

EMBRACING PROGRESS MADE, SAFEGUARDING AND SHEPHERDING THE PROCESS

Participatory, inclusive, non-elitist, people-driven reforms

By

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OUTLINE

- Context & embracing progress made
- Inclusive, participatory, non-elitist and people driven reforms process;
- Forecasting: challenges & gaps
- Prospects & proposal(s)
- Moving from here

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Context & embracing progress made

- * National Dialogue 1995, TRC 20th Anniversary of constitution Workshop 2013, DPE and Action Aid Seminar on Constitutional Consensus Building 2012, Lesotho civil society petition to SADC Troika in Victoria Falls 2014, DPE Community Voices Report on the New Zealand Report, 2014);
- * Parliamentary reforms program;
- * Electoral reforms;
- * But only become an issue shared by all at the advent of coalition politics in Lesotho and SADC emphasis.

Context & embracing progress made

- * In this way Basotho should see reforms as their own and necessary process not as an imposition from SADC or elsewhere (see His Majesty: 2018);
- * Ground breaking national dialogue breathed hope in the nation;
- * It closed chapter of extreme disagreement, up leaders!;
- * NDPC has done well bringing such a diverse participation and managing such a big forum.

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Inclusive, participatory, non-elitist and people driven reforms process;

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- * After national dialogue it will be consultations and plenary II;
- * Is that all, should that be all;
- * Not only those who did not attend national dialogue would say no;
- * But even those who attended dialogue will be say it was not enough;

- * Can't we extent avenues of soliciting citizens voices;
- * Can the consultations be extended beyond district/council/village to the sectoral consultations, public debates, dialogue sessions;
- * Written submissions, effective use of media print, electronic, conventional and social;
- * Basotho outside Lesotho;

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Forecasting: challenges & gaps

- * After plenary II the NDPC would have ran its course;
- * Who will take care of the work that would have been done then..?
- * Two dangers lie ahead:
 - (i) Undue Government influence
 - (ii) Inability to secure adequate majority to change constitution at the end of reforms dialogue in terms of Section 85;

Prospects & proposal(s)

- * Between now and May Lesotho is guaranteed attention of Chair of Facilitation team;
- * Establish an all encompassing structure-Constituent Forum(sitting periodically/scheduled sessions) to safeguard/shephard the process: Chair, tech committees on thematic areas;
- * Legislated;
- * Pass Lesotho Reforms Act forthwith that (i) legislates CF and (ii) subjects all sections of const. to public scrutiny & provide that they shall stand as Basotho would have decided through defined reforms processes/Referendum.

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MOVING FROM HERE:

- ✓ Discuss features and powers of the CF to be endorsed by Leaders Forum;
- ✓ Allow consultations & Plenary II proceed as planned with NDPC in place albeit broadened consultations;
- ✓ Legislate Referendum Act in a manner that speaks to the proposal above;
- ✓ Enact Lesotho Reforms Act (i) CF, (ii) Reforms process guarantor (iii) Modalities (iv) Reference (v) Dispute resolution mechanism.



LIKHOMO BASOTHO