



LNFOOD
PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Presentation of Braille books to LDTC
‘Days of dependence are now over’

The Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOOD) with the support from Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) has translated seventy seven (77) text books into Braille.

These books will be handed over to the Lesotho Distant Teaching Centre (LDTC) during a ceremony which will take place at Lancers Inn on Friday 17th August. This occasion will mark the end of an 11-month project to produce learning materials for learners with visual disabilities. LDTC enables adults and children who were previously unable to complete their secondary school education to learn in their own time outside of school premises.

The provision of braille materials to visually impaired students will allow them greater autonomy and independence in their studies as they were forced previously to rely on friends, family members to read to them.

According to the Living Conditions study conducted by SINTEF in conjunction with LNFOOD, 23% of people with disability aged 11-20 were not enrolled in an educational institution, more than seven times the non-attendance rate for non-disabled peers. Over 25% of youth with disability not attending school cited health or disability as their barrier to education¹.

The translated text books are in the following subjects namely;

- Commerce
- COSC English language
- Junior Certificate English language
- Development Studies

“Initiatives such as this help bridge the gap in education between people with disability and those without. Many young adults with disability are unable to progress their education due to lack of resources such as Braille textbooks, sign language interpreters

¹ Kamaleri, Y. & Eide, A (2011); Living Conditions Among People with Disabilities in Lesotho; “Sintef Technology and Society”; www.lnfod.org.ls

or ramps in the classrooms. As the peak body for people with disability we must continue to work hand in hand with schools and government to develop an educational system which is inclusive for all,” Commented Themba Molikoe (Publicity Secretary, LNFOD).

“We are very happy for these text books, this means the days of depending on our fellow learners are over now. We can now only hope to improve our marks come end of year exams as now we are able to learn independently doing our own space,” Concluded Tiisetso Sebota, one of the beneficiaries from the project.

ENDS

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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 people 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