

# DISABILITY LESOTHO



## From the Editor

Welcome once again to the twenty second edition of Disability Lesotho, the monthly email newsletter from Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled which is starting the March, 2014.

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 organisations working to improve the lives of people in Lesotho, including those with disability.

I would like to take this opportunity to pass my condolence to the families that have lost their beloved ones especially in the disability sector around the world. The same thing happened to Disability Lesotho, as Lesotho National Association of the Physically Disabled (LNAPD) lost its 3 female members.

LNFOOD Women's Forum has started its campaign to raise awareness about issues of girls and women with disabilities in churches, schools and the community as large through public gatherings but at the same time bad things happened to end the lives of women with disability.

I, an activist of issues of women with disabilities am hardly against what has happened at Queen-Mamohato Memorial Hospital whereby

our colleague (Tlotliso) who was physically disabled and pregnant lost her life just because of staff fights and attitudes. They played dices with her life until she died. This means that reproductive right to women with disabilities is not respected in this country.

The second woman ('Mamatlaila) lost her life after losing the job in a factory, it might happen that she thought too much about her life and she got heart attack. (*Over 12 % of employees of the Philips Lighting Maseru who lost jobs are persons with disabilities*).

The third one ('Mapapali) has been killed by a car. What happened there is what we call *HIT and RUN*. It is very sad because this lady was using the crutches that are reflecting during the night. I plea to the government to protect people with disabilities by placing Signs of Disability and speed humps where people with disabilities are mostly found or cross the road; institutions, schools and homes so that drivers can reduce speed.

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

## ADVOCACY ASPECT

### Post 2015 development agenda for persons with disabilities

By: Adv. Nkhasi Sefuthi

Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) has been involved in the inclusive development agenda 2015 held in Nairobi Kenya from 6-8 March 2014. This conference was organised by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) for the African Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in order to get the voice of persons with disabilities pertaining to the UN post 2015 development agenda.

The main outcome of this meeting is the adoption of the Nairobi declaration which expresses the need for member states to adopt post 2015 development that is disability inclusive.

This meeting has been held as to avoid the mistake of leaving behind people with disabilities in the current MDGS

The post 2015 development agenda should have target and indicators that are specific to people with disabilities. The specific inclusion of persons with disabilities in this agenda will assist the states to measure progress made towards inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development. Disaggregation of data on disability on people with disabilities will enable the countries such as Lesotho to develop appropriate measures targeting people with disabilities. LNFOD was represented by the Human rights and Advocacy officer Nkhasi Sefuthi in which the outcome of the meeting has been the historic Nairobi declaration which call upon all the African countries to ensure that post 2015 development framework include disability through targets and indicators.

As a result, LNFOD is strongly calling upon the government of Lesotho to support the idea of creating inclusive development for persons with disabilities through the adoption of post 2015 development framework with specific targets and indicators.

We urge and encourage the government of Lesotho to be one of the countries in the UN General Assembly to call out for disability inclusion as well as the implementation of the CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD) so as to enable Basotho with disabilities to leading meaningful and fulfilling lives.

Lesotho should also be in the lead because it has been awarded the status of disability ambassador by the SECRETARIAT OF AFRICANDECADE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (SADPD) during the continental round tabled hosted by the government of Lesotho in December 2013.

We, people with disabilities of Lesotho strongly believe that, the government of Lesotho shall take a lead in ensuring that, Basotho with disabilities benefit out of the post 2015 development framework through advocacy and lobbying among its friends and alliances.

## GENERAL NEWS

### Awareness raising about disability issues at Schools

By: Mphonyane Damane



Mphonyane Damane talking about education to girls with

On the 24th March, 2014 LNFOD women's forum visited Mokoallong Primary School. This was one of the series of activities planned LNFOD women Forum. While on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 the forum had to go to Semphetenyane Primary school about the same thing. The idea is to raise awareness on issues of education. The enrolment of both schools is 992, while qualified teachers are 20 and 6 internship teachers. In Mokoallong Primary, only one male student by the name of Mohale Moshoeshoe who is intellectual disabled. He is 14 years of old and in grade 5. While in Semphetenyane Primary school we met a deaf boy student.

The introduction was made about the activity by Pascalina Letsau. She talked about LNFOD and DIWA as she is the activist of issues of women and children.

When addressing the students, Ms. Mphonyane said, "As students you have to play with other learners with disabilities. You do not have to harass them. We do not have to call them with names like; seqhoala, sehole, semumu and sefoku. What we have to know is that all people are creatures of God and we have to respect that. I am talking about this because I know you are also playing with these kids even at home. I would.

like to plea to you all that please talk to your parents when you got home and tell them about what you have heard today.

"Try to help those children with disabilities that are not attending school. Tell your parents to talk to parents of children with disabilities to send them to school, as education is the key life to everyone including those with disabilities." concluded Mphonyane

### Gifts to Itjareng from Distelle

By: Pascalina Letsau



Itjareng students wearing their new blankets

On the 02/03/2014 Itjareng students got presents from Distelle Group Limited. Distelle is an alcoholic beverage company in South Africa. The company principally engages in the production and marketing of ready to drinks, fine wines, spirits and ciders.

The company as part of marketing its products, wanted to do something that will market the company. It decided to do blankets for needy people and children. So they found that it will not be good to give out those beverages besides decided to do blankets so that people can be warm this winter.

Distelle brought about blankets to Itjareng students for this coming winter to warm the bodies in their workshops.



## GENERAL NEWS

### Pulpit talk at St. De Mazenod Roman Catholic Church

By Pascalina Letsau



Pascalina and Moliehi (sign language interpreter) during the pulpit talk

On the 6<sup>th</sup> March Itjareng Vocational training centre in collaboration with LNFOD women's Forum had a pulpit talk at St. De Mazenod Roman Catholic Church.

The objective was to raise awareness to the Christians about issues of disabilities and the barriers people with disabilities are facing in churches.

The Christians within this church that day were about 380 people in the Morning Mass and 350 during the day mass. The talks were made in both masses of St. De Mazenod. The speakers were Pascalina who was representing Itjareng and Women with disabilities. The second speaker was Likopo Lesoetsa – Mokhoromeng representing LNFOD women's forum.

"We would like to inform the Christians at St. De Mazenod that we as people with disabilities are attending the church here as Itjareng is nearby. We therefore request the permission from you to allow our staff member who is always here on Sundays to interpret sign language during the mass, we do request because the language is an interesting one, in a way that people might be frustrated so, if it is something discussed cannot be a surprising matter." said Pascalina.

When continuing she said; "The major thing that brought us here is that; we are very concerned about education to children with disabilities in particular girls with disabilities who seemed not going to school one way or the other. It is not too late for the child to be taken to school; I think you can agree with me on that. So we would like all people here today help us be our mouth to the villages and families to pass the message on our behalf. Our message is; 'Parents, Local Authorities and people around Lesotho help children with disabilities to access their right of education like their counterparts that are non – disabled. 'We plea to all Basotho report any parent who is not playing his/her part of sending these children to school. We all know that the government is saying it is illegal not to send children to school but when it comes to children with disabilities it seems as if that is legal.'

She further said; 'people with disabilities especially the deaf are always coming to church but cannot say what the scripture was for the day due to access to communication. This means; deaf people are denied to right to information in this country, it can be in church, school, workplaces, media (Lesotho Television) and everywhere people were to be given news or information. As the Christians we have to work hard to involve people with disabilities in everything is affecting people.

When finalizing the talk Likopo Lesoetsa – Mokhoromeng made an example whereby in her church, she was to baptize her daughter the leaders of the church said she is not the one to attend trainings for the child as she is deaf, so this means she will have to look for someone to be trained on her behalf. This was a surprise to her as the child belongs to her even if deaf like they said.

She said; "I am very concerned about this because even if I would like to pick someone to be trained about what must be done before the child could be baptized at the end I am the one to take care for my child spiritually and physically. So I think the priests should treat people with disabilities as their Christians and be treated equally not looking at the disability." concluded Likopo with a smile.

## GENERAL NEWS

### AIDS Peer educators identification

By Pascalina Letsau



Participants during the AIDS Peer Education training

On the 28th March Lesotho National Association of the Physical Disabled (LNAPD) through the help of Organisational Development programme. The activity was to identify people who can be AIDS peer educators at Maputsoe Agric Hall.

The participants were from communities that CBR has been introduced and active in the district of Leribe. These communities were as follows; Serupane C09, Khomokhoana which is now known as Maputsoe Urban 15 and Menkhoaneng C10. All in all participants were 12; female participants were 4 while males were 8.

The facilitator had to brief the participants about issues around HIV and AIDS. The expectation is that after being identified there will be a training facilitated by LNFOD, this will help people with physical disabled to join the mainstream response against HIV and AIDS on issues like; prevention, thematic area, behavioral change and communication.

The participants will be expected to train their peers after the training.

Topics that were covered to highlight the participants were seeking knowledge about issues like;

- What are HIV and AIDS?
- Modes of transmission
- Basic factor of HIV and AIDS
- Factors that can fuel the spread of HIV
- HIV prevention
- Myths about HIV and AIDS
- HIV testing and counseling
- Post Exposure Prophylaxis
- Stigma and discrimination

The group seemed to be exciting as most of them had knowledge about the epidemic, as most of them were not involved in this issues HIV and AIDS for the first time. They showed interest to go out and train their peers; they said their peers are still not aware of the virus and the disease.

## GENERAL NEWS

### Mokhehle Primary School welcomes education of children with disabilities

By: Rabasotho Moeletsi



Teaching staff Focus group discussions at Mokhehle Primary School in February 2014

Mokhehle primary school is not new to inclusive education activities. This was discovered during LNFOD's visit to the school. Mokhehle primary school falls within the Phuthiatsana community council in Berea district, where LNFOD run their **European Union FUNDED Deepening Decentralisation Project: Empowering Rural Persons with Disabilities for seeking their Entitlements.**

It was during this visit where LNFOD administered the school access monitoring tool, a questionnaire where the school gave their status on inclusion of disability in their school during the discussions held at the school premises between the school teaching staff and LNFOD staff.

"We have been involved in some activities where we referred learners with disabilities to the relevant offices." This was said by Mr. Mats'aseng Tjabaka, who responded on behalf of the school principal.

"We even have one of our staff members here who is disabled, and despite her physical disability continues to discharge her duties like

everyone else," concluded Tjabaka.

However, he pointed out that they do not have any of their staff who has undergone training on inclusive education or any other disability related course. This was responded by one of his youthful teachers who was quick to promise that challenge would soon be sorted.

Mr. Maqala Mhlakola responded: "We are aware of the special education course offered at the college (Lesotho College of Education), and at my age I find it very easy to enroll in the course as I see it is going to benefit children with disabilities and my school." This promise was encouraging and a joyful moment of the exercise. During these three years of the lifespan of the project, LNFOD would monitor the progress at the school and give technical guidance and support that will help the school be better place for learners with disabilities.

Giving his opinion about the school Mr. Rabasotho Moeletsi, who is the project coordinator, had this to say.

"We were very much impressed by what we learned from the Mokhehle primary school teaching staff. During this short visit they demonstrated their willingness to accommodate disability at their school, and this gives us courage that Mokhehle will progress well to make sure that children with disabilities in Phuthiatsana area get their education right," commended Mr. Moeletsi.

"When we arrived some used some of the commonly used terms like handicapped, the blind when referring persons with disabilities, but as the discussions went on they all avoided using those terms which are depersonalizing-equating the person with the disability, and now used appropriate terms such 'persons with visual disability, learner with intellectual disability and so on,' he added.

This could be a very good lesson to other schools who really want to make learners with disabilities to feel welcomed in their schools.

General Tip; Do not put the disability first and the person second.



# GENERAL NEWS

## Ferrando Resource Centre

By: Pascalina Letsau



On the 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 LNFOD Communication Office visited the Maputsoe to go around and find out what is happening in disability sector. Then the office comes across the centre of Ferrando Resource Centre

Ferrando Resource Centre (FRC) has been established in March, 2013. It is well known as; 'A Centre for the Differently Abled'. This centre has been started by the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians in a Roman Catholic Church.

It came to these Missionary Sisters found that there are many children with disabilities in villages hidden, not allowed to do anything even to go to school. They sold the idea of starting this Resource Centre to Action Lesotho and encouraged them to start.

The centre is a Day – Care centre which means from Monday to Friday the children start at 9:00am until 4:00 pm every day. "The idea is to help the children together with the parents. Parents have to be able to care for their children, what we are doing is to make sure that children are growing within their families together with their siblings." said Sr. George.

This centre started by enrolling one student by the name of Teboho Senamolele. He was registered at St. Luke Primary School, but did not go to St. Luke like other students. He was helped by the volunteers at FRC.

Teboho Senamolele, 19, will go down in history as probably the first Mosotho child to excel in his studies despite Cerebral Palsy (CP). Teboho is speaking softly and is a wheelchair – user who surprised many people by passing his Primary school leaving examinations with first class

Now the enrolment for the centre is raised to 20 children. Types of disability within this centre are deaf, Down Syndrome, Autism and Cerebral palsy. Everything that is done here are voluntarily. There are 3 qualified teachers for Special Education and 2 supporting staff. It is very hard to work but not getting anything to improve the lives of the families

"It is the responsibility of all Basotho to care for these children. This means that the minister of Social Development should cater for institutions like Ferrando. These people who are working here are doing a great job on behalf of the government." said Mr. Molapo.

It is important that everybody including children with disabilities have to be aware of lifeskills, so the centre is not a school as such but a resource centre whereby taught how to identify even different colours, how to wash hands after using toilets and many more. The centre is proud because can see change to their lives.

The question is; "the Ministry of Social Development and Education did not help such a child to continue with her studies? Resource centres, institutions of people with disabilities are doing Government's job but its like founders of these centres are doing these for themselves." Molapo said with a sad face.

Teboho is one of the students that the Ministry of educational and social Development were to use as example of caring for vulnerable and needy children in this country.

"One cannot understand why Teboho is not in school as it is clear that the mother cannot afford to pay for him. Or it is because the mother is employed at Textile Factories? No this is not what we are expecting in this government. If we cannot change in this government there is no way we can be improved in our lives as people with disabilities." said Molapo

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**'Matebello Moteete aged 45 yrs.**

**Area Extension Officer – Agric Office  
Maputsoe**

1. **How often do you meet people with disabilities?**
  - Almost every month I meet them as they use agric Hall for their trainings here in Maputsoe
2. **What is exciting you in your life?**
  - I am always happy when cooking and the food that I am cooking are very nice
3. **What is the level of education do you have?**
  - I have Degree in communication
4. **If you were a Prime Minister of Lesotho, what would you like to change?**
  - The way people with disabilities are suffering in this country, I would make sure that they have a representative in a parliament and to give them what is called a disability grant because real these people need their basic daily needs
5. **Looking in education sector, how do you see level of education to women and girls with disabilities compared to non – disabled women?**
  - Some women and girls with disabilities born disabled, so it happens that their parents think that there is no need to take them to school, they use to say its waste of money to teach them. Some meet disability on their way of life either by accidents or fights, so even if they were still going to school, they quit due to fear discrimination and harassment done to them at school and around their community.
6. **If you were given a Carmel, how would you use it?**
  - I would use it for transport even though it would be something funny in this country
7. **Whom would you date if you were to date someone with disability and which disability preferable?**
  - I would prefer physical disability but someone using churches or who is limping like our gospel singer by the name of Mr. Majara. If I was not at this age and meet him would make sure that I date him. I love him because he has accepted himself and not afraid of showing what he has. He real blesses me when singing.
8. **What can you say to encourage girls and women with disabilities as you said they face huge challenges?**
  - I would say to them, disability is not illness. The first thing is to have self – acceptance, so that other people could accept them. These are many things to be done still disabled as they are.



## UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### D – Day for disability



On the 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 there will be an Exhibition for Handicrafts created by students with disability from Itjareng Vocational Training Centre. On the same day PWDs will be able to apply for birth certificates and National Identity.

There are some invitees like; Ministry of Social Development, potential employers, media houses, DPOs, Individuals with disabilities and other NGOs.

**For more information about the event please conduct;**

Pascalina Letsau

Tel; (+266) 28350279

Cell; (+266) 59055406

Email; [itjareng@gmail.com](mailto:itjareng@gmail.com)

[pletsau@gmail.com](mailto:pletsau@gmail.com)

### Awareness on Education by women with disabilities

Women with disabilities will visit St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church on the 6<sup>th</sup> April and Masianokeng Evangelical Church on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to do the Pulpit talks about education to children with disabilities especially girls.

**For more information about the event please conduct;**

Pascalina Letsau

Tel; (+266) 28350279

Cell; (+266) 59055406

Email; [itjareng@gmail.com](mailto:itjareng@gmail.com)

[pletsau@gmail.com](mailto:pletsau@gmail.com)

### Lobbying meetings with community councils' development committees in the (Butha-Buthe, Berea, Maseru, and Mhahla's hoek districts) to lobby for representation Persons with Disabilities

For more information please conduct;  
LNFOD's office

Tel; +266 22320345

Or

Rabasothe Moeletsi  
+266 58700925

Email: [moeletsi@lnfod.org.ls](mailto:moeletsi@lnfod.org.ls)

## UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Training workshop for Disabled HIV & AIDS Peer Counselors in the Leribe District**

For more information please conduct;  
LNFOD's office

Tel; +266 22320345 Or Adv. Sefuthi Nkhasi  
+266 63201783

Email: [sefuthi@lnfod.org.ls](mailto:sefuthi@lnfod.org.ls)

### **Workshop for Government Ministries on how to prepare M&E Disability inclusive reports aligned to National Strategic Development Plans**

For more information please conduct;  
LNFOD's office

Tel; +266 22320345 Or Adv. Sefuthi Nkhasi  
+266 63201783

Email: [sefuthi@lnfod.org.ls](mailto:sefuthi@lnfod.org.ls)

### **Disability Advocacy Coalition bi-annual meeting on Inclusive Post 2015 Development Agenda for Persons with Disabilities with targets and indicators**

The meeting will be held at Lehakoe Recreation Club on the 14th April, 2014

The invitees are Principal Secretaries from these ministries; Ministry of Development Planning and Foreign Affairs

For more information please conduct;  
LNFOD's office

Tel; +266 22320345 or Adv. Sefuthi Nkhasi  
+266 63201783

Email: [sefuthi@lnfod.org.ls](mailto:sefuthi@lnfod.org.ls)

### **Poultry Project at Itjareng**



Itjareng has a new poultry project. The Project is meant to teach the trainees who to care for chickens and do business. This project is meant to feed the trainees and as income generating project for the centre as it will sell eggs.

For more information please conduct;

The office  
Tel; (+266) 28350279

Or

Puseletso Moeti  
Cell; (+266) 58444628

Email; [itjareng@gmail.com](mailto:itjareng@gmail.com)

# ADVOCACY WORK



LNFOD

PARTNERS in Advocacy Work

