



**APPEAL FOR HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE**

STATEMENT

BY:

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME
MINISTER
DR. MOTSOAHAE THOMAS THABANE**

16 DECEMBER, 2019

At the outset, allow me on behalf of the Government of Lesotho, and on my own behalf to extend our greetings to you all.

On 30 October, 2019, the Government of Lesotho, declared Lesotho to be in a drought emergency. Allow me to recall that the Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) weather outlook 2019/2020, indicated that the country should expect predominantly dry weather conditions from October to December 2019 coupled with high temperatures. The outlook further indicated an improved rainfall situation going into January to March 2020. The forecast was produced against a background of a decrease in the level of production which had culminated in an estimated 508,125 people, comprising

433,410 rural population and 74,715 urban population who would be at risk of food insecurity during the 2019/2020 cropping season starting from August 2019. The number of food insecure population currently translates to an estimated **33** percent of rural population.

In addition, most water sources were already drying up making access to water for domestic use and animal consumption very difficult. The situation has further worsened the already poor pastures.

Currently there is severe water deficiency for human, livestock and industrial purposes throughout the country. These conditions are expected to worsen the deteriorating food,

nutrition and water situation. Livelihoods are at risk as a result of the water scarcity.

The predicted weather outlook is also expected to result in a number of impacts ranging from, pest infestation, water borne diseases, animal and human diseases and malnutrition.

The food security situation of the already identified 508,125 vulnerable people is expected to deepen as the season progresses into 2020. Vulnerable groups including people living with HIV and AIDS, OVC, malnourished children under the age of 5 years, pregnant and lactating mothers, disabled persons, and vulnerable able-bodied persons.

The Rapid Assessment conducted in early November by the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee in the Disaster Management Authority indicated that livestock condition is observed to be deteriorating. The findings show widespread water scarcity and water rationing, deteriorating livestock and pasture conditions, livestock deaths, and delayed start of the summer cropping season.

The findings furthermore show that basic services such as health have been affected to an extent that some clinics no longer conduct deliveries and cases of diarrhoea are increasing. In view of the current situation, there is need for immediate response to mitigate the impact

in the next six months that is December 2019 to May 2020.

I present here, the country's consolidated Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance intended to enable the Government to effectively respond to the challenges presented by the current drought. Under these conditions, it is the women and girls who are entrusted with collection of water for domestic use, vulnerable members of our communities including the elderly, people with cancer and people with disabilities are the ones who will suffer the most as the full might of the drought affects the country.

The emergency appeal we are making to you today will ensure that the vulnerable groups in Lesotho are provided necessary support to meet their basic needs. In order to respond effectively to the prevailing drought situation, the Government has put in place appropriate plans and strategies intended to address the challenges. Among others, the intention is to strengthen and speed up implementation of the component of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) II related to Water Management and Agriculture and Food Security as well as the National Strategic Resilience Framework (NSRF) aimed at strengthening the country's resilience to current and future shocks and stressors.

The strategies to be implemented include acquisition of medication for the expected outbreaks of animal diseases, awareness raising of the spread of cancer, strengthening of social transfer strategies for chronically vulnerable people and expansion of the public works programmes to accommodate vulnerable able bodied persons.

To respond to Health, Nutrition and Hygiene needs, the Government has included Supplementary feeding which will be provided for children under the age of five years, lactating women and people on Antiretroviral Treatment. In addition, water testing kits and purifying tablets, iodine testing kits, strengthening of existing nutrition and health

monitoring systems/Disease surveillance and nutrition monitoring will be some of the strategies employed in the sector.

In regard to scarcity of water, it will be necessary to identify sources of water which can be used to supply affected areas with adequate potable water, identify and develop new water sources including exploitation of underground sources and repair of broken water systems in order to make them functional.

To respond effectively to the emergency, it is estimated that a total of **One billion, one hundred and sixty-five million, six hundred and seventy-five thousand, six**

hundred and ninety-eight Maloti (M1,165,675,698) is required to procure water equipment and accessories, vaccinations, emergency food supplies, emergency medical supplies, agricultural inputs, and to undertake various development works identified as necessary for meeting the immediate needs of the affected populations. An amount of one hundred and sixty-five million, six hundred and seventy-five thousand, six hundred and ninety-eight Maloti (M165,675,698) will be made available from Government's own sources. This therefore, leaves a funding gap of one billion Maloti (M1,000,000,000) which the Government of Lesotho wishes to present to the international community and development

partners for assistance and support during this time. The international community's contribution and support will enable the Government to address the emergency needs from December, 2019 to May, 2020. The Government counts on your increased support and assistance to translate into concrete actions, the plans and strategies it has put in place to address the drought situation in the country.

Kea le lumelisa sechaba sa heso, metsoalle ea Lesotho le batho bohle ba boithatelo bo botle.

Re se re ile ra etsa phatlalatso ea koluoa ea komello le tlala tse otlileng Lesotho habohloko, empa ka ho fetisisa tsa siea batho ba fetang makholo a mahlano a likete ba le mahlomoleng, ba bang ba bona ba e-shoa hammoho le liphoofolo, ha komello eona e ntse e e-ja setsi le temo e nyotobela. Ho sa le joalo litsi tse ling tsa bophelo li se li sitoa ho fana ka litšebeletso ka lebaka la bosieo ba metsi. Kajeno ke ema mona ho etsa khoelehetso ho metsoalle ea rona, machaba a lefatše le batho bohle ba boithatelo bo botle. Ke re ho bona: "Oho re thuseng, khomo e oetse."

Ke teka kapele ho machaba a lefatše boipiletso ba Lesotho bo supang tsitsipano e tšoereng

sechaba sa Basotho 'me e sitisang tsoelopele le phano ea litšebeletso. Boipiletso bona ke mohoo oa phohomela ka tšepo ea hore re tla fumana bo-Mosamaria ba tla re pholosa re tsoe mona khohlong ea moriti oa lefu, re tsebe ho tsoelapele ka merero le meralo ea naha e kang NSDP II haholo-holo litabeng tsa metsi, ntlafatso ea temo le kanetso ea lijo, hammoho le tsitsiso ea moralo oa boitšematlelo ba sechaba khahlanong le mathata a ntseng a e-hloa mekoalaba ka lebaka la pheto-phetoho ea boemo ba leholimo.

Ke tiisa hore khahlametso eo re tla e fumana e tla re thusa ho fumanela Basotho:

- metsi, joalo ka ho epa metsi a ka tlasa lefatše le ho lokisa marang-rang a phepelo ea metsi metseng le metsaneng ea rona;
- lijo tsa batho le tsa liphoofolo nakong ena e mahlonoko;

- litlhare tsa batho le liphoofolo ho loantša mafu a bakoang ke komello le tlala; lefu la mofetše (cancer)
- mesebetsi ea fato-fato ho aha thepa ea sechaba e tla re loanela kamoso; le
- tlhahiso ea lijo ka bongata e le ho thibela hore boemo bona bo se hlole bo ipheta nakong e tlang.

Basotho baheso, metsoalle le machaba ohle a lefatše ntumelleng ke thethe polelo ena ka ho supa hore komello le tlala tsa monongoaha li re hloka Maloti a Billione e le 'ngoe, Limillione tse lekholo le mashome a tšeletseng a metso e mehlano, Likete tse tšeletseng le mashome a supileng a metso e mehlano, makholo a tšeletseng le mashome a robong a metso e robeli **(M1,165,675,698)**. 'Muso oa Lesotho o se o itlamme hore o tla ntša Maloti a limillione li lekholo le mashome a tšeletseng a metso e mehlano, likete tse tšeletseng le mashome a

supileng a metso e mehlano, makholo a tšeletseng le mashome a robong a metso e robeli **(M165,675,698)**. Kahoo, sekheo sa billione e le 'ngoe ea Maloti (M1,000,000,000) ke sona seo re kopang thuso mabapi le koluoana ea tlala e bakiloeng ke komello eo re leng ka hara eona.

Molimo o hlohonolofatse letsoho le fanang ho ba tlokotsing.

**MOLIMO O BOLOKE LESOTHO LE
BASOTHO KA LINAKO TSOHLE.**

KHOTSO!! PULA!! NALA!!