

*Lesotho's 50th
Independence
Anniversary*



4th October, 1966 to 4th October, 2016



THE AFRICAN UNION ANTHEM

Let us all unite and celebrate together
The victories won for our liberation
Let us dedicate ourselves to rise together
To defend our liberty and unity

*Chorus: O Sons and Daughters of Africa
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life*

Let us all unite and sing together
To uphold the bonds that frame our destiny
Let us dedicate ourselves to fight together
For lasting peace and justice on earth

Chorus

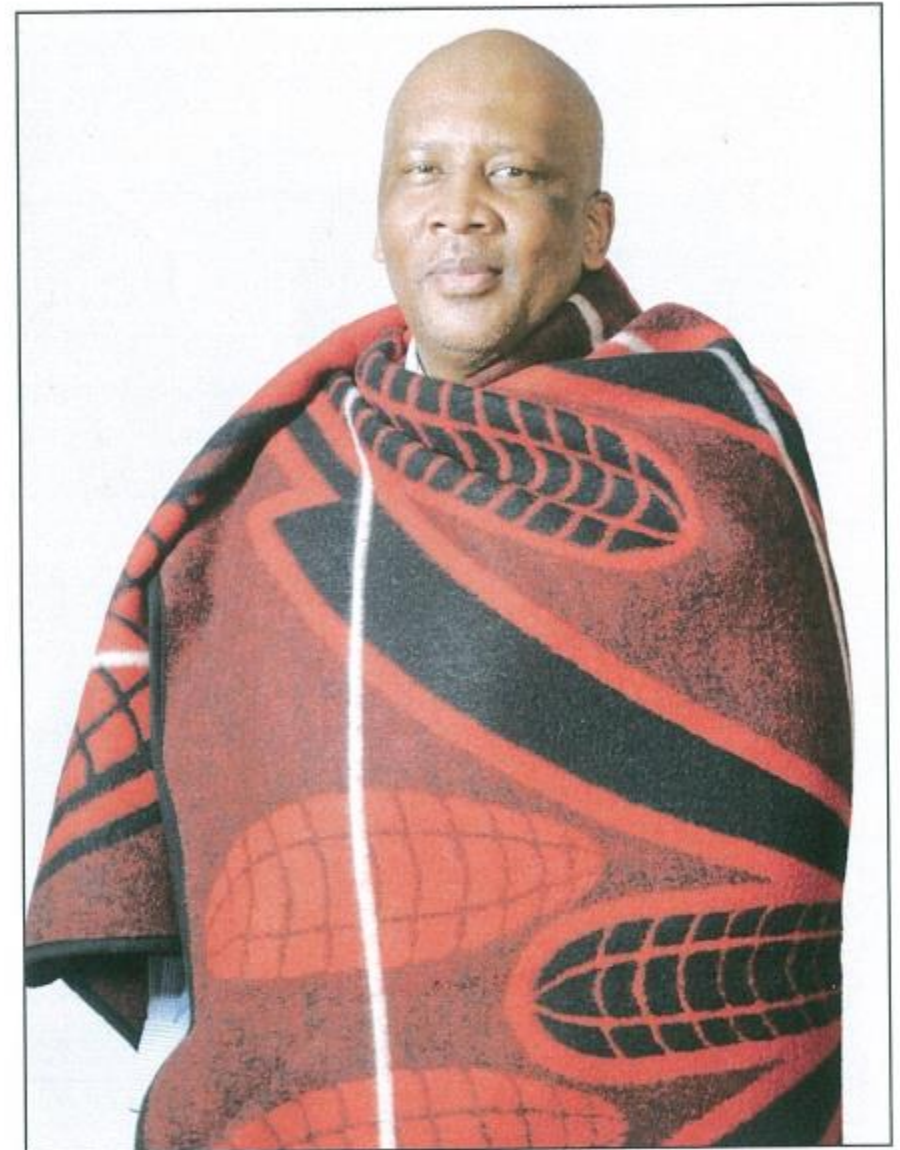
Let us all unite and toil together
To give the best we have to Africa
The cradle of mankind and fount of culture
Our pride and hope at break of dawn.
Our pride and hope at break of dawn.



PINA EA SECHABA

Lesotho fatše la bo-Ntat'a rona,
har'a mafatše le letle ke lona
ke moo re hlahileng
ke moo re holileng
rea le rata.

Molimo ak'u boloke Lesotho,
u felise lintoa le matšoenyeho,
oho fatše lena,
la bo-Ntat'a rona,
le be le khotso.



His Majesty King Letsie III



*The Right Honourable the Prime Minister
Dr. Pakalitha Mosisili*

Lesotho's Independence Journey

This expose is a factual highlight of major political events that form part of the Kingdom of Lesotho independence journey. It is not intended to be a full-blown historical account of events. Lesotho, formerly Basutoland, is an independent country in Southern Africa, completely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. The perimeter of the border line is 909 km, with an area of 30,335 square km. Maseru is the capital city, situated in the western part of the country. There are two official languages: Sesotho and English. Christianity is the dominant religion in a population estimate of 1,942,000 in 2016. The monetary unit is Loti (plural Maloti). The current size and boundaries of the country are not, however, legacies of British hegemony in the late 1880's. In 1869, the British signed a treaty at Aliwal with the Boers, defining the boundaries of Basutoland which later became Lesotho. Through this treaty, Basutoland ceded her western territories, thereby effectively reducing Moshoeshe's kingdom to half its previous size.

On 11th March, 1868, Lesotho became a British Protectorate. For ninety-one years, preparations were underway to transit Lesotho to her independence. In 1959, a new constitution gave Basutoland its first elected legislature as the nation was preparing for district council elections in 1960. A constitutional committee, under Mr. Walter Stanford, was appointed in 1962. It was made up of 13 members, amongst whom were representatives of political parties. It held a series of public meetings to obtain the opinions of Basotho and thereafter made recommendations that formed the basis for the constitution of Basutoland, which was based on the British Westminster model. In February 1964, these recommendations received the approval of a constitutional conference on the future of Basutoland, which was held in London. This was followed by general legislature elections in April, 1965.

The new constitution gave the official name 'Muso oa Lesotho (Kingdom of Lesotho) and determined the form of government as a constitutional monarchy. The head of state, His Majesty the King, became the living symbol of national unity, with no executive or legislative powers. He serves largely ceremonial functions. The Prime Minister is the Head of Government. He is the leader of a political party or coalition of political parties that commands the majority in the National Assembly. There are two legislative houses: the Senate with 33 non-elected seats comprising 22 Principal Chiefs and 11 nominated members, and the National Assembly with 120 seats under a mixed member proportional electoral system, whereby 80 members are elected from 80 constituencies and 40 seats through the proportional representation system.

The electoral system that was adopted in the 1965 national elections was the single member first past the post. On 29th and 30th April, 1965, general elections were held, contested by three main political parties namely: Basutoland Congress Party (BCP), Basotho National Party (BNP), and Marematlou Freedom Party (MFP). There were also a few independent candidates. The results from the 60 constituencies were as follows:

BNP 31 seats, BCP 25 seats, MFP 4 seats and Marematlou Party (MTP) 0 seats.

The elections were won by the BNP led by Chief Leabua Jonathan. On 4th October, 1966, the Kingdom of Lesotho attained full independence. Lesotho's first post-independence elections took place in 1970. At the time when the announcement of the results was abruptly stopped by the incumbent Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, the BCP and BNP were tied at 23 constituencies each out of 60 constituencies. The results for the whole country are believed to have been as follows: BCP 36 seats, BNP 23 seats, MFP 1 seat, United Democratic Party (UDP), Communist Party of Lesotho (CPL) and others all 0 seats.

When the ruling BNP realised that it was about to lose the 1970 elections, the incumbent Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, on 30th January, made an announcement over the national radio declaring the elections null and void. He immediately declared a state of emergency (Qomatsi) and seized power, an act he openly declared he was not ashamed of. The constitution was suspended, opposition leaders arrested and political activities banned. On 10th February, the Lesotho Order No. 1 of 1970 was issued. Its intention, as stated, was to provide for peace, order and the good governance of Lesotho until such time that a new constitution, better suited to the needs of the Basotho nation, shall have been agreed.

On 13th April, 1973, the Lesotho Order No. 13 came into being and thus the Lesotho Order No. 1 of 1970 ceased to operate. Order No. 13 provided for the establishment of an Interim National Assembly, a new legislative authority in the country. It consisted of 22 Principal Chiefs and 60 persons nominated by the King on the advice of the Prime Minister. In 1974, the main opposition party, BCP, organised an uprising. The plan was to attack and rob police stations around the country and seize guns. Government's response was swift and brutal. Reportedly, one thousand people were killed in the event; thirty two BCP members were arrested and charged under the internal security Act of 1970. This led to the mass flight of the Basotho Congress Party members into exile. While in exile, the BCP formed an armed wing called the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA), with support from their allies in South Africa.

Thus, the BCP began a new chapter in its history as a party largely in exile. In response, the government formed a stronger and well-equipped unit called the Police Mobile Unit (PMU) to address the increased threat. In 1980, the Lesotho Paramilitary Force was established, which later evolved into the present Lesotho Defence Force. In 1986, the military overthrew the civilian BNP regime. A military-monarchy alliance was put in place to govern the country. This alliance, however, collapsed in the early 1990's when King Moshoeshoe II was stripped of his executive and legislative powers; and was exiled to London, United Kingdom by Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, leader of the military and then Head of Government. In June 1990, Major-General Lekhanya established the National Constituent Assembly (NCA) to formulate a new constitution for Lesotho, with the

aim of returning the country to democratic, civilian rule.

However, he was ousted in 1991 by a mutiny of junior army officers that left Major-General Phisoana Ramaema as chairman of the military council and Head of Government until 1993. With the King stripped of his powers, his eldest son was installed as King Letsie III. In 1992, Moshoeshoe II returned to Lesotho as a regular citizen and remained as such until 1995, when his son, King Letsie III, abdicated the throne in favour of his father. Following King Moshoeshoe II's death in a car accident in 1996, King Letsie III ascended to the throne again.

In 1993, multi-party elections were held after which the BCP came into power with a landslide victory. Prime Minister Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle headed the BCP government that commanded all 65 seats in the National Assembly. The BCP government took charge of institutions manned by elites who had been appointed by, worked for and supported, the BNP in its close to 28 years in power. As a result of unease engineered by the army, the civil service and the opposition, in early 1994, political instability ensued, first within the army, the police and prison services who engaged in mutinies that culminated in the murder of, the Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Selometsi Baholo.

In May 1997, tension brewed within the ruling party, following the expulsion of some ministers, untimely breeding a power struggle within the BCP. In an unprecedented move, Dr. Mokhehle broke away from the BCP and formed the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) with him as a leader. The new party formed a government because it had the support of the majority of parliamentarians and Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle continued as Head of Government.

The next general elections were held in 1998 and the results were a landslide victory for the LCD, which won 79 of the 80 seats contested in the newly expanded parliament. Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle did not vie for a second term due to his failing health and his Deputy, Dr. Pakalitha Mosisili, then became the Prime Minister. After the 1998 parliamentary elections, mutinous acts in the army and numerous political protests polarized the government and, at the request of the Prime Minister, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) sent troops from South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe to intervene on 22nd September, 1998.

The army mutineers were brought before the Court Martial and stability returned to Lesotho. In December, 1998, an Interim Political Authority (IPA) was formed to review and devise a new proportional electoral system. As a result of the IPA's work, the new system retained the existing 80 elected assembly seats but added 40 seats to be filled on a proportional basis, to secure inclusivity in the National Assembly. Following the approval of the new electoral system, Lesotho went for general elections again in 2002, under an amended constitution. The latter made provision for a national assembly elected

on a combination of first past the post (FPP) and proportional representation (PR) system.

The system has made it difficult for the country to be destabilised by disgruntled political parties. In 2006, there emerged dissension within the LCD which resulted in Dr. Motsoahae Thabane leaving to form the All Basotho Convention (ABC). Nevertheless, the LCD managed to maintain a majority in the National Assembly following the early elections in February, 2007.

Further dissent ensued within the LCD, which led to Dr. Mosisili leaving the party and forming the Democratic Congress (DC) in early 2012, which untimely became the ruling party. In May 2012, elections were held. The DC won 41 + 7 (a total of 48) national representation seats but did not have an outright majority and therefore could not form government. Dr. Thabane's ABC succeeded to form the first coalition government which included the LCD and the BNP. Dr. Thabane became the new Prime Minister and Honourable Mothetjoa Metsing, of the LCD, was named Deputy Prime Minister.

In June 2014, Dr. Thabane, facing a vote of no-confidence moved to, prorogue Parliament. Later, in September, Parliament was reconvened to prepare for snap elections following a second SADC intervention. The next round of parliamentary elections, which had been scheduled for 2017 were then brought forward, moved to early February, 2015. These elections brought the second coalition government because no party achieved an outright majority. The ABC won 41 + 5 national representation seats but did not have outright majority to form a government.

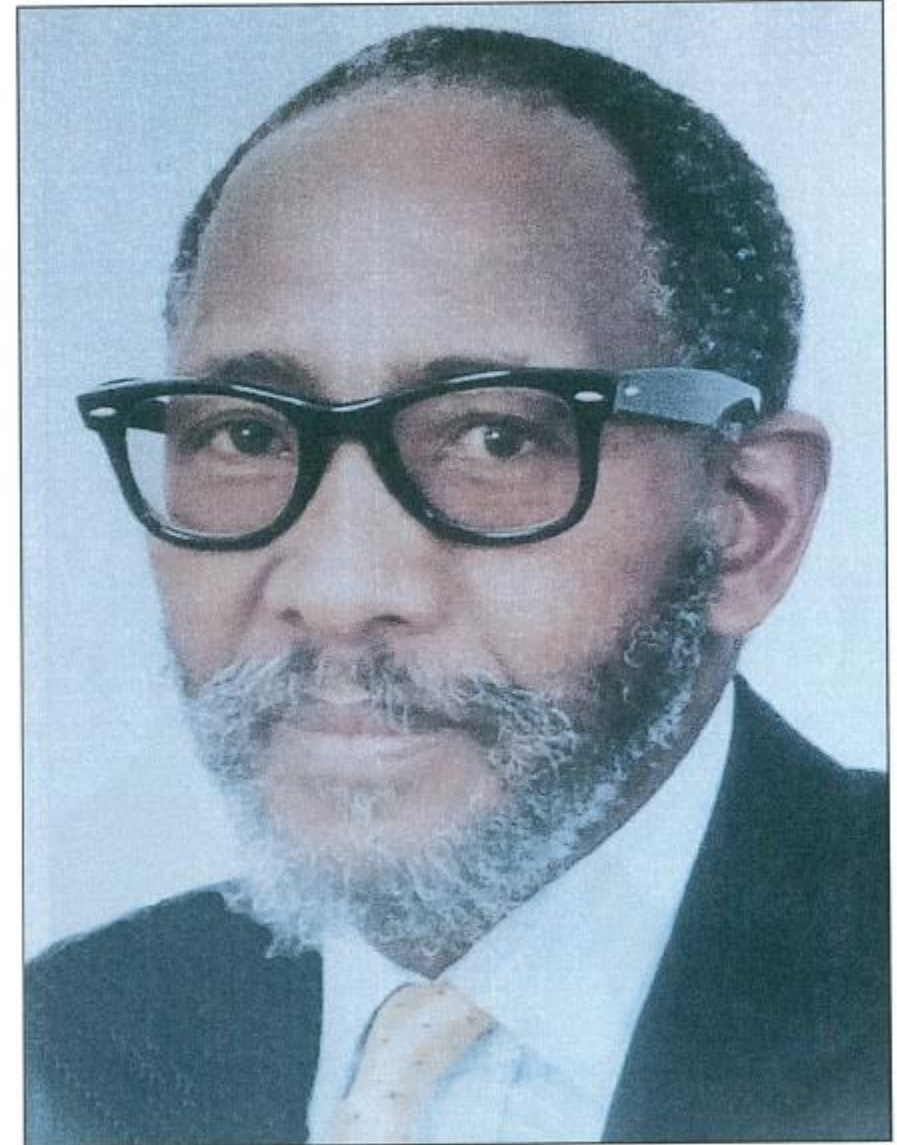
Dr. Mosisili's DC had the most national representation seats (37 seats + 10, a total of 47). He formed a coalition with six other parties and was inaugurated as Prime Minister on 17th March, 2015. The new coalition government has branded itself as a reform government.

Whereas Lesotho has had a turbulent political trajectory since its independence, the Government and People of Lesotho continue to harness efforts to maintain lasting peace and political stability for posterity. With overarching reforms looming in the horizon, the future looks bright for the Kingdom as it celebrates its golden jubilee of independence.

Khotso

Pula

Nala



*King Moshoeshe II
1966 - 1996*

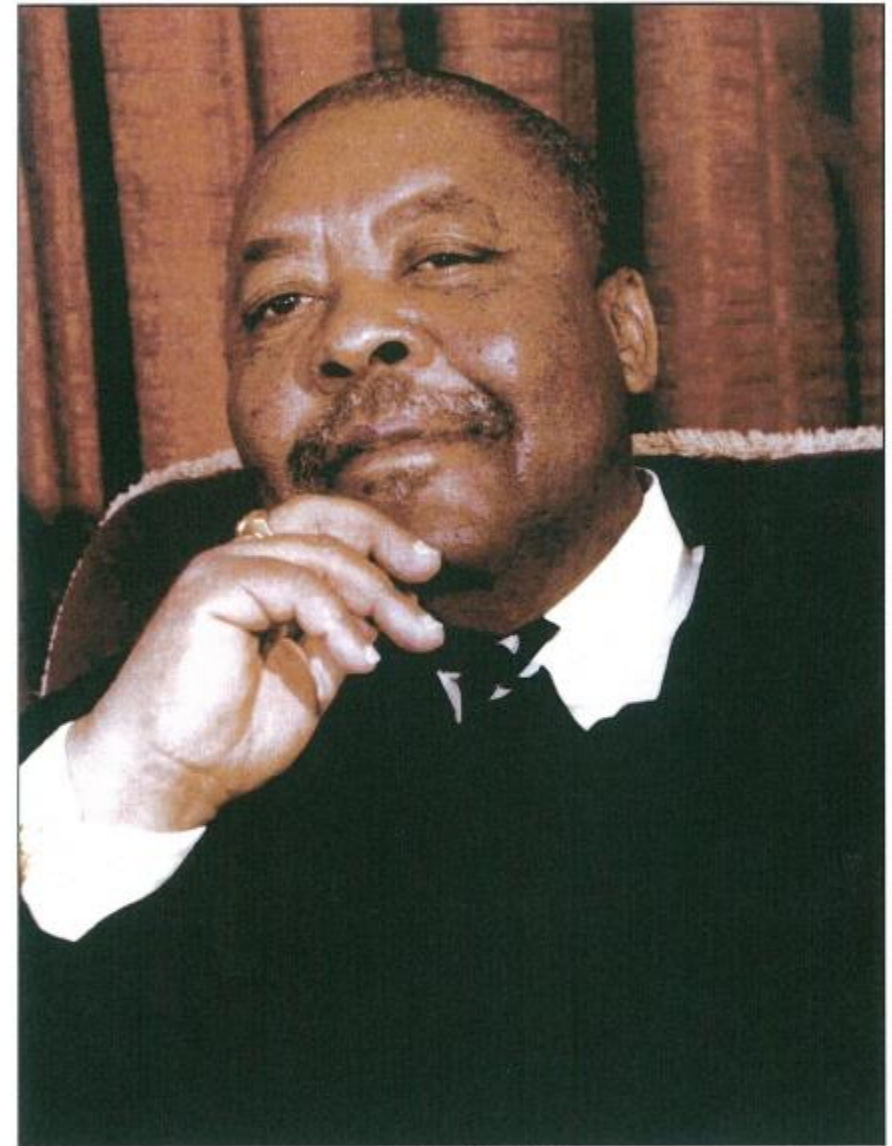


King Letsie III
1996 - to date

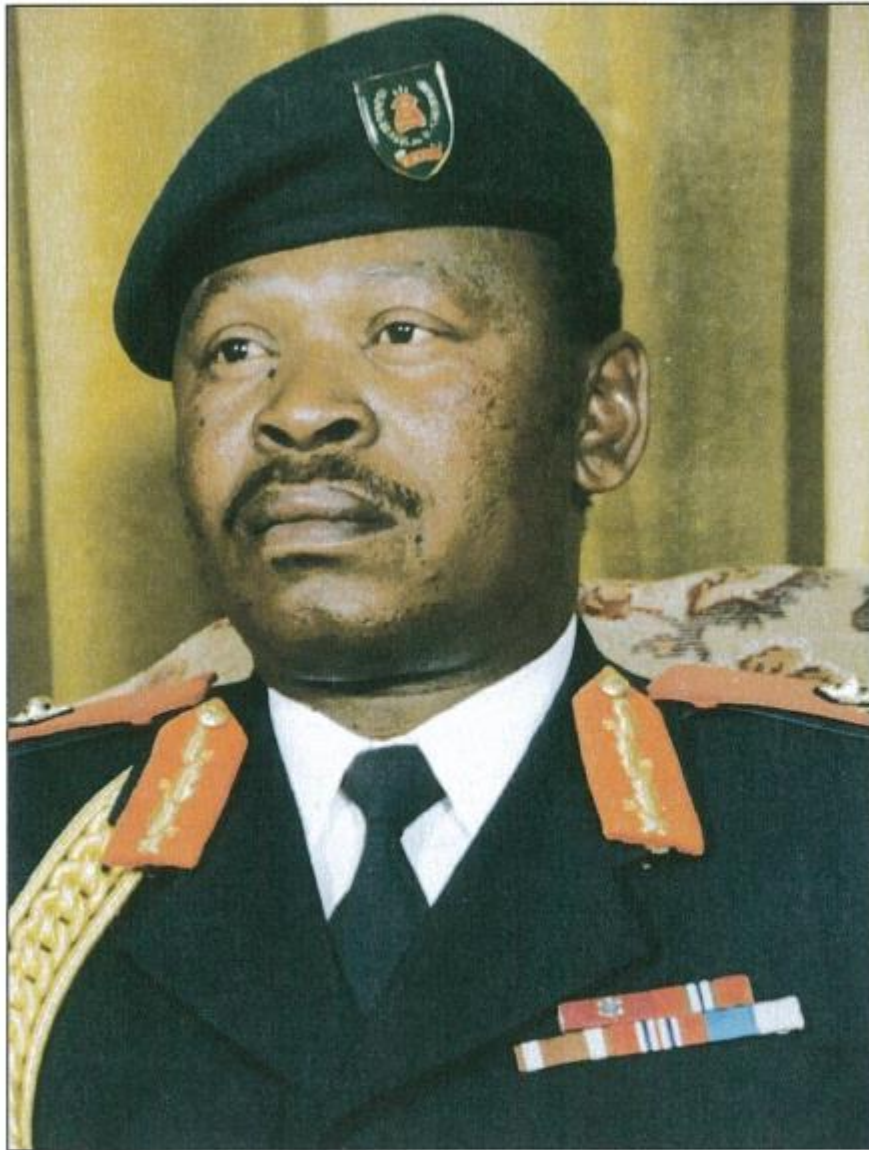
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT



*Morena Sekhonyana 'Maseribane
The First Prime Minister
1966*



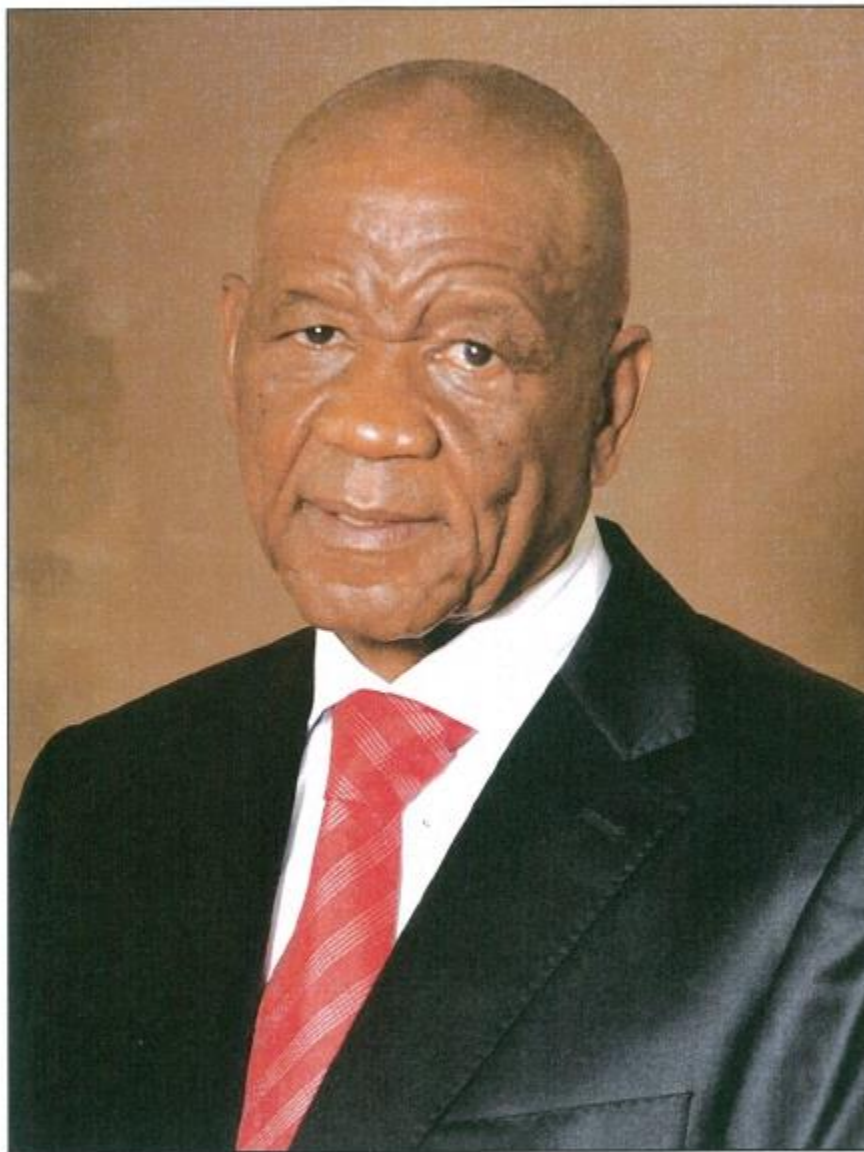
*Morena Leabua Jonathan
The Second Prime Minister
1966 - 1986*



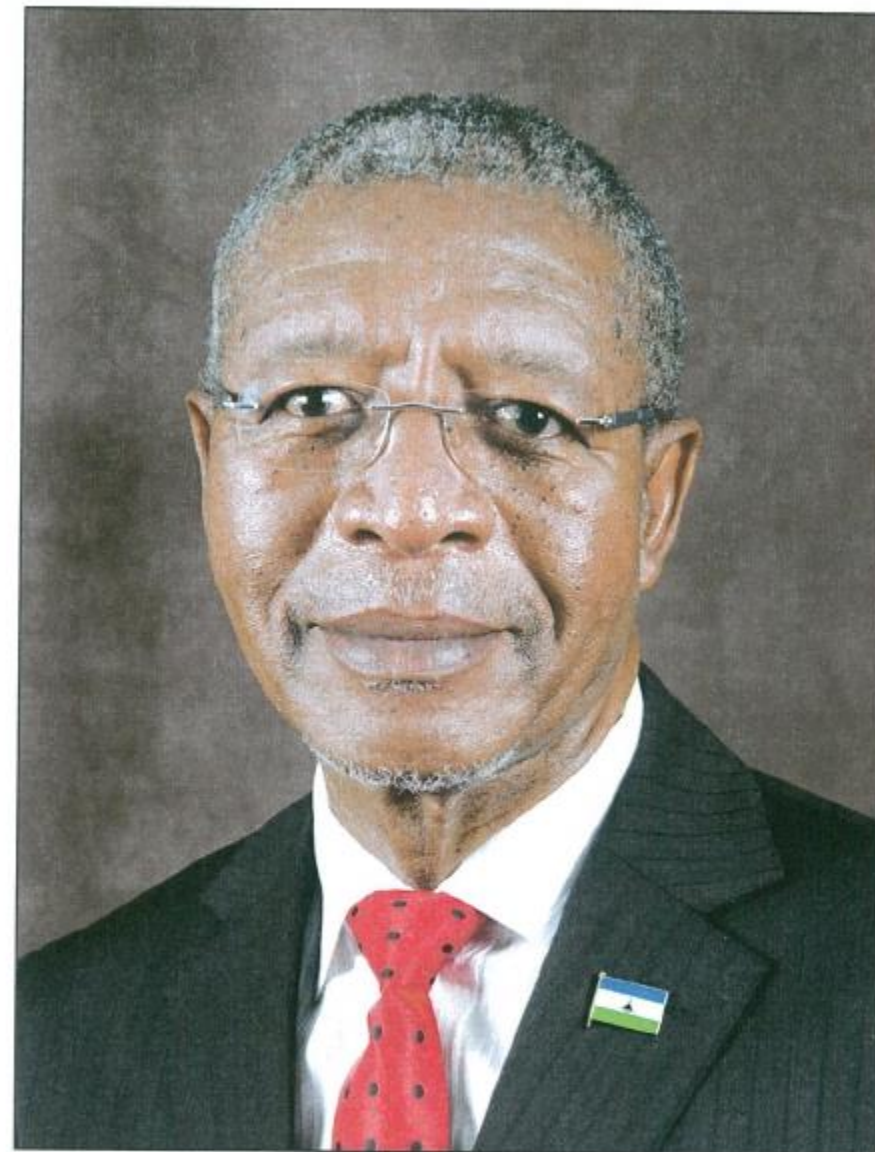
*Major General Metsing Lekhanya
Chairman of the Military Council and Council of Ministers
1986 - 1991*



*Major General Phisoane Ramaema
Chairman of the Military Council and Council of Ministers
1991 - 1993*



*Dr. Motsoahae Thabane
The Fifth Prime Minister
2012 - 2015*



*Dr. Pakalitha Mosisili
The Sixth Prime Minister
2015 - to date*

Flags of Lesotho from 1966 - 2016



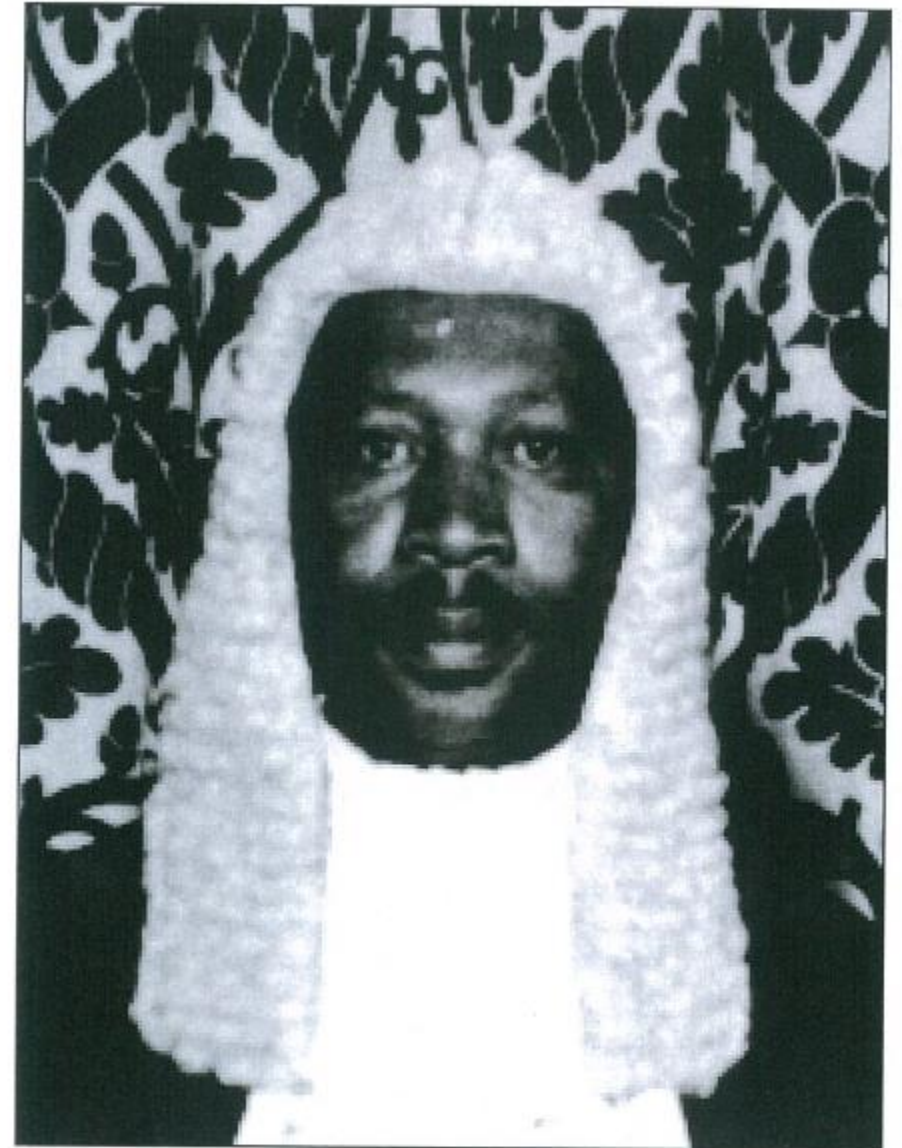
First Flag of Lesotho



Second Flag of Lesotho



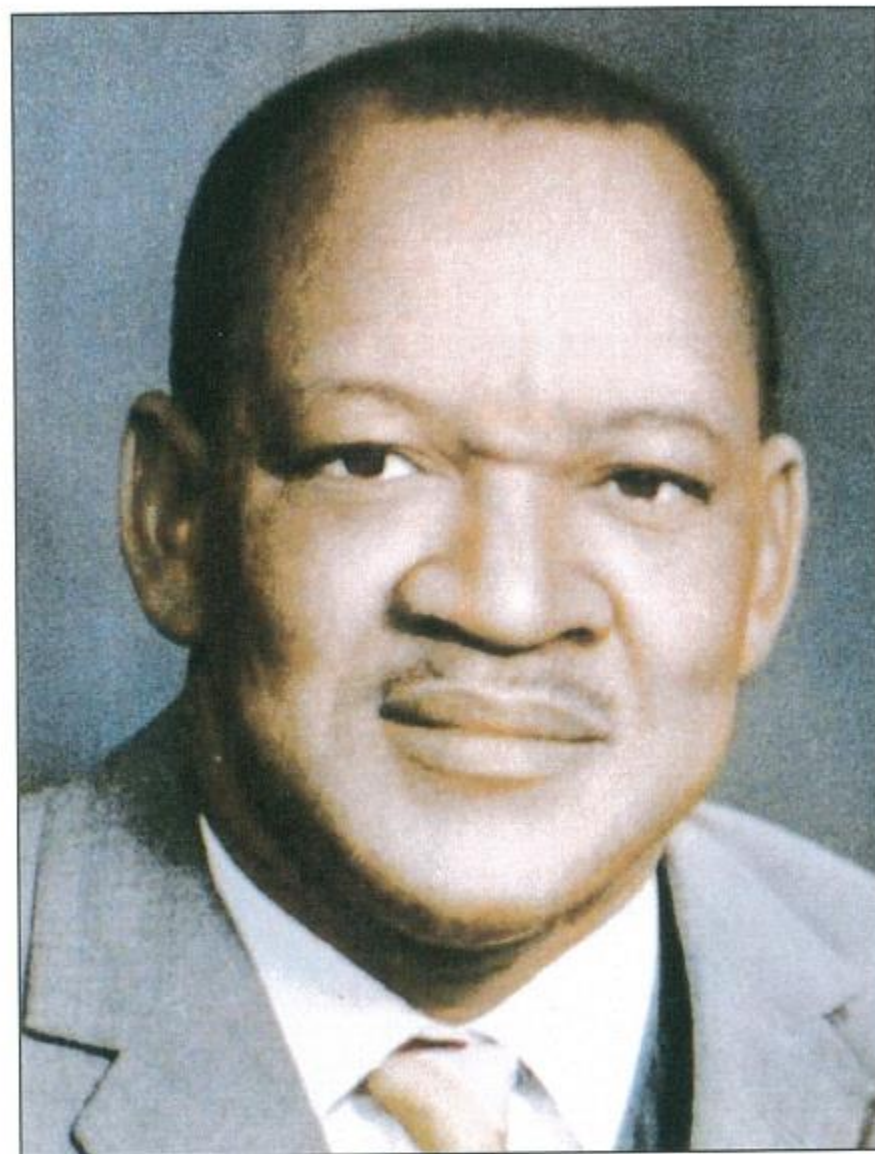
Third Flag of Lesotho



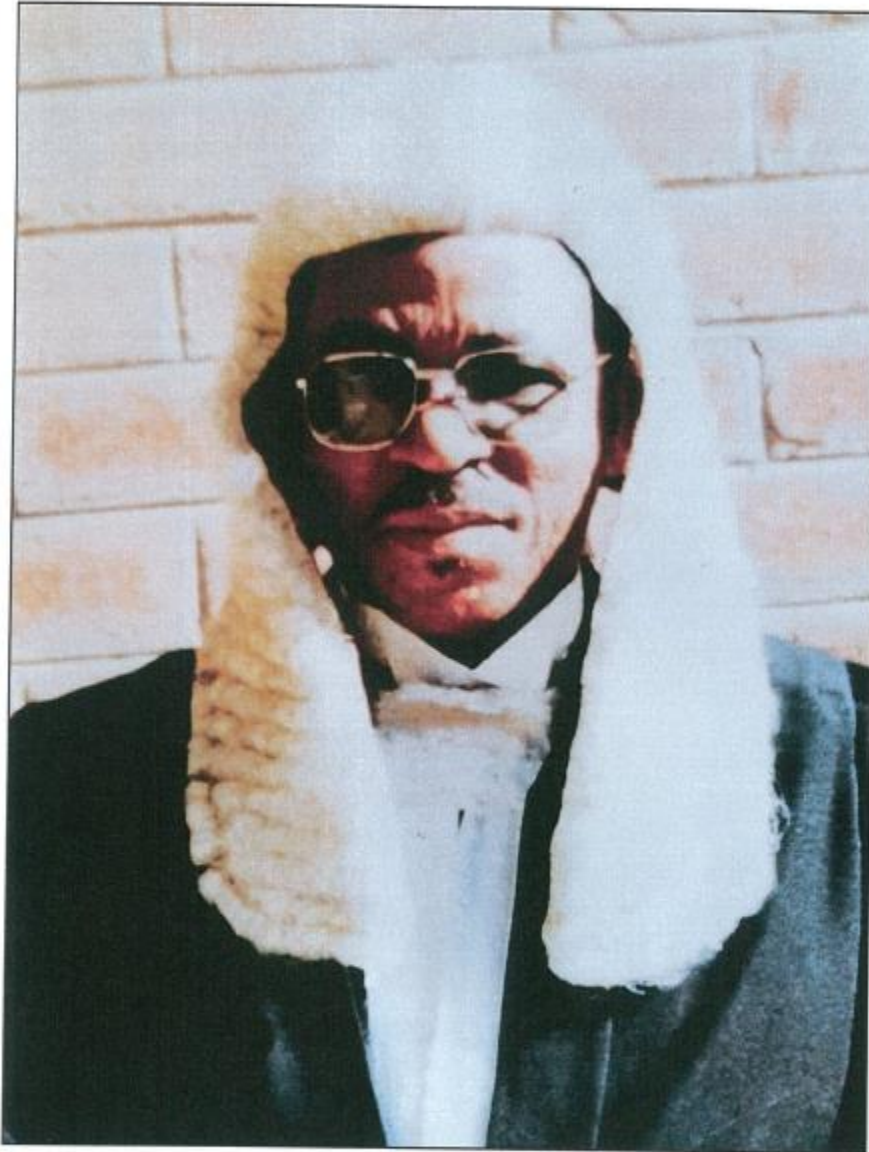
*Hon. Dr. Seth Peete Makotoko
President of Senate
1965 - 1966*



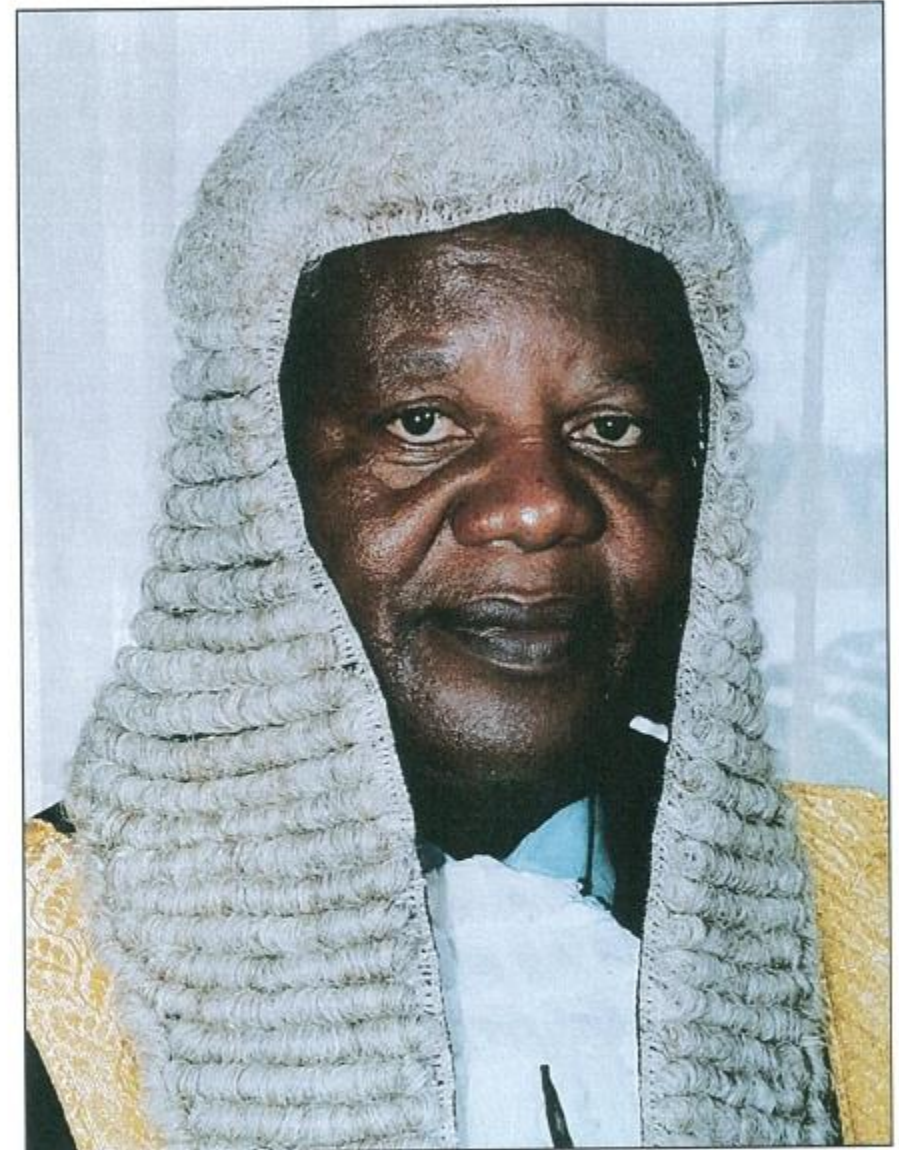
Hon. Nathanael J. Qhobela
President of Senate
1966 - 1969



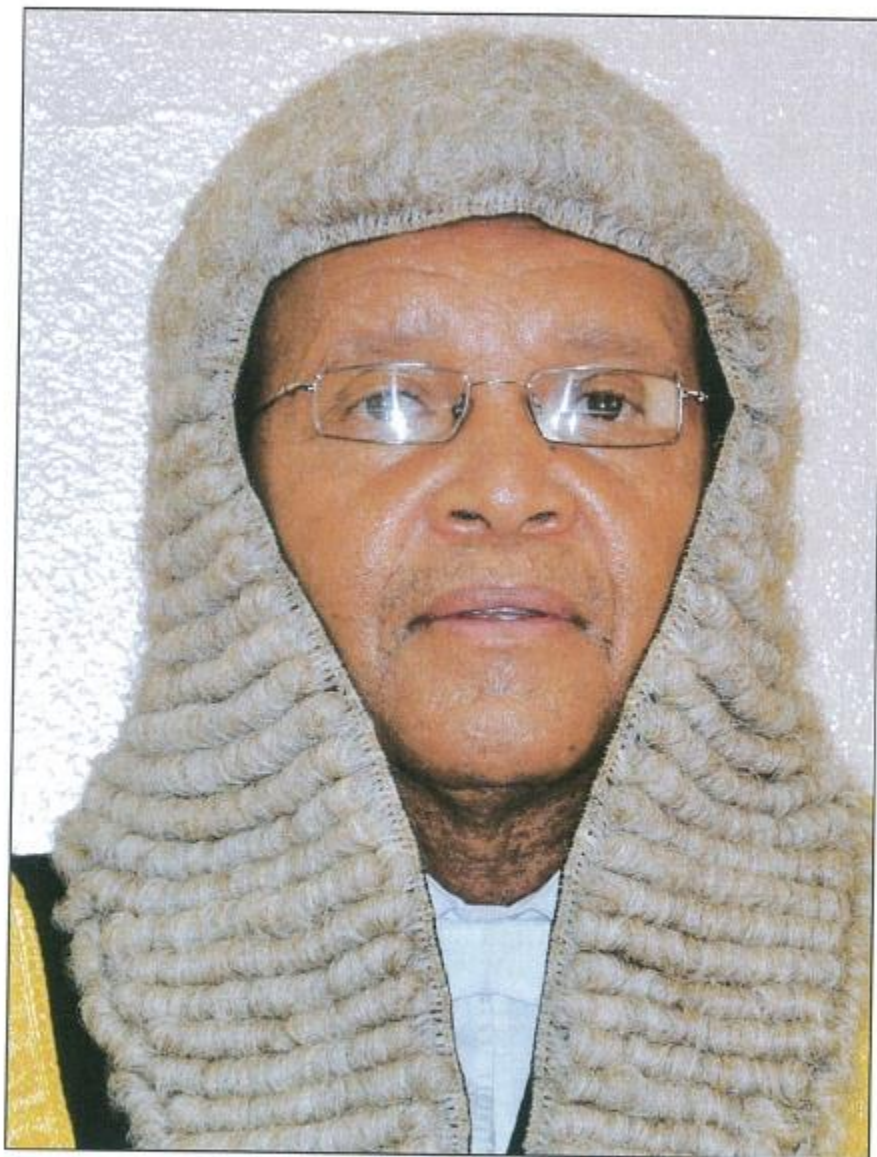
Hon. Mofolo
President of Senate
1969 - 1973



*Hon. Thabo E. Ntlhakana
President of Senate
1993 - 1998*



*Hon. Sempe Lejaha
President of Senate
1998 - 2002 and 2002 - 2007*



*Hon. Letapata S. Makhaola
President of Senate
2007 - 2012 and 2012 - 2015*



*Hon. Dr. Seeiso B. Seeiso
President of Senate
2015 - to date*

SPEAKERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



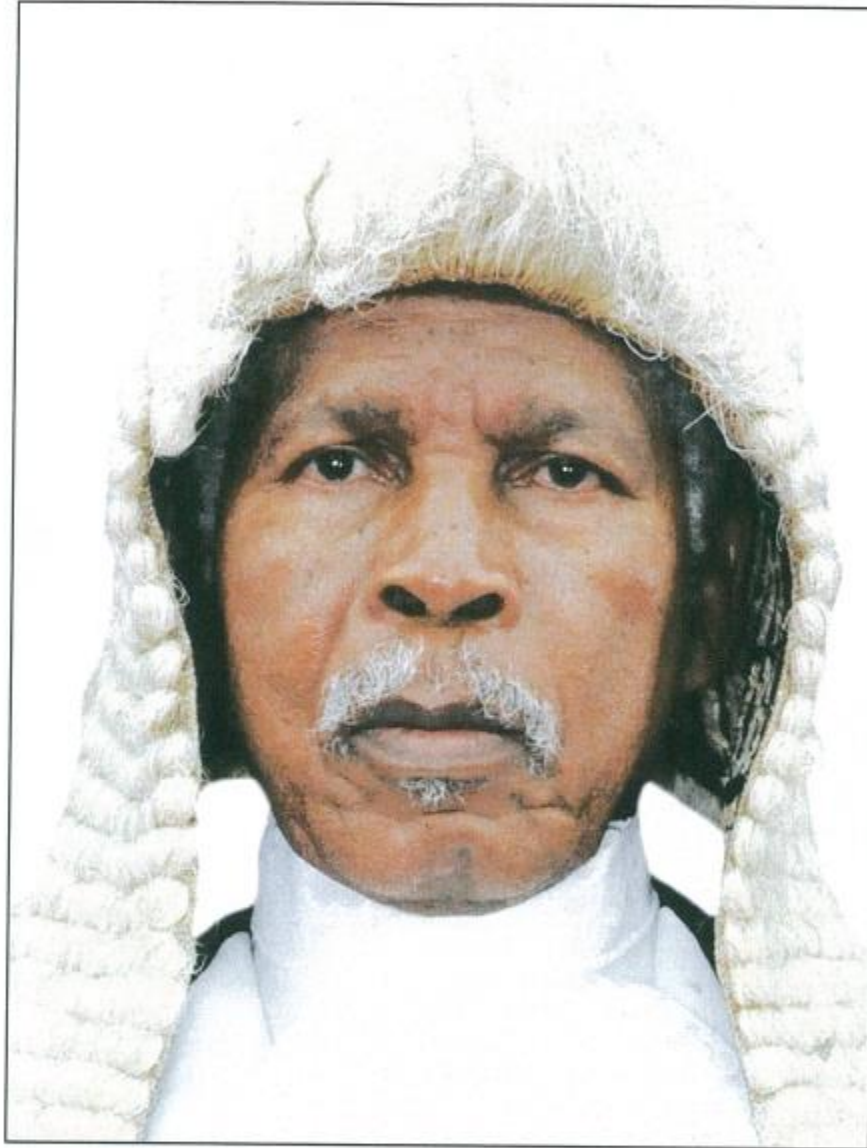
*Hon. W. P. Stanford C.B.E., D.F.C.
Speaker of the National Assembly
1966 - 1970*



*Hon. J. T. Kolane O.D.S.M., O.L.
Speaker of the National Assembly
1973 - 1986 and 1993 - 1999*



*Hon. Ntlhoi Motsamai
Speaker of the National Assembly
1999 - 2012*

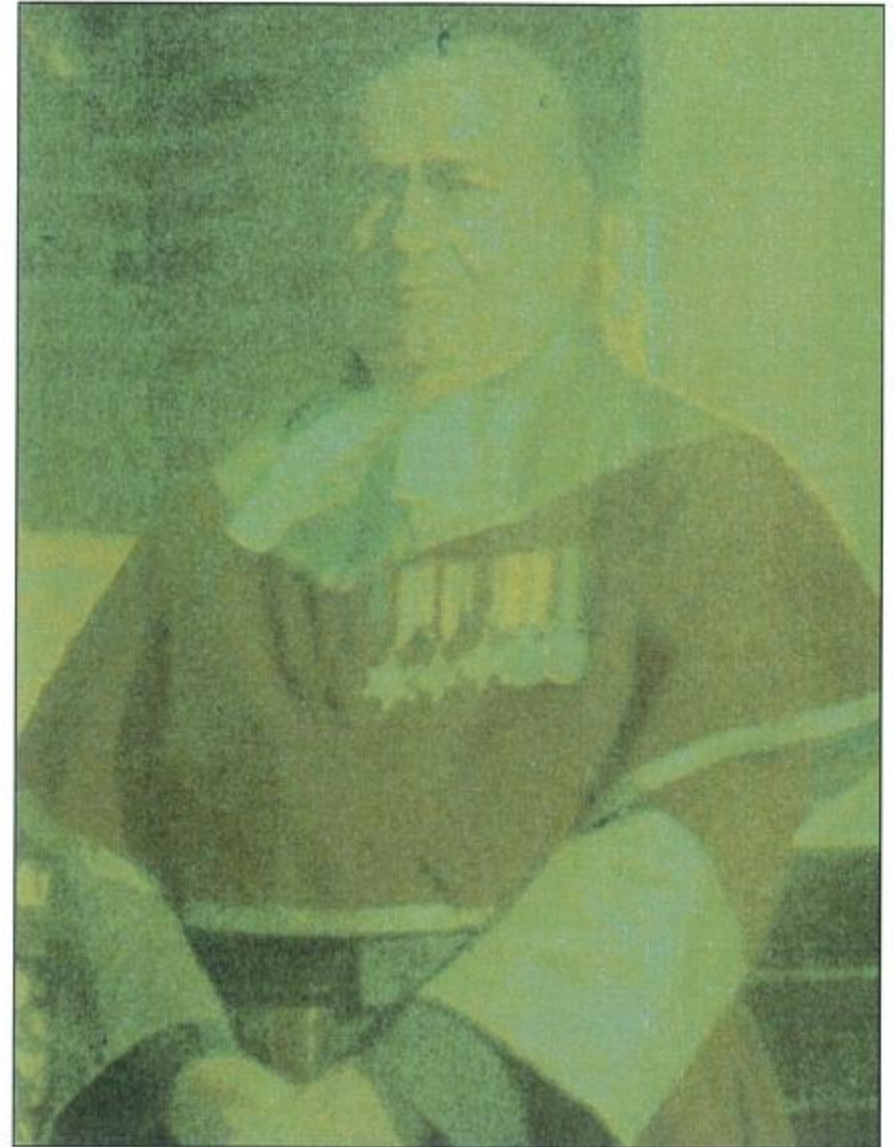


*The Hon. Sephiri E. Motanyane DMDOM, CMMOM
Speaker of the National Assembly
2012 - 2015*

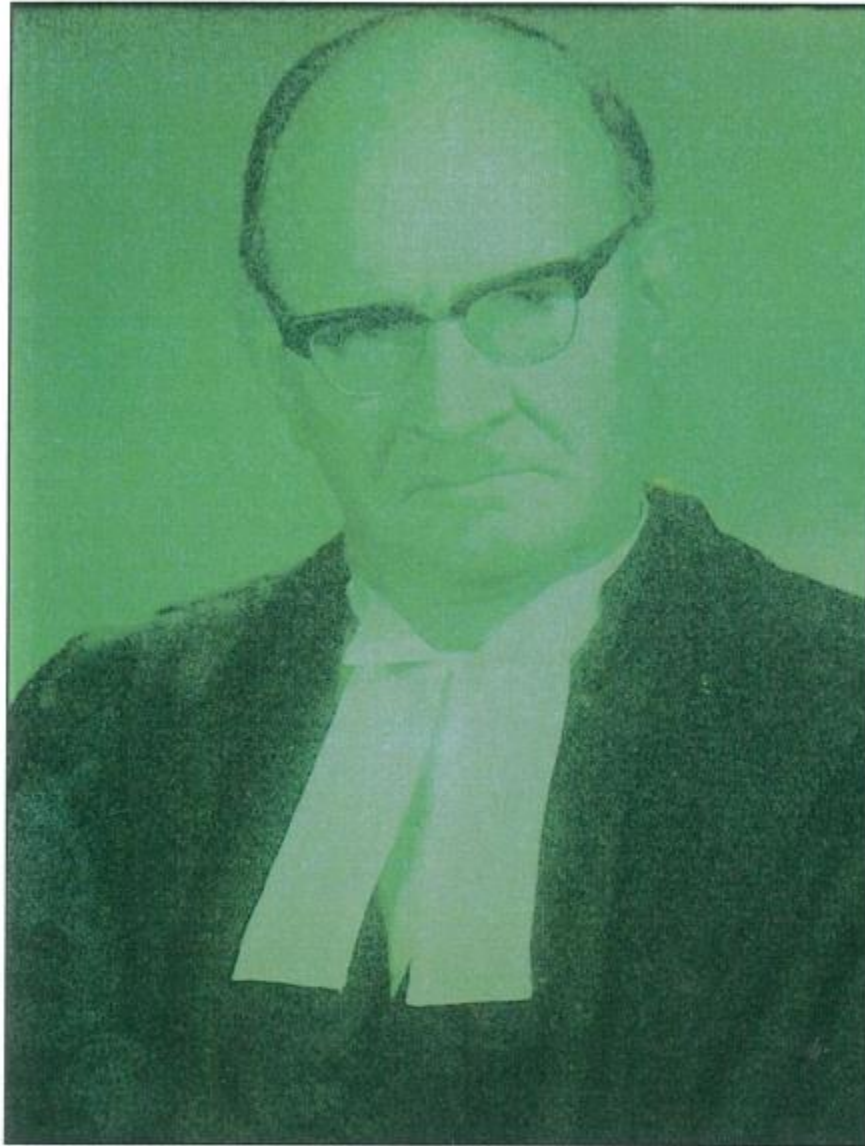


*Hon. Ntlhoi Motsamai
Speaker of the National Assembly
2015 - to date*

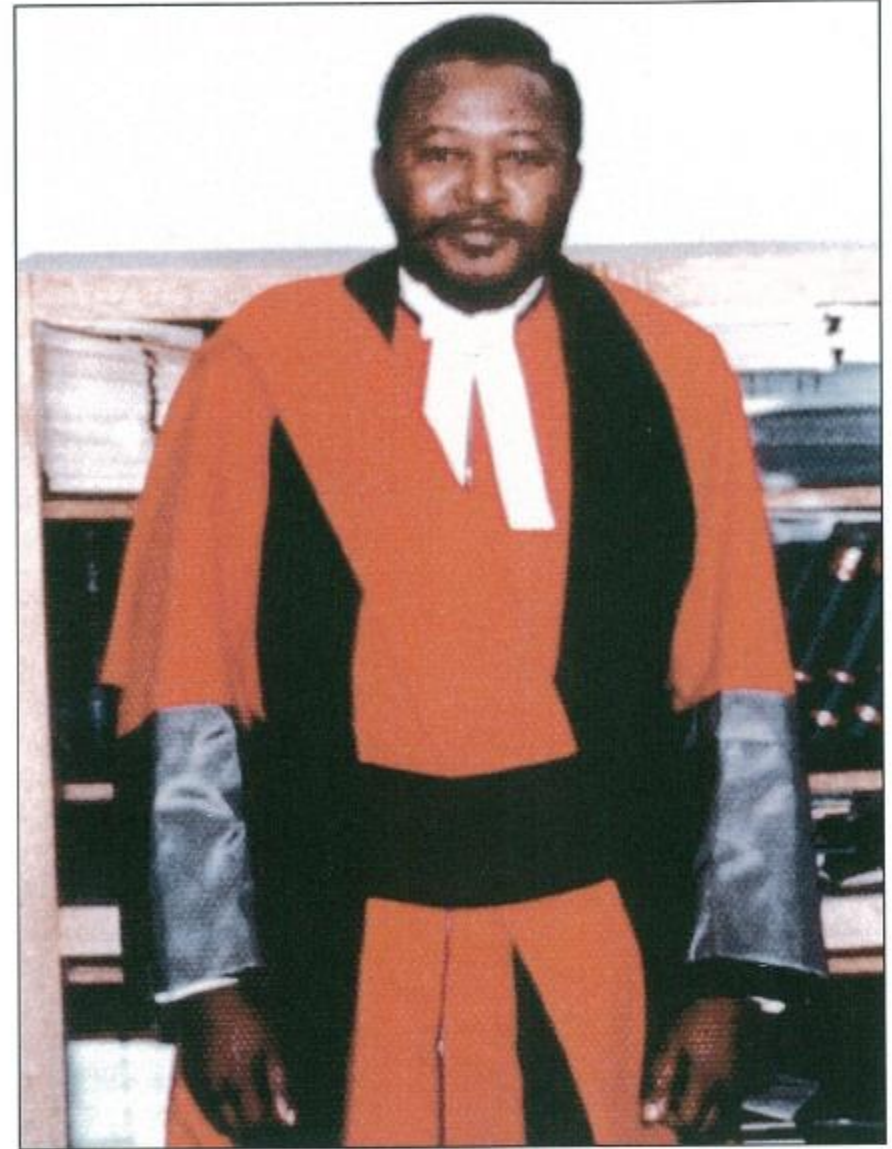
CHIEF JUSTICES



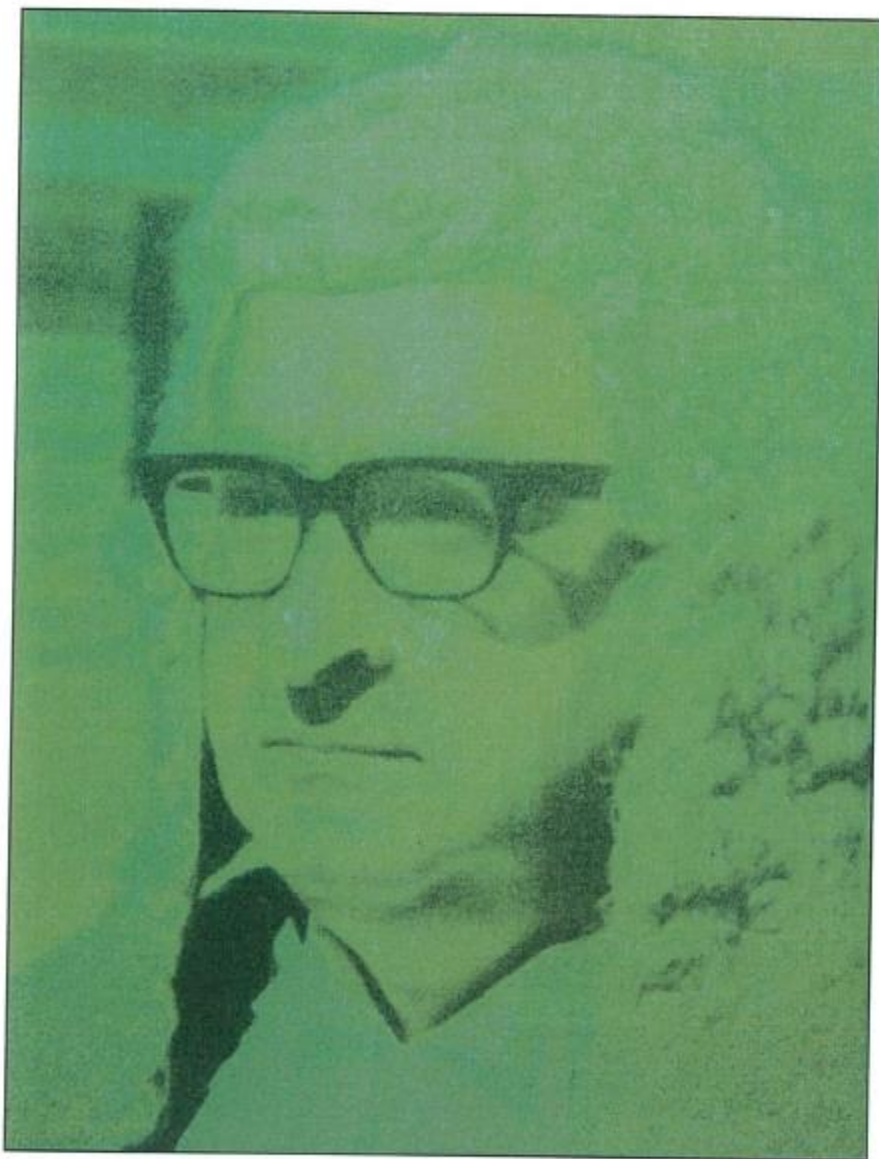
*Hon. F. Johnston
Chief Justice
- 1968*



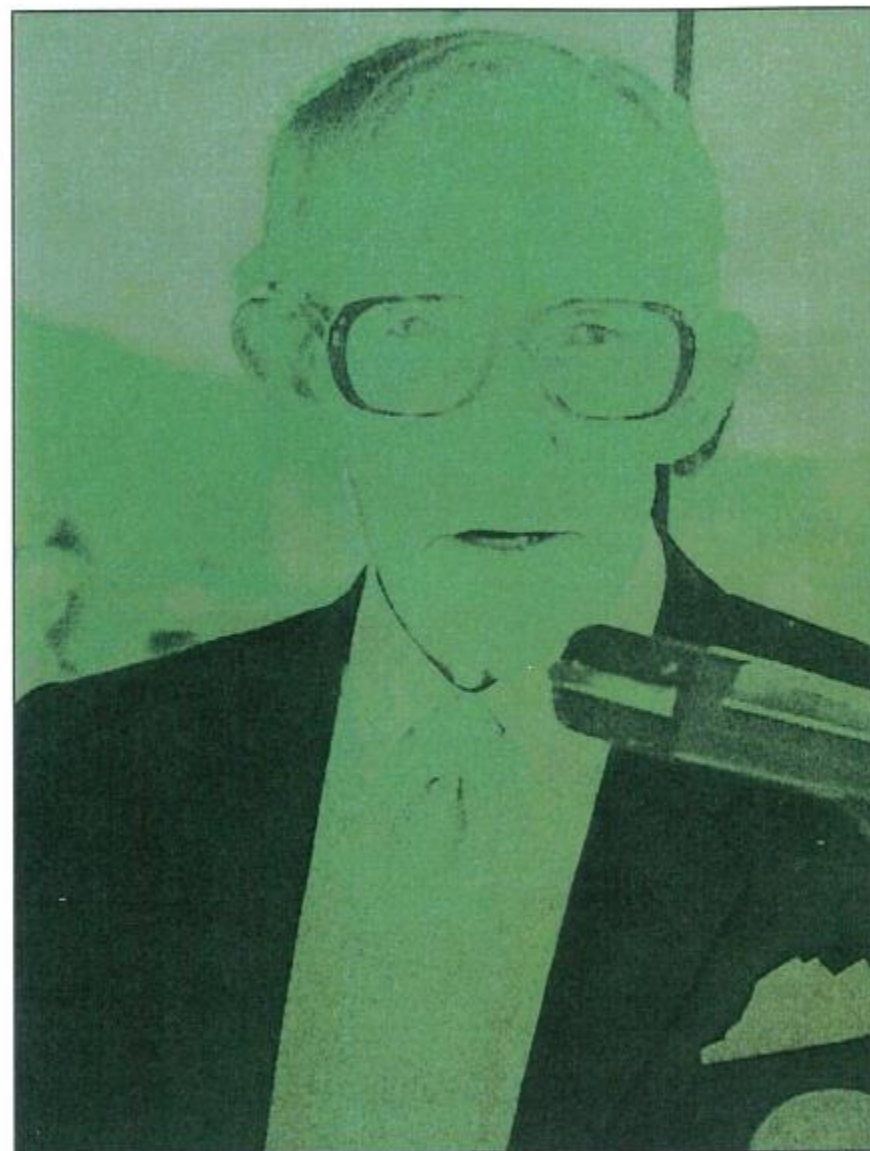
Hon. H. R. Jacobs
Chief Justice
1968 - 1973



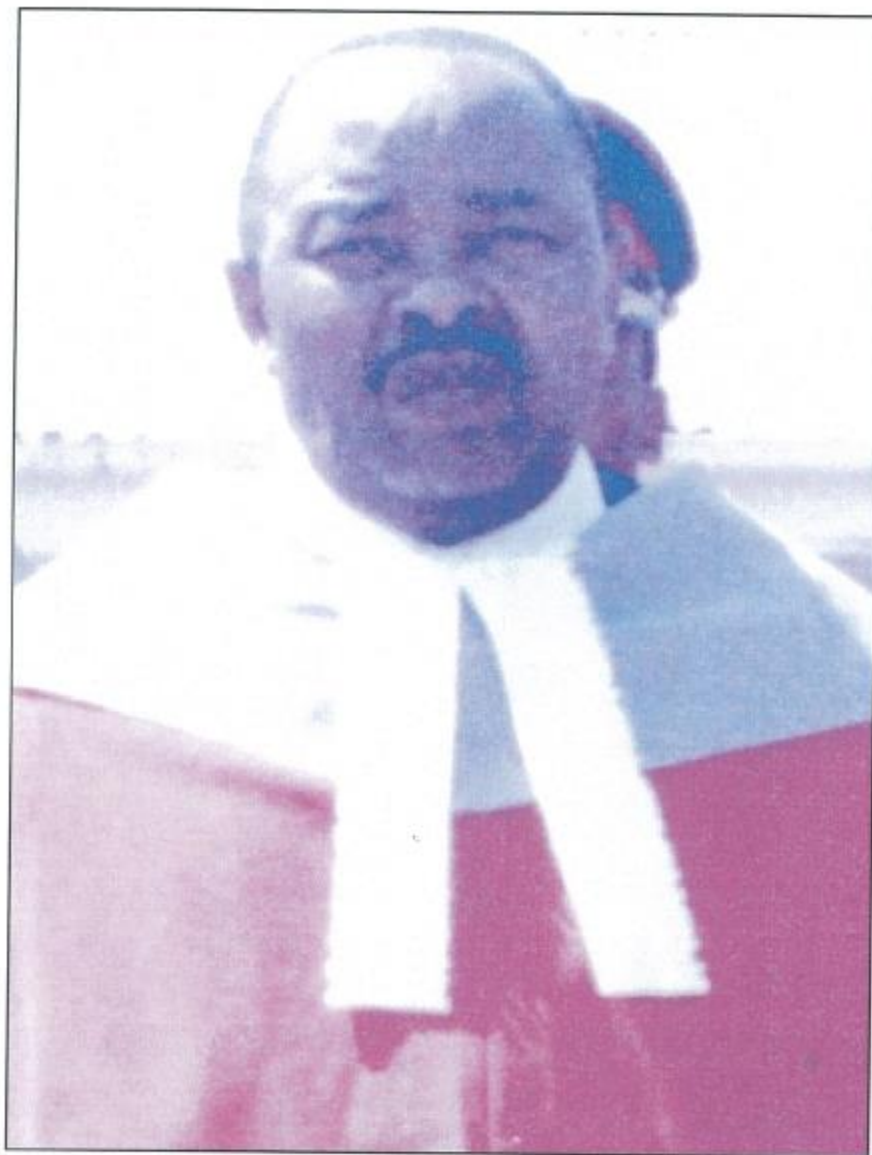
Hon. Joas Tšeliso Mapetla
Chief Justice
1974 - 1975



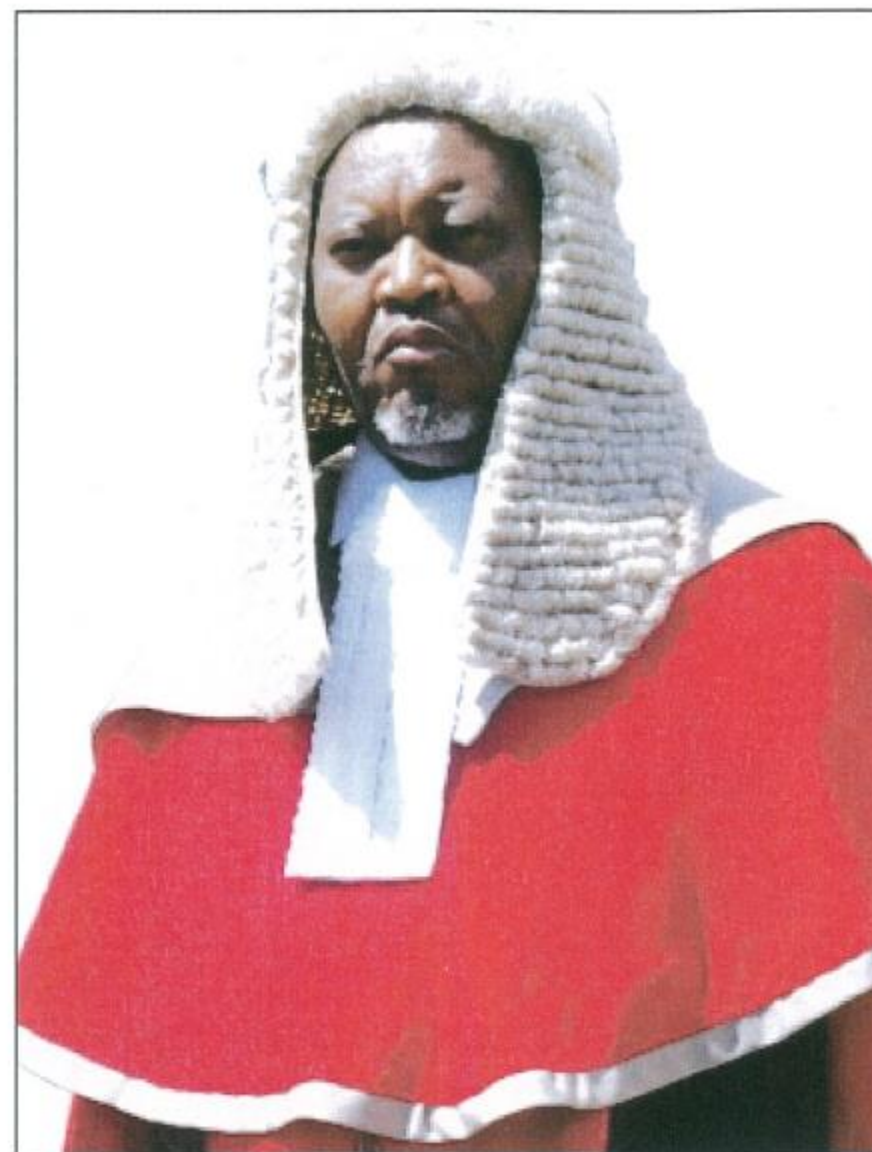
Hon. Taufik Suliman Cotran
Chief Justice
1976 - 1986



Hon. Peter B. P. Calinum
Chief Justice
1987 - 1989



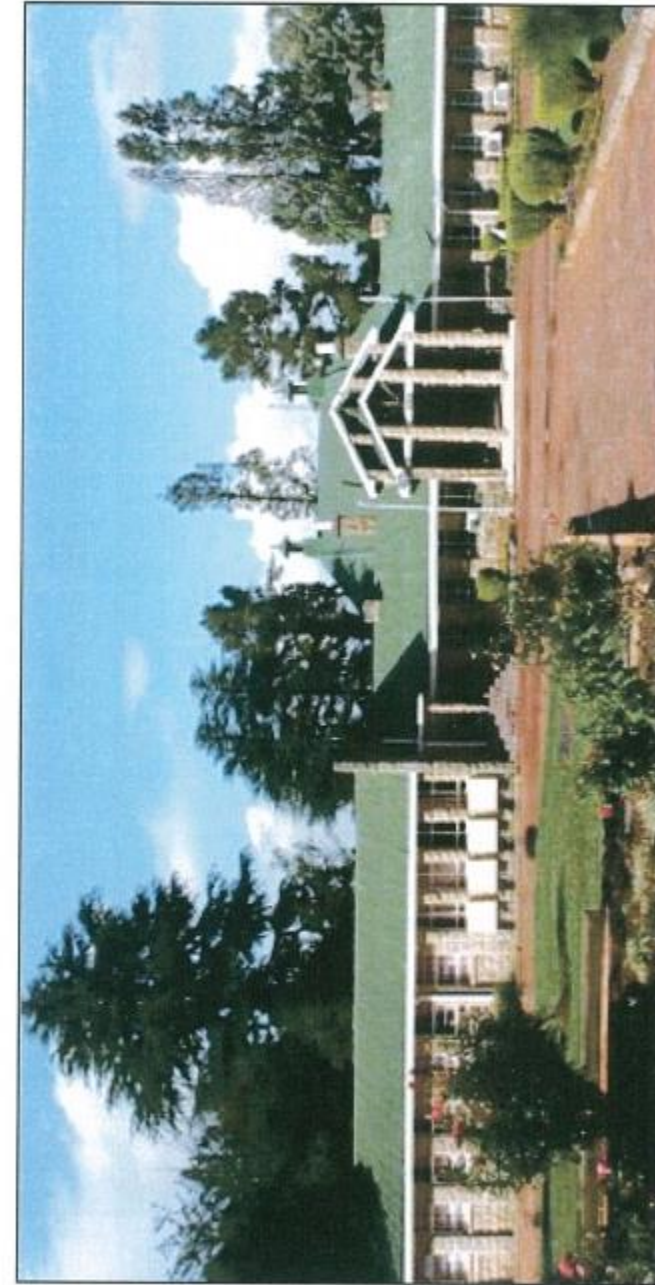
Hon. Lebona S. Kheola
Chief Justice
1994 - 2002



Hon. Mr. Mahapela Lehohla
Chief Justice
2002 - 2013



*Hon. Madam Nthomeng Majara
Chief Justice
2014 to date*



Old Parliament Building



New Parliament Building



Judiciary Building

Arrival Order for the Independence Celebration of 50th

- 09.00 hrs : Arrival of Principal Secretaries and CCL.
Arrival of the Director of Public Prosecutions,
Arrival of the Auditor General
Arrival of the Director General (DCEO)
Arrival of All Chairpersons of Commissions,
Arrival of the Ombudsman,
Arrival of the Political Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister,
Arrival of Senior Private Secretary to The Right Honourable the Prime Minister,
Arrival of the Political Advisor to The Right Honourable the Prime Minister,
Arrival of Senior Private Secretary to His Majesty,
Arrival of the Government Secretary.
- 09.30 hrs : Arrival of Honourable Members of the National Assembly,
Arrival of Honourable Members of the Senate,
Arrival of the Honourable Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly,
Arrival of the Honourable Vice-President of the Senate,
Arrival of the Honourable Attorney-General,
Arrival of the Mayor of Maseru,
- 09.35 hrs : Arrival of Their Excellencies Heads of Diplomatic Missions,
Arrival of Honourable Judges of the High Court,
Arrival of Honourable Members of the Council of State,
Arrival of Honourable Ministers,
Arrival of the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister,
- 09.40 hrs : Arrival of Her Ladyship the Chief Justice,
Arrival of His Lordship the President of the Court of Appeal,
Arrival of the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Arrival of the Honourable President of the Senate,
- 09.50 hrs : Arrival of The Right Honourable the Prime Minister and The First Lady,
- 09.55 hrs : Arrival of Their Majesties.

CEREMONY COMMENCES

Order of Ceremony

The Royal Salute

- His Majesty the King receives the Royal Salute
- The Military Brass Band plays the African Union Anthem and National Anthem
- The Royal Standard is broken at Mast-head
- The 21-Gun Salute commences

Inspection of the Guard of Honour

- His Majesty inspects the Guard of Honour

The March Past

- In Command of the parade
- Trooping the colour
- Parade march past
- Parade leaves the arena
- Discipline Forces Parade

Districts' Parade

Prayer

- Prayer by the Christian Council of Lesotho

Speeches

- *The Right Honourable the Prime Minister*
- *The invited Guest*
- *His Majesty the King*

Performances

- Parachutes
- Ndlamo
- Mokhibo
- Mohobelo
- Liphotha
- Setapo le Mqongo
- Mass Choir
- Monyanyako
- Calisthenics - Physical Training

The Parade reforms

- Parade returns to the parade ground
- Their Majesties walk from the Royal stand to the pitch
- His Majesty stands on the dais for the last salute
- The Band plays the National Anthem
- The Flag is held slating
- Parade Commander request permission of His Majesty to disband/disperse the parade
- Their Majesties depart in Mounted Escort

Departure in Reverse Order