

# Speech on Lesotho's 2022 National Elections

## Salutations

His Majesty King Letsie III

The Right Honourable the Prime Minister

Your Excellencies, Heads and Representatives of Diplomatic Missions

Distinguished Representatives of Electoral Observation Missions

Distinguished members of the Results Coordination Committee

Religious Leaders

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

## Opening Remarks

On the 7th October 2022, thousands of voters across the entire country endured long queues to exercise their democratic right to elect representatives who will run the governance affairs of the country on their behalf. Basotho came out to vote with a strong belief that their vote will speak for their voice, as Mwanadeke Kindembo once said, "The word VOTE stands for Voice of the Elector. Therefore, vote to let your point of view speak out for you." These words align with this year's theme: "Khetho ea hao, ke matla a hao" (your vote is your power).

## IEC Commitment

The Independent Electoral Commission stands on one key pillar - to conduct and deliver credible, free and fair elections. Since 2012, we have held four elections. Our Commissioners and staff across the country have worked tirelessly, often sacrificing sleep, to uphold this responsibility. Their dedication is commendable. We are proud of them - WELL DONE!

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## Electoral Process

The 2022 National Assembly General Elections were guided by the Constitution of Lesotho and the National Assembly Electoral Act of 2011. Upon assuming office in November 2020, the Commission committed to strengthening its capacity to deliver successful elections, engaging relevant stakeholders throughout the process. We remain committed to our post-election roadmap and core values.

## Election Technology

This election marks a milestone in technological advancement. We introduced and deployed EVVs nationwide, enabling eligible voters to register using their Identity Documents - a first in our history. This helped combat issues like multiple registrations and outdated rolls. Voters could also update their information online, access the voters' roll on our website, and follow real-time result transmission from districts to the results centre. Despite technical challenges, we successfully implemented this innovation as part of our strategic vision.

## Observers

We express deep gratitude to national and international election observers. Special thanks to the United Nations, African Union, SADC, European Union, Commonwealth Secretariat, and the SADC Electoral Commissions Forum (ECF-SADC). We also appreciate local observers, political parties, civil society, state agencies, and the media. Your contributions ensured transparency and success of the elections.

## Election Challenges

Despite facing challenges - including court cases, nomination delays, and ballot printing issues - the Commission remained focused on delivering credible elections. Lessons from this cycle will strengthen our

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institution going forward. Together, we shall overcome. Thank you for your time and attention.

### Closing

KHOTSO! PULA! NALA!