



**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**  
**ON THE OCCASION OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE BINATIONAL**  
**COMMISSION (BNC) BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO AND THE**  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**MASERU**  
**23 APRIL 2025**

1. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025, The Right Honourable Samuel Ntsokoane Matekane the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Co-Chaired with His Excellency Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, the Second Session of the Bi-National Commission (BNC) between the two countries. The BNC was preceded by the Council of Ministers Meeting held in Maseru, Lesotho on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 and the Senior Officials Meetings held virtually from 08<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 in Maseru, Lesotho.
2. The two Heads of State and Government recalled the successful Inaugural Session of the BNC which was hosted by South Africa on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Pretoria, during which the two countries adopted 78 decisions in order to deepen bilateral cooperation in various fields.
3. The two Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the strong bonds of friendship and bilateral relations that so happily subsist between the two countries anchored on people-to-people relations, underpinned by common history, culture and language which span many centuries. The two Heads of State and Government further underscored that the destinies of the two countries are inextricably linked by geographic proximity and socio-economic interdependence.
4. The two Leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in the region, on the continent and in the international arena. In this regard, they expressed concern at the security situation in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and reiterated the call for the end to the conflict. Accordingly, they commended regional and international efforts aimed at finding a long-lasting solution to the security challenges facing the Eastern DRC. The two Leaders further emphasised the need for a peaceful resolution to all the conflicts on the continent including in the Sudan and South Sudan.

5. The Leaders reiterated their solidarity with the peoples of Palestine and Western Sahara and reaffirmed their support in their quest for self determination.
6. The two Leaders deliberated and reflected on the shifts in global trade and the drastic impact on the economy of both countries. In this regard they called for regional cohesion and solidarity amongst countries of the region, continent and the global south. They reaffirmed the African Unions (AU) 31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Summit resolution which called on Member States to ensure that partnerships with third parties should not undermine the African Free Trade Continental Area agreement and the AU's vision of creating a single African market.
7. The Heads of State and Government expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations between the two countries and reaffirmed the BNC as the strategic forum for strengthening the coordination and implementation of the bilateral relations programme. The Leaders noted that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, 48 agreements were signed and further welcomed the signing of six additional new agreements during the Second Session of the Commission.
8. While welcoming the various agreements and commitments entered into between the two countries, the Heads of State and Government underscored the need to strengthen the full implementation of these agreements for the mutual benefit of the peoples of both nations. In this regard, the Leaders directed the Co-Chairs of the Strategic and Political Cluster to constitute a monitoring mechanism comprising of Co-Chairs of all Clusters to oversee the full implementation of decisions and convening of Mid-Term Review meetings.

9. Against the backdrop of shared kinship, familial ties, cultural affinity and geographic proximity of the two countries, the Leaders expressed the commitment to develop a framework that would facilitate the movement of people across borders.
10. The Leaders directed the relevant Ministries to redouble their efforts to deepen economic cooperation for the development and growth of the two economies. In this regard, they welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Cooperation between the two countries and called for its full implementation.
11. The Leaders underscored the need to continue cooperating on security and crime prevention across borders and in territories of the two countries and noted that this is vital in creating a conducive environment for economic growth and cooperation. The Leaders agreed to increase cooperation in crime prevention including human trafficking, smuggling of light and small weapons, livestock and vehicle theft, and cybercrime. The Leaders expressed satisfaction with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation.
12. The Heads of State and Government expressed satisfaction at the existing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of water and energy. They emphasized the significance of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) as a sustainable source of water for both countries and a catalyst for economic and infrastructure development. While welcoming Phase II of the Project, they underscored the need for its timeous execution within the allocated resources. The Leaders further expressed satisfaction with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding Relating to the Establishment of a Framework for Cooperation on the Proposed Construction of Two Weirs on the Mohokare/ Caledon River.

13. The two Leaders expressed commitment to cooperate in renewable energy by developing renewable energy resources to attain security of electricity supply and to mitigate climate change effects. They underscored the importance of sustainable energy in fuelling economic growth.
14. The two Leaders further expressed satisfaction with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education and Training; the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Basic Education; and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Social Development. The Leaders emphasized the need to further strengthen human capital development of the two countries to achieve economic growth and development.
15. Lesotho congratulated South Africa on its Presidency of G20 and its focus amongst others, on Africa's development and the objectives outlined in the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa we want.
16. In conclusion, His Excellency, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa expressed his gratitude to The Right Honourable the Prime Minister Samuel Ntsokoane Matekane for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him and his delegation since his arrival in Maseru.
17. Both Heads of State and Government were accompanied by delegations of Ministers and Senior Government Officials.

**DONE IN MASERU, 23 APRIL 2025**