



Annual Report



Supported by EU

2018/19



Lesotho Council of NGOs

2018/19 Report



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Annual reports in their nature are a mirror in which an organisation gauges how it is faring in terms of executing its plans for the year as stipulated in its strategic plan. It is through such reports that an organisation can reflect and ponder as to whether it is planning by results or planning for the results where the former means an organisation much as it can be achieving notable milestones but such achievements are per chance as they were in the first place not planned for, whereas the latter is that an organisation achieves milestones because it has planned for such.

This annual report reflects on the activities undertaken by Lesotho Council of NGO's (LCN) during the period October 2018- September 2019. It is meant to inform LCN structures about the progress made during this period with the purpose of improving the Board of Directors' accountability to the general membership in the form of Annual General Meeting (AGM). It is further used as a basis for AGM resolutions for the Council.

Given this background, members should also be mindful of the relative existing development partners' commitments and the LCN Strategic Plan 2014-2019. Subsequently, this Report will highlight on activities undertaken based on the three (3) LCN Strategic Frameworks, namely: Capacity Building, Research and Public Policy Advocacy, and Governance and Organisational Development.

The highlight of this report is LCN work on the Lesotho Reforms Agenda. The Lesotho Reform process pre-occupied the Council and as such it the main activity covered in this reporting period.

2.0 CONTEXT

The world is faced with numerous challenges ranging from weak governance, poverty and effects of climate change. The climate change is currently being identified as one of the key factors that negatively affects productivity in food security at the global, regional, and local level. This manifest itself in food prices spikes that continuously take upward mobility and other essentials commodities that are important for human livelihoods. Agricultural production is severely affected, as it is dependent on conducive climate. The frequency and severity of droughts pose human challenge in as far as food and nutrition sovereignty is concerned. Due to the effects of the climate change, the world leadership is challenged to take decisive measures and come up with policies that are geared towards climate adaptation and mitigation as to reduce its impact. The world citizens are looking for climate smart decisions today not tomorrow as one of the ways to contribute to the reduction of poverty, under-nutrition, unemployment and conflicts.

According to UN Climate Action Summit 2019 it was found that Global emissions are reaching record levels and show no sign of peaking. The last four years were the four hottest on record, and winter temperatures in the Arctic have risen by 3°C since 1990. Sea levels are rising, coral reefs are

dying, and we are starting to see the life-threatening impact of climate change on health, through air pollution, heatwaves and risks to food security. Despite the Paris Agreement – a visionary, viable, forward-looking policy framework that sets out exactly what needs to be done to stop climate disruption and reverse its impact. But the agreement itself is meaningless without ambitious action and the current political commitments on climate adaptation and mitigation by the world leadership leaves a lot to desire, they are more of rhetoric expressions.

The moral leadership deficit is observed across the world where the old democracies have started to destroy key fundamental pillars of democratic governance as evidenced by the prospect of impeachment of the President of United State of America (USA), vote of no confidence for United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister and the imminence collapse of the governments of former liberation movements. This phenomenon of the imminence challenges faced by liberation movements is visible in Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe to mention a few. The unresolved conflicts and tensions continue to affect African states and there is no sign of hope for cease fire apart from intensification of arm race in the world.

African continent continues to experience the impact of political and religious intolerance as evidenced by the conflict and terrorism acts in Somalia, Mali, Egypt and Nigeria, these had occupied the agenda of African Union Peace and Security Council to the extent that its resources are moved towards military operations at the expense of development. It is a fact that no development would take place in any state where there is political tensions and wars

but all these are human caused rather than epidemical. This continent has potential but requires the visionary leadership that is able tolerate diversity of her inhabitants when designing and implementing socio-economic-political programmes.

The political tensions within the SADC member state is a worrying factor that requires more decisive leadership of our region. This is visible in countries like Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo and this includes the one of the long oppressive regime Eswatini. The recent human rights record in some countries in the SADC member states such as Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho is alarming and this is coupled with merciless afro-phobia attack in South Africa that ruined lives of innocent African citizens in this country. The ability of SADC to successfully resolve these challenges seem to be far and as a result its efforts to maximize on the opportunity of being a stable region are farfetched. It is a fact that when comparing SADC with other regional blocs, it is below the development radar.

Lesotho as a member of SADC embraced the politics of coalition government for the third time but lags behind in terms of ensuring stability governance institutions such judiciary and security. The encroachment of political parties to these institutions continues to cause more damage in the development and political space of the country. The other factor to note is the trend of intra party conflict that usually affect government stability. This was seen in 2015 government where the leading political party in ruling coalition split and that action caused collapse of government. There are signs of issues leading to collapse of the then government. If Central Bank quarterly reports

are anything to go by, the current liquidity status and reserve levels indicates that Lesotho is not ready for another election in the near future because this move will not only be sustainable and could plumped the economy but will jeopardise the Reforms process that is at the critical and sensitive stage. All stakeholders should try to focus on reforms agenda as it is hoped to achieve national stability.

A reflection on Lesotho's socio-economic and political situations points to fact that she is faced with many challenges ranging from pervasive poverty, low life expectancy, weak economic growth and highly skewed wealth distribution. It is estimated that poverty rate is at 49.7% while the Gini-Coefficient is at 0.53. The long trusted Southern African Custom Union (SACU) revenue continue to face decline. It is should be noted that this is against background that in the previous years, SACU was able to finance almost 60% of the national budget. The declining agriculture complicate this matter since it has been the main source of household coping mechanism. Due climate change and lack of adequate efforts towards adaption and mitigation by Lesotho, it is projected that about 450,000 people are vulnerable to hunger and they would need food support.

The current unemployment rate for Lesotho is described differently according whose reality matters, in others is said to be at 27.7%. This is a very worrying dimension of our development especially when majority of the unemployed are youth. The reality is that people are poor regardless of the statistics given by government or other institutions. The impact of high unemployment to governance and development is the low purchasing power among Basotho.

This has a direct bearing on the nature of funding development by the government. Further, it is understood that unemployment rates have long been seen as much as an indicator of social development and are also inverse of indicators of economic or labour market performance. The high unemployment rate is seen as a contributing factor to inequality gap that exists in the country.

The Reform process has put civil society on the spot light since they were the one delivering the Civil society on the other hand, continues to empower the general public though with minimal success due to gravity of political polarisation. It is for this reason that LCN fraternity should strive for meaningful participation, social justice, climate action, rule of law, accountability, human capital and democratic society.

3.0 PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

During this reporting year, Lesotho Council of NGOs was engaged in the implementation of various activities ranging from those targeting capacity building, research and public policy advocacy, governance, and organisational development interventions. It was during the reporting period that the Council concluded the project called Civil Society Engagement Towards Rule of Law and Accountability.

The projects implemented are as follows;

- Building LCN Institutional Capacity for Effective and Constructive Engagement in development and Governance
- Civil Society Engagement towards Fostering Rule of Law and Accountability in Lesotho
- Lesotho Civil Society Education Fund

- GIZ- PfP Project
- Young African Leadership Initiative

It should be noted that the implementation of these programmes and projects was based purely on the LCN Strategic Plan 2014-2019 hence the reason the reporting format is being aligned with the following strategic pillars:

- Capacity Building;
- Research and Public Policy Advocacy;
- Governance and Organisational Development.

4.0 Capacity Building Activities

The following activities were undertaken:

4.1 Training on CSO Engagement on UN AU

In an attempt aimed at promoting awareness and observation of human rights and good governance as well as to promote accountability, LCN holds and coordinate quarterly trainings as a collective platform for its members to put forward issues focused on democracy and human rights; governance and accountability, workers' rights, civil legal reform and representation, community development and conflict management. During the reporting period one such training was held on the 22nd January 2019. The training was aimed at building capacity of participants and enhance their active participation to respond to International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) violation and how to engage it effectively. This instrument is an important tool to hold states, and increasingly non-state actors, accountable for violations and to mobilise collective efforts to develop communities and global frameworks conducive to economic justice, social wellbeing, participation, and equality.

It was also to influence domestication and implementation of such rights on a national level as it was found that some member states inclusive of Lesotho have reneged from commitment they made under this instrument. Instances and patterns of poverty and deprivation are not understood as violations of Economic Social Cultural Rights, they are rather taken as mere misfortune, events outside human control, or the result of individual shortcomings despite the fact that the instrument place an obligation on states and, increasingly, on corporations and other non-state actors, to prevent and address such situations.



Figure 1: Training on CSO Engagement on UN, AU and UNESCO participants

The training was held on the backdrop that leaders and public institutions as duty bearers lack behind in pro-actively respecting and protecting human rights and citizens as rights holders on the other side have limitation in demanding the protection due to lack of capacity to influence and upholding human rights principles by state institutions. They even fail dismally to defend violations and report them to appropriate internationally recognised bodies. The civil society organisation as whistle blowers of human rights violations as well, have inadequate knowledge and skills for

human rights work specially to demand accountability of governments in this area of rights. The media as well is not well capacitated on the contents of this instrument and report less on it. The training therefore helped with requisite knowledge and they can now better advocates of (IESCR).

4.2 Training Workshop for Nokaneng Sub-Grantees

LCN selected three Civil Society Organisations through a competitive tender and had to provide a training workshop for all of them based on the outlined standards of GIZ. This was also with the aim of producing a master work plan and tools for reporting and monitoring. It is also for the purpose of uniform approach and standardisation of content, messages and issues so that all have similar approaches and communicate similar messages. These organisations are trained to implement a component of a project called Nokaneng. This project has three multi-stakeholder initiatives namely:

- The Nokaneng Initiative aimed at reducing women's and acceptance of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and strengthening solidarity among women.
- Men's Initiative aimed at reducing men's and boys' acceptance of VAWG and empowering them to stand up against VAWG
- An initiative aimed at addressing the nexus between food (in)security and Gender Based Violence (GBV).



Figure 2: Nokaneng Sub-Grantees training workshop on Theory of Change

LCN and its sub-grantees focus on the first initiative, which is Nokaneng Initiative. The other two components are a responsibility of other entities. The Nokaneng initiative is delivered following community intervention strategies. The initiative is delivered covering three priority areas being;

- Creation and or utilisation of safe spaces for women and girls to be sensitised on VAWG and their rights, share experiences, discuss issues and provide and receive support,
- Promotion of community dialogues on VAWG, including norms, attitudes and practices that instigate and perpetuate VAWG and
- Support for public action and advocacy by women and girls that help reduce acceptance of and break the silence around VAWG.

The training was a success as the three organisations are now equipped with methodologies for fighting violence against women and girls.

4.3 Theory of Change

An introduction to a training on Theory of Change (ToC), was conducted by Anabelle Metzner who is GIZs Regional Technical Advisor. ToC is developed to create a common understanding of a pathway of change. It is a basis of

identifying knowledge gaps and inputs to research consortium.

Theory of Change is essentially a comprehensive description and illustration of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context. It is focused in particular on mapping out or “filling in” what has been described as the “missing middle” between what a program or change initiative does (its activities or interventions) and how these lead to desired goals being achieved. It does this by first identifying the desired long-term goals and then works back from these to identify all the conditions (outcomes) that must be in place (and how these related to one another causally) for the goals to occur. These are all mapped out in an Outcomes Framework

The Outcomes Framework then provides the basis for identifying what type of activity or intervention will lead to the outcomes identified as preconditions for achieving the long-term goal. Through this approach the precise link between activities and the achievement of the long-term goals are more fully understood. This leads to better planning, in that activities are linked to a detailed understanding of how change actually happens. It also leads to better evaluation, as it is possible to measure progress towards the achievement of longer-term goals that goes beyond the identification of program outputs.

the net effect of the training was that participants were then led in an exercise of developing ToC for their organisations each choosing a particular programme of their organisation. This exercise, which was found to be a really good and helpful one, is believed to result in partners sharing sharp ideas and insights and aims to create a shared

understanding of what has to be achieved and how it can be achieved, based on the combined expertise and experience as well as international evidence.

4.4 In-District Consultations-Training of Facilitators

LCN embarked on a training of facilitators and supervisors referred to as foot soldiers at Mountain View Hotel in the Leribe district on the 15th to 17th March 2019. These individuals were equipped with skills and knowledge on the contents of community mobilisation techniques. They were then deployed to the various councils as mapped for the implementing NGOs. There were 75 participants altogether from seven organisations.



Figure 3: Training of trainer's workshop on In-district consultations

The seven organisations leading In-District Consultations are;

- Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace
- Development for Peace Education
- Federation of Women Lawyers
- Lesotho National Federation of the Organisations of the Disabled
- Transformation Resource Centre
- Women and Law in Southern Africa and

- Young Christian Student

These organisations were selected on the basis of their work on issues of democracy and human rights, public participation advocacy and their performance in similar assignments in the past. It should be noted that there could be more that could meet the criteria but only these seven made a cut since resources could not accommodate more than seven organisations.

The foot soldiers were trained on the tool, that was agreed upon by National Dialogue Planning Committee (NDPC) and LCN, to be used to cultivate the people’s opinion on reforms in the communities on seven thematic areas of constitution, security sector, public service, media, parliament, judiciary and economy. Participants were advised to internalise the tool and avoid using leading questions but let the people to state their own opinion. Where the people engagement was poor, participants were equipped with techniques to devise a mechanism to make people engage in the dialogues.

After participants were thoroughly introduced to the tool, rules were set down for them to observe and obey; they should take cognizance of the sensitivity of the matter and not to force people to participate nor involve any political influence, leave the attitude and keep their calm, use of language and dressing. Participants were well groomed and ready to start the consultations.

The foot soldiers then were deployed in the 76 councils of Lesotho where they had to spend 28 working days conducting four pitsos per council. Further details of In-District work will be reported in the next quarter.

5.0 Research and Public Policy Advocacy;

5.1.1 NGO Week Activities

The NGO week was attended by over three hundred delegates of which 65% were females while 35% were males. Youth formed more than 50% of the delegates. Only those activities that influence policy and those that seek to achieve or develop advocacy strategies are reported under this strategic Focus pillar.

5.1.1.1 Official Opening

The NGO Week was called to order by the President who reminded the present that they owe their leadership to the people they serve and strongly recommended that each should be accountable leader for the betterment of Lesotho. She challenged all to play a role in ensuring that there are checks and balances in our democracy. She ended her speech by quoting Robert k. Grimlee who says, “Good leaders must first be servants.



Figure 4: Participants at the 19th NGO week

The official opening of the 19th NGO Week and the 29th Annual General Meeting was officially opened by Hon. The Prime Minister Dr. Motsoahae Thabane who began his speech by acknowledging the long, imperfect cooperation between the government and the NGO’s. He made it clear that he does not view the NGO’s in any negative light nor

does he subscribe to the idea that they are ungovernable. He invited NGOs to collaborate with Government and government will continue to provide legislative and policy guidelines that enables civil society to do their work. The Prime Minister vowed that the government will support the reforms process and will thwart undue influence from political destabilization. Political battles will not interfere nor will they turn the reforms into a ground for political battles.

5.1.1.2 Solidarity Messages

5.1.1.2.1 Solidarity Message by Portia Clarksen: Eastern Cape NGO Coalition

Ms. Portia Clarksen began her speech with a heartfelt thanks to Lesotho Council of NGO's for the invitation to be a part of the auspicious event which allows different organizations to learn from the exchanges to take place. She pledged and committed leadership of the two mother bodies to continue share experience and best practice.

5.1.1.2.2 Message of Support by Mrs. Njeri Mwangi-African Development Bank

In her capacity as AfDB Civil Society Organization Officer for SADC, Mrs. Mwangi expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to address CSOs present. She stated that the priority for the AfDB is to improve the quality of life for the African people and emphasized the critical role that civil society organizations play in that regard. The bank's presence in the gathering, she stated, was to prove the AfDB's intent to more proactive in matters concerning the CSO's by means of collaboration with Lesotho and other organizations around the continent. AfDB has observed the contribution of the organizations and anticipate learning from the comparative advantage from all the data, local

knowledge, proximity to communities and other beneficiaries that the development projects are targeted to benefit. Mrs. Mwangi outlined that the Lesotho program will be developing the Lesotho Strategy Paper in the next year and it is a hope for the bank to reach out to CSO's in the process. "We are together, we are partners, and we are willing to walk this journey together with all of you," concluded Mrs. Mwangi in the spirit of solidarity.

5.1.1.3 Key Note Address: EU Ambassador

Ambassador Dr. Manahl started his speech by acknowledging the number of women present in the session and lauded the civil society for taking women empowerment seriously. He also outlined that his mandate was to talk about leadership, as such; his presentation was based on defining a leader and outlining its characteristics.



Figure 5: Dr. Christian Manahl EU Ambassador to Lesotho delivering keynote address during the NGO Week

5.1.1.4 Parallel Sessions

In that regard, he defined a leader by stating that, "a manager can take care of an army in the peace time, but only a leader can take an army into a battle." He stated that

the above statement delineated the capital difference between the different types of leadership. A manager, he stated, need only have organizational skills and a reasonable sense of justice and other qualities. A good leader, he contended, needs the aforementioned qualities, with charisma- the ability to influence people on a rational and emotional level, added to the qualities. A good leader indoctrinates his subordinates with understanding about what they stand for and who they are in the community. Dr. Manahl made it clear that leadership is not excellence but a summative of communication, vision, and determination,

integrity, and judgment and he extrapolated on these using the analogy of the orchestra and past leaders as a point of reference. Dr. Manahl also highlighted that while communication in a world of media is vital, it is important for a leader to possess sound judgement as it holds more value in the long run. He observes this quality in Shaka Zulu, Alexandra the Great and Moshoeshoe I. Dr. Manahl concluded by expressing his hope that the political and civil society leaders will carry Moshoeshoe I's legacy towards the Lesotho that is desired.

The following topics were covered in the parallel Sessions

| Topic | Recommendations |
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| Opportunities and prospects for civil society organizations engagement with African Development Bank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCN should branch out and provide such knowledge and resources and should cease to prioritize some organizations over others. • LCN should also extend efforts in bridging the language barriers. • Completion reports should involve the government and CSO's in order to verify and confirm the achievements of set goals. |
| The dichotomy of regional integration vs protectionism and sovereignty: options for Lesotho towards creating social cohesion and unity in the country | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The session closed on the recommendation that the on-going national reforms should be utilised to put in place laws and economic policies that will ensure Lesotho gets great benefits from integration |
| Promoting fiscal accountability by communication specialist at GIZ Lesotho | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community can petition the council, there are ways to do so and laws that govern the dismissal of inactive members of the council or people appointed to represent the community • More workshops should be held in different communities which educates and trains the local authorities of their rightful duties as to avoid several shortcomings. • Women should be strong and show great participation in governance as they are also very educated in large numbers than men. |
| Correlation between political stability, intra and inter party democracy, parties' proliferation and stability of governments: what are the prospects of political parties 'regulation through political parties Act? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual harassment seems to be more common in this high learning Institutions where large numbers of boys and girls are all gathered in the same place. Therefore this awareness should not only focus in far places but should also target to educate this people as it is very high in those institutions |
| Moving Towards Social Accountability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be an economic offense committee that is presided over by three Judges who specialize in the field. • There should be stricter measures on issuance of citizenships to foreigners in Lesotho. • There should be a communication strategy between DCEO, TRC, DPE, and LCN in order to foster social responsibility. • Members of Parliament should be selected on merits and qualifications. • Members of Parliament should declare their finances to ensure transparency. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and Shame- after Local government has issued reports, poorly performing sectors should be made public. There should also be a follow up in the use of Local government funds in order to ensure transparency. • For individuals who have committed economic offenses, there should be a seizure of property pending trial. • The public must be given the Locus standi to take corrupt individuals to court. • Empower police, provide cars, and strengthen the Judiciary. • There should be a specialized committee that deals with the selection of Judiciary members, DCEO, police commissioner, the army, IEC. They should all be picked on merit and there should be an independent process that ensures effectiveness and stability of the said institutions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a protection system of whistle-blowers in place. |
| <p>The future of energy and water in Lesotho: Why Politics Matter</p> | <p>The recommendations were that there should be deliberate efforts for natural resources' royalties to be directed towards youth development. There should be a hundred per-cent of mixed member proportion in parliament to improve the responsiveness of the parliamentarians.</p> |
| <p>#MyBodyMyChoice: Ramifications of legislature on women's bodies as Lesotho embarks Constitutional reforms.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train people to disseminate knowledge from FIDA and WLSA. Formulate a movement with volunteers that educates the society at large. 2. Provide counselling services for women who have done abortions. 3. Educate the media on how to properly relay the message to the public without distortions. 4. In future, let us invite the health ministry in dialogues like this so that knowledge can be properly disseminated to schools which have the highest population in terms of girls who get abortions. Involve teachers as well if establishing a regular presence is cost prohibitive 5. In the reforms to be submitted, safe abortions should be included in the law. 6. LCN should enforce policies while organizations under it reach out to the wider community and conduct research. 7. There should be a social grant that caters for women with children 8. WLSA should work with all districts. |

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| <p>Promotion of CAADP Mutual responsibility: what are key considerations for accountability as Lesotho transit to commercial agriculture</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who are passionate, loving and have deep knowledge of the Agriculture should be the ones placed in positions that need agricultural attention so that they can become active and drive this country forward. • The Lesotho Agricultural college should train its students mainly on what is needed for the improvement of agriculture in Lesotho • Engage stakeholders/farmers in the writing of the report so that they give precise and updated information about the Agriculture in Lesotho. This will help in identifying the areas that need to improve and those that has improved as well as the money that will be enough to sustain this sector until it grows to become commercial. • The country should strengthen agriculture data collection and management systems (monitoring and evaluation) to ensure that missing indicators are reported in the next round of the Biennial Review. Data was not available on the following areas : |
| <p>State of health services in Lesotho: key challenges and future for improved health systems in Lesotho.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a memorandum of understanding between Non state actors and the government. • LCN should assist NGO's with proposals to meet funders. They should compose joint proposals with the commission. • Medical personnel should be vetted before allowing them to practice medicine. • Social grants should be given to mentally ill persons. • Physical education in schools should be advocated for. <p style="text-align: center;">Counselling services for students living with HIV should be provided</p> |
| <p>Engaging the relevance of civil society organizations in the political, economic justice and human rights discourse in Lesotho.</p> | <p>The recommendation was that civil society should know that it has all the power to help the government to reach its highest desire which is to provide the nation with services</p> |
| <p>Community Voices on dual citizenship Act: Lessons and proposed recommendations</p> | <p>In general, the feeling amongst participants was that the dual citizenship is long overdue, and it thus brings hope that Lesotho-Republic of South Africa relations will significantly improve for the benefit of Basotho. In conclusion, the session indicated that there is a need to have through consultations on the subsidiary legislative frameworks which will inform this noble initiative.</p> |

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| <p>Titled community voices report on challenges facing women and the girl child in Lesotho, presented</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to support girls and encourage them in going to school, sanitary towels should freely be provided monthly at their different schools. • The government should provide money in different schools which will specifically be allocated for sanitary towels. • Panties should also be provided in schools as some kids do not have any underwear's hence becoming very hard for them to cope with monthly menstruation. • Sanitary towels should not only be the government's responsibility but should be a general issue. • Councillors who do not have any responsibility should be given responsibility to deal with the issue of sanitary towels. • Whether girl child or not, property should be left for kids to make a living. • Girls /women are the most educated hence should be lead and voice out their intelligent thoughts. • The properties should be left for kids and not for anybody as the ones given responsibility to take care of the kids' later deserts them. • Chieftaincy should not be passed on to the girl child as they cannot uphold it but rather destroy it in cases where they get married |
| <p>Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)-4 targets and indications for Lesotho</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum to further discuss issues with depth • Fix syllabus before building inclusive infrastructure • Involve all parties in planning • There should be a learning corner. • Teachers should work hand in hand disseminate knowledge, skills and ideas regarding the curriculum. • Non-state actors should be considered in the education sector and make use of the expertise they have to support teachers. • Children should be taken to specialized schools where their specific skills are honed. • Counseling sessions to provide the holistic growth and development of children. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive language • LCN should provide a desk that assists education advocacy focusing predominantly on issues within the education sector. • Students should be given equal scholarships and stipends institutions of Higher Learning |
| Key lessons for Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) effectiveness and citizens' activism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be special courts for corruption cases and also put pressure on the current government to consider the drafted Bill to be accepted as a law. |
| Panel Discussion on Reforms | It was concluded that selfless leadership, strong institutions should be a focal thinking point for all those present in order to shepherd the reforms process with the proper mechanisms and clear vision. |

5.1.2 American Corner

An Information Session was held at The American Corner at the National Library on the 8th November 2018 with the intention of Sensitizing youth on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR). This activity happened as part of an agreement between Embassy of the United States of America and LCN outlining the scope of activities to be undertaken through a sub-grant from the BAM Group Foundation.



Figure 6: Youth sensitisation workshop on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

The activity was attended by 40 youth and panellists were drawn from FIDA, LPPA, and DHAOL. Fundamental Human Rights were discussed whereby a summary of relevant Legislation relevant to SRHR was given. The youth were conscientised by Pros and Cons of Abortion (Backstreet abortion) and its aftermath.

The activity was a success as youth became knowledgeable of where to solicit support for SRH issues.

5.1.3 Overview of Gender Based Violence

During the NGO Week there were evening sessions that were held as part of finalizing implementation of the project: Civil Society Engagement Towards Fostering Rule of Law and Accountability in Lesotho. Some of these sessions were side meetings under the thematic area of consultative meetings on Human Rights Violations and Status of Women in Lesotho.

This activity was part of the consultative meeting on Human Rights Violations and Status of Women in Lesotho. The activity was held on the evening of the 10th December, 2018. It was held at TRC hall and attracted a total of 35 participants constituted as 15 males and 20 females. The activity was held in a collaborative manner and was led by She-Hive Association. The highlight of the meeting was that despite many progressive laws on gender parity, there is still high gender based prevalence in Lesotho. Participants recommended a strong advocacy on women rights and gender socialization. The meeting concluded that gender mainstreaming and gender balance should be upheld by every organisation.

5.1.4 Human Rights in Development Projects

The activity was also part of the ten consultative meetings on human rights. The activity was a collaborative venture between LCN and TRC. It was led by TRC and was held at Convention Centre on the evening of the 12th December, 2018. It was attended by a total of 38 participants comprised of 22 females and 16 males.

The activity highlighted atrocities suffered by the mining hosts communities. The highlight of the activity was a documentary in a form of a video depicting human rights

violation of a highest order in the mines around Kao area. Further the consultative meeting indicated challenges surrounding the compensation policy which among others indicate that affected individuals will only receive it for 50 years, contrary to the Land Act 2010 dictates which stipulates that compensation for lost land is 99 years.

The meeting recommended a policy brief on compensation policy. It recommended that there should be a resettlement plan so that a host environment does not pose a totally different way of life from their initial place.

5.1.5 Marginalisation of minority groups

The activity was held on the evening of the 11th December, 2018 as part of the Consultative meetings. It attracted 37 participants made up of 15 males and 22 females. It was held at TRC Hall.

The major highlights of the meeting were understanding different types of marginalisation on different types of groups. Key to these were how LGBTI Community and other minority groups like PWD, youth and other minority groups like those speaking minority languages are marginalised.

The meeting recommended advocacy on implementing Education Policy that indicates that learners shall be taught in their mother tongue language in the first four grades of their primary education. It is worth noting that the issue has been taken but other groups like Lebandla La BaPhuthi.

5.1.6 Child Labour and Trafficking

The activity was held on the 21st November, 2018 at LCN Board room. It attracted by 19 participants made up of 14 females and 5 males.

The highlights of this meeting were that child and labour trafficking has not been seen as a major issue, though it is. This can be seen in herding, babysitting, child headed households. In as far as child trafficking is concerned, the meeting raised issues that, were common in the Basotho way of living but if not taken care of, can lead to serious child trafficking. The issue of illegal adoption, where the child is just assigned to either a relative or anyone of good will because such a child comes from impoverished households. The manifestation of this practice is such that a child can either be trafficked or subjected to hard labour.

The meeting recommended a strong advocacy for domestication of ILO conventions preventing both child labour and child trafficking.

5.1.7 Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights was also part of the consultative meetings was held on 22nd November, 2018 at LCN Boardroom. There were 7 males and 12 females who attended the meeting, making a total of 19 participants.

One of the major issues discussed was the distinction between sexual rights and sexual health and reproductive rights versus reproductive health.

The distinction helped in that it was easier for participants to understand which laws can respond to the challenges brought by absence of such laws in dealing with sexual reproductive health rights. The meeting noted that there are separate laws responding to part of the issue, like right to life which does not include right to reproductive health. The meeting depicted a need to have an all-encompassing legislation to deal with the deficiency.

5.1.8 Civil Society Engagement on UN, AU, SADC

LCN Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN) organised a one-day training on civil society engagement on UN, AU, UNESCO and SADC. The training was held on the 22nd January 2019. The training was attended by CSOs, Media, Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Law and Safety. It attracted 40 participants in all; (30) from the civil society, (5) from parliamentary portfolio committee on Law and Safety and (5) from the media.

The training was geared towards building consensus and confidence of participants to influence how the government can comply and domesticate human rights instruments. Participants were trained on the provisions of international human rights instruments, the protection and promotion mechanisms and framework for reporting and how to get benefit out of them to support their work in Lesotho.

The highlight of the training was that a number of NGOs were able to interface with the parliamentary portfolio committee whose chairperson committed to working together with such organisations which some had hit a rock in the past in trying to work and or invite members of the portfolio committee into their activities. The workshop also equipped participants with a number of human rights instruments, their ratification and periodic reporting.

5.1.9 National Forum on the Human Rights Conventions

The issue of Human Rights in Lesotho has been one such that is characterized by various abuses. LCN as a human rights organisation organised a one-day national forum on human rights conventions and Trends in Lesotho on the 23rd January 2019. The forum aimed at enhancing participation of national civil society working in human rights and Parliamentary Portfolio Committees of Law and Safety and

Public Accounts. The forum was held to ensure that civil society holds government accountable in upholding and observing and complying with the human rights standards.

The forum further aimed to enhance and influence compliance with the human rights instruments especially CEDAW which is being earmarked as the ground norm for women's rights. The content of the forum was supported by findings from the diagnostic study, consultative meetings and public dialogues. The highlight of the training was that it equipped participants with requisite skills and knowledge to meaningful engagement and accountability in a democratic governance and development. The forum attracted about 72 people drawn from Parliament Law and Safety Portfolio Committee, media, politicians and civil society organisation.



Figure 7: National Forum on the Human Rights Conventions participants

Participants were very strong on the rights that form part of chapter two of the Constitution of Lesotho as such rights non justiciable and are only a State Policy which are depended on the availability of resource whereby they can only be progressively achieved through an act of parliament. These rights include health rights and those of people with disability, right to education vis-a-vis teachers' strikes to

mention a few. Other issues that received fierce debate included lack of transparency on service delivery, security agencies brutality, no dissemination on ordinary Basotho about rights and remedy on violations. It was recommended that all stakeholders present should work together to demand accountability and LCN should do follow-ups after the training. In addition, as a way to ensure protection of human rights it was suggested that the judiciary should be independent. The presence of portfolio members assisted some participants a lot to overcome some bureaucratic problems that defeat their efforts in carry out their mandates.

5.1.10 Budget Speech Analysis Dialogue

LCN organised and held a successful budget speech analysis dialogue intended for CSOs and other community leaders. The budget speech analysis was held at Victoria Hotel on the 12th March. The analysis was held in conjunction with RSDA. This is a second year in succession for the collaboration and other NGOs are also invited to join the initiative. For this year RSDA borne the cost of the workshop and was instrumental in ensuring that the Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security do attend and address the participants.



Figure 8: Budget Speech Analysis Dialogue participants

Budget speech analyses are very crucial in fostering accountability and ensuring efficient and effective delivery of services to the people and management of resources allocated. The national budget is the financial expression of government to the plans and policies; it is an indication to deliver government commitments. Communities have been characterized by limited awareness and knowledge of mechanisms that can be adopted to hold government accountable. Budget analysis is one of the tools used to assess if government's efforts towards delivering their commitment to the people, whether allocated financial resources are executed to deliver governments commitments.

It was held with the following objectives;

- To analyse as to what extent does the budget favour farmers'
- To indicate whether there is provision in the budget for infrastructure for marketing
- To determine whether the budget is sustainable and achievable
- To have a preliminary assessment whether the budget as a whole is pro-poor.

It attracted over 120 participants drawn from farmers, NGOs, government senior officials for Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Small Cooperatives, Health and education and delegation from the EU, and media practitioners reporting on economic issues. It was a presentation followed by response from the invited ministries and general question and answer session with a priority being given to farmers.

An overview of budget allocated for identified ministries was done with the following conclusions;

- The budget offers some positive signs in addressing Lesotho's most pressing issues
- The government, however, needs to focus more on:
- Quality of public spending as it is critical for making the state more effective
- Ensuring full implementation of decentralization Policy
- Implementation of youth employment grant beyond lip service

The general overview of the people in attendance was that budget allocation without reporting on the previous allocation are bad as they do not foster accountability. For them it should be mandatory that before a new allocation is affected officers in charge should indicate how the previous budget has performed. They further indicated that input subsidy alone is not enough especially when it does not cater animal farmers. Participants further indicated that when the government introduces new policy which bring a complete departure from the way things were previously done, there should be transitional clauses. The case of new

wool and mohair regulations were made as a case study. The youth also indicated that the amount of money government prides itself that it has put aside for them, should also be allocated to youth in agricultural entrepreneurship. On the ewes that the government has pledged to give to farmers, participants were very strong that such should not be allocated following political inclinations.

5.1.11 Diagnostic Study on Human Rights Trends

The research is on Diagnostic Study on the Trends of Human Rights and Women Rights Status in Lesotho. The study also dealt with Policy and legal framework geared towards women rights, assessing compliance by Lesotho government in reporting on Human Rights Treaties and Conventions. It explored those that have been signed with reservations and Treaties whose reporting is overdue. The research further explored Treaties and conventions that Lesotho has domesticated indicating capacity of different stakeholders such as Public Institutions, Leaders and non-state actors to respond to democracy and human rights violations in Lesotho.

5.1.11.1 Proposed Advocacy Strategies

| Goals | Objectives | Who to target/ partner with | What action LCN needs to take | When |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Human Rights Compliant Legal framework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal of the reservation to CEDAW • Repeal of section 18(4)(c) of the Constitution • Enactment of Anti-torture legislation • Enactment of Domestic Violence Act | Parliament through various relevant committees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for law and policy reforms • Lobby for domestication of international human rights instruments to which Lesotho is a party. • Leverage parliamentarians with evidence-based messages on human rights challenges and gaps identified in this study • Organize parliamentary briefings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive national reforms process provides good opportunity for inclusion of these objectives in the national constitutional reforms process. |
| Responsive human rights institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the national human rights commission • Capacity building of law enforcement institutions (LMPS in general, CGPU in particular) • Ensuring greater independence of the judiciary all levels including magistracy • Capacity building of Office of the Ombudsman • Improved public access to PCA | -Relevant Parliamentary Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet -Commissioner of Police -TRC as it already had a project on lobbying for establishment of the human rights commission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize cabinet briefings on establishment of the human rights commission • Lobby for amendment of the Police Service Act to provide the PCA with independent investigative powers and for it to be directly accessed by the public. • Lobby for constitutional amendments to ensure independence of the judiciary • Hold human rights trainings for police | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional and legislative amendments to be lobbied as part of comprehensive national reforms • Cabinet engagement for establishment of the human rights commission can begin immediately and further action taken depending on response |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human rights trainings and discussion of the finding of the study with key stakeholders such as office of the ombudsman | |
| <p>Strong Civil Society Organizations that are able to empower citizenry, play a watchdog role and hold government to account at all levels including national, regional and global levels</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacitated CSOs that are very much are of their watchdog role United Civil Society Movement | <p>Civil Society Organizations working in the area of human rights such as TRC, LNFOD, WILSA, FIDA and other organizations at all levels which are members of LCN</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize and conduct training workshops for CSOs on their role in protection and promotion of human rights as well as rule of law in a democratic society Ensure Collaboration amongst CSOs for them to join efforts and talk in one word in condemning human rights violations and holding both government and non-state actors accountable for violations | |
| <p>Empowerment of the population</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all groups of the society including women, the elderly, children, people with disabilities and linguistic minorities know their rights Ensure that all members of society know the institutions and procedures to follow when their rights have been violated Ensure that all members of the society know their right | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chiefs Schools CSOs at grassroots levels which are already working in the human rights field | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translate national laws into Sesotho, Xhosa, Sephuthi and other minority languages that are spoken in Lesotho Print simplified pamphlets in all languages spoken in Lesotho, with human rights messages addressing specific human rights challenges Hold public gatherings to disseminate information on human rights in general | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steps can begin immediately and mainstreamed and spread into different LCN's programmes |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| | to be provided with redress when their rights have been violated | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold public gatherings to disseminate information on specific human rights issues such as putting an end to child marriages, domestic violence, discrimination against women, torture etc. • Radio and TV programmes to disseminate information stated above. | |
| Justice for victims of human rights violations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic or Public interest litigation to obtain justice for victims of human rights violations • Ensure redress in all forms including monetary compensation which has been awarded by courts of law is received by victims • Ensure investigation, prosecution and punishment of suspects of human rights violations which are also criminalized by the Penal Code Act and other criminal laws | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attorney General -Director of Public Prosecutions • Lawyers with special expertise and experience in Public interest Litigation (PIL). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify victims of human rights violations whose cases can be taken to push legislative reforms or government accountability not only to the individual or group of victims identified but to a greater population similarly affected • Seek legal advice on feasibility of such PIL and the procedures which have to be followed. | |

5.1.12 CSO on National Reforms Authority

On the 1st August, 2019 and 2nd August 2019 LCN with its tentative powers to convene meeting for sectors to allocate seats within the National Reforms Authority (NRA) on the fact that there were only 19 seats assigned to sectors, consecutively convened a meeting through Democracy and Human Rights Commission at LCN Boardroom and TRC Hall to brief Civil Society and other stakeholders about the National Reforms authority and its composition as a structure to oversee the implementation of reform process. This was said to be of great importance as it will be a way of protecting the people voices by ensuring that they are incorporated in the reform process.



Figure 9: Participants during a meeting on composition of National Reforms Authority

The consequences of not making inputs towards such composition was stated could be of grave negative as it will be the loss of information. This meeting was intended to get civil society's inputs that can dilute the current NRA structure as it was believed to have a political influence and polarization given that the Bill gives politicians 2/3 majority in decision making.

There were 73 participants in attendance. These were 49 males, 23 females and 1 transgender. Participants became conversant with the contents of the Authority and its dynamics. They were also very eager to propose numbers towards composition in order to balance the said structure.

LCN informed the present that those that wanted to challenge the composition may do so through other government structures. The meeting concluded that LCN should use an agreed tool for nomination of other sectors other parties sector The allocation was to be done on proposed credentials of a candidate.

5.1.13 Innovative Education Financing Models

The study addresses the most significant education challenges faced by Lesotho through innovations aimed at supporting governments to improve equity and learning by strengthening their education systems. The study has been undertaken through the finding from Africa Network Campaign on Education for All ANCEFA.

The study recommended the following strategies:

- **PUBLIC- PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP)**

PPP is defined as a contractual relationship between government and private sector for a specific project, with simultaneous involvement of government and private sectors in education, with an understanding to share rewards, benefits and costs. PPPP is a major strategy in development in developing countries

- **SOCIAL IMPACT BOND (SIB)**

An SIB is the main funding mechanism for "Pay for Success" programs where government determines the outcome, timeline and payment level. For a social project, and pays only if the desired outcome is achieved. A private investor (usually a company) provides the working capital for the project and is paid back (with interest) only if the desired outcome is achieved

- **PPP – SIB MODEL**

This is a combination of PPP and social impacts bonds (SIBS). The greater use of "public-private partnerships"

(PPP) and “social impact bonds” (SIBs) that innovatively incorporate both the private and public sector to fund a specified education project for social good. In a PPP-SIB structure, a “success metric” is agreed upon prior to issuance by all related parties. PPP-SIB education-funding framework would allow the government to save costs and have the safety net of the private sector.

- **MODELS FOR CHILD CARE COOPERATIVES**

Cooperatives have rapidly become one of the most important alternatives to the public provision of social services in various countries for not for profit child care centres. Locating high quality child care has become a serious problem for many families. The pressing need for child care facilities has prompted parents, educators, employers and communities to create new structures and methods for the development of child care programs. In this model, parents and employers may find that professionally operated child care cooperatives best meet their expanding child care needs.

- **PARENT MODEL**

The most common of the child care models, this type is the most common type of cooperative and is comprised of parents who have formed a cooperative to provide quality care for their children. As with all cooperatives, members contribute an initial membership fee towards the capitalization of the centre and elect a board of directors on a one member/one vote basis. The board sets long-range policy and oversees the centre’s professional management

- **EMPLOYEE MODEL**

Child care being essential for many parents in the work force, many employers are now including it in benefit packages and establishing child care facilities near or

within their worksites. On-site child facilities have been credited with creating a more stable, satisfied and productive work force and with reducing absenteeism among workers.

General recommendations from the study are as follows:

1. Lesotho government should increase the amount and the percentage of their total education spending towards free and compulsory pre-primary services – and ensure funds are targeted towards children who need the most help. International donors have to do the same, increase their share of education spending going to the basic level of education.
2. To increase access to education there should be collaboration between different multi-level stakeholders.
3. Education is a crucial component to the development of an individual and greater society, which leads to the potential to create a large positive impact. For this reason, the consultant emphasizes a PPP-SIB model, cooperatives and coupon funding models to complement existing models

5.1.14 Brutality in The Security Agencies

On the 10th January 2019, LCN held a dialogue with the Government Secretary to deliberate on issues of security agency brutality. The delegation was made up of representatives from LCN, TRC and DPE as the concerned stakeholders on issues concerning protection and promotion of human rights. They were concerned on reported cases of brutality and the ongoing cases of violations when these offices undertake their duties of investigation, arrest

and detention. They proposed that the government to set up a commission of inquiry to deal with such matters.



Figure 10: DCP CID Paseka Mokete responding to Police Brutality Concerns

The meeting resolved that the matter be conveyed to the Prime Minister for resolve. Other competing assignments become so demanding that it is yet to be known as to how the Prime Minister wishes to resolve the matter. The matter was also taken up with Ministry of Police and Public Safety as shall be reported under commission work.

5.1.15 Consultative Meetings Human Trends

Consultative meetings on trends of human rights violations and women's rights status in Lesotho Early Child Marriages took place on the 22nd January, 2019 at the LCN in order to advocate towards building consensus and confidence of participants to influence how the government can comply and domesticate human rights instruments. 17% of girls in Lesotho are married before the age of 18 and 1% are married before their 15th birthday. Child marriage is driven by gender inequality and the belief that women and girls are somehow inferior to men and boys. There is very limited information on child marriage in Lesotho, but available studies suggest that it is driven by:

- Traditional customs: Cultural practices and traditions regarding child marriage often

take precedence over formal legislation.

- Limited awareness: Some children are forced into marriages because of a lack of knowledge. The organisation highlights the importance of parents having open lines of communication with their children.

Advocacy is important as *Lesotho has committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals 5.*

Participants confirmed that child marriage is rife in Lesotho. Other than that, it is institutionalised due to myriad of factors including, though not limited to, poverty, illiteracy and social norms, it is clear that even state apparatus that needs to help curb it are wanting in most aspects. The present committed to mainstream it in their activities as it is indeed violation of ones rights a major cause of divorce as those married at younger age rebel when they reach years of maturity.

5.1.16 Walk for Unity and Accountability

Moshoeshoe Walk is an annual walk that take place in remembrance of the journey Moshoeshoe the Great took from Menkhoaneng to Thaba-Bosiu in search of a formidable fortress to safe his nation from the scourges of tribal wars of the 18th century. The journey was so significant that after reaching Thaba-Bosiu, it was in that fortress that the Basotho Nation was founded. Therefore, each year there is Moshoeshoe Walk from Menkhoaneng to Thaba-Bosiu in resemblance of the formation of Basotho Nation. This year the walk took place from 6th to 9th March 2019.

As part of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) mandate to strengthen democracy and good governance, Lesotho Council of NGOs was part of Transformation Resource Centre initiative that during 2019 Moshoeshoe Walk Reforms messages be amplified and scaled up. The walk

was given a theme: **Walk for Unity and Accountability**. It was in this walk that LCN with its member organisations held side public gatherings in the villages where the walk passes by. It should be noted that the objective good as it was, could have reached more people if planning and organizing were done ahead of time.

In consulting the community members, the communities at large expressed that they want expressed powers for the King so that he can counsel over disputes through his representatively elected council. They also indicated that it is high time that floor crossing is regulated. Some said it should only be allowed on the fourth year of the five years of Parliament while others said should one want to cross the floor, there should be fresh elections so that it is proved whether the people indeed want their MP to cross to another party. Communities also did not mince words when talking about escalating number of political parties. They indicated that for the already existing ones they should be made aware that after elections any party that will not have garnered twenty thousand (20000) voters would be struck off from the list of parties and for the new ones they should prove that they have around 20000 followers.

Another issue that the communities rebuked was the benefit that parliamentarians and other statutory bodies have in that they have tax free loans of half a million. They indicated that the loans should not be tax free and members should repay should they lose their jobs before expiry of their tenure or contract.

5.1.17 Rain fall and temperatures outlook

The council has done a lot of advocacy work on climate change and climate resilience approach. It has celebrated

the World Environment Day with other NGOs and others sectors that are climate conscious.

2019 World Environmental Day was celebrated on the 5th July in alignment with 2019 global theme, Beating Plastic Pollution.



Figure 11: Ms Mantopi presenting during World Environment Day celebration

LCN through TED gave out the objectives of the day where it was stated that the commemoration took place on the day that is marked as World Environmental Health Day so they go hand in hand and this also respond to a call from Pope Saint Francis to take action about environmental issues on the letter he wrote that is called “Laudato Si”. This letter refers the earth as our Mother who opens her arms to embrace us but now it has turn into a victim of degradation. Concerned Students from different schools resided poems and stated out their worries about Environmental issues especially air pollution. They also encouraged youth to take actions as mother earth’s future depends on them as they are future generation that is still going to benefit on it.



Figure 12: Students Participating during Environment Day Celebration

Humans and animals can suffer health effects from exposure to air pollution. Birth defects and lower reproductive rates have all been attributed to air pollution. Innovation Hub from National University of Lesotho also encouraged youth to learn to produce organic products to reduce air pollution and get rid of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to help to improve the Environment.

The ministry of Water through Water commission added that Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Oxide particles in the air, can create acid rain when they mix with water and oxygen in the atmosphere. These air pollutants come mostly from coal-fired power plants and motor vehicles. When acid rain falls to earth, it damages plants by changing soil composition; degrades water quality in rivers, lakes and streams; damaging crops and can cause buildings and mountains to decay.

Polluted water can lead to degradation of aquatic ecosystems and can also lead to public health problems. In addition, the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation with its department of Range, shows that wetlands habitats experience different sensitivities to nitrogen air pollutants. Changes in water and drainage

patterns causes degradations and disturbance of wetlands. The vegetation breath out oxygen and breath in carbon dioxide but due to air pollution, there is too much access of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere so it goes back to the plants and that results to the blockage and poor vegetation production.

The meeting was a success as participants committed to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic. LCN on the other hand is exploring means to protect the wetlands. The issue of the wetlands is also spurred by meteorology department information to the effect that the country has not yet recovered from the 2015/2016 El Nino induced drought. As such There is also a likelihood of delayed onset of rains for this rainy season and Dry episodes are still expected in-between the good rains with normal temperatures anticipated for the period October 2019 to March 2020 with increased chances of rising to above normal.

5.1.18 Sectoral Consultations on Reforms

On the 22nd-25th July, 2019 LCN held organised sectoral consultations under the theme “Leaving No One Behind: The Voices of the Collective in the Reforms Process in Lesotho” for 27 organised formations as a strategy to source the views of different organised formations. There were approximately 600 participants. The main objective was to allow sectors to self-analyse themselves and make a significant contribution to the seven thematic areas of the reforms on the ground that if they are not given an opportunity to contribute, laws affecting such sectors would not form part of the reforms. These consultations achieved a desired enhanced and amplified the legitimate voice of the organised formations into the Reforms agenda, improved and inclusive participation of organised formations into the

Reforms process and creation of space for identifying and contributing into policy and legislature actions for future consideration.

All sectors participated and came up with a position paper and a report was consolidated in this regard. This report like other reports on reforms was submitted to NDPC to feed in the collections of public opinion on the kind of Lesotho they want.

5.1.19 In-District Consultations

The In-District Consultations started on 18th March and ended on 16th May 2019. The format of the meetings included 77 gateways, which were meetings aimed at the Council leadership that would then agree on the number of

meetings per Council and a total of 412 public gatherings were held.



Figure 13: Public gathering on National Reforms

Total number of people reached was 56,945 of which 29,740 were women thus accounting for 52% reach. The report is thus a reflection of views from Basotho in the ten districts.

Below is the table for both gateways and public gatherings carried out around Lesotho:

| Name of Organisations | Name of Councils | No. of Councils | No. of Gathering + Gateways | Males Reached | Females Reached | Total |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1. LNFOD | Ratau, Kanana, Makhoarane, Maoamafubelu, Siloe, Mamants'o, Thaba-Mokhele, & Metsi-Maholo | 9 | 56 | 1,935 | 2,521 | 4,456 |
| 2. YCS | Bolahla, Kubake, Hleoaheng Mohlakeng, Ramapepe, Sephokong, Litjotjela, & Menkhoaneng | 8 | 51 | 3,356 | 2,789 | 6,145 |
| 3. WLSA | Manonyane, Mazonod, Lilala, MCC, Berea UC, Semonkong UC, Tebe-Tebe, Makeoane Motanasela, Mapoteng, Kueneng, Phuthiatsana, & Mohale'sHoek UC | 13 | 53 | 10,935 | 12,065 | 23,000 |
| 4. FIDA | Ngoajane, Likila, Tosing, Telle, Mtjanyane, Butha-Buthe UC, Quthing UC, Qomoqomong, Qibing, & Mafeteng UC | 10 | 51 | 2,562 | 3,396 | 5,958 |
| 5. DPE | Senekane, Seate, Nts'upe, Mphaki, Khoelenya, Lithipeng, Qhoasing, Senqunyane, Lehlakaneng, & Makoabating | 10 | 57 | 2,820 | 2,368 | 5,188 |
| 6. CCJP | Tenesolo, Litsoetse, Qanya, Khutlo-Se-Metsi, Bokong, Linakeng, Ramoetsana, Qacha'sNek UC, Tsoelikana, & Thaba-Tseka UC | 10 | 63 | 4,271 | 5,376 | 9,647 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------|------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 7. TRC | Qiloane, Ratau, Nqoe, MCC, Likolobeng, Manka, Matsoku, Maisa-Phoka, Hlotse UC, Ts'a-Le- Moleka, Menoaneng, Mphokojane, Ts'anatalana, Maputsoe UC, Mokhotlong UC, & Sanqebethu | 16 | 81 | 1,326 | 1,225 | 2,551 |
| TOTAL | | 77 | 412 | 27,205 | 29,740 | 56, 945 |

5.1.19.1 Observations

- a) Basotho have confidence that the reform process is going to change Lesotho into the Lesotho they want.
- b) The dialogue of reforms was an opportunity for the entire nation to finally speak and let out the grievances long withheld on policy and legislature issues in Lesotho.
- c) In most instances, citizens were actively engaged on the issues however, it was observed that men often dominated the discussions.
- d) It was observed that women engagement was strong on the issue of floor crossing.
- e) women in the urban areas were more vocal than their counterparts in the rural areas.
- f) People with disability, youth, and females did not raise their views on issues affecting them directly.
- g) Basotho are generally very angry with the government about poor service delivery.
- h) In spite of the fact that each council the process covered four areas. It was noted that time frames were not adequate to broaden the outreach.

The full report on In-District is well articulated on what Basotho said and herein are examples from two of the seven thematic areas are given.

5.1.19.2 Constitutional Reforms

- a) The Constitution should make provision or the King to have powers.
- b) The King must be in charge of Security Agencies.
- c) The King must be responsible for the appointment of Judges, Commissioners, Commanders and Head of NSS with the help of the Council of State Council of State / Specialised Commissions
- d) The King's 'mouth' must be opened by the Constitution, to intervene on national issues.
- e) The King must be independent and have the power to appoint whoever he sees fit into the Senate.

- f) The King must operate absolutely independent of the Prime Minister.
- g) When a Motion of no Confidence is successful against the Prime Minister, The King must have powers to appoint a replacement Prime Minister. Another opinion is that it must be identical to the Eswatini model. On the other hand, some suggested that, a preferable candidate within the Parliament to continue holding office of the Prime Minister until the next elections.
- h) The King should have authority to adjudicate on family matters at community level to protect abused widows.
- i) The King should be susceptible to prosecution.
- j) The King should be given power to appoint people on merit into the council of state.
- k) The King should have absolute authority alone to approve and promulgate all laws enacted in the Kingdom.
- l) The King should have power to decline the advice of the Prime Minister.
- m) The Constitution should give the King a council of chiefs to work with and advise him. The King should have power to appoint the Prime Minister of his choice. Even if politics continue in this country, the King should appoint the Prime Minister from the persons he trusts and such a person should be a nonpolitician.
- n) The King should be the one appointing ministers from the public with various expertise and not from politicians.
- o) When Parliament dissolves before a span of five years, government must be relinquished to the King until the five-year period elapses and the country goes for election.
- p) Powers to implement agricultural activities and assist farmers should be given to the King because politicians do not pay enough attention to agricultural.
- q) The eleven appointees in the Senate should be appointed by the King(Senate).
- r) There should be a committee that monitors execution of public funds which shall be under the authority of the King.
- s) Political parties must be abolished and the King should rule this country alone with the people of his choice.
- t) The King should be present in Parliament or when laws are debated and enacted.
- u) The Queen should assume the title of First Lady.
- v) The King should have authority over both the Senate and National Assembly.
- w) There should be a Paramount Chief who shall be a link between Principal Chiefs and the King.
- x) The King should assume the title of Paramount Chief so that he could have direct link with Principal Chief.

y) Sephuthi, isXhosa and sign language should be official languages.

z) The Constitution should be re-written.

5.1.19.3 Recommendations for Parliament

a) Parliament should run its own budget and establish a Parliamentary Service Commission.

b) The Country should abolish the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) Model and retain only First Past the Post.

c) Women, youth and people with disabilities should be represented in Parliament.

d) The Speaker of the National Assembly must be appointed by the King.

e) The position of Speaker should be advertised.

f) Proportional representation should be reduced from forty (40) to eight (8).

g) Parliamentarians should declare their assets before taking the oath of office.

h) If Lesotho continues with proportional representation into Parliament, such representation should include different categories of Basotho such as people with disabilities, youth, women, the church, and traditionalists.

i) The Prime Minister must be elected directly by the electorate.

j) Ministers should apply for ministerial positions and be appointed on merit.

k) Ministers should not be Members of Parliament.

l) Members of Parliament should at least hold a Junior Certificate (JC) or higher qualification certificate.

m) Academic certification should not be an issue for qualification of membership to Parliament.

n) There should be a provision empowering the electorate to recall and replace Members of Parliament and Ministers Parliament whenever they are dissatisfied with their performance.

o) Members of Parliament must be given six months in office after which the public shall review their performance and expel them from office if need be.

p) Members of Parliament should not be above 65 years of age.

q) The National Assembly must be pruned to only 18 members.

r) The National Assembly should be made of 10 members, one from each of the ten districts.

s) The number of members of the National Assembly should be decreased to 80, with each member representing one constituency.

t) The number of constituencies should be reduced to 60.

- u) The number of constituencies should be an odd number either 79 or 81 so that one party can get majority constituencies.
- v) Abolish proportional representation.
- w) Proportional Representation numbers should be decreased to ten.
- x) Before an individual can stand as a candidate in the general elections, there should be a prerequisite standard that he or she must fulfil, for example a happy and stable family.
- y) Opposition parties in Parliament should be called an advisory body to Parliament.
- z) There should be an established Youth and Children's Parliament.

aa) Parliament must adopt the idea of a community Parliament.

5.1.20 Views from the Diaspora

For the reporting period Basotho in South Africa were also met and their views were collected.

Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN) through its selected seven civil society organisations undertook the task of gathering Basotho in the diaspora's views and opinion on the ongoing reform processes. The assignment was undertaken in six (6) provinces within the Republic of South Africa namely Kwazulu Natal, Free State(FS), Western Cape(WC), Eastern Cape(EC), North West(NW) and Gauteng Province(GP). The consultations were organised by National Dialogue Planning Committee with the aid of foreign missions of Lesotho in the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

About 54 consultations throughout the six (6) were held and 2345 Basotho were met.

The consultations were between 06th – 11th June 2019.

The reach was as follows;

| Province | Gender Disaggregation | | Total | Number of Meetings |
|------------------|-----------------------|------|-------|--------------------|
| | F | M | | |
| Free State | 83 | 489 | 572 | 7 |
| Western Cape | 107 | 198 | 305 | 7 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 154 | 462 | 616 | 5 |
| North West | 17 | 346 | 363 | 5 |
| Gauteng Province | 247 | 225 | 472 | 18 |
| Eastern Cape | 39 | 68 | 107 | 6 |
| Total | 647 | 1788 | 2 435 | 54 |

5.1.21 Inclusive Education Policy by LNFOD

A one-day sensitization workshop held for the civil society organizations (CSOs) working to promote education in

Lesotho workshop facilitated by LNFOD on the 07th May 2019. The workshop intended to inform the CSOs on the progress of the Lesotho Inclusive Education Policy (LIEP).

Participants were engaged in interactive facilitations carried out by LNFOD. They were taken through the evolution of education for people with disabilities which narrated when education for people with disability began and why, the medical and social model theories presentation which distinguished the best way to accommodate people with disabilities. In addition, the CSOs learned what an Inclusive education is: how it is practiced and its qualities. The mentioned presentations shed a light to the participants and gave a better understanding of what is meant by inclusive education, also why it is important for learners with disabilities. The presentations were meant to give the CSOs a full understanding of Inclusive Education policy (LIEP) so that they may take part in advocating for the implementation and holding the implementers accountable where they seem not to be doing their task. The participants and the facilitators engaged in very fruitful discussions that brought more comprehension. The workshop was beneficial to the CSOs as they have a vital role to play in promoting greater inclusion of children with disabilities but they may have felt less knowledgeable about inclusive education. Effective Implementation of the policy is going to require some concerted efforts to enable mainstreaming of inclusion across all spheres so that low socio economic individuals with disabilities may receive their basic rights such as quality education on equal basis with peers in their communities.



Figure 14: Inclusive Education Policy workshop

With improved awareness of their role in promoting the Lesotho Inclusive Education Policy (LIEP) and having an idea of what it entails, the CSOs agreed that they need to work hard to ensure that the barriers are removed especial in their different areas of work so as to ensure quality inclusive education for children with disabilities.

5.1.22 Non-Formal Education Policy Dissemination

The importance of Non-Formal Education can be seen in enhancing access to education and promoting development in the country, as well as alleviating poverty cannot be overemphasised. This is because NFE programmes ensure that learning continues throughout the life of every individual in Lesotho. Therefore, the basic purpose of this policy document is to guide implementation among adult education practitioners, educational planners, and the various stakeholders, by crystallising a purposive and uniform plan of action which is aimed at standardising the operational modalities of Non-Formal Education (NFE) programmes across all sectors of Lesotho's economy.

The product of such a deliberate plan of action has been to achieve equity, access, uniformity, recognition, standard

and quality of NFE programmes, sustainable development, integration and cost effectiveness in improving the individual's standard of living and thereby increasing the national economic growth, using education as a potent instrument.

It is based on the above information that a workshop was held at TRC Hall on Tuesday, June 18th, 2019 facilitated by Lesotho Association of Non-Formal Education (LANFE) in collaboration with Lesotho Distance Teaching Centre (LDTC). The objective of the workshop was to disseminate the non-formal education (NFE) policy to civil society organisations in order to source support for LANFE.

LANFE informed participants of the campaign they have embarked on to seek funding of NFE through adoption of the program by the Government of Lesotho by 2021/2022 budget cycle. It was agreed that details of the campaign shall be discussed with the participants in due course.

5.2 Commission Work

5.2.1 Economic Justice Commission

The Commission did not have many meetings for the reporting period, as there was no coordinator for most of the time. That notwithstanding the commission was able to pull a successful Budget Analysis in conjunction with RSDA. The commission continues to offer members a platform to share experiences and the work they do. In its last quarter meeting the commission was highlighted on the budget cycle of the government of Lesotho so as to align their advocacy with correct timelines. The commission also tabulated activities and or thematic areas that are to form the commission plan for 2019/20 LCN plan. Some of the areas that the commission agreed to pursue are categorises as budget

tracking and advocacy issues. The following ministries' budgets are going to be tracked.

These are:

1. The Ministry of Education and Training;
2. Ministry of Health;
3. Ministry of Small Business Development, Cooperatives and Marketing;
4. Ministry of Gender and Youth Sports and Recreation;
5. Ministry of Water

The Commission also identified the following issues as those that might require its advocacy:

- Lobbying for 24 hour clinics to relieve Tšepong Hospital's backlog;
- Safeguarding the percentage of Basotho (local) ownership in businesses including tender awardees;
- The payment of wool and mohair producers;
- The national Corporate Social Responsibility policy;
- The establishment of a National Anti-Doping Agency by the Health Ministry.
- Advocating for community ownership in areas where major projects are taking place and for the Small Business grant criteria to be more flexible for increased accessibility.

5.2.2 Disaster Management and Humanitarian Relief

There has been no activity in this commission however, activities are periodically being undertaken under AENRC.

5.2.3 Health and Social Development (HSDC)

HSDC managed to meet in every quarter and had a number of information dissemination sessions. The commission also managed to forge alliances with its members whereby some members even funded the commission meetings- notably AHF. It is encouraged that all commissions and members' organisations follow that example as it improves coordination and networking.

The Commission managed to achieve the following feat:

- Promoting advocacy, knowledge, awareness and providing links to social, health, legal and police services on GBV and HIV as the 16 days of activism and world AIDS Day were approaching.
- Community mobilization focusing on improving social, economic and health well-being at the local level of the commission and combining efforts in order to reach communities at large
- Planning together as a commission so not to duplicate work
- Advocacy for alcohol policy especially with December approaching knowing the fatalities and incidences which are reported in during the holidays
- Youth spearheading advocacy efforts as statistically they are most affected
- Creating awareness on issues of rare diseases so as to tackle the challenges that people living with a rare disease and their families around the world face every day.
- The commission earmarked international days related to it and encouraged joined celebration and commemoration of such days.
- The commission released a statement on the fate of Maseru District Hospital- the feud between ministry

of Health and Ministry of Works on the demolition of Queen II

- Highlighting Stock outs especially for RARE Patients
- Advocacy around SRHR issues (epidural complications and deaths) at Queen Mamohato Hospital for young women
- Taxes complications at the border for health goods which are at times donations and or essential drugs that require exception.
- Advocating for user friendly Health facilities for every Mosotho despite their sexual orientation.
- Ensuring that during health campaigns there are free medical checkups
- Landed funding on Education related activities
- Developed manuals for learner friendly school models
- Supported non-formal education endeavours
- Supported LNFOD on inclusive Education Policy
- Supported teachers' formations in their industrial action
- Commissioned a study on sources of funding, resource allocation and expenditure for Basic Education

5.2.4 Democracy and Human Rights

The commission was able to hold a meeting in every quarter. It also held many important information meetings. The commission was at the heart of 2019 reforms activities and released a number of press releases and held press conferences. The commission continues to be the face of LCN when it comes to Human Rights Issues. The commission is part of the Country technical committee to compile state party report on the International Covenant On

Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The commission held several dialogues on police brutality and made strong recommendations to the police senior authorities who were often part of the dialogues to respond to NGOs questions to deny that the rampant brutality is institutionalised.

This is how the commission fared for the reporting period.

- Advocated that Law establishing Police Complaints Authority be repealed and have a new law that shall give the institution autonomy and credibility.
- Recommended that office of the officer commanding any police station should be closer to the reception so that should one feel aggrieved with a contact or treatment they receive; the office is within reach.
- That police be trained in pastoral care and counselling, so that they can gain that requisite skill as it appears that they are to deal with such issues
- Held numerous breakfast meetings on Lesotho National Dialogue and Stabilisation Project (LNDSP),
- Trained member organisations on Human Rights reporting instrument
- Continuous monitoring of the political climate in Lesotho and periodically issuing statements
- Led the council during In- District and diaspora Consultations on the reform agenda
- Facilitated the sectoral reports where about 27 organised formations ranging from youth, labour, business, political parties, traditional organisations, judiciary, chieftainship, academia, professional bodies, NGOs, media, sports and transport, just to mention a few, met and collated their views on reforms.

- The vocal point for the MOU between LCN and Government
- Participated in the NASSA project from the Ministry of Social Development

5.2.5 Women and Children Commission Meeting

The commission have not had a coordinator for some time but luckily for the reporting period the coordinator was there and as such was able to hold meetings in every quarter. The commission as well held many information session meetings as well as advocacy meetings. The commission houses one project the council is implementing- The Nokaneng Project aimed at equipping girls and women with resilient skills in as far as gender-based violence is concerned.

Specifically, the commission has been pre-occupied with the following for the reporting period.

- Advocacy on issues around domestic violence
- Upscaling effective models for addressing children's plight;
- Trends of human rights violation focusing on Media Restrictions
- Held numerous campaigns on Gender Based Violence where women and children are killed
- Celebrated and commemorated August as women's month with sensitisations going as far afield as Kolo
- Leading the council in gender transformative agenda
- Training on effects of human trafficking and its manifestation
- Training members NGOs on issues of inheritance

- Advocating for livelihoods of a girl child and effects of early childhood marriage.

5.2.6 AENRC Information Session

The commission have not had a coordinator for some time but luckily for the reporting period the coordinator was there and as such was able to hold meetings in every quarter. The commission as well held many information session meetings as well as advocacy meetings. The commission has been part of the Civil Society advocacy agenda on the wool and mohair saga and butchery associations predicament on grade A meat supply. The commission successfully held World Environmental Day Celebration for the second successive year.

The commission achieved the following;

- Advocated for mainstreaming SADP project
- Advocacy Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) and Renewable Efforts Against Child Hunger (REACH)
- Advocating for influential National Civil Society Alliances (CSAs)
- Held many campaigns on issues around Wool and Mohair
- Commemorated the World Environment Day
- Held information session on resources allocated to ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
- Caused for MOU between TED and LCN on environmental issues
- Collaborates with GEF on climate change issues
- The commission is part of the technical team on monitoring nutrition policies

6.0 Networking

The following is only a glimpse of meetings attended, and this is only part of the strategic meetings attend during the reporting period.

| Nature of meeting | Issues discussed | dates |
|--|--|---|
| Ministry of Gender: Multi Stakeholders Meeting | Commemoration of 16 Days Activism on Violence Against Women and Children | 7 th November 2018 |
| Meeting in Zimbabwe to review progress on local education financing | Innovation model to finance education system in member countries as a result of Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, where member states made a collective action by pledging support their education system | 11-13 th October, 2018 |
| Meeting held in Johannesburg: African women in dialogue | Strengthening women's movement, breaking barriers and driving inclusivity and empowering women to participate in the industrial revolution | 19 th - 23 rd November 2018 |
| UN: Preparatory Meeting for Youth and Women's Conferences | The roles that women and Youth would play in advocating for their inclusivity in the National Reforms and select Representation | 17 th - 23 rd October 2018 |
| Invitation to research forum | Assessment of the state of national health research systems and new innovation when it comes to health trends | 17 October 2018 |
| Workshop on gender responsive education sector planning- Nairobi Kenya | Multispectral involvement in policies that guide the country Becoming familiar with ways the education sector plan can be gender responsive | 5-8 November 2018 |
| Lesotho Education quality for equality Project- Leribe Lesotho | Midterm review assessing progress and way forward till 2021 and ways funds can be reallocated based on schools needs and performance | 3-6 December 2018 |
| Workshop on wash bottleneck analysis tools | To diagnose key challenges in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector | 8-11 October 2018 |
| Presentation of business model and strategy for Lesotho standards institution | Implementing the Lesotho Standards institution Act of 2014, support private and public sectors | 31 October 2018 |
| Avani Lesotho: Alliance Country meeting | Launching of the 2018 SADC GENDER PROTOCOL | 02 nd October 2018 |
| Domestic finance pledge tracking Harare Zimbabwe | Strengthen the capacity of African countries to advocate and analyse budgets based on their international and national commitments | 11-13 October 2018 |
| PEPFAR | Next years funding is going to be disbursed to more local CSOs and less to international NGOs | 14 November 2008 |
| Global Campaign for Education World Assembly in Nepal | The conference was about global learning event and World Assembly where there were election for the board of GCE | 12 th - 18 th November 2018 |
| Multi- Stakeholders National Dialogue | The meeting was diagnostic exercise where Basotho in their quarters meet to discuss issues affecting peace and stability in order to suggest how those ailments could be addressed | 26-28 November 2018. |

| Institution | Issue of Discussions | Date of event |
|--|---|--|
| Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture | Lesotho Cites Legislation Workshop | 16 th to 17 th January 2019 |
| Ministry of Health | Lesotho Population Based HIV Impact Assessment (LePHIA) Dissemination Meeting | 16 th January 2019 |
| United Nations Development Programme | UNDP Lesotho Country Programme Roll-Out and Capacity Building Workshop | 14 th to 18 th January 2019 |
| Lesotho Distance Teaching Centre | Non-Formal Education Policy (NFEP) 2018 Launch | 11 th January 2019 |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SADC Secretariat) | Deployment of Oversight Committee into the Kingdom of Lesotho | 17 th January 2019 |
| She Hive Association | Annual International Women's Day celebration | 8 th March 2019 |
| Lesotho Catholic Bishop's Conference | Conference liberations on Lesotho in process of Reforms | 4 th February 2019 |
| Ministry of Public Works and Transport | Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Program (TTTFP) national workshop to present the Vehicle and Load Management Agreement (VLMA) and Multilateral Cross Boarder Road Agreement (MRCTA) | 25 th to 27 th February 2019 |
| GIZ | Launch for Nokaneng Smart Phone App | 30 th January 2019 |
| Ministry Of Trade and Industry | Related Facility Project meeting | 1 st February 2019 |
| Disaster Management Authority | Multi Sectoral meeting to formulate a Response Plan for the Prevailing Drought | 31 st January 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Voluntary National Review workshop | 7 th February 2019 |
| Office of the Auditor General | Civil Society Organisations workshop | 5 th February 2019 |
| Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services | Consultative workshop to develop greenhouse gases Mitigation Project proposal for Lesotho Correctional Services | 5 th February 2019 |
| Disaster Management Authority | Development of the Drought Response Plan | 7 th February 2019 |
| Ministry of Water | Water Sector Coordination Meeting | 14 th February 2019 |
| Ministry of Health | Dissemination of findings of PMTCT effectiveness among women and children in Lesotho | 8 th February 2019 |
| Survivor of Lesotho Dams | Celebration of Civil Society Water Day | 14 th March 2019 |
| AIDS Health Care Foundation | International Condom Day Celebration | 13 th February 2019 |
| United Nations Development Programme | Review of the Inception Report of the Communications Strategy for National Reforms | 13 th February 2019 |
| Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology | Cybersecurity Capacity Maturity Model for Nations (CMM) Assessment in partnership with the World Bank Group and the Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre (GCSCC) of the University of Oxford | 20 th February 2019 |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs | SADC Oversight Committee Deployment in the Kingdom of Lesotho | 18 th February 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) II Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Validation workshop | 27 th to 28 th February 2019 |

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| District Administrator | National AIDS Commission meeting on LOMSHA M & E System and Database | 20 th February 2019 |
| Touch Roots Africa | Stakeholders Forum | 26 th February 2019 |
| Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offence | Validation of the Preliminary National Benchmark Survey Report | 4 th March 2019 |
| National Security Service | Formulation of the National Counter Terrorism Strategy | 11 th to 13 th March 2019 |
| Office of the Prime Minister | Sealing Up Nutrition (SUN) and Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger (REACH) Sensitisation workshop | 27 th February 2019 |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs | LCN to facilitate applications for Elections into the ECOSOCC Third General Assembly | |
| Development for Peace Education | E Ea Kae Baneng Education Dialogue | 28 th February 2019 |
| Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture | 6 th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Project inception workshop | 6 th March 2019 |
| Ministry of Health | Research Forum | 14 th March 2019 |
| Ministry of Finance | 2019/2020 Budget Speech Presentation | 14 th March 2019 |
| GIZ | Theory of Change workshop | 13 th March 2019 |
| United Nations | UNDAF Joint Steering Committee Meeting | 18 th March 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Launch of the Lesotho Economic Laboratories | 13 th March 2019 |
| National Assembly | Submission of the inputs on the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2019/2020 | 15 th March 2019 |
| Ministry of Forestry, Range and Social Conservation | Climate Change Adaption Manual for Schools meeting | 19 th March 2019 |
| Disaster Management Authority | Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) Institutionalisation Strengthening Process Launch by SADC RVAA Programme | 19 th March 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Voluntary Review workshop | 27 th March 2019 |
| Lesotho Network of People living With HIV and AIDS | Technical Working Group (TWG) for 2 nd Lesotho Stigma Index | 26 th March 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Lesotho Economic Laboratories Mid-Lab Syndication | 22 nd March 2019 |

| Institution | Issue of Discussions | Date of event |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Seinuli Legal Centre | Conference in Meaningful Impact Measurement in Lesotho | 4 th April 2019 |
| Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation | Gender Based Violence (GBV), Violence Against Women (VAW) and Trafficking in Persons (TiP) service provider Mapping Exercise Report | 5 th April 2019 |
| Lesotho Revenue Authority | The Lesotho TAX Modernization Project and Filing Season Launch | 2 nd April 2019 |
| Bureau of Statistics | Communication Consultation Session | 1 st April 2019 |

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| Gender Links | SADC Gender Protocol Alliance Gender Response Assessment scoring for the 2019 Barometer | 4 th April 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Closing Ceremony of the Lesotho Economic Laboratories | 4 th April 2019 |
| Democracy Works Foundation | Citizens' Score Cards Workshop | 24 th – 26 th April 2019 |
| Lesotho Institute of Accounts | Africa Congress of Accounts (ACOA) conference | 19 th – 21 st June 2019 |
| National University of Lesotho | Simesterisation Awareness Raising Workshop | 24 th April 2019 |
| Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security | African Union-New Partnership for African Development (AU-NEPAD) Mission to visit LCN as a stakeholder | 25 th April 2019 |
| Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled | Meeting on the Project Developing Capacity of the Promotion of the Rights of People with Disability since 2017. (meeting with the Consultant) | 3 rd May 2019 |
| Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) | Lesotho Integrated Agriculture Management Information System workshop | 25 th – 26 th April 2019 |
| GIZ | Steering Committee Meeting to Nokaneng-Breaking the silence of women and girls on gender based violence | 30 th April 2019 |
| Democracy Works Foundation | Technical Reference Group Meeting on the study conducted on 'Political Party Capacity Assessment (PPCA) on the political parties' capacity needs | 30 th April 2019 |
| National AIDS Commission | Validation workshop of Lesotho National HIV and AIDS Policy Draft | 9 th May 2019 |
| European Union | Europe Day Celebration/Reception | 8 th May 2019 |
| Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security | First stakeholders' Food Security Forum meeting | 6 th May 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Voluntary National Review (VNR) stakeholders consultation workshop | 8 th – 9 th May 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Meeting on MoU between GoL and LCN | 10 th May 2019 |
| Ministry of Trade and Industry | National Steering Committee Meeting for Lesotho Trade Related Facility Programme | 15 th April 2019 |
| Ministry of Social Development | The Release of the Preliminary Results meeting on Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) | 15 th May 2019 |
| Disaster Management Authority | Interaction with consultant on Early Warning System issues to consider the review of legal and Policy documents for Disaster Risk Reduction | 15 th May 2019 |
| Lesotho Revenue Authority | Stakeholder Engagement on Online Tax Clearance Certificate | 31 st May 2019 |
| Lesotho National Dairy Board | Development of Lesotho National Dairy Board (LNDB) Strategy | 22 nd – 23 rd May 2019 |
| Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled | Update meeting on Disability Equity Bill 2019 | 2 th May 2019 |
| GIZ | PISA Stakeholders' Forum 2019 "Civic Education in Lesotho" | 17 th – 18 th June 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | SDGs Cabinet Sub Committee Meeting | 22 nd May 2019 |

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| Ministry of Energy and Meteorology | Green Climate Funds Private Facility Workshop | 29 th May 2019 |
| Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled | Organizational Strategic Planning (2020 to 2024) workshop | 27 th – 28 th May 2019 |
| Social Policy Network | Piloting Gender Responsive Oversight Model (GROM) to the Parliament of Lesotho workshop | 28 th May 2019 |
| Transformation Resource Centre | Transformation Resource Centre Annual General Meeting | 30 th – 31 st May 2019 |
| National Dialogue Planning Committee | Observation during Diaspora Consultations on Reforms | 5 th – 12 th June 2019 |
| Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights | Establishment of an AD-HOC Committee to compile State Party Report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) | 14 th June 2019, 5 th July 2019, 21 st -24 th July 2019, 7 th – 8 th August 2019 & 16 th August 2019 |
| She Hive Association Lesotho | An SMS testing session-Nokaneng project meant to sensitise women and girls on Gender Based Violence-supported by GIZ | 4 th June 2019 |
| Transformation Resource Centre | TRC Book Launch on “Politics, Government and Governance in Lesotho since 1993” by Prof. Kopano Makoa | 5 th June 2019 |
| She Hive Association Lesotho | International Widows Day Celebration | 22 nd June 2019 |
| Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights | Stakeholders, consultative workshop on the implementation of Accepted Universal Periodic Review | 13 th June 2019 |
| Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation | Gender Mainstreaming Meeting | 14 th June 2019 |
| Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation | Inception workshop for development of Integrated Watershed Management to Combat land degradation and enhance flow of agro-ecosystem goods and services for Improved Livelihoods in the Sebakala Sub-Catchment Project | 18 th June 2019 |
| Bureau of Statistics | Reviewing of Governance, Peace and Security Statistics Module as a response to SDG 16 | 24 th – 25 th June 2019 |
| Transformation Resource Centre | TRC Friends Meeting and Debate on Public Accounts Committee Report | 27 th June 2019 |
| Institution | Issue of Discussions | Date of event |
| Transformation Resource Centre | CSOs and HRDs Parallel Report to the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights: The State of National Human Rights Institutions in Lesotho | 10 th to 11 th July 2019 |
| United Nations Development Programme | Reducing Vulnerability from Climate Change Project Exhibition | 4 th July 2019 |
| Social Development | National Orphans and Vulnerable Children Coordinating Committee (NOCC) Meeting | 11 th July 2019 |
| GIZ | Part 1 to the PFP Consortium workshop | 2 nd to 4 th July 2019 |
| The Law Society of Lesotho | Meeting with the Southern African Development Community Lawyers Association Mission | 11 th July 2019 |

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| Ministry of Health | Core-Group team Meeting to plan and inform the EPI's Roadmap to HPV application and Introduction | 3 rd July 2019 |
| Ministry of Education and Training | Nomination of members of the National Steering Committee (NSC) to the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for monitoring Education Quality | |
| National Dialogue Planning Committee | Facilitation for Sectoral Dialogues on Reforms | 8 th July 2019 |
| Global Campaign for Education -High Level Political Forum – New York, USA | Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” with Education (SDG 4), Reducing Inequality (SDG 10), and Peace and Justice (SDG 16) | July 9-18, 2019 |
| Water and Sewage Company | Participation in WASCO Water Committee | |
| United Nations Development Programme | Technical Advisory Committee 2019 Second Sitting | 16 th July 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Lesotho Country Strategy Paper (2020-2024) Preparation Mission- CSO Consultation Session-Working Group Meeting | 23 rd July 2019 |
| Ministry of Trade and Industry | Standards and Trade Stakeholder workshop | 23 rd July 2019 |
| African Union Commission | African Minerals Governance Framework (AMGF) | 30 th July to 2 nd August 2019 |
| Lesotho Association of Non-Formal Education | Non-Formal Education (NFE) stakeholder collaborative meeting | 1 st August 2019 |
| Lesotho Meteorological Services | Lesotho Climate Finance Readiness Project Launch | 1 st August 2019 |
| GIZ | Theory of Change and Intervention Strengthening workshop Lesotho | 5 th to 9 th August 2019 |
| Ministry of Education and Training | Lesotho Inclusive Education Launch | 7 th August 2019 |
| Letsema Child-Rights Network (LCRN) | The CSOs Debriefing meeting by the AU Mission to Lesotho on the Team of Experts on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child-(Lesotho is the winner of the bid to host the Secretariat) | 7 th August 2019 |
| International Women's Peace Group | Lesotho Conference in commemoration of IWPG Peace day | 9 th August 2019 |
| SADC Council of NGOs- 15th Southern Africa Civil Society Forum – Dar es Salaam Tanzania | Towards A Prosperous & Integrated Africa – <i>Equity & Justice For All</i> ” | 13-15 August 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | First sitting of representatives for development of the Civil Society Policy | 15 th August 2019 |
| Lesotho Network of People Living With HIV and AIDS | Steering Team Meeting on the Stigma Index Study 2.0 | 20 th August 2019 |
| Lesotho Association of Non-Formal Education | Press conference on non-formal Education Sector activities for raising awareness to the general public | 20 th August 2019 |

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| African Union - INNOVATING EDUCATION IN AFRICA EXPO – Gaborone Botswana | Harnessing the Capacity of ICT to ensure Inclusion, Quality and Impact in Education and Training in Africa | 20-22 August 2019 |
| Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation | Gender Mainstreaming workshop II | 22 nd to 23 rd August 2019 |
| Mohlaka Media/GIZ | Stakeholders meeting on the production of radio drama on the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) project funded by the GIZ | 27 th August 2019 |
| Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation | Technical Experts meeting on National Youth Development Bill | 27 th to 29 th August 2019 |
| Ministry of Social Development | Amendment of Children's Protection and Welfare Act, 2011 (ACPWA) | 28 th to 29 th August 2019 |
| Ministry of Health | Review of 2005 Essential Health Service Package | 29 th August 2019 |
| Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled | Commemoration of African Women's month for women with disability | 30 th August 2019 |
| Embassy of the United States of America | US/UK Seminar on Civil Military Relations and Democratically Elected Civilian Control of the Armed Forces | 2 nd September 2019 |
| ANCEFA- 9TH PAN AFRICA REGIONAL EDUCATION POLICY FORUM – Dakar Senegal | <i>Empowering civil society voices and accountability initiatives towards the realisation of inclusive and equitable education in Africa</i> | 2-4 September 2019 |
| She Hive Association | Stakeholders introductory meeting on the Mpepe Tobacco Campaign | 4 th September 2019 |
| Ministry of Health | Introduction of the National Action Plan for Health Security | 4 th September 2019 |
| Medigrow Lesotho Ltd | Visit to Medigrow Lesotho Facility during cultivation and production of cannabis for medical and scientific purposes at Ha Marakabei | 8 th September 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Aid Coordination Forum (ACF) | 11 th September 2019 |
| Ministry of Water | Witnessing of the launching of Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project II | 12 th September 2019 |
| LDTC and LANFE | Literacy day celebration | 12 th September 2019 |
| GIZ | Partnership for Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children in Southern Africa (pfp), office opening and networking event | 13 th September 2019 |
| Ministry of Health | Essential Service Health Package (ESHP) Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting | 17 th September 2019 |
| Ministry of Health | Essential Service Health Package (ESHP) Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting | 17 th September 2019 |
| International Trade Centre | National Export Strategy of Lesotho workshop | 17 th to 18 th September 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Lesotho data for Sustainable Development Project- end of project meeting | 18 th September 2019 |
| Lesotho Meteorological Services | 2019/20 Seasonal Climate Outlook Dissemination | 19 th September 2019 |

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| Transformation Resource Centre | Polihali Grievances and Concerns on Access to clean water and sanitation on Human Rights session | 21 st September 2019 |
| Ministry Law and Constitutional Affairs | Validation workshop on Lesotho's Report on the 3 rd Cycle of the Universal Periodic Revision Mechanism | 25 th September 2019 |
| Morija Museum and Archives | Inaugural meeting of the Seriti Sa Makhoarane (SSM) Governing Council | 25 th September 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Nairobi Summit on ICPD 25: Accelerating Promise | 25 th to 26 th September 2019 |
| Transformation Resource Centre | Civil Society Organisations and Human Rights defenders engagement training on African Commission Mechanism | 26 th September 2019 |
| Ministry of Development Planning | Meeting on Population Projections Dissemination | 27 th September 2019 |
| Ministry of Education and Training | Early Childhood Education Technical Working Group (ECE-TWG) meeting | 27 th September 2019 |
| Ministry of Finance | Training workshop on Public Finance for Children | 30 th September to 1 st October 2019 |
| Lesotho Association of Teachers | World Teachers Day celebration: theme; "Young Teachers, the Future of the Profession" | 5 th October 2019 |
| Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security | World Food Day Celebration 2019. Theme: Our Actions are our Future-Healthy diets for a #Zero Hunger World | 16 th October 2019 |

6.1 Documentation and Information Dissemination

The information arm of the secretariat continues to play a pivotal role in ensuring that LCN activities are flagged and publicised. The publicity was conducted using different media channels. These channels include organising radio and television interviews for the commission coordinators, posting press statements on the social media, delivering press releases to media houses and inviting the media to cover our activities. LCN's Facebook page was updated with similar information as well as LCN's website.

6.1.1 Website Maintenance

Websites play a pivotal role in extending horizons of organisations and this is an area that needs constant revamp. There are a number of stakeholders and partners both local and international who continue to give feed-back that our website possesses the features of modern websites.

In this reporting period the office created a new you tube channel named Lesotho Council of NGOs and uploaded a video and the link is: <https://youtu.be/47tTsB9UXtQ>. The website was updated on this site www.lcn.org.ls with the following:

Consultations with Basotho in the Diaspora (South Africa) on National Reforms
Public Accounts Committee 2013-16 Report
2019-2020 Civil Society Budget Speech Dialogue

Further, in order to keep our website up-to-date and in order the office updated the website on this site www.lcn.org.ls with the following:

| |
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| List of all Member Organizations |
| Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Commission Members |
| Economic Justice Commission Members |
| Democracy and Human Rights Commission Members |
| Disaster and Humanitarian Relief Commission Members |
| Health and Social Development Commission Members |
| Women And Children Commission Members |
| Good Governance and Participation are essential aspects of democracy |
| LCN is leading the sectoral consultations on National Reforms from 22 nd -25 th July 2019 |
| Communique from Alliance of Non State Actors (ANSA) Meeting held at LCN on the 06 th August 2019 |
| Sectoral Consultations Report on Reforms |
| Southern African Development Community-Council of Non-Governmental Organizations Media Statement |

6.1.2 Facebook updates

It is the most popular and effective social networking website where people are able to post their views, exchange ideas and engage in interactive topics. Our Facebook page was updated with this link: [Lesotho Council of NGOs](#).

According to the report and statistics we are doing very well and we currently have over 5000 likes which grows every week.

- Posted a press release on women consultations on reforms and reached 426 likes.
- Posted a press statement form a joint press conference between LCN and DPE on political instability within ruling ABC party.
- Posted a press release on sectoral consultations on reforms, 341 people reached, 2 shares and 47 likes
- Post reminding Facebook users that sectoral

consultations on reforms would be starting on that day. We reached 342 people and 12 likes.

- Posted a press statement from SADC Council of NGOs on acts of violence and xenophobic attacks in RSA. 3274 people were reached, 12 likes and 9 shares.

6.1.3 Live Streaming

Facebook live is a feature of the Facebook social network that uses the camera on computer or mobile phones to broadcast what is called real time video on Facebook wall. This method or feature seems to be more effective in terms of disseminating information as many people now are on social media particularly Facebook. We are receiving positive feedback in all the live streaming that we do. The viewers keep on growing and the reach is massive. We have managed to do several live streams and below is a table

showing the type of activity, No. of people reached, No. of comments, No. of likes

| Date | Type | Place | People Reached |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 15-07-2019 | Women consultations on Reforms | Thaba - Bosiu | 583 |
| 15-07-2019 | Women consultations on Reforms | Maama | 319 |
| 16-07-2019 | Joint LCN & DPE press conference | DPE | 492 |
| 25-07-2019 | Sectoral consultations position papers presentation | Manthabiseng Convention Centre | 1264 |
| 28-07-2019 | Peaceful school model training | Thaba-Bosiu | 1294 |
| 07-08-2019 | Inclusive education policy launch | Manthabiseng | 452 |
| 20-08-2019 | LANFE press conference on international literacy day | LANFE Hall | 1079 |
| 10-09-2019 | Literacy day celebration with Sefikeng herders | Sefikeng | 872 |
| 12-09-2019 | World literacy day celebration | Mapholaneng, Mokhotlong | 2338 |
| 20-09-2019 | Awareness campaign on issues of inheritance, early child marriage and gender based violence | Kolo, Ha Mohlalefi | 2107 |
| 26-09-2019 | World environment day commemoration | LANFE hall | 909 |

The table above depicts the number of people reached as at the 30th of September and the numbers can differ from time to time depending on when a particular viewer watched

the video. The good thing is that the number of people reached will not decrease but will keep on increasing.

6.1.4 Radio and Television

Radio and Television play a crucial and pivotal role in disseminating information for access by the public. It is essential that the activities we do is known to the public and it is only through media that we can achieve such. It is therefore worthy to report that most of the activities held were duly covered.

6.1.5 Visibility

The office played its publicity role of LCN's activities from EIDHR trainings, analysis on budget speech and consultative meeting held by African Development Bank and Lesotho Council of NGOs. Gateway workshops were held in various community councils with the purpose to get local authorities' opinions on reforms agenda. Event flyers for some of the activities as a form of advertorial have been developed. some of the activities during NGO week were stream lived on LCN social networks and the highlight of our visibility events was hosted two sessions with presenters outside the country without them having to travel to Lesotho. There was also an advert for call for expression of interest on implementing a project supported by GIZ.

The annual report was also printed and shared with member organisations and other partners.

7. Governance and organisational development.

7.1 Annual General Meeting Minutes

During the reporting period, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors held meetings in preparation for the Annual General Meeting, which was eventually held on the 13th- 14th December at Manthabiseng Convention Centre. In the same token the management and staff at the Secretariat also prepared for the AGM. In doing so they shared strategic

documents and reports. The AGM resulted into the elections of the new Board of Directors.

7.2 Board Meetings

During the reporting period, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors held meetings to review quarterly performance. Some of the decisions were expressed by both Executive Committee and Board of Directors in the forms of resolutions and approvals. Further, the Secretariat Management team held several meeting to assess programmes quality and sharing of departmental progress and challenges. Weekly staff meetings were held to afford every employee an opportunity of sharing weekly work schedule and weekly reports. The council continued with the work on signing the MOU with GOL. There were three meetings held with the Ministry of Development planning. these meetings culminated into developing an NGO policy which will make it easy for LCN to enter into MOU with government as such will be a result of a policy implementation. Prospects of such a policy are high as LCN is part of the technical committee and the committee developed TORs and it is at the stage of benchmarking with other similar processes.

7.3 Annual Planning

LCN held an annual planning session for its staff aimed to enlighten them about organisation structure, core values, mission and vision and to devise a plan aligning with the activities they have under each project and whether activities undertaken are responding with the organisational strategic plan. It was further intended for review of LCN policies and team building with a view for a united and dedicated staff who will make positive impact on coordination of the CSOs despite personality diversities.

Thus making professionalism to supersede human inclination. The planning ended on a high note of team building exercise at Sehlabathebe National park where the notion of collectivism and team work was extensively stressed and emphasised.

7.4 Resource Mobilisation

The Council is currently financed through the Support of European Union for the chunk of its activities. During this period the Secretariat focused on the finalisation of project documentation on GBV to be funded by GIZ and will end in December 2019 with no cost extension of up to May 2020. The African Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA) was able to disburse and the project will come to an end in October 2019. The project thrust is to amplify the voice of civil society organisations on matters related to education. The Council has already submitted yet another proposal to Oxfam to continue where ANCEFA will end. In addition, the Council managed ABC elections and has received funds meant to augment the administration budget. There were also other small pockets of resources received including ones from Democracy Works and from UN Women.

7.5 Meeting with SADC Facilitator President Cyril Ramaphosa

The Council continued to be part of governance issue at the country level, especially the SADC facilitated Reforms programme and have attended both Multi-Stakeholders National Dialogues and National Leaders Forums.

7.6 National Leaders Forum

On the 30-31st July 2019, LCN through sectoral commission of DHRC attended a the 3rd National Leader Forum (NLF) held at Avani Lesotho as a process of ensuring successful comprehensive reforms.

This forum was intended to receive reports of in-district and diaspora consultations, to consider the proposed National Reforms Bill and to receive a progress report on the appointment of experts who would synthesise the reports of the consultations as well as agree on the timelines leading to the next plenary.

7.7 Staff Complement

These activities that appear in this report has been powered by the following team:

- Executive Director;
- Finance and Administration Manager;
- Programmes Director;
- Democracy and Human Rights Coordinator;
- Women and Children Coordinator;
- Health and Social Development Coordinator;
- Information and Communication Officer/PRO;
- Accountant;
- Driver;
- Admin Officer;
- Office Assistant;
- Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Coordinator (Volunteer from GoL);
- Economic Justice Commission Coordinator- Volunteer
- IT Officer (Volunteer from GoL)

8.0 CONCLUSION

Globally, the political space for civil society is shrinking and the new challenges are emerging. The new phenomenon of Not-for-Profit Organisations are becoming so common and the social business model has taken from the income generating activity.

The Council has not managed to rope in many funders for this reporting period and thus affected the level of activity implementations. There is a general decline in funding opportunities for the civil society sector not only in the country but globally. The other challenge is the level and ability of member organisations to adhere to set standards of governance and that resulted into limited trust from donor community to build positive relations with them. Despite these challenges, LCN is earning necessary trust and credibility among different players as evidenced by the assignment given to her to lead. Reforms consultation in and outside the country bear testimony for such trust though there were few challenges regarding the issue of perceptions.

The national agenda continues to influence LCN programming whereby there is a need to balance between the strategic focus Council has committed to deliver with its funding partners and the national issues which in turn are part of LCN programmes. The Council also faces some challenges that some of the issues which are otherwise what the Council ought to support happen at the time when there is no funding specifically dedicated for such activities -thus having potential for creation of apathy amongst members that the Council is not ready to support their course of action.

The Council has maintained that there is gender parity in its activities as can be evidenced by number of different sexual orientations that attend its activities. This year the has initiated negotiations with government aimed at signing Memorandum of Understanding which is a positive initiative for the sector. Another initiative is the Memorandum of Agreement with IEC. This is in a very advanced stage and will also be part of hosting PISA II.

Now that the reforms first stage is about to come to an end- the views collection period, a major issue that the council should be ceased with is in two fold, one it is to protect the voices of ordinary citizens that such do not get lost as the process is being refined by the privileged few and the technocrats, secondly is to ensure that the second stage or phase of reforms- implementation is sustained and respected to completion.