



COMMUNIQUE OF THE LESOTHO MULTISTAKEHOLDER NATIONAL DIALOGUE HELD FROM 26 TO 28 NOVEMBER 2018

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the leaders of the Lesotho Coalition Government, Leaders of Lesotho Opposition Political Parties and Leaders of various Lesotho Institutions or Organisations having convened as the Multistakeholder National Dialogue at Manthabiseng Convention Centre in Maseru, Lesotho as part of our longstanding effort to commit ourselves to participate in an inclusive, participatory, democratic, transparent and comprehensive reforms process;

MINDFUL of the pledge in which we undertook to prioritise national reforms after the June 03, 2017 General Elections;

STRESSING our full and unconditional acceptance of SADC Decisions and Recommendations;

EMPHASISING our commitments to the SADC Observer Mission to Lesotho (SOMILES) Report of 2014 and the Lesotho Reforms Roadmap which made recommendations for a long-term solution towards achieving political and security stability;

ENDORISING the adoption of the Roadmap for Reforms and recalls the recommendation of SADC to prioritise the Constitutional and Security Sector Reforms which should be completed by May 2019;

ENDORISING the Terms of Reference and nomination of members of the Lesotho National Dialogue Planning Committee (NDPC);

AFFIRMING the urgent need to undertake an inclusive, participatory and comprehensive national reforms process that will bring peace, security and stability to the people of Lesotho;

RECOGNISING the legacy of nationhood and the values of statesmanship bequeathed to Basotho by Moshoeshe I and the other founders of the Basotho nation;

RECOGNISING the successful efforts which were made by the SADC Facilitation Team to ensure that the Multistakeholder National Dialogue is as inclusive as possible by ensuring:

- a) That all stakeholders including non-government and extra-parliamentary entities participate; and

- b) That the exiles return to fully participate in the dialogue.

Unlike previous forums and engagements, the Multistakeholder National Dialogue dealt with substantive issues, which are Constitutional Reforms, Parliamentary Reforms, Judicial Reforms, Security Reforms, Public Service Reforms, Media Reforms and Economic Reforms, which require reform in order to promote peace and stability in the Mountain Kingdom.

HEREBY STATE:

1. The dialogue was formally declared open by His Majesty King Letsie III, who invited all participants to vigorously and robustly but respectfully discuss and dialogue on the thematic areas for constitutional reform and review.
2. There was lively and vigorous discussion on the thematic areas which had been adopted by the National Leadership Forum.
3. The rapporteurs of the commissions presented a report setting out the salient points of discussion in the various commissions.
4. The various reports were adopted by the Plenary of the Multi Stakeholder National Dialogue MSND.
5. The MSND further invited all stakeholders, non-government organizations and other entities to make submissions in writing to the NDPC on or before the 15th January 2019 which submissions shall be consolidated into a report which shall also be presented to the National Leaders Forum.
6. It is agreed that the NDPC will develop a document reflecting the identified issues that should be presented for discussion and consultation with the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho in their district public participation programme.
7. It is agreed that the NDPC shall review and consolidate the reports of the breakout groups of the MSND and from the issues raised therein develop proposals for consideration and decision by the second plenary of the MSND.
8. That we will fully and effectively implement recommendations of Plenary 1 in line with the Roadmap by embarking on thorough district and local consultation in order to get input from ordinary Basotho about the Lesotho they want.
9. The plenary confirms the resolute commitment by all stakeholders for constitutional reform and the determination to achieve peace and stability as well as reforms in all other agreed areas.
10. The plenary further recognizes and commends the participants for their political maturity, respect and their commitment to this important milestone which will culminate in the "Lesotho we want".

11. The Multistakeholder National Dialogue notes the need for a structure which shall process the recommendations of the Second National Multistakeholder Dialogue for Legislation and Constitutional Reforms. The composition of the structure shall be agreed to by the National Leaders Forum and be presented to the next Plenary.