

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

LNFOD Seminar celebrates the spirit of female entrepreneurship

27 August 2012, Maseru: As part of the celebrations for women's month the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) will hold an entrepreneurship seminar to strengthen the business management skills of female small business owners with disability. The full-day seminar will take place on Monday 27 August at the Lehakoe Club.

The seminar will be attended by over 20 female small business owners with disability. The program will include presentations by a number of business management experts including representatives from SMME Support Network Lesotho, Standard Lesotho Bank, LNDC and Smallholder Agriculture Development Project. The seminar will cover a number of topics including sustainable business skills, business loan options, grant opportunities and turning small businesses into medium sized enterprises. The seminar will be opened by the Honorable Minister of Social Development.

According to the *Living Conditions of People with Disability* study conducted by SINTEF in conjunction with LNFOD last year, people with disability are three times less likely to be engaged in paid work and many women in particular choose to own their own business as a means of earning income. Of the 315 women with disability surveyed, 3.1% were self-employed, slightly more than those with paid employment.

"This women's month, we wish to celebrate the female spirit of entrepreneurship. Vocational training centers for people with disability such as Itjareng and Ithuseng have long recognised the business potential of PWDs. This seminar aims to build the business acumen of women with disability and to help them take their business to the next level," commented Marorisang Mafethe, Executive Director of LNFOD.

"I started my motor parts business two years ago with money borrowed from my sister. Business has been growing slowly but steadily. Our growth has been impeded by lack of stock and stiff competition in the area. I hope that this seminar will offer me the information and skills needed to expand my business as I've always dreamed." Commented Moselantja Florina Kalake, a physically disabled entrepreneur from Maputsoe.

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About LNFOD

Established in 1991, the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) is an umbrella body of organizations dealing with disability in Lesotho. Its mission is to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Lesotho by providing support for disabled people's organizations and empowering their members with life-skills, financial and material resources and representing their needs to the government, development partners and wider society. Its membership consists of the Lesotho National Association of Physically Disabled Persons (LNAPD) Lesotho Society of Mentally Handicapped Persons (LSMHP), Lesotho National League of the Visually Impaired Persons (LNLVIP) and National Association of the Deaf in Lesotho (NADL).

For further information, please visit www.lnfod.org.ls