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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN) delegates arrest in Zimbabwe**

**Maseru, 18 August** - Following the statement given to the Nation by the Prime Minister Press Secretary Ntate Thabo Thakalekoala over Harvest FM, this morning (18<sup>th</sup> August 2014) that:

- i. Civil Society officials namely Sofonea Shale, Seabata and one unknown official were arrested in Zimbabwe and deported from the country;
- ii. The trio was in a mission to lobby SADC not to hand over TROIKA chair to Lesotho;

Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN) wishes to categorically state that CSOs delegation to Victoria Falls;

- i. was made of 5 people; Sofonea Shale, Seabata Motsamai, Sekonyela Mapetja, Thusoana Ntlama and Olivia Gumbo;
- ii. The delegation was never arrested in Zimbabwe nor deported from that country;
- iii. The delegation never went there to advocate for or against Lesotho Chairing TROIKA and;
- iv. That CSOs will have a feedback Press Conference on the Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at LCN and the Press Club at MISA Lesotho on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014.

It is our fervent hope and expectation that in observance of the subsections of Section 14 of the Lesotho Constitution and in particular Section 14 (4) that correction would be made by those responsible.

For further details, please contact

**Mr Seabata Motsamai**  
**Executive Director**  
**Contact: 62113888**

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Founded in 1990

The primary mission of the council is to stimulate, promote and support NGO's in their development effort. In pursuit of this mission, The National Council will assist its member organisations to diagnose and satisfy their own needs as well as the needs of the society they serve. It will assist member organisations to be increasingly more effective in meeting their goals and to be able to initiate and maintain self-supporting and self-sustaining development and, therefore, fulfil their role in the upliftment of the disadvantaged and underprivileged and society at large.

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