

FACT SHEET

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



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The Lesotho Independent Electoral Commission

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is an independent, impartial institution established in 1997 in accordance with Section 66 of The Constitution of Lesotho as amended. It is responsible for the management of National, Local Government and Referenda.

The IEC consists of Members of the Commission 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:

1. Demarcation of Constituencies and delineation of Electoral Divisions.
2. Voter registration and compilation of national voters' register.
3. Administration and oversight of elections.
4. Policies required for administering the elections.
5. Certification and announcement of the results of the elections.

The Secretariat

The IEC Secretariat is headed by the Director of Elections Adv. Mpaiphele Dyson Maqutu, who is charged with the implementation of the functions of the commission in line with the provisions of the Electoral Act. The Head Office of the IEC is in Maseru, and is responsible for the overall operational implementation of the election and the supervision of the ten District Electoral Officers. The District Offices are responsible for supervision of Electoral Division Officers down to polling stations. District Electoral Offices of the IEC are based in all ten districts.

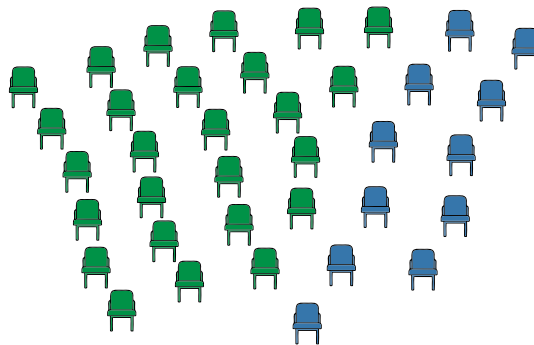
The IEC puts in place various structures to ensure ownership of the electoral process by all stakeholders. Such structures are: Party Delegates, Logistics and Security Committee, Media Liaison Committee, Civic and Voter Education Committee, Conflict Management Committee, Data Management Committee, Election Coordinating Committee, Law Committee and Monitoring Committee.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

On the 3rd July 2023, the Prime Minister, pursuant to Section 20A (1) of the Local Government Elections Amendment Act 2016 and acting in accordance with the advice of Minister of Local Government proclaimed the 29th of September, 2023 as the day on which the Local Government Elections are to be held in all Community Councils for all Electoral Divisions of the Kingdom of Lesotho are to be held.

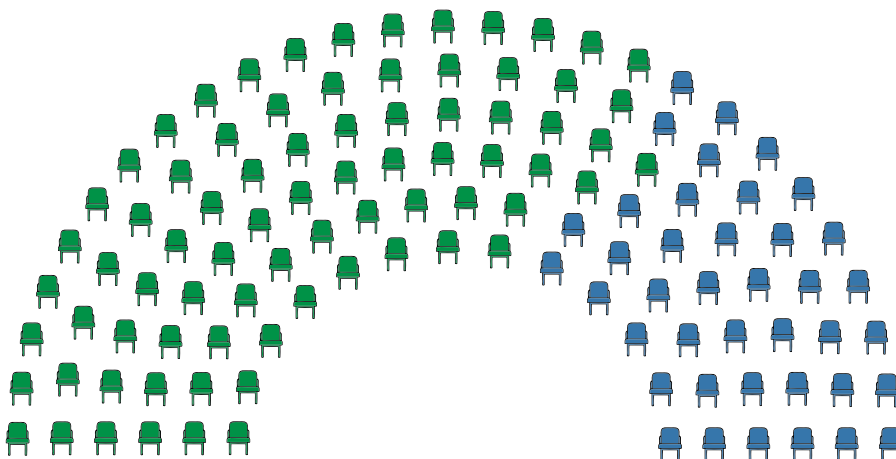
The Parliament of Lesotho consists of two houses:

The **Upper House** (Senate) is made up of 22 Principal Chiefs and 11 appointed members by the King on the Advice of the Council of State.



The Lower House (The National Assembly) has 120 seats, elected on the basis of the MMP system, which is a mixture of the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) electoral system and Proportional Representation (PR) system. The 120 seats of the National Assembly are allocated on an 80:40 ratio between the FPTP and the PR components of the MMP.

The Lower House (National Assembly)



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2023

The Local Government Elections is conducted under the First Past the Post System (FPTP) and Special Seats for Women. According to the IEC, there are 65 Political Parties that were registered and contested elections for the 2022 elections. For the Local Government Elections there are 58 Political Parties since then, are 15 that have been De-registered or cancelled. There are 76 Local Government Councils comprising 11 Urban Councils, 1 Municipal Council and 64 Community Councils.

Councils are divided into Electoral Divisions for electoral purposes;

1. **Community Councils:** 7 – 20 Electoral Divisions
2. **Urban Councils:** 7 – 9 Electoral Divisions
3. **Municipal Councils:** 7 – 13 Electoral Divisions

The Independent Electoral Commission groups villages into Election Divisions. They are formed with regard to the number of voters in each division, the physical features of the divisions and any peculiarity in the population distribution therein; and the socio and cultural ties of the communities. (sec 8(a, b & c)

The Local Government Boundaries Commission is responsible for the boundary delineation of the councils. Whilst the IEC is responsible for composition of Electoral Divisions. **There is also Local Government coordination which structures the committees as follows;**

1. Community Council
2. District Council
3. Urban Council and
4. Municipal Council



VOTER REGISTRATION

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 or before the date of the 2023 Local Government Elections.

In order to vote in the Local Government Elections, all voters must be registered to vote.

Voter registration in Lesotho is a mandatory and continuous process.

The Local Government Act of 1998 gives the IEC powers to suspend the registration of voters during the Election Period. The registration of voters will be suspended from the eighth day after the commencement of the Election Period.

Citizens must register where they originate, reside or work; but on Election Day they must vote at the same polling Centre where they have registered.

Citizens only vote for candidates or political parties who are contesting for elections in the Electoral Division where their voter registration Centre is located.

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, 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.

Citizens are only able to vote if their names appear on the register of voters in the Electoral Division at which they registered.

The Final Register of Voters is certified by the Director of Elections.

Voter Registration Process

All citizens of Lesotho go to the Registration Centre with documents that prove their identity to register. The officials at the Registration Centre checks all documents to see if they are correct, and then record details in the Register of Voters.

Requirements for registration, one must produce the following:

- National Identification Document (ID)
- A sworn-in declaration by another voter.

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

All registered voters may inquire on the
WhatsApp line: +266 58888432

Register of Voters

This is a list of all currently eligible voters', adjusted to take account of voters' registration changes between electoral events. The register of voters is continually updated because Lesotho uses continuous types of registration. The register of voters has the following details:

1. Council and Electoral Division name and their codes.
2. Village and codes
3. Voter Registration number
4. Name of the voter
5. Date of birth of the voter
6. Sex of the voter

Indicate signs showing the status of the registered voter (e.g. a pointing finger to the one who has been transferred to that area).

Display and Objections Period

The purpose of the Display and Objections period is to allow registered voters to challenge the inclusion and removal of individuals on the register of voters.

Where and for how long will the register of voters be displayed?

After the end of the voter registration period, the Register of Voters for each Voter Registration Centre is made available for display and objections can be made for eight days from **18th -25th July 2023**. Visit any voter registration Centre to inspect the register of voters.

Who is allowed to inspect the register of voters and lodge an objection?

Any registered voter may inspect the Register of Voters and challenge the inclusion of another person on the basis that the person:

- Does not exist.
- Has used fake documents to register.
- Is younger than 18 years or will be younger than 18 years on Election Day.
- Does not reside or work in the Electoral Division in which he/she has registered.
- Is legally not competent; 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 Register of Voters'?

Yes. All citizens are required to provide their voters card to prove they are registered, and an ID document to prove that their names are in the register of voters.

Do I need to check that I am on the Register of Voters?

Yes. Everyone must 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 register of voters, they cannot vote on Election Day.

Will I be allowed to check other peoples' names?

Yes, you may to review the list of names of all 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 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 a 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.

Electoral System (FPTP)

Electoral Model

Lesotho runs the Local Government Elections under the First Past the Post (FPTP) and Special Seats for women model. In this model, the voter is given the two ballot papers. Among others, this is aimed at retaining quota for women as a commitment that Lesotho has made under the SADC Gender protocol. It also includes international instruments like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Gender Policy. In this

way, the Affirmative Action for women will be achieved without discriminating the male candidates. This means that all the Electoral Divisions are open for competition by both men and women. The current model is different from that which was used in the 2005 Local Government Elections, where the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) model was used; and in an effort to implement the Affirmative Action for women, one third of the seats in each Electoral Division is reserved for women.

Determining special seats for women

Referred to as special seats for women. Each political party willing to contest for special seats draw a list for women nominees. The names on the list should not be less than 1/3 of total number of Electoral Division contested but not more than the total number of seats for the Council. The list should be in order of preference. Women contesting for elections in the Electoral Divisions are still eligible to appear in the lists.

Note that the list is submitted to IEC on the Returning Officer at council level nomination day by party Secretaries or the officials mandated to do so. The list of women submitted to IEC is closed. This means that once the list is submitted, it will never be altered. Women are listed in order of preference; the order in which they follow when seats are allocated. The first in the list is the one joining the council if his/her party has got one seat in a council.



Note

The independent candidates are not eligible to send a list of special seats for women. The independent candidates are those that are not contesting under the banner of any political party but on their own.

Electoral System (FPTP)

The Independent Electoral Commission determines the number of special seats for each council, after considering the following: First, IEC demarcates Electoral Divisions within the Councils. When doing so, it is guided by considerations such as population, physical

features and cultural ties of the communities.

In order to get the number of special seats each council deserves, the number of Electoral Divisions in each council is divided by $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total number of Electoral Divisions. The following table illustrates how the formula works.

Council	No. of Electoral Divisions	Divided by 3	Special seats
Limamarela	9	3	3
Mapoteng	10	3.333333	3
Likila	11	3.666666	4
MCC	13	4.333333	4
Khubelu	14	4.666666	5

For example, the total number of Electoral Divisions for Limamarela is 9. The number, divided by 3, equals 3. ($9/3=3$)

NOTE: All decimal fractions are rounded to the nearest whole number.



Note

This exercise continues until every council has special seats. Upon completion of the exercises, the Commission publishes a list indicating the number of special seats required for each council.

Note: After the results have been announced, the Returning Officer compiles a statement of the poll in the prescribed form and sends it for publication in such a manner as the Director of Elections may direct. The Returning Officer then allocates the special seats for women candidates in accordance with the set procedure. (sec 48:(1)(2))

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

Instructions and forms for candidate nomination can be obtained from one of the ten IEC District Offices or the IEC website at <http://www.iec.org.ls>

NOMINATION PERIOD

The Director of Elections provides further notice of the period and place of the nomination by publication in such manner as he/she thinks fit before the day of the nomination period. The Director of Elections provides a written document which states days, time and places of the nomination of candidates by publishing it in any such places as he/she may consider necessary.

Nomination for Local Government Elections:

- Electoral Division level
- Council level - Party list for Special Seats of Women.

Nomination of candidates takes place at the Electoral Division, where the Assistant Returning Officer presides over the qualification of each candidate, where as the party list for special seats for women list is submitted to the Returning Officer at the council. The party qualifies to submit this list only if it has contested in the 1/3 of the Electoral Divisions in the council.

Candidates can stand everywhere even outside the Electoral Division in which a candidate is registered. After nomination the candidate is allowed to transfer his or her name.

A deposit of M20.00 is paid as Nomination fee for Electoral Division. For Party List of Special Seats for Women, there is no fee.

Political parties that are intending to contest elections - Special Seats for Women, must field at least 1/3 of candidates in the Council.

The Party list for women is compiled in order of preference. It is submitted at the Council level.

Proceedings on Nomination (Sec 28 LGE)

Every nomination paper is to be delivered to the Assistant Returning Officer together with a true copy thereof during the nomination period and at the place and between the hours, by the candidate or by his proposer or seconder, and if not delivered as prescribed herein it is to be rejected. The copy of each nomination paper is posted in a noticeable place of nomination.

The Assistant Returning Officer permits the candidates and their proposers and seconders and one other person appointed in writing by each candidate to be present during the nomination period and at the place of nomination and there and then to examine the nomination papers of candidates which have been received for the local authority area or an Electoral Division.

Objection to nomination (sec 29 LGE)

Objection is made to the nomination paper on all or any of the following grounds but on no other grounds-

- That the description of the candidate is insufficient to identify him;
- That the nomination paper does not comply with, or was not delivered in accordance with the provisions of the Act; and
- That it is apparent from the contents of the nomination paper that the candidate is not capable of being elected as a member of the council.

No objection is allowed unless it is submitted to the Assistant Returning Officer through the nomination paper during the nomination period and during the hours prescribed. The grounds for objection must be specific and be in written form signed by the objector. The Assistant Returning Officer may also lodge an objection on the basis of the stated grounds above. A candidate who is aggrieved by the decision of the Assistant Returning Officer may lodge and appeal to the Director of Elections in writing within a period of fourteen days.

IEC Call Centre

The IEC Call Centre provides voter information and answers questions on elections to the general public.

The IEC Call Centre has a tollfree number accessible to all eligible voters.

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

WhatsApp Number: **+266 58888432**

Common questions may include:

1. What are my rights and duties as a voter?
2. What is the role of the Independent Electoral Commission?
3. Where is my Electoral Division/ Council?
4. What do I need in order to vote?
5. Where can I vote?
6. How are votes counted?
7. Where can I file a complaint?
8. Who has won in my Electoral Division / Council?



Call Centre

800 22033



First time voters

All registered voters who are 18 and above have the right to vote.

What documents do I need to bring with me to the polling centre?

You just need to bring your ID or voters card

Where can I find my Polling Station or the Polling centre?

Your polling centre location is the same place as the voter registration centre

Is my vote confidential?

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

Can someone come inside the polling booth with me?

No one can come inside the booth with you except to assist you; and that person is approved by the Presiding Officer. If you are visually impaired, a relative or friend can help you or you can request assistance in marking the ballot paper.

What should I expect at the polling centre?

There are separate polling stations at each polling centre. When you arrive at the centre, polling staff direct you to the right polling station where the polling staff assist you with the following:

1. Check your name on the register of voters and draws a line over your name from the register of voters.
2. Check that you are on the voter list for that particular station.
3. Check your fingers to see if you have voted or not.
4. Ink your finger to make sure that you do not vote twice.
5. Write your registration number.
6. Give you a ballot paper with an official mark on the back.
7. Explain how to mark and fold the ballot paper properly.
8. Show you to the polling booth to mark your ballot.

9. Tears the top counterfoil of the ballot paper, checks the official mark at the back of the ballot paper given and ascertains whether it is the same ballot paper given earlier.
10. Let you drop the ballot into the appropriate ballot box.
11. Ask you to leave the polling station.

What if someone intimidates or threatens me?

No one has the right to intimidate you or force you to vote in any way. Your vote is your choice. There are NO cameras in the polling station that will reveal your vote.

What are we voting for?

Councillors that will bring development to communities. The Local Government Elections is a means of decentralising power to the community.

For whom should I vote?

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

How were candidates nominated?

Candidates are nominated during the nomination period, according to the requirements of the Local Government Electoral Act 1998 as amended. During the nomination period, candidates can either register as Independent Candidates 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 an individual contesting election but not under the umbrella of any political party. An independent candidate can only compete in one Electoral Division. An independent candidate who receives the most votes in their particular division will win a seat in the community council.

What is a political party?

A political party is a group of individuals with a common political agenda contesting for seats in the Local Government. Voters choose one candidate from the different political parties on the ballot. Political parties win seats in the community council in proportion to the number of votes received at the district level.

Election 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 laws, regulations, international standards and best practices.

Who are the observers?

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 organisations 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:

1. Learn all procedures and regulations for the election
2. Observe all stages of the electoral process
3. Make written observations about the electoral process
4. Seek information from electoral officials without disrupting the process
5. Visit voter registration and polling centres
6. Observe polling, and announcement of results when announced at a polling station
7. Follow the transportation of materials, if necessary
8. 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 polling 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 29 September 2023. For more information, please call +266 22310460 or +266 22314991.

SAMPLE OF AN OBSERVER'S ID

INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE NAME
ORGANISATION

NATIONAL OBSERVER
INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER
POLITICAL PARTY/CANDIDATE AGENT
IEC OFFICIAL
INDIVIDUAL

Political Parties and Candidate Agents

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 polling station. Only one of the two agents are allowed in a polling station, they alternate.

Agents have two main functions. They observe the polling 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 polling and counting processes.

Political Party Agents and Candidate Agents can:

- Observe all stages of the polling 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 an eligible 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 Assistant Returning Officer.

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

A party or candidates' agent is allocated to a particular polling 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 polling and counting processes, including the transfer of material and election results.

While in the polling 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 polling 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 polling station.

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

The IEC facilitates access to information and data relating to the polling and counting processes. IEC is also committed to respecting rights of agents in a polling station.

Political Party and Independent Candidate Electoral Campaigns

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 polling 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 will 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 takes responsibility to ensure that its candidates and office bearers do not abuse their positions for the purposes of their elections campaign and not use government resources during the elections period, except their Ministers and other officials entitled to use such resources.

It is prohibited to:

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

Political Parties and Candidate Agents

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 of 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 are campaign meetings held?

Any candidate and political party can hold rallies within the electoral division they are contesting. The government and its agencies will 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 authority will 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, will be given priority.

If a political party registered with the Commission publishes campaign material (books, pamphlets, leaflets, magazines) it will identify itself in the publication. Local authorities will, 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 candidates 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 candidates 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 is 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 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?

Special 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 in Voting

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

The presiding officer permits a voter to vote with the assistance of a person accompanying a voter if the presiding officer is satisfied that the person accompanying the voter is a relative or friend of the voter. This based on the grounds that the voter is incapacitated in the manner referred to in the Electoral Law.

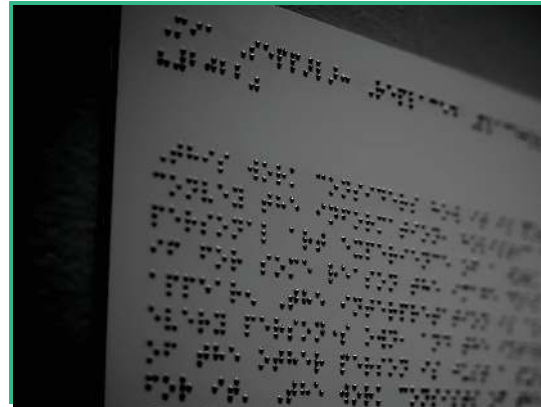
If permission is granted under the terms of the Electoral Law, the person accompanying the voter must mark the ballot paper issued to the voter in accordance with the voter's wishes.

Note:

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

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

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



What happens at the Polling Station?

On Election Day, all Basotho who have registered as voters have the right to vote for the Local Government Elections. You can only vote in person in the Polling Station where you registered. The Polling Station open at 7:00am and close at 5:00pm.

Only citizens included in the register of voters for the polling station are entitled to vote. The voter needs the following to be allowed to vote:

- Proof of identity in the form of a passport, driver's license, or verification by an official witness.
 1. The voter name is checked on the register of voters, the polling officers draws a line through the voter's name.
 2. The voter's fingers are inspected and applied ink.
 3. The voter is issued the candidate's ballot paper and proceeds to the polling booth to mark their ballot, then returns it to the officer to remove the top counterfoil.
 4. The voter then casts their candidate vote into the ballot box.
 5. The voter then goes back to the polling officer to be issued the party ballot party, and then proceeds back to the polling booth to mark it, then returns to the officer for removal of the counterfoil.
 6. The voter then also casts their vote into the ballot box.
 7. The voter then leaves the polling station.

How do I mark the ballot paper?

You go into the polling booth to mark your ballot paper in secret. Only one person is allowed to go into the polling booth at one time. The only exception, is with the permission of the presiding officer, when a person has a disability, that unables them to vote by themselves.

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

If you make a mistake in marking the ballot paper, don't cross it out. Instead, go back to the polling 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 on the back of the ballot is visible and return to the Ballot Paper issuer to remove the top counterfoil, cast your vote in the appropriate ballot boxes and go home.

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

When does the polling station close?

The polling station closes at 17:00 hours. If you have joined a queue by that time, you will be allowed to vote even if it is after 17:00 hours. However, you will not be allowed to go into the polling station after 17:00 hours.

Counting Votes

1. Each candidate may appoint an agent, (hereinafter, referred to as the “counting agent”), to attend the counting of the votes. Written notice of the name and address of presiding officer so appointed will be given by the candidate to the Presiding Officer.
2. The counting will be done at the polling station immediately after the closing of the poll.
3. The Presiding Officer, his assistants, and the candidates and their agents, but no other persons except with the sanction of the Presiding Officer, may be present at the counting of the votes.
4. As soon as the Presiding Officer is ready to count the votes he, in the presence of the candidates and their agents, break the seals on all the ballot boxes and with the aid of his assistants proceed to open each ballot box and take out the papers therein. He continues until all ballot papers in all ballot boxes have been mixed, examined and counted. All the ballot papers in favour of each candidate are, as soon as they have been examined and counted, be placed together and secured in such a manner that they cannot be confused with those in favour of any other candidate.
5. The Presiding Officer is practicable proceed continuously with counting the votes and endorses the word “rejected” on any ballot paper which he rejects as invalid, subject to provisions of section 47.
6. The Presiding Officer does not count the tendered ballot papers but puts them in separate packets according to the candidates whom they support and marks each packet with the name of such candidate and seals the packet and retains it unless it is required for the purposes of an election petition.
7. When the counting of the votes has been completed the Presiding, Officer fills the result form and invites party agents to sign as witnesses of poll results. The results show the number of votes each candidate obtained. This is done before announcing the results.
8. When an equality of votes is found to exist between candidates the election process will be repeated on a date to be fixed by the Director of Elections but no new nominations will be made.

9. Upon the completion of the counting and after the result has been declared by him, the Presiding Officer will seal up the ballot paper and all other documents relating to the election as required by the Act and will commit them into the custody of the Director of Elections who will, subject to the provisions of the next succeeding subsections retain them for a period of six months and thereafter will cause them to be destroyed unless otherwise directed by order of the Electoral Commission.
10. The Judge may make an order that a ballot paper or document relating to an election which has been sealed as required by this Act be inspected, copied, or produced at such time and place and subject to such condition as the Judge may think expedient but will not make such an order unless he is satisfied that the inspection, copy or production is required for the purpose of instituting or maintaining a prosecution of an election petition in connection with the election. Save as aforesaid no person will be allowed to inspect any ballot paper or document after it has been sealed up in pursuance of subsection.

Allocation of Special Seats For Women Candidates (sec 48)

This chapter describes the process of allocating special seats for women. It explores the process of determining special seats for women, formula of finding quota, allocating seats to parties through quota and allocating remaining seats.

Allocation of special seats

In allocating special seats for women, the first step is to find quota. Quota is the total number of votes that a political party need to qualify for a seat. There are a number of steps to be followed in order to find quota by which special seats is allocated.

The steps below indicate the procedures for finding quota:

Step 1: Based on the votes cast for each party in a council, add all the totals of political party votes cast in a council. (This is the total number of votes cast under the party ballot in the whole council). This is illustrated below:

This is illustrated below:

Political Party	Total Party Votes
Red Party	4,121
Blue Party	2,756
Green Party	1,650
Pink Party	909
Black Party	892
Council Party Votes	10,328

Allocation of Special Seats For Women Candidates (sec 48)

Step 2: Divide Council Votes cast in the party ballot by total number of special seats to get the quota.



Example

The example below shows how the number of special seats is obtained. It is important to remember that we divide the total number of electoral divisions by 1/3 because the total number of special seats in each Council is one the third (1/3) of the Electoral Divisions in the Council. This is the standard that the Local Government Elections Act of Lesotho has set.

Council	N0: of electoral divisions	divided by 3	= Special Seats
Limamarela	9	3	3

$$10328/3(\text{number of special seats}) = 3442,6667$$

Step 3: Round off the resulting figure to the nearest whole number to get the quota

$$3442,6667 = 3443 \text{ Quota}$$

After the Returning Officer has obtained the quota, he/she reminds the public how he/she is going to use it. He/she invites the public to watch as he uses the quota to allocate special seats.

- He/she divides the individual party votes by a quota to find the party's share of the votes-
quota = 3443

Political Party	Total Party Votes	Party's share	Special seats
Red Party	4,121	1.1969213	1
Blue Party	2,756	0.8004647	1
Green Party	1,650	0.4792332	1
Pink Party	909	0.2640139	
Black Party	892	0.2591517	
	10,328		3

Returning Officer

- He/she allocates the party's share of votes without taking into consideration any decimal fraction.
- If he/she realizes that there are fewer seats allocated than the special seats required, he allocates the remaining seat to the party with the highest decimal fraction until all seats are allocated.

After the Assistant Returning Officers have announced the results, they take the forms of election results to the office of Returning Officer for compilation and submission to the District office. Upon receipt, the Area Electoral Officer/District Electoral Officer verifies the results and faxes them to the results centre for announcement.

Note: Special seats are allocated at the Council level by the Returning Officer.

IEC website and Social Media

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 Local Government Elections. The IEC website is the official source of information maintained by the Lesotho electoral authorities for the upcoming Elections.

The website provides information on:

1. News on the Electoral process and IEC activities;
2. The electoral law and the IEC Regulations;
3. The electoral divisions;
4. The location of polling Centres in the community;
5. The structure and contact details of the IEC and its district administrative offices in the District;
6. Voter education and information and information materials for download and further distribution and
7. Information 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: www.facebook.com/IECLesotho

IEC WhatsApp Number: +266 58888432

Contact of IEC District Electoral Administrative Offices

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:

District Name	Function Name	Phone	Email address
Butha-Buthe	John Khacha	63395731	khacha@iec.org.ls
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Berea	Alice Ramaema	59485222	moshoeshoe@iec.org.ls
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