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NEWSLETTER

THESE ARE MY PEOPLE—ESTHER LUNGU

FIRST LADY PLEDGES ALLEGIANCE TO DISABILITY ADVOCACY

“I shall not relent in advocating for persons with disabilities” Zambian First Lady has declared.

Mrs. Lungu was addressing delegates of the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa 2018 Conference in Lusaka. The first lady who is pursuing special education studies with the University of Zambia has been known and hailed as a strong advocate of vulnerable groups including Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Mrs. Lungu said the conference was an opportunity to discuss and agree on more innovative and effective approaches towards inclusion of PWDs and averting the many challenges that they face.



“I’m delighted that the sessions yet to come will lead to discussions of actual best practices that will generate more innovation for better service delivery to persons with disabilities. The action, research, documentation and information sharing session should enable delegates to consequently initiate research to solve problems and challenges face by persons with disabilities. This component must be a reflective process of stakeholder partnership to address problems on disability” she said.

Mrs. Lungu added that training and education is a key component of CBR. She said capacity building must become a deliberate activity in order for everyone to have the ability to handle disability issues. The First Lady said that in her various interactions with vulnerable people across the country, the need for capacity especially in dealing with Children with Disabilities (CWDs) is one area that still needs work.

Mrs. Lungu further emphasised the need for PWDs

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Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa Network (CAN)

FILM INDUSTRY ENHANCES DISABILITY ADVOCACY IN ZAMBIA



By Arthur Mwansa

Film industry has become an important advocacy tool in promoting the rights of persons with disability, a film maker with disability has noted.

Ms. Musola Kaseketi, a Zambian film director and human rights advocate observes that proper application of the audio visual production is enhance her advocacy work on PWDs rights and inclusive development.

Ms. Kaseketi, who is also an International Labour Organisation (ILO) external consultant said in an interview during the just concluded 6th Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) conference in Lusaka, that she has used video production to mainstream disability issues the community. Given the impact her advocacy has created, Musola is transferring skills to other people with disabilities.

“I have been training persons living with disabilities in film production. Even in the movie industry we are saying that we should not live anyone behind. We have trained persons living with disabilities to

become professional camera person and editors. This is another way of creating employment opportunities for persons living with disabilities” she said.

The filmmaker said she has for many years been using the power of audio visual as a tool for human rights advocacy and inclusiveness for persons living with disabilities.

She further said that government and other non-governmental organisations including the private sector have found it necessary to incorporate persons living with disabilities in the development agenda because of the enhancement of the film industry.

“I studied film production. The late Godwin Makuru, the person who directed the production of a Zimbabwean film called *Neria* is the one who encouraged me to become a professional filmmaker despite my disability. I am self-employed and I have given jobs to a number of Zambians,” Ms Kaseketi said.

Ms Kaseketi is a first Zambian female film director who has trained many youth to become professional film producers and directors.

“Film production is a very powerful tool which has helped in provoking debate among the community members. Many persons living with disabilities are able to speak their minds out because of the power of audio visual production,” she said.

She was speaking at the 6th CBR Africa conference, held from &-11th May 2018, at Intercontinental hotel, Lusaka, Zambia under the theme: “CBR for resilience building and sustainable development: Leave no one behind.”

SELF-HELP GROUPS ARE INSTRUMENTAL IN EMPOWERING PWDS

By Arthur Davies Sikopo

Self-help groups can be a good approach to solving non-inclusion of persons with disabilities, a delegate at the 6th CBR Africa Conference has observed. Self-help groups where they have been well established changed lives of many persons with disabilities.

Speaking to delegates, Daisuke Sagiya, the Chief Advisor, JICA, noted that Countries like India and Philippines where Self Help Groups were established with the help of the World Bank have proved to be successful.

He further notes that creation of what is known as Self Help Groups have shown benefit socially, emotionally and economically for persons with disabilities in South Africa.

He said currently the South African government

together with his organisation is collaborating with local organisations in formulating guidelines to be presented at international foras such as the 6th CBR African Conference, individual countries and communities for adoption, if they find the idea progressive and if it could work in their communities.

JICA is apparently, implementing the project ; Promotion of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Disability Main streaming, as a component in the Social Development Department of the South African Government.

During the same side meeting, Koulibayi Yaya of Light for the World talked of the involvement of disability organisation on the implementation of CBR strategies that looked at sustainability, inclusion, participation and involvement of persons with disability and having them put at the centre in all planning and execution processes.

AFRICAN COUNTRIES STRUGGLING TO ACHIEVE SDGS

African governments have been blamed for the current slow inclusion of persons with disability in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

While presenting a paper on “SDGs and Community Based Rehabilitation Country Progress”, Simon Munde , an officer from the Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi (FEDOMA) observed that persons with disability have not enjoyed the best from the United Nations set SDGs especially Goal number three (3) on Good Health and Well Being.

He said persons with disabilities are mostly left out during the implementation of some of the goals among the SDGs. Mr. Munde said

domestication of SDGs has been a problem for most governments, a fact that is side-lining many pwds from development agenda.

“In the development process of the Malawi Growth in Development Strategy that is where we were involved. At other times, of course not necessarily with the willingness of the Duty Bearers, we were involved after we tried by all means to find ourselves in such planning,” he said.

Malawi is one of the countries that have been trying to domesticate the SDGs through the Malawi Growth in Development Strategy (MGDS). Mr. Munde has however said it was now incumbent upon persons with disabilities to follow up

CBR FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION- CAMEROON MAKING STRIDES

Chelsea (Five) was diagnosed with profound hearing impairment and enrolled in Pre-school at home. Her elder brother aged seven also learned Child Sign Language (CSL) through home-based pre-school sessions. Eventually they both were enrolled in an inclusive school accommodating both learners with diverse impairment and children without impairments. Chelsea leads a happy childhood and her elder brother who masters sign language is her hero.

Salamatou (four) was diagnosed with early childhood stunting. A combination of frequent stimulations, nutrition and support through home visits and frequent exercises is helping prepare her for school in a few years.

The above examples are results of CBR community interventions in Cameroon as a way of increasing access to education for Children with Disabilities – a case study of Cameroon.

Children with disabilities in Cameroon as in other Low and Medium Income Countries (LMIC) experience stigma from birth and are more prone to exclusion, concealment, abandonment, institutionalization and abuse. CBR Africa 2018 Conference delegate from Cameroon has reported.

Jacques Chirac said of the 1,272,189 People with Disabilities (PWDs) in Cameroon, 795,118 (representing 62.5% of 1,272,189) are children. Chirac was sharing the Cameroon experience of implementing CBR and inclusive education in resource limited settings.

“We are employing a number of strategies: We work closely with Community Units in communities to provide disability focus health education to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. We train nurses and midwives on early identification because early identification assists in achieving more effective results. We further develop follow-up plans for children suspected to ensure comprehensive diagnosis” he explained.



Jacques said Once diagnosed, they work with families to develop a child development plan with careful tracking and follow-up parameters. He said communities also work to mobilize resources to access quality care and rehabilitation services for the children. He said they further set-up support groups of mothers with children with disabilities for continued support.

“The important thing is to understand that each child may be different, and we must identify appropriate education facility for each child based on their impairment and capabilities” He explained.

Jacques said that despite the challenge of limited resources to cover the service demand CBR initiatives have achieved some notable results such as increased enrolment of CWDs from disenfranchised families in education. He said there has also been improved participation and performance of CWDs in education

“For early childhood care and education to be rewarding and be effective, accessible and equitable, a society must invest in it’. By investing in early assessment and intervention; universalizing access to early education; and promoting inclusive, community based educational

CAN elects new EC members

By Arthur Mwansa

Community Based Rehabilitation Africa Network (CAN), Chairperson Musonda Siame has been re-elected to spearhead the organisation for another four year term.

Mr Siame, was elected during the just-ended 6th CBR conference held at Intercontinental Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia. The conference organised under the theme: “CBR for resilience building and sustainable development: Leave no one behind” attracted over 40 participating countries with over 500 delegates in attendance.

Delegates constituted into a General Assembly that saw Mr Siame, a Zambian on Wednesday evening returning at the helm of the organisation.

Other committee members elected member include; Terese Adjayi from Togo (Vice Chairperson), Pascal Ahidjo from Cameroon (Secretary), Carol Maholo from Uganda (Treasurer), Gideon Muga from Kenya (Committee member), Ann Ojugo from Nigeria (Committee member) and Nabil Khalil from Egypt (Committee member). The new committee members will spearhead the

Network activities for the next four years from 2018 to 2022.

Speaking at the closure of the conference yesterday Mr Siame expressed happiness that the five-day meeting brought about information sharing, renewing of alliances, networks and friendships.

Mr Siame said it is evident from the many presentations during the conference that shifting from CBR to Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) has started and must be sustained. “As per resolutions of the 2015 conference I believe that the grassroots have not been left behind and we look forward to enhance resilience that will enable persons living with disabilities to absorb the many socks that society has brought before them,” he said.

He said as planned, the conference brought persons living with disabilities, government officials, academia, programme implementers, development partners and various non-governmental organizations. “We hope that this will foster better collaboration to ensure no one is left behind,” Mr Siame, said.

ESTHER LUNGU STANDS UP FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

to be empowered to live independent lives. She further stressed the need to involve PWDs when coming up with empowerment initiatives.

“Another issue of importance is that of livelihood initiatives for resilience building. In order for individuals, families and communities to manage challenges of life and live independent and decent lives, they need livelihood initiatives at their disposal” She said.

Mrs Lungu pointed out to the delegates that the theme of the conference which is “Community Based Rehabilitation for Resilience Building and Sustainable Development “Leave No One Behind correlates well with the 2030 agenda for sustainable development which provides a framework to guide development efforts globally. Mrs. Lungu expressed thanks to the Zambian Head of State His Excellency President Edgar Lungu for having declared the Zambian Government’s commitment to reducing challenges faced by PWDs.

SIXTH CBR CONFERENCE CLOSES

GO YE AND SPREAD THE WORD—VEEP

By Arthur Davies Sikopo



“This is why the government of Zambia stepped up the social cash transfer programme targeting 700, 000 beneficiaries for the year 2018 and 15 per cent of which is targeted for the persons with disability. Other social protection programme such as Food Security Pack Programmes are also being scaled up from 40, 000 to 80, 000 beneficiaries. We are focused on bringing dignity back to our people,” he said.

And the Minister is hopeful

that the conference has built capacity in all that attended and that further the lessons learnt will be utilised in each of the participant’s respective countries.

Dr. Chilufya expressed confidence that the recommendations will find room in influencing Policy change in participating countries.

And Community Development Minister Emerine Kabanshi praised delegates and the organising entity CBR African Network for a successful 2018 international conference.

“The closing of this conference is the beginning of a step towards the actualising of the aspirations of the persons with disabilities through Community Based inclusive development. The real success of the conferences is for all of us to go back and implement the resolutions of the conference,” she noted.

She urged all delegates to implement the resolutions of the 6th Conference.

The next conference will be held in 2022.

Hon Chitalu Chilufya and CAN Chaiperson Mr Siame

The 6th Community Based Rehabilitation African Conference has come to a close with a call from Zambia’s Vice President Inonge Wina calling for the actualisation of recommendations from the 2018 African Conference that gathered over 500 delegates from all over the world in one place.

Officiating at the closure of the 6th Community Based Rehabilitation African Conference, Health Minister Dr. Chitalu Chilufya who represented the Vice President, said rehabilitation should be perceived as a fundamental component of the frontline of healthcare.

The Minister was pleased that the conference touched on critical aspects such as livelihood for resilience building which discussed among them supporting income generating activities and improving lives of persons with special needs.

Dr. Chilufya said such matters are in line with the Government of Zambia’s priorities in bettering lives of its citizens.