

**MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, CHIEF THESELE MASERIBANE ON THE
OCCASION OF THE CYBER SECURITY MATURITY MODEL (CMM)
WORKSHOP**

Lesotho's vision 2020 and National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) have identified Information Communication Technology (ICT)'s as the backbone of Lesotho's economy.

The African Union (AU) 2030 development agenda as well as the United Nations (UN) Strategic Development Goals (SDG)'s also clearly spells out that any developmental achievement will never be registered without the use and adoption of new technologies.

At the present moment, the majority of our people, most of whom live in remote and rural villages do not have access to modern ICT telecommunication infrastructure. This has caused a grave concern for the Lesotho government, hence why, the government of Lesotho has adopted an approach, code named "**Connect a village**". With this approach, it is expected that rural coverage costs will be reduced by 70%, thereby accelerating delivery of internet and voice services to our citizens who reside in hardest to reach places.

The evolution of the **Fourth Industrial Revolution** has brought with it many technological advances in a number of fields including robotics, artificial intelligence and virtual realities to mention but a few. While it remains uncertain how this whole revolution will unfold, as the

government of Lesotho we understand the importance of forging strong ties with the private sector, education and security institutions hence this **Cybersecurity Maturity Model (CMM)** workshop. On its part, the government of Lesotho has formed the e-cabinet subcommittee, which will play an oversight role on all ICT related matters in the country.

The workshop takes place under the understanding that although each new wave of digital transformation brings with it more convenience to the individual citizen, the government and the private sector alike; making them a deeply engrossed part of most of our everyday lives, they also leave everyone prone to abundance cybercrimes.

Each convenience brought by new technologies be it, online banking, online shopping, access to e-government applications and even social networking sites exposes users to cybercrimes like identity theft, fraud and hacking thus there should be intensive deliberations on how best to approach cybersecurity issues.

It is with this understanding therefore, that with the assistance of the World Bank and the Global Cybersecurity Capacity Centre of the university of Oxford, together with stakeholders from across government ministries and private sector agencies will convene over 3 days (**19 February – 21 February, 2019**) in Maseru to discuss the risks & threats that come with the applicable ways of protecting each one

of us against eminent cyber threats and crimes while we traverse and transact in the cyberspace.

Regarding the Cybersecurity and related legislations, the ministry of Communications, Science & Technology is glad to announce that the Computer Crime & Cybersecurity bill and Electronic Transactions & E-commerce bill have been approved by cabinet and are now with the parliamentary council for drafting.