

GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO
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PRESS RELEASE

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SETTLEMENT OF LESOTHO'S CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

Acting consistently in the teeth of advice given to him by Ministers and by the overwhelming majority of the Principal Chiefs of Lesotho, the King defied the Constitution and brought his country into a state of crisis. Fortunately the situation has throughout been kept under the full control of Government. The police, the Public Service and the general public have shown a calm sense of responsibility and their complete loyalty to Government. Great credit is due to them.

During the past few critical days the Cabinet and the College of Chiefs have given the most careful consideration to various ways in which the crisis might be resolved. In an endeavour to save the monarchy they decided to ask the King to agree to the terms of a document which, if honoured by the King, will enable the Constitution to work as it was designed to work; and if dishonoured, would by its own terms automatically ensure that there will not be a repetition of what has happened.

The Government is happy to announce that the King has been persuaded to accept the advice of the College of Chiefs and sign a Declaration of Settlement in which he solemnly undertakes:

- (a) not to convene or address any public meetings anywhere save those which he has been authorised to convene or address by the Government and then only in circumstances and in terms approved beforehand by the Government;
- (b) that he will faithfully fulfil and conscientiously carry out the duties imposed upon him by the Constitution of Lesotho, holding in mind constantly that he is a constitutional ruler whose fundamental duty is to act

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