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Press Release

Lesotho Council of NGOs, Development for Peace Education to hold National Community Parliament

Maseru – 3rd October 2014: Development for Peace Education under the auspices of Lesotho Council of NGOs will hold the National Community Parliament (NCP) at AME Hall in Maseru from 6 – 8 October 2014.

Community Parliament is a platform where ordinary citizenry address senior government officials from different ministries about their needs in communities. The National Community Parliament also provides communities to understand how the National Parliament works and how it allocates and appropriates funds for different ministries. This activity also serves as a platform where ministries provide an update on what they are doing to solve issues of the nation.

The main event will also hold the women's Forum on Gender-based violence as part of the Lesotho Council of NGOs commitment to empower women about their rights.

The NCP follows two important preliminary activities. These are preliminary consultations, which produced the question/needs from the communities, followed by question presentation ceremony to representatives of the relevant ministries.

The National Community Parliament will draw about three hundred (300) participants from the ten districts of the country. This is the first time in the history of the event that all districts will be represented.

The questions will be directed to the following ministries:

- a. Ministry of Public Works and Transport

- b. Ministry of Education and Training,
- c. Ministry of Water Affairs, Energy and Meteorology,
- d. Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship and Parliamentary Affairs
- e. Ministry of Development Planning
- f. Ministry responsible for police
- g. Ministry of Agric and Food Security
- h. Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology
- i. Ministry of Health

The number of organisations taking part in the event are Action Aid Lesotho, Transformation Resource Centre, Campaign for Education Forum, Centre for Empowerment and Social Analysis, Send a Cow Lesotho, Rural Self-help Development Association, Patriot Vision in Action, Lesotho Environmental Justice and Advocacy Centre and GROW.

The Programme is enclosed.

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