The group can share views of education and people with disabilities freely.

Teachers can help create awareness amongst teacher organizations and the surrounding environment, coordinate education, ministry of social development programmes and they can ensure that learning conditions for learners with disabilities are favourable.

In conclusion teachers in consultation with other stakeholders should recognize the need to fully participate in the fight against exclusion of people with disability in education programmes

I am now answering the question above; 'yes, learners with disabilities need education more than anyone else. Our country have to make sure that people with disabilities get education as most of them according to the disability they have cannot work heavy work like mines, contracts and many more. With education people with disabilities can work even in the office working using computers. The situation of people with disabilities who are not getting education real upset me.' This is my answer to the question.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Moliehi Sejane

Profession: Sign language Interpreter

- 1. When did you start working in disability sector?**

I started working in the disability sector voluntarily in 1991 but get employed in 1997 by Itjareng Vocational Training Centre. That is where I met deaf people.

- 2. How do you feel working with people with disabilities?**

I enjoy working with people with disabilities because it is challenging

- 3. Do you think people with disabilities can work?**

They can work, what I know is that PWDs are hard workers

- 4. If you had to date a man with disability in which type of disability would you choose?**

I would choose from any, as long as he had qualities of a man?

- 5. How would like to see families of PWDs?**

Most of them live under poverty line, so I would like to see them improving not to rely on other people

- 6. What are the challenges do you face dealing with deaf people?**

- 7.** They are many but among all these, I can talk about a deaf person who is not concentrating when interpreting. It is ashamed if there is a question to him/her but not able to answer the relevant. People by that time think that the interpreter is not doing his or her job. It is something embarrassing indeed.

- 8. Where do you want to find yourself with sign language?**

I want to be an International interpreter

- 9. If you had a trained monkey, what would you do with it?**

I would like it to look after my house when I am out with my friends for fun.

- 10. What can you say about the coming year 2014?**

I wish the government of Lesotho can recognize issues of disability, as for now it seems it is something far from recognition. I wish all PWDs and their Developmental partners over the World the prosperous New Year – 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

A joint Meeting between Rea Ikamohela Peer Group and Mabalane Taxi Association

There is a meeting to come early next year for two parties to work on way forward to solve problems caused by Transport Industry to Wheelchair – users.

For more information about REA IKAMOHELA PEER GROUP please conduct the Chairperson;

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Cell; (+266) 63325996 or (+266) 57009575

Email; epzamokae@yahoo.com

4th AfriNEAD SYMPOSIUM 2014

A strategy for community interaction
Centre for Rehabilitation
Studies,
A project of Stellenbosch University
in collaboration with Network
Partners

**Venue: SUN 'n' SANDS HOTEL
RESORT**

MANCOCHI

LAKE MALAWI

MALAWI

Dates: 3-5 NOVEMBER

2014

ENQUIRIES:

AFRINEAD@SUN.AC.ZA