

LESOTHO

Capital: Maseru

GEODATA

Area

30,355 km²

Major languages

English, Sesotho

Major religious groups

Christian (80%), indigenous beliefs (20%)

Surrounding country

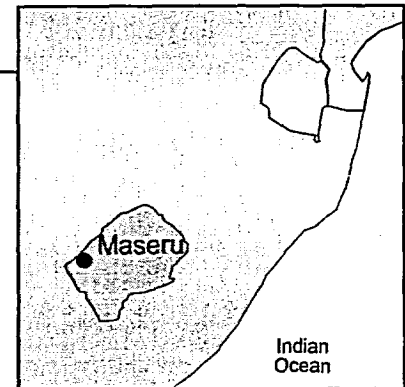
South Africa

Population

2.1 million (1999)

Population growth rate

1.5% (2001 est.)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Monarchy

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: Assembly; multiparty

Leaders

King Letsie III

Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Motsoahae Thomas Thabane

Minister of Trade and Industry

Mpho Meli Malie

UN Human Development Index (2001)

Lesotho ranks 120th among 162 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$2.06 million (2000-01)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$88 million US (2000)

GDP growth rate

2.5% (2000 est.)

GDP per capita

\$408 US (2000)

Main exports

Textiles and footwear, food, live animals

Main imports

Capital goods, food, fuel and energy

Main exports to Canada

\$6.5 million (2000), including woven and knit apparel

Main imports from Canada

\$120,000 (2000), including optical and medical equipment

Inflation rate

6.2% (2000)

Unemployment rate

42% (1999 est.)

Canadian Representative

Lucie Edwards, High Commissioner, The Canadian High Commission to Lesotho
c/o The Canadian High Commission to South Africa, Private Bag X13, Hatfield 0028, Pretoria, South Africa
Phone: (011-27-12) 342-6923, Fax: (011-27-12) 342-3837