

# Small but beautiful

By THE HON PAKALITHA MOSISILI

PRIME MINISTER, KINGDOM OF LESOTHO



PAKALITHA MOSISILI holds a MA degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Master's in Education from the Simon Fraser University in Canada. He was first elected to parliament in 1993 and initially served as Minister of Education and subsequently Minister of Home Affairs and Local Government. After the formation of the Lesotho Congress for Democracy party in 1997 he was elected leader the following year and served as Prime Minister until 2012. He was re-elected Prime Minister in February 2015 and currently leads a coalition government.

Over 80 per cent of Lesotho, known as the "Roof of Africa" lies more than 1800 metres above sea level

As the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, I look forward to joining my colleagues at the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which is scheduled to be held in Malta.

Lesotho is one of the smallest states in the Commonwealth and has benefitted greatly from its membership. The Commonwealth Secretariat supported us in the establishment of the District Dispute Committees in 2012 to resolve electoral claims and disputes. This greatly assisted in strengthening the management and functioning of the Independent Electoral Commission.

We look forward to the Secretariat's commitment in assisting Lesotho in her reform process which the current coalition government has now embarked on. We are also committed to the principals of reforming our constitution, security services, public service, our parliament and our judiciary.

The theme for the Malta CHOGM: 'Commonwealth: Adding Global Value', indeed resonates well with the aspirations of small states such as Lesotho. It helps to inspire confidence that the global village we live in can become a more level playing field for all states big and small, to participate as equal partners.

I want to state categorically that we Basotho, the government and the people alike acting in unison and driven by a common commitment and shared sense of the utmost urgency, are irrevocably and indefatigably determined to fight the scourge of HIV and AIDS.

We will do whatever it takes and however long it takes. That commitment goes also for our battle against food shortages and human development in general.

A very ambitious commitment that the leadership of this coalition government has made is to ensure that Lesotho emerges from the group of least developed states by 2025. We have the practical roadmap for this under Goal 1 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Complements Programmes already in place in Lesotho. We are humbled by the African Union's faith in our country by nominating His Majesty King Letsie III as the Champion for Nutrition, a move which will intensify efforts already underway in Lesotho.

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho is driven by the values of the Commonwealth, and continues to profit from its unparalleled support and guidance through such eminent individuals as Dr Rajen Prasad and his team. I look forward to the mutual gains which will be made from our close bilateral relations as our government and the Commonwealth member countries continue to prosper.

It is because of this close collaborative network that Lesotho remains a committed member of the Commonwealth. The obligation which binds all of us here gathered must continue to be carried out with a sense of commitment and responsibility by all.

We wish to congratulate the Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, for this year becoming the longest-reining British Monarch. Long may she reign. **E**

