



ELECTORAL PLEDGE

KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

National Assembly Elections - February 2015

WHEREAS the SADC Double Troika Summit plus Two held in Pretoria on 15 September 2014, initiated a facilitation process to restore political and security stability to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Maseru Facilitation Declaration was signed by political parties represented in parliament on 2 October 2014 to implement the decisions of the SADC Double Troika Summit.

NOTING that in terms of the Maseru Facilitation Declaration, parties agreed that the National Assembly Elections be brought forward and be held by the end of February 2015.

AWARE that the Maseru Facilitation Declaration called on all stakeholders to play their part in restoring political and security stability to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

CONSCIOUS that the signatories to the Maseru Facilitation Declaration agreed that the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has the responsibility to conduct these elections on a credible, free and fair basis.

RECALLING that the Maseru Security Accord, dated 23 October 2014, was entered into between the security sectors specifically to stabilise the security situation in Lesotho.

ACKNOWLEDGING that since the Maseru Facilitation Declaration and the Maseru Security Accord were entered into, the political and security situation in the Kingdom of Lesotho has improved tremendously.

COGNISANT of the current situation, it is therefore imperative that all stakeholders further consolidate the gains that have been made by ensuring that a climate conducive for elections to take place on a free and fair basis is created and sustained.

CONFIRMING that democratic elections require enhanced transparency, accessibility and credibility of election and democratic governance as well as the acceptance of election results by all contesting parties.

AFFIRMING and adhering to the principles adopted by the SADC and the AU, as set out in the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections and the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa.

DESIROUS of assuring all Basotho of our dedication to democracy, the rule of law, and the conduct of peaceful, credible, free and fair elections.

COMMITTED to the principles set out in the Lesotho Electoral Code of Conduct, 2011;

PART ONE

Creating a Climate Conducive for elections to take place

WE, the signatories to this Pledge, commit to –

1. **Honour** the Constitution, the National Assembly Elections Act 2011, and other laws of the Kingdom of Lesotho in our conduct during the elections;
2. **Observe** the Electoral Code of Conduct;
3. **Take** all necessary steps to ensure the elections to be held on 28 February 2015 will reflect the will of the citizens of the Kingdom of Lesotho and will be credible, free and fair;
4. **Accept** our obligation to assist in promoting the creation of a climate conducive to the holding of free and fair elections;
5. **Ensure** there is no discrimination in the voters' registration;

6. **Ensure** the voters' roll is up to date and accessible;
7. **Facilitate** all political parties' access to state media and other forms of disseminating their political views;
8. **Refrain** from taking any steps that may undermine the holding of free and fair elections and from taking any action directly or indirectly that shall militate against the creation of a climate that is conducive for free and fair elections to be held;
9. **Refrain** from showing prejudice or favour in the use of state resources and institutions, to pursue party political interests or act in any other manner that may jeopardise the holding of free and fair elections; and
10. **Refrain** from undertaking any actions that may undermine the stability of the institutions of the state and compromise the creation of an environment that is conducive for credible, free and fair elections, including the removal, appointment, demotion or promotion of key officials within the state during the period prior to the elections, subject to due and legal process being followed.
11. **Ensure** that public servants and officials do not conduct themselves in a manner that may undermine the stability of the institutions of the state and compromise the creation of an environment that is conducive for credible, free and fair elections.

PART TWO

Support for the Independent Electoral Commission

WE, the signatories to this Pledge undertake that we shall

12. **Respect** and **promote** the independence of the IEC;
13. **Support** the IEC in its mandate to facilitate the holding of free and fair elections;

14. **Cooperate** with the IEC and facilitate its access to campaign and electoral events;
15. **Assist** the IEC in obtaining the capacity it needs in order to fulfil its mandate and assisting it in securing its assets and the safety of its officials;
16. **Ensure** no person or organisation interferes with or impedes the work of the IEC;
17. **Welcome** and **assist** the work of any and all electoral monitors or observers that will come to the Kingdom of Lesotho;
18. **Accept** the results of the upcoming elections when declared credible, free and fair by the IEC and accredited independent observers.
19. **Work** within the bounds of accepted electoral rules to lodge any grievances that might reasonably arise from the electoral process.

PART THREE

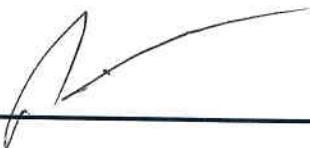
Commitment to free and fair electoral political campaigning

WE the political parties signing this Pledge commit to:

20. **Comply** with the provisions of the Lesotho Electoral Code of Conduct, 2011, and in particular to **affirm** the rights of all participants to –
 - 20.1** **express** differing views, debate and contest each other's policies and programmes;
 - 20.2** **canvass** freely for membership and support, hold meetings, rallies and marches, attend meetings of others;
 - 20.3** **distribute** campaign literature and materials, publish notices and adverts and promote free campaigning within the law; and
21. **Undertake** to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to:

- 21.1 **refrain** from language that incites violence or intimidation,
- 21.2 **refrain** from carrying weapons at public political events,
- 21.3 **abstain** from plagiarising the insignia of other parties,
- 21.4 **discourage** the removal, disfigurement or destruction of other parties' material,
- 21.5 **abstain** from offering material inducements to influence party membership, event attendance, voting decisions or candidacy nominations,
- 21.6 **refrain** from using social or institutional power for political purposes,
- 21.7 **abstain** from discrimination on grounds of race, sex, ethnicity, class, gender or religion in the election campaign, and
- 21.8 **refrain** from involving the Lesotho Defence Force, Lesotho Mounted Police Service, National Security Service and Lesotho Correctional Service in political activities.

SIGNED on this ____ day of December 2014

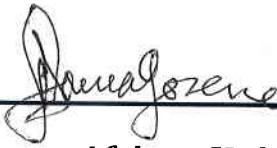


All Basotho Convention



All Democratic Cooperation

ACFD/BAENA



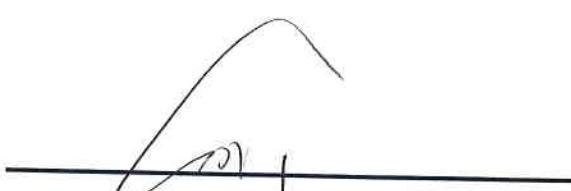
African Unity Movement

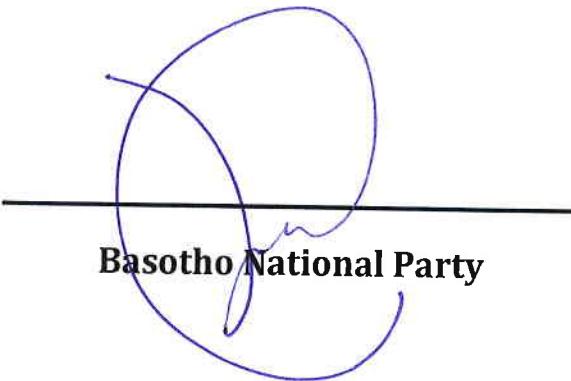


Basotho Batho Democratic Party



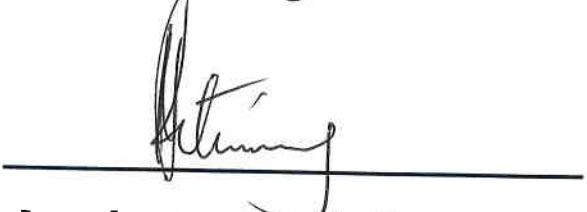
Basotho Congress Party


**Basotho Democratic National
Party**


Basotho National Party


**Basotho National African
Congress**


Democratic Congress


Lesotho Congress for Democracy


Lekhotla la Meetlo


Lesotho People's Congress


Lesotho Workers Party


Marematlou Freedom Party


National Independent Party

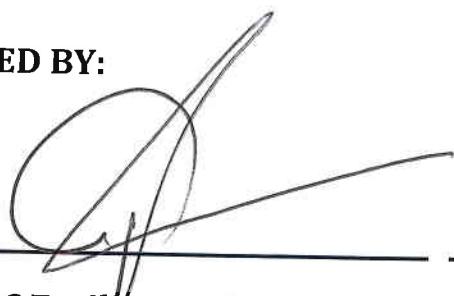

Progressive Democrats


Popular Front for Democracy

Sankatana Party

Whitehorse Party

ENDORSED BY:



**SADC Facilitator, Deputy
President of South Africa, H. E.
Cyril Ramaphosa**



**SADC Mission to Lesotho
(SOMILES) Head of Mission,
Mr. Fannie Phakola**

WITNESSED BY:

College of Chiefs


Lesotho Council of NGOs



Christian Council of Lesotho