

DISABILITY LESOTHO



From the Editor

Dear Partner,

Welcome once again to the edition of Disability Lesotho. The edition will cover news for the Month of July, 2018

This is the pleasant time for persons with disabilities in this country, whereby everyone is expecting to see the tabling of the Disability Equity Bill before the parliament. This will come at the right time where everything is becoming expensive.

There are high charges for public transport, water and electricity at the high rate, so I would like to see the disability equity bill be tabled and passed into law, so that Lesotho government could recognize and protect Persons With Disabilities. All these difficulties faced by Basotho with disabilities are very huge to their lives to change to the better. It is my wish to see every Mosotho person especially in disability community enjoying life and having everything that could help to earn better life.

I would like to congratulate persons with disabilities who got loans from LNFOOD to start their own businesses, I think that is a very good step to change their lives. I would like to encourage them to work hard, so that they could achieve more. Let us all work and with our advocacy work that we are doing. The struggle is not yet finished.

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

You can also Tweet us [@Infod_lesotho](https://twitter.com/Infod_lesotho)

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 ON TO THE PARLIAMENT OF LESOTHO

By: Nkhosi Sefuthi

The Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) is implementing a project, "Capacity development for the promotion of the rights of people with disabilities" from the 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2019.

One of the key objective of this intervention is to advocate for the domestication of the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities through an Act of parliament. The Disability Equity bill has passed through all the stages and it is now with the parliament awaiting presentation in the parliament by the Honourable Minister responsible for disability affairs. This project has greatly assisted LNFOD to advance the rights of people with disabilities by enabling LNFOD to holding the government of Lesotho to account until it has finally finished drafting the Bill whereby it is now about to turn into law.

Despite few provisions of the Bill which are a bit inconsistent with the Convention, the Bill has improved so much in terms of the compliance with the human rights standards set out by the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities. It is now articulating on some of the critical provisions of the Bill quite well giving you the impression that the drafters did consider the rights of people with disabilities as outlined by the Convention.

LNFOD is also impressed by the support it is getting from the human rights civil society organisations and the UN agencies which have been supporting LNFOD advocacy on the passing of the Disability Equity Bill ever since the commencement of this project.



The plan is to make a presentation on the findings we made during the review before the responsible portfolio committee as soon as the Bill is with them after it is tabled in the parliament.

GENERAL NEWS

Enhancing Berea Teachers with skills about Inclusive Education

By: Pascalima Letsau

On the 18th – 20th July, in the Berea the Inclusive Education training workshop held for teachers from selected schools in the working areas of LNFOD.

Objectives of the training were;

- To enhance teachers with knowledge about inclusive education
- Increase knowledge of teachers about disability
- Have a clear working plan that will improve inclusive education within the district, to be used by District Education office, Schools and LNFOD

Primary schools that have been selected by the Ministry of Education in the district were 16 namely; Thaha, St. Alphonci, Motseare, Tsimatsi, Thaba – Phatsoa, Mohatlane ACL, Leshoboro, Gethsemany, Lereko, Majara united, Maqoane, Mohatlane RC, Mona, Gabashane, Mahlatsa and Malimong.



“There are many schools in this district but you

who have been chosen are expected to be the light of the Ministry because you are now going to sing inclusive education wherever you are. I hope as you are going to be equipped with knowledge now will be able to assist learners with disabilities in your schools not to be abusers of these learners.” Said Mrs. Mafakizile Matambo, senior officer Berea education office.

The meeting looked at some barriers that hinder learners with disabilities to access education fully unlike their peers that are not disabled. They were mentioned as follows; Attitudes, physical, Teachers, Curriculum, Funding, Expectations, language and Communication and policies. The real stories were made in order to make them understand what are barriers to inclusive education.

“We have to work hard to change the mind sets of children at school to accept other children especially with disabilities. Let's give learners with disabilities all the opportunities available to participate in all events within the school premises, it can be in sports or leadership. Others are elected as school prefects, even a child with disability can be elected so that the child can start learning how to be a leader.” Said Mr. Kimane – Special Education officer

He continued by saying, “Identification of child at the early stage is very essential as a child can be easily referred to relevant sectors with the involvement of a parent. It is true that there are some barriers are not for Ministry of Education alone but to be tackled by a certain ministry. It is good to make a joint team with other ministries in order to break those barriers to inclusive education.”

GENERAL NEWS

Macheli, a very strong activist

By: Pascalina Letsau

Molepo Macheli is a very tough member of Lesotho National Association of the Physically Disabled (LNAPD), he is a father of 2 children a boy and a girl, he is also an activist in the villages of Machache Nazareth. He worked in the mines of South Africa since 1978 to 2007.

His role now includes community mobilisation among persons with disabilities in Qiloane Community Council. He is encouraging people with disabilities to stand for their rights in different aspects of life. He is also represents persons with disabilities by attending council meetings to hear and see how issues of disability are handled in the council.

"I am always visiting people with disabilities in my area to help them understand the importance of standing up for their rights. I managed to hold public gatherings to help communities to understand how to interact with PWDs." Said Macheli

Its been some years that Macheli received a training on Human Rights Advocacy at Grassroots level, he worked hard since that time up until now. He has been going around with schools to talk to teachers and students about issues of disabilities. He also go around healthcare facilities around my working area.

"I, Molepo worked hard to see that children with disabilities that are out of school are enroll. There are many children with disabilities at Masapong Primary School. I also refered other children with disabilities to Mohalenyane Primary school wven though this school is not in my area."

He continued saying, "We also worked hard to advocate for employment of people with disabilities, but what is happening is that we



always manage to register our people but it is hard for them to be called to start working. I tried again to meet people responsible for that, we are still tackling this matter with a full force, its just that those activities stopped for a bit."

"We are now moving towards starting businesses as people with disabilities. I am working hard to see that we work that issue of businesses well. I am saying this because this is going to change our lives. I am interested to do piggery [project]. I have started building stalls. I am happy that LNAPD managed to assist persons with disabilities to start businesses. I would like to congratulate everyone who succeeded to have that loan." concluded Macheli

GENERAL NEWS

`Maitumeleng Letšoara, a Change Agent:

By: Rabasotho Moeletsi

`Maitumeleng Letšoara a member of the intellectual association of Lesotho, IDAL is the agent of change toward children with disabilities who facing daunting barriers to their right to education. She is a parent of a child with disability who serves as a disability focal person in the Maoamafubelu community council in Leribe. Her role includes community mobilisation among persons with disabilities in her community empowering them to stand for their rights in different spheres of life. She also represents persons with disabilities who are denied their rights by the local authorities at different service points within the community council.

For a year now after she received a training on Human Rights Advocacy at Grassroots level, `Maitumeleng has been working very hard to see that rights of persons with disabilities are respected. However, recently `Maitumeleng shot above her height when she takes back (2) children with disabilities to school. She acted upon realisation that one the partially sighted boy, Motatela Mathafeng (13 years old) had dropped out of school at the Holy Trinity Primary.

"It pained me when I saw him remaining at home during the day while his age mates are in classes enjoying their education. From my training I knew something was wrong, the boy was denied his right. Then I approached his family to get to the bottom of it," Maitumeleng said.

"The boy told me that he had stopped going to school because of intimidation that he received from his schoolmates. He complained they were laughing at him and even beating him at times. Then he said he could not stand that bully environment and decided to quit," she continued. "I took the matter to the school principal. I asked why the Motatela was no longer in school. The school management and class teacher responded that they did not know reasons why the boy left the school."

`Maitumeleng felt the school did not do enough to protect the Motatela against other boys. She then took him to meet the school management so that he could get a chance to explain himself.

"When I took him back to school he was reluctant, but I talked the importance of education to him and finally he agreed because I could tell he loved his education. He then met with his teachers and explained his case. The teachers were so disappointed that failed to protect the poor boy. They pleaded with the boy to come back to school and promised to be vigilant to see that the boy and other kids are protected against the intimidation of any kind. The boy agreed and we were all very happy with the outcome of the meeting. I asked them to also sensitise all students about disability and to accept one another as everybody looks different."

"It's been more than a month now and the boy is well received at school and he has never missed a single day at school. He is very happy, his miserable boring life is gone," she concluded.

`Maitumeleng did not end it there, she went on to help another boy, Tololi Mofo, (17 year old boy) who is Deaf to get back to school. Mofo was suffering a similar setback from his peers in Makhethisa high school which led him to drop out of school. The boys in his class were always laughing at his ears, making fun of him that he cannot hear with those 'big' ears. `Maitumeleng followed the path she had took with Motatela and helped Tololi back into school. Later on Tololi got back to school and became a happy student.

Indeed `Maitumeleng played a sterling role to change life for this poor kids. She was supported by Austrian Development Agency, ADA funded project which is implemented by LNFOD with its Diakonie Austria.

GENERAL NEWS

Another good venture!

By: 'Malehlohonolo Molelengoane

"Change is the end result of all true learning." - Leo Buscaglia

Quality inclusive education seems to have captured the right eyes recently. This is evident from the number of projects that are for inclusive education, mainly in the African continent. Lesotho is not an exception in this regard. UNICEF and World Bank have been supporting the Ministry of Education and Training to ensure inclusive education. LNFOD through the support of its funders, has been working closely with this ministry in developing the Inclusive Education Policy and its implementation plan with the aim to improve access to quality inclusive education for learners with disabilities. LNFOD also had a chance to monitor implementation of the ministry of education and training led project to analyse inclusion of vulnerable children and access to quality education.

Recently, the Lesotho Council of NGOs called LNFOD and other four education focused

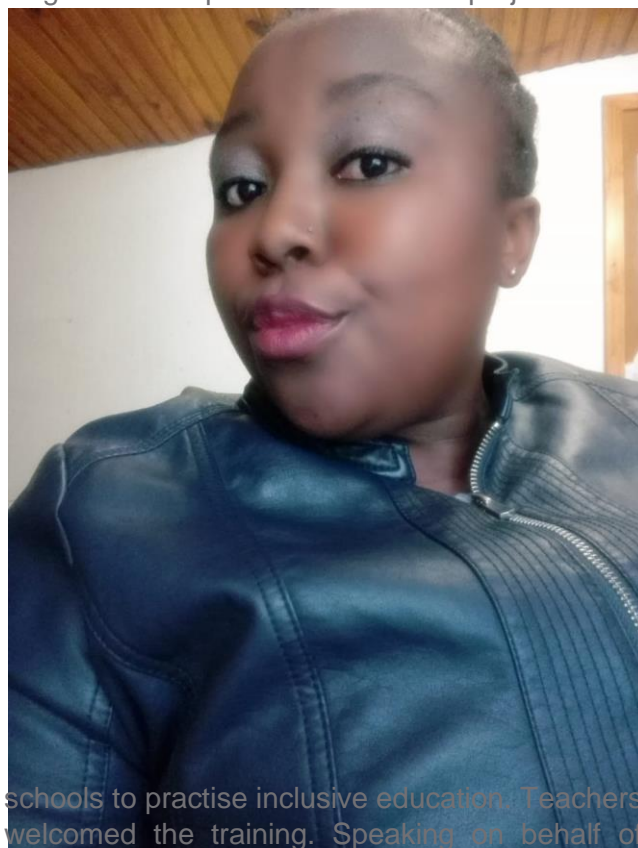
Education is also for the disabled

By: Makatleho Sekoankoetla- Molotsi

Lesotho government through the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) and LNFOD is working hard to promote inclusive education. They have currently working together to capacitate teachers to practise inclusive education. In partnership with Special Education Unit under the Ministry of Education and Training, LNFOD held a training workshop for teachers who teach in schools situated in 4 community councils namely Siloe Mashaleng, Khoelenyaa and Thana- Mokhele Community Councils.

At this workshop, the total of 18 teachers were equipped with inclusive education. Skills and were encouraged to assist their respective

organisations to join hands in implementing the new project on ensuring SDG 4- 'inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all'. This project is going to assist the five organisations to continue with fulfilling their targets. The implementation of this project will be



schools to practise inclusive education. Teachers welcomed the training. Speaking on behalf of participants teachers, Mr Phoolo stated that, this workshop came to them at the very crucial time when they were starting to believe that some students must not have been enrolled in schools because of their apparent disabilities which according to them was solely attributable to these students. He mentioned that they will start to have positive attitude towards students with disabilities. Mr Phoolo also mentioned that they will also mobilize resources in order to rehabilitate their school environments to make them child friendly.

The teachers so trained shall be progressively monitored by the district special education office which shall also continuously capacitate them to promote and practise inclusive education.

NEWS IN PICTURES



Berea teachers attended Inclusive Education training



Mr. Molepo Macheli a member of LNAPD, an activist



Sr. Mary Theresa Mokhothu one of the teachers during Inclusive Education training at Berea

Teachers are getting training on special education Mafeteng



Lesotho human Rights civil society organisations reviewing of the disability equity bill final before moving to the parliament

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ADVOCACY WORK



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