

PRESS CALL



INVITATION FOR MEDIA TO ATTEND EVENT: MINISTERS MEET PWDs IN MAFETENG AND LERIBE 23RD AND 24TH OCTOBER:

LESOTHO NATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANISATIONS OF THE DISABLED (LNFOD) would like to invite your good media agency to join LNFOD for two ministerial exposure trips that will be held on the 23RD October at Leribe Hotel, and the 24TH October in Mafeteng at the Golden Hotel.

These exposure trips are to include various government Ministers speaking with people with disabilities in Mafeteng and Leribe, to engage in conversations on how ministerial level decisions on disability (or lack thereof), impact PWDs in their homes and communities.

BACKGROUND FOR PRESS:

Lesotho ran community based rehabilitation programme (CBR) since 2005 in Leribe and Mafeteng. The programme is intended to rehabilitate people with disabilities in the communities in which they live. However, (CBR) was struck by implementation challenges because; the programme does not have proper coordination because it is not staffed enough to carry out its functions in the communities. This situation compelled the main donor of this programme to pull out before the end of the contract.

In 2011, the government of Lesotho adopted National Rehabilitation and Disability Policy (NRPD) the main purpose for which the disability policy was adopted is to facilitate the mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in all government ministries. Lesotho also became a signatory of the UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD) in 2008. Article 4 of this Convention states that, member states should ensure that the programmes, laws and policies of the government become inclusive of persons with disabilities.

However, despite these efforts undertaken by the government of Lesotho for persons with disabilities, people with disabilities still face tremendous challenges in terms of access to employment opportunities, education, healthcare services and other social services. It is for these reasons that we feel that, your presence in the exposure trips will enable you to internalise clearly the real lives of people with disabilities living in the communities, and this will also be an opportunity for people with disabilities to talk face to face with their leaders about the problems which face them.

As a result, it will be highly anticipated that, 2014-2015 budget of these two ministries will specifically incorporate and address the needs of people with disabilities in the two districts. Few persons with disabilities living in the aforementioned districts will be invited to narrate their challenges and how they would like the two ministries to address them in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

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For the arrangements other related information, please contact:

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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 persons 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