

**STATEMENT OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF
COMMUNICATIONS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
CHIEF THESELE 'MASERIBANE ON THE OCCASION OF
THE CYBER SECURITY WORKSHOP**

Honourable Ministers here present

Principal Secretaries

Government Officials

The Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the consultants of the World Bank Global Cybersecurity Capacity Centre, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) representative, the University of Oxford representative and all stakeholders here present. I would also like to express my gratitude on behalf of the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology, and on my own behalf, for the support extended to the Government of Lesotho in matters relating to cybersecurity. This Cybersecurity workshop comes at the opportune time when the government of Lesotho has just formed **e-cabinet** subcommittee to oversee all ICT related activities in the country.

It is an honour and privilege for me to be part of this important workshop that has been organized by the World Bank and the University of Oxford. It's my pleasure to announce that this workshop takes place at the adequate time when the Ministry of Communications will table the Computer Crime & Cybersecurity Bill during the current

1st session of the 9th Parliament. Currently the bill is with the parliamentary council for review and drafting.

We will all acknowledge that the cyber threat faced by Lesotho and the world at large, is increasingly sophisticated, transboundary and asymmetric in nature, hence a need for appropriate legal frameworks as well as unified international approach. Besides the legal frameworks, we are in the process of building adequate capacity of the legislators regarding this matters of cybersecurity and the related skills.

Cyber incidents do not merely cause financial and data loss, but they also have a catastrophic impact on our inter-connected Critical Infrastructure, economic activity and regional connectivity. **They erode public trust in governments and this is fundamental.** Hence, our pursuit of Lesotho's digital ambition must be sustained by our commitment to strengthening our cybersecurity infrastructure as well as institutions that have a direct link to this initiative.

Cybersecurity cannot be viewed or addressed from a single perspective. It is a threat that cuts across many domains, and therefore it requires a multi-disciplinary response. Hence, a need to organise our government and non-governmental agencies to forge working relations and explore different means to deal with cybersecurity.

It is my sincere understanding that at the end of this workshop, participants will come up with measures and clear guidelines as to how we can improve our national cybersecurity initiatives and thus reach the next level in our cybersecurity program.

On that note, I wish you fruitful deliberations and therefore declare this workshop officially opened.

Thank you.