

02 April 2014: LNFOD PRESS RELEASE

LESOTHO NATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANISATIONS OF THE DISABLED (LNFOD) held an advocacy meeting with the Bureau Of Statistics, Department of Population on the need to disaggregate data based on disability in the upcoming census report 2016 and other national surveys taking place in Lesotho so that government and civil society organisations' interventions towards persons with disabilities could be informed by the data collected by the relevant public institutions.

Persons with Disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population, or 1 billion people, of whom an estimated 80 percent live in developing countries. On the other hand, According to Lesotho census report of 2006, persons with disabilities in Lesotho constitutes 3.7% of the total population of Lesotho.

However, (LNFOD) is under the impression that, the percentage of the population of Basotho with disabilities has been underestimated by the census report 2006 because the organisations of persons with disabilities were not fully involved and consulted during the development of the data collection tools pertaining to disability. AS a result, there was no standard set to determine a person with disability.

In this upcoming census preparation process of 2016, we strongly believe that the Bureau of Statistic should be applying universally accepted standards of determining disability. So as to avoid either underestimation or overestimation of people with disabilities in Lesotho.

By so disaggregating data on disability, Lesotho will be fulfilling Article 31 of the UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES which calls member states such as Lesotho to collect data and statistics on persons with disabilities so that government interventions towards people with disabilities will have been informed by the real situation of persons with disabilities in Lesotho.

SUBMISSIONS:

We propose that, national surveys disaggregate data based on disability so that appropriate interventions towards persons with disabilities can be meaningful.

We also propose that, census report preparation for 2016 adopt the universal standard of determining disability, Washington group

We also encourage the representation of the Disabled People's Organisations in the 2016 census preparations structures to ensure compliance on disability inclusion.

AGREED POINTS:

The Bureau of Statistics welcomes the LNFOD's proposal with open hands. In fact, the department of population indicates that, LNFOD came at an opportune time for they were about to consult with

LNFOOD in preparation for the 2016 census. The current disability data collection tool needs to improve so as to capture disability data in a manner that respect the dignity of persons with disabilities.

The department agreed to design data collection tool on disability in collaboration with LNFOOD so as to ensure that disability data is accurate and meaningful to the betterment of the lives of people with disabilities.

The department also agrees to involve LNFOOD representative in the census committees to be established between April and June 2014.

For more information on this matter, please contact Mr. Rabasotho Moeletsi at 22320345, mobile: 58700925 or at his email at moeletsi@LNFOOD.org.ls