



## MAIN STORIES

### An Unexpected Victory

### A New Coalition Government

### What To Expect From The New Government

### International Electoral Observation Missions

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The overwhelming victory of the Revolution for Prosperity (RFP), set up only six months ago by millionaire businessman Sam Matekane, and the resounding defeat of established parties are raising hopes that Lesotho has finally turned the corner to address its deep-seated political and economic malaise. Matekane is however, facing a myriad of challenges, most importantly a possible fight back from vested political interests and the major task to deal with a weak economy, empty state coffers and corruption.
- The Revolution for Prosperity (RFP), a party set up only six months ago by millionaire businessman Sam Matekane, won 56 out of 120 seats in parliament, five short of what it needed to govern alone. The Democratic Congress (DC), led by Mathibeli Mokhothu came in second, securing 29 seats.
- Voter turnout was 37.71%, sharply down from 46.37% in 2017.
- Matekane has announced the formation of a coalition government, the country's fifth since 2012, with the Movement for Economic Change (MEC), led by Selibe Mochoboroane and the Alliance of Democrats (AD), led by Monyane Moleleki, joining the RFP.
- The RFP is reportedly still out to get additional smaller parties to insulate the coalition government from collapse that could be triggered by floor-crossing.
- Matekane said the coalition's immediate tasks would be reining in government expenditure, stabilising the economy and uniting the country. He added that the cabinet would be downsized.
- Foreign election observer missions declared the elections peaceful and transparent, with the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) noting that "unlimited campaign spending" contributed to an uneven playing field between parties and candidates, while the media was seen as biased.



- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its October 2022 World Economic Outlook (WEO), published on 11 October, that the economy will grow by 2.1% in 2022.
- On 27 September 2022, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) increased the CBL Rate from 5.50% per annum to 6.25% per annum.
- The current account recorded a deficit equivalent to 10.8% of GDP during the quarter ending in June 2022, compared to a deficit of 2.7% in the previous quarter.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2022 Human Development Report (HDR) shows that Lesotho's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2021 is 0.514, which places the country in the low human development category, positioning it at 168 out of 191 countries and territories.

