

# DISABILITY LESOTHO



## From the Editor

Welcome once again to the twenty fourth edition of Disability Lesotho, the monthly email newsletter from Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled which will be covering activities of May, 2014.

The Disability Lesotho e-newsletter is a platform whereby partners in the disability sector share the 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 organisations working to improve the lives of people in Lesotho, including those with disability.

The disability focus these days is on how to enjoy the fundamental human rights. People with disabilities are all looking on how they can get their right of employment, political, education and protection under laws and whom can they talk to. I hope the time has come for change, its been a long time that we talk! talk! talk! and there is nobody listening to us.

There has been so many conventions and protocols signed by the government of Lesotho. There is no transformation to people with disabilities, people with disabilities especially women and girls are being facing various abuses like; emotional, economic and physical abuses. I think it is high time that the government of Lesotho can think twice about mainstreaming

disability issues in their plans, programmes and policies. We are watching politicians that have come to LNFOD and wanted to be supported by PWDs, they did not get back to us after being in government. We cannot tolerate being misused by these people and then afterwards left as if we are not existing. I advice them because there will be miserable in the next coming years.

I think signing and ratifying the protocols and conventions by the government of Lesotho should be something that is taken into consideration. The government should at least do one thing amongst all these documents rather than ignoring everything. I plea to Lesotho government to care for people with disabilities and provide services they need.

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](mailto:pletsau@gmail.com)

If missed any edition please visit [www.lnfod.org.ls](http://www.lnfod.org.ls)

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

Best regards,

The Editor

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

### **Elevating disability rights in africa roundtable employment for persons with disabilities: Opportunities and Challenges**

**By: Nkhasi Sefuthi**

Maseru US Embassy organized employment roundtable for persons with disabilities with Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) on the 25 June 2014 at US Ambassador house in Maseru.

The Lesotho private sector and the relevant government ministries were invited to share the experiences in how they accommodate people with disabilities at the workplaces as well as to how they ensure the recruitment of employees with disabilities in the companies. The invitees included the ECONET Telkom Lesotho, Vodacom Lesotho, and Lesotho Standard Bank, Employers association, Principal Secretaries of the Ministry of Labour and Employment and others.

Carl B FOX, who spoke on behalf of the US Ambassador, expressed the US government commitment to elevate disability rights in Africa and in this instance Lesotho will not be an exception. He said that, one of the main reasons why the roundtable was organized was to deepen the understanding of the US government on the challenges facing people with disabilities particularly on employment. Having understood the issues around this matter, the US government will be in a position to support Lesotho in ensuring that people with disabilities access job opportunities on an equal basis with others. The Executive Director of LNFOD indicated that, the challenge facing the employment of people with disabilities is twofold; the first challenge relates to the reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities in the workplace. The Labour code order of 1992 as amended and the Public service act as amended do not contain a provision on reasonable accommodation for workers with disabilities and also their recruitment into the labour market is very difficult as a result.

Secondly, due to long term inaccessibility of the education system of Lesotho by people with

disabilities, only few individuals with disabilities managed to rise above the storm attaining recognized higher education institutions in Lesotho. The situation creates unfair results for the potential and workers with disabilities for the circumstances compel us to occupy positions of lower ranks both in the public and private sector. The situation also perpetuates the vulnerability of people with disabilities in terms of access to employment opportunities as well as access to education and other basic social services among the members of the society.

However, Lesotho is a signatory to the UN Convention on the rights of persons of which article 27 calls upon member states, to put in place measures that will promote employment of persons with disabilities and the right to reasonable accommodation in the workplaces for persons with disabilities. As a result, LNFOD is devising a model to promoting the recruitment and employment of persons with disabilities with the private sector.

We are optimistic that, through the support from the Maseru US Embassy and Lesotho private sector, we will realize some of the conditions set by the article 27 of CRPD.

The model is targeting the labor regulatory framework to accommodate the principle of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the workplace as well as increasing the number of workers with disabilities in the private and public sector of Lesotho.

# ADVOCACY ASPECT

## Congratulation to our international Lobby groups

By: Nkhasi Sefuthi

Final OWG document released after 26 hours of negotiations! The Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has finally concluded its work with the "adoption" of a set of sustainable development goals. This lengthy and intense process comprised of 13 sessions, which began in March 2013 and closed its final session on Saturday, July 19 after 26 hours of uninterrupted negotiations. Ultimately, Member States supported a report containing 17 goals and 169 targets. This document will be the foundation of the Secretary-General's synthesis report (to be released in November 2014) and will serve as the basis of intergovernmental negotiations starting in early 2015.

The OWG is mandated to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action. It is important to note that the OWG outcome document is not legally binding, but rather it is only a report, which will be further negotiated by Member States. The OWG outcome document was adopted by "acclamation," which is only a formality. In other words, Member States adopted the outcome document knowing it was not a final document and further negotiations will take place over the proposed goals and targets. Thus, further strengthened advocacy efforts are necessary for us to maintain the achievements of the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

A complete assessment of the value and importance of this report can only be made in autumn when Member States complete their national assessments/analyses and decide on the process forward. The Secretary-General, the OWG Co-Chairs and likely others (to whom the recent document is favorable) will use the autumn period to convince other Member States to agree to as many as possible of the proposed OWG goals and targets.

Even in the late phase of negotiations, cultural and political points of contention were evident between Member States. One of the most

controversial issues was the goal on gender equality, due to references to sexual and reproductive health and rights, early marriage, and access to equal inheritance and property.

**Proposed goal 16:** "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all" was one of the most challenging for consensus. The reference to peaceful societies, the lack of mention of foreign occupation, and the collision with the Security Council mandate all created problems until the very end of the process.

In regards to references to persons with disabilities, there are 9 explicit references to persons with disabilities in the outcome document: Chapeau = 2, Goal 4: education = 2, Goal 8: employment = 1, Goal 10: reduce inequality = 1, Goal 11: inclusive cities = 2, Goal 17: Means of implementation, data = 1. In addition: "inclusive" was re-inserted into the education goal title "inclusive and peaceful society" is part of the goal 16 title.

Member States applauding the OWG on SDGs final document adopted by acclamation. Details of disability-inclusive references in outcome document Chapeau, paragraph 4: People are at the centre of sustainable development and, in this regard, Rio+20 promised to strive for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive, and committed to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all, in particular the children of the world, youth and future generations of the world without distinction of any kind such as age, sex, disability, culture, race, ethnicity, origin, migratory status, religion, economic or other status.

Chapeau, paragraph 17: In order to monitor the implementation of the SDGs, it will be important to improve the availability of and access to data and statistics disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts to support the support the monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs. There is a need to take urgent steps to improve the quality, coverage and availability of



disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind.

**Proposed goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all 4.5 by 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations 4.a build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

**Proposed goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all 8.5 by 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

**Proposed goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries 10.2 by 2030 empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

**Proposed goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable 11.2 by 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons 11.7 by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

**Proposed Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

**Proposed goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development Systemic issues; Data, monitoring and accountability 17.18 by 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase

significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts Despite the excellent outcome for persons with disabilities, we still have much work to do.

There is pressure to consolidate the 17 goals into 12 with five targets each and thus, we will have to strongly advocate Member States to continue to push for disability-inclusive language in the final document and throughout the processes leading to the post-2015.

## GENERAL NEWS

### Empowering youth with visually impaired people



The youth league that are visually impaired during training

On the 18<sup>th</sup> July, in Maseru at Mohloli oa Bophelo Rehabilitation centre, a project to Lesotho National League of the Visually Impaired Persons. The training was held at the centre for visually impaired youth. The participants were from all branches over the country. The training was blessed by the presence of Mr. Pitso Maisa MP from Motimposo # 30, who showed himself as a neighbour to Mohloli oa Bophelo. He said; "I am always available, there is no need even to invite me officially as I am part of this constituency where Mohloli oa Bophelo is located. It was our honour to have Mr. Maisa as we also wanted to thank him for the road that is going to Mohloli maintained by him.

Mr. Tseliso Leisa was tasked to say more about the organisation so that youth could be in a position of running the association in the future.

It is in this training where we invited OYAP volunteers. The representatives were; Mr. Thaisa Hlapane, Mpoetsi Ntlale and Tebello Peo. The idea was to hear from other youth organisations how do they handle issues of youth and how do they plan their activities. That is where both groups shared their experiences on sports and other lifeskills.

The objective of the meeting was to equip youth with visual impaired with new skills and empower them. The empowerment will be focusing on leadership, advocacy and sports. It will be good for youth to know what to do when thinking of change.

It came to the attention of the association that youth with visually impaired are facing huge challenges in every aspect of things.

These means during the auditions, there will be no advertising documents that are user – friendly to them, these means it is very difficult for them to participate in such events. The stages are too high, the audience sometimes laugh at us as sometimes stand backward against the audience. There will be nobody to assist during the start.

When responding to these Mr. Masenyetse defined clearly that we as people with visual impaired people should say our status before auditions could continue with the process, it is very wise to do mobility ourselves not wait for someone to help do the mobility. We have to work hard everywhere we are advocate for inclusion of disability issues, which means we have to so all preparations that will suit us, let us work together with logistics people for every event. One lady by the name of Adelina who is working at communications made an example of self orientation. She said; 'I got employed at communication and everyone was expecting me to seek help from them, so they were asking themselves so many questions like; how are you going to know the key that you want to use, if we left them to you? Things like that. I told them make sure that you do something that I will identify it. So from there I started orientating myself and I now able to do things on my own.'

Youth shared their experiences on how they do things in order that people could see their ability. Then Tankiso as a farmer shared her story whereby she was ploughing some vegetables and sell them to reduce poverty. She said; "I once agued with my neighbour whose cattles ate my vegetables at the garden, so she agreed that she will pay me back. We did not sign anything down. She is now not talking to me and telling me to go further for help, this means she is no longer there about payment." So, the advice she got was that next time when doing the agreement with someone, you should write down something not only on talking.

"The association has some structures that are meant to help us. Let us use them, we have youth league, women's league, branches and the executive committee. There is no need to wait for forums like this one and our state our problems." said Thabiso Masenyetse.

He continued saying; "I once had a meeting with Vodacom where we stated our problems as people with disabilities regarding the challenges that we face when trying to participate in their activities. They promised to work in collaboration with us and already submitted a list of names of singers with visually impaired people at Vodacom office.

Refiloe shared her story, she said; 'I was going along with my peers who are not disabled, on the way we met two some gentlemen, one guy wanted to talk to me. My friends whispered to him saying; "no the lady you wanted to talk to is blind, please don't." So the person who wanted to talk to me said; "Oh I am sorry dear please forgive me." So, "that thing hurts me a lot, I wondered why am I not talking to people, is it because I am visually impaired?" said Refiloe. There were so many ideas came out to help Refiloe to handle things when people saying such thing to her.

There were some questions that most people that are not disabled use to say about visual impaired people like;

1. Why do visually impaired men and boys marry non – disabled females but visual impaired ladies do not marry non – disabled men?
2. Some says; men always take advantage of visually impaired ladies
3. Some people say visual impaired cannot take care of themselves and they are also weak, they do not have stamina

There are some responses regarding those statements placed like; visually impaired ladies always put their disability in the forefront before everything, so all these things affects their relationships. The other response was people with visual impaired try as much to convince their parents and most of our parents are not aware of disability issues and they cannot accept the visual impairment of their children.

It is in this meeting whereby recognised the availability of youth that are in the music industry that is Mr. Thabiso Senyotong and Mr. Bolokang Khutlisi. They are the ones that we hope in future in the auditions of Vodacom we will have them and participate in their activities. It is the wish of the organisation to see them growing in music industry.



Youth with visual impaired persons at Mohloli – oa – Bophelo Ha Tsosane



## GENERAL NEWS

### Gender Based Violence and Women with disability



A group of women with different disabilities during the training session

The women's Committee of LNFOD held a three day training workshop in Mphahlele from the 21st to the 23rd July 2014. The aim of the training was to capacitate members of the committee on the reporting of gender based violence as well gender concepts, legal framework for gender equality in Lesotho and the different forms of Gender based violence. The training was conducted in collaboration with the Child and Gender Protection Unit which facilitated sessions on GBV and reporting as well as the Sexual Offences Act. Mr. Beleme Moerane appealed to the committee members to encourage the reporting of GBV including sexual offences.

The members of the women's committee concerned about the escalating rates of gender based violence towards women and girls with disabilities in Lesotho released a statement urging the reporting of incidences of violence and outlining the laws that protect women and girls with disabilities from violations. Which include the Sexual Offences Act, Penal Code, Children's Protection and Welfare Act and others.

Mrs. 'Makomisi Maketela Mabaleha started by discussion with the participants about sex and sex roles. The participants were asked to draw two people in different sex, this was only meant to differentiate people by their biological make up.

She continued by facilitating about gender concepts where she said gender is social differentiation of people which ascribes unactual status, authorities, power, different roles and responsibilities and also

dictates how male must behave and do things which may be different from the expectation on females. The teaching continued with the socialization, gender inequality, gender based violence (GBV) and types of GBV. The participants came up with the following GBV namely; Physical, Emotional, Economical, Sexual abuse and human trafficking.

The group showed interest in Human trafficking abuse as it was the first thing to hear about it in a form of a training. The topic was facilitated by Mr. Beleme Moerane from Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU). It is within this topic where the group realised that it might happen that young women who are deaf could be trafficked by some men in South Africa.

The topic itself was the eye – opener to women with disabilities as they have already placed a case to the present police officer to seek help. It is the topic that we did not know what are the strategies used to hook women and girls to it. It can happen to many girls and women with disabilities as it is hard for them to get employment. The economical abuse that has affected women and girls with disabilities in particular is the main source that can fasten human trafficking to them.

The participants showed the interest in the training as they reminded things that they have learned earlier and the new things that they did not know about.

In celebration of August which is African Woman's month, the committee will undertake radio outreach and hold a one day celebration honoring women who have served the disability movement selflessly.



Women with disabilities at Molimo – Nthuse on the way from Mphahlele

## GENERAL NEWS

### Graduation ceremonies to ease services to people with disabilities



New sign language interpreters to assist deaf people in Lesotho

It's been a long time that people with disabilities not getting services due to lack of skills to service providers. There are more people who are willing to help and work with people with different disabilities, some have been doing sign language in order to ease communication between deaf and non – disabled people. Some are willing to learn inclusive education while others are learning how to interact with youth and children at risk at community level.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> July, there was a graduation on community based work with youth and children. In this course there were three people from disability sector graduated in order to deal and interact with children and youth with disability. It is good to learn new things at work, so these people were to increase their knowledge as youth with disabilities are facing many challenges, some are emotional, physical and many more. People who are working with disability community should be able to interact and give them help in a professional way. The idea of attending this course was to improve their skills, knowledge and professional way of handling issues of youth and children with disabilities.

This course the project of REPSSI and the University of Kwazulu Natal.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, another graduation on sign language was celebrated where a number of 93 people were certified by National Association of the Deaf Lesotho. The Ministry of Social Development and Education and Training were invited to the event. The number of Deaf people is still increasing, there are many children at the age of 2 – 12 years that are in schools and need service of sign language so that they could participate easily like their counterparts. It is the role of National Association of the Deaf Lesotho to see

to it that people who are interested in sign language are trained and certified. NADL has worked with the National University of Lesotho in designing the sign language dictionary. The representative of NUL Mrs..... Said to the graduates; "I hope you will not rest after getting the certificates, we still have a challenge at the university as there is nobody knows sign language there, we had one candidate who was Deaf but did not get what she was expected as there was nobody to assist her in a language she could understand. I think amongst yourselves there are people who have Degree whom I think will take that opportunity to approach the university and please do not waste time."

The special unit under Ministry of Education and Training has also some challenges that are directly facing learners with disabilities. It is a wish of the ministry to work together with the graduates in order to do better when coming to education of PWDs.

On behalf of Minister of Social Development Mrs. 'Matebatso Doti, Mr. Stephen Thoahlane said the ministry is very excited to realise that there many people who are willing to help people with disabilities especially Deaf people. The ministry has been established in order to make things be accessible to people with disabilities. The ministry is not working in isolation in this matter but in collaboration with other ministries. It is our hope that the ministry of Education and Training will recognise the effort that has been took by Basotho people by learning Sign Language realising the challenges faced by them.



The graduates on Community Based Work with Youth and Children



## GENERAL NEWS

### Establishment of DPO branches



NADL group talking about their issues and how to do the work

National DPOs that are affiliated to LNFOD continued to form branches, all these DPO representatives took a trip to Mohlakeng Community Council and then rushed to Mapoteng D02 Community Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> July, the Electoral Division was called Popopo #28

People with disabilities are still facing difficulties that hinder them to participate fully like their counterparts that are not disabled. It is at this area whereby we met two girls with disabilities whom volunteered to tell their stories. First met Ithabeleng Rants'o who was born in 1988. Ithabeleng lives at Ha Filoane in Berea district. Rants'o said; "My mother and father has passed away while she was 8 years old." She stays with her grandmother who is depending on Elderly grant from Social Development to earn the living. Ithabeleng is intellectual disabled. "I left school when in Grade 3, I only know how to write my name. By the time I left school still interested in school but my grandmother told me to leave school as my peers will mock and harass me." said Ithabeleng with a sad face.

#### The question – why did your grandmother say so?

"This happened immediately when starting my menstruation period. I think my grandmother was not able to buy pads, as she told me that while she was at my stage she was not using those things but only linens." answered Ithabeleng



Ithabeleng Rants'o – Intellectual disabled girl, story owner

"During the day while other people are at work, I am staying home doing all family chores not going to school. I need to do all these work and get payment as I still need my daily needs like soaps, pads and body lotion like other girls. When I am sick nobody is accompanying me to the clinic, I use to go alone. I do not know what is HIV and AIDS as I have not been trained on that. I still need to go to school but the problem is my grandmother is not allowing me to go, even outside the gate cannot go, except today as the chief approached her." Concluded Ithabeleng.

The second girl that told her story is Nts'etsana Foloko. She was born in 1991. She stays at Makhalaneng Mokoallong. She did not even appear at the door of the school. She is also a double orphan and stays with her grandmother. My disability started with something like a balloon at my back. "I only remember when finding myself in hospital, where I was told that they had to admit me as I was very sick, that thing affected the leg and cannot walk because of that." said Nts'etsana

I real want to go to school but at my age I think I need to do something like vocational skill, I think I cannot cope well with my school mates as I will be older in the classroom. I think if I can do something that will help me with job immediately after completing my course it will be better." concluded Nts'etsana



Nts'etsana who is in need of crutches and school to change her life

The team found it challenging that it is true that girls with disabilities are not in schools because of people's attitudes towards them. The women's activist that were there tried hard to facilitate the referral immediately, they talked to the District coordinator to register the girl with Ministry of Social Development so that she can get assistive devices. It has also arranged that the girl got school by next year.

The project of deepening Decentralisation came at the right time, as National DPOs are able to identify people with disabilities that need more help and then access services.

## GENERAL NEWS

### “Nothing can stop me”....Thabiso Senyotong

Thabiso Senyotong is a visual impaired person. I have lost both my parents by now. He was born in Leribe of the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1994. He started primary school at Hlotse Methodist Primary, moved there to Anwary's Islamic Primary ended at Hlotse English Medium school. “I attended so many school because my parents wanted to what is best for me and by then my sight was still okay.”said Senyotong.

“I then lost vision and then applied to Mohloli – oa – Bophelo, the centre for visual impaired people which is meant to train people on mobility, Braille and other lifeskills. I learnt Braille so that I can continue with my studies. I continued with my studies at St. Catherines and got second class pass in Junior Certificate. I did not loss hope even though it was difficult as there were no enough learning material for visual impaired people. Visual impaired people are hardly get people to help us in reading, so I studied in a bad situation. I ended having GCE in my COSC in 2012. I was writing this June examination and still waiting for results as I still want to continue.” concluded Senyotong.

Thabiso Senyotong is a musician, he is singing gospel music. He started being in music industry since 2011 and released a single song by February, he then realeased a full album in July, 2011. Thabiso showed that he is still working on the second album, the album will be called ‘Morena ke rata ho u phelela’, the hyme was the favourate to my mother. It will be the Gospel Zazz where he will be singing with other veterans in the industry like Buddaza who will be playing (sexa-phone), he will be joined by Thabo Mlangene who is teaching music and will be playing Bass quitar. He has been in some shows with Majara who is physical disabled and also a musician in order to support each other as PWDs. “I want to see myself owning a record company and my music be played all over the World not only in Africa.” said Thabiso confidently



Thabiso – Gospel singer to honour his mother's wish

“Even if I am visual impaired at my age there so many achievements that I can show. I have been working with one of our parliamentarians Mrs. Lineo Molise Mabusela. We worked together to make Hlotse Library be inclusive to people with disabilities especially visual impaired learners. People who are visual impaired can now use the library easily. I then go around schools in Leribe to sensitize them, so that the management in schools can accept learners with disability especially visual impaired people. I think these were achievements as teachers realised the barriers learners with disabilities are facing. I wish the best to people with disabilities and I hope the government can do things that can change lives of PWDs in this country.” concluded Senyotong



## OPINION PIECE

### Political right and disability

**By: Pascalina Letsau**

It is rare that people with disabilities are seen participating in politics, they are not found holding key positions in political parties. Why is it this happening? Is it because they are excluded or do they fear to join these parties. My views in this matter are as follows; "I think political right like any other rights, people with disabilities must enjoy it. From my point of view, people with disabilities likes to participate in politics. There are many challenges that they face; it is difficult for them to reach some places as the terrain of Lesotho is not friendly to them. There is a huge problem faced by people with disabilities related to transport, as all these rallies are held in different places where we cannot travel on foot like our counterparts that are not disabled. The financial status of people with disabilities is another barrier which denies us to participate in many social activities.

I have been working as voter educator some years back. I have seen how people are campaigning or actively speaking in order to win elections. My questions are; *do people with disabilities can be able to do that? How easily can they access the manifestos of political parties? Are polling stations accessible for them to have free elections? Do ballot papers easily read by everybody including PWDs? Do the teaching of elections and how to vote reach everybody?*

Let us look at Lesotho Constitution section 18 subsection (6), says; *"no person shall be treated in a discriminatory manner by any person acting by virtue of any written law or in the performance of the functions of any public office or any public authority"* but looking at the way things are being made especially in allowing people with disabilities to participate in politics, there is huge discrimination. The Living Conditions Study among People with Disabilities which has been conducted in 2010 shows that about 16% reported that they had experience of being discriminated in public services, this includes discrimination in political participation. Most of the parties that we have in this country do not say anything about participation of people with

They also develops inaccessible manifestos that seem to be done only for non – disabled people as if PWDs are not expected to participate. There will be no Brailled manifestos to be accessed bu visual impaired people. The most embarrassing thing is; during the elections political people are busy going out to collect people with disabilities so that they can cast their votes only to benefit them. When the elections are over nobody will seen around people with disabilities with anything.

I would like to advice people with disabilities to full participate in politics. Let us start by joining all these different parties at community levels. Raise your voice and campaign for being elected in every committees within the political party that you will be in. I am saying this because unless we join all these we cannot be in parliament. Let us join maybe we can on the list of candidates to the parliament.

Let us exercise our rights in every aspect, being in politics is not an offense. Political right is onother right that we deserve like everybody. I wish I could see one person with disability leading the country as Prime Minister in future just because we would be advocating a lot.



## UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISABILITY DAY CELEBRATION – 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER

**This year's celebration to be held at Qacha's  
nek**

For more information please conduct: LNFO  
office Tel: +266 22320345 or Mr. Rabasotho  
MoeletsiCell: +266 58700925

Email: [moeletsi@lnfod.org.ls](mailto:moeletsi@lnfod.org.ls)  
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### **AfriNEAD** **4<sup>th</sup> SYMPOSIUM**

**Venue:** Sun 'n' Sand Holiday Resort ,  
MANGOCHI, MALAWI

**3rd - 5th November 2014**

**THEME:** "Intensifying disability research and  
practice to achieve the MDGs in Africa: our  
experience and aspirations for the future"

For more information please conduct:

Tel: (265) 1 524 800 Fax: (265) 1 524 578

Email: [afrinead-conf@cc.ac.mw](mailto:afrinead-conf@cc.ac.mw)

Or

Register online at: [www.sun.ac.za/afrinead](http://www.sun.ac.za/afrinead)

### TRAINING OF GENDER FOCAL PERSONS

For more information please conduct LNFO  
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### AFRICAN WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

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### LOBBYING MEETINGS WITH THE DISTRICT COUNCILS

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### DISTRICT COORDINATORS HOLDING MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH ESTABLISHED STRUCTURES IN COMMUNITY COUNCILS

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# NEWS IN PICTURES



Stephen Thoahlane presenting speech on behalf of Hon. Minister Mrs. 'Matebatso Dotii



Mamatseliso a woman who needs support from CGPU



Palesa Ntlele receiving a present from LNFO office after completing her duty of volunteerism



Civil society organizations including LNFO writing a complementary report on African Charter on the Rights of the Child



DPO members reviewing 'A re amohelaneng' a booklet guiding people on how to interact with PWDs - Lesotho



People with disabilities gathered to discuss their issues at Ratau A02 community council

# ADVOCACY WORK



## LNFOOD

PARTNERS in Advocacy Work

