

PRESS RELEASE FOR THE TABLING OF DISABILITY EQUITY BILL IN PARLIAMENT

LESOTHO NATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANISATIONS OF THE DISABLED

Date 3th September 2018.

The Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) notes with great appreciation the tabling of Disability Equity Bill in parliament by the Honourable Minister of Social Development on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018. The tabling of the Disability Equity bill marks a paradigm shift in Lesotho from where people with disabilities are considered as objects of pity and charity cases to where people with disabilities are the rights holders capable of exercising their human rights on an equal basis with others.

LNFOD extends sincere gratitude's to the Honourable Minister of Social Development for fulfilling his long standing promise of tabling the Disability Equity Bill in Parliament in realization of the rights of people with disabilities.

LNFOD is now convinced that the Honourable Minister is stepping towards the meaningful protection of the rights of people with disabilities and such deserves a credit for breaking the ground on the topic of disability as a human right issue.

The enactment of the Disability Equity Bill into an Act of parliament will undoubtedly contribute to the human rights advancement of people with disabilities and promote disability inclusion in public and private sector.

It will give people with disabilities power to claim and enforce their rights and participate effectively in the decision making processes.

LNFOOD now appeals to the Social Cluster committee to review the Bill bearing in mind the barriers faced by people with disabilities in terms of access to the social services including access to information and physical infrastructure, education, employment, and independent living for people with disabilities.

LNFOOD appeals to the Parliament of Lesotho through its two houses to consider the Bill mindful of the long time taken by the executive to complete the Bill and speed up the processes as soon as it may be practicable for the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities in Lesotho.

LNFOOD will monitor the work of the parliamentary portfolio committee on Social cluster to ensure that the Bill is enacted into law in full compliance with the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities from now till it is enacted into law.

For more information about the content of this press releases, do not hesitate to contact

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