



# Quarterly Report

## Oct - Dec 2016



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## 1. Introduction

This report reflects on the activities undertaken by Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations during the period October-December 2016. It is an internal document for the consumption of the Board of Directors of Lesotho Council for NGOs in with the aim of enhancing its oversight role of the Secretariat. The Quarterly Report October-December 2016 will outline the activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the reporting period and its preceded by the context in which the activities were undertaken and a conclusion will be made thereof.

It is in this regards that the document further seeks to solicit any policy and strategic directions from the Board of Directors. Given this background, the Board of Directors should also be mindful of the relative existing developments, partners commitments, the strategic plan for LCN and other useful documents.

Subsequently, the report will reports on activities undertaken based on the three (3) components of the Strategic Plan of Lesotho Council of NGOs, namely: Capacity Building of CSO's in Lesotho, Research and Public Policy Advocacy, and governance and organisational development.

## 2. Context

The political-economical and social challenges continue to impact on Lesotho negatively as evidenced by the protracted political tensions between political parties in government and opposition, the declining national revenues that directly impact on the government ability to spend and continuation of adverse impact HIV and AIDS.

It has been noted that during this period, the parliament was adjourned sin die and this caused a lot of dissatisfaction from the opposition while those in

government continue to support the way the parliament was adjourned. All these tensions or war of words affect the country's credibility to international community that resulted in low investors' confidence amid of some countries in the Sub-Sahara Africa are said to face downgraded to negative of creditworthiness. It is noted that downgrading is a sign of liquidity stress facing commodity-dependent countries, subdued economic growth and president political risk.

In addition, there is increased perception on corruption due to rampage of corruption in the country as evidenced by the Lesotho's ratings by Transparency International 's corruption index where she has moved from 61 to 83. The HIV and AIDS continues to affect the social fabrics of Basotho particularly due to support and care required by the individual members of the community. The asserts are being used to help in the care and support including the property grabbing by elders.

## 3. Programmes and Project

During the reporting period, Lesotho Council of NGOs was engaged in the implementation of the following programmes;

- ◆ Deepening Decentralisation and Non-State Actors Programme
- ◆ Civil Society Engagement Towards Fostering
- ◆ Rule of Law and Accountability in Lesotho
- ◆ YALI Civic Leadership

The implementation of these programmes was based purely on the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan for Lesotho Council of NGOs. The subsequent chapters will report on the activities of the Council based on

the three pillars of the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan for Lesotho Council of NGOs, namely;

- ◆ Capacity Building of CSO's in Lesotho,
- ◆ Research and Public Policy Advocacy, and
- ◆ Governance and organisational development

#### 4, Capacity Building Programmes

During the reporting period, LCN was deeply engaged in building the capacity of civil society organisation in Lesotho. In this section of the report, we reflect on the following initiatives;

- ◆ Capacity Building on Project Management, Financial Management and Monitoring and Evaluation
- ◆ Building Capacity of Civil Society on UN Treaty Bodies
- ◆ Building Capacity of Community Councillors on Constitutionalism and Democratisation
- ◆ Training Youth on Civic Leadership.

#### 4.1 Capacity Building on Project Management, Financial Management and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Following the initial trainings on project management and monitoring and evaluation, LCN witnessed that the trainings were not effective because the organisations were not at the same level. Majority of CBOs did not have ongoing projects while most of them had never undertaken a project at all. It is in this regard, that LCN opted to jointly train those CSOs who had ongoing projects and a large revenue base on project management and financial management. The training was meant to be intensive and provide technical support to the CSOs in building tools that will enable the sustainability of

the organisation. The training selected reputable CSOs from each community council and they were provided a training at centralised area. In total one combined training was conducted per district lasting for 5 days.

During the reporting period, the training were only conducted in the districts of Mokhotlong and Butha Buthe. They are yet to be undertaken in the districts of Mohale's Hoek and Maseru.

#### 4.1.1 Training on Project Management

It is part of LCN's strategic focus to empower the civil society organizations to run efficiently and professionally. Given the critical role the CBO's and NGOs play in empowering communities to deal with and manage the day- to-day challenges, capacity building and institutional development of civil society organizations are the key for effective delivery of community services which they provide. Capacitated NGOs and CBOs are able to sustain their efforts.

While the pivotal role CBO's play at community level, it is increasingly being acknowledged, the need for training and development of strategies to sustain themselves remains a major challenge. Poor administration project and program management and uncertainty about sustained funding in this environment impacts negatively on their operations and quality of services.

Some of the main constraints to effective functioning of CBO's include poor managerial, administrative and project management skills at local level which lead to inability to access and manage donor funds.

The training specifically focused on;

- ◆ Understanding the problem (problem and objective tree analysis)
- ◆ Prioritisation of solutions (Analysing potential solutions, feasibility, complementarity with local

*List of Organisations who prepared grants*

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Thematic Area</b>	<b>Amount (LSL)</b>
Moteanong Wool and Mohair Growers Association	Rangeland Rehabilitation	250 000.00
Re u bone Lesholu	Sustainable Land Management	320 000.00
Bolokang Liphamola	Wetlands Management around Sehong-hong River Basin,	450 000.00
Malingoaneng Communal Botanical Garden	Communal Botanical Garden	266300.00

knowledge and practices, sustainability of solution etc.)

- ◆ Defining the project ( objectives, results, target groups, activities, resources needed, allocation of responsibilities etc.)
- ◆ Project Implementation (Planning, stakeholder management, etc.)

**Results;**

- ◆ To date, 372 representatives of CBOS were training on project management.
- ◆ Since majority of CBOs who were trained did not have any current programmes, the project management training focused most of the time on participatory project design. A lot of CBOs have been capacitated but only a few have been able to demonstrate their knowledge they learnt in a practical level. They applied for grants under the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme when a call was issued in late October. To date the following organisation have made it past the concept note stage and moved into the proposal development stage where fully fledged proposal will be submitted.

As far as other organisations are concerned LCN and implementing partners have are providing in-depth post training guardianship in so far as responding to grants is concerned. We are currently awaiting the U.S. Ambassador's Special Self-Help Fund call for proposals to issued. This is done mostly in February every year. The U.S. Ambassador's Special Self-Help Fund provides grants to community groups in Lesotho that are working to improve the basic economic and social conditions of their villages or communities. Grants are awarded once each year to projects which demonstrate local initiative and self-sustainability.

In addition, the trained organisations will also participate in GEF Small grants programme as call for proposals are extended to other districts. To date, they have been issued in Mokhotlong district alone.

However, other organisations such as Boitelo Hamaholi Community Society started a small scale agri-enterprise operation that sells daily products in their communities.

Given the fact that this activity is under-way, a lot of results are yet to emanate from this activity in 2017.



#### 4.1.2 Training of CBOs on Monitoring and Evaluation

Participatory community monitoring and evaluation are extremely important for learning about the achievement/deviation from original concerns and problems faced by local development projects/programmes being implemented, so that corrective measures can be taken in time.

Evaluation is often carried out by donor agencies or policy makers and helps in assessing whether the project has brought benefits to those for whom it was intended. The purpose these training was to build capacity of community based organisations to become evaluators in their respective village in so far as local government projects are concerned. According to our logical approach, an evaluator is expected to examine:

- ◆ whether it was right to have invested resources in the project in the context of competing needs;
- ◆ whether the underlying assumptions and design were right;
- ◆ whether progress was made towards planning changes, and if not, why; and
- ◆ unplanned changes that may have occurred.

Monitoring ensures that i) inputs are ready in time; ii) works plans are followed closely; iii) adjustments can be made and corrective action taken as and when necessary; iv) people who need to know are kept informed; v) constraints and bottlenecks are found; and vi) resources are used efficiently.

It is against this background that that during the reporting period LCN trained various community based organization on participatory monitoring and evaluation and project monitoring and evaluation. The aim the training on participatory monitoring and evaluation (pme) was;

- ◆ To assess information or generate data on development activities being carried out at the local community level.
- ◆ To facilitate monitoring and evaluation by beneficiaries of different development activities.



*Participants listening tentatively during the training*

- ◆ To increase beneficiaries' commitment and understanding in designing, planning and implementing community-based development projects or programmes.

**Participatory monitoring** involves local beneficiaries in measuring, recording, collecting, processing and communicating information to assist local development project extension workers and local group members in decision-making.

**Participatory evaluation** assists in adjusting and redefining objectives, reorganizing institutional arrangements or re-allocating resources as necessary. Monitoring and evaluation system (MES) allows continuous surveillance in order to assess the local development project's impact on intended beneficiaries.

**Project Monitoring and Evaluation** is about developing indicators for project and programmes implemented by CSOs in various villages.

## Results:

When implementing the participatory monitoring and evaluation in respective Community Councils, a number of Committees have been established. These committees will operate with the supervision of the Associates and Partners. The Associates and Partners will assume the following role;

- ◆ It is the responsibility of Associates and Partner (together with committee) to make beneficiaries aware about local government project/ programmes implemented in each council and their objectives.
- ◆ Associates and Partners (together with committee) should develop and help beneficiaries identify indicators and measurements for each project activity. Based on these, Associates and Partner (together with committee) should collect data on inputs and outputs by using simple formats and tables.

Associates and Partners (together with committee) should process, organize and analyse the data for evaluation. For participatory evaluation, they should assist beneficiaries to understand the process, using simple procedures. After processing, organizing and analysing the data, Associates and Partners (together with committee) must assess the impact of local development project.

### 4.1.3 Training on Financial Management

Following the ToT conducted by LCN, Implementing Partners and Associates conducted a three day training on financial management for community based organisation. The trainings were undertaken using a manual designed to help Implementing Partners and Associates train emerging CBOs in basic and correct procedures for recording financial transactions and preparing financial statement. The manual allowed

the CBO trainer to know how to elaborate a budget and to record expenses, estimate costs and analyse budgets, maintain the asset register. It also explains how the income ledger, cash book, bank book, advance book, bank reconciliation and trial balance are used and their importance.

The training covered the following modules;

- ◆ The Importance of Bookkeeping. This module highlights the forms of business, problems that are encountered by business owners, the ideas of entrepreneurship in business, understanding basic bookkeeping concepts and best practice in bookkeeping.
- ◆ Understanding Symbols in Bookkeeping. These modules basic idea is on symbol recognition, drawing of symbols, symbols for money in and money out, understanding income and expenses.
- ◆ How to Keep Accounting Records. This module focuses on cash book entry; the various books to be kept for proper record keeping of your business activities, entry system in bookkeeping, single entry system, the double entry system; debit and credit, balance sheets, and operating assets and liabilities.
- ◆ Knowing How to Calculate Business Profit and Loss. This model develops the ability calculating income and expenses and profit and loss.
- ◆ Managing Business Cash and Accounts. This module explains managing accounts, managing cash and credit/ loan.
- ◆ Financial Management. The final module concludes the manual with discussing the financial controls and system, sources of finance, time value of money; present value, future value and annuities, procurement and evaluation, suppliers management and financial planning.

## Results:

The workshops were welcomed and appreciated by representatives from the organisations on the fact that they will be assisted to manage their finances, recording all their monies in such a way that they will be able to trace progress and even to have indications when they are not keeping their records accordingly. The workshops emphasized on the reporting and monitoring flow of their finances. It reveals that finances need people who have basic skills and they have to be audited in order to avoid discrepancies or get away with the elements of corrupt practices which they realised have negative impact in causing conflicts which lead to the collapse of organisations. At the end of the workshops participants were able to demonstrate what they have learnt and were ready to improve how they have been handling their finances and ready to report to their membership in a manner that every individual will be satisfied with the performance of their organisations.



*Financial Management participants*

### 4.2 Training on Engagement of UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies

Lesotho is a State party to all of the nine core human rights treaties and has also ratified Optional Protocols to the CCPR and CEDAW allowing for individual

complaints. It has also undergone two rounds of the Universal Periodic Review and under this mechanism has made a wide range of commitments.

Civil society in Lesotho has traditionally not made consistent use of the UN Human Rights mechanisms available to it, including the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, which have remained under-utilised. This is partly due to the fact that civil society organisations have little knowledge of the UN human rights system and how to leverage it. There are a multitude of opportunities available to civil society. The Government of Lesotho has indicated its intention to address its long-standing backlog of reports to the treaty bodies. This will provide an important opportunity for civil society to engage with the UN human rights treaty body system in the submission of shadow reports.

LCN therefore sought to increase the capacity of Civil Society organization in Lesotho to enable them to engage and utilize human rights mechanisms beyond the borders. A range of human rights issues and challenges remain unreported to the UN Treaty Bodies as well as SADC oversight Committees. An informed civil society can effectively mobilize, advocate, and contribute to policy dialogues and community empowerment activities in Lesotho.

As such LCN held a **2-day training workshop** to improve the capacity of CSO on the existence and utilisation of international treaty bodies responsible for the human rights oversight during the NGO week. A key entry point towards achieving this goal was to increase the capacity and engagement of civil society in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, African Commission process, as well as other United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms (UNHRMM). This included the submission of reports, engaging in dialogue, monitoring, engaging with broader CSOs and optimizing monitoring the implementation UPR recommendations.





*Participants making a presentation during the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies training*

The absence of strategic, informed and consistent engagement by CSOs with the UPR process and other UNHRMMs represents a loss of opportunity and may be a vital entry point for achieving Lesotho’s good human rights observance record. It was therefore absolutely important to capacitate CSO on the knowledge of current strategies, levels of engagement, innovation, best practice and lessons as that provided the knowledge base for future capacity building of CSOs in this area. The **2 day training** during the NGO week served as a platform for introducing CSO to the mechanisms used for monitoring human rights and governance issues that they can utilise.

The training also helped participants on how they can monitor human rights and use data to generate evidence in different ways about the nature of rights violations.

**Objectives of the training were the following:**

- ◆ Discussed the existence of a range of human rights oversight mechanisms at the international level
- ◆ Identified practical approaches that could be taken by different civil society organizations.

- ◆ Encouraged CSO to participate in international reporting once they are capacitated on the channels for reporting.

The training managed to empower and capacitate CSOs and to have better understanding on the UN Treaty bodies, international human rights framework. The interaction and training on the UN Treaty bodies should be sustained for a meaningful engagement of CSOs in the international reporting system. The training should be held for other CSO who were not present during the training due to resource limitations.

**Results:**

- ◆ During the training, participants managed to interrogate the human rights situation of their projects sites and what kind of issues could be included in shadow reporting for the UN Treaty bodies.
- ◆ Most participants expressed their concern on the effectiveness of the UN Treaty bodies in terms of enforcing their decisions against member states.
- ◆ After the training, participants came up with a number of recommendations which were adopted by the NGO week.
- ◆ CSO were actively involved in small groups, and these groups worked together to identify different case study issues that could be taken to the UN Treaty bodies, including rights of the migrant workers, the current challenges affecting people with disabilities. They shared personal stories involving human rights ills of their project sites.
- ◆ It was immediately evident that participants have grasped the idea of UN Treaty mechanisms

and the need to have a robust civil society which can engage the International Community on Lesotho's human rights situation and has a proactive CSO sector on State Reporting.

### 4.3 Training Youth on Civic Leadership

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

The objective of the trainings was to empower youth to start community based civil society organisations which seek to redress adverse externalities on social, political and economic ills. The training explored various methods of civic engagement on the areas Community Service and Volunteerism, Community Building, Public Education, Community Development, Voting and Political Participation, Social Entrepreneurship etc.

During the reporting period, one training on NGO Leadership and Governance was undertaken at the American Corner State Library.

## 5. Research and Public Policy Advocacy

During the reporting period, LCN conducted numerous activities in accordance of the Research and Public Policy Advocacy strategic objective of the 2014-2019 Strategic Framework. Nonetheless, other activities by LCN with the aim of strengthening this thematic area included;

- ◆ District Dialogues on HR Trends
- ◆ Maseru Dialogue & Constitutional Reforms Dialogue
- ◆
- ◆ 17<sup>th</sup> Annual NGO Week

### 5.1 District Dialogues on Human Rights Trends

The LCN undertook a number of human rights dialogues in the 8 districts of Lesotho. The dialogues served as a platform for the critical review and appraisal of the democratic and Human Rights consolidation, as well as to identify key human rights issues and patterns in the districts of Lesotho. Preliminary issues and human rights trends gathered from the 8 districts visited were to be shared with stakeholders at a national level. Amongst their objectives, the dialogues highlighted human rights trends and also interrogated the approaches to be adopted for the national reforms initiative.

The dialogues were also important to raise awareness on the rights-holders of their entitlements. In some districts, the rights holders were not fully aware that they possess these rights, and thus did not make efforts to 'claim' them. During the discus-

sions, the evidence was collated from community leaders or oversight institutions or government departments responsible for various human rights promotion, protection and service delivery. As will be demonstrated below, the trends were picked from existing cases, individual or collective and any potential issues viewed as rights-violations.

**Objectives of the dialogues were the following:**

- ◆ Discuss a range of human rights problems happening at community level, district level and patterns of cases reported at
  
- ◆ Identification of patterns of cases referred to oversight institutions including police, gender units, social development and magistrate court.
  
- ◆ To reflect the human rights violations patterns from community to district level
  
- ◆ To gather the most pressing human rights issues from the district level

The dialogues were participatory in nature. First, to unwind and then engaged the participants on their knowledge on the human rights. Participants were allowed to express their fears and thoughts about the prevailing human rights situations of their areas. Specific focus was to brainstorm on the best suited model for the reform process and its composition to address systematic human rights concerns.

In order for the participants to identify human rights issues, they were first capacitated on the basic definitions of human rights, their origins, their different classifications, through a short video. An overview was given of the Lesotho framework for the protection of human rights and a detailed discussion of chapter II of the Lesotho Constitution providing for fundamental freedoms and rights. The last session was in a form of group sessions which mapped out

and clustered identified issues into different categories ranging from the most serious and most frequent. Civil society organisations present at the dialogues were engaged through prior consultations before actual wider dialogues.

Overall Participants in the Public Dialogues included community councillors, chiefs, district government ministries, police, representatives from Correctional Services, opinion leaders and civil society organizations.

**Results:**

The dialogues revealed a lot of human rights issues but the following seemed to be prevalent;

- ◆ Sexual and Reproductive Right and number of reported rape cases prevailed mostly in this Qacha's Nek district as opposed to other forms of crime.
  
- ◆ Peoples right to live in a secure environment is also violated as there is rampant and violent stock theft in rural villages of Lesotho.
  
- ◆ A number of cases involving ill-treatment by the military personnel was also noted.
  
- ◆ Police brutality is still rampant in Lesotho.
  
- ◆ Correctional Service and detention facilities are of low standards,
- ◆ Limited access to health care due to limited resources,
- ◆
- ◆ Discrimination of people with disability is still rampant and limits their access to services.

**Observations and impact of the dialogues**

- ◆ It was observed that carrying on regular dialogues with human rights victims is an effective

way to take stalk of the prevailing human rights situation in Lesotho, which in-turn could used for reporting.

- ◆ The dialogues were instrumental in imparting basic knowledge on human rights and their origins. Participants at the dialogue were able to critically interrogate each other on the human rights implications of the services that they provide in the district. Other issues were identified as urgent and therefore were immediately included in the ministries plan of action for immediate attention.
- ◆ There was a specific request from this district that these kind of platforms should be sustained even beyond LCNs presence.
- ◆

### 5.2 Maseru Dialogue & Constitutional Reforms Dialogue

Since 2015 constitutional, parliamentary, judiciary, public and security sector reforms have been a topical issue both internally and externally. A civil society organisation, Development for Peace Education (DPE) currently soliciting citizen voices on the reforms initiated meetings with leaders of other similar initiatives namely Lesotho Council of NGOs, Justice and Peace Commission of Lesotho Catholics Bishop Conference (JCCP), Transformation Resource Centre (TRC), Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL), Media Institute for Southern Africa Lesotho chapter, Department of Political and Administrative Studies and experts from other departments of the National University of Lesotho to discuss possible ways of collaboration. Robust internal engagements led to a consensus that these stakeholders should work together to ensure that their different individual initiatives and those of others which may still come are channelled into a framework that will ensure that all ideas generated become part of reforms debate. As such, during this dialogue, stakeholders deliberated on a

number of issues and approaches to the reform process.

#### Objectives of the activity

- ◆ Discuss a range of human rights problems happening at community level, district level and patterns of cases reported at
- ◆ Identification of patterns of cases referred to oversight institutions including police, gender units, social development and magistrate court.
- ◆ To gather the most pressing human rights issues from the district level
- ◆ Reflect on the best suited model/approach to the reform process

For Maseru district, the dialogue was held for two days collating all key human rights trends from the districts on the **25-26<sup>th</sup> December 2016**. The dialogue was participatory in nature. First, to unwind and then engaged the participants on their knowledge on the human rights. Participants were allowed to express their fears and thoughts about the current human rights situations of their areas. Second part of the dialogue was to brainstorm on the best suited model for the reform process and its composition.

During the first part of the dialogue a number of preliminary findings on the dialogues held in the district was shared with the participants. They were required to view their comments and concerns on the status of human rights issues in the districts and also to compare and contrast them with the issues they come across in Maseru. In order for the participants to identify human rights issues, they were first capacitated on the basic definitions of human rights, their origins, their different classifications and an overview of the Lesotho framework for the protection of hu-





*Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Mothejoa Metsing accepting the Civil Society proposal on reforms process design report during the NGO Week*

man rights was done. The last session was a groups session intended to map-out and cluster identified issues into different categories depending on the most serious and most frequent.

The following specific issues have emerged from the deliberations;

- ◆ To date *reforms* has been a subject of government monopoly and the collective strongly believes that for any reforms to benefit Lesotho the manner in which they are handled should be open, transparent, inclusive and participatory;
- ◆ The reforms process should be people and not government driven and government should not be allowed to kill the process by unnecessary and excessive dominance;

- ◆ There is a need for a concerted effort by non-state actors to define the process which would best suit the Lesotho situation and present it to different actors for endorsement and execution.

#### **Results**

- ◆ Effective and ineffective public mechanisms for human rights protection was unpacked/appraised.
- ◆ Enhanced knowledge of the rights-holders about their entitlements
- ◆ A document detailing CSO position on the reforms to be submitted to government.



### 5.3 17<sup>th</sup> NGO Week



*LCN newly elected President, Ntate Moletsane*

Lesotho Council of NGOs held the 17<sup>th</sup> NGO Week from 28 November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016. The event is meant NGOs in Lesotho to articulate of public policy demands to policy makers i.e. policy advocacy and lobbying by the collective of NGOs. Secondly, the event is meant for mutual learning among NGOs and cross learning between NGOs and the public and private sector on issues of mutual interest. Thirdly, the NGO Week is meant to publicise and marketing of NGOs and their outcomes in national development to the general public. Fourthly, the NGO Week promotes networking and enhances good rapport among NGOs themselves and between NGOs, Government and Private sector.

The NGO week's official opening ceremony had three main speakers who were the Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN) President Mr. 'Mampho Thulo who did welcome remarks. The other speaker was the LCN's Executive Director Mr. Seabata Motsamai. The third speaker was SADC-CNGO Executive Director Mr. Boi-

choko Ditlhake who delivered a message of solidarity. The key note address was made by UNDP Resident Representative Mrs Ms Karla Robin Hershey, On behalf of the government of Lesotho was Advocate Lekhetho Rakuane officially opened the NGO Week.

### 6. Commission Work

The membership and sectoral engagement of LCN is clustered into 6 sector commissions based on mandates and programmatic orientation of members. The purpose of the Commissions is to cluster organisations with a similar mandate together to facilitate programming and coordination. Under the leadership of the Commissioners, who are also members of the Board of Directors, and coordinated by the Secretariat, the Commissions are expected to perform the following:

- ◆ Coordinate civil society advocacy and voice on issues that affect them
- ◆ Facilitate exchange of information, experiences and lessons between members
- ◆ Provide a linkage between the Secretariat and member NGOs to for effective participation.
- ◆ Provide information and technical support to NGOs on relevant national policies, laws and international agreements.
- ◆ Promote partnership between member NGOs and strategic partners to influence policy change and inform national policy.

In this report, we will reflect on flagship achievement and activities of each commission. In particular, we will reflect on the activities of Health and Social Development Commission, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resource Commission, Democracy and Human Rights Commission, Economic Justice Com-

mission and Women and Children's Commission.

It is worth noting that majority of activities for the commissions in this quarter were deferred to the NGO Week as it provided a conducive environment for robust discussion and maximum attendance.

### **6.1 Health and Social Development Commission**

Members of the Health Advocacy Forum, which is a sub-structure of the Health and Social Development Commission held a training on Advocacy and Messaging Training for on November 14 – 18, 2016. The aim of the training was fill one the capacity gaps identified through the capacity assessment which was undertaken in early 2016. The aim of the training was to build a concise and indicator based advocacy strategies.

### **6.2 Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Commission**

No activities were conducted during the reporting period.

### **6.3 Democracy and Human Rights**

DHRC held a Commission meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The meeting introduced the new Coordinator for Democracy and Human Rights Commission and then went ahead to discuss the following issues.

- ◆ TRC & DPE Court case about the HRC Bill
- ◆ NUL students Strike and NMDS

#### **Agenda Item 1: TRC & DPE Court case**

DPE representative briefed members about a case instituted by both TRC & DPE before courts of law on the legality of HRC Bill. They mentioned that as different stakeholders interested in the Human Rights Commission Bill, they saw it fit to advocate for

a robust country-wide consultation on the process establishing the human rights commission.

DPE proceeded by mentioning that the Bill was taken out of Senate back to National Assembly, which is why the court case was triggered, led by both TRC & DPE. Members agreed that this initiative should be supported and all LCN members should come forward if they wish to be involved as friends of the court. (*amicus curae*)

#### **Agenda Item 2: NUL Update**

Members were updated on the strike by NUL students where they complained about bursaries. It was agreed youth organisations should team up and address the issue by meeting up with SRC and NUL management together with NMDS management.

### **6.4 Economic Justice Commission**

Economic Justice Commission in conjunction with stakeholders under the Alliance of Non-State Actors have been working on the matter of demanding the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho to account fully to citizens on progress made in so far as implementing recommendations for the Phumaphi Commission. This was namely because eligibility of AGOA depended on this issue. It was in that regard that the Commission was deeply engaged on the matters and held several meetings with other likeminded stakeholders in the quest to reverse the adverse effects which could be accrued as a result of failure to meet the eligibility criteria for Lesotho.

These events led to a petition being drafted and addressed to the Rt Hon Prime Minister through a procession.

### **6.5 Women and Children Commission**

No activities were conducted during the reporting period.

## 6.6 Disaster Management and Humanitarian Relief

No activities were conducted during the reporting period.

## 7. Documentation

LCN uses various platforms to communicate to members, donors, stakeholders and the Basotho at large. The platforms are used to communicate LCN's activities and also to amplify advocacy messages of the Council. During the reporting period the following platforms were used.

### 7.1 NGO Web (July – September)

The office designed the NGO Web in the reporting period, its ready for printing.

### 7.2 Twitter Account

Twitter account (LCNLive) was created in November, we now have 103 followers. Most of them are media practitioners. During the NGO Week, we created #LCN2016NGOweek and since November 23rd, 111 tweets have been posted.

### 7.3 Annual Report (2015/16)

The Annual Report provides comprehensive background on what the activities conducted by the Council for a period of a year. During this reporting period, an Annual report for the year 2015/16 was produced.

### 7.4 Website maintenance

To keep our website up-to-date with our day to day activities and to keep it in order, the office do regular updates to inform our web visitors on what's the latest at the council. In the reporting period, it was updated with both content and graphics.



2015/16 Annual Report

### 7.4 17<sup>th</sup> NGO Week

A press conference was convened to talk about the organisation of the NGO Week. The LCN took pictures of all the sessions, collected presentations, branding and was in charge of the media and office corner. LCN ensured that there was internet, the presentations were projected, the audio was clear in all rooms and the messages from the NGO Week were publicised in all of our media platforms.

### 7.5 Press Releases and Statements

The information office prepared a press release on the NGO Week and it was broadcasted on Harvest FM, PC FM and Radio Lesotho. Reforms Process press release was also done and we got coverage from Radio Lesotho, Harvest FM, Tsenolo FM and PC FM.

Name of Article	Date
<a href="#">Lesotho Council of NGOs to convene its 17th NGO Week</a> (2/11/16).	[ 2 Nov 2016]
<a href="#">Lesotho Council of NGOs to convene a public dialogue on human rights and reform process</a> (2/11/16)	[ 2 Nov 2016]
<a href="#">DPE Press Conference</a>	[31 Oct 2016]

Our Facebook page was update with the link below

Its that time of the year when we take a break for the holidays, our offices will be opened on January 9th 2017. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.....	12/19/2016 9:26 am
Help us get a @GreatNonprofits 2016 Top-Rated Award, write a review of your experience with us! <a href="http://greatnonprofits.org/org/lesotho-council-of-ngos">http://greatnonprofits.org/org/lesotho-council-of-ngos</a>	12/16/2016 9:53 am
Lesotho Council Of NGOs's cover photo	12/05/2016 3:37 pm
The newly elected President of LCN, Mr. Moletsane Jonathan 2016/17	12/02/2016 1:54 pm
NGO Week Day Five, The newly elected Board of Directors 2016/17	12/02/2016 1:42 pm
17th NGO Week Day Four: A moment of silence in commemoration of World Aids Day in support	12/01/2016 1:03 pm
17th NGO Week Day three morning sessions	11/30/2016 10:23 am
NGO Week Day two in pictures...	11/30/2016 10:16 am
Day one afternoon session in pictures	11/29/2016 10:43 am
17th NGO Week Day One morning sessions in pictures #LCN2016NGOWeek	11/28/2016 1:43 pm
Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security	11/28/2016 12:11 pm
#LCN2016NGOWeek Programme	11/25/2016 9:12 am
NGO WEEK	11/25/2016 9:02 am
Honourable Lekhetho Rakuoane Minister of Home Affairs	11/23/2016 4:21 pm
LCN to convene its NGO Week from November 28th	11/23/2016 12:11 pm
Public Dialogue on Human Rights Trends and Constitutional Reforms	11/17/2016 9:26 am
Public Dialogue on Human Rights Trends	11/02/2016 10:35 am
Lesotho Council of NGOs 27th Annual General Meeting and its 17th NGO Week	11/02/2016 9:13 am
DEVELOPMENT FOR PEACE EDUCATION PRESS STATEMENT	10/31/2016 8:22 am
DAY 3 of the Training on Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation	10/27/2016 3:21 pm
LCN to convene trainings in Mhale's Hoek, Maseru, Butha-Buthe and Mokhotlong (24/10/16)	10/24/2016 3:45 pm

## 8. Networking

Organisation	Event	Date
Ministry of Health	2015/16 Health Sector Annual Joint Review Meeting	05/10/2016
National AIDS Commission	Support to Commemoration of World AIDS Day 2016: Planning Meeting	07/10/2016
GEF and UNDP	Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme Capacity Building Workshop	10/10/2016
Ministry of Finance	National Micro-Finance Forum	10/10/2016
Lesotho Save the Children	Presentation of Lesotho Save the Children Strategic Plan	26/10/2016
NUL	Moshoeshoe I Institute of Leadership Concept Note Workshop	3/11/2016
Prime Minister's Office	Official Launch of the three National Nutrition Milestones	20/10/2016
Ministry of Health	Palliative Care Stakeholders	20/10/2016
Sentebale	One Day Strategic Plan Meeting	27/10/2016
Ministry of Gender	Preparatory meeting for 16 days of activism	20/10/2016
IEC	Workshop on Gender Policy, legal Assessment and Legal Reform	14/11/2016
NUL	A conference to mark 50 years of independence	11/11/2016
US Embassy	Reception to Welcome Back the YALI 2016 Mandela Washington Fellow	01/11/2016
Cognitive Behaviour Psychological Consultancy	Anti-Bullying month event	29/10/2016
Ministry of Health	National Launch of LEPHIA	3/11/2016
Procurement Tribunal of Lesotho	Institutional Support for the Enhancement of Public Financial Management Project	1/11/2016
Social Development	Social Protection Technical Coordination Workshop	5/11/2016
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights	Restoration of Justice and Diversion Workshop	5/11/2016



Social Development	Validation of Disability Equity bill	28/11/2016
Ministry of Health	Commemoration of World Diabetes Day	28/11/2016
MATRIX	Facilitation of Executive Committee Elections	10/11/2016
Ministry of Local Government	Validation of Training of Trainers Manual for sensitisation of Decentralisation Policy	11/11/16
Ministry of Social Development	Launch of a cash transfer book	17/11/2016
Ministry of Law and Constitutional Affairs	Launch of Report on Legal Environment Assessment for HIV and AIDS in Lesotho	17/11/2016
PSI Lesotho	Feedback Assessment on Post Violence Care Centre: The Dreams Project	17/11/2016
Social Development	Validation of Disability Equity bill	28/11/2016
Ministry of Health	Commemoration of World Diabetes Day	28/11/2016
MATRIX	Facilitation of Executive Committee Elections	10/11/2016
Ministry of Local Government	Validation of Training of Trainers Manual for sensitisation of Decentralisation Policy	11/11/16
Ministry of Social Development	Launch of a cash transfer book	17/11/2016
Ministry of Law and Constitutional Affairs	Launch of Report on Legal Environment Assessment for HIV and AIDS in Lesotho	17/11/2016
PSI Lesotho	Feedback Assessment on Post Violence Care Centre: The Dreams Project	17/11/2016
LNFOOD	Closing Ceremony of Deepening Decentralisation for Non-State Actors Project	24/11/2016
UNICEF	Launch of Book; From Evidence to Action; The story of Cash Transfers and Impact in Sub-Saharan Africa	17/11/2016
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Deployment of Oversight Committee	16/11/2016
LNFOOD	Closing Ceremony of Deepening Decentralisation for Non-State Actors Project	24/11/2016
UNICEF	Launch of Book; From Evidence to Action; The story of Cash Transfers and Impact in Sub-Saharan Africa	17/11/2016
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Deployment of Oversight Committee	16/11/2016

Department of Water Affairs	Land and Water Resource Management Workshop	17/11/2016
UNDP	Validation Session of the UNDP Country Program Evaluation	17/11/2016
GIZ	Year-end Function	30/11/2016
UNICEF	Validation workshop on the finding of Integrated Social Safety Nets	24/11/2016
Lesotho Workcamps Association	Annual General Meeting	3/12/2016
Ministry of Local Government	Design Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility	28/11/2016
Ministry of Development Planning	Aid Coordination Forum	22/11/2016
Ministry of Development Planning	NSPD Review Stakeholder's Validation	23/11/2016
Habitat for Humanity Lesotho	HFHL Advocacy Program Workshop	7/12/2016
Bureau of Statistics	African Statistics Day	24/11/2016
Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture	Workshop on Public Access to Information and participation in decision making on living modified organisms	8/12/2016
RSDA	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Breakfast Meeting	09/12/2016
DCEO	Anti-Corruption Symposium	5/12/2016
Lesotho Save the Children	Launch of LSC New Name	13/12/2016

## 9. Resource Mobilisation

During the reporting period, LCN developed on proposal which was submitted to the European Union in Brussels. The proposal was worth Euro 800,000.00. In addition, LCN managed to raise funds for the NGO Week as follows;

Organisation	Amount
Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism	M 19,500.00
Transformation Resource Centre	M 31,000.00
Health Professional Association Coalition	M 7,200.00
GIZ	M 19,500.00
UNICEF	M 30,000.00
MISA Lesotho Chapter	M5,000.00
Development for Peace Education	M19,500.00
Rural Self-Help Development Association	M12,000.00
UNDP	M 60,600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>M 199,800.00</b>

### **10. Leadership and Management Support**

The Board of Directors guided that the operations of the Council by making necessary approvals that included the holding of AGM, NGO Week just to mention a few. The details of the above are inclusive of the process. In addition, it should be noted that the Executive Committee as an arm of governance of the Council prepared for the Board of Directors Meetings.

The Secretariat continued to hold weekly meetings where programmatic issues are being discussed. This serves as a good management for shared approach and visioning.

### **11. Conclusion**

It can be concluded that this quarter was busy in terms of the implementation of the programmes and projects based on the acceleration plan that was approved the Board of Directors. The quarter focussed in implementing flagship events of LCN namely NGO Week and the Annual General Meeting. These activities attract over 300 hundred participants per activity thus a lot of work during the reporting period was based on prepa-

ration of these flagship events. However, we can conclude that the event were executed with the highest quality and feedback from participants has been very positive.

In addition, annual reporting to donors and LCN members on progress made during implementation of grants and LCN's Operations were among key activities undertaken during this quarter. Positive feedback was received from the donors and LCN members on reports tabled before them.

Though there are some challenges both at the management of human resource, resource mobilisation just to mention a few, LCN continues to raise the civil society flag in most forums that needed the voice of civil society organisations.