



PRESS RELEASE

27th November 2015: This year's celebrations take place right at heart of the Maseru City.

Hundreds of people with disability are set to take to the streets of Maseru to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities on the 03rd December 2015. This day is celebrated each year to draw attention to issues affecting people with disability and to influence policy initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between people with disability and the rest of society.

Last year's IDPD celebrations, which took place in Qacha'snek, attracted over 800 people. This year, the march will start at 7.00am at the Cathedral area down *Main-north one road* joining *Rantšala road* and will be followed by speeches, exhibitions and lots of entertainment at the Setsoto stadium. The march will be followed by a formal ceremony which comprised speeches by various stakeholders in the disability sector including the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Pakalitha Mosisili, Minister of Social Development, Hon. Molahlehi Letlotlo, Development Partners and Civil society Organisations and LNFOOD Chairperson.

People with disabilities in the nearby districts wishing to join the celebrations in Maseru should contact the ministry of Social development offices and register their names for spaces in the buses. Registration is free as the buses are already paid by the ministry of Social Development. These offices are Butha-Buthe office, Berea Office in TEYATEYANENG, Mafeteng office, Mohale'shoek office, Quthing office. For those in Semonkong, please contact Auxiliary Social Worker at the office located at the Makhoalipana community council to register.

Theme for the 2015 celebrations is: Inclusion matters: access and empowerment for people of all abilities.

Persons with disabilities must be able to fulfil their role in society and participate on an equal basis with others. It is important to focus on the ability and not on the disability of an individual. By promoting empowerment, real opportunities for people are created. People who are empowered are better prepared to take advantage of opportunities; they become agents of change and can more readily embrace their civic responsibilities and contribute to the development of their country.

Mrs. Regina Lephoi, Chairperson of LNFOOD said: "On this day each year people with disability gather together to promote action to raise awareness of the gap between people with disabilities and the rest of society. It is therefore to involve the leadership so that they could bring hope and make commitments which we all have to monitor whether they deliver to these promises in the subsequent year."

This is the 12th International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed in Lesotho. Next years' celebrations will be hosted in Mafeteng.

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About LNFOD

Established in 1989, the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) is an umbrella body of organisations dealing with disability in Lesotho. Its mission is to advocate for, promote, and defend the rights of people with disabilities and their families through provision of training, material and emotional support, and by representing their needs to government, development partners and the wider community.

Its membership consists of the Lesotho National Association of Physically Disabled (LNAPD), Intellectual Disability Association of Lesotho (IDAL), Lesotho National League of the Visually Impaired Persons (LNLVIP) and National Association of the Deaf in Lesotho (NADL)

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