

KHETHO EA HAO!

KE MATLA A HAO!

FACT SHEET



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The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is an independent, impartial institution established by the Constitution (Sec 66 as amended). Established in 1997. The IEC consists of the Board of Commissioners and the Secretariat.

The current Board of commissioners includes:

- Mr Mphasa Mokhochane – Chairman
- Dr Karabo Mokobocho Mohlakoana – Commissioner
- Mr Tšoeu Petlane – Commissioner

The IEC's constitutional roles are the following:

1. Demarcation of constituencies and delineation of Electoral Divisions
2. Voter registration and compilation of national Electors' register
3. Administration and oversight of elections
4. Policies required for administering the elections
5. Certification and announcement of the result of the elections
6. Registration of political parties and official symbols
7. Establish committees to assist or advise in the performance of its functions
8. Divide Lesotho into electoral areas and to publish the area, by notice, in the Gazette

The Secretariat

The IEC Secretariat is headed by Adv. Mpaiphele Dyson Maqutu the current Director of Elections, who is in charge of the implementation of the Commission's functions in line with the provisions of the Electoral Act. The Secretariat is responsible for the overall operational implementation of the election and the supervision of ten District Electoral officers. The District Offices are responsible for supervision of constituency officers and voting stations. District Electoral Offices of the IEC are based in all ten districts.

The IEC puts in place various structures to ensure ownership of the electoral process by all stakeholders. Such structures are: Party Delegates, Logistics and Security Committee, Media Liaison Committee, Civic and Voter Education Committee, Conflict Management Committee, Data Management Committee, Election Coordinating Committee, Law Committee and Monitoring Committee. At district and constituency levels there are party representatives from all political parties registered with IEC.

Voter registration enables the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of Lesotho to register all eligible Basotho citizens over the age of 18 and those who will turn 18 on

Voter Registration Process



or before election day. In order to vote in the National Assembly Election, all citizens must be registered voters. Voter registration in Lesotho is a mandatory and continuous process.

The National Assembly Electoral Act of 2011 gives the IEC powers to suspend the registration of voters during the elections only. The registration of electors is suspended from the eighth day after the commencement of the elections period.

- Any new applications for registration during the election period are kept by the IEC, which will process them after the suspension period has been lifted.

All Lesotho citizens are eligible to register when they are at least 18 years old on Election Day. However, there are some conditions under which one may not be allowed to register:

- Owing allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power/state
- Sentenced to death by the courts of Lesotho
- Found guilty of election offences.
- Declared of unsound mind by the court of Law

To register

- All citizens of Lesotho must go to a voter registration Centres with their National Identity documents.
- The officials at the voter registration centre will check all documents to see if they are correct, and will then record details in the Electors' Register and issue a voter card.

Registered voters must keep the voter card in a safe place and come with it to the voting centre on Election Day.

To vote, all citizens must present documents to prove identification and nationality. To establish identity, everyone must produce one of the following official documents:

- Passport
- National Identification Document
- A voter's registration card
- An Official Witness

For further information, visit the IEC Website. <http://www.iec.org.ls>

All registered voters may check their current status of the National Electors' Register on the following website link: <http://www.iec.org.ls/elector/form.php>

All Basotho may check their individual current status of the National Electors' Register by entering the following information on the online.

Internet form:

- Individual Name
- Constituency Name
- Village or users may enter registration number only.

After entering the above mentioned information, the website will display all individual data from the Electors' Register.

The purpose of the Display and Objections period is to allow registered voters to challenge the inclusion and removal of individuals on the Provisional Electors' Register.

Where and for how long will the Provisional Electors' Register be displayed?

After the end of the voter registration period, the Provisional Electors' Register for each Voter Registration Centre is available for display and objections can be made within seven days. Visit any voter registration Centre to inspect the Provisional Electors' Register.

Who is allowed to inspect the Provisional Electors' Register and file an objection?

Any registered elector may inspect the Provisional Electors' Register and challenge the inclusion of another person on the basis that the person:

- Does not exist or
- Has used fake documents to register or
- Is younger than 18 years or will be younger than 18 years on Election Day or
- Does not reside or work in the constituency in which he/she has registered
- Is legally not competent because has allegiance to another country, was declared of unsound mind or was found guilty of election offences and has not completed sentence.

Provide factual information together with evidence, when filing an objection.

Do I need to bring any documents with me in order to check the Provisional Electors' Register?

Yes. All citizens are required to provide their voter card and ID document to prove that they are registered, and their names appear in the Electors' register.

Do I need to check that I am on the Provisional Electors' Register?

Yes. Everyone may check that their names appear in the provisional list, and that they are correctly spelled, and they appear where they have registered. If the name does not appear in the Electors' Register, they cannot vote on Election Day.

Will I be allowed to check other peoples' names?

Yes, you may review the list of names of all the people who have registered at that Centre.

Will I be able to see the names of all Basotho registered to vote in the whole country?

No. The Registration Centre will only have the names of the people who registered at that Centre.

If I find someone on the list who I believe is not eligible to vote, what should I do?

You can challenge their inclusion on the list using an Objection Form which is available at the Registration/Display Centre or any IEC office that is closest to you.

Will the person that I objected know that I have made an objection?

Yes. The Director of Elections informs the person objected to and the reasons for objection in order for such person to be aware of the grounds of the objection.

What if I am not satisfied with the decision made about my objection?

The officials of the station where you made the objection will accept the objection, but the decision of the director of the IEC is final. Either the objector or the person who was objected to may appeal the decision to the Court of Law.

For administrative purposes Lesotho is divided into 10 districts. For election purposes the country is divided into 80 constituencies. Voters in each of the 80 constituencies will elect ONE candidate to represent them in the National Assembly. An additional 40 compensatory seats will be allocated based on Proportional Representation (PR).

In all constituencies voters will receive one ballot paper to elect a candidate to represent either a political party or an independent candidate.

Lesotho has adopted the Mixed Member Proportional Representation model (MMP).

The MMP system is a mixture of the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) electoral system and Proportional Representation (PR) system, where the country's 120 seats are allocated along an 80:40 ratios between the FPTP and the PR components of the MMP.

Eighty (80) seats will be allocated based on constituency votes. One Candidate will be elected in each constituency.

Forty (40) seats will be allocated to reflect the share of the national vote.

Only one representative of political parties will appear on the ballot.

After the counting and announcement of national results, the winners of the PR seats will be determined from each political party candidate lists, according to their position. Voters use a single ballot to mark the candidate of their choice. (All voters use only one mark on the ballot paper, one vote is for both races: FPTP and PR)

- Voters must only vote once.
- Candidates who receive the most votes in their constituency will be returned as Members of National Assembly.
- Each ballot is counted twice; for constituency (FPTP) and at the national level for PR.
- Constituency seats are counted at voting stations and the results are announced at the voting station and at the constituency level.
- Final figures are transmitted to the National Results Centre by the IEC for aggregation.

First Past the Post (FPTP) electoral system

For the 80 constituency seats, the candidates (who represent political parties or independent candidates) who receive the most votes in their constituencies will be elected, based on the First Past the Post electoral system.

Proportional Representation (PR) system

Forty (40) seats of the National Assembly will be based on proportional representation (PR) system, which means that each political party gets a share of seats which reflects the share of the national vote compiled from the 80 constituencies.

The first step in the allocation of PR seats is to determine a national quota.

A national quota is determined by dividing the total number of the total national votes by the total number of seats (120).

The next step is to determine each **political party's quota**. To determine each political **party's quota**, the national total political party votes are divided by the national quota.

The allocation of **provisional political party seats** to each political party is equal to the **political party's quota** without taking into consideration any decimal fraction.

The total number of **provisional political party seats** is often less than 120, because the decimal fraction was not taken into consideration. If the number of total of all **provisional political party seats** is less than 120, then the decimal fractions will be taken into account. To equal 120 seats, the political parties with the highest decimal fractions of **provisional political party seats** will be awarded in order to get 120 seats.

Provisional political party seats - political party constituency seats = final number of PP seats

The political party seats won will be allocated in accordance with its closed list as was presented in the Commission.

During the candidate nomination process, all political parties submit party lists of candidates for elections under the proportional representation (PR) system. The list included at least 40 candidate names, but not more than 120. The candidates' names are in order of preference from top to bottom with a female or male candidate, followed by candidate of the opposite sex.

For more information, related to the proportional allocation of seats for National Assembly

Elections, refer to the National Assembly Electoral Act, 2011, Schedule 3 – Allocation of Seats [Section 104].

Any citizen who is eligible to vote and wants to contest a seat in the National Assembly Elections must either stand as an independent candidate or as a political party candidate. Only candidates certified by the IEC have the right to contest the elections. In the MMP model, the nomination of candidates is administered into phases; constituency level (FPTP) and national level (PR).

At the national level (PR), the names of candidates are submitted by political parties during the nomination process. At the constituency level (FPTP), candidates are nominated by political parties and independently. The nomination of candidates is done in accordance with the Constitution of Lesotho and the National Assembly Electoral Act, 2011.

The act provides conditions, which must be met by any citizen aspiring to become a Member of Parliament. In order to meet the candidate nomination conditions, a citizen must:

- Be registered as an elector;
- Have no election-related criminal record;
- Be able to speak, read and write Sesotho and English;
- Not be a member of the Defence Force, Police Service, National Security Service and Correctional Service or;
- Not hold, or acting in a public office.

In most political parties, party branches elect individuals from within their constituencies. The party's central committee endorses the elected individuals. Constituency candidates register themselves for nomination at IEC, accompanied by a proposer and a seconder who are registered as electors.

Nominations are done at central committee level of the party, where its leadership draws up a list of individuals to be submitted to the IEC for purpose of PR seat allocation. Candidates are nominated by a closed list, comprising of males and females; in order of preference, a male following a female or vice versa.

The minimum number of political party candidates in the PR List is 40, while the maximum is 120.

Nomination Fee for a constituency candidate is M200.00, while for PR List, nomination fee is M8, 000.00

Candidates that obtained 10 per cent or more votes of the total number of electors in the constituency, get a refund of their nomination fee after the elections. Refund of the nomination fee for the PR List will only be given to a party that has obtained a parliamentary seat.

Anyone who is not satisfied with the candidature of any contestant has a right to object to the nomination of such a candidate within a specified time in the election timetable.

Instructions and forms for candidates' nomination can be obtained from one of the 10 Districts.

Offices or the IEC website at <http://www.iec.org.ls>

The IEC Call Centre provides a direct connection to trained IEC staff that can provide voter information and answer questions about the election to the general public.

The IEC Call Centre provides a toll free number available for anyone to call and ask questions related to the National Assembly Elections.

The IEC toll free number is: **800 22033**

WhatsApp number : **+266 58888432**

Common questions may include:

What are my rights and duties as a voter?

- What is the role of the Election Commission?
- Where is my electoral constituency?
- What do I need in order to vote?
- Where can I vote?
- How are votes counted?
- Where can I file a complaint?
- Who has won in my electoral constituency?

Calls are free of charge

Call Centre: **800 22033**

All registered Basotho women and men who are 18 years and over have the right to vote.

Where can I find my voting centre or the voting station?

Your voting centre location is the same place as the voter registration centre.

Will my vote be confidential?

Yes. You will vote by yourself inside a secured voting booth and each ballot is anonymous. Your name will not appear on the ballot, and you will place your ballot paper into a secure, locked box. Your vote is confidential.

Can someone come inside the voting booth with me?

No one can come inside the booth with you except if you require physical assistance. If you are visually impaired, a relative or friend, or you may request assistance marking the ballot paper.

What should I expect at the voting centre?

There are separate voting stations at each voting centre. When you arrive at the centre, voting staff will direct you to the right station where the voting staff will do the following:

- Check your name on the voters' card;
- Check that you are on the voter list for that particular station;
- Check your fingers to find out if you have voted or not;
- Write your registration number;
- Give you a ballot paper with an official mark on the back;
- Explain how to mark and fold the ballot properly;
- Draw a line over your name from the electors' list;
- Show you to the voting booth to cast your vote;
- Let you drop the ballot into the ballot box;
- Ink your finger to make sure that you do not vote twice;
- Ask you to leave the voting station;

What if someone intimidates or threatens me?

No one has the right to intimidate you or force you to vote in anyway. Your vote is your choice. There are No cameras in the voting centre that will reveal your vote.

What are we voting for?

A 120-member body called the National Assembly that will become the new legislative authority in Lesotho. The National Assembly will appoint a Prime Minister and the new government.

For whom should I vote?

Your vote is your choice and your choice only. No one should tell you for whom to vote.

How are candidates nominated?

Candidates are nominated during the nomination period, according to the requirements of the Electoral Act 2011. During the nomination period, candidates registered either as individuals, or as members of a political party. In both cases, the requirements are the same and all candidates are approved by the IEC.

What is an independent candidate?

An independent candidate is a woman or man competing for a seat in the National Assembly. An independent candidate can only compete in one constituency. An

independent candidate who receives the most votes in their particular constituency will win a seat in the National Assembly.

What is a political party?

A political party is a group of individuals with a common political agenda contesting for seats in the National Assembly. Voters will choose one candidate from the different political parties on the ballot. Political parties will win seats in the National Assembly in proportion to the number of votes received at the national level.

Who are the observers?

Observers are an important part of the electoral process. The role of accredited election observers is to ensure that the entire electoral process is-and is seen to be conducted in accordance with the law, regulations, international standards and best practices.

Observers are representatives of national and international organisations. They are accredited by the IEC to observe the electoral process, including registration, campaigning, polling, counting, and tabulation of results.

How can I become an observer?

To become an observer, you must first belong to a civil society organisation or international organisation, or be an individual that is accredited by IEC to observe elections.

Your organisation will appoint an authorised Representative who will submit your completed application form for accreditation to the IEC office. All observers will receive from the IEC accreditation cards. The accreditation unit of the IEC central administration office in Maseru will accredit international observers.

What do observers do?

The role of election observers is to observe the electoral process and report to their own organisation and the IEC. Observers must follow a Code of Conduct and they cannot disrupt the electoral process in any way. The main activities carried out by the observers include:

- Learn all procedures and regulations for the election
- Observe all stages of the electoral process
- Make written observations about the electoral process
- Seek information from electoral officials without disrupting the process
- Visit voter registration and voting centres
- Observe voting results when announced at a voting station

- Follow the transportation of materials, if necessary
- Report their findings to their organisation and the IEC

What are the responsibilities of observers? Do they have any restrictions?

Observers have a very important role in ensuring that elections are genuine, free and fair. To do their job effectively, they must follow the Code of Conduct and behave in a neutral and non-political manner. Observers are responsible for their own transportation, accommodation and security. They must display their IEC accreditation cards at all stages when observing the electoral process. The IEC reserves the right to cancel the accreditation of an observer who violates the Code of Conduct for election observers or who violates electoral laws or IEC regulations. Observers are not allowed to interfere with the voting process in any manner.

Will the IEC limit the number of observers?

No. The IEC is committed to accrediting any individual affiliated with a national and international observer organisation. The IEC will facilitate access to information and data relating to the electoral process. Observers may have limited access to polling stations if they become too crowded.

How do I apply?

Completed application forms with required supporting documentation must be submitted to the IEC via email to **phafoli@iec.org.ls** or hand deliver to MGC Park building ground floor. Application must reach the IEC on or before 15 May 2017 by 16:00 hours. For more information, please call

+266 22310460 or +266 22314991

Political party agents are accredited representatives of Political Parties or individual independent Candidates. Only political parties and independent candidates that contested elections by the IEC are entitled to nominate Agents.

Appointment of Party/Candidate Agents

Each political Party or independent candidate is allowed only two agents per voting station. Only one of the two Agents is allowed in a voting station, they alternate. Agents have two main functions. They observe the voting and counting processes with a view of reporting whether it was conducted in accordance with the law. They also protect the interests of their nominated candidate or political parties in the voting and counting processes.

Political Party Agents and Candidate Agents can:

- Observe all stages of the voting and counting processes;
- Object to anyone trying to vote without any form of identification.

- Raise a question about the violation of a law or regulation with IEC officials. If dissatisfied with the response by the IEC officials, he or she may file a written complaint.

How can I become an agent?

In order to be accredited as an Agent, you must be eligible to be a voter and nominated by the authorised representative of the political party or independent candidate that you support. The Authorised Representative will submit all of the appointment forms on your behalf to the Office of the Returning Officer.

What are the main duties of a Party/Candidate Agent?

A party or candidate agent is allocated to a particular voting station in a constituency that their candidate or political party is contesting at any time during polling, sorting, counting of votes, and announcement of the preliminary results, provided that they do not interfere in the process. Also, Agents can attend the entire voting and counting processes, including the transfer of materials and election results.

While in the voting stations, the Agents must not campaign in favour of or against any candidate or political party. Agents are responsible for their own transportation, accommodation and security. They must display their IEC accreditation card at all stages while attending the voting and counting processes as an agent. The IEC reserves the right to revoke the accreditation of an Agent who violates electoral Law or IEC regulations in a voting station.

What is the role of the IEC with respect to agents?

The IEC will facilitate access to information and data relating to the voting and counting processes. IEC is also committed to respecting rights of agents in a voting station. The electoral campaign is the period in which individual candidates and political parties are allowed to advocate their candidacy to voters. The electoral campaign starts at the beginning of election period, and ends 24 hours before voting begins on Election Day. No individual candidate of a political party will be allowed to campaign outside the official campaign period.

During the official campaign period, all candidates and political parties shall comply with the following:

Election advertising must not contain or allude to anything that affects the national dignity, unity or lead to discord or conflict among the voters or candidates; The political party in power shall take responsibility to ensure that its candidates and office bearers do not abuse their positions for the purposes of their elections campaigns and shall not use government vehicles during the elections period, except their Ministers and other officials entitles to use government vehicles.

It is prohibited to:

- Exercise any form of pressure, intimidation, distrust and expiation, or to offer any hint of enticement or material gains to voters;
- Use expressions that incite violence, hatred or discrimination;
- Use public offices or institutions and work places during normal working hours;
- Use state resources for campaigning;
- Use educational institutions during classes;
- Destroy campaign posters of other political parties;
- To commit fraud or deceive voters while campaigning;
- For media outlets belonging to candidates or political parties to disparage or defame directly or indirectly any other candidate or political parties;
- Use the premises reserved for use by the Defence Force or the Police Service, or official duties or for residence

The Electoral Code of Conduct must be respected and observed by all political parties or candidates that are contesting elections. Failure to abide by the Code of Conduct will result into consequences such as suspension of a party from campaigning. A person may submit a written complaint concerning the Electoral Code of Conduct to the Director Elections. On receiving the complaint, the Director will refer the complaint for determination by the Tribunal adjudicating an alleged infringement of the Code of Conduct may only impose a sanction referred to in the Electoral Law, or recommend to the Commission the imposition of any other section referred to in the stipulations of the Electoral law.

How and where can campaign meetings be held?

Any candidate and political party can hold rallies within the electoral constituency they are contesting. The government and its agencies shall make public facilities available to a political party registered with the Commission on the basis of equal charges for use of such facilities during the campaign period. A public officer and public authority shall give and be seen to give equal treatment to political parties registered with the Commission to enable them to conduct their campaigns freely. An elections campaign may not be conducted in a public place unless the political party registered with the Commission has notified the responsible local authority of the time and venue of the campaign and served a copy of the notice to the police officer in charge of the area. If two political parties have sought same venue and same time at the same place, the political party that sought permission to hold a rally or gathering first, shall be given priority. If a political party registered with the Commission publishes campaign material (books, pamphlets, leaflets, magazines) it shall identify itself in the publication. Local authorities shall, in consultation with the Commission designate places where campaigning materials for political parties registered with the Commission may be posted. All political parties will be given equal access to all designated places.

Will the candidates and political parties be allowed to campaign before the Election Day?

The individual candidates and political parties are given an official period of time to conduct their electoral campaign. During the campaign period, individual candidates and political parties are given the opportunity to advocate their candidacies and explain their political programs.

Is the IEC regulating the electoral campaign?

The electoral Act regulates the electoral campaign. Any campaigning outside the official electoral campaign period is considered illegal and will be punished according to the law. All candidates and political parties are given equal opportunity and time to their policies, programmes and advocate their candidacies over State Radio and television.

Campaign funding

For the purposes of financing its campaign, a political party registered with the Commission may raise donations from any person or organisation in or outside Lesotho. Funds exceeding M200, 000 must be disclosed to the Commission by the Treasurer of the political party concerned within 7 days of its receipt, and be published in the Gazette. Funds and donations must be deposited into the campaign bank account, as stipulated in the Electoral Law. A political party registered with the Commission shall be entitled to funding from the Consolidated Fund, stipulated in the Electoral law, for the purpose of campaigning and payment of party agents.

What is a campaign bank account?

A campaign bank account is an account, which all political parties are required to open and use to receive all financial contributions and to pay for all financial expenditures related to campaigning.

How can I find out more about campaign and Campaign Finance rules and regulations?

Additional information can be found on the IEC website, www.iec.org.ls or by calling the Call Centre or IEC staff at district offices.

Special needs' voting refers to voters who need assistance in order to exercise their right to vote at the voting station. If an elector claims to be incapacitated from voting in the prescribed manner by blindness or any other physical cause, the elector may request the voting station manager to permit the elector to vote using the prescribed template for blind electors or vote with assistance of a person accompanying the elector. This includes people with physical disability, the deaf and those with other disabilities in need of assistance.

The voting station manager shall permit an elector to vote with the assistance of a person accompanying an elector if the voting station manager is satisfied that the

person accompanying the elector is a relative or friend of the elector, and that the elector is incapacitated in the manner referred to in the Election Law.

If permission is granted under the terms of the Election Law, the person accompanying the elector must mark the ballot paper issued to the elector in accordance with the elector's wishes.

Note:

- Be sure you trust this person to mark the ballot properly for you.
- A friend or relative can only help one person on voting day

Observers and candidate agents or political party agents who are present at your voting station are not allowed to assist you under any circumstances.

The visually impaired may use a template that will be issued by the Voting Station Manager. A template is made in such a way that an individual can vote independently.

On Election Day, all Basotho who have registered as voters will have the right to vote for the national Assembly Elections. You can only vote in person in the Voting Station where you registered. **The Voting Station will open at 7am and close at 5pm.** Only citizens included in the electors' Register for the voting station are entitled to vote. The elector must be in possession of an electors' registration card. If the elector's name appears in the electors' register for a voting station but who is not in possession of the registration card, the voter must provide the following:

- A sworn affidavit attesting to the loss or destruction of the card and the circumstances in which it was lost or destroyed;
- Proof that the card has been defaced and;
- Proof of identity in the form of a passport, driver's license, or verification by an official witness.

The voting station officer will stamp the official mark on the back of the ballot paper and hand it to the elector, and draw, where appropriate, a line through the elector's name in the electors' roll. The elector will take the ballot paper to a vacant voting booth in the voting station and will vote by placing a tick or cross in the square adjacent to the name of the candidate for whom the elector wishes to vote. The elector will fold the ballot paper in such a manner that the official mark on the back of the ballot paper is visible and hand the folded ballot paper back to the elector to place in the ballot box. The elector will allow the voting station official to apply an indelible ink mark on the elector's finger. The elector will leave the voting station immediately after voting.

What will happen at the Voting Station?



How do I mark the ballot paper?

You will go in a voting booth to mark your ballot paper in secret. Only one person is allowed to go in a voting booth at one time. The only exception, with the permission of the voting station manager, is when a person who is visually disabled has requested helping marking the ballot paper.

- You will find a pen inside the voting booth, which you can use to mark the ballot paper.
- You should make a tick or cross once in the booth next to the name of the candidate of your choice.

Spoiled Ballot

If you make a mistake in marking the ballot paper, don't cross it out. Instead, go back to the Voting official and explain that you have made a mistake. S/he will give you a new ballot paper. After you have marked the ballot paper, you should fold it so that the stamp (Official Mark) on the back of the ballot is visible and go to the ballot box.

Your vote is secret- no one else has the right to know how you voted.

When does the voting station close?

The voting station closes at 5pm. If you have joined a queue by that time, you will be allowed to vote even if it is after 5pm. However, you will not be allowed to go into the voting station after 5pm.

After everyone has voted, the voting station officials will count all the votes cast. Counting is done manually at the voting station in the presence of party agents and candidates.

Only accredited observers and candidate or political party agents will be allowed to watch the count. The results for the voting station will be posted at the voting Centre. However, the elected members of the Assembly will only be known after all the results from each voting station of a constituency have been added together and have been announced by the Returning Officer. IEC will make the overall announcement of results at the National Results Centre after verification.

The voting station manager with the assistance of voting officers shall immediately after the last elector has voted and left the voting station, reconcile the number of ballot papers issued against the number of electors whose names have been marked on the electors' register.

After the reconciliation process, the counting of votes will commence.

The voting station manager must not be involved in the counting process but attend to problems that may arise during the counting process. The process of counting is announced to all the people at the station for their attention. The voting station

official picks up each ballot paper, announces loudly the process. Ballot papers for each candidate are piled and counted after completion to show the numbers for each candidate.

Rejected ballot papers

Ballot papers without an official mark, bearing no clear indication of who is voted, that can easily be associated with any voter, and where an elector made a mark on more than one candidate are rejected as invalid. Except when the voting station official allows that, following consultation with party agents as well as candidates and agreement reached. The rejected ballot papers are counted and recorded in the results form.

Party Agents are allowed to object to rejection and allowance of ballot papers by the voting stations manager during counting. Such ballot papers are written “rejection objected to or allowance objected to” depending on the situation at hand.

If they refuse to sign or to lodge a protest against these two processes, they cannot go to court on any aspect of counting. Complaining about election results or counting of votes outside the voting station without registering a protest officially to the voting station manager during the process, denies candidates or political parties the right to file a protest to court.

The result form is posted at a noticeable place at a voting station for the general electors. The results are sent to the constituency office to the Returning Officer.

Compilation of election results begins at the voting station. Transmission of election results is done at three different levels: voting station, constituency and the National Results Centre.

Transmission of Results

.Level One

Voting station results constitute constituency results. After announcing results at the Voting station, those are taken to the Returning Officer. One or few voting stations cannot be considered as a constituency. Transmission of results from voting station to constituency office is under escort of police. Candidates and party agents are allowed to escort the results transmission if they have enough transport to do so.

Level two

Constituency level results from the different voting stations are compiled by the Returning Officer in the presence of party agents and candidates, as well as other accredited observers. Election results for a constituency comprise results for all voting stations in a constituency. The winner is then announced at constituency level.

Announcement of Election Results



Candidates and Party Agents are invited to verify the compilation together with the Returning Officer. If not satisfied, they can apply for recount of votes. Returning Officer fills the constituency results form and signs for constituency election results on the adequate form. Both candidates and party agents are invited to sign the constituency election results. Results from the constituency are taken physically to district office where there is internet connection and submitted to the area election officer

Level Two

District electoral officer (Area Electoral Officer) receives the results from the constituency

Level Three

District electoral officer (Area Electoral Officer) scans the results by the use of the tablet and transmits them to the main results centre by email.

Level Four

At National Results Centre, the Commission together with Election Coordinating Committee receives the election results forms that are emailed from district offices one-by-one. Before the results form is sent they are informed of the district and the constituency from which the results come.

After receiving the results form, results are verified and photocopied to the members of public gathered at the National Results Centre. The results are announced by the Commission until all constituencies have been announced and all winners have been declared.

Level Five

The original results form is then captured into the results publishing system by two data captures and then verified by the supervisor

Level Six

Results report from the system is produced and dispatched to the commission and results coordinating committee

After all constituency votes have been declared in accordance with the Election Law, the Commission shall convert the constituency candidates into national political party votes.

The IEC has set up a website to inform voters, election candidates, media, international stakeholders, diplomatic community and general public at large on the 2017 elections to the national Assembly of Lesotho. The IEC website is the official source of information maintained by the Lesotho electoral authorities for the upcoming elections.

The website provides information on:

- News on the electoral process and IEC activities
- The electoral law and the IEC Regulations
- The electoral constituencies
- The location of Voting Centres in the constituencies
- The structure and contact details of the IEC and its district administrative offices in the constituencies
- Voter education and information and information materials for download and further distribution
- Information and application and application forms for domestic and international election observers.

For more information on the Lesotho elections, visit:

IEC Website: **www.iec.org.ls**

IEC on Facebook: **<http://www.facebook.com/IECLesotho>**

The central administration Office of the IEC is based in Maseru.

For the practical implementation of the election administration, the IEC has established 10 district Administration Offices across the country:

IEC Contacts at the IEC District-Administration Offices

2ND FLOOR MGC PARK
CORNER POPE JOHN PAUL II ROAD & MPIOLO BOULEVARD
MASERU 100, LESOTHO
TEL: (+266) 2231 4991 / 2232 3362 **TOLL FREE:** (+266) 80022033
FAX: (+266) 2231 0398
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