



**SPEECH BY HON JUSTICE MAHAPELA LEHOHLA THE CHAIRPERSON**  
**OF THE INDIPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**ON THE FINAL ELECTION RESULTS**  
**FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2015**

Fellow Citizens!

Allow me to remind you of the mandate and roles of the IEC:

The IEC was established in 1997 as an independent, impartial institution in terms of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Lesotho (Section 66 as amended). The IEC is responsible for the management of national, local elections and referenda.

May we express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all Basotho for the manifestation of tolerance, peace, trust and spirit of cooperation in their conduct, during all the periods in the electoral phases, namely pre-election and voting. We hope that they will exercise the same spirit post-election.

The IEC experienced several challenges during the elections period. Those challenges were not insurmountable. We managed to address them. Whatever challenges and shortfalls observed to date by the stakeholders and electorate, are not of such magnitude as to somehow question the credibility of the outcome of the election results we are inclined to believe.

When his Majesty King Letsie III proclaimed 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015 as elections day, the IEC rose to the challenge following its mandate even although this was to be met head on within a short period of 2½ years shy of the normal 5 years' electoral cycle.

We presume that with the final announcement of the 80 constituency results and the allocation of the 40 proportional seats, the IEC has successfully completed the task assigned to it to the best of its ability and hopefully has met the requirements incidental to high expectation and mandate.

The Independent Electoral Commission has received from International, Continental, Sub-regional and indeed national organizations and bodies positive acknowledgement of the conduct of the elections in a transparent, inclusive, independent and impartial manner. We humbly draw a good amount of hope and courage from this.

The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon blazed the trail in his congratulatory message describing this success as an important step in Lesotho's return to political normalcy.

Transparent, inclusive, free and fair electoral processes are critical components of credible elections and consolidation of democracy.

May we kindly therefore be allowed to acknowledge the observations of all the international, continental, sub-regional and national observer missions who have hailed and commended the conduct of the IEC, all

relevant stakeholders and Basotho people in their respective contributions to the electoral process and have declared the National Assembly Elections 2015 peaceful, free, fair and credible. It is gratifying to notice that they manifestly show that they accept that the results reflect the will of Basotho. They confirmed that the IEC conformed to the international, continental and Sub-regional standards for credible election management and complied with all the legal and procedural requirements in the management of the National Assembly Elections 2015. We are indeed honoured and humbled.

The IEC expresses its sincere thanks to all the National Civil Society Organizations including the Christian Council of Lesotho for their engagement, support and positive contributions meant to ensure prevalence of environment conducive to sustenance of viable electoral process.

We commend Basotho, political party leaders with whom we moved abreast every step of the way till this moment, their followers, all relevant stakeholders, the media, security agents for their contributions all dedicated to ensuring that peaceful, transparent and credible elections were held. The high level of tolerance amongst political parties and their supporters has not gone unnoticed.

We have noted with contentment the level of tolerance, respect, trust, peace and humility that is characteristic of the Basotho nation.

The IEC acknowledge and thank the Development Partners that have so generously contributed and supported the Commission during this

period – UNDP, Commonwealth, European Union, United States and USAID.

May we be permitted to express our profound gratitude and appreciation for the important role of SADC under the able leadership of H.E. Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa the Deputy President of RSA the facilitator who manned and managed the process in search of viable solution to the political crisis in Lesotho and providing support for the security and maintenance of Law and order in the Country during this trying period.

Finally a fitting word of high and hearty commendation to the IEC Staff for their dedication, professionalism, commitment and selflessness in managing the electoral process so well – To you we say well done!! Keep it up! For the sake of our beloved country and our beautiful people!

In conclusion, we urge all political parties and candidates to accept the outcome of the election and to break away from past cycle of political intolerance. We encourage any party or candidate wishing to challenge the election results to do so in accordance with the Laws of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

May the winners be gracious in victory and the losers note that it is a mark of fortitude to accept loss with quietness of spirit. With them we commiserate while congratulating their lucky opponents.

God Bless our precious Kingdom that is so dear to us and well loved. May Basotho prosper and be saved.

Molimo o boloke Lesotho le Basotho.

Thank you.

---

Hon. Justice Mahapela Lehohla (OMMOM)  
Chairperson IEC

**Maseru – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015**