

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, 2017

The new government find service delivery to persons with disabilities at the worst state in the country, especially provision of assistive devices to those who are in desperate need. In recent weeks, I was lucky to move around the country in five (5) districts doing one research assignment for LNFOD. I came across so many people with disabilities in desolation situation due to discrimination, hunger, and the worst of them all, unable to move due to lack assistive devices. While some have never received any assistive device before, for others device is wornout and are in desperate need of new ones as replacements. Provision of these devices has always being bad, but now it has gone from bad to worse.

As if this is not enough, the only orthopaedic workshop for members of the public is nonfunctional and ministry of Health as responsible ministry has taken forever to reverse the issue. Assistive device to a person with disability is a necessity, a right that one can not be regarded as a human bring without.

I'm calling to action the newly appointed ministers of Health , Hon. Nyapane Kaya and Minister of Social Development, Hon. `Matebatso Doti to take rastical steps to see to it that the situation is reversed. LNFOD should engage partners; DPOs and other human defenders to lock these two ministers in a meeting room to work around this and come out with a clear roadmap with timelines to come and correct this disheartening predicament. This is a matter of life and death now, so we cannot be silenced by anyone.

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

MOVING TOWARDS THE PASSING OF THE DISABILITY EQUITY BILL

By: Nkhasi Sefuthi

“Capacity development for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities” program is taking LNFOD to the next level of advocacy by bringing all key stakeholders together to work for the passing of the Disability Equity Bill.

This program is financially supported by the Diakonie Austria whose back donor is the Austrian development agency (ADA).

LNFOD mobilised a support of six human rights organisations namely, Federation of women Lawyers in Africa (FIDA) Women and law in Southern Africa (WILSA) Development for Peace Education (DPE) Lesotho Council of NGOS (LCN) and Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) along with its four member organisations to write a joint letter to the Right the Honourable the Prime Minister of Lesotho petitioning him to pass the much awaited Disability Equity Bill in the Parliament as a law.

The right Honourable the Prime Minister has issued his response letter on this request appreciating the efforts of LNFOD and its partners in ensuring the promotion and enjoyment of human rights of persons with disabilities by presenting the needs of people with disabilities before him.

With regard to the passing of the Disability Equity Bill, the Prime Minister has issued a directive to the Honourable Minister of Social Development and the Attorney General to present the Bill to the Cabinet as soon as it may be practicable so that it may be presented in the Parliament soonest.

IN addition, the Honourable Minister of Social Development has pledged in a meeting held between LNFOD and the Ministry of Social Development that she is intending to enact this Bill into law before the end of 2017.

From the foregoing LNFOD is learning that the objective envisaged in the “capacity development for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities” may be achieved in 2018.

However, LNFOD is intending to put more pressure to the government of Lesotho to pass the Disability Equity Bill in favour of people with disabilities through strategic advocacy.

LNFOD will put the government to account by ensuring that the commitments undertaken by the government in fulfilling the aspirations of Basotho with disabilities translate into concrete action.

GENERAL NEWS

“.....eager to go to school.”

By: Malira Mohalenyane

Themba a boy from Nazareth Ha-Tumaole Theko was born in 2010 at Queen Elizabeth hospital, during his birth the boy did not cry as a sign of showing life which is normal. That worried her mother whom she asked the nurses why her boy didn't not cry.



After three months her mother noticed that the boy could not do anything which scared her, that's when she took the boy to the hospital again. The doctors told him it's normal, the baby would still do things but at later stage because as he was not born crying hence he would not be active like other babies of his age.

Due to poverty that stroke the family of the boy, he could not go as his mother didn't afford Bloemfontein's medication, as a results the boy is now is physically disabled.

However, his mother with the help of their family try their best to see that the boy was going to be helped, they went to the department of social Development welfare which was then under the Ministry of Health but they didn't get helped at all because their appointment were always postponed until they throw in the towel.

From the observation I made, I realised that the boy's family live under poverty line, they need to be helped in anyway, they live with his grandmother in her rondavel of which is not in good condition. The boy use the nappies and sometimes they cannot afford to buy them and they had to tear old blankets and use it as a nappy. In addition his mother could not go to work as she has to take care of the boy which is not easy, again I also realised that the boy need wheelchair as assistive device, so that he can be able to start school.

GENERAL NEWS

HARVEST TIME FOR LNFOD

By: Malehlohonolo Molelengoane

LNFOD through the project on 'Reforming justice and education sector for persons with disabilities' has yielded fruitful results.

In April, LNFOD held a capacity building workshop on reasonable accommodation for magistrates, prosecutors, police investigators and legal aid counsels. This workshop proved to have reached the good soil because as soon as the workshop was finished, participants were calling LNFOD time and again seeking advice. Also the negative attitudes against disability are slowly dying.

Recently, LNFOD was called to intervene in a case of a deaf person who was a victim of sexual offence in Mokhotlong and once again the victim got a fair access to justice.

The participants even attested to have discovered more children with disabilities and made preparations to put them in schools. The teachers also said that they now know how to include learners with disabilities.



Earlier this year held a numerous workshops on inclusive education. These workshops were held in five districts namely: Butha- Buthe, Leribe, Berea Mafeteng and Mhales'hoek for teachers, itinerant teachers and parents of children with disabilities. Following these trainings LNFOD conducted a follow-up survey to assess the impact of the workshops which showed how effectively the trainings were.

GENERAL NEWS

WHEELBARROW UTILISED AS AN ASSISTIVE DEVICE

By: Manana Mothabeng

Tankiso is a 21 year old youth with multiple disabilities. He hails from Ha Tumahole in the Maseru district. The young man lives with his parents, his mother 'Matankiso who is also physically disabled and able-bodied father who remarkably admires and supports his family in many possible ways he could.

Tankiso has been disabled from birth, reports his mother as she compassionately glances at him, he can neither speak nor walk, however, he is a very bright and amazingly intelligent boy, adds his mother. "For instance, he has a very sharp memory, he constantly reminds me of many things that I often lose memory of. Additionally, I would read him the Bible as a way of integrating him and the hope of testing his mental functionality, and very surprisingly he always manages to amaze me" states his mother.

In his state of vulnerability, he can neither walk nor move on his own; therefore his mother usually lays him in the wheelbarrow and allows him to bask in the sun during the day as she does her day to day house chores. Tankiso has never been in school due to his multiple disability. Only his parents can understand his ways of communication

Tankiso's mother expressed her concerns for her son, reporting that she has been out and about seeking help for his beloved son, furthermore, she noted that she had been to the ministry of Social Development a couple of times to report about his son's disability, however, the response to her request has never been positive, "I have really lost hope in our ministerial department, we are not fully and satisfactorily served as the citizens of Lesotho, the employees lack sympathy, compassion and understanding, clarifies 'Matankiso.



GENERAL NEWS

Newly Disability Support Group has been established at Mohales'hoek known as Emmanuel Support Group

By: Rethabile Kabi

In the Mohales'hoek in the village called Makhapetla, the newly born organization established. This support group is focusing to parents of children with disabilities, so that they can be enhanced knowledges of how to care for their children.

"I started interacting with persons with disabilities while staying at Thabana-Morena before I could get married. I was a teacher at one ECCD school at Thabana-Morena. At this ECCD school there attended children with disabilities, that is where I created love for them."



"When getting married to Makhapetla village, I realized that there are many children with disabilities in one village. I then started talking to their parents one by one until I call them together in one place to introduce the idea that I had about their children. I also indicated that I will by



all means to support them in this initiative. I love persons with disabilities so much. The group is now in the process of registering with Law office of Lesotho. We have been supported by MZIZI Africa on how to follow all the procedures of registering. The aime of the support group is to help parents on how they can take care of their children, how they can make money for the group, as it happens that they sometimes need their nappies. So, parents are trained and I was also taken to Johannesburg by Malamolela for a training."

"I would like to see Emmanuel Support Group having its site and have our own building and children with disabilities getting support and cared for. I would like to see the government of Lesotho working hard to take care of persons with disabilities; budgeting for them as this group of people is having so many needs. Their lives needs money, food, clothes and shelter like everyone else, so if the government is not recognizing them real it becomes very difficult for us as their neighbours and friends together with their families."

NEWS IN PICTURES



This is the team of Baseline survey on Financial access to persons with disabilities



Persons with disabilities during the funeral of their colleague Mr. Mphonea Nketu



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



Rabasotho and Masekara enjoying after a hard work at Semonkong

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENT

Open call for applications for 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.

You can find more information and the call for applications via the following website: <http://www.youthforum.org/latest-news/call-open-4th-africa-europe-youth-summit/>. Please note that deadline for applications is 6th of August.

More information and application can be found here...

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfEuQXaMcZc_XI4tauPVY7AbADe_bESITAsywhxM-05GnDg/viewform

LNFOOD General Assembly to be held on the 12th – 13th August

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Framework Project Monitoring Visits in the councils

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LNFOOD meeting with Lesotho Attorney General

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LNFOOD meeting with Development partners

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