

Awareness on autism

AUTISM is still taboo among blacks and only awareness campaigns can help ease the burden on families.

This was said yesterday by Lesotho's first lady, Mathato Mosisilli, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal on the opening day of the International Conference on Autism and Developmental Disabilities: the South African context.

The conference ends today.

"If communities were informed about autism, affected families would go to public places without having to worry about negative comments," Mosisilli said.

She said parents with autistic children needed support to help them cope.

Mosisilli said in Lesotho there was only one private school for autistic children but that the disability was recently recognised by her country's government as one affecting a large number of the country's black population. – *Khulekani Mazibuko*

