

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE ACCEPTANCE, IN PRINCIPLE, OF THE LESOTHO ELECTIONS TIMETABLE

3 December 1999

Following careful consideration of the advice submitted by elections experts, the Government of Lesotho and the Interim Political Authority (IPA) have accepted, principle, a provisional Elections Time-Table prepared by two international experts who had been assigned for the task under the Agreement signed on 3rd December, 1999, between the two sides.

The two experts, who completed their mission 3 weeks ago, were Dr Kwado Afari-Gyan, from Ghana and Professor Jorgen Elkliit, from Denmark. They consulted extensively on the issue with all the relevant stakeholders.

The provisional timetable envisages the holding of elections in Lesotho in about 10-12 months beginning from 1st May 2000,

In accepting, in principle, the provisional time-table, the Government and the IPA recognise that the law pertaining to the Electoral Model has not yet been finalised, and the two parties underline the urgency for this resolution of the matter as soon as possible.

However, the two sides also agree that other matters, which do not hinge on the finalisation of the Electoral Model, can be perused with immediate effect. These include preparations for fresh registration of voters, and other related matters.

In consequence to the acceptance of the elections Time-Table, the Government and the IPA have also expressed the understanding that the IPA will continue with its mandate to prepare for elections, and that its life will come to an end one day after the announcement of election results a provided for in Section 22 of the IPA Act Number 16 of 1998.

The two sides appeal to all stakeholders, particularly political parties, to cooperate with and support the newly appointed Independent Electoral Commission it charts the way forward for the holding of free and fair elections.

Source: www.gov.ls/documents/speeches/elections3dec1999.htm