

CONSTITUTION OF LESOTHO

*Adopted in 1993,
Amended 1996, 1997, 1998, 2001*

CHAPTER I: THE KINGDOM AND ITS CONSTITUTION

1. The Kingdom and its territory

(1) Lesotho shall be a sovereign democratic kingdom.

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2. The Constitution

This Constitution is the supreme law of Lesotho and if any other law is inconsistent with this Constitution, that other law shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void.

3. Official languages, National Seal, etc

(1) The official languages of Lesotho shall be Sesotho and English, and accordingly, no instrument or transaction shall be invalid by reason only that it is expressed or conducted in one of those languages.

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CHAPTER II: PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

4. Fundamental human rights and freedoms

(1) Whereas every person in Lesotho is entitled, whatever his race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status to fundamental human rights and freedoms, that is to say, to each and all of the following –

- (a) the right to life;
- (b) the right to personal liberty;
- (c) freedom of movement and residence;
- (d) freedom from inhuman treatment;
- (e) freedom from slavery and forced labour;
- (f) freedom from arbitrary search or entry;
- (g) the right to respect for private and family life;
- (h) the right to a fair trial of criminal charges against him and to a fair determination of his civil rights and obligations;
- (i) freedom of conscience;
- (j) freedom of expression;
- (k) freedom of peaceful assembly;
- (l) freedom of association;
- (m) freedom from arbitrary seizure of property;
- (n) freedom from discrimination;
- (o) the right to equality before the law and the equal protection of the law; and
- (p) the right to participate in government,

the provisions of this Chapter shall have effect for the purpose of affording protection to those rights and freedoms, subject to such limitations of that protection as are contained in those provisions, being limitations designed to ensure that the enjoyment of the said rights and freedoms by any person does not prejudice the rights and freedoms of others or the public interest.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt and without prejudice to any other provision of this Constitution it is hereby declared that the provisions of this Chapter shall, except where the context otherwise requires, apply as well in relation to things done or omitted to be done by persons acting in a private capacity (whether by virtue of any written law or otherwise) as in relation to things done or omitted to be done by or on behalf of the Government of Lesotho or by any person acting in the performance of the functions of any public office or any public authority.