

DISABILITY LESOTHO



From the Editor

Dear Partner,

Welcome once again to the edition of Disability Lesotho, the monthly email newsletter from Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled. The edition will cover news for the Month of July, 2016

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.

There are still attitudinal barriers including negative perceptions towards people with disabilities by most people in power. Looking in to the country people with disabilities are denied free movement like other Basotho. In most cases there are no pavements that accommodate people with disabilities.

I think voting is very important way for me to change or express my opinions, so that my voice can be heard by decision-makers and create positive change in my country especially to the needs of people with disabilities. But it come to my realization that voting of people with disabilities in this country means

nothing, as everything is difficult for them. We need all the discriminatory laws to reviewed and changed, we would like to see even Deaf people participating in the parliament. Here comes local government elections, PWDs will be taking their efforts to go and elect but after that it will be difficult for them to access services due to negative attitudes towards them.

I think its high time that we have to change our attitudes as human beings especially service providers.

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

Mainstreaming Disability in the upcoming government budget planning cycle

By: Nkhasi Sefuthi

LNFOOD has strengthened its advocacy and negotiations with the Government of Lesotho in which the key issues relate to the funding of the National Disability and Rehabilitation Policy 2011, National Disability Mainstreaming Plan 2015 and other disability inclusive policies and action plans of Lesotho are used as the key reference point for the allocation of the budget for their implementation. The above mentioned policies are meant to support the effective mainstreaming of people with disabilities in the Government Ministerial plans. Simply put, the disability related policies require all Government Ministries to mainstream disability specific activities in their annual ministerial plans and budget. Meaning that, during the budget planning cycle to be undertaken by the Government Ministries in September 2016 all the Planners and Program officers should as a matter of policy consult with the National Disability Mainstreaming Plan and pick the relevant activities into his/her ministerial plan so that the budget could be assigned for the implementation of the identified activities.

LNFOOD has learned that, it does not matter how many disability rights policies and strategies may be employed, so long as the Government does not allocate budget for the implementation, those policies remain white elephants and people with disabilities continue to suffer marginalisation and vulnerability.

It is therefore critical to rethink our strategies towards funding the disability related programs and policies so that they may be developed alongside the provision of the budget for the effective implementation leading to the changes in the lives of ordinary people with disabilities.

Having identified the need to provide budget for the implementation of the above mentioned policies, LNFOOD has raised the advocacy on the need to budget for the implementation of these policies with the Parliament of Lesotho.

The Parliament of Lesotho allocates the annual budget and monitor its usage by the Government Ministries throughout the year.

The response from the Parliament is promising, However, LNFOD is yet to hold lobbying meetings with the relevant Parliamentary portfolio committee to build their capacities on how they can track disability mainstreaming in the budget allocation to various Ministries.

LNFOD is continuing to engage the Ministry of Social Development as a coordinating Ministry to advocate internally for the provision of the budget to push for the effective mainstreaming in other ministries. Considering the critical role to be played by the Ministry of Social Development in building the capacities of other ministries to budget for the implementation of the National Disability Mainstreaming Plan, LNFOD arrangements to meet with the Prime Minister to influence budget allocation to

these policies are at the advanced stages.

In addition, media campaign has been launched about these issues in which the public including people with disabilities are encouraged to participate and show the Government to mainstream budget for the implementation of the National disability mainstreaming policies.

It is an ample opportunity for the Lesotho Disability movement through the existing structure to negotiate for their inclusion with the Government.

People with disabilities should rise up to lead the way of how their rights should be protected, needs addressed by the Authorities because "nothing about us without us.

GENERAL NEWS

Honourable Molahlehi Letlotlo to pass Land Marking Disability

By: Rabasotho Moeletsi



The Minister of Social Development Honourable Molahlehi Letlotlo is adamant that Disability Equity Bill will be passed before this calendar year ends. The Minister said this during an interview on Re Otlolla Taba Program of Radio Lesotho. Responding to questions asked by Mpho Mosala of Radio Lesotho, Hon. Letlotlo said the bill is in its final stages now and soon it will be taken to the office of Attorney General and then be taken to the parliament for passed into law somewhere in August this year.

“To the people watching from outside, they would think the bill is taking too long to be passed, not knowing that this is a unique law which affects various ministries meaning a lot of consultations. We can safely say, we are at the stage where almost all the stakeholders have made their inputs in the bill and we are finalizing, then send the bill to the office of

attorney general then table it before parliament where it will be passed into law,” the Minister said.

The program was hosted by the Lesotho Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) as a special call to the Minister of Social Development, Hon. Molahlehi Letlotlo to pass Disability Equity Bill.

During the program individual persons with disabilities registered their concerns on service delivery by the ministry of social development.



This is the example of accessible infrastructure to everyone

One example is that of Mr. Leshota from Mokhotlong district claiming he was badly treated and looked down upon when he went to seek services from the district office. The Minister further said the Minister will not tolerate unbecoming behavior by some of the

officers from his ministry.

The Minister said that would be the most unfortunate incidence to happen to a person with disabilities as the ministry was established to respond to issues vulnerable people. "That is unacceptable. It's the responsibility of everyone connected to this ministry to protect persons with disabilities of any kind as they are our first customers of our services as the ministry, not the opposite," he said.

He further said as government they have found remedy for officers who misbehave at work. "As government, we have resolved to introduce name tags to all our officers, so that the clients will be able to identify who offers him or her the service and report the officer who does misbehave to enable management to take actions on such officers," the Minister concluded.



GENERAL NEWS

Training programme for LNFOD and its affiliates on Resources Mobilisation

By: Thibeli Molapo



Institute of Development Management (IDM) as a Senior Consultant HRM-OD.

The Institute's core business is to help the public and private sector organisations meet their management needs through training, consultancy, and research services. The services can be used to help design and improve management procedures within an organisation, prepare and deliver customer tailored training to an organisation's managers and staff, conduct feasibility studies, conduct marketing research, and provide general advice and guidance at all levels of the organisational structure. IDM

has traditionally conducted consultancies in the BLS countries but, in recent years, these services have been used throughout the SADC region.

IDM conducted training on Resource Mobilisation for Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) and its affiliates on the 20th June, 2016 to 24th June, 2016. We had 20 Officials from LNFOD and its affiliates. They were people with different kinds of disabilities; physical disability, visual and Deafness disabilities among others. The mode of training was classroom lectures, where everybody was in the same classroom learning together at the same time. Participants were divided into different groups where they did group work and presented what they did. It was more practical training because there were a lot of exercises and presentations. People were allocated groups regardless of their disabilities.



Before we could start the lessons with these wonderful people, we had our fears; whether we will be able to reach and meet their needs as disabled people. It was our first experience training people with disability. We had a good experience, we had a lovely class, it was very vibrant. Everybody took part in that class it was as if there is no body with disability. When both disabled and 'non-disabled' people attend classes that reflect the similarities and differences of people in the real world, they learn to appreciate diversity. Respect and understanding grow when people of differing abilities and cultures learn together. Schools and workplace environment are important places for people to develop friendships and learn

social skills. People with and without disabilities learn with and from each other in inclusive classes. The philosophy of inclusive education is aimed at helping all people learn, everyone in the class benefits. People learn at their own pace and style within a nurturing learning environment.

Pulane Ramakongoana working at Institute of Development Management (IDM) as a Senior Consultant BIRM. She also had an opportunity to be part of this wonderful workshop;

"I personally, consider that workshop as an eye-opening. I never held the workshop like that before, but am now excited about inclusive education, and Lesotho should really emphasis the importance of it in their educational policies. After this workshop, I decided to apply for sign-language studies, this would be a sustainable move; for my country, and institution and me as a person."

GENERAL NEWS

Civil Society Organizations bringing Children's Rights on Board

By: Morongoe Thatho

The Ministry of Social Development in its endeavors to strengthen the capacity of Civil Society Organizations working particularly in child rights protection and welfare had conducted a three days Capacity Building Workshop at Scenery Guest House from the 26th-28th July 2016, where LNFOD participated. Children's Rights Network in Southern Africa (CRNSA) had facilitated the workshop and it started by shedding a light on the understanding of human rights and its instruments such as African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of a Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child. We were reminded where human rights come from, till where several state parties unite to form the conventions. We further dealt with the principles of Children's Rights being non discrimination, the best interest of the child, the right to survive and the views of the child being respected. It should be clear that this includes all the children to mention a few; vulnerable children or children with disabilities, and every other child included. The plan was to form the coordinating body for all civil society organizations dealing with the rights of children of which we managed to agree that LETSEMA be the coordinating body.

Basically, it was agreed that since LETSEMA has engaged in coordination before though it was under the umbrella of SENTEBALE, it is trusted to continue with that coordination but this time around it should stand alone running effectively with the legal and effective constitution. It agreed that it should be a body with values and the strategic plan of its own. This Body should be recognized nationally and internationally.

We took another angle to make this a success by shifting the child rights discourse in the sense that we say we have been lobbying for laws and they are now in place, so we should lobby for their implementation and from charity work to social accountability. Furthermore, Letsema/ this body should map all stakeholders dealing with the children's issues. We also dealt with the mechanisms of building the children's rights movements and challenges of the mechanisms and amongst the mechanisms; we chose to be a Network.

The participants in the workshop went further to address where the coordinating body is going or where we want to see it in the next 5 years. We started to draft the vision and mission statements for the Body. The values of the body were considered as well as the strategic objectives. And we were all hoping to see the Lesotho that addresses the issues of the children not in exclusive to the rights of a child and all stakeholders dealing with rights of the child being part of the body. The body also be recognized nationwide and internationally and benefiting all the children of Lesotho. Moreover, we embarked on the leadership, coordination and effective, where it was said that direct actions on violation of children's rights and gaps be dealt with we must see implementation and accountability. Children must not be excluded from services.

Finally, the strategy development and capacity building workshop on the rights of children has really shed a light and also helped on how we can deal and assist children with disabilities respectively with dignity.

GENERAL NEWS

'What would I be doing with my time?.....

By: Mohau Raliile

"I am a man with physical disabled aged 47. I am staying at Kolonyama in the village called Ha Makhaketsa. I am now staying alone in the house as both my parents passed away some years back. I am left with my younger sister who is married and staying with her family."

"I once attended a public gathering at Kolonyama meant for public including people with disabilities. I just attended because I was bored at home, thinking again that there will be something that is concrete to take home. I was thinking of food or donations especially as they indicated that even people with disabilities should attend. To my surprise, I got something different."

"The public gathering was called by Itjareng Extension officer that time to sensitize people about issues of disability and recruit for new trainees for the centre. I was very impressed to listen to a person with disability talking to such huge number of people with confidence. I liked the way she was talking and I made a decision that I am the one to enroll to the centre."

"I was happy to ask questions, just because I wanted to have more information about this centre. I was interested in leatherworks and I enroll in that department. After completing my course, returned back home and think of what would I be doing when sitting there on daily basis. My sister assisted me to buy minor materials to start my business, those things were like; leather, glue and threads. I then started to do repairs and trousers' leather belts."

"The problem that I am always facing is to take all the finished goods that I have made to the market. With that it is very difficult to have cash which I am always using to do everything. I am raising this issue because I am paying everybody who assist me with all things that are difficult for me to do."

"I am a person who believe to himself, I think if our government could be able to plan for people with disabilities in this country, things would change for the better. We have plenty of needs but able to do things on our own to earn cash. The problem that we face much is how we start our own businesses. We need support from the governemt for startups, we do not have places to sell, it is difficult because I cannot place all my products outside and then in the evening again take them to the house. So, if there are those stalls to be used by us small businessmen could be better and easy for us. I am now going to close this house and look for a better place to sell to. This means the same house that I am owning will no longer be strong as there will be nobody to care for it. I do not believe in the migration but the situation we are leaving is pushing us to do so, it is very bad."

I am able to produce these type of shoes. I am using plastic and wool to sew them. I need to sell them in huge numbers. I hope at the end I will be someone who would have realized his dreams and achieved in life.



SPOTLIGHT



Ms. 'Matemo "Stimo" Ocenia Kolo

How old are you?

- I am 22 years

How can you describe yourself to people who have never seen you before

- I am not ashamed of my disability so I want people to expect to a handicapped, confident and lovely young girl.

Best way to approach you?

- I love a humble approach with a smile.

Are you single, involved or married?

- Still single

What people do not about you?

- I'm good at singing and writing my own songs as well as counseling people.

What do you most like about radio?

- It gives me an opportunity to take part in bringing change into other people's lives especially the young people.

What kind of men would you like?

- This one is so interesting!! Hahahahaha...!!! I want a God fearing man who is five years older than me, taller than me, who is not shy and has heart for people.

What is very annoying when you are a role model or celebrity?

- Some people love stymo the celebrity not me. They like what I'm doing not who I am.

Do you like stylish clothes or you don't care what you wear?

- Well ... !!! I care a lot about the way I dress but to be fair and honest, I feel more comfortable in casual outfit.

What do you want to achieve in the media industry or in your future?

- I have a dream of being a very famous radio/ television presenter who will change the people's lives to the better and to be a business woman as well.

NEWS IN PICTURES



Minister of Social Development Mr. Letlotlo and LNFOD Advocacy Officer Masekara Sekoankoetla discussing about Disability Equity Bill



Nomhlankaze's wedding – an intellectual disabled girl



New Sign Language interpreters at the graduations



Ntali Griffiths starting the African women's Month at Spes Nosta Fm, talking about successes and challenges of Women and girls with disabilities



Mohau – Leribe in his house doing leatherworks which he enjoys more



Lesotho host Miss Disability Lesotho

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENT

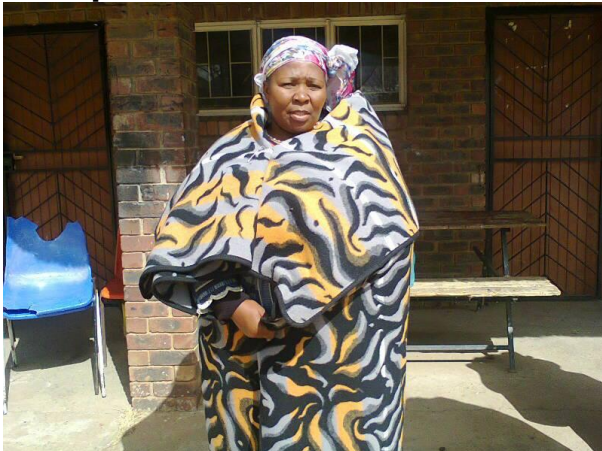
Experience sharing workshop on the best practices when implementing decentralization project in 20 community councils, starting from the 11th August at Butha-Buthe

For more information please conduct:
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Sensitisation meeting with ECDE teachers on inclusive education of children with disabilities in Maoamafubelu community council in the Leribe District on the 12th August

For more information please conduct:
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Moliehi Sejane – Sign language interpreter will be laid to rest on the 13th August, at Mazenod Ha Sekepe



May her soul rest in peace!!

Disability Lesotho is wishing all African women a blessed month.

Women with disabilities will be talking to different Radio stations about their successes and challenges facing them

Remember you are all important and can make a change to this world!!

JULY, 2016

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ADVOCACY WORK



LNFOOD

PARTNERS in Advocacy Work



NAD - The Norwegian
Association of Disabled



OSISA

Open Society Initiative
for Southern Africa



European Union

