



E.R Sekhonyana  
President  
BNP  
P.O. Box M5 124  
Maseru  
Lesotho

I hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter Re: BNP's application for observer status at CODESA.

This application is now being put forward for the consideration of the Management Committee. You will be informed in due course of any development in this regard.

Yours Sincerely

Murphy Morobe  
(Head: CODESA Administration)

Phone (09266) 323138

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# Basotho National Party

P.O. BOX MS 124—MASERU  
LESOTHO

26 February 1992

The Secretariat  
Convention for a Democratic South Africa  
P.O. Box 397

ISANDO  
1600

Attention: MR MURPHY MOROBE  
FAX NO. 397-2211

Dear Sir,

## BNP'S APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT CODESA

I represent the Basotho National Party, a Lesotho party founded by the late Dr Leabua Johathan - former Prime Minister of Lesotho and a Prime Minister Lesotho was privileged to have. It is my honour on behalf of the party and its membership to present this application for my party to be accorded observer status at CODESA.

In 1910, incorporation with South Africa was considered. The only reason why Basotho people refused was because of the existence of unlegislated apartheid. This is a historical fact. Lesotho then took a geo-political development under the British as a protectorate until 1966. There was never any other reason except for that of apartheid.

In 1912 when the African National Congress was formed, the representative of the then Paramount Chief of Basutoland found himself sometimes chairing meetings at the formation of the ANC. The ANC, realising the significant role and contribution of the Basotho people in South Africa's political development, incorporated it into its freedom charter that Basutoland was one of the three British protectorates that had a special form of past, present and future relationship with South Africa. M. F. M. Motlako Leballo, a Lesotho citizen, was chairman of the Pan Africanist Congress.

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Lesotho, along with South Africa, are both members of the South African Customs Union. The bulk of Lesotho's workforce spends most of its working life in South Africa - contributing towards the development of South Africa. The Central Bank of Lesotho works very closely with the South African Reserve Bank. Both countries are members of the Rand Monetary Area.

Furthermore, the dependance of Lesotho's whole economy evolves around selling labour to South Africa. Lesotho is independent by evolution and history - its form of relationship and link to South Africa is different from any other country. The Basotho National Party, despite the impoverishment of Lesotho, has never isolated itself from the political developments of South Africa.

The Basotho might be asked for an option. This is a very important option and it is in the interest of Lesotho citizens to know of an option from an informed stand-point. This is not contrary to the commendable work that CODESA is doing in trying to democratise South Africa. What affects South Africa, politically and economically, affects Lesotho. Geographically, Lesotho is right in the middle of South Africa. South Africa's destiny is Lesotho's destiny. The very constructive work that is going on at CODESA will directly affect Lesotho.

It was for these reasons that the membership of the BNP mandated its late President and former Prime Minister of Lesotho, the late Dr Leabua Johathan, to keep the party close to political developments in South Africa. In its last general conference in Maseru on 7 - 8 December 1991, the membership again mandated the executive of the party to continue on that path and to make it a matter of priority and extreme importance. It is deduceable from all the above that Lesotho will be affected by what goes at CODESA.

As previously indicated, the Basotho would wish to choose their destiny from a position of knowledge. This is very important. The BNP cannot speak for others because we do not know how much importance others put on this very crucial matter. They are best qualified to speak for themselves. What is important is that this application is being made by a party that is more than likely to form a government within six months from the date of this application. This is after the democratically held elections scheduled for September.

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In the unlikely event of the party not succeeding to form a government, the information obtained at CODESA shall be passed on to a democratically elected government in Lesotho. Ours is a national and not a sectarian interest.

Our membership asks for the urgent attendance of this matter. It is for all these reasons that the BNP asks for observer status at the convention for a Democratic South Africa.

We are aware of the good work of Working Group 1 - which deals with the role of the International Community at CODESA, but feel that because of the unique present and historical relationship that Lesotho has with South Africa, it cannot be classified under the International Community for this purpose. This is a unique situation and that is a formality which will obscure the real nature of the geo-political relationship between Lesotho and South Africa. Our destiny wholly evolves around CODESA.

A sympathetic consideration given to this unique situation will be very highly appreciated. The BNP is eager to know whether or not - although not fully participating in CODESA - it will at least be given the opportunity to observe that which directly involves their country's destiny.

On behalf of the executive and membership of the BNP, I would like to convey my personal good wishes to the Administrative, Management and Steering Committees and all those involved at CODESA in general. You have our best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

E. R. SEKHONYANA

President

