FEDOMA-NDI Project upcoming activities in September, October & November

SEPTEMBER
• Training ADC & VDC representatives on budget tracking and Monitoring
  • Follow up meetings on inclusive service delivery with ADC and VDC representatives
  • Press conference
  • Production of September Monthly Bulletin

OCTOBER
• Budget Tracking Exercise and Service Delivery Monitoring in the sectors of Education, Health and Agriculture
  • Media tour
  • Capacity building of leaders
  • Develop guiding Principles
  • Production of October Monthly Bulletin

NOVEMBER
• DEC Briefing
• Press conference

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FROM EXCLUSION TO INCLUSION
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Enhancing Active Participation of Persons with Disabilities and Accountability in Local Government
Persons with disabilities in Machinga benefited from FEDOMA-NDI Project – need it to continue

Machinga district has seen the coming of the FEDOMA-NDI Project as a relief to the pain of discrimination persons with disabilities were encountering before the coming of the project in March 2015. Speaking at a meeting with representatives from ADCs, VDCs and persons with disabilities held at Mpatemwe in Namasika Teachers Development Centre (TDC) in the area of Traditional Authority T.A Kapotoma, Innocent John, a person with visual impairment from Chamba said the project has achieved a lot in as far as inclusion is concerned.

Before the project was implemented in the district, persons with disabilities were discriminated in various development activities. People perceived a person with disability as some body who can not make a formal decision.

He said, “The project has made the tremendous progress here in Machinga and let me say clearly that if the project ends at this time, for sure, the communities will backslide the way people perceive persons with disabilities. Let me assure you that persons with disabilities were not involved in local development activities before the implementation of this project but now as you can see, am part and parcel of ADC which means persons with disabilities are recognized in various development committees.”

There are revelations showing that the working relationship between councilors and MPs is in a bad state when addressing the needs of persons with disabilities in the communities since these duties bear contracts themselves as to who is responsible to bring local project activities in the communities as they fail to understand their core responsibilities.

The revelations have come at a time when FEDOMA-NDI Project conducted an interface meeting with councilors and persons with disabilities at Bridge View Hotel in Lilongwe on Friday 17th July, 2015 as the rationale of the meeting was to find out how effective is the work of councilors in the communities to address the needs of persons with disabilities.

Speaking at the meeting, Councilor Fernando Katenezi Zulu from Nyanya Ward in Lilongwe Mapuyu North said him as a councilor, is encountering challenges in a process to make local development activities inclusive. He said his work is not manifesting on the ground to address the needs of persons with disabilities, “I wish the project to continue” he added.

However, we are trying our level best to make persons with disabilities in our communities well saved,” he added. Addressing this challenge, Charles Banda, VDC of the Machinga District Disability Forum (DDF) advised councilors to remain royal to the social contract they are abide to, enhancing disability inclusion.

If this project continues, the work of lobbying for inclusion will be effective in this district since some people are not yet to understand disability issues. I would wish the project to continue,” he added.

FEDOMA-NDI Project on 17th – 21st August, 2015 embarked on field visits in Machinga, Balaka and Lilongwe districts to find out how effective is the project’s rationale to its targeted districts and it has been noted that the FEDOMA – NDI project should make it to another phase so that those who have not yet started involving persons with disabilities in local development activities should learn through it.

If this project continues, the work of lobbying for inclusion will be effective in those three districts since some people are not yet to understand disability issues. According to the participants, there is a wish for the project to continue.

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