

Thabiso Masenyetse is one of our three [#YALILesotho2019](#) Leadership in Civic Engagement track participants in the [Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders](#)

Thabiso is the Executive Director of the Lesotho National League of the Visually Impaired Persons, an organization established in 1986 to advocate and lobby government and relevant stakeholders for equal and inclusive opportunities of persons living with disabilities. In his capacity as Executive Director, Thabiso has designed and implemented a number of advocacy and empowerment programs with the purpose of ending discrimination in various communities against visually impaired people. He also advises the Executive Board and implements its decisions, coordinates activities of all eleven branches of the organization spread across all ten districts and leads fundraising programs. Through this work, he and his team have successfully influenced four schools from across Lesotho to enroll blind students. Thabiso has not allowed his own visual impairment to deter him from his civic participation and engagement duties. He is currently designing a program that will enable him to partner with healthcare facilities across Lesotho where he plans to launch an eye healthcare campaign to help people to take care of their eyesight. He will spend his six weeks at [Rutgers University](#) under the Leadership in Civic Engagement track.