

**PETITIONING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
ON
THE NINTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Name: Development for Peace Education (DPE)

Date: 18th November 2019

Development for Peace Education (DPE) a non-governmental organisation working towards creation of society guided by the principles of the culture of peace through among others peace education, facilitation of dialogue and enhancing public participation, a member of large spectrum of civil society organisations in Lesotho, part of social movement in the Southern Africa and a member of global peace movement is

aware that;

- National Assembly is set to embark on the deliberations over ninth Amendment to the Constitution and that;
- The same will be preceded by the suspension of Standing Order # 52(7) which would otherwise subject the Bill to the relevant portfolio committee;

realising that;

- Suspension of this Standing Order will set the Standing Order # 95 in limbo;
- In that scenario parliament would not be able through its portfolio committee to liaise with the member concerned particularly in relation to the queries , issues and views which citizens may raise;

noting that;

- In these circumstances the parliament may not call for evidence or submission of any form of inputs from outside;
- Facilitation of public participation a function cardinal to the ethos of democracy and a manifestation of the doctrine of separation of powers would be automatically be suspended by the suspension of Standing Order # 52(7)

therefore resolve to;

petition National Assembly to:

- (i) Disallow proposal to suspend the Standing Order # 52(7) because doing so would otherwise contribute to denying citizens the opportunity to give their input on the Bill. Doing so would enable the portfolio committee to bring into consideration all the deliberations including already existing voices on the provisions of the Constitution dealt by this proposed Amendment;
- (ii) Exercise its power to defer this Bill pending the responsible Portfolio Committee gathering voices from the citizens and different stakeholders to inform the law.