

UNODC Hands over Trafficking in Persons Data Collection Equipment to Lesotho

7 February 2017. Maseru. UNODC handed over equipment to the Lesotho Ministry of Home Affairs, to enhance the country's data collection capacities on trafficking in persons. In a press conference convened by the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon Lekhetho Rakuoane, the government of Lesotho recognised UNODC's contribution to the country's trafficking in person's response over the past 4 years and appreciated the equipment which will facilitate collection of data sectors including prosecution services and border communities.

Lesotho was one of the pilot countries in which the UNODC-SADC Regional Trafficking in Persons Data Collection System was rolled out. At the onset of the project in 2014 and during the course of 2015, UNODC provided the Secretariat of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Trafficking in Persons, with basic start-up equipment for data collection purposes, as well as training and support to maintain the system. During the course of 2016 UNODC trained 70 officials, including police, immigration, social workers and prosecutors in border towns Mafiteng and Maputsoe on identification and reporting of trafficking in persons cases in order ensure that key districts were in a position to contribute effectively to the national TIP data collection efforts.

It is anticipated that the with the new additional equipment from UNODC, the trained law enforcement officers from Maputsoe and Mafiteng as well as the designated users from the prosecution service, will be able to directly input data on TIP cases they identify.



Hon Lekhetho Rakuoane, Minister of Home Affairs, Lesotho, address the press at hand-over of data collection equipment

ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO TO DATE

Development of the National Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons(TiP)

Development of the 2015 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Regulations

Development of a National Trafficking in Persons Data Hub linked to the Regional Trafficking in Persons Data Collection System for SADC member States

Basic data collection equipment

Training of frontline officers on Identification and Reporting on Trafficking in Persons

Training of Trainers Trainings for criminal justice practitioners

"...let me take this opportunity to appeal to those who receive information whether as first responder or otherwise, especially members of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service and NGOs to please profile such cases in the data base system, and by so doing utilize these laptops so that they will not become white elephants." Hon Lekhetho Rakuoane, Minister of Home Affairs Lesotho