

Lesotho makes strides on Population and Development

His Majesty King Letsie III will visit Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA from 26 November to 1 December 2009. The overall outcome of the visit is to thank Canadians for their generous and faithful support for many orphans and youth in Lesotho who have been infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Various Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGO) have been raising funds across Canada to support grassroots projects aimed at providing support to orphans, youth, HIV/AIDS patients, grandmothers and the disabled.

During his visit, His Majesty will meet with Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean the Governor General of Canada and Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr Peter Milliken. Furthermore, His Majesty will have the opportunity to meet the various organizations and representatives involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS such as HelpLesotho, Ontario Hospital Africa (OHAfrica), Masai Bracelet of Hope, the Stephen Lewis Foundation, to name a few.

His Majesty will be the special guest at the 5th Anniversary of HelpLesotho. Since its inception, HelpLesotho has twinned 15 Lesotho schools with schools in Canada and has over 9,000 orphans, grandmothers and youth benefiting from its programmes. HelpLesotho has helped 500 grandmothers, paid 1,500 annual school fees, arranged AIDS testing for 7,000 children, youth and teachers, and trained hundreds of orphans each year in leadership gender equity and HIV/AIDS. Thousands of orphans have been clothed with uniforms and shoes. HelpLesotho has hosted 1,000 children at its annual six-day leadership camps, run 8 three-day girls' leadership conferences and educated 16,000 youth in HIV/AIDS and gender equity.

His Majesty will be accompanied by the Honourable Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr Motloheoa Phooko, Senior Private Secretary to His Majesty, H.E. Mabotse Lerotholi and other senior government officials. His Majesty and his delegation will be welcomed by the Charge d'Affaires a.i. Mr Moshe Kao.

International Security Research and Intelligence Agency.

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