

LONDA 2025

DIGITAL RIGHTS & INCLUSION IN AFRICA REPORT

Lesotho

Country Report



PARADIGM
INITIATIVE



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Lesotho

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Executive Summary

This report analyses Lesotho's digital rights landscape through a combination of research methods. A desk-based study was used to explore existing qualitative data and in-person interviews were used to collect primary data. A tailored index, TheScore, developed by Paradigm Initiative, is used to score Lesotho's compliance with the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information, 2019.

The research discusses the state of internet access and network coverage, legal and institutional frameworks on data protection, cybersecurity, access to information, censorship and content moderation, and the compliance of Lesotho with its obligations to respect and promote the right to freedom of expression.

The Londa Lesotho 2024 report analysed legislative and policy developments, their

critical gaps, and the overall progress of digital development and made recommendations. This report assessed the same progress and highlights that affordability of connectivity, and existence of pre and post independence laws post a threat to free media. Further that, the lack of laws on content moderation, access to public information, and the operationalisation of the Data Protection Commission, and availability of information regarding the projects and

expenditure of the Universal Service Fund (USF) are of concern. The Cybersecurity and Computer Crimes Bill, 2024 (CCCB) and Receipt and Access to Information Bill, 2021 have still not been passed into law. The reports further highlight progress on several digital policies and strategies adopted for Lesotho's digital transformation. The report highlights that there has been minimal progress within Lesotho's digital landscape and has earned a score of 36 on the Score Index.



Introduction

Since the 2024 Londa report, the digital rights landscape has not seen much progress. Internet access and network coverage seem to be the only thematic areas where there has been progress. The cost of broadband access is still a concern. The absence of a Data Protection Commission has contributed to the stagnation of updated data protection standards. Additionally, there is a regression in respect to media freedom by security agencies. The lack of a legislative framework to access public information has been. This represents slight compliance with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights' (ACHPR) Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (the Declaration), 2019. During the year under review, Lesotho adopted its National Digital Transformation Strategy, 2024-2030 and the National AI Policy, 2025. However, the State keeps regressing because of its interference with individuals' right to freedom of expression online

Internet Access

As of November 2025, Lesotho's internet penetration rate is between 47% and 50.25%, with most coverage in urban areas.¹ With approximately 69% of the population living in rural areas, there is a significant gap in digital access geographically, especially in remote and mountainous regions. The telecommunications company, Starlink, promises to extend reliable, high-speed internet and sees itself as a catalyst for digital inclusion and innovation in Lesotho.²

Despite the presence of local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) such as Leo and Jenny, Vodacom Lesotho and Econet Telecom Lesotho are still the two leading telecommunications companies that offer internet services.. All these corporations are regulated by the Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA), an

1. Statistica, 2025. "Digital & Connectivity Indicators – Lesotho" <https://www.statista.com/outlook/co/digital-connectivity-indicators/lesotho>. [Accessed on 16/11/2025]
2. <https://newsdayonline.co.ls/t-connects-vision-for-transforming-connectivity-in-lesotho>

independent authority that grants licences to all telecommunication companies and develops principles of governance for the industry, including ISPs.³

The Lesotho Communication Authority (LCA) in 2024 adopted the Lesotho Communications Authority Quality of Service Rule, 2023. The objective of the rules was to set minimum standards for the quality of services provided by telecommunications entities, such as the standards for network coverage and web browsing parameters. It prescribes that establishing an Internet Protocol (IP) connection to a web server should be less than eight seconds, while the average data transfer for downloading to be a minimum of 5Mb per second and 25 Mb per second for 3G and 4G connections, respectively. The Rules further made provisions for monitoring compliance from licensees and have the power to impose sanctions of at most

LSL two million (approximately USD 119,560)⁴. To date the regulations remain in force and have not been amended.

In 2025, broadband in Lesotho showed moderate performance but mixed affordability for the general public. Average internet speeds of around 14 Mbps indicate a basic but not highly competitive level of connectivity, although some providers offer faster mobile speeds in specific cases.⁵ While fixed broadband contracts are generally more cost-effective than prepaid data, many people still rely on prepaid options, which can become expensive relative to income despite small entry packages.⁶ Even though there are somewhat affordable bundles and uncapped plans available, overall internet access remains only moderately affordable, suggesting that cost can still be a barrier for widespread, consistent use across the population.

3. Established by section 3 of the Communications Act, 2012.

4. Rule 7 and of the Lesotho Communications Authority Quality of Service Rules, 2023

5. The average broadband connection speed is 14 thousand kilobits (or 14 megabits) per second (Mbps) from both Econet Telecom Lesotho and Vodacom Lesotho. <https://www.vodacom.co.ls/business/fixed-solutions/>, <https://www.etl.co.ls/personal-data-packages/?package=ADSL&plan=Unlimited>, [Accessed on 16/11/2025].

6. Vodacom Lesotho offers entry prepaid data at 35MB for LSL 3 (approximately USD 0.060) and 10GB for LSL 99 (approximately USD 6), and uncapped data of a 10 Mbps package for LSL 350 (approximately USD 21) per month. Econet Telecom Lesotho offers data bundles from LSL 6 (approximately USD 0.36) for 500MB and the ADSL/Fixed Internet package for LSL 99 for 10GB <https://www.vodacom.co.ls/business/fixed-solutions/>, <https://www.etl.co.ls/personal-data-packages/?package=ADSL&plan=Unlimited>, [Accessed on 16/11/2025].

Online Freedom of

Expression and Access

to Information

Principle 10 of the Declaration on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information, 2019 provides that freedom of expression includes seeking, receiving and disseminating information through various media and platforms.⁷ The right facilitates the tenets of media freedoms such as the protection of journalists and publishing houses, their diversity, independence, and balanced governance by the state or independent authority.⁸ Recognition of the right itself entails a nuanced understanding of how different target groups enjoy it and how its violation disproportionately affects each group. This entails exploring themes such as gendered disinformation and its interrelatedness with other issues such as Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV).

Section 14(2) of the Constitution, 1993 limits the right on the grounds of public health, order, safety, morality, and reputation of others, and restricts public officers⁹. The Sedition Proclamation No.44, 1938 has not been repealed and makes seditious intent and possession of a seditious publication an offence under Section 4. It criminalises all conduct that incites hatred or discontent about government leadership and the administration of justice. This may encourage censoring both the public and media in holding the government accountable for its policies and decisions, or requesting transparency.

Section 10(1) of the Printing and Publications Act, 1967 makes it an offence to produce and disseminate information that has the potential to disturb public order or safety. The Internal Security Act, 1984 makes subversion an offence regardless of whether such statements were communicated within or outside of Lesotho's borders¹⁰. Section 8 therefore makes abetting

7. Part II Principle 10 (n1).

8. Part II Principle 11 to 16 (n1)

9. Section 14(2) of the Constitution of Lesotho 1993. https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Lesotho_2018 [Accessed on 14/11/2024].

subversion through monetary and/or property contribution an offence, and Section 34 also makes it an offence to utter or publish statements that could incite public violence.

The Computer Crime and Cyber Security Bill, 2024, a proposed legislative framework designed to address rising digital threats, has still not been passed into law. As stated in previous editions of the Londa report, the Bill continues to raise similar concerns over its provisions, including one that could criminalise publishing “false information” and Part IV of the Bill, which are broad and vague. This could be used to limit free speech, force self-censorship among journalists, and restrict citizen’s access to verified information. Its enactment will be a major regression in Lesotho’s democracy. The Bill is commended for penalising xenophobia, racism, image-based abuse, online fraud, and hacking; however, other prescribed offences threaten democratic dispensation, limiting free media and access to information.

Lesotho currently has no laws on online content moderation and censorship. In the previous years, the National Security Service (NSS) was accused of monitoring citizens and journalists online. The Constitutional Court declared a section of the NSS Act, which allowed the authority to seize and search mobile phones without a court order, as unconstitutional.¹¹

Platforms like Facebook and the X app have become significant forums for political debate and criticism of the government. One notable case of limited freedom of expression is the June 2025 detention of Tšolo Thakeli (also known as Tjeka-Tjeka), a youth activist who was detained for posting a video on Facebook, where he criticised the government’s failure to deliver on its promises of job creation for youth. He was later charged with sedition and inciting public violence. Another arrest was that of Mohalenyane Phakela, the editor of Lesotho Times and Sunday Express, a local newspaper and online news provider, in August 2025 by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) in

10. Section 7 of the Internal Security Act, 1984. https://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Lesotho/LS_Internal_Security_General_Act.pdf [Accessed on 10/10/2024].

11. Authorities in Lesotho attempt to block social media. <https://monitor.civicus.org/explore/lesotho/?utm> [Accessed on 14/11/2025]

connection with a story published in the newspaper.¹² This case highlighted the potential for arrests around sensitive content, with authorities issuing warnings against subversive posts online. These cases have raised significant concerns among human rights activists and media freedom organisations.

Access to Information

The Declaration affirms that access to information is a right to seek information from both public and parastatal entities in a timely and affordable manner, especially where such information is vital in protecting other rights.¹³ It prescribes that any enacted law on access to information should take preference over other Acts that seek to prohibit such access and any attempt to limit the right should be based on exhaustive exemptions.¹⁴ Additionally, state entities should create, manage and provide comprehensive information that

is of public interest.

In practice, there are no existing laws to facilitate access to public information in Lesotho. There are, however, laws that are restrictive, such as the Official Secrets Act, 1967 and the Public Service Act, 2005. Provisions in these laws restrict and make it an offence for public servants to grant access to “confidential” state information without authorisation. As a result, requests for information from government entities have been challenging for individuals and professionals, as there are no set guidelines for such requests or for justifying denials.¹⁵

However, this can be proven to occur not only in government entities but also in privately owned entities. During the collection of data for this report, several unjustifiable restrictions from non-state actor entities were imposed, citing management prohibiting employees from commenting on anything company or organisation-related or even from giving

12. <https://groundup.org.za/article/lesotho-times-editor-wrongfully-arrested-admits-anti-corruption-agency/> [Accessed on 20/11/2025]

13. Principle 26 (1) (a) and (b) of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information, 2019.

14. Principles 27 and 28 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information, 2019

15. MISA, “Access to Information” (2024) <https://lesotho.misa.org/issues-we-address/access-to-information/> [Accessed on 16/11/2025].

data collectors access to archives of information which would normally fall under the public domain.

The Receipt and Access to Information Bill, 2021 has not yet been passed into law despite its enactment enabling access to information from the government, its agencies, and departments that is of public interest. It was applauded for its intention to appoint information officers and their contact publicised to expedite information requests¹⁶. Section 20 of the Bill prescribes 30 days for an information officer to make a decision on a request and to notify the requester. Failure to make such notification is deemed to be a denial of a request and entitles the requester to an appeal.¹⁷ Interestingly, the legal officer has discretion to deny a request if they consider the information frivolous or vexatious. These wide discretionary powers threaten timeous access and subject the requester to stringent processes of appealing the denial. Other grounds for denial include for privacy of individuals, if the requestor is a minor, to protect third-party trade secrets, confidential state information, public safety and/or national security¹⁸.

The lack of existing frameworks or systems to access information from government bodies is still a challenge that requires immediate intervention.

Gendered

Disinformation and

Technology Facilitated

Gender Based

Violence (TFGBV)

The ‘Digital Rights in Lesotho’ 2023 report by University of Pretoria’s Centre for Human rights recognised the existence and disproportionate impact of online violence against women and its ramifications to impede their political participation, especially engaging in polarised discourse or running for elections, and made policy and legislative recommendations to address these

16. Section 4 and 7 of the Receipt and Access to Information Bill, 2021 <https://www.osall.org.za/docs/2011/03/Lesotho-Access-and-Receipt-of-Information-Bill-2000.pdf> [Accessed on 16/11/2025]

17. Section 23 of the Receipt and Access of Information Bill, 2000 (n32).

18. Section 34,35(a), 36,37 and 38 of the Receipt and Access to Information Bill, 2021 (n32)

concerns¹⁹ such as ensuring capacitation of women to navigate the digital sphere and the amendment of some domestic legislation. The Counter Domestic Violence Act, 2020 is the only law that explicitly criminalises TFGBV under Section 3(k). However, the provision is overly broad and conflates various forms of misconduct into a single criminal act without distinguishing among them. This poses a threat to certain crimes carrying disproportional penalties and therefore unbalanced when it comes to the rights and interests at play.

Data Protection and Cybersecurity

The Data Protection Act, 2011 protects personal information and includes provisions for civil claims. The Act is the primary legislation governing data privacy in Lesotho, broadly defining personal information to include

anything that can identify an individual, such as their image. It generally requires that personal information be collected directly from the data subject and with their explicit consent. It specifically entrenches a civil claim for damages for individuals whose rights are breached.²⁰ However, a current challenge in Lesotho is the lack of a functioning Data Protection Commission, which means that individuals have no effective recourse for data breaches or misuse, except through the courts.

A significant recent notable case, which could set a precedent for image rights, is that of Adv. Lemohang Nzuzi vs. Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), where an attorney filed a constitutional case challenging the police's practice of posting suspects' photographs and personal details on social media before trial, arguing it violates constitutional rights to dignity and privacy.²¹ This case highlighted the misuse of images by a state actor. The case has not been finalised.

19. M.R Kulehile, 2023." Digital Rights in Lesotho: A Situational Analysis. ' Centre for Human Rights. PULP https://www.chr.up.ac.za/images/researchunits/dgdr/documents/resources/Digital_Rights_in_Lesotho_Report.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com at page 55. [Accessed on 10/11/2026]

20. African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention) Freedom House.

21. <https://lestimes.com/lmps-sued-m1-5m-over-facebook-post/> [Accessed on 14/12/2025]

Copyrights over personal images in the context of privacy are a concern, especially when the Data Protection Act exempts the use of such images in journalistic or literary use to fall beyond its scope.²² Certain provisions of the Act need to be updated to comply with international data protection and privacy standards. This includes Section 23, which provides that a breach should be reported within a reasonable time and not within a specific timeframe, such as 24 hours.²³ While the Data Protection Commission is not yet operational, the Act is in enforcement and businesses are expected to comply. Due to the absence of a Data Protection Authority, there is no recourse or complaints mechanism for reporting breaches. Therefore, there is no record of breaches that may have occurred.

Privacy and Surveillance

There are cybercrime laws in Lesotho, and the lack of implementation of the Malabo Convention affects marginalised groups due to several systemic and institutional

issues. Marginalised communities often have limited access to information and awareness about their digital rights and available legal remedies. This makes it difficult for them to understand when and how their data has been used or misused or to seek redress. There are some concerns around the processing and use of biometric data, especially for surveillance.²⁴

The CCCB, 2024 raises further concerns about surveillance. Section 23 on illegal interception criminalises unauthorised interception and dishonest transmission of private data and imposes a penalty of LSL10,000 (approximately US\$ 625) or 15 years' imprisonment. Although not expressly stated, this implicitly recognises that authorised interception exists. Section ⁶⁴ grants law enforcement surveillance powers through obtaining court orders requiring disclosure of traffic data. Section ⁶⁶ grants power to install remote forensic tools on suspects' computer systems, to collect evidence including "keystroke logging or transmission of an internet protocol address", as well as monitoring and data

22. Section 4 (d) of the Data Protection Act, 2011

23. Section 4 (d) of the Data Protection Act, 2011

24. <https://www.lena.gov.ls/ai-surveillance-changes-how-journalists-work/> [Accessed on 14/12/2025]

collection from suspect devices. This type of regulation already poses a threat to individuals' right to privacy as there are no safeguards

Open-source reporting on the procurement of commercial surveillance tools is nonexistent. However, regulatory measures such as mandatory SIM registrations raise concerns regarding privacy and potential surveillance of their movements. Registration of each SIM requires biometric data, including a photograph of the user and a copy of their identity document. Therefore, movement can be traced via mobile towers that the user's mobile device connects to. This takes away an individual's freedom and option for anonymity, or control over how such data is captured and processed. The absence of procurement transparency and independent review, acquisition of monitoring/disinformation-tracking systems further creates more discomfort as citizens are not informed about the existence and/or deployment of surveillance technology within the country.²⁵

Lesotho collects biometric data in national identity and civil-registration

programmes, including fingerprints and facial images. This biometric national-ID architecture is explicit in official project documents. Recently, the country has been rolling out SIM re-registration drives that also require national ID/biometric verification, which links telecom identifiers to state identity records and raises risks of aggregation and linkage of mobility and communication metadata to biometric identity.

Developments in

ICT and Emerging

Technologies

The Draft National Digital Policy, 2024, the National AI Policy and the National Digital Transformation Strategy 2024-2030 are Lesotho's current AI frameworks. The National Digital Policy marked the first attempt to articulate priorities for digital transformation. The policy recognises the potential of AI, Blockchain, Biotechnology and Internet of Things (IoT),²⁶ with the aim

25. Kulehile, M.R., 2024, Digital Rights in Lesotho: A Situational Analysis. Centre for Human Rights, PULP.

to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks for emerging technologies and envisions new digital-governance institutions such as the Chief Digital Officer, the National Digital Council and the National Digital Agency, setting its implementation horizon to 2035.

While the policy is commendable, it does not yet provide ethical guidelines for AI development and deployment, human rights safeguards, standards for accountability, transparency and fairness. It also does not cater for the data governance models needed for AI systems, oversight mechanisms, or regulatory enforcement capacity. However, it mentions critical entities to be established by the CCCB, 2024, such as the National Cybersecurity Advisory Council and the National Cybersecurity Incident Response Team (CSIRT), which will be responsible for coordinating cybersecurity measures and safeguarding any digital infrastructure and improving their resilience.

As a complement to the draft policy, Lesotho has also launched the National Digital Transformation Strategy 2024-2030 and the National AI Policy

alongside the Ministerial Strategy.²⁷ These two roadmaps are designed to guide Lesotho into a more connected, innovative, and digitally empowered future over the next five years. During the review of the second draft of the National AI Policy, the Centre for AI and Digital Policy recommended that the policy adopt the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) and Ethical Impact Assessment (EIA).

Digital Inclusion

Digital inclusion, trust and safety are foundational requirements for equitable participation in the digital society. Achieving inclusion involves meaningful access, safety and trust of digital platforms for everyone, including children, by adopting and enforcing child online safety laws, strengthening digital literacy and removing barriers that prevent vulnerable groups from fully exercising their digital rights.

LCA's Child Online Protection Guidelines, 2024 which were launched in February

26. Priority 8 and 11 of the National Digital Policy, 2024 Draft [unpublished].

27. <https://www.gov.ls/government/national-digital-transformation-is-launched/> [Accessed on 17/12/2025]

2025,²⁸ have been designed to create a safer digital environment for children, covering their online rights, protecting them from online abuse and capacitating responsible internet use. The guidelines adopted a multistakeholder and multifaceted approach to child protection online. It recognises the rights and responsibilities of children as internet users. It additionally sets obligations for parents and guardians, mobile and internet service providers, as well as content service providers. The Guidelines are, however, lacking with regard to the enforcement of these measures through collaboration with security sectors. There is also a need to strengthen the Guidelines through legislative measures that would criminalise and/or penalise conduct that violates children's rights and safety. The Cybersecurity and Computer Crime Bill, 2024, under Part IV, is the only proposed legislation that may criminalise child sexual abuse content in image or video format. Section 29 of the Data Protection Act, 2011 makes provision to the effect that a child's personal information shall only be subject to processing with parental consent

Universal Service Fund (USF)

The Universal Service Fund is administered by the LCA and partners with local corporations on connectivity initiatives. With a financial contribution from Vodacom Telecom Lesotho, the State Library in Lesotho has opened a new Insight Centre for visually impaired persons.²⁹ The centre has a braille translator and printer, and assistive reading devices. However, the LCA has not been willing to disclose USF funding or project activities and does not have any public reports of the same. The 2025 USF funding is therefore unknown. In previous reports, the LCA declined to disclose the financial records of the Fund, and this lack of disclosure and transparency contradicts the core principles of the ACHPR Declaration.

All telecommunications companies are required to contribute up to 2% of the net operating income to the Fund, part of which is used to expand network access to underserved and rural areas.

28. Lesotho Communications Authority, 2025. Child Online Protection Guidelines <https://lca.org.ls/legislation/> [Accessed on 18/03/2026]

29. Vodacom Lesotho Impact Booklet. (October 2024) https://www.vodacom.co.ls/assets/uploads/docs/Vodacom_Lesotho_Impact_Booklet_Oct_2024.pdf

Conclusion

The digital rights landscape in Lesotho has the potential to guarantee meaningful and safe participation online through various frameworks and strategies. Implementation is still a great challenge and therefore brings to light why there is a stark difference between paper and reality on the ground. Accessibility and internet connection are one of the categories that the country has made significant strides in, with about 65% coverage across the country. With the USF, digital inclusion is another low-hanging fruit that both the public and private sectors could leverage to ensure no one is left behind, both in ICT development and discourse as stakeholders. The government has taken strides to prepare for emerging technologies by developing a National AI Policy and the National Digital Transformation Strategy, 2030, which will be Lesotho's roadmap for governance of such innovations.

However, the insufficiency of existing legal and institutional mechanisms to promote and protect digital rights is of great concern, particularly in protecting personal data and privacy. The lack of a

data protection authority to regulate, as well as potential threats to surveillance. Another concern is the respect of the right to freedom of expression of citizens, activists and journalists. They are often subjected to harassment and intimidation by security institutions. Their right is also unjustifiably limited by existing laws, and faces potential threats from the draft Computer Crimes and Cybersecurity Bill, 2025. Lack of progress on draft bills, such as the Receipt and Access of Information bill, is another issue that requires urgent attention. The insufficiency of policy and legislative frameworks that address children's online safety and privacy is another issue that needs to be addressed with urgency. Lesotho's overall score is 34 as its compliance is mild and has critical gaps to be addressed in terms of its systems, institutions and legal measures.

Recommendations

The Government should:



- Pass the Receipt and Access of Information Bill 2021;
- Amend the wording of the offences in Part IV and their penalties of the CCCB, 2024 to address the potential threat of free media access to information in the interest of the public, and the right to freedom of expression as a whole.
- Ensure the operationalisation of the Data Protection Commission by allocating a budget to fund the Data Protection Secretariat.
- Repeal the Sedition Proclamation No. 44,1938 entirely; section 10(1) of the Printing and Publications Act, 1967.
- Adopt the National Digital Policy.
- Develop laws and policies on content moderation, children's online safety and meaningful connectivity for education.

Civil Society Organisations should:



- Provide financial and technical support to initiatives, programs and projects that advance digital rights and inclusion in Lesotho.

The Media should:



- Raise awareness of emerging issues in technological development and governance, and facilitate public discourse platforms.

Regulators (Lesotho Communications Authority and Data Protection Commission) should:



- Develop regulatory principles and guidelines on an equitable approach to broadband affordability and ensure intermediaries, MNOs and data processors' policies and standards align with international human rights standards.

Private Sector should:



- Partner with other relevant stakeholders and contribute technical skills, fiscal contribution and/or a platform for discourse on emerging tech development.
- Develop internal policies/codes of conduct that align with international human rights standards and report on content moderation and user data requests.

Academia should:









- Conduct relevant research to inform government policies and strategies on AI and emerging technologies, their governance and their potential social impact.



The Score Index



Lesotho, 2025

1 = Totally non-compliant; 2 = Mildly compliant; 3 = Moderately compliant;
4 = Considerably compliant; 5 = Fully compliant

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2025 Score	2025 Justification
Internet Shutdowns	P38(2)			Although there have been no reported internet shutdowns in Lesotho, the absence of legal frameworks that align with human rights standards on the right to freedom of expression online raises concerns about potential future shutdowns.
Inexistent laws, policies and other measures to promote universal, equitable, affordable and meaningful access to the internet	P37			The National Digital Policy intends to promote internet access. However, broadband affordability is a current hurdle to meaningful connectivity in Lesotho.
False News Criminalisation	P22(2)			Although there is no specific legislation criminalising false news. The proposed penalty for disinformation by the Cy-

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2024 Score	2025 Justification
				bersecurity and Computer Crimes Bill, 2024 is not proportional to the threat or harm caused by such misconduct.
Sedition Legislation	P22(2)			There is a Sedition law in existence which has not been repealed. Although it has not been applied for some time, its existence is still a threat and limits the right to freedom of expression.
Arbitrary Arrests and Harassments of the Media, HRDs and Citizens	P20(1) & (2)			The June and August 2025 incidents where a youth activist was arrested and the journalist falsely arrested are great concerns for threats against the right to freedom of expression. There have only been two recorded incidents in 2025.
Data Protection Legislation.	P42			There has been a law in place since 2011 but no Data Protection Commission to enforce it. There is also a need to revise a few provisions to align with current international standards on data Protection and Privacy.
States interfere and require the removal of online content by internet intermediaries	P22(2)			There has been only one request on Meta and none from Tiktok for content takedown by the government

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2024 Score	2025 Justification
Invasion of Privacy of Communications	P41			There is no law governing surveillance, particularly of private communication. MNOs have adopted internal policies to only issue out information requested if ordered by a court of law as of 2023.
Failure by the government to proactively disclose and disseminate information digital technologies.	P29(3)			Several government departments maintain websites and social media accounts. However, the greatest challenge is the lack of up-to-date, relevant public-interest information on these platforms.
AI and Emerging Technologies national strategies	P39(6)			The National AI Policy and the National Digital Transformation Strategy, 2024-2030 are the two frameworks on ICT development, in particular emerging technologies such as AI and comply with the UNESCO RAM and EIA.
Adoption of specific child laws, policies and measures promoting children's digital safety and privacy online	P37(5)			In 2025, the LCA developed guidelines on Children's online safety.

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2024 Score	2025 Justification
Digital Inclusion	P37(3)			<p>The USF within the LCA has played a vital role in improving network coverage in Lesotho through collaboration with the private sector to establish a centre for PWD to access assistive technologies.</p>
Total (out of 60):	2024: 31	<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 20px; text-align: center;"> <p>2025</p> <p>35</p> </div>		



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