

IPU GENERAL DEBATE 7th October 2026
Deputy Speaker (Kingdom of Lesotho: National Assembly)
Hon. Ts'epang Ts'ita-Mosena

Theme: Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all
Honourable President of IPU, Distinguished Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour for the Parliament of the Kingdom of Lesotho to participate in this General Debate under the important theme that speaks directly to one of the fundamental responsibilities of Parliament to ensure that governance remains accountable to the people, that institutions earn and maintain public trust, and that no community or group is left behind.

First of all, our country pays tribute to the outgoing President of the IPU, Dr. Tulia, who has well represented us as both the SADC Region and the entire Africa community. We equally welcome our Secretary General into her new role, and wish her well in her leadership role.

For Lesotho, good governance is not merely about the existence of institutions, it is about ensuring that those institutions are transparent, accountable, inclusive and responsive to the realities and aspirations of our people.

Parliaments have a central responsibility to scrutinize government action and ensure that public power is exercised in the public interest. In Lesotho, Parliamentary Standing Orders provide parliamentary committees with significant oversight powers. These powers are important because effective parliamentary oversight is one of the foundations of accountable government. Parliament must not only make laws, it must also ensure that laws and public policies are implemented effectively and that public resources are used responsibly.

The Parliament of Lesotho has also taken steps to strengthen the institutional framework for accountability and the fight against corruption. The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution Act, provides for the independence of the anti-corruption, audit and Ombudsman institutions, with these institutions reporting directly to Parliament.

The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution has also provided for the participation of marginalized groups in government business. Parliaments must continue translating constitutional commitment into practical measures that ensure that all citizens can participate meaningfully.

Distinguished colleagues,
Good governance requires good decisions, and good decisions require reliable evidence which is backed by data. As the Parliament of Lesotho, we recognize the importance of

strengthening the capacity of Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff in research, legislative scrutiny, data analysis and evidence-based policy development.

Investment in parliamentary research capacity is an investment in better legislation, stronger oversight and better outcomes for citizens. We should also encourage public consultations that bring evidence together with the lived experiences of communities. Statistics can tell us what is happening; communities can often tell us why it is happening. Both forms of knowledge are necessary for effective policymaking.

Fellow Parliamentarians,

Parliament must also built trust between them and the people they serve. This can be achieved through action where citizens are effectively engaged and they can see that their representatives listen to them.

As the Parliament of Lesotho, we believe that inclusive governance is not simply about opening the doors of Parliament, it is about ensuring that people have a genuine voice once they enter those doors. As Parliaments, we have a responsibility to strengthen the bridge between institutions and communities, between evidence and policymaking, and between participation and meaningful results.

Honourable Members, let us use this Assembly to renew our commitment to parliaments that are open, accountable, inclusive, evidence-driven and responsive to the people we serve. By strengthening these principles, we can contribute to rebuilding trust in public institutions and creating opportunities in which every community and every citizen can participate in shaping a better future.

I thank you.