

REPORT ON THE 2015 GENERAL ELECTION

HELD ON
28 FEBRUARY 2015

FOR THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION
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2015 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

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Local & International Media
Lesotho Council of Churches
Political Parties

UNDP
All Diplomatic Missions in Lesotho
SADC
Lesotho Defence Force
LMPS
Local and International Observers
The European Union
The Commonwealth

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List of Acronyms

ABC	-	All Basotho Convention
ACP	-	Alliance of Congress Parties
AU	-	African Union
BANC	-	Basutoland African National Congress
BBDP	-	Basotho Batho Democratic Party
BCP	-	Basotholand Congress Party
BDNP	-	Basotho Democratic National Party
BNP	-	Basotho National Party
CCJP	-	Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace
CCL	-	Christian Council of Lesotho
CEF	-	Campaign for Education Forum
CFM	-	Community Freedom Movement
DC	-	Democratic Congress
DPE	-	Development for Peace Education
EISA	-	Electoral Institute for Sustainability of Democracy in Africa
FIDA	-	Federation of Women's Lawyers
FPTP	-	First Past The Post
HDP	-	Hamore Democratic Party
IEC	-	Independent Electoral Commission
IMBISA	-	Inter-Regional Meeting of the Bishops of Southern Africa
IPA	-	Interim Political Authority
LNFOOD	-	Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled
LCD	-	Lesotho Congress for Democracy
LCN	-	Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations
LMM	-	Lekhotla la Mekhoa le Meetlo
LPC	-	Lesotho Peoples Congress
LWP	-	Lesotho Workers Party
MFP	-	Marematlou Freedom Party
MMP	-	Mixed Member Proportional
NERC	-	National Election Result Centre
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organisations
NIP	-	National Independent Party
OMR	-	Optical Mark Reader
OSISA	-	Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa
PD	-	Progressive Democrats
PFD	-	Popular Front for Democracy
PR	-	Proportional Representation
RCL	-	Reformed Congress of Lesotho
SADC	-	Southern African Development Cooperation
SADC-CNGO	-	SADC Council of NGOs
SADC – LA	-	SADC Lawyers Association
SADRA	-	Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency
SIJP	-	Strategic Intervention for Justice and Peace
TRC	-	Transformation Resource Centre
TSD	-	Tsebe Social Democrats
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
WHP	-	White Horse Party

Chairperson's Introductory Statement

The IEC Chairperson, Hon. Justice Mahapela Lehohla

The 2015 National Assembly Elections were conducted in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity, and the results thereof were not contested. The Observer Missions all gave the elections a clean bill of health.

However, preparations for the holding of this elections were not without problems – the major ones being time constraints, budget and procurement procedures including simply obstructive attitudes.

The Southern African Development Corporation (SADC) Advance Mission for the holding of elections interacted with the Commission and it was generally accepted that the briefest period ahead of the elections should be a minimum of ten (10) months.

However, when he came, the Facilitator Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa said three (3) months would do. He attributed this overwhelming surprise to politicians. As the consultations were going on, it became apparent that in fact, politicians were not part of what he conveyed to IEC. The compromise was however reached that elections be held in five (5) months' time which was February 2015

Preparations went ahead but lack of release of funds by the Ministry of Finance indicated that the Cabinet were not unanimous in meeting the requirements of the Commission for holding elections. There were no funds to sponsor the snap elections. The fact that the Commission was able to place orders and make initial procurements was mainly due to the fact that the money which was ear-marked for holding by-elections for Mphosong Constituency, amounting to M30m (Thirty Million Maloti), had to be used to meet the procurement and service providers' requirements.

Well ahead of dispensing this amount for various purposes, the Commission had appealed to the Minister of Finance to provide a waiver, yet he insisted on being supplied with justification. The then Acting Director of Elections had written not one, but many letters to the Minister justifying why the waiver was required. Even after these letters IEC was required to ask waiver for each and every item needed which was tedious and time consuming. The next Acting Director of Elections (a lady this time) single-handedly and off her own bat, ended up taking a bold decision of placing orders without any waiver as she was aware of the fact that time was not on our side.

Other matters were carried out while at the background the nagging question of Security remained a problem. As time was hurtling scarily towards the deadline and yet the thorny problem of security in relation to transportation of security materials and manning polling stations didn't seem to be adequately or at all addressed by the Facilitator, the IEC expressed its concerns to SADC. There

There was no readily available assistance from SADC and security in regard to our sensitive materials and places ended up being provided by the Lesotho Mounted Police (LMPS) and the Lesotho Defence force (LDF) respectively and not by SADC Police initially promised.

In conclusion I would like to say that the following need special mention, as our work could have not been a success without their input:

1. Many thanks to the UN Coordination Mission which chartered airplanes for conveyance of the ballot papers from Cape Town to Maseru. The UNDP was not behind hand in standing ready to offer technical assistance where required at all times.

2. The IEC enjoyed the cooperation of the stakeholders generally speaking and that of the Christian Council of Lesotho in particular, in regard to which its gratitude knows no bounds.

3. The Commission observed with gratitude the moral support emanating from the former Chairperson of the Commission Advocate Leshele Thoahlane KC and his former colleague Mr. Mafole Sematlane who were in attendance at the pronouncement of the results at all times. Indeed Mr. Thoahlane stepped into the breach by representing the Commission at the Memorial service of one of the previous IEC members who had passed on during the peak of preparations which afforded the Commission no quarter.

4. NGO's role is worthy of special commendation in their effort to draw attention of the electorate to the importance of living up to their responsibility by casting their vote.

5. Finally all members of IEC staff are to be accorded a deserving pat on the proverbial shoulder for their devotion and selflessness in discharging their duties without flinching during that stressful and energy sapping period of preparing for and running snap elections.

6. Furthermore, the People of Lesotho as Taxpayers solely bore the expenses needed to undertake an electoral exercise of the 2015 February's magnitude for the first time ever. Basotho should be indeed proud that despite a multitude of constraints their collective effort paid off. These constraints saw drastic reduction of the budget, which in turn resulted in considerable straitening of even some of essential and basic requirements without which an election can unnecessarily be compromised. Outstanding in this respect was lack of proper if any signage guiding voters and observers to voting stations. But nevertheless the success in the effort of Basotho should not be but a precursor to misery and disappointment it is sincerely hoped.

Mahapela Lehohla - OMMOM
IEC Chairperson.

Executive Summary

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) was established in terms of the Second Amendment to the Constitution Act of 1997. Its responsibilities include, among others, the demarcation of electoral constituencies, compilation of the register of voters, organisation and running of the National Assembly Elections, Local Government Elections and the Referenda.

Members of the current Commission were only in office for ten (10) months when His Majesty proclaimed a date for the 2015 National Assembly Elections. This was the time when the Commission was still grappling with their legal mandate, obligations and the strategic objectives for their term in office; when there arose a political tension in Lesotho that resulted in the intervention by the Southern African Development Corporation (SADC). This intervention led to a number of consultations with all relevant stakeholders, which led to the Maseru Facilitation Accord (hereto attached and marked "Annexure "A") that would finally call for an election earlier than the usual term of five (5) years. All stakeholders endorsed this agreement.

The Commission was faced with a massive task – that of preparing for a snap election, which, for all intents and purposes was misplaced as the timing, coincided with the 2015 Festive Season. This would certainly cause unprecedented logistical nightmares for the Commission, as most, if not all the service providers, especially in the Republic of South Africa would be closed during this period and no essential services available. Also, members of the Commission had never conducted a National Assembly Election before, except for the Thaba-Phechela and Thaba-Moea By-Elections, and were therefore thrown in the deep end of conducting their first election as a Snap Election that carried many challenges.

The following report is an account of the 2015 National Assembly Election, and it sets out the processes and principles as employed by the Independent Electoral Commission in its aim to deliver a free, fair, transparent, acceptable and

accessible elections.

The Independent Electoral Commission launched an intensified registration of electors and voter education on the 03rd November 2014, in anticipation of a general election in February 2015. Upon suspension of registration there were 1,209,287 registered electors.

Nomination day for candidates in constituency elections and submission of party lists happened on 14th January 2015, and voting for advance electors took place on 21st February 2015. Both activities had no records of intimidation, violence or otherwise.

Voting day was 28th February 2015, and was very peaceful. No incidents of violence and/or intimidation were reported. There were a number of electors who could not be found on the Register of Electors – not because they were not registered, but because they could not locate their names on the register. The results were transmitted to the National Election Results Centre in Maseru where they were verified and announced to the public.

The IEC, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, issued invitations to observe the election to a large number of international organisations and foreign governments and local observers. These were accredited by the Commission and deployed countrywide by their respective organisations. While all observer teams had their fingers pointed at the Commission, especially with issues relating to the registration of voters, which was a concern also for the IEC itself, they otherwise gave the Commission a clean bill of health in the preparation and administration of the elections, and also

also expressed their satisfaction with the overall management of the electoral process.

Overall, the IEC successfully delivered an acceptable, free, fair, transparent and accessible election to the people of Lesotho as confirmed by the various observer missions.(Reports attached). It enlisted the support of stakeholders and secured wide-reaching participation in the electoral process.

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1. Background

Lesotho three-party' coalition government formed after the 26 May 2012 elections has been facing critical challenges this year. In mid-2014 internal tensions, lack of accountability and exacerbated distrust between the coalition leaders led to a political and military crisis in August 2014, where the Prime Minister and his close entourage fled to South Africa for a few days, fearing for their personal security.

A SADC mission subsequently established itself in Maseru with the mandate of bringing back political stability in the country. The Maseru Declaration signed by the leaders of the Coalition government foresaw four steps: the opening of Parliament, the holding of elections by February 2015, civil service reforms and reforms in the military. A Maseru Security Accord brokered by Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa foresaw the three main actors of the security organs, the Commander of the Army, the former Commander of the Army and the Commander of the Police Forces to take a six months leave and be absent from the country so as to allow for smooth running of elections.

With the appointment of South Africa's Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa as the SADC Facilitator, the mediation process was stepped up and the holding of elections seen as the key for ending the political impasse. The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) was faced with challenges to ensure credible, free and fair elections as their capacity was limited and the time short.

The European Union (EU) agreed to support the IEC with two experts:

- An IT Election Result Display Centre Consultant
- An Electoral Risk Management

This support was in line with EU's pledge for the national indicative programme. Particular focus was meant to be directed at the following fields: i) Improved public sector management and service delivery including pro-poor social protection; ii) The Rule of Law and an

independent judiciary; iii) Support to the Parliament and its complementary agencies; iv) Providing support to the Government to look after its own capacity maintenance and development.

One of the expected results of support to the governance sector were to provide complementary support to the Independent Electoral Commission to contribute to upholding the rights of the people of Lesotho in selecting its representatives in a free and fair manner.

Since 2007, IEC has been utilising an electronic display of election results. This assignment would provide technical expertise to assist IEC in the upgrading of IEC's election result display system and to build the capacity of the IT section in this area.

1.1 Assessment of the Independent Electoral Commission Capacity

The Independent Electoral Commission is a constitutionally established institution headed by a three member Board of Commissioners appointed by the Head of State for a five-year-term on the advice of the Council of State. The current Chairperson is the former Chief Justice of Lesotho and one of the Commissioners is a woman Commissioner. The Director of Elections who oversees the implementation of the elections operation heads the Secretariat. The Secretariat has permanent staff distributed across all ten

districts of Lesotho. Each District Election Officer is responsible for a number of IEC constituency level offices.

Findings of the United Nations Electoral Needs Assessment Mission, which was carried out from 8 to 17 October 2014, indicated that overall, the Mission assessed the Secretariat as capable of delivering an election within a February timeframe. While the IEC is constitutionally required to be ready to implement elections within 90 days of the dissolution of parliament, the February timeline was quite challenging.

1.2 Overall risk assessment.

Specific political risks could compromise the impact and the results of the support to the Independent Election Commission. Because of the nature of interventions, the support to elections sector was even more vulnerable than other sectors. Ownership and commitment of beneficiaries was therefore essential.

In addition, Lesotho is known for its turbulent political history and post-elections related violence. Past elections disputes have been settled by suspending the constitution (1970-1973), or by the toppling of the civilian government by the military (1986-1992). The electoral system was changed from first-past-the-post to a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system ahead of the 2002 elections, retaining 80 constituency seats and adding 40 Proportional Representation seats to ensure greater inclusiveness. The 2012 elections resulted in the establishment of Lesotho's first ever coalition government. The political system in Lesotho is characterised by the shifting of political alliances and the splitting of political parties. Issues that need to be addressed include defining the way coalition governments' function, and establishing rules to manage, inter alia, floor crossing.

The United Nations Electoral Needs Assessment

Assessment Mission found that the possibility of electoral related violence is of paramount concern. On 2 October 2014, all the political parties in Lesotho signed the Maseru Facilitation Declaration. The Declaration provided for Parliament to reopen on 17 October 2014 with a limited legislative agenda of discussing budgetary and elections' matters, with parliamentary elections to be held at the end of February 2015 (ahead of the constitutionally set date of 2017). The Parliament was dissolved by His Majesty the King upon the advice of the Prime Minister on the 5th December 2014 to allow for the formal elections campaign to begin. As per the Constitution, the Independent Electoral Commission should hold the general elections within 90 days from the date of Proclamation.

1.3 The Electoral Model

¹ An electoral model determines the rules according to which the voters may express their political preferences and according to which votes are converted into Parliamentary Seats. Electoral Models include a number of technical details. The most important of these are delimitation and the magnitude of the constituencies, the voting procedures and the formula for converting votes into seats.

The Lesotho Electoral Model of Mixed Member Proportional Representation System was amended in the National Assembly Electoral Act 2011, where the two-ballot system was amended for the single ballot system. Some political parties did this as a result of the manipulation of the system during the 2007 National Assembly Elections, which frustrated the spirit of the model. Initially there were two ballots – one for the Constituency Candidate and the other one for the Political Party. The constituency vote determined who would represent the constituency in the National Assembly while the party vote was used to elect candidates from party lists and compensated parties who had won fewer constituency seats

¹ Know more about MMP.

than they would be entitled to under pure proportional representation, or who had won no constituency seats even though entitled to under proportionality.

The single ballot system uses the conversion method, where votes amassed by a Constituency Candidate are converted to party votes upon which the Seat Allocation is based.

1.4 The Independent Electoral Commission

The Independent Electoral Commission that conducted the 2015 Snap Elections made up of three Commissioners: Chairperson Hon. Justice Mahapela Lehohla; Commissioner Advocate 'Mamosebi Pholo and Commissioner Dr Makase Nyaphisi.



The Commission L - R:
Adv. Mamosebi Pholo;
Retired Chief Justice Mahapela Lehohla
(Chairperson) and Dr Makase Nyaphisi

The Commission adopted a Mission Statement, which was to guide their approach to overcome the obstacles:

“The management of democratic elections and referenda and the enhancement of public participation in electoral processes through the promotion of civic and voter education”.

Transparency, inclusiveness and accessibility were the cornerstones of the IEC’s approach to implementing the mission. Confidence building measures and the use of consultative committees and workshops sought to enlist stakeholder participation in the process. Voter education, public relations activities and transparent decision-making demystify their work. Efforts were made to improve the commitment and performance of staff, and to create a sustainable organisation that had the capacity to successfully deliver elections.

2. PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTIONS

2.1 Legal Aspects

The Legal framework for the elections in Lesotho is provided for in the Constitution of Lesotho, and the National Assembly Electoral Act 2011.

During the pre-elections' period, relevant legal notices were drafted and gazetted; and these included the Election Timetable, establishment of nomination courts, appointment of returning officers, the suspension of registration and registration of the 17 year-olds, etc.

2.2 Registration of Electors.

The Independent Electoral Commission maintains a continuous process of registration. This means that registration of electors is ongoing, only to be suspended during the elections' period. At the preparation for general elections, the Commission, through its structures, intensifies registration; so that registration centres are opened at places within reach of the electorate, to make it easy for people from all walks of life, to register as electors.

For the 2015 elections, intensified registration of voters commenced on 03rd November 2014, and ended on 16th December 2014 upon Suspension of Registration. As part of intensification of Electors' registration, IEC deployed Four Hundred and Fifty One (451) stand-alone Mobile Registration Units (MRUs) across the entire country in various registration centres in the eighty - (80) constituencies. These MRUs were used to register and amend particulars of electors, thereby producing instantaneous registration cards with particulars of the concerned elector.

2.3 Missing Laptops

During the early stages of the preparations for the general elections the IEC lost twenty-one (21) laptops, which were a component of the Mobile Registration Units used to register electors. These units were procured in 2011 and were six hundred (600) in number.

The loss of these units, which were housed at the IEC Central Warehouse, was realised upon getting them ready for the intensification of the Registration of Electors when it was realised that the units had no laptops. The loss was reported to the police and a case was duly opened with the case number CIR 1011-11-2014. Apart from reporting to the police, the Commission also called an immediate meeting with the political party Leaders to give them a detailed report on the missing units and also assured them of the following: -

- There was no way that the laptops could be used to register people without some components of the Mobile Registration Units from which they were taken;
- The data in the laptop was in no danger as it was encrypted;
- The IEC network had a firewall that prevented any unauthorised access to its systems;
- The IEC database is a rich client desktop system not web-enabled, which made it very difficult for intruders to log in.

The above are just but some of the security measures that made it difficult for the units to be infiltrated; and as such there was just no way that the Register of Electors could be tampered with by using the laptops. This measure was taken by the Commission because there were already insinuations from various quarters that the 2015 National Assembly was going to be compromised, despite assurances from the Commission.

The police ultimately recovered the laptops were from people who were employed as temporary staff at the IEC in the preparation of the election and were based at the Central Warehouse. They were subsequently put before the courts of law and duly charged and found guilty. The sentence for each was 5 years imprisonment or a M10, 000.00 fine, which they paid and were freed.

2.4 Cleaning and Updating of Electors' Register

Display Clerks were engaged to go to individual villages with Electors' register for that particular village. This register was then used to clean the electors' register by asking villagers to assist by way of identifying electors who are deceased or duplicated. Then a list of all deceased and duplicated electors was compiled and sent to district headquarters for cleansing. This cleaning process led to the following:

- 91,503 Electors were registered as New Registrants;
- 43,819 Deceased Electors were removed from the Register of Electors;
- 34,410 Electors were amended;
- 1,153 Electors were reinstated;
- 8,954 Electors were removed for the Register of Electors as Duplicated Registrants;
- 569,576 Electors successfully cast their vote during the 2015 National Assembly Snap Elections.

The law provides that in cases of double registration, the first instance of registration is removed. Different techniques were implemented in order to eliminate duplicate electors from the Elector's register, these techniques complement each other so as to ensure correctness and clean consistent Electors register. The electors' data from various registration centres throughout the country is loaded and consolidated into one central database at the IEC headquarters. After the successful consolidation the duplicates detection exercise then come into play to ensure the data integrity.

After the completion of this exercise the additional techniques were applied to clean the electors' register.

IEC engaged two display clerks per registration centre. One display clerk would stay at the centre while the other would go to the villages with Electors' list asking people if they know any of those people on the list. It was during this process that villagers identified people who have registered more than once. Then these duplicated people were listed and sent to HQ for verification that they are duplicates.

At Headquarters IT staff queried those who were reported as duplicates and compared - i) Names; ii) Date of births; iii) Villages; and iv) Photos.

Subsequent to that a common judgment was made whether the elector was indeed a duplicate or not. If the conclusion is affirmative, then the old registration would be removed and only the recent registration retained.

Another method of identifying duplicates was a desktop method. Here all people with the same names (first names and surnames) or names more likely to be the same (with the same phonetics) living in the same constituency were listed and the IT then used a common judgment to tell whether they were indeed the same persons.

Decentralization

All forms (deceased, transfers and amendments) were processed at the districts head offices. IEC engaged some of the MRU operators to assist in capturing information from the forms into the system then permanent staff at the districts verified captured information. All these were kept at the district headquarters following capturing and verification.

2.5 Registration of Political Parties

² Section 25 (1) of the National Assembly Electoral Act 2011 stipulates that an application must be made by the party President, Chairman or Secretary supported by a declaration by at least 500 party members whose names appear on the voters list. This requirement exists to ensure that political parties enjoy at least a minimum support amongst voters and that they are credible organisations.

At the time of going for the election on 28 February 2015, the following political parties had registered to contest the elections:-

² National Assembly Electoral Act 2011, Section 25 (1) (a) (b) (c).

• All Basotho Convention	ABC	• Lesotho People's Congress	LPC
• All Democratic Convention	ADC	• Lesotho Workers Party	LWP
• African Unity Movement	AUM	• Marematlou Freedom Party	MFP
• BAENA	ACFD/BAENA	• National Independent Party	NIP
• Basotholand African National Congress	BANC	• Progressive Democrats	PD
• Basotho Batho Democratic Party	BBDP	• Popular Front for Democracy	PFD
• Basutoland Congress Party	BCP	• Reformed Congress of Lesotho	RCL
• Basotho Democratic National Party	BDNP	• Senkatana Social Democrats	SSD
• Basotho National Party	BNP	• Tsebe Social Democrats	TSD
• Community Freedom Movement	CFM	• White Horse Party	WHP
• Democratic Congress	DC	• Lesotho Congress for Democracy	LCD
• Hamore Democratic Party	HDP	• Lekhotla la Mekhoa le Meetlo	LMM

Five of these political parties contested elections for the first time, as they were newly registered. These were Community Freedom Movement (CFM); Hamore Democratic Party (HDP); Progressive Democrats (PD); Reformed Congress of Lesotho (RCL) and Tsebe Social Democrats (TSD).

There were twenty-four (24) Independent Candidates who had registered to contest the elections.

NATJOC

A National Joint Operations Centre (NATJOC) was launched in Maseru on December 24 2014 that would assist with the escorting and guarding of the IEC Security Materials to the Voting Stations. This body consisted of representatives of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF); National Security Services (NSS) and the Lesotho Mounted Police Services (LMPS).

2.6 Nomination of Candidates

The National Assembly Electoral Act 2011 provides that ³an application for the nomination of a candidate for elections in a constituency shall be submitted to the Returning Officer for the constituency concerned by the date stated in the elections timetable for close of nomination.

Nomination forms must be signed by the ⁴candidate consenting to nomination, and by two other persons whose names appear on the register of electors in that constituency.⁵ If the candidate represents a political party, he or she must have a certificate stating that he or she is the candidate of the party in that constituency, and must use the party's official symbol.⁶ If the person is not a party candidate he or she must sign a certificate attesting to this and adopt an official symbol.

All candidates had to pay a cash deposit of M200.00, which was returned after the elections to the candidates who received at least 10% of the votes cast in that constituency. Each candidate must sign and agree to abide by the Electoral Code of Conduct.

Nomination day for candidates in constituency elections was on Wednesday January 14, 2015; while the deadline for the submission of party lists for proportional representation candidates was January 21 2015.

National Assembly Electoral Act 2011, Section 41 (1).

National Assembly Electoral Act 2011, Section 41 (3) (a)
National Assembly Electoral Act 2011, Section 41 (3) (b) (i) (ii)

The deadline for compliance in respect of candidates on party list was set at January 25 2015.

2.7 Ballot Paper

The first stage in the production of ballot papers is for the aspiring candidates to be nominated to contest the elections within their constituencies.

Bids were invited from interested companies for the printing of ballot papers for the 28th February 2015 elections. This tender was by far the only one, which ran its full length and did adhere to all the tender requirements, as set in the Procurement Regulations. The reason for this unique conformity was that as soon as it was learnt that Lesotho would be going for the elections the ballot paper-printing job was advertised. Nine (9) companies expressed interest to print the ballot papers; and ultimately, through a very vigorous bidding and awarding process, the tender was awarded to LITHOTECH EXPORTS (PTY) LTD. This company would have its printing facility in Cape Town, South Africa; and as is the norm with new companies that the IEC had not printed from, a delegation, comprising the IEC, political parties, media and the Police was dispatched to inspect the printing aptitude of the company. The delegation left for Cape Town on Friday 23rd and returned on Sunday, 25th January 2015 and had been highly impressed by the capability and experience of LITHOTECH in the printing business, with particular impression on their printing of ballot papers for other countries. After the nomination process had ended the candidates' application forms were forwarded to the Logistics headquarters and captured, as the first of the many stages to develop the actual ballot papers. Four Data Capturers were temporarily employed to assist in this massive task. After the initial capturing an internal proofreading was done,

whereby some apparent mistakes and misspellings were weeded out. Subsequently the first proofs were sent out to the districts to solicit opinion from the grass-roots about the

capturing of candidates' names. The Commission was also involved in the final proof, after which they then validated the proofs by signing them off, the product of which was sent to the printer.

Before the printing could commence LITHOTECH requested that the proofs once more be scrutinised and signed off by the IEC and political party representatives.

2.8 Recruitment of Temporary Staff

As had always been the case in the past, recruitment of temporary staff took place at constituency level, where applications were posted at each constituency office and district offices. Applicants submitted their forms and were scored by a panel using uniform criteria including the level of education and previous work experience, more importantly with the IEC. Party representatives were involved in the recruitment processes so as to maintain the concept of transparency. The list of successful applicants was submitted to the IEC Headquarters for approval following publication in the District Offices.

Eighty - (80) Returning Officers, one (1) per constituency, were put in place from the 22nd December 2014 in order to facilitate the nomination process. There were also 2,767 Voting Station Managers and a total 14,229 Voting Station Officers. About 365 Voter Educators were put in place along with 33 Pay Clerks, 3,196 Display Clerks and 442 Mobile Registration Unit Operators.

2.9 Civic & Voter education

The overall Civic and Voter education objectives for 2015 National Assembly snap elections included the following:

- To reach out almost every category of elector population with voter/electoral education through crowd pulling strategies, mass media campaign strategies and individual mode to avoid post-elections conflict.
- To train key stakeholders and IEC permanent and temporary staff in the electoral processes and other cross cutting issues that influence credible acceptable, free and fair elections aligned with National Assembly Electoral Act, 2011, Constitution, International and regional standards and principles of elections administration as well as electoral management procedures.
- To provide information to traditionally marginalized groups for example, herd boys in remote areas, people with disabilities, youth and women.

The key activities that were undertaken to achieve the above mentioned objectives comprised review and production of educational and training materials, voter/electoral education outreach campaign strategies, code of conduct popularization and establishment of call centre, training of key stakeholders, civic groups and marginalized ones, permanent and temporary IEC staff on the electoral process.

2.10 Review and Production of materials

Educational materials in respect of voter education and polling as well as counting process were reviewed on workshop mode. Participants of the review workshop were drawn from Civic and Voter Education committee composed of political parties that are registered with IEC, Non-Governmental Organizations and IEC field staff from the ten districts of Lesotho.

2.10.1 The newly developed materials

Along review and production of materials, a need to develop new materials that addresses some of the other areas of electoral process was realized and such materials were then developed.

The developed print materials were also translated into Xhosa Language for Tele electors in Quthing district.

2.10.2 Voter motivation materials

A series of voter motivation materials for different target audience, both in print and electronically, were produced and distributed country wide though it was at the eleventh hour. These materials, which were focusing on the importance of voting, were sponsored by the UNDP.

2.10.3 Training of key stakeholders

IEC recruited 20 professional facilitators to train key stakeholders and other groups. These trainers were given training on the content and then deployed in different district to train such groups. Trainers were working in pairs to train

each group. They were not based in districts, so deployment and allocation of training duties was done at central level. These trainers also trained Voter Educators and Constituency Electoral Assistants on voting and counting in order to prepare them for training of voting staff, party agents and official witnesses.

Groups that were trained included Political Parties' Executive Committees; Area Chiefs;



Workshop for Area Chiefs in Quthing District

Political Parties’ Youth Leagues; People with Disabilities; Media Practitioners and Regular Radio Callers; Candidates; Judges; The Tribunal; Conciliators and the Police. IEC Civic & voter education staff directly trained returning officers, media people, judges, tribunal and conciliators.

2.10.4 Training of permanent and temporary IEC staff on the electoral process

The following elections officials were trained on electoral process inclusive of voter registration, display of electors’ register, nomination, and campaigning, voting, counting, announcement of results and allocation of seats. They are:

- Voter Educators: 365
- Display Clerks: 2658
- Returning Officers 80
- Constituency Electoral Assistants 102
- Voting Station Officer 14,229
- Voting Station Managers 2,767

2.11 Voter Education

IEC employed massive campaign strategies to enhance knowledge and understanding of the electoral process. They include increased number of temporary educators; Non-Governmental Organisations, radio programmes, and entertainment activities that involved use of local artists.. IEC employed and deployed 365 Voter Educators countrywide to disseminate voter education as per the manual (Tataiso ea Barupeli Ba Bakhethi).



Chiefs at the Voter Education Training in Mafeteng

Constituency Electoral Assistants trained educators for a period of five days. It commenced in October 2014 in every constituency supported and supervised by the District Electoral Officers. It was delivered in three phases; voter registration inclusive of electors register, nomination and campaigning, voting together with counting, announcement of results and allocation of seats. Voter Education monitoring tool was provided for educators to use as a tool to gauge progress and give a picture of success of education provided. According to the reports by educators, at least one third (1/3) of the elector population was reached.

2.11.1 Engagement of NGOs

IEC engaged five NGOs to complement the activities by Voter Educators. The NGOs were identified through a tendering process. They were: The Federation of Women's Lawyers (FIDA)/Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled (LNFOD), Transformation Resources Centre (TRC) and Campaign for Education Forum (CEF). FIDA/CCJP covered five districts; Butha-Buthe, Mafeteng, Quthing, Qacha's Nek and Thaba-Tseka. WLSA covered Qacha's Nek and Thaba-Tseka districts focusing on Gender issues. LNFOD covered all districts specifically targeting people with disabilities in all their disability categories.

TRC covered two districts namely: Leribe and Maseru. CEF targeted young potential and eligible electors; both literate and illiterate in and out of schools. They include herd boys, tertiary institutions and textile industries.

2.11.2 Campaign for Education Forum

Campaign for Education Forum (CEF) was focusing on the following target audience: Youth in all categories, herd boys, industrial factories, cattle owners and tertiary institutions. About 25 institutions were reached with voter education countrywide, including the National University of Lesotho (NUL), National Health Training Centre (NHTC), Lesotho College of Education (LCE), Technical School of Leribe (TSL), Machabeng College, Maluti School of Nursing, Scott College of Nursing and Leloaleng Technical School, Ntlatfotso Skills Training Centre, Lesotho Coop College, Lesotho Opportunities Industrialisation Centre (LOIC), Limkokwing University of Creative Technology and Lerotholi Polytechnic.

A total of 21,072 young electors were reached through face-to-face contact that included volleyball, edutainment, and community bonanzas, entertainment activities whereby local artists were engaged. Sixty thousand (60,000) youth were reached through Facebook with a minimum of 7,000 per week and WhatsApp networks linked to other youth group pages such as Lesotho Young Leaders Forum.

District	Number of people reached	Number of male electors reached	Number of female electors reached	Number of villages reached
Butha-Buthe	12,988	5,254	7,525	416
Mafeteng	30,235	12,552	17,675	402
Quthing	17,472	7,707	9,765	398
Qacha's Nek	3,071	3,071	1,781	107
Thaba-Tseka	5,686	5,685	3,255	212

Table 1 Electors reached by FIDA per District

WhatsApp was used for debatable topics in line with the Electoral Act, 2011, while Facebook was meant for elaborative issues of concern that were raised by youth in all the forums.

Other channels of communication that were used are radio programmes, radio advertisements, candidates' forum, billboards, and T-shirts. The target audience was garment sector, herd boys, people with disabilities and other youth outside school. Garment sector electors that were reached were about 18,610. The elector population of youth to which voter education provided by CEF amounts to 102, 182. CEF managed to cover all districts though in some of the tertiary institutions they not allowed to offer voter education.

2.11.3 Transformation Resource Centre (TRC)

TRC was assigned to provide voter education in Leribe and Maseru districts. They used the following strategies; direct community education, sectorial education, media and information dissemination, debate and dialogue. These included public gathering,

2.11.4 LNFOD

LNFOD employed 42 educators and reached about 16,641 people with disabilities in the five districts namely Butha-Buthe, Leribe, Berea, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek. Methods used included workshops, group discussions, debate and public gathering.

bonanzas, candidates' forum, radio programmes, public work place, student parliament simulation and workshops. Target audience included the general elector population, history and development studies teachers, herd boys, youth, workers, students and politicians. A total of 168,997 electors were reached by TRC.

2.11.5 Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA)

Like other NGOs WLSA was engaged by IEC to provide education focusing on electoral process. Its focus was on women and girls in the districts of Qacha's Nek and Thaba-Tseka. It used workshops, phone in radio programmes, community dialogue, and focus group discussion. WLSA managed to reach about 12, 781 women and girls.

2.12 Call Centre

The IEC established a 24-hour service Call Centre, a centralised office that is used for receiving and transmitting a large volume of requests by telephone.



The IEC Call Centre

This was a Toll Free hotline interactive facility that was manned by 24 trained personnel both on electoral matters. Vodacom Lesotho also provided training on the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Software and customer service. The facility was able, especially in the last two weeks of voter education campaign,

to handle an average of 1,000 calls inquiries per day. It was widely publicised through the length and breadth of the country and came in as an asset for the electorate. It was financed by both the IEC and the UNDP.

2.13 External Assistance

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided the IEC with the much needed technical assistance. It also contracted two network NGOs to implement public interactive voter education sessions, door-to-door visits, and political parties and candidate forums. The UNDP contracted the NGO - Hillside to boost youth participation for the National Assembly Elections. Hillside organized a concert “Youth for Peace”, where prominent artists from the region performed. In addition, on behalf of the IEC, Hillside produced a variety of audio/visual Public Service Announcements (PSA), targeting youth, people with disabilities, herd boys, and women.

For the last two weeks of voter education campaign, the UNDP, on behalf of IEC, deployed 10 Monitoring and Evaluation teams to monitor the public meetings and door-to-door visits conducted by the IEC and NGO Voter Educators. Prior to the deployment, the UNDP and IEC staff members trained the Monitoring and Evaluation officers.

2.14 Media and Public Relations

Since the beginning of the Election Period, the IEC communicated extensively with the stakeholders about all the events leading to elections in accordance with the Elections’ Timetable. Communication was carried out through radio and television advertisements, Short Message Systems (SMSes) as well as newspaper strips. Live programmes were also aired on radio and television as a way of disseminating information. The dissemination of the information was divided into three phases and they are: Registration phase, Nomination phase and voting phase. The Commission through the Public Relations office contacted timeously press conferences and released so many press releases to update the national and international community about its state of preparedness.

2.14.1 Media Monitoring

The media monitoring team closely watched media coverage of the electoral processes from the beginning of January 2015 to 04th March 2015. Several local and international media houses, which honoured this imperative electoral juncture, were accredited. Those included BBC Africa, ANN7, Al Jazeera, and SABC. There were

Launch of the
“Youth For
Peace Campaign”



local media houses that were accredited



Some Basotho artists who dedicated an "election song" for the youth.

The IEC had deemed it fit to deploy media monitors to ensure that the Commission's principles and values are observed; fairness and impartiality are prioritized. Mass media acts as a neutral and objective platform for free debates and all points of view.

So as to establish that this task is adequately fulfilled, IEC had to stay vigilant as to how the media is handling this critical issue. This was quite imperative as the integrity and trustworthiness of the Commission would have been brought into disrepute thereby compromising the entire electoral process.

According to the Media Monitoring Committee, there was an encouraging improvement on the reports about the Commission from various Media Houses. It was realised that there was positive reporting about the Commission and that while important facts in the electoral processes were reported, there were still

journalistic principles, such as impartiality, that were still violated. Youth groups such as "Youth For Peace" that targeted the youth were given widespread coverage in their activities as the youth are usually seen to be most apathetic when it goes to elections.

2.14.2 Coverage of Election Activities.

Due to its nature, this election ignited massive interest from various media houses. Al Jazeera, a broadcasting network based in Doha in the United Arab Emirates had an extensive coverage of the elections. Upon its arrival in Lesotho it had an extensive interview with the IEC Chairperson Justice Mahapela Lehohla, well as the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), which flirted live electoral broadcasts on channel 404

. In its news broadcast on 27th February Al Jazeera, ran pre-elections coverage under the headline "Poll close in Lesotho". This coverage looked at possible scenarios of elections outcomes, as opposed to Lesotho's partisan media coverage. Al Jazeera impartially analysed the political landscape and all was so positive about elections processes.

2.15 Logistics

2.15.1 Procurement of Material and Equipment

In procuring the needed and the to-be-replenished items tenders were invited; and in light of the fact that there was no time for the usual tender process to run its full course, most of the tenders were curtailed to run a shorter spell than would normally be the case. In most cases, being mindful of the short time at hand, calls for quotations were called in for the supply of the needed items. The tenders and calls for quotations ran between November and December 2014. It should be noted that it was not an easy process though.

The fact that the Commission was able to place orders and make initial procurements was mainly due to that the money which was ear-marked for holding by-elections for Mphosong Constituency, amounting to M30m (Thirty Million Maloti), had to be used to meet the procurement and service providers' requirements. Well ahead of dispensing this amount for various purposes, the Commission had appealed to the Minister of Finance to provide a waiver, yet he insisted on being supplied with justification. The insistence proved to be baseless because when the appeal was made for a waiver the then Acting Director of Elections had written not one, but many letters justifying why the waiver was required. It took the boldness of the next Acting Director of Elections to swear sacrament that she would go

to all possible lengths than to stand idly by without making orders – waiver or no waiver; and indeed she proceeded to place orders aware of the fact time was not the Commission's side.

2.15.2 Preparation of Voting Material

After the voting kits were filled, by voting centre, the Constituency Electoral Assistants (CEAs) were called in to verify the quantities at the Central Warehouse to ensure that adequate items were available to ensure a smooth poll. Even though time was limited they did this at pre-arranged schedules in order to avoid clashes and congestions at the warehouse.

After the verification of the voting kits they were then dispatched to the various districts using hi-tonnage trucks and were afterwards ferried to the constituency offices and voting centres using lesser-utility 4 x 4 vehicles.

2.15.3 Airlifts

The political backlash from the impasse that had called for the mediation in the form of general elections had somewhat hovered over the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), with the latter being perceived, in some quarters, as supporting certain elements of the disagreeing partners. With this scenario lurking, it was questionable as to whether or not members of the LDF AIR-WING, which has always been a stalwart partner in the holding of elections, would deliver/air-drop voting kits to inaccessible places with their normal gusto or whether they would offer some impediments to the electoral process.

However the LDF AIR-WING rose above the cynics and was, ever more, attendant to their role to deliver the air-drops in inaccessible voting areas.

Suffice to say that they even conducted their job in a far more professional and committed manner that was commendable and greatly assisted the electoral process, at a very crucial time. All the airlifted kits were in place two days before voting day.

3. THE ELECTIONS.

3.1. Accreditation of Observers

The Commission invited and accredited international and local observer missions and media houses to observe the 2015 National Assembly Elections and the electoral process. As is tradition and in order to enhance the credibility of the elections that is a true reflection of the will of the electorate as well as to ensure that elections meet international standards, the IEC accredits national and international observers as well as the media. To this end, twenty-five (25) international and eleven (11) national observer groups accredited.

3.2. Accreditation of National Observers

Eleven (11) national observer groups and four (4) independent observers were accredited. The national observer groups were from the African Socio-Economic Development Organisation (ASEDO); Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL); Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP); Community Development and Peace Promotion Movement (CDPPM); Development for Peace Education (DPE); Electoral Institute of Lesotho (EILE); the Independent Pentecostal Fellowship Church (IPFC); Lesotho Council of Non-governmental Organisations (LCN); Media Institute of Southern Africa, Lesotho Chapter (MISA-Lesotho); Transformation Resource Centre (TRC); and Voice of the Voiceless

Association (VOVA). In total there were 671 accredited national observers.

3.3. Accreditation of Regional Observers

These were made up of five (5) inter-governmental organisations, namely, the African Union (AU), the Commonwealth, the Southern African Development Community (SADC-EOM), the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) and the Electoral Commissioners Forum of SADC (ECF-SADC) comprising Commissioners and staff from the SADC member states.

3.4. Accreditation of the Media

Nineteen (19) international and eighteen (18) national media houses' personnel were accredited from both electronic and print media.

3.5. Accreditation of the Diplomatic Corps

The diplomatic community comprised the European Union (EU), which had the largest group of member countries from the embassies in the region observing the elections. The EU stated that their observers should be classified as the diplomatic watch not really observers in the true sense. From the region, the Embassies and High Commissions, which deployed observers, were Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. Other Embassies' observers were from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Russia and the United States of America.

3.6 Accreditation of SADC Region Civil Society Observers

The international Civil Society Organisations were made up of regional observer groups, namely, the Electoral Institute for Sustainability of Democracy in Africa (EISA); Christian Council of Lesotho (Regional Bishops); Inter-Regional Meeting of the Bishops of Southern Africa (IMBISA); Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa (OSISA); SADC Council of NGOs (SADC-CNGO); SADC Lawyers Association (SADC-LA); Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency (SADRA); Strategic Intervention for Justice and Peace (SIJP) and Dajo Associates, a Research Institute based in South Africa.

In total, there were three hundred and fifty eight (358) both regional and international Observers that observed elections.

3.7 Advance Voting

Preparations for advance voting resumed with issuing of application forms to institutions with potential applicants; i.e. Lesotho Mounted Police Services, Lesotho Defence Force, Local Observers and Medical staff, government officials who would be outside the country on voting day, security personnel, nominated candidates and the party agents. Issuing and completion of application forms started on 22nd January 2015 as the election time table stipulated. Completed application forms were submitted to the IEC offices and were later checked and classified. It was during this exercise that a large number of applications to vote as advance electors for the 81st constituency was realised. The applications included all categories of eligible advance electors stipulated by the law and a few were disqualified because the law did not cover them. The Appropriate Voting Station Manager reduced the number of applications by sending the applications of eligible applicants from Maseru Urban Constituencies to their respective constituencies and informed their institutions. There were approximately three thousand and five hundred (3,500) approved applications and the names of approved

applicants were compiled on Form A-32 as prescribed by the law.

The Maseru Sun Hotel was used as the voting centre for the 81st constituency with two voting stations.

On the 25th February 2015 packets containing votes from abroad were received and classified according to constituencies. During the process, the ballot account forms were completed. Votes from abroad were then added to the already prepared constituency envelopes, which were then re-sealed and signed by the Appropriate Voting Station Manager and the Party Agents. The Party Delegates for purposes of inter-mixing at respective constituencies then delivered these to their respective districts.

3.8 Election Observation

While all observer teams had their fingers pointed at the Commission, especially with issues relating to the registration of voters, which was a concern also for the IEC itself, they otherwise gave the Commission a clean bill of health in the preparation and administration of the elections, and also expressed their satisfaction with the overall management of the electoral process.

- The 28 February 2015 National Assembly Election in the Kingdom of Lesotho was peaceful, transparent and generally reflects the will of the Basotho Electorate.
- The Mission commends the people of Lesotho for exercising their right to voter in a peaceful manner.
- The Mission congratulates the IEC for managing the electoral process smoothly. – African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM)
- “The Commonwealth Observer Group commends the people of Lesotho for the peaceful and orderly manner in which they

exercised their franchise on 28 February. They have set the tone for the conduct of the results and post-election phases. We urge all candidates and political parties to follow their example.” – The Commonwealth Observer Group.

- The Church is pleased with the manner in which Basotho conducted themselves during these days. We congratulate Basotho and more especially the political Party Leaders for having participated in these peaceful, credible, free and professional elections. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the International Community for their support in terms of observation of the electoral processes and the technical support they rendered at all levels. We applaud/congratulate the IEC for the job well done. – Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace.

- On behalf of the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, His Excellency Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, the SEOM commends and salutes the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho for the exemplary manner in which they conducted themselves during this electoral process. In a dignified way, voters stood in long queues waiting for their turn to cast their vote, thus exercising their constitutional right to elect a party/candidate of their choice. – SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM)

- TRC observer groups have generally rated the 28 February elections as credible, free and fair and revealing the wishes of the Lesotho’s electorate. There are however a few things that need strengthening for subsequent elections. – Transformation Resources Centre.

- The Mission is satisfied that there existed a conducive and peaceful environment in which the elections were conducted. Basotho were accorded the opportunity to freely express their will in voting for the candidates of their choice, notwithstanding the observed shortcomings mentioned in this Interim Statement.

The SADC-PF Election Observation Mission is, therefore, of the view that the process up to this point is, on the whole, a credible reflection of the will of the majority of the people who voted.

Accordingly, the Mission declares the National Assembly Elections as having been free, fair, transparent, credible and democratic.

As earlier stated, SADC-PF will continue to observe the post-election processes including the final declaration of results and post-election developments and will pronounce itself accordingly in its Final Report – SADC-PF Observation Mission

3.9 Voting

Voting took place in 2,794 voting stations on 28th February 2015. At 0700hrs, the time of opening of voting stations, voters had already queued in numbers, especially in the urban centres.

The problems that were experienced by the Commission as stated under “Registration of Voters” became more evident as there were some electors, who had their Registration ID Cards, were not able to cast their vote as a result of their names not appearing on the electors’ lists. There was, however, very close coordination between the Voting Stations, the Constituency Electoral Assistants, the District Offices, Headquarters and the IEC Call Centre. Most of the electors who could not find their names on the lists yet they registered were able to vote as the Call Centre was able to locate their names, and advised them accordingly.

It was realised that most of these electors were registered, but were looking for their names in the wrong voting centres; some had applied for transfers and were not transferred; others had simply forgotten where they had registered.



Party Agents observing voting process

Some had gone to the correct voting centres but were searching for their names in the wrong voting stations. There were 11 Objections received, 1 was upheld and 10 dismissed

3.10 The Count

At the close of voting, reconciliation was carried out to account for all used, unused, spoiled and tendered ballot papers. The Voting Station Manager in full view of the Party Agents and Observers undertook this. Each ballot paper was shown to all Candidates and Party Agents so that they could confirm the Voting Station Manager's announcement. This system, however, has a delaying effect on the process of counting and announcement of results in the voting stations.

Following the count, the Voting Station Manager recorded the results for the constituency vote and Party Agents, given copies of the results, signed the forms to attest that they agreed with the results. The results were then announced both inside and outside the voting station before delivery to the Returning Officer who transmitted the



Ballots ready for counting

constituency results to the Area Electoral Officer at the District Headquarters intended for transmission to the National Election Result Centre (NERC) in Maseru for official announcement by the Commission.

Constituency Results

	ABC	ADC	AUM	BAENA	BANC	BBDP	BCP	BDNP	BNP	CFM	DC	HDP	IND	LCD	LMM	LPC	LWP	MFP	NIP	PD	PFD	RCL	TSD	WHP	Total Valid Votes	Highest Votes
01_Mechechane_#01	2,487		9	26		26	13		124		1,652	88		1,681	7	34		30	108		112	33			6,430	2,487
02_HOLOLO_#02	3,088			53		44		45	182		2,310	69		427	19		31	56	102		253	52			6,731	3,088
03_Motete_#03	3,030	51		49					136		3,748	60		363	13			67	72		176	35			7,800	3,748
04_OALO_#04	1,866	34		24		29	65	14	89		1,758	116		399	32		67	60	87		1,337	36			6,013	1,866
05_BUTHA-BUTHI#_05	3,945	58		34		16	28		237		1,947	465	30	262	25	29	12	129	40	35	156	22			7,470	3,945
06_Maliba-Mats'o_#06	2,355			62		14	51	51	264		3,499			877	48	38			168		523	68			8,018	3,499
07_Mphosong_#07	2,175	20					30	18	119		2,883		19	1,399				51	119	27	84	34			6,978	2,883
08_Thaba-Phatsoa_#08	3,085	36				37	26	38	106		2,437			1,170				52	175		146	48			7,356	3,085
09_Mahobong_#09	2,449	52						37	266		2,210			3,501		23		57	141		61	60			8,857	3,501
10_Pela-Tsoeu_#10	2,370		23				36		90		2,410	85	37	1,085		56		83	111		150	47			6,583	2,410
11_Maitakeng_#11	2,319	40	35	26			22	27	143		1,300	191	293	1,350		33	19	18	117		166	28			6,127	2,319
12_Leribe_#12	2,164						32	45	228		1,696	88		1,863		47		26	81		89	33			6,392	2,164
13_Hlotse_#13	4,040	42		11		1	16	7	256		2,958		17	1,384		34		26	44		88	46			8,970	4,040
14_Tsikoane_#14	3,374								456		2,143		10	1,489		76	33	79	115		230	85			8,090	3,374
15_Maputsoe_#15	3,432	45	4	13		10	47	35	1,460		1,806			390		29	24	42	62	33	64	63			7,559	3,432
16_Likhetlane_#16	3,143		27	23			30	34	541		1,174	103	1,715	799				29	45		64	50	28	26	7,831	3,143
17_Peka_#17	3,959	16				28	50	23	237		2,008			544		40	15	44	35		96	102	47		7,244	3,959
18_Kolonyama_#18	3,315	35	21			16	26		453		1,995			1,234	3	34	20	56	85		87	32			7,412	3,315
19_Mosalemane_#19	3,201	30				5	32	59	137		2,383			716				65	117		223	31			6,999	3,201
20_Makhoroana_#20	2,982	20		20		9		13	452		2,010		21	490	11	21	22	50		17	82	27			6,247	2,982

	ABC	ADC	AUM	BAENA	BANC	BBDP	BCP	BDNP	BNP	CFM	DC	HDP	IND	LCD	LMMA	LPC	LWP	MFP	NIP	PD	PFD	RCL	TSD	WHP	Total Valid Votes	Highest Votes
21_Bela-Bela_#21	3,083	29		27			47	169	230		2,802			369	42	38	48	43	56		98	60			7,141	3,083
22_Malimong_#22	3,137			55	21		26	221	221		2,206		95	159	27		12		31		111	160	36		6,297	3,137
23_Khafung_#23	2,744						21	32	273		1,337		33	2,103	15	72	22	36			149	66	54		6,957	2,744
24_Teyateyaneng_#24	3,930	38					24	66	1,104		933			644	28	111	8	42	25		72	56	188	11	7,280	3,930
25_Tsoanankhulo_#25	3,198				36		38	30	237		2,183			1,014	19	92	14	58	63		85	63	60		7,190	3,198
26_Thupa-Kubu_#26	3,946				17		32	55	440		2,450			509	23	84		86	32	47	111	63	48		7,944	3,946
27_Berea-#27	4,221		18		33				280		2,520		142	328		123	18	54	17	21	68	75			7,918	4,221
28_Khubetsosana_#28	5,323	30	4	11	10		48	16	475		2,093			615	18	18	13	10			35	30			8,846	5,323
29_Mabote_#29	3,910	15	0	2	9		7		307		1,632			296	2			6	34		13	109	16		6,358	3,910
30_Motimposo_#30	4,376	40	30					43	414		2,432			359	27	11		22	25	35	34	106	31		7,985	4,376
31_StadiumArea_#31	5,392	19	4	5	17		9	9	564		2,353			476		17	10	14	13	66	30	113			9,111	5,392
32_Maseru_#32	3,143			10			5		390		1,173		15	279			4	17		11	9	46			5,102	3,143
33_Thetsane_#33	5,392	19	4	5	17		9	9	564		2,353			476		17	10	14	13	66	30	113			9,111	5,392
34_Qoaling_#34	4,409	22		21				16	352		2,830			394	40	41	33	31				70	23		8,334	4,409
35_Lithoeng_#35	4,380	30	23	44	21		96	41	444		2,751			259	31	13		19		22	29	49	16		8,297	4,380
36_Lithabaneeng_#36	5,823	33	18	19			16		662		2,952			380	5	18		37	27	36	29	136			10,175	5,823
37-Abia_#37	5,918	29		28					362		1,195			189	9	26		37	12	11	34	54			7,920	5,918
38_Thaba-Bosiu_#38	4,018	52		34	62		16		450		2,726		294	215				64			46	176	15		8,168	4,018
39_Machache_#39	2,358	42		22		55	22	30	317		4,864			69	27			78	132	49	74	126	11		8,276	4,864
40_Thaba-Putsoa_#40	2,233	15					36	34	186		3,456			440	104	25		34	123	28	140	52			6,872	3,456
41_Maama_#41	4,947	50				11	16	18	460		2,021		66	321	14			34	52	16	68	156	23		8,273	4,947
42_Koro-Koro_#42	5,718	36	3		65		6	6	421		3,779			378	7	13	43	25			52	58	21		10,631	5,718
43_Oeme_#43	4,048	6	13	15			63	8	176		2,629			429	20	32	6	38	51	23		111			7,668	4,048
44_Kolo_#44	2,685	49	7	22			29		343		3,012			316	50	5	27	86			74	124			6,839	3,012

	ABC	ADC	AUM	BAENA	BANC	BBDP	BCP	BDNP	BNP	CFM	DC	HDP	IND	LCD	LMM	LPC	LWP	MFP	NIP	PD	PFD	RCL	TSD	WHP	Total Valid Votes	Highest Votes
45_Matieleng_#45	3,489		21				27		204		3,694			739		43		50	76	24	83	71			8,421	3,594
46_Makhaleng_#46	2,071	47			25	38		254			2,587		1,264	308	30			33	50		88	94			6,914	2,587
47_Maletsunyane_#47	1,804	15			24			122			3,633			690	34			96	89		113	51			6,471	3,533
48_Thaba-Phechele	2,039		35	37			81	23	96		2,981			1,049	54	68		18	106	3	39	52			6,681	2,981
49_Kolo_#49	1,720	46		28	29		31	26	175	182	2,946		87	1,169	17			48	136		80	104			6,824	2,946
50_Matelle_#50	2,074	44					45		203		3,307		22	907	23	44	52	48	80		70	67			6,986	3,307
51_Malepeetsane_#51	2,636	15	14			30	141	21	367		3,452			110	67	22	11	45	39	15	143	49			7,177	3,452
52_Thabane-Morena	881	48				41	134	20	318	21	1,472			3,167	21			29	120		80	93			6,445	3,167
53_Likhoele_#53	2,476			39		9	403	34	468	633	3,113			522				62	63		61	77			7,960	3,113
54_Qalabane_#54	2,115	43				14	48		81	60	3,053			1,012	23	41		38	75	34		99			6,736	3,053
55_Mateteng_#55	3,062	11		21	15	21	23	6	226	45	2,548			222		40		21	9	18	30	72			6,390	3,062
56_Taung_#56	1,773			33		19	20	20	180		2,127			807	23	19		48	62	26	52	484			5,693	2,127
57_Ohaisi_#57	1,955	24		17		13	35	63	140		2,972			181	16	13		30	23		34	76			5,592	2,972
58_Mohale's-choek_#58	2,702			13	12	90	52	47	362		2,263			685	17			52	51	20	25	119			6,510	2,702
59_Mekalling_#59	870					44	29		213		3,084		32	337					45		68	41			4,763	3,084
60_Oragatu_#60	1,366	24				12	20		144		2,092			962		13		30	34		37	20			4,764	2,092
61_Mpharane_#61	1,756					29	61	34	216		3,301		275	171	27		22	55	60		101	39			6,147	3,301
62_Ketane_#62	781	28				30	57	70	302		3,829			102				59	70		78	46			5,452	3,829
63-Hloahloeng_#63	1,286	22				13	30		176		5,361			60				36			86	118			7,188	5,361
64_Tele_#64	886	23				12	31		384		2,082		32	887	14			29	78		24	91			4,572	2,082
65_Moyeni_#65	1,468	23	23	24		34	15		793		2,691			288	33			25	43	35		63			5,458	2,591
66_Sebopala_#66	283		25			14	34	54	1,866		3,417			392				62	53		45	33			6,258	3,417
67_Mt.Moorosi_#67	145		14			9	5	21	2,390		2,279			1,444				32	103		38	41			6,521	2,390
68_Ohoalli_#68	200	17		30	14	15	8	22	418		3,904			298	12						19	37			4,994	3,904

	ABC	ADC	AUM	BAENA	BANC	BBDP	BCP	BDNP	BNP	CFM	DC	HDP	IND	LCD	LMM	LPC	LWP	MFP	NIP	PD	PPD	RCL	TSD	WHP	Total Valid Votes	Highest Votes
69_GachisNek_#69	504	12			23		5	16	819			5,160		384				44	22			54			7,043	5,160
70_Lebakeng_#70	219				19			352			6,273			305	15							60			7,261	6,273
71_Tsoelike_#71	325	9	16	17		1	7	13	207		4,581			194				5				115			5,490	4,581
72_Mantsomane_#72	1,464	40				39	46	39	199		2,334			792	10	42		75	170		955	125			6,330	2,334
73_Thaba_Moea_#73	763	56		55	27	29	64	51	228		3,359			1,124				56	171		130	151			6,264	3,359
74_Thaba-Tseka_#74	2,696	44		48	45	35		31	770		3,485	46	1,063	295	50	36		84	57		161	39			7,922	3,485
75_Semena_#75	1,155	33		35		49		58	236		2,891			788		63		69	260		1,267	73	20		8,060	2,891
76_Mahai_#76	1,947			9		62		31	838		3,807			370		51			43	39	138	114			7,449	3,807
77_Malinganeng	2,126				22	56	48	58	229		3,258			1,335				61	372		111	347			8,023	3,258
78_Senqu_#78	1,278	16		52		66	63	83	1,216		2,943			963				74	144			119			7,017	2,943
79_Mokhotlong_#79	2,816	13	21	89		28	28	28	446		2,390	22		530				86	72		85	310			6,964	2,816
80_Bobatsi_#80	3,097	22		51		31	34	25	348		2,769			448	64			52		38		37			7,036	3,097
Total	215,022	1,689	390	1,259	582	1,285	2,721	1,901	31,508	941	218,573	1,265	5,630	56,467	1,008	1,951	577	3,413	5,404	751	9829	6,731	531	174	569,576	218,573

3.11 National Election Result Centre.

The election results display was setup at Maseru Sun Cabanas. The announcement and publishing commenced on the 1st March 2015 and ended on 4th March 2015.

The results centre (Maseru Sun Cabanas) was connected with a real-time wireless technology to IEC HQ where the web-based National Election Results System was hosted. A provision was made to media and the public to readily access the printed or hard copies of election results as they were announced instantaneously.

3.12 Election Results

The following tables show the Constituency Seat Election Summary at National Level, as well as the Final Seat Allocation Summary.

4 Election Petitions

⁸ “Within 30 days of the contested result being announced in terms of sections 102 to 106(1) or declared under section 105, the petitioner shall:- lodge an elections petition with the High Court etc..”

One (1) election petition was lodged following the February 28, 2015 elections. This was a petition from the Basotho Democratic National Party (BDNP) challenging the Allocation of Seats. At the time of reporting, the petition had not been decided in the High Court of Lesotho.

5 CONCLUSION

The Independent Electoral Commission was faced with a major problem of voters' lists that had created a lot of confusion before and on voting day. Another problem faced was that the period of registration and entering names into the database fell within the Christmas festive season; and with all support systems outlets closed for the period, the Commission encountered difficulties of maintenance of machinery, which complicated operations.

Overall, the IEC successfully delivered an acceptable, free, fair, transparent and accessible election to the people of Lesotho as confirmed by the various observer missions. It enlisted the support of stakeholders and secured wide-reaching participation in the electoral process.

While the IEC is aware of the need to enhance the quality of elections delivery through improved technical expertise, it is important for the electorate to know all the electoral processes, so that they are able to actively participate and appreciate some of the challenges experienced by the Commission at different stages of the electoral process. The IEC is striving, however, to implement various measures to rectify some shortcomings, such as the review of legislation relating to elections; prioritising urgent and important tasks, ensuring technical problems are addressed and information disseminated in good time. The IEC has also embarked on the expansion of voter education into a comprehensive civic education programme, including components on voter registration, voters with disabilities and gender issues.

⁸ National Assembly Electoral Act 2015, Chapter 126(6)

Annexure “A”

Maseru Facilitation Declaration

The SADC Double Troika of Heads of States and Government plus DRC and Tanzania meeting in Pretoria on 15 September 2014 mandated us as the SADC Facilitation Mission, to facilitate dialogue among all political and other role players in the Kingdom of Lesotho as part of efforts to assist the country to return to constitutional normalcy, political stability and restoration of peace and security.

In this context, the SADC Troika meeting in Pretoria built upon decisions of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security meeting held in Windhoek under the leadership of President of the Republic of Namibia, HifikipunyePohamba.

The decisions of the Organ were subsequently endorsed during the SADC Summit of Heads of States and Government held in Victoria Falls in August 2014.

Agreement with Political Stakeholders

1. His Majesty, King Letsie III, will reconvene parliament on 17 October 2014.

The sitting of parliament will be limited to the passing of a budget and all other related matters regarding the holding of elections.

2. National General Elections will be held towards the end of February 2015 and on a date to be set by His Majesty.

3. Parliament will be dissolved at the beginning of December 2014 to prepare for the holding of the general elections

4. All political parties represented in parliament are called upon to recognize their responsibility to the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho, to respect the Constitution, uphold democratic principles and secure the restoration of peace and of political stability and security in the Kingdom of Lesotho

5. All the citizens of the Kingdom of Lesotho, including non-governmental organisations, all other role-players, traditional, civic and religious are called upon to support this critical endeavour for the restoration of peace and political stability and security in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

6. The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) will be expected to conduct these elections on a free and fair basis. The SADC will assist the IEC in its efforts to hold credible, free and fair elections

Annexure "B"



CCL
Christian Council of Lesotho

P.O. Box 347
160 Constitution Road
Maseru 100
Lesotho

Tel: (Head Office) (+266 22313639 Fax: (+266) 22310310 Email: generalsecretary@ccl.org.ls

ELECTORAL PLEDGE BY LESOTHO POLITICAL PARTIES

We, the political parties, of Lesotho:

Mindful of the legacy of nationhood and the values of statesmanship bequeathed us by Moshoeshe I and the founders of this nation;

Desirous of assuring all Basotho of our dedication to democracy, the rule of law, and the conduct of peaceful elections;

Hereby pledge:

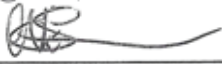
To honor the Constitution and laws of Lesotho;

To honor the institutions of governance of Lesotho;

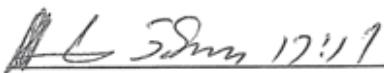
To observe the Electoral Code of Conduct;

To accept the outcomes of the **28 February, 2015** election when certified free, fair and credible by independent observers.

Signed, this 21st February, 2015



ABC



Baena

Ina

M. F. P.

M. Phoko. 

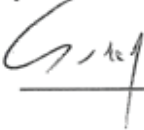
RCL.



BNP



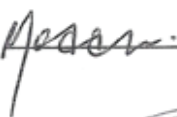
DC



BBNP.



PD.



WHP



LCD

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A D C

Imudpane

B-A-N-C

~~Handwritten scribble~~
Relelestrada

BAND

Dil
Lelelestrada Rakunaga

P.F.D.

(
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Kimeko Meethabi

NIP

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MOLAHCEHI DERORO

L.P.C.

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Annexure "C"



Statement of Acceptance of Election Results by Political Parties of Lesotho

As leaders of the Political Parties of Lesotho, we hereby state our acceptance of the results of the National Assembly Election conducted on the 28 February 2015. We express our gratitude to the Independent Electoral Commission for their delivery of an election that we recognize as a true reflection of the will of the Basotho people. We commend and thank the people of Lesotho for their active participation and exemplary conduct in their election. We thank the many international partners who have contributed generously in a variety of ways to assist Lesotho in achieving a successful election. We express our gratitude to the Heads of Churches for their guidance and support. We commit ourselves anew to honor and support the principles enshrined in our national Constitution to guide us in this time of transition.

Signed on this day; 05 March 2015

PAKALITHA B. MOSISILI

Motheloa Mchunye

Paul Masim

L. PHAPANG SEJ. MELA

Imiso...

FRANCIS TSHAKISO

Pebele Letsoela

Lechebo Rakoa

Blyosieli : DC

Phung LCD

M. J. J. 12:17 BAENA

AD C

BANC

WHP.

BAND.

P.F. D/1002181

Kimetso Mathaba

~~Kimetso Mathaba~~ NIP

Vincent Moeketse Malebo

Malebo M.F.P.

Jessjane Francis Lenta

~~Jessjane Francis~~ BNP

MOLAHLEHI LETSOTO

~~Molahlehi Letsoto~~ L.P.C.

SAMONJANE Ntsekele

~~Samonjane Ntsekele~~ ABC

