



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE BY THE SADC CHAIRPERSON TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO FOR THE SUCCESSFUL 2017 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

On behalf of the SADC Community and on my own behalf as the Chairperson of SADC, I wish to extend heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty King Letsie III and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho for the peaceful, transparent, and credible National Assembly Elections they held on 3 June 2017.

I also wish to commend the leaders of Political Parties of Lesotho for accepting the outcome of the results of the elections and for further demonstrating their commitment to democratic practices by signing on 7 June 2017 the *Statement of Acceptance of Electoral Results by Political Parties in Lesotho*, a process which was spearheaded by the Heads of the Churches of the Christian Council of Lesotho. This move is a testament that the leaders have accepted the democratic will of Basotho.

I further wish to congratulate the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of Lesotho for delivering successful elections and for its professionalism throughout the process.

Moreover, I applaud the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Magufuli as represented by Honourable Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania for his admirable leadership as the Head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to Lesotho. I commend the work of SEOM in Lesotho, and the SADC Secretariat for coordinating the SEOM effectively. The Mission promoted the holding and observation of democratic elections based on the shared values and principles of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights enshrined in the *SADC Treaty* and the *Revised 2015 SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections*.

As Lesotho transitions into the post-election period, I wish you well in the process of forming a new government. I also reaffirm SADC's commitment to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the new government and the people of Lesotho in their efforts to realise the reforms agenda aimed at enhancing democracy, engendering political stability, and promoting socioeconomic development in the country.

May God bless the Kingdom of Lesotho. Khotso, Pula, Nala.

**His Majesty King Mswati III,
The SADC Chairperson, Kingdom of Swaziland**