

PRESS RELEASE

His Majesty King Letsie III will be leading the Lesotho delegation to the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly (Summit) of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) that will be held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from 26 – 27 June, 2014.

The theme of the Summit is *“2014 Year of Agriculture and Food Security: Transforming Africa’s Agriculture for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods Through Harnessing Opportunities for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development.”*

The Summit follows the release of a report by the African Union in collaboration with the United Nations (UN), on the rate of poverty and hunger in Africa. According to the report, there has been a considerable growth in numbers of stunted children in Africa in the past twenty years. As a result, by 2015, most African countries will have failed to reach the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the one on Poverty Reduction and Hunger.

His Majesty King Letsie III was elected as Head of Africa’s Nutrition Champion at an African Union meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia earlier this year. The initiative will be launched in Malabo on 26 June 2014 and will run through to January 2016.

In his capacity as African Nutrition Champion, His Majesty is expected to participate in the Facilitated Panel Discussion. He will also lead the High Level Multi-agency discussion to position Nutrition Security in the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the African Union Vision 2063.

The Summit has been preceded by sessions held at Ministerial; Permanent Representative (PRC) and Senior Government Officials levels.

His Majesty’s delegation is constituted as follows: Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations Hon. M.K. Tsekoa; Minister of Health Dr P. Manamolela; Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Hon. M. Molapo; Senior Private Secretary (Palace) Mr M. Lerotholi; PS Foreign Affairs Mr T. Metsing; PS Cabinet Economic Affairs Mr M.D. Sehloho; Permanent Representative of Lesotho to the African Union H. E. Mr N. Mphale; DPS Agriculture Mrs L. Hanyane and Senior government officials.

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