

**SPEAKING NOTES  
THE HONOURABLE NOËL A. KINSELLA  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF A LUNCHEON  
IN HONOUR OF A DELEGATION FROM  
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE KINGDOM  
OF LESOTHO**

**SPEAKER'S DINING ROOM  
3 JUNE 2013**

Speaker Motanyane,  
Representatives from the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Lesotho,  
High Commissioner,  
Honourable Parliamentarians,  
Distinguished Guests:

It is a pleasure to welcome the Right Honourable Sephiri Enoch Motanyane, Speaker of the National Assembly of Lesotho, and his delegation to Canada, to our Parliament and to the quarters of the Speaker of the Senate. These rooms are those of Her Majesty the Queen or the Governor General when they visit Parliament.

Your visit to Canada is part of what has been called parliamentary diplomacy, the use of parliamentary visits and exchanges as a means by which to improve relations between countries and, with the trading of ideas, as a mechanism to improve the operation of our governments.

During these visits, we often look for points of common interest. One commonality is that Lesotho is one of the few African countries to see snow on a regular basis. This is a subject which Canadians discuss regularly, although less so with the approach of summer.

Fortunately, we have many other shared interests reaching back to the days when we shared membership in the British Commonwealth, and they have been reshaped since Lesotho's independence in 1966. Development cooperation has helped create bonds between our countries, as has trade, an engine of development and a source of important links between countries. Trade is growing between our countries, and trade volume almost doubled between 2009 and 2010.

The goals of your current visit to Ottawa are impressive, including no less than 15 specific objectives. These range from engaging Canada's parliament in helping to strengthen your democracy, governance and rule of law to learning about the uses of information technologies in your parliament. We are honoured that you thought of us when seeking to reach your objectives.

We look forward to assisting you in any way possible and to forming warm and lasting friendships. Certainly, a bit of snow, in whatever month it falls, will not cool these relationships.

In closing, it is my pleasure to propose a toast and I ask that you raise your glasses: To parliamentary diplomacy, to the success of this visit by our distinguished guests and to the good health of everyone in our gathering today.