

# Annual Report 2015/16



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# 1. Introduction



Fig1: From left to right, SADC CNGOs Executive Director Mr Boichoko Dithlake, LCN President Mampho Thulo, Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Lekhetho Rakuoane and EU Ambassador Dr Michael Boyle, and during the 16 NGO week opening.

Across the globe, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are entrusted to build social capital with the objective of facilitating better awareness, cohesion within the society and socio-economic and political development. It is the responsibility and function of the civil society organisations to facilitate and build more linkages between ordinary citizens and the government, thus making government more accountable to the people. Civil society is vital in building democracy and also in contributing towards a nation that holds the society together through its diverse interests. The Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN) is charged with this responsibility and as such, it stands in a better position to promote accountability and transparency in development.

As an umbrella body, it has to demonstrate leadership and accountability both internally and externally as defined by its Constitution which stipulates that LCN is bound to convene Annual General Meeting every year.

In the 26 years since its establishment, LCN has always complied with this section of the Constitution. The AGM is important to reflect on LCN's mandate towards fulfilling its mission. LCN's main objective is to provide supportive services to the NGO community in Lesotho through networking, leadership, information dissemination, capacity building, coordination, democracy, human rights, advocacy and lobbying, and representation when dealing with international community and government. The Council's mission is to promote, coordinate and

support organisations in their efforts to contribute to national development and governance agenda in Lesotho.

In addition to the objectives of the Council, LCN continues to be guided by the Strategic Plan 2014-2019. This Report will highlight the achievements, challenges and lessons learnt between the period 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016. This report is a consolidation of quarterly reports approved by LCN Board of Directors and it is structured into sections of overall core projects and programmes commitments, organisational development, networking, resource mobilisation and funding initiatives. The context in which LCN operated will form part of this Report for better appreciation of the Council, appreciation towards achievements are assumed since they are ongoing over a long-term period.

## 2. Context

As the world leaders commit themselves to move towards implementation of sustainable development goals there remains various challenges to be solved. Noticeable are the wars, conflicts and tensions that dominate the global agenda across most continents. These wars, conflict, and tensions continue to shift the world's focus resources that could have been earmarked for development.

Most of these conflicts are seen in Syria, Yemen, Gaza Strip, Nigeria, DRC Congo, Central African Republic, Burundi just to mention a few. As if this is not enough, the world is also experiencing oppression and terrorism even in the advent of democracy that has been gained over the past decades.

This is visible in most African countries such as Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Libya, Nigeria, Mali and in other parts of world. Another factor that is visible is the excessive migration of refugees to countries which originally were not ready to receive or host the influx of refugees. The net result of these tensions is a violent, intolerable and unstable world where development is highly undermined.

The main causes of these tensions accrues from a number of reasons which include political, economic, religious to mention a few. However the ultimately result in the loss of life and destruction of property.

SADC region like most other regions of Africa, faces political challenges as evidenced by continuing tensions in Lesotho, Madagascar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and Swaziland. The ability of SADC to successfully resolved these challenges remains trivial.

Efforts from SADC in the quest of promoting a peaceful and stable region have been futile recently. However, SADC is considered to be more stable and peaceful as compared to other regional blocks within the African continent yet more needs to be done in improving the livelihoods of citizens in the SADC region. SADC is still trailing behind in most economic indicators as compared to other regional blocks in Africa.

Politically, SADC has witnessed loss of power from liberation movements to newly emerging coalitions of former opposition parties. This is evidenced in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique. In response, the liberation movements are retaliating by using excessive force of security institutions. This retaliation promotes a state of fear and political decay as the liberation movements are trying to protect their dominance at all costs at least in the case of Zimbabwe.

If the SADC region does not successfully manage to respond effectively to the challenges of

climate change, poverty, unemployment and migration it faces risks of internal stability. This region needs to move faster towards restoring order and rule of law within its member states if peace and stability are to rein.

Lesotho as a member of SADC embraced the politics of coalition government for the second time but lags behind in terms of bringing necessary stability and peace for development and democratic governance.

Over the past year the levels of political intolerance have increased. In addition, insecurity in post 2015 elections has also increased as evidenced by the state of instability that undermines rule of law. In addition, the instability promotes violations of human as evidenced by torture, alleged extra-judicial killings, lengthy pre-trial detention and long trial delays.

The current situation has led to exile of leaders of opposition leaders in parliament including civilians and military personnel whom are threatened by the acts of disciplinary forces. The concerns raised by these groups indicate that their lives are threatened by members of armed forces. In response the interinstitutional community is demanding accountability from the Government of Lesotho.

Recently, we have noted that even members of the ruling coalition have been forced to flee the coun-

try after being threatened by the disciplinary forces.

In the quest to intervene through mediation civil society organisations were seen by the Second Coalition Government as intruders and this has weakened the relationship between government and civil society formations across the board. This fact compromises a united effort towards reflecting on the past 50 years of independence and also in agreeing to identifying the future for Lesotho.

The end result of the instability affects the Human Development Index of Lesotho which ranks 161 in the world. Even though life expectancy has increased from 48.2 to 49.8 years the poverty prevalence is still high coupled with high child mortality rate. It is important to note that some of these challenges can be eradicated if knowledge and skills can be provided including leadership that is focused on tenets of democratic governance.

During the reporting period Lesotho witnessed a decline in revenue due to a 45% decline in SACU revenues. The situation was further exacerbated by severe food shortage due to El Nino that cost about 500 000 people to be vulnerable to hunger.

Furthermore, the HIV/AIDS prevalence has increased from 23% to 25%, a situation that place Lesotho to second position as a country with the highest prevalence in the world. Also Lesotho ranks number one with regard to TB.



Fig. 2 Political instability had an adverse effect on the economy thus leading to stagnated growth during the reporting period.

The current unemployment rate for Lesotho is described differently according to labour force, unemployment and multi-dimensional unemployment. The former indicates a rate of 24%-30% while the latter indicates a rate of 40%-45%. In addition, abject poverty is said to be hovering around 60% the statistics indicate that majority of Basotho are poor. The impact of unemployment is livelihood insecurity which requests the government to direct funding priorities towards social protection and welfare.

Although there are institutions of governance in the country such as Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) and the office of Ombudsman, it is noted that their capacity to deliver is relatively weak particularly in the context where corruption is perceived rife in civil service. This

translates into poor service delivery including weak civil service that is politically polarised. The institutions of governance are not perceived independent by some sections of the society and this makes it difficult to demand accountability from the three state organs, namely; legislature, executive and judiciary.

Civil society on the other hand, continues to empower the general public though with minimal success due to gravity of political polarisation.

### 3. Programmes and Projects

Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN) has programmes and projects of which this Report will reflect on.

The main programmes for LCN as per the Strategic Plan 2014 to 2019 are as follows;

Capacity building  
Research and policy advocacy and  
Governance and organisational development.

During the reporting period, the following projects were implemented which contribute to the above mentioned programmes

Public Participation & Non-State Actors  
Capacity Building for Development  
through the support of European Union.  
Building Capacity of Local Non-State  
Actors for Constructive Engagement  
in Local Government through the sup-

port of European Union.

- HIV and AIDS Technical Assistance Programme (HTAP) through the support of World Bank.
- Civil Society Organisations' Engagement Towards Fostering Rule of Law and Accountability.
- Rood Safety Education Campaign through the support of AMEND.
- YALI Civic Leadership Programme through the support of US Embassy Maseru.
- Building Capacity of Maseru City Council on Community Mobilisation.

The next coming sections of the report will discuss some of the activities which have been implemented by LCN during the reporting period and how they have contributed to the strategic framework of LCN.



Fig. 3 LCN is engaged in efforts of deepening decentralisation through provision of skills and knowledge for local civil society organisations to constructively engage in local government processes.

## 4. Capacity Building Programme

Capacity building in our theory of change refers to the sharing and transferring of knowledge with the aim of empowering each other and organisations that may be in need. This assumes that the civil society organisations that would benefit from LCN interventions will be grounded with theory and practice that will assist them to continue to fulfilling their mandate and satisfy the needs of the people they serve. Furthermore, LCN believes that once the civil society is empowered, the social justice and development in Lesotho will be realised. As a result, numerous capacity building activities were undertaken by LCN across 10 districts of Lesotho.

LCN believes that through capacity building intervention, sustainable development can be progressively achieved over time and the skills and knowledge gained through this intervention will remain within the sector for a long time and will also remain as a strong pillar for civil society engagement in governance and development agenda. LCN will continue to deliver programmes and projects that aim to build the capacity of civil society organisations in Lesotho as it is considered as a key enabler in achieving public policy coherence and development goals. The six (6) Sectoral Commissions remain primary beneficiaries of the capacity building strategic intervention. In each Project mentioned below, an attempt has been made to put highlights of the capacity building

interventions during this reporting report.

### **4.1 Building Capacity of Local Non-State Actors for Constructive Engagement in Local Government through the support of European Union Project.**

The objective of this Project is to Building Capacity of Local Non-State Actors for Constructive Engagement in Local Government is about enhancing the participation of Non-state actors (NSAs) in contributing to poverty reduction at the community level. The Project aims at developing the organisational and institutional capacity of local non-state actors to influence an inclusive development agenda at community level, and it is expected that community and district councils would improve their accountability to the rural communities. Through this engagement, the civil society and community councils are expected to be productive in their interactions through the institutionalisation of the culture of dialogue when running the development and governance programmes and projects.

The specific activities of this Project expose civil society organisations to issues of policy, democratic governance, organisational management, and HIV and AIDS. The intervention intends to improve civil society competences in the areas of lobbying and advocacy, governance and leadership, research and policy analysis, project man-

agement, monitoring and evaluation, mediation and conflict management, budget tracking and social audit. LCN believes that by building competences in these areas will facilitate local civil society organisations to effectively engage and influence relevant governance institutions to be responsive to service delivery demands. Consequently, this will address many of the challenges of poverty.

During this reporting year, LCN together with partners and associates, contributed towards building strong grassroots organisations with the aim of enabling people to demand and drive development under the leadership of the 21 Community Councils in the six districts of Lesotho. The capacity building intervention was identified as a prerequisite for the success of the Project. Below are highlights of capacity building interventions for this reporting year:-

- A total of 270 representatives of local civil society organisation (197 women and 73 men) have been trained on mediation and conflict management skills;
- A total of 114 representatives of community-based organizations were trained on the legal frameworks affecting women in Lesotho;
- A total of 146 (100 women and 46 men) participants were empowered of project management, monitoring

and evaluation. The activity is still underway and

- A total of 461 representatives were trained on constitutionalism and democratization. The activity is still underway and not yet completed.

The community-based organisations included farmers' organisations, HIV and AIDS support groups, burial societies, crime prevention groups, women's groups, youth associates and savings and loans groups. These groups are essential for building the highly needed culture of engagement as they are already an organised voice. This Project has taken the advantage and the opportunity to work with them and to build linkages with national agenda. The organisations which were implementing these interventions were PAVA, CESA, LNCW, CEF, TRC and Send-A-Cow as they were part of Project document submitted to EU in 2012.

#### 4.2 HIV and AIDS Technical Assistance Programme (HTAP)

LCN's members as well as other civil society and private sector organizations are playing a crucial role in supporting the national HIV and AIDS response by providing services and information for the prevention and management of HIV and AIDS at the community level where government services may be limited. The community based civil society organizations (CSOs) contribute significantly to the mobilization



Fig. 4 HTAP project provided local civil society with resource mobilisation skills in order to enhance their sustainability and their ability to contribute to the national HIV/AIDS response

of communities and marginalized groups and the provision of services and information at the household levels through their involvement in the different sectors. However, due to the observed lack of appropriate organizational capacities and technical skills in management of HIV and AIDS interventions, their contribution has not attained the desired impact.

In response to this observation, the World Bank approved a five (5) year technical assistance grant to Lesotho Government for implementation of the HIV and AIDS Technical Assistance Project (HTAP) through the Ministry of Health (MOH). The Project is intended to build capacity of the government and civil society organizations from the national to the community levels to enable them to make meaningful contri-

bution in the national response towards HIV and AIDS. The project has three components implemented by the respective institutions of the MOH, Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship and Parliamentary Affairs and the LCN. The latter is implementing Component ONE which focuses on capacity building for the civil society organizations implementing HIV and AIDS services. This was done through mentoring and coaching of civil society organisations on organisational development, resource mobilisation and competence in the areas of HIV/AIDS. LCN managed to roll out capacity interventions as demonstrated by the following:-

- A total of 50 CSOs were mentored on financial management resulting in them being competent in handling

financial records, confidence on management and control tools to capture finances of the organization;

- A total of 48 CSOs were mentored on livelihood and income generating activities resulting in members having means of making a living and adequate resources to support operations of their organizations as well as vulnerable groups that they support;
- A total of 50 CSOs were mentored on various organizational development and management skills and this has resulted in improvement on governance, leadership and management of operations among the CSOs;
- A total of 28 CSOs were mentored on competency on HIV and AIDS issues resulting in the CSOs having the ability to handle HIV and AIDS issues with confidence;
- A total of 104 Representatives of Community Based Organisation were trained on TB/Co-infection. The representatives from the trained organisations conducted community health education, defaulter tracking and follow-ups on people on treatment which covered 36 282 Basotho.

In addition to the above-mentioned interventions, CSOs were mentored on development of constitutions and all of them are now registered with the Law Office. This registration entitles them access several support and assistance available in the country

as evidenced by the fact that seven (7) have already secured external funding for different projects from various funding agencies operating in the country. The size of the funding ranges between M12, 500.00 (USD 692.00) and M269, 000.00 (USD 20, 692.00). Further, a total of 17 potential funding agencies were identified during the mentoring period. These included government ministries such as Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation (MOGYSR), Social Development (MOSD), Health (MOH), Agriculture and Food Security (MOAFS), Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MOFRSC) and Trade and Industry (MOTI); Christian Health Association of Lesotho(CHAL); large local and international organisations such as USASSHF, Small Holder Development Project(SHDP), Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), German Cooperation (GIZ) and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) etc., while proposals of the remaining 40 are at different stages of finalization and submission for funding.

### **4.3 Civil Society Organisations' Engagement Towards Fostering Rule of Law and Accountability**

Lesotho Council of NGOs is currently implementing a project entitled Civil Society Organisations' Engagement Towards Fostering Rule of Law and Accountability that aims at fostering greater accountability of public institutions and leaders to citizens in line with the Constitution of Lesotho. Human rights advocacy, monitoring

and reporting are central pillars to an unassailable democratic culture. Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations recognizes that CSOs are critical to the building and strengthening of the human rights architecture in Lesotho; deepening democracy and enhancing citizen participation in governance affairs. Through Civil Society Organisations' Engagement Towards Fostering Rule of Law and Accountability Project, LCN will provide its members with the technical and capacity expertise necessary for the promotion protection and fulfilment of human rights in Lesotho.

During this reporting period LCN conducted a delivered a training on Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Constitution of the Kingdom of Lesotho. This capacity building intervention, a total of 26 (17 women, 9 men) members drawn from Democracy and Human Rights Commission attended the training. The training provided under this intervention are inter-related and continuous, thus the introductory training on UDHR is meant to provide basics for intense modules on Human Rights promotion and prevention.

### **4.4 Road Safety Education Campaign through the support of AMEND**

Road injuries are predominately higher in African countries, though statistics show that African countries have fewer cars

Table 1 Number of students reached per school

School Name	Number of Students Reached
1) St. Bernardette Primary	1822
2) Maseru Methodist Primary	450
3) Unity Primary Primary	1500
4) Motimposo Primary	1700
5) Maseru LEC Primary	721
6) Hoohlo Primary	360
7) SOS Primary School	405
8) New Millenium Primary	1005
9) Maseru Day Adventist	770
10) Ratjomose Primary	745
11) Tsoeloe-Pele-Moho Primary	800
12) Iketsetseng Primary	730
13) Tholoana-Ea-Bophelo Primary	1400
14) St. James Primary	800
15) Bible College Primary	400

than in other countries around the world. The position is clear, road fatalities in Africa are high thus LCN partnered with Amend and Puma Foundation to a road safety education campaign in Maseru. The project was implemented with the support of the Puma Energy Foundation, a subsidiary of the Puma Group. The campaign's objective was to educate 13,000.00 children in the district of Maseru on road safety education. The aim was to target either areas with high road accidents and high traffic congestion areas whereas school-going children are affected or are casualties as a result of the accidents.

During this Reporting period LCN managed to deliver one training as a follow up from the external training that was offered in Tanzania by AMEND.

Post the training, a roll out to a total of 15 schools in Maseru was made. A total of 13,608 children were reached in a period of February and April 2016 as shown in table 1. The project was well-received, by students, teachers, parents and school leadership, hence the strong need for the project to be up-scaled. LCN also recognised the need to strengthen is collaboration efforts with the Department of Road Safety in so far as building road safety curriculum and undertaking joint campaigns.

#### **4.5 YALI Civic Leadership Programme through the support of US Embassy Maseru**

LCN is currently implementing a programme on Civic Leadership with the support of United States Embassy, Maseru. This

programme integrates with the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Innovation Hub implemented as American Corner, State Library Maseru. The YALI Leadership Innovation Hub provides the tools, opportunities and leadership skills tailored to empowering young African leaders in entrepreneurship, public sector management, and civic society. The YALI Leadership Innovation Hub is built on existing institutional capacity in Lesotho to provide high quality training, mentoring, and networking support to a greater number of young leaders than can be reached through the Mandela Washington Fellowship. As a result, Lesotho Council of NGOs was tasked with providing civic leadership to exceptional young leaders between the ages 18 and 35 from a wide range of backgrounds and diverse experiences and education level.

The objective of the trainings was to empower youth to start community based civil society organisations which seek to redress adverse externalities on social, political and economic ills. The training explored various methods of civic engagement on the areas Community Service and Volunteerism, Community Building, Public Education, Community Development, Voting and Political Participation, Social Entrepreneurship etc. The activities are held as a series of session at the American Corner of State Library. These activities are held monthly.

LCN has managed to deliver a total of 11 capacity building interventions addressing different topics such as the role of Civil Society



Fig. 5 His Worship the Major of Maseru City Council Mr Mohapi providing an opening remark during the training.

Organisations in promoting Social and Economic Justice in Lesotho, Promoting Public Participation in Lesotho and Youth Participation in Good Governance that reached 187 young people. These activities had managed to incite the youth to take civic leadership roles within their respective village including organising themselves into different formations.

#### 4.6 Building Capacity of Maseru City Council on Community Mobilisation

During the reporting period, Lesotho Council of NGOs partnered with Maseru City Council to build the capacity of Councillors, Chiefs and Members of Parliament within Maseru City Council (MCC) juris-

diction in order to enable them to identify, implement, monitor, and evaluate community projects together. The objectives of the capacity building interventions were to

- Improve communication between Community, local leaders and MCC management;
- Improve citizen participation in local government planning and development;
- Sensitise community leaders on municipal service fees in order to improve compliance
- Improve relations between civil society and the City Council

A total of two (2) capacity building interventions were delivered and reached 97 individuals. The training managed to build consensus

between the actors with the purpose of joint implementation of community based projects. It also managed to provide a platform for some of the major bottlenecks which inhibited the actors from working together. It was used as a mediation for existing conflicts of the leadership structures within MCC. Lastly, the training was used to empower the actors with the legal frameworks relating to public participation, local governance, participatory and inclusive planning.

One of the major recommendation from the meeting highlighted the need for a public participation policy to be developed by MCC. The policy will clearly outline the modalities and platforms to be used for engagement.

## 5. Research and Public Policy Analysis

This section reflects on the activities that are meant to engage in advocacy that is being played by the Council directly or indirectly through member organisations. The basis of the Council's advocacy is research in most cases while in other context is in the form of public dialogues, forums or seminars. During this reporting period, LCN managed to undertake two researches, namely; Evidence for Participatory Accounting Mechanisms of Food Security and HIV and AIDS Programmes in Lesotho and HTAP Beneficiary Survey. The first study explored the legal and policy framework that govern the agricultural and health sectors as issues of food security and HIV and AIDS fall within their jurisdictions. It further identified a pathway for flow of services down to the ultimate beneficiary across the two sectors, with the purpose to create and understanding of opportunities and barriers associated with service delivery thereof while the second one aims at establishing beneficiaries' perspectives in relation to the achievements and lessons learnt as a result of the project. The study focused on the functionality of the organisations, governance, leadership and management, resource mobilization and project management capacity.

The first study pointed at the strengthening local government accountability is necessary in order to enhance initiatives for greater decentralization and for local government managerial autonomy. New checks and balances may be required to assure that access to local government services and the quality of public services is not compromised, especially for the poorer segments of the population. The second one pointed to more of the achievements as compared to the challenges confronting CSOs. As a result of the project, some CSOs have legally been registered, others have developed successful proposals and initiated some livelihood projects that helped them to contribute in the national response effectively.

### Public Policy Advocacy

The Public Policy Advocacy is meant to rollout the capacity building interventions and they usually take a form of campaigns and public dialogues. The other source for these interventions come from the studies undertaken by the Council. Below are some of the rollout activities undertaken by the Council:-

- Dialogues on human rights trends in Lesotho
- Community Parliament Preliminary Consultations
- National Community Parliament

- 16th NGO Week
- International Women's Day
- National Stakeholder's Dialogue on TB and HIV Coinfection
- Alliance of Non-State Actors Petitioned Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho.
- Striking the Balance between Crime Prevention and Human Rights
- Articulating a rights based approach to HIV/ TB coinfection treatment: A Case of LCN's TB Patient Charter.
- Public dialogues on youth rights
- Public dialogues on Women's Rights

### 5.1 Dialogues on Human Rights Trends in Lesotho

CSOs are prominent players in prevention and promotion of a culture of human rights. They can provide for checks and balances in society. In their dialogue with governments and companies, they advocate inclusive and sustainable growth and development and put these issues on the agenda. At the same time, they act as watchdogs to ensure that government and private parties follow up on agreements and commitments made. CSOs therefore have an indispensable lobbying and advocacy role to play in society, especially when

it comes to promotion and prevention of human rights.

Recently, evidence-based advocacy has been adopted in most civil society engagements across the continent. Lobbying and advocacy which is not evidence-based on most occasions yield to trivial outcomes. During this reporting period LCN managed to hold rollout activities aimed at enhancing dialogue on human rights trends in the districts of Qacha's Nek, Quthing, Mofale's Hoek and Mafeteng with a total of 138 participants (71 men and 67 women). Dialogues in other districts are currently underway.



Figure 6: President of the Senate Hon. Seeiso B Seeiso, Principal Chief of Matsieng, Chairperson of the Business Committee and standing orders delivered opening remarks during the 8th National Community Parliament which was held at AME Hall in Maseru.

## 5.2 National Community Parliament

The national Community Parliament is a three (3) day event that was preceded by preliminary consultations that determine the priorities where about 1268 villages were covered. The National Community Parliament is a form of dialogue where government and electorate debate identified priorities from communities but also to give feedback on the budgetary performance from the previous fiscal year. Better community awareness of Government policies is critical to facilitate the success of decentralization efforts underway in Lesotho. On the basis of community voices expressed in the preliminary activities, it is clear as to what people may want to see the budget financing. This is a critical community voice which can-

not be ignored in a democratic dispensation. The levels of poverty in Lesotho just like anywhere in the world are not a result of a single cause. While other causes may not be undermined if the intention is to reverse the situation, policy and the manner in which is implemented remain main culprits. The figure below highlights some of the priorities tabled before ministers during the 2015 community parliament.

The 2015 Community Parliament was attended by 315 participants (186 women, 129 men) drawn from 33 Community Councils. However, all the 10 District Councils were represented. The President of the Senate Prince Seeiso Bereng Seeiso, Solidarity Messages by Hon Members of National

Assembly of the parliament for the Kingdom of Lesotho 'M'e 'Mapalesa Phohleli MP and Ntate Palo Leteeete MP. There was also an address by the European Union. The event was attended by different ministers whom accounted on the activities of their ministries namely: (i) Minister of Science and Technology, Hon Khotso Letsatsi, (ii) Deputy Minister for Health, Hon Liteboho Kompi, (iii) Deputy Minister of Education Hon Kholumo, (iv) Minister of Energy and Meteorology, Hon Selibe Mochoboroane, (v) Minister of Water Affairs, Hon Ralechate Mokoase and Senior Policy makers from different ministries.

LCN learnt that there is a need for civil society to advocate for legal frameworks on public participation in Lesotho where platforms

## Community Priorities on Budget

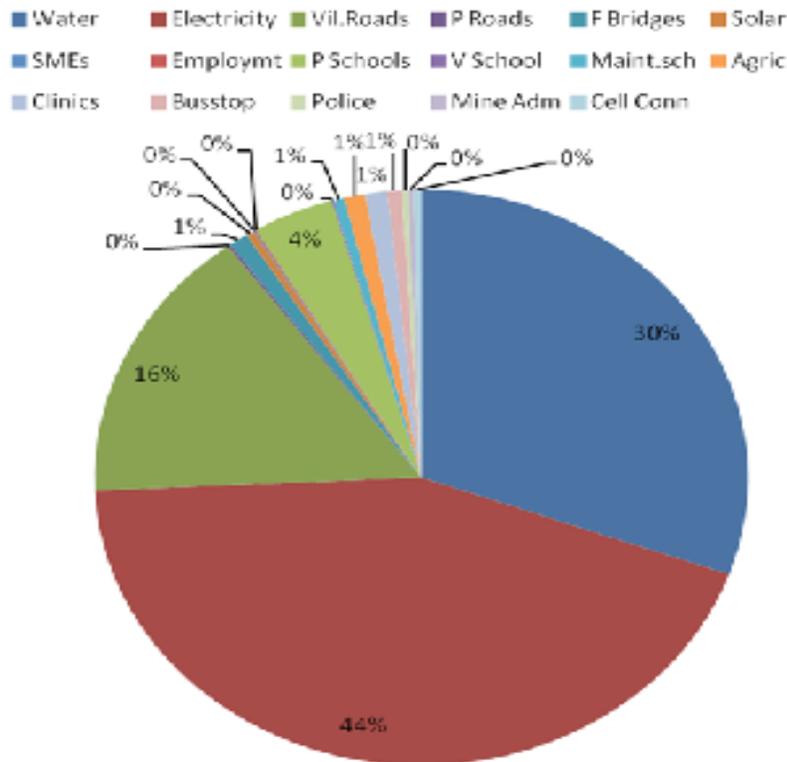


Figure 7: Community Priorities on Budget

such as community parliament can be utilised as a method of engaging communities by the government. Without public participation law, the effect of community parliament can be compromised based on personal attitudes of each ministers towards community parliament.

### 5.3 16th NGO Week

Lesotho Council of NGOs held the 16th NGO Week themed "Respect for Human Rights and Rule of Law for Social Justice", held from the 30TH November, to 4th December, 2015 at Lehakoe Recreation Centre Maseru, Lesotho. The event was an occasion characterized by civil

society vibrancy with discussions ranging on some various topics presented by leaders in various sectors of development in and out of Lesotho. The NGO week's official opening had three main speakers who were the Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN) President Mr. 'Mampho Thulo who did welcome remarks. The other speaker was the LCN's Executive Director Mr. Seabata Motsamai. The third speaker was SADC-CNGO Executive Director Mr. Boichoko Ditlhake who delivered a message of solidarity. The key note address was made by EU Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho Dr. Michael Doyle. On behalf of the government of Lesotho was advocate Lekhetho Rakuane.

This event was attended by 261

(101 men and 160 women) representative of civil society, government and private sector. Below is what accrued as a result of the 16th NGO Week;

- Articulation of public policy demands to policy makers i.e. policy advocacy and lobbying by the collective of NGOs;
- Mutual learning among NGOs and cross learning between NGOs and the public and private sector on issues of mutual interest;
- Publicity and marketing of NGOs and their outcomes in national development to the general public;
- Networking and enhancing good rapport among

NGOs themselves and between NGOs, Government and Private sector and

- Enhancing NGO solidarity and unity of purpose.

LCN learnt that there is a need for a collective approach to implementation of the recommendations from the NGO Week and thus they should be integrated and mainstreamed in the programming of different commissions.

#### 5.4 National Women's Forum

As the world observed the International Women's Day (08/03/16), we as civil society organisations in Lesotho took this time to reflect on the progress of women aligning ourselves with the global theme "Planet 50-50 by 2030, step it up for gender equity". LCN organized a National Women's Forum as a follow up to the findings of the study on The Status of Women with regard to Participation in Local Government Processes. The study findings were based on the International Covenants that prescribe equal participation of men and women in the civil and political rights, and on the existing Legislation, policies and institutional arrangements that affect the status of women in Lesotho, and the gaps that exist in the Legislation, policies and institutional arrangements that affect the status of women in the rural areas.

The constitution of Lesotho prohibits discrimination but has reservations on the applicability of this rule where such is contradictory with customary law. This is also

seen in the reservations that Lesotho has made with regards to the applicability of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. The government has enacted a number of progressive laws that are meant to address gender inequalities with startling results

- Legal capacity of Married Person Act of 2006- has abolished the marital power that was traditionally endowed in a man but still leaves out the status of unmarried and other groups of women.
- Land Act of 2010 – it empowers women to register land in their own right emancipating many women and improving both their social and economic values.
- Decentralization policy of 2014 – it provides frame work for Deeping and widening the economic and social benefits of democracy to all citizens including women.

While these are positive steps taken by the government with regard to ending gender discrimination, there is a lot that remains to be done to ensure that women are on an equal footing with men in Lesotho. Women in politics and leadership have slightly decreased despite women remaining higher on the literacy and employment ratings. To this effect, civil society feels there is need for us as a country to take bolder steps in addressing gender parity by employing equitable measures that will ensure a more balanced and progressive Lesotho. During this forum, civil society

thus encouraged Lesotho to take the pledge to step up their efforts in ensuring that we reach not only goal five of the Sustainable Development goals but also to improve the lives of women and girls in Lesotho. Consequently, civil society organisations under the stewardship of LCN, during this forum, took a pledge that through their programming shall in turn seek to:

- Ensure through our programming the creation of an environment where both the boy and girl have a better chance at life;
- To ensure equal access to education for both girls and boys;
- Advocate for the adoption of flexible cultural practices that will not widen the gap but instead encourage a more progressive and inclusive Lesotho;
- Take the pledge to ensure that we breach the gender parity in Lesotho by taking daily steps to ensure a more equal and equitable Lesotho.

#### 5.5 National Stakeholders Dialogue on TB and HIV Co-infection

HIV-associated TB remains a major public health concern. According to the Global Fund, at the end of 2012 TB contributed to 20 percent of 1.6 million AIDS deaths and HIV contributed to 25 percent of the 1.3 million TB deaths. Hence it is imperative for intensive collaboration, coordination, and regular communication between TB and HIV programs and stakeholders will be critical to overcome these

constraints, promote synergies and gain efficiencies for better TB and HIV health outcomes.

In its effort to increase civil society organisations involvement in contributing towards reducing TB incidences in Lesotho, LCN conducted community dialogues on TB/HIV Coinfection in the districts of Maseru, Berea, Leribe, Butha Buthe, Thaba Tseka, Makhohlong, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek. The purpose of these dialogues was to educate and mobilise communities to participate in the TB/HIV prevention, care and treatment. The dialogues were a platform where communities are afforded opportunity to voice their concerns and suggest better solutions to reversing TB/HIV Coinfection in the country. The National Stakeholder Dialogue is intended to:

- Facilitate a forum for national stakeholders to engage on the community voices on TB/HIV Coinfection issues;
- Promote in depth understanding of the role of CSOs in TB/HIV Coinfection;
- Identify ways to address community concerns on TB/HIV Coinfection issues; and
- Identify systematic ways to engage communities on TB/HIV Coinfection.

This event attracted about 99 participants (68 women, 31 men) who were in attendance and the Deputy Minister for Health, Hon Kompoti launched the ENGAGE-TB National Operational Guidelines document. The primary purpose of this document is to provide operational guidance to CSOs



Figure 8: The Deputy Minister of Health Hon. Liteboho Kompoti launched guidelines which dictate different methods of engagement between Civil Society Organisations and the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho

and National TB Programme (NTP) of the Ministry of Health in the implementation and scale up of community based TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care activities using the ENGAGE-TB approach recommended by WHO. The national operational guidance also describes the basic operational principles for effective collaboration between the NTP and CSOs in the implementation of community based TB activities.

The operational principles in this guidance are aligned with the Stop TB Strategy and are complementary to existing guidelines to engage all health care providers including NGOs in TB prevention and care as part of this document is to provide operational guidance to CSOs

and NTP in the implementation and scale up of community based TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care activities using the ENGAGE-TB approach. The operational guidance also describes the basic operational principles for effective collaboration between the NTP and CSOs in the implementation of community based TB activities. The operational principles in this guidance are aligned with the Stop TB Strategy and are complementary to exist<sup>14</sup>

This guidance also emphasizes that CSOs providing facility-based TB services like hospitals, health centers or clinics integrate community based TB activities in line with the ENGAGE-TB approach.

## 5.6 Petition to the Rt Hon The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho

Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations noted with deep concern caused by the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) eligibility for Lesotho as raised by the government of United States of America.

In this regard, LCN convened an Alliance of Non-State Actors with the aim of petitioning the prime minister in order for him to promote rule of law and accountability in the government sphere so that Lesotho does not lose employment opportunities offered AGOA;

LCN served as Secretariat of Alliance of Non-State Actors that managed to mobilise the public and members of the non-state actors to effectively participate in the procession which delivered the petition.

The petition was received by members of the Cabinet of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Minister in the Prime Minister's Office. Following, there were responses, from the Prime Minister's Office, on the petition were received even though they were not convincing and this has caused continuous engagement with government through the Minister of Trade and Industry on actions which enhance the restoration of Lesotho's eligibility.



Figure 9: A delegation from the office of the Prime Minister received the petition from civil society the delegation comprised of Minister of Police and Public Safety Hon. Monyane Moleleki, the Minister of Trade and Industry Hon. Joshua Setipa and the Minister in the office of the Prime Minister Hon. Kimetso Mathaba

## 5.7 Striking the Balance between Crime Prevention and Human Rights

The role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in promoting and protection of human rights is very immense. They provide research, advocacy and public education that simplifies the complex issues of human rights to the ordinary person. CSOs further provide the first contact at the local and district Level for information to the public. On the other hand, the public needs to be well informed about the processes and procedures to blow the whistle and how to handle themselves during the period of making complaint to investigations and the final outcome. This kind of information is not well known by the public in Lesotho.

As a result, Lesotho Council of NGOs together with its members conducted a public forum with the quest to demand accountability from duty bearers on human rights violations by the army at Lebakeng, Qacha's Nek. This activity was implemented in partnership with Development for Peace Education and Justice and Peace. It was caused by the death of one resident that occurred at a Lesotho Defence Force base in Lebakeng in the hands of army. It is in this regard that LCN, working together with Development for Peace Education and Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace organised a dialogue session with the objective of sharing its findings and facilitating discussions with responsible ministries and people from affected communities.



Figure 10: The TB Charter was distributed across all public and private health centres in Lesotho

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Principal Secretary of the ministry of police and public safety, on behalf of the Minister. The Minister of Defence, the Commander of Defence and the Commissioner of Police were also invited but did not attend the meeting. Other participants were the family of the deceased, the chief of the village where the case happened, Mahokela, civil society organisations, political parties and the media. The dialogue was attended by 76 participants (46 women and 30 men). The participants condemned army actions and were also worried that the army carried out opera-

tions without police presence and said that given the former situation of theft and murder and the resulting lack of trust among community members, this can lead to commission of unlawful acts.

### 5.8 Articulating a Human Rights Approach to HIV/TB Confection

In order to control the high incidence and mortality rate of TB around the globe, WHO in 2006 drafted the Stop TB Strategy which aimed to achieve the targets set by the MDGs. The core objectives of the WHO Stop Strategy emphasize in achieving the patient-centred approach to TB treatment and

easy access to high quality TB treatment on equality basis. The patient-centred approach empowers the patients to contribute actively as an informed partner in decisions and activities related to TB diagnosis and management. The five principals of the patient-centred approach are;

- recognize patient rights, enable partnership,
- empower and activate patients and communities,
- engage all stakeholders, and monitor and document.

Empowerment of the patients and community is also in line with the International Standards for Tuberculosis Care (ISTC) which aims to protect the human rights of the patients to ensure the equality-based delivery of TB care services to everyone. The Stop TB strategy also encloses the key concept that high quality TB care and treatment could be achieved by the joint efforts of the National TB Program (NTP) staff, TB patients (both cured and suffering) and the community.

LCN met with the Ministry of Health ways which Lesotho can adopt a patient centred approach in dispensation of health services. During, then it was recognised that a TB Patient Charter was agreed as the best method of intervention. Hence, LCN designed a Sesotho TB Patient Charter which should be circulated to all health facilities across the country. The Patients' Charter for Tuberculosis Care (The Charter) outlines the rights and responsibilities of people with tuberculosis. It empowers people with the disease and their communities through this knowledge. Initiated and developed by patients from around the world, The Charter

Table 2 Total number of TB Patient Charters

District	Total # of Facilities	Total to be distributed
Distribution to health facilities		
Maseru	83	83
Berea	33	33
Leribe	43	43
Butha Buthe	37	37
Mokhotlong	24	24
Thaba Tseka	29	29
Qacha's Nek	22	22
Quthing	20	20
Mohale's Hoek	28	28
Mafeteng	32	32
Total distributed	353	353
Distribution to LCN, MOH and other partners		
Maseru	7	7
GRAND TOTAL	360	360

makes the relationship with health care providers a mutually beneficial one.

LCN in partnership with the Ministry of Health, delivered 360 TB Patient charters across health centres in Lesotho in Lesotho.

## 5.9 CSO Budget Speech Analysis

Civil Society budget initiatives are advocacy strategies that seek to highlight the limitations of public budgets with regard to key sectors or issues in society. Budget activities by Lesotho civil society seek to accomplish this typically by jointly emphasizing the failure of the budget to serve the interests of specific groups such as women, children, people with disabilities and the poor or cross-sectoral issues such as environmental conservation and then by proposing an recommendations that addresses the needs of specific groups or issues

It is in this regard that LCN convened a CSO Budget Speech Analysis Seminar to jointly develop an advocacy strategy for civil society. The strategy and key points of discussion were developed through rigorous discussion of different sectorial issues which concern different civil society actors.

An Advocacy Strategy was developed and campaigns were conducted on different radios indicating the position of civil society on the budget speech. The issues raised were highly welcomed by the listenership of different radio stations. In addition, CSO Position was presented to the Portfolio committee on the Economic and Development Cluster of which some of the recommendation were recorded in the committee's report and an NGO Web Publication was dedicated to the budget speech with views from different civil society representa-

tives on the budget and the CSO Position well-articulated.

Civil society space to voice its concerns in the budgetary process is often limited. LCN learnt that there is a need to utilise the media and other supportive organisations both domestic and international, to apply pressure on governments to open a space for CSOs to actively participate formally in the budgetary process.

## 5.10 Public Forums Advocating for Promotion of Women's Rights

During the reporting period, LCN conducted public forums advocating for promotion of women's rights. The public forums were conducted at Matelile (Mafeteng), Ha Mokoarane Mafeteng, Ha Poqa Mohale's Hoek, Daliwe Quthing, Thaba Tseka, Mokhotlong. The aim of women's forum is to highlight the plight of human rights violations in Lesotho over the bodies of women and children. The main priority was to disseminate on laws that greatly impact the lives of Basotho women and children. These being: The Sexual Offences, Act, Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act, Land Act and Inheritance laws in Lesotho. The basis of these forums begins by highlighting that females have always been victims of all forms of violence which have for a long time been couched as tenets of Basotho custom. Indeed cultural practices have played a major role in what today can be regarded as part and parcel of the Basotho identity. Notwithstanding the



Figure 11: There is a need to strengthen civic leadership amongst the youth in Lesotho

above, the illegality of the harm inflicted in the persons of both women and children still stands. It is in light of the constant violation of women and children's rights that the Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (LCN) has taken it upon itself to host Women's Forums on Human Rights in respective. LCN implemented these activities through Federation of Women Lawyers and a total of 261 participants (180 women and 81 men) formed part of the discussion on Women's Rights.

### 5.11 Public Forums Advocating for Rights of the Youth

Capacitating youth on human rights means that young people take part in making decisions about what and how they are going to learn about rights. Through

participation young people develop various competencies including those of decision making, listening, empathy with respect for others, and taking responsibility for their own decisions and actions. The dialogue's chief purpose was to capacitate youth, provide them with information and guidance about how young people can get involved in issues that concern them and to "take action". It is recognized that the use and respect of human rights enables not just youth but all groups to meaningfully contribute and participate in the development of their societies. Within this assumption, Lesotho as a country should endorse human rights education, which in itself recognizes the equal status of all groups in individual societies.

The exclusion of youth in decision making denies youth the opportunity to share in the economy of the country to which they are citizens and make better lives for themselves. Failure in exposing learners to human rights education especially in the yearly years of their education does not only result in learning breakdown and exclusion but it also discourages equal opportunities to effective learning by all learners. If Lesotho is to promote human rights of all its citizens, it is imperative that it pays attention to minority groups in the country. Given this background, Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (LCN) with the assistance of Lesotho Young Christian Students (LYCS) felt the need to undertake a project aimed at advocating for the inclusion of these groups. A total of 171 students took part in the forums convened at Masitise High School, Moyeni High School, Eagles Peak High School and Mohale's Hoek High School.

LCN learnt that there is need to develop a programme specifically for youth on issues of human rights, constitutionalism, civic leadership and eradication of polarisation with political youth structures. This is based on deliberations during the dialogue which indicated a strong knowledge gap among the youth.



Figure 12: People with disabilities were also given skills on holding the government accountable

## 5.12 Public Forum on Advocating for Accountability of the Rights of People With Disabilities

According to the intervention logic applied by LCN, accountability is defined as a process which requires duty-bearers to show, explain and justify how they have discharged their obligations. There are several types of accountability mechanisms, ranging from judicial mechanisms (e.g. obliging the government to review discriminatory laws) and administrative mechanisms (e.g. complaint mechanisms enabling persons with disabilities to file grievances) to social mechanisms (e.g. involvement of civil society in budget monitoring)

During the reporting period, LCN fostered accountability both by enhancing the capacity of persons with disabilities to hold their

governments accountable, and by strengthening or establishing disability-inclusive accountability mechanisms. Monitoring is a crucial part of accountability enabling the measuring and checking of whether governments or development programmes are complying with human rights obligations and determining the impact of activities on persons with disabilities.

Our approach, looked at improving public participation in order to enhance accountability. This means that we focused on development of the capacity of all persons with disabilities to use mechanisms, participate in political processes, communicate on an equal basis with governments and other stakeholders in society, and network with other groups.

LCN achieved this goal through public gatherings which were held Mafeteng (Metsi-maholo),

Mohale's Hoek Urban, Thabang Moreneng, Mokholong, Manteko Qacha's Nek in collaboration with Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD). A total of 639 participants (448 women and 190 men) took part in the forums. LCN together with LNFOD introduced a tool which is designed to gather information on individuals who are out of school. The tool was then given to the participants as a take-home to the chairperson of the branch to register the names of the out of school disabled members so that with the help of the Council.



## 7. Governance and Development

This section aims at reflecting broadly on the functions of the Council geared towards contributing to the vibrant civil society movement in the country and also in contributing towards programmes aimed at improving leadership and management of the Council. The following are key activities that were carried out during this period:-

- Resource Mobilisation and Funding Initiatives
- Commissions Meetings
- Networking

### 7.1 Resource Mobilisation and Funding Initiatives

Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN) depends on funding sourced from different development partners. During this period there have been initiatives geared towards mobilising resources from different funding institutions and foundations. Table 1, depicts some of the proposals developed including targeted development partners both in Lesotho and outside.

In addition to the initiatives mentioned in Table 1, LCN is still discussing partnership deals with AIDSFREE of EGPAF, Lesotho Boston Health Alliance and AIDS Healthcare Foundation. These initiatives are meant to provide support to the Council's health and social development programme.

Project	Donor	Month Submitted	Amount	Comment
BUZZ Bees and Trees for Sustainable Income and Environment	Australian Volunteers International.	June 2015	AUD\$ 8,111.05	Project was successful. MoU was signed in Oct 2015 and the project ended in July 2016.
Road Safety Education Programme	Amend International	September 2015	US\$ 6,500.00	Project was successful. MoU was signed in October 2015
Civil society Engagement Towards Fostering Rule of Law and Accountability	EU	October 2015	332,854.38 EUR	Project was successful. The Project was successful, MoU signed in December 2015
YALI Civic Leadership Programme	United States Embassy Maseru	October 2015	US\$ 5,000.00	Project was successful. MoU was signed in December 2015.
Voter Education for Local Government Elections	IEC	June 2016	M5,846,009.20	Negotiations underway.
Electoral Education for Local Government Elections	OSISA	January 2016	US\$151,554	The Project was successful.
Towards Development of an Extractive Industries Models which Empowers Host Communities	OSISA	March 2016	US\$55,000.00	The feedback has not been received.

Civil Society Engagement Towards Ending Gender Based Discrimination in Lesotho	OSISA	March 2016	US\$ 59,000.00	The feedback has not been received.
Disaster Relief for Support Groups Working on HIV and AIDS in Berea, Leribe, Mafeteng, Mophale's Hoek and Thaba Tseka.	World Bank	March 2016	M1,488,414.18	The project was successful
Enhancing Citizen's Participation for Responsive Participatory Planning in Maseru City Council	Maseru City Council	June 2016	M60,220.00	The project was successful
Promoting Women Engagement in Demanding Accountability on Women's Rights in Lesotho.	Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives	December 2015	R290,240.00	The feedback has not been received.
Develop performance score cards and build capacity of CSOs to implement using training module on client satisfaction service	PACT Lesotho	September 2016	M305,000.00	The feedback has not been received.
Develop and implement a community systems strengthening strategy/plan.	PACT Lesotho	September 2016	M178,133.00	The feedback has not been received.
Implementing Sustainability Commons project in Lesotho	WESSA	September 2016	M31,000.00	The feedback has not been received.

## 7.2 Commissions' Work

During this reporting period, there have been Commissions meetings discussing various issues. The Commissions are meant to be platforms for relevant civil society organisations to share, discuss and make necessary pronouncements. Below are six Commissions of the Council:-

- Democracy and Human Rights Commission
- Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resource Commission
- Health and Social Development Commission
- Economic Justice Commission
- Women and Children Commission
- Disaster and Humanitarian Relief Commission

### 7.2.1 Democracy and Human Rights Commission

Democracy and Human Commission held a meeting in the first quarter of 2015/16 year. During the meeting a lot of issues were discussed which included among others; challenges in internal security, excessive levels of polarisation, impunity, extra-judicial killings and exiled leaders of the opposition. It was during then when a sub-committee comprising of Transformation Resource Centre, Development for Peace Education and Patriotic Vision in

Action (chair) was elected to investigate and take action and report to members on progress made. These CSOs were to be supported by the secretariat in execution of the task. The sub-committee, investigated the issues and formed alliance with other non-state actors to produce a comprehensive civil society advocacy campaign. These were followed by several press statement being issued and subsequent radio shows.

However, various extra-ordinary meetings to share feedback and progress on sub-committee activities. Further Commission Meetings have been held where Commission members have shared some of the activities they are undertaking and request for collaboration and partnerships from other members, notably DPE and TRC litigation on the Human Rights Commission Bill of 2016.

### 7.2.2 Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resource Commission

The Commission held many meetings at which issues related to the Commission and the sector were discussed. Some of the issues include the National Drought Plan, signing of COP21 agreement, Revision of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Preparation of Fifth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity among others. During the Commission members shared best practices in the areas of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources. Specifically, Commission mem-

bers undertook a study visit to Bethel Business and Community Development Centre. The aim of tour was to witness best practices in renewable energy, permaculture, water management, construction and integrated thinking towards water, energy, food and solar energy.

Furthermore, the Commission also nominated some of its members for the Women in Climate Change Awards which were convened by Ministry of Energy and Meteorology. Organisations such as Technologies for Economic Development, Rural Self Help Development Association, Matelile Tajane Community Development Trust were among others whom received awards on based on their interventions in leadership, technology, mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Joint activities such as the National Tree Planting Day were undertaken by members. In addition, solidarity of Commission members was visible during the Water Day Commemorations convened by Transformation Resource Centre. Lastly, the Commission Coordinator represented interests of civil society in the National Climate Change Committee.

### 7.2.3 Health and Social Development Commission

The Commission held a number of meetings and debated vari-

ous issues related to the sector. The Commission also hosts the Health Advocacy Forum as a way of reinforcing the Commission's advocacy efforts on health specific issues. The Commission is in the process of collaborating with AIDS Health Foundation, EGPAF and Lesotho Boston Health Alliance (LEBOHA) on matters relating technical assistance on Advocacy and Networking. However, during this reporting period members of the Commission have shared platforms and national committees which represent the interests of civil society. The following members indicated the position; All Teachers Association – Teaching Council; LNFOD – Technical working committee on gender and HIV; Blue Cross – Southern Africa Alcohol Policy Alliance, Lesotho chapter; FIDA – (UN Technical team, National gender and technical team with Ministry of gender, Human right commission with Ministry of Justice); LENASO – Technical committee on ART, PMTCT and Community with Ministry of Health. The basis for this was based on the fact that it will facilitate coordination and provide an opportunity for all members to share and contribute in the national issues related to the commission.

Secondly, the Commission analysed the Coalition Government Agreement in lines with its thematic focus. The discussions indicated the need for engagement with government on; C1: Reducing poverty and addressing the plight of villagers; C8: Education; C9: Health; C11: Vulnerable Groups. Furthermore,

the Commission agreed on joint advocacy for adoption of the Disability Bill which was tabled in parliament. Lastly, the Commission represented interests of CSOs in the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanisms and other fora where the Commission Coordinator represented LCN.

#### **7.2.4 Economic Justice Commission**

The Commission held a number of meetings during this reporting period and some of the issues discussed include; the 2016/17 Budget Speech, Advocacy activities were undertaken with regard to the vulnerability of AGOA to internal security dynamics. These activities led to formation of alliances with other non-state actors for jointly statements and ultimate a procession to deliver a petition to the Prime Minister. The Commission developed and presented CSO position papers on matters relating to tariff hikes for electricity and water to Lesotho Water and Electricity Authority. The Commission members attended the 2016 SADC People's Summit in Swaziland where they got to interact with other Economic Justice Networks across the region.

#### **7.2.5 Women and Children Commission**

The Commission held a number of meetings during this period. The Commission meetings debated issues related to child neglect. The Commission mem-

bers jointly held campaigns on to commemorate 16 Days of Activism Against Domestic Violence and also convened a National Women's Forum to commemorate International World Women's Day.

Furthermore, the Commission developed a position on children abuse which was initiated by children who were burnt in the Northern Districts of Lesotho. The Commission issued a statement and jointly conducted advocacy campaigns on radios and TV on the matter.

#### **7.2.6 Disaster and Humanitarian Relief Commission**

Due to the prolonged drought situation in Southern Africa, Disaster and Humanitarian Relief Commission in conjunction with the Health and Social Development Commission and Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Commission developed a drought response strategy. The strategy involved dissemination of agricultural inputs (seeds, rakes, spades, hose pipes etc.) to HIV and AIDs Support groups to enhance capacity to provide support to orphans and people highly affected by HIV and AIDS. The intervention saw members of the Council and support groups being beneficiaries of such inputs. It should be noted that this Commission unlike the others continue lags behind in terms of holding the meetings and this is due to lack of interest by members to show willingness to take part.

## 7.3 Networking

The objective is to link with and participate in the local, regional, continental and international networks in order to share best practices and experiences in the region on issues of development, fundraising, civil society organisations, and poverty reduction monitoring programmes. In this reporting period, there have been many events in which the Council was invited to take part. The table below depicts some of the invitations.

Table: 4: Activities and Events which LCN represented civil society during the reporting period.

Institution	Issue of Discussions	Date of event
Ministry of Development Planning	Mission on African Development Bank Country Strategy Paper (2013-2017) Assessment and Country Portfolio Performance Review	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
Lesotho Country Coordinating Mechanism	Orientation meeting to LCCM members and Alternate members	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2015
Ministry of Trade and Industry- Department of Standards and Quality Assurance	National standardization conference	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2015
Advison Lesotho	NGO workshop on the use of Afrobarometer Surveys Results	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2015
Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sport and Recreation	Meeting on compilation of CEDAW Report	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2015
Lesotho Institute of Accounts	The 7 <sup>th</sup> LIA Annual Conference on Leadership	21 <sup>st</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2015
Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Business Briefing on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Lesotho	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
Anglican Church of Southern Africa Diocese of Lesotho	An Executive Leadership Training workshop	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2015
National University of Lesotho	NUL 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Main Celebration	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
United Nations	United nations' 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2015
Lesotho Preschool & Day Care Association	LPDCA 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2015
Independent Electoral Commission	International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) – Strategic Electoral Reform Training	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sport and Recreation	A launch of youth entrepreneurs' television programme titled 'Serumula Sa Bacha (Youth Torch)'	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
The World Bank	Southern Africa Tuberculosis and Health Systems Support Project (P155658) Pre-appraisal Mission- A technical mission report and a wrap up meeting with all participating countries	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Ministry of Development Planning	The African Union Commission Mission on Domestication of Agenda 2063	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Lesotho Smart Partnership Hub	Follow-up meeting on finalizing issues in regard to the intended National Dialogue	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2015
World Vision	World Vision Lesotho Strategy launch	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2015

Environmental Justice and Advocacy Centre	Deliver closing remarks at a Mejametalana Stream and Valley Environmental Rehabilitation Project workshop	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace	Consultative meeting on Land grabbing	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Serumula Development Association	National Level Stakeholders' Engagement meeting under USAID –funded project titled 'A Water Secure Future for Southern Africa – Applying Ecosystem Approach in Orange Senqu	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology	Lesotho Research and Development and Innovation Stakeholders' workshop	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
United Nations Development Programme	Training on Fiscal Decentralization and Local Finance	16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations	Technical Consultative Mission to the Kingdom of Lesotho by the SADC Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Request to be a member of the National Steering Committee for the Project titled 'Strengthening National Agriculture and Research and Extension System of Lesotho (TCP/LES/3503). Inaugural meeting	18 <sup>th</sup> November
Habitat for Humanity	World Habitat Day celebration. Reach and sensitise communities and the public at large about the diverse needs of vulnerable group households and children in Lesotho	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance	Directors meeting to discuss organisations' membership in SAAPA- Lesotho Chapter and the registration of the Alliance	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Ministry of Social Development	Annual Review of the Enhancing Social Protection for Orphans and Vulnerable Children	24 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Director on Corruption and Economic Offences	LCN to present a paper at the Anti-Corruption Symposium	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
Ministry of Development Planning	Launch of UNCTAD's Least Developed Countries Report 2015-Transforming Rural Economies	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Transformation Resource Centre	Validation workshop for TRC Programme Phase, 2012-14 Evaluation report	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Ministry of Social Development	Commemoration of the International Day of the Disabled	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2015
Department of Water Affairs	Inception Workshop and Stakeholder Consultation on Integrated catchment Management	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled	Stakeholder meeting on Draft Disability Bill	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
Lesotho National Farmers Union	2015 Annual Policy Conference and Annual General Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
Ministry of Social Development	The Disability Equity Bill Validation Workshop	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
DREAMS	2016 DREAMS Regional Meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	19 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2016
Lesotho Association of Teachers	LAT Biennial Conference with the theme 'Teachers Role to Achieve Equitable Sustainable Development'	7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> January 2016

Prime Minister's Office (DMA)	Finalisation of 2015/2016 Draught Appeal Document	7 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
Ministry of Law and Constitutional Affairs	Training Workshop for stakeholders on Human Rights Treaty Reporting	20 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2016
Ministry of Finance (GFCU)	Risk Management workshop	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
LNFOOD	Lecture on the Rights to Access Justice by people with Disabilities for the for the Lesotho Justice Centre	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations	The 2016 Regular Session of the Committee on NGOs	25 <sup>th</sup> January to 3 <sup>rd</sup> February & 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Disaster Management Authority	Meeting of the Board of Directors of the DMA	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation	Invitation to become a Project Steering Committee member	
Parliament of the Kingdom of Lesotho SENATE	Attend interview session of Inter-Parliament Union (IPU) Consultant	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation	Dialogue on Gender and Water	10 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
The Royal Palace Secretariat	Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Education Development Trust	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
Disaster Management Authority	Meeting for organisations/sectors to present situation reports regarding water availability and access	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
United Nations Development	Validation workshop on Lesotho National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2015	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2016
Lesotho Law Reform Commission	Validation workshop on Domestic violence Research Project	4 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Transformation Resource Centre	Commemoration of World Water Day	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2016
Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA)	Public hearing on water and sewage company's application for Tariffs adjustment for the year 2016/17	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Ministry of Development	Consultative meeting on the development of skills	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation	Women's Political Dialogue	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Ministry of Education and Training	Request for the Ministry's support towards Road Safety Project	
Ministry of Development Planning	Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) report 2015 validation workshop	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	FAO Strategic Policy Mission on linking agriculture and social protection	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016
Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)	Review of Electoral Education material	22 <sup>nd</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Transformation Resource Centre (TRC)	Meeting of WASH Stakeholders	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Justice and Peace	Seminar on SADC Commission of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mahao report	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2016
Disaster Management Authority (DMA)	Drought Energy Response Coordination Meeting	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2016

Central Bank of Lesotho	Integration of Financial Education into schools curricula	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2016
LNFOOD	Dissemination workshop on Lesotho Early Grade Reading Assessment for the Visually impaired Persons	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2016
Ministry of Development Planning	Introduction and Validation Meeting for the Lesotho Data for Sustainable Development Project	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016
National Assembly	Presentation of Ministerial Plans and Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2016/17	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Disaster Management Authority (DMA)	Training Group Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2016
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations	United Nations Alliance of Civilisation (UNAOC) 7 <sup>th</sup> Global Forum	25 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
WASCO	WASCO National Stakeholder Conference	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA)	Public consultation session on LEC application for adjustment for the year 2016/17	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
Council on Higher Education (CHE)	CHE 2 <sup>nd</sup> Biennial conference	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016
Sechaba Consultants	KAO EIA Project Inception workshop for stakeholders	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
Actionaid Lesotho	Commemoration of Women's Day Dialogue	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016
Maseru Women Senior Citizens	Annual General Meeting	22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2016
Central Bank of Lesotho	Inaugural Project Management Conference	17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 May 2016
United Nations Development Program	Local Project Approval Committee meeting	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland (UBLS)	Social workshop on Social Discourse in Lesotho	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
Matrix Support Group	Human Rights Panel Discussion on sexual orientation, Gender identity and Gender Expressions	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2016
Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sports	5 <sup>th</sup> CEDAW Report Consultations	11 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture	Improvement of Business Environment by Streamlining Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Procedures	11 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
World Bank Group	Lesotho: PPP Support and Health Mission	12 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2016
United Nations Development Program	Consensus Building on GEF Small Grants Program OP 6 Priority Landscape	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Matrix Support Group	International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT)	21 <sup>st</sup> May 2016
National AIDS Commission (NAC)	Consultations on the National Coordination Framework for the National Multi sectoral HIV & AIDS Response in Lesotho	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Disaster Management Authority (DMA)	Vulnerability Assessment 2016/17 Preliminary Findings	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Transformation Resource Centre (TRC)	TRC Annual General Meeting	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
LENEPWHA	Routine Viral head Testing workshop	30 <sup>th</sup> May to 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2016

Disaster Management Authority (DMA)	Directors' meeting on the launch of the Early Warning System in Lesotho	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Ministry of Health	Meeting on Dissemination of the 2014 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey Report	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
NUL-Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work-Faculty of Social Sciences	Workshop to discuss Draft Revised Bachelor of Social Work Programme	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
UNAIDS	Validation meeting on Lesotho Gender Assessment of the HIV & TB National Response	31 <sup>st</sup> May to 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2016
Lesotho Country Coordinating Mechanism (LCCM)	LCCM Oversight visit	7 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Dissemination of Early Grade Reading Assessment (EHRA)	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2016
Ministry of Trade and Industry	Analysis of the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement: Harnessing Opportunities for Market Access & Trade Facilitation by the SADC EPA States in the European Union Market	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Ministry of Development Planning	Stakeholders meeting for the 2013-2015 Review of the Lesotho United Nations Development Assistance Plan	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations	Impact Evaluation of SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC)	27 <sup>th</sup> May to 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Women In Law in Southern Africa (WLSA)	Consultation on the Post 2015 SADC Gender Protocol	13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Wool and Mohair Promotion Project Launch	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Lesotho Young Christian Students (LYCS)	Request to deliver Solidarity message at LYCS National Annual Conference	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016
Ministry of Justice and Correctional Service	Seminar by Advocate Thuli Madonsela (Public Protector) Theme: Deepening the Roots of Democracy	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2016
Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sports	Gender Based Violence (GBV) stakeholders meeting	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sports	5 <sup>th</sup> CEDAW Report meeting	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2016
United Nations (UN)	Regional UN Development Group Mission to Lesotho: Roundtable on Strengthening Health Systems to deliver on the SDGs	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Government of Lesotho (GoL) and United Nations (UN)	GoL and UN High Level Roundtable: Participation in the Thematic Working group for session on Government Reforms Agenda	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2016
Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation	Strengthening Capacity for Climate Change adaption through support to Integrated watershed Management Project Steering Committee meeting	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
United Nations (UN)	Regional UN Development Group Mission to Lesotho: Roundtable discussion on Environment and Climate Change	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2016

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations	Fourteenth (14 <sup>th</sup> ) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 14 <sup>th</sup> )	16 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2016
Ministry of Health	Dissemination of the 2014 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey Report	
Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sports	Workshop on Development of National Data Collection Tool	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture	Workshop on best available techniques and best environmental practices to reduce emission of uPOPs	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Ministry of Social Development	National Orphans and Vulnerable Children Coordinating Committee (NOCC) meeting	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights and United Nations	Government of Lesotho and UN High-Level Roundtable: Thematic Session on "Socio-Economic Outlook" and "Governance Reforms"	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
UNDP, Government of Lesotho and GEF	Technical advisory committee meeting of the GoL-UNDP-GEF Project: Reducing Vulnerability from Climate Change in the Foothills, Lowlands and Lower Senqu River Basin	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Ministry of Home Affairs	Meeting in preparation for the 50 <sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Ministry of Social Development	Civil Society Organisations SWOT Analysis meeting	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Ministry of Social Development	Civil Society Organisations Capacity Building workshop	26 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Ministry of Trade and Industry	Business Licensing and Registration Bill 2016	
World Vision Lesotho	Presentation on Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration model (FMNR)	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Ministry of Development Planning	Sectoral dialogues on the implementation of the NSDP 2012/13-2016/17 and validation of the National Strategic Development Plan 2014/15 progress report workshop	19 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2016
The SILO	Unlocking the farmers bottlenecks	20 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2016
Ministry of Social Development	Stakeholders Consultation meeting for updating the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC)	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority	Approved: LEC's and WASCO's tariffs for 2016/17	
Lesotho National Farmers Union	Stakeholders consultation workshop: Range and Water Resources Management Policy Study and Analysis	4 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sports	Gender Technical Team meeting	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Ministry of Energy and Meteorology	The launch of Climate Change Response Strategy Project	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2016
'Mamantšo E02 Community Council	Meeting on the Working Committee of 'Mamantšo Community Council	16 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
United Nations Development Program	UNDP Country Program Evaluation Advisory Committee meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2016
Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association	LNWMGA Annual General Meeting	23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> August 2016

Lesotho Girl Guides Association	LGGA 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Lesotho Highlands Development Authority	Meeting to engage on Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II Livelihood Restoration Programme	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office (FNCO)	Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Joint Annual Report validation workshop	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
Justice and Peace	CCJP UNISA Stakeholders workshop	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and the Correctional Service	Justice for Children Consensus Building workshop	15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
DCEO	Invitation to NACSAP Sectoral meeting exclusive for the civil society	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2016
United Nations	Meeting with Nesta-Foundation- Social Change and Innovations	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
United Nations Development Program	Stakeholder Consultation for the Mid-Term Evaluation of the UNDP Country Program	22 <sup>nd</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> August 2016
Central Bank of Lesotho	Establishment of NPNV Lesotho Chapter on Financial inclusion for women	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2016
Ministry of Energy and Meteorology	Honoring and inspiring women in Lesotho	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2016
Transformation Resource Centre	50 years independence Jubilee Forum	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
Prime Minister's Office	Official kick-off of the Cost of Hunger in Africa-Lesotho study	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2016
DCEO	National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan (NAC-SAP) Sectoral meeting Exclusive for the Civil Society	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2016
LNFOOD	LNFOOD Women's month celebration	26 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
National AIDS Commission	International AIDS Conference 2016 Youth Reporting back session	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
Ministry of Finance (International Monetary Fund)	Views on economic developments (economic youth, Inequality, fiscal developments)	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
National University of Lesotho	Understanding Political Instability in Lesotho 1966-2016	6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Independent Electoral Commission	Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for Electoral Stakeholders workshop-ToT	19 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Lesotho Meteorological Services	National Climate Outlook Forum for Dissemination of 2016/17 seasonal rainfall prediction	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture	The First stakeholder workshop for the Revision of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Preparation of Fifth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity	14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> September 2106
Transformation Resource Centre	Breakfast Seminar titled: Placating Metolong Dam Committees to Implement Labour Brokering	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
United Nations Development Program	Project Steering Committee meeting of the UNDP/GoL Program on Reform of Governance, Rights and Empowerment for sustained stability (PROGRESS)	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
National AIDS Commission	HIV and AIDS National Forum	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2016

Transformation Resource Centre	TRC Friends meeting and Forum Debates. Topic: Current Trends in Lesotho's Foreign Policy Choices- A Political Economic Perspective	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
LNFOOD	Joint celebration of Women's month	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Ministry of Development Planning	SDG Foresight workshop	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Lesotho Association of Teachers	World Teachers Day Celebration	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
PS-Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation	Technical Advisory Committee sitting of the GoL-UNDP-GEF Project: Reducing Vulnerability from Climate Change in the Foothills, Lowlands and Lower Senqu River Basin	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2016
Lesotho Teachers Trade Union	World Teachers Day Celebration	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture	Lecture on Cultural Diversity in Lesotho	27 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Ministry of Labour and Employment	Lesotho Labour Policy Validation workshop	28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Ministry of Health	Workshop on protocol development for TB prevalence survey	10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Central Bank of Lesotho	Lesotho Money Week Campaign "Take Part – Save Smart"	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Food and Agriculture Organisation	Country Gender Assessment of the Agriculture and Rural Sector (CGA-ARS) validation workshop	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2016

When reflecting on the table above, it is clear there is a lot of opportunity for networking by civil society organisations of which there is a clear challenge of how effective the sector should be influencing positive change. In addition to this LCN is serving in various structures which require them to participate and some of them include Lesotho Country Coordinating Mechanism, Steering Committee, CAADP and SADC local committees, just to mention a few.

LCN President led CSO delegation on several occasions to meet with SADC Facilitator where the position of CSOs was advanced towards resolution of Lesotho tension and conflict. The meetings were also able to strengthen relations with other regional bodies as evidenced by many diplomatic missions that seek LCN opinion on national issues. In addition, the Executive Director represented LCN regional and international fora where Lesotho CSOs are requested to present the position of Lesotho.

## 8. Leadership and Management Support

During this period, the Lesotho Council of NGOs held an AGM in December 2015 as per Constitutional requirement. This was preceded by a plethora of Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings where both structures made policy decisions as per their mandate. Some of the decisions include the decision to approve reports

and budgets, statement of affairs, approval of the auditing just to mention a few. In addition, both Board of Directors and Executive Committee members held LCN legal meeting during the year where both structures made decisions and policy directives for the organisation. One of the major tasks had been to direct the Secretariat towards

implementation of Annual General Meeting resolutions.

There has been a series of management meetings and staff meetings to discuss programmatic issues meant to provide quality assurance and logic to all LCN activities. This helped in focusing the efforts of the Council towards programme approach.

Some of the management issues dealt with during this year included the recruitment of new programmes and projects staff, staff meetings, decision concerning management of grants.

The experiences gained by the staff during the trainings which they attended which were convened members, other stakeholders and partners bridged some knowledge deficits on trends and best practices on issues relating to the Council. In addition, training of trainer enhanced the capacity of staff members on many thematic areas which concern civil society.

Below is the staff complement for this reporting year:-

- Executive Director
- Programmes Director
- Finance and Administration Manager
- Economic Justice Coordinator

- Women and Children Coordinator
- Information and Communications Officer
- Accountant
- Information Technology Administrator
- Finance Officer
- Administration Officer
- Driver
- Office Assistant

This year has been a challenging year for the Council due to competing demands while at the same time there has been limited resource base. Looking forward means the Council has to deepen the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the period 2014-2019. With the leadership of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and Management, the organisation will grow and build on the existing credibility and legitimacy it has acquired in the past 26 years of its existence. The foundation of success rests on the

shoulders of strong membership that is organised with all LCN Commissions.

As alluded to in the beginning of the report, the impact of LCN's programmes cannot be easily measured in a yearly report since it is on-going. Looking to the bigger picture, there has been serious capacity building taking place in the communities where the LCN projects have been operating. The level of advocacy that is happening at the community levels has increased tremendously. A level of informed dialogue within the community is sure to create space for public participation in the development discourse.

The Council continues to play an integral role in the political quagmire the country is currently facing and can only plead to all to engage putting interests and aspirations of the country first.

## 9. Conclusion

This year has been a challenging year for the Council due to competing demands while at the same time there has been limited resource base. Looking forward means the Council has to deepen the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the period 2014-2019. With the leadership of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and Management, the organisation will grow and build on the existing credibility and legitimacy it has acquired in the past 26 years of its existence. The foundation of success rests on the shoulders of strong membership that is organised with all LCN Commissions.

As alluded to in the beginning of the report, the impact of LCN's programmes cannot be easily measured in a yearly report since it is on-going. Looking to the bigger picture, there has been serious capacity building taking place in the communities where the LCN projects have been operating. The level of advocacy that is happening at the community levels has increased tremendously. A level of informed dialogue within the community is sure to create space for public participation in the development discourse.