



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 June, 2015

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, concerns, events, updates, activities and all issues affecting people with disability in Lesotho. We therefore welcome contributions of any nature from all organizations and institutions working to improve the lives of people in Lesotho, including those with disability.

I think it's high time that the Lesotho government should take issues of law into consideration. People with disabilities in this country have been crying fowl to have Disability Equity Bill. Many things are happening to them, some of them are arrested, and some are abused with all types of abuses. There is no law specifically for them yet the government signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008. There are no disability specific measures to ensure that ensure that the government is willing to handle issues of disability smart in this country.

There are so many cases of girls and women with disabilities pending in the courts of law in this

country. Some of these cases have been filled since 2011 up until today there is no movement. I would like to take a plea to the government of Lesotho to comply with all the agreements that they have signed. We need all perpetrators to appear before courts of law. People with disabilities are the victims of all these types of abuses and nobody cares especially the government as it is not working towards settling the Disability Equity Bill. I think its time to insist the Bill.

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 that may improve the quality and content of this free service.

Best regards,



The Editor

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

LNFOOD seeks inclusive education policy for learners with disabilities:

By: Sefuthi Nkhasi



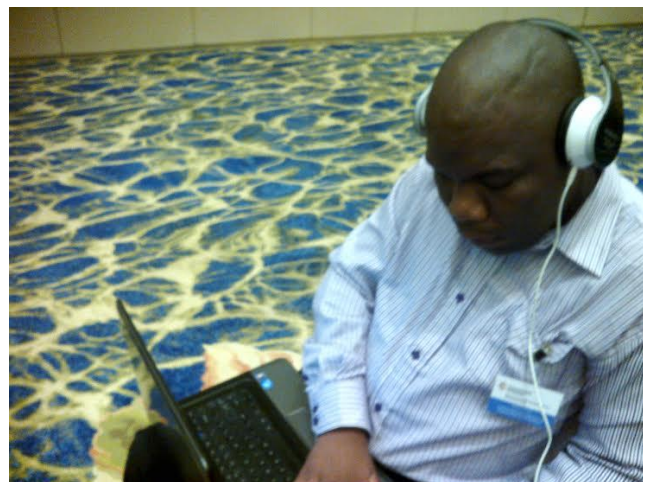
LNFOOD participated in the commonwealth minister's conference concerning sustainable development on education for the small states from the 20-23 June 2015 in Nassau the Bahamas. The conference was preceded by the civil society forum organized by the Commonwealth foundation; a civil society organisation based in UK whose mandate is to build the capacity of the civil society organisations to engage with the commonwealth governments on education.

LNFOOD participated mainly in the inclusive education session in which delegate of LNFOOD Mr. Nkhasi Sefuthi presented the case study on inclusive education for children with disabilities in Lesotho. He highlighted that, among other challenges faced by the inclusive education is the lack of policy on inclusive education to provide strategic direction for the country as well as the relegation of the special education unit of the ministry of Education and Training which is highly underrepresented in the management of the ministry. In a nutshell,

the inclusive education of Lesotho is very fragmented with no strategic direction, this lead to the poor quality education for children with disabilities who end up as drop outs. In addition, the training of teachers on inclusive education is very elementary and introductory making it difficult for the children and teachers to interact meaningfully.

LNFOOD therefore calls upon the minister of Education in Lesotho to consider the development of the inclusive education policy as the means through which children with disabilities will realize their full potential in life. The most essential thing about this conference is that, organisations had robust discussions with the governments on sustainable development on education with the aim of advising the small states governments on how best development goals can be achieved.

LNFOOD had an opportunity to network with various organisations from different countries which may result into tangible results in future.



Nkhasi Sefuthi during before his presentation at commonwealth minister's conference

Advocacy Aspect

Violations of human rights by soldiers

By: Advocacy Task Team

June, Maseru – Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) made a statement to all media houses showing its concern. LNFOD has realized and commended government of Lesotho for ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in 2008. This step is highly recognized as it is a means through which the government of Lesotho will achieve the protection and promotion of human rights of people with disabilities.

Article 14 of the Convention obliges the government of Lesotho to take effective legislative, judicial and administrative disability specific measures to ensure that persons with disabilities are not subjected to torture, inhuman and degrading punishment.

LNFOD sadly learnt that, one senior soldier who is visually impaired is undergoing torture, inhuman and degrading punishment following his arrest on the 5th June, 2015

LNFOD as advocacy body to the rights of people with disabilities, does not deny that a person with disability may be alleged to have committed a crime, however, Lesotho is under the international and national obligation to provide special protection to people with disabilities who may be detained.

LNFOD is fully aware that, guards and security forces have not been trained on handling a person with disability in detention as obliged by article 13 of the Convention. This may lead to the violation of the fundamental human rights as a person with disability.

As he pointed out in his statement before the Judge, His wife is the only person who may sufficiently meet her medical condition. LNFOD is fully aware that the government of Lesotho is convinced that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the state, and that persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and assistance to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities,

-Convinced that a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities will make significant contribution to redressing the profound social disadvantage of persons with disabilities and promote their participation

GENERAL NEWS

A deaf girl turns to be a victim of sexual abuse – 'Makhoroana

By: Pascalina Letsau



During the chilly morning of the 14th June 2015 at the household of Mrs. 'Mamorapeli Nyelimane within the foothills located village 'Makhoarona –Mapoteng in the district of Berea, in the north eastern part of Lesotho. Household members like most neighbors were busy with their regular household errands.

After all had gone yonder for respective daily chores outside the house; the household was only left with only Mrs. Nyelimane's eldest daughter who is aged 22 (twenty-two). The name of the daughter is 'Mathato Nyelimane. 'Mathato has speech and hearing impairment.

Normally, on a daily basis, the mother-parent goes out into the nearby TY town for livelihood purposes, this she does as well as being in charge of other households' errands like laundry. The daughter is the one responsible for all major household activities like preparing meals and cleaning. The household also has small scale flock of animals and hired a boy to look after them. The boy is called Mohale Machabe aged 23. Everyone is busy to start the day with family chores.

'Mathato was left in house to prepare breakfast and lunch for the whole family. Immediately after the mother had left, 'Mathato was attacked by Mohale and sexually abused. 'Mathato as a speech and hearing impaired person cannot hear the knocking, so, one girl, her age-mate and a family member just pushed the door and enter. She arrived there and found Mohale doing sexual intercourse with 'Mathato and was the first person to be the witness of the incident.

The girl whom we can call her a life-server to 'Mathato ran to the mother crying. The mother also did not wait, she too ran to her home shouting. The neighbours gathered and wanted to hear what was happening. The communities started to look around trying to find the perpetrator and found him hiding himself. They started to whip him to Mapoteng police station.

"Actually the incident was the responsibility of police Mats'umunyane. She started to take a statement from all sides including the witnesses. It was something easy to deal with as all people to be interviewed or give their witness were all at the station. At Mapoteng police station the Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU) gave that case the number which is; 37/06/15 and the case taken to the Berea Magistrate Court." said Police Tumelo Mosebo. He continued saying; "gave a medical form to be filled by health practitioner to prove sexual abuse to her and used the police vehicle to and from the hospital."

"I had a blood test and then after that I was given some tablets and medicine to take immediately. I was told that I will be fine." said 'Mathato

On the 17th June, we went to Berea Magistrate court. Court gave this case # 151/15. The case continued the same day. The magistrate asked the perpetrator one question which is; "you are accused of sexual abuse to 'Mathato, are you guilty or not? The perpetrator did not deny that and pleaded to be guilty of rapping 'Mathato. Mohale Machabe was sentenced to be in jail for 10 years without paying anything.

"It was fortunate that 'Mathato's case went that well and fast. If my daughter did not have the

impairment, the perpetrator would have ran away, because person came might have knocked at the door and he might not continue with his plan." said 'Mamorapeli

"The Mapoteng police are ready to deal with all rape cases with all the effort we have, especially for those people that have no power to protect themselves from the rape. We will do this to protect and give them justice like everyone." concluded police Mosebo



GENERAL NEWS

“Rape cases take a lead Berea.....”



“Filoane, Berea – a family of disabled people at Filoane village Mapoteng, a woman with intellectual disability and his husband who is physically disabled live in their home. This woman is called ‘Malehlohonolo, she is about 45 years old. ‘Malehlohonolo has been raped and sexually abused by two boys aged between the age of 22 – 25 years.” said ‘Mateboho

“Immediately after that disgusting incident, the husband realized that. He did not know these boys but can identify one face. These boys ran away but due to the disability of ‘Malehlohonolo, she continued to shout one by his name. So, everyone who was close heard the name.” quoted Police Mosebo according to the statement made.

The incident was reported to the police station at Mapoteng by her husband. All procedures of reporting the case was followed. The case was given the police case number which is 151/15, it is available at Mapoteng police station in the CGPU department.

‘Malehlohonolo’s family was given the medical form to be filled by the doctor. Due to her disability she did not patience to stay there and she left without being recognized by anyone. With this reason she did not manage to be tested by the medical practitioner, so ‘Malehlohonolo’s case has not yet taken to court.

“CGPU is willing to continue with the case but will have to seek advice from the prosecutors about how we can handle this case as there is no medical form. This type of the case will be the first one to deal with.”

“There was a crime done that day, even though there is no medical form from the doctor the court will work that out. Unless we protect these people there will be no justice because these perpetrators will continue to do their dirty duties. Everybody is free to attend the case if willing to.” concluded Mosebo



GENERAL NEWS

PWDs at Seeiso village howl for services

By: Pascalina Letsau

Maseru – Ha Seeiso on the 30th June, people with different disabilities gathered at Ha Seeiso. The aim of the meeting was to pay attention to how they are warned by LNFOD to be organised as people with disabilities in the villages. The meeting was coordinated by the animator under the project of deepening decentralisation Mr. Macheli.

The introduction made by LNFOD delegation starting by Mr. Macheli followed by District Disability Coordinator Ms. Bongiwe Buzi. They both highlighted the role of LNFOD, National DPOs and the groups formed within the villages. They highlighted issues of human rights and how they are being violated by other people meaning family members and communities at large.

“We have done a lot of work supported by people with disabilities in many villages, we are here today and hope will get the same support. We plea to you all to work hand in hand with Mr. Macheli and give truth about issues that are affecting you, this will help us to help each other.” said Bongiwe

People with disabilities in this area complained about access to employment opportunities. They said; “the recruitment to employment for the community activities is done at far places, so it is not easy for us to reach those places especially as people are reaching there early in the morning.” Said Mr. Ts’epo Moshoeshoe

“The issue is already at the council under the responsibility of Mr. Maboella Lebabo. It is our task that we seek services wherever we need it within our area and have to do it with respect. We will work together in order to help each other ways of advocacy in our villages.”

There were so many challenges put down by people

with disabilities, they mentioned among others access to employment, abuses that are not handled well by service providers, healthcare facilities and their inclusion with community activities and committees.

The major challenge is lack of information among people with disabilities on the available opportunities. This hinders them from participating or thinking of the movement they could take within their community. There are so many information that all Basotho need to know but due to inaccessible information in this country, people do not know what to do when facing some challenges. People or pedestrians got car accidents; some of them die at the spot while others got disability. There is a law or procedures followed by the government to compensate those people got accidents, but most people with disabilities in this area most were supposed to be compensated but due to lack of information got nothing.

It is good to deepen decentralisation of services to the communities, so that people could be aware of every procedure to be followed when seeking a service. So, as LNFOD through the project of Deepening Decentralisation, helped people with disabilities gathered there about the procedures to be followed in claiming compensation from the government after having accidents.

LNFOD delegation highlighted the communities about the upcoming project of livelihood. They were advised to form groups and decide what type of project they would like to form, after doing that must inform LNFOD office so that the project could start.



OPINION PIECE

Corruption in disability sports of Lesotho

By: Thabiso Masenyetse

National Paralympics Committee of Lesotho (NAPCOL) is the mother organization in sports of the disability persons in Lesotho whose mandate in summary is to coordinate and facilitate sport activities for the said group of people both locally and internationally. NAPCOL comprises of disability sports clubs and associations who directly affiliate to it as members. It is governed by the body call National Executive Committee (NEC) whose power instigates from the above mentioned members for they are ones with rite to participate and contest in general elections as per the organizational constitutions. The tenure of office for such committee is the period of four (4) years.

The current committee was elected into seats in 2009, in very un-transparent elections. For instance, I am up to this far to the best of my knowledge. I am the only one identified, by those names among all the members of the NAPCOL, such names were used in 2009 elections as competing for presidential position and yet I was not part of the elections not even part of the annual general meeting (AGM). I was never invited to such meeting not even informed that my names were going to be used. However, nobody posted a concern on this because members did not know I was not invited.

Furthermore, the term of the office for this committee expired in the year 2003 but none of the members has the report on why elections had not being held, not even on how the committee has worked over their four (4) years.

It is only the 4th of May, 2015 when members got letters that shows the AGM to be held on the 30 – 31st of the same month. Even in this case no member as the report/exude on why meeting could not be held n the proposed dates.

More importantly, National Executive never communicates anything with or to either the affiliates or most members of the same NEC.

The only people with key information on

organizational operations are the president, secretary general and the treasurer, while all other members do not have information on why the committee has never sat even for a single meeting of any type or value.

In addition, one of the major concerns is that nobody knows anything about strategic plan of NAPCOL may be except for the above mentioned trio. Since there is no communication from NAPCOL managements of the affiliating clubs and associations have the concern that their players are being used by NAPCOL during tournaments without consulting with them as managing teams; and this means they do not know about the criteria the NEC uses to identify players. This bares a whole lot of corruption since even those players they choose; do not have crucial information such as the legally set conditions and standards of the amount their sport tours. For instance, there is no clarification given in the cases where one gets R500 for a 3 day tour while another get R1000 for a 7 days tour. The main challenges, as few members with this concerns reaching the pinnacle to come and discuss and also agree on the concerns reaching the pinnacle mobilized all other affiliates to come and discuss and also agree on the concerns on which we should draw up the petition to NAPCOL. As a result we received a very ridiculous response from our mother organization. Consequent form this we then placed our complaints before the Lesotho Sports Commission where we are still waiting for a response.

In conclusion, it is so normal that the disability movement of Lesotho we conduct advocacy campaigns but of the different type because they are done to the non- disabled people; we are really disappointed that in this case we should do it against our fellow members (persons with disabilities). We therefore, plea to any sort of support from our comrade sport organizations in the World.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENT

Basic sign language training to service providers

For more information please conduct LNFOD office; +266 22320345

Or

Mrs. Maja Matsoha +266 58700925

Email; moeletsi@Infod.org.ls

Radio campaign on the Disability Equity Bill

For more information please conduct LNFOD office; +266 22320345

Or

Mrs. Maja Matsoha +266 58700925

Email; maja@Infod.org.ls

Public gatherings on the rights of PWDs

For more information please conduct LNFOD office; +266 22320345

Or

Mrs. Maja Matsoha +266 58700925

Email; maja@Infod.org.ls

Validation workshop on a study reviewing existing laws and policies to determine harmony with the UNCRPD

For more information please conduct LNFOD office; +266 22320345

Or

Mrs. Maja Matsoha +266 58700925

Email; maja@Infod.org.ls

Monthly meetings to District Disability Coordinators

For more information please conduct LNFOD office; +266 22320345

Or

Mrs. Maja Matsoha +266 58700925

Email; moeletsi@Infod.org.ls

NEWS IN PICTURE



Mr. Macheli doing his presentation at Ha Seeiso village



People with disabilities participated at the public gathering



Participants at Commonwealth Minister's Conference



Lehlohonolo, an intellectual disabled boy happily welcoming LNFD activists



Class 7 of Kananelo Centre for the deaf left for winter classes



Group of service providers that attended the basic sign language training at Kananelo

ADVOCACY WORK



LNFOD

PARTNERS in Advocacy Work



Africa Disability Alliance

