

"There shall be a Constituency Delimitation Commission appointed by His Majesty the King, acting in accordance with the advice of the Judicial Service Commission. The Chairman of this Commission shall be appointed from among the Judges of the High Court or the Court of Appeal, and its other two members shall be persons who held or have held high judicial office."

Section 53 of the Constitution sets out the procedure which the Commission shall follow, and the factors it shall take into consideration in delimiting Lesotho into constituencies. In the light of these provisions of the Constitution, it is not clear how the Chief Electoral Officer or any other individual could possibly influence the delimitation of constituencies in Lesotho.

I deplore the irresponsible misstatements of fact which have been made in connection with these matters. Such misstatements can only serve to prejudice the good relations existing between Lesotho and South Africa.

Before my Government was elected to power, it made no secret of the fact that we would seek technical assistance from South Africa. This was one of the matters clearly set out in our political manifesto. In electing us to power, the people of Lesotho clearly approved this policy.

Supporters of the Opposition Parties and their friends are ready to take advantage of South African facilities, especially medical facilities, whenever the need arises.

There is one other matter to which I feel I must refer. Yesterday a high-ranking delegation from the British House of Commons made a formal presentation of gifts from their own House to the National Assembly, to mark Lesotho's independence and as a manifestation of the mutual regard and respect which exist between the House of Commons and our own National Assembly. It was with great regret that I observed that the Leader of the Opposition boycotted this ceremony,

arriving