



Press Statement: 01 September 2014

Royal Commonwealth Society Statement on Unrest in Lesotho

The Royal Commonwealth Society expresses its concern over unrest in Lesotho since the 30th August and condemns any un-constitutional attempt to overthrow the elected government. Michael Lake CBE, Director of the RCS, today stated that, “such actions are proven not to be the route to reliable democracy and successful development”. The RCS supports the statement made by the [Commonwealth Secretary General](#) supporting the rule of law and deploring any attempt to subvert constitutional civilian rule.

Mr Lake further stated that, “The Commonwealth community stand in support of civilian constitutional rule in Lesotho and across the Commonwealth and urge those who have grievances to find ways to re-establish stability and settle disputes in a peaceful way through democratic frameworks.”

The Royal Commonwealth Society calls on all Commonwealth governments, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and all other relevant regional mechanisms, including the Southern African Development Community and the African Union, to work together to offer whatever good offices and technical support are needed to help support democracy in Lesotho. This must include working together to ensure that any short term gains are further consolidated to support the democratic rule of law.

Notes to Editors

The Royal Commonwealth Society is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world.

Founded in 1868, the Society is constituted by Royal Charter (amended 2013) and as a charity.

The Society engages with its youth, civil society, business and governmental networks to address issues that matter to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Its primary focus is the promotion of young people throughout the Commonwealth.

Press Contact

Lewis Brooks, Public Affairs Officer

lewis.brooks@thercs.org

Tel: +44 (0)20 3727 4300