

MOVING TOWARDS THE PASSING OF THE DISABILITY EQUITY BILL

“Capacity development for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities” program is taking LNFOD to the next level of advocacy by bringing all key stakeholders together to work for the passing of the Disability Equity Bill.

This program is financially supported by the Diakonie Austria whose backdonor is the Austrian development agency (ADA).

LNFOD mobilised a support of six human rights organisations namely, Federation of women Lawyers in Africa (fida) Women and law in Southern Africa (wilsa) Development for Peace Education (DPE) Lesotho Council of NGOS (LCN) and Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) along with its four member organisations to write a joint letter to the Right the Honourable the Prime Minister of Lesotho petitioning him to pass the much awaited Disability Equity Bill in the Parliament as a law.

The right Honourable the Prime Minister has issued his response letter on this request appreciating the efforts of LNFOD and its partners in ensuring the promotion and enjoyment of human rights of persons with disabilities by presenting the needs of people with disabilities before him.

With regard to the passing of the Disability Equity Bill, the Prime Minister has issued a directive to the Honourable Minister of Social Development and the Attorney General to present the Bill to the Cabinet as soon as it may be practicable so that the it may be presented in the Parliament soonest.

IN addition, the Honourable Minister of Social Development has pledged in a meeting held between LNFOD and the Ministry of Social Development that she is intending to enact this Bill into law before the end of 2017.

From the foregoing LNFOD is learning that the objective envisaged in the “capacity development for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities” may be achieved in 2018.

However, LNFOD is intending to put more pressure to the government of Lesotho to pass the Disability Equity Bill in favour of people with disabilities through strategic advocacy.

LNFOD will put the government to account by ensuring that the commitments undertaken by the government in fulfilling the aspirations of Basotho with disabilities translate into concrete action.