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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION CONDEMNS THE KILLING OF THE FORMER DEFENCE FORCE CHIEF IN THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

Addis Ababa, 26 June 2015; The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, has learned the killing of the former Commander of Lesotho's Defence Force (LDF), Lt General Mahao Maaparankoe outside of Maseru, Lesotho, on 25 June 2015. According to Defence and National Security Minister, Tšeliso Mokhosi, the former Commander of LDF was shot dead in an exchange of shots that took place between him and a group of soldiers who were on a mission to arrest him.

The AU strongly condemns these acts, which threaten to undermine the efforts towards the peaceful transition following the recently concluded elections in the country. The Chairperson of the Commission reiterates her call to the various parties in Lesotho to resolve their political differences through peaceful means and within the Framework of the country's Constitution.

The Chairperson of the Commission conveys her deepest sympathy to the bereaved family of the fallen Lt General Mahao Maaparankoe and to the Government and people of Lesotho.

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The African Union Condemns the Killing of the Former Defence Force Chief in the Kingdom of Lesotho

Peace and Security

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