

**13 June 2015**

**Members of the Ninth Parliament  
Of the Kingdom of Lesotho**

**African Union Heads of State  
Attending 25<sup>th</sup> Summit of the African Union  
Sandton, Johannesburg  
Republic of South Africa**

**Care of:**

**Her Excellency Dr.Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma  
Chairperson of the African Union**

Your Majesties Heads of States,  
Your Excellencies Heads of Governments,  
Honourable Ministers,

**SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN LESOTHO**

We hope this letter finds you in good spirits.

We write this letter to inform your Excellencies Heads of State and Government about the unfortunate events unfolding in the Kingdom of Lesotho. These events if left unattended and unresolved may plunge the country into an abyss. Our complaints about the situation in the country are supported by several statements released by the civil society, Church leaders and international missions resident in the country. A number of these statements are attached herewith for your attention. There are two key issues that we would humbly request you direct your attention to: the first is the deteriorating security situation that has been in the country and the need to bring to book all the perpetrators of the failed/attempted coup of the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

As a result of deterioration of security, three opposition leaders were forced to flee the country and seek refuge in the Republic of South Africa, amid threats of assassination orchestrated by some members of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF). A reign of terror by the Special Forces and Military Intelligence operatives has spilled over into the main LDF force

where soldiers are being abducted and detained. The senior command of the LDF has consistently and arrogantly defied instructions of the Lesotho High Court Orders to release the detained and abducted soldiers. Lawyers representing the detained and abducted soldiers have received death threats emanating from members of the LDF and many of the same lawyers are currently in hiding. Members of the media who cover such court cases also receive death threats. Detained soldiers that are brought before the courts of law come under the guard of heavily armed Special Forces soldiers with their faces covered. The soldiers brought to court are bound in chains and leg irons, their lawyers are not allowed to confer and discuss the cases with them. This dire security situation has also contributed to the brutal and cold blooded murder of more than 10 Basotho including prominent businessman and founder member of Dr.MotsoahaeThabane's ABC party Mr. ThabisoTs'osane. A state close to anarchy currently reigns in Lesotho where a clique of soldiers run amok, terrorise the public and subvert the Rule of Law. This is a direct result of the inability and reluctance on the part of the SADC facilitator, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa to address the issue of security In Lesotho.

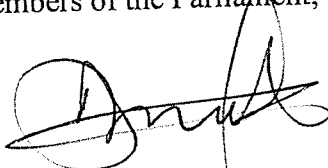
Secondly, we see the new government taking no action to bring before the courts of law the people who are suspects in the failed/attempted coup of the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Instead we see the new government honouring those unspeakable deeds by returning the previously fired Lt.Gen.TlaliKamoli to the command of LDF even though there is still a dark cloud of leading the failed coup hanging over his head. We are also distressed to see that the LDF personnel who witnessed the events of the failed coup are the ones who are presently being abducted and arrested under the pretence of a mutiny, by the very same soldiers who are the prime suspects in the failed coup. This is a deliberate and systematic cover-up by the government and the command of LDF. It is worth noting that the soldiers who are responsible for these malicious acts are also suspects in a series of crimes including but not limited to: treason, murder, terrorism (bombings), torture, attempted murder and others.

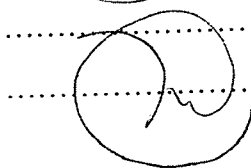
We urge the African Union summit to urgently deal with the Lesotho situation by;

- a) Sending a fact finding mission to Lesotho
- b) Assisting the Lesotho Government to facilitate the removal of Lt. Gen.Kamoli from the command of the LDF
- c) Encourage the Lesotho Government to establish a Special Tribunal to bring to justice those responsible for the failed coup of the 30 August 2014
- d) Encourage the Lesotho Government to facilitate the return of the exiled leaders and ensure their safety and security

We hope you will find all this in good order and please receive our highest regards.

Members of the Parliament;

 M. MOTSOAHAE FAKO ABC.

 J. MOLEPO BNP

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Mokheane Tsotsoane ABC  
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N.P. Maisa Naime ABC  
Hon Heey Hlumelang ABC  
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