

The Long-Awaited domestication of the United Nations Convention on the rights of People with disabilities in Lesotho.

Media brief

To All media houses

After 12 years of ratification of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, The Kingdom of Lesotho has on the 12th March 2021 domesticated this treaty through the Enactment of Persons with Disability Equity Act N0 24 of 2021. The domestication of this treaty which recognizes and protects the rights of people with disabilities has not only brought the long lost hope to the disabled community of Lesotho but is a life changing milestone which calls for huge celebration by both disabled and non-disabled. Persons with Disability Equity Act is a result of great advocacy initiatives by disabled people's organizations and other National Human Rights Non-Governmental Organization, media houses as well as the great collaboration of the Ministry of social development and other stakeholders in ensuring that the provisions of this Act benefit the disabled community in line with human rights standards prescribed under the UNCRPD and chapter 1 and 2 of the Constitution of Lesotho 1993.

The Act introduces the new social perspective of disability as well as human rights approach to disability issues. The Act doesn't necessarily introduce new or special human rights for this group but prescribes how human rights apply to people with disabilities. It introduces among others, the Disability advisory council whose main function is to advise of how different stakeholders should make adjustments and modifications in ensuring that people with disabilities enjoy their rights on equal basis with other non-disabled people.

Also found in the Act is the provision relating to the establishment on the Public fund on disability which shall be necessary for financing projects empowering the disabled community and the provision introducing the disability grant and the care dependency grant which shall mitigate for the disability related cost suffered by its recipients. In terms of this Act, people with disabilities have a right to choose their residential area and the forced institutionalization is prohibited

This is indeed a great milestone achieved by the Kingdom of Lesotho that impacts positively on the rights of people with disabilities and indeed amplifies all other measures taken to realize and promote the rights of persons with disabilities in Lesotho.

Advocacy and Human Rights Officer Makatleho Molotsi (Adv) +266 22320345/ 58687539/ 69136216

Executive Director Nkhasi Sefuthi (Adv) =266 22320345/ 53765555/ 63201783
