



**ROYAL PALACE
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III

**AT THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER NATIONAL DIALOGUE
PLENARY II**

**"THE LESOTHO WE WANT – DIALOGUE AND REFORMS
FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION"**

MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTRE

MASERU

27 NOVEMBER, 2019



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

**HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, SADC
FACILITATOR TO LESOTHO,**

HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF SENATE,

HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,

HER LORDSHIP ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE,

**RETIRED DEPUTY CHIEF JUSTICE DIKGANG MOSENEKE, HEAD OF
THE SADC FACILITATION SUPPORT TEAM,**

**EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS,**

**HONOURABLE SENATORS AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,**

BARUTI BA MOSHOESHOE,

ALL INVITED DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

SECHABA SA THESELE,



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IT IS WITH GREAT JOY, PRIDE AND GRATITUDE THAT WE ARE ALL GATHERED HERE TODAY, EXACTLY ONE YEAR AFTER THE FIRST MULTI-STAKEHOLDER NATIONAL DIALOGUE PLENARY, TO CELEBRATE AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE OF OUR NATIONAL DIALOGUE AND REFORMS PROCESS. TODAY'S HISTORIC EVENT MARKS YET ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT IN OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TOWARDS BUILDING A NEW LESOTHO THAT WE WILL ALL BE PROUD OF.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, BASOTHO, FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE PARTICIPATED WITH ENTUSIASIM IN THIS DIALOGUE EXERCISE. THEY CAME TOGETHER, MOTIVATED BY A STRONG SENSE OF PATRIOTISM, TO OFFER IDEAS AND VIEWS THAT COULD HELP TO BUILD THE LESOTHO THAT WE WANT AND DESERVE. BASOTHO, BOTH IN LESOTHO AND IN THE DIASPORA, SPOKE WITH A CLEAR



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AND LOUD VOICE ON THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND DESIRES FOR THE LESOTHO THEY WANT. THEREFORE, THE RIGHT THING TO DO NOW AND IN THE DAYS AHEAD, WOULD BE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO IMPLEMENT THE REFORMS, TO FAITHFULLY TRANSLATE THOSE VIEWS AND ASPIRATIONS INTO REALITY. LET ME REMIND YOU OF A POPULAR LATIN IDIOM THAT SAYS "VOX ^{Populi} ~~PLI~~, VOX DEI" WHICH MEANS "THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE IS THE VOICE OF GOD"

THIS DAY, OR THIS EVENT, WILL HOPEFULLY, GO DOWN IN THE ANNALS OF HISTORY AS THE DAY OR EVENT THAT OPENED A NEW PATH LEADING TO LASTING PEACE, STABILITY, FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY FOR EVERY MOSOTHO. THROUGH THIS EVENT, AND SUBSEQUENT PROCESSES, WE ARE DEMONSTRATING OUR COLLECTIVE DETERMINATION TO RECAPTURE OUR REPUTATION AS A NATION OF PEACE; AND IN DOING SO I HOPE WE WILL STAND



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TOGETHER, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, TO BUILD A COUNTRY THAT WILL BE THE ENVY OF THE WORLD – A LESOTHO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BE PROUD TO CALL THEIR HOME.

EXCELLENCIES,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WHEN WE BEGAN THIS JOURNEY TWO YEARS AGO, DIVISIONS AND DIFFERENCES AMONG US AS A NATION WERE VERY GLARING, BECAUSE OF DEEPLY ENTRENCHED POLITICAL POLIRISATION. THE SECURITY SITUATION IN LESOTHO WAS PRECARIOUS, CAUSING SOME OF OUR COUNTRYMEN TO FLEE THEIR HOMES AND SEEK REFUGE ACROSS THE BORDER. MANY HAD LITTLE HOPE THAT MEANINGFUL PROGRESS WOULD EVER BE MADE. I WOULD BE DISHONEST IF I SAID ALL OF THOSE PROBLEMS HAVE NOW



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GONE AWAY, BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T. BUT WE SHOULD ALL TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK THE ALMIGHTY FOR THE LAUDABLE STRIDES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE SO FAR DESPITE THOSE WELL KNOWN CHALLENGES. IF IT WERE NOT FOR HIS GRACE, WE WOULD NOT BE WHERE WE ARE TODAY. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE ENTIRE BASOTHO NATION AND ITS LEADERSHIP FOR THEIR PATIENCE, COMMITMENT AND RESOLVE TO STAY THE COURSE.

THE SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED TO THE DIALOGUE PROCESS IS WORTH SPECIAL COMMENDATION. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THROUGH THE HELP OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) AND WITH THE COOPERATION AND ACTIVE ROLE OF MY GOVERNMENT, SOME LEADERS WHO HAD SOUGHT REFUGE IN OTHER COUNTRIES FOR POLITICAL REASONS



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RETURNED HOME IN DUE TIME TO BE PART IN THE REFORMS PROCESS. AS WE MOVE FORWARD, I WISH TO ASSURE YOU OF MY GOVERNMENT'S FULL COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT ALL BASOTHO WHO STILL REMAIN OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY FOR SECURITY AND/OR POLITICAL REASONS, RETURN HOME TO TAKE PART IN BUILDING A NEW NATION AND COUNTRY.

MY SINCERE GRATITUDE ALSO GOES TO SADC FOR THEIR UNWAVERING SUPPORT DURING THOSE TIMES OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS.

THE COMMITMENT THAT OUR FELLOW SADC LEADERS DEMONSTRATED TOWARDS A PEACEFUL AND SECURE LESOTHO HAS NOT GONE UNRECOGNIZED. MANY SADC COUNTRIES HAVE NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTED FINANCIALLY, BUT HAVE ALSO DEPLOYED MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL TO HELP CALM



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THE SITUATION IN LESOTHO. AT THIS JUNCTURE, ALLOW ME TO RECALL, SADLY, THAT DURING THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE SAPMIL CONTINGENT, TWO PRECIOUS LIVES OF SADC SOLDIERS WERE LOST IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE IN OUR COUNTRY. TO THE FAMILIES AND COUNTRIES OF THE SAID PERSONNEL, WE WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES.

IN THE SAME VEIN, I WISH TO THANK PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA AND THE SADC FACILITATION SUPPORT TEAM, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF RETIRED DEPUTY CHIEF JUSTICE MOSENEKE, FOR THEIR CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT IN LESOTHO. IN THE TRUE BROTHERLY SPIRIT CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS, YOU DEDICATED AND COMMITTED YOUR TIME AND RESOURCES TO THE LESOTHO NATIONAL REFORMS PROCESS. WE WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR



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EFFORTS HAVE NOT BEEN IN VAIN. THIS ENGAGEMENT HAS NOT DOUBT LEAD TO THE DEEPNING OF THE FRIENDSHIP, RESPECT AND LOVE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

IT WOULD BE REMISS OF ME NOT TO THANK OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION, FOR THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OUR REFORMS PROCESS. IN PARTICULAR, WE COMMEND THEM FOR ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE REFORMS BELONG TO BASOTHO AND THAT IT IS BASOTHO WHO HAVE TO DECIDE ON THE KIND OF LESOTHO THEY WANT, BY DOING AN HONOURABLE ACT OF AGREEING TO SUPPORT US WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS. IT IS OUR SINCERE WISH THAT THE COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS, THE EUROPEAN UNION AND LESOTHO CONTINUE TO FLOURISH.



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EQUALLY, WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE PLANNING COMMITTEE (NDPC) FOR DILIGENTLY GUIDING THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE PROCESS. WE KNOW THAT MISTAKES MAY HAVE HAPPENED ALONG THE WAY, BUT YOUR COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO THE TASK HAS BEEN BEYOND REPROACH. AS YOU GO BACK TO YOUR PREVIOUS DUTIES AND OCCUPATIONS, PLEASE DRAW COMFORT FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE NATION OWES ^{you} A HUGE DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

THE GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL TEAM, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARY, ALSO DID A STERLING JOB. LET US NOT FORGET THAT THIS TEAM WAS FORMED AT THE VERY CONCEPTUAL STAGE OF THE REFORMS. IT IS THIS TEAM THAT GAVE BIRTH TO ALL THE REFORMS PROCESSES AND STRUCTURES THAT WE HAVE TODAY. DESPITE MANY CHALLENGES IN THE EXECUTION OF THEIR DUTIES IN THE



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REFORMS, THESE PUBLIC OFFICIALS REMAINED ONBOARD. THEIR SACRIFICES AND DEDICATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO A NEW LESOTHO SHALL REMAIN INDELIBLY PRINTED IN OUR HEARTS.

SECHABA SA HESO,

HA RE NE RE SIMOLLA LEETO LENA, TŠEPO EA HORE MOSEBETSI ONA O TLA ATLEHA E NE E FOKOLA, EMPA LETSATSING LENA RE HETLA MORAO KA THABO HA RE BONA TEMA EO RE E KHATHILENG. KE NE KE IPILETSE HO LONA, LE BAETAPELE BA LONA, QALONG EA MOSEBETSI ONA HORE RE HOPOLENG LITABA TSE LING TSA MORENA MOSHOESHOE I MOO A NENG ARE " O KA NKETSANG HA E AHE MOTSE, MOTSE HO AHOA OA MORAPALI THESELE" HAPE KA LE KOPA HORE MOSEBETSING ONA OA BOHLOKOAHALI LE HLOKE BOIKHABO, 'ME LE TSEBE HORE SECHABA LE NAHA LI TLA PELE HO TSOHLE. LIKATLEHO TSEO RE LIFIHLETSENG HO FIHLELA MONA,



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KE LETŠOAO LA HORE LIKOPO TSEO TSA KA LI ILE TSA ANANELOA,
'ME KE MONA 'MOKA ONA OA BOBELI OA LIPUISANO TSA TLHOPHO
BOCHA DATLEHILE.

KHETLONG LENA KE KHOLISEHILE HORE BOHLE RE IKEMISELITSE
HO FETOHA, LE HONA HO KHUTLISA SERITI SA RONA, ETSOE RE
NE SE RE FETOHILE SESOMO LE SETŠEHISA KA HARE HO
HLOAHLOA ENA EA AFRICA E KA BOROA.

PINA EA RONA EA SECHABA ENA LE MANTSOE A RENG:

***"LESOTHO FATŠE LA BO NTATA RONA, HARA MAFATŠE LE LETLE
KE LONA,***

KE MOO RE HLAHILENG, KE MOO RE HOLILENG, RE EA LERATA,



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**MOLIMO A KU BOLOKE LESOTHO, O FELISE LINTOA LE
MATŠOENYEHO,**

OHO FATŠE LENA, LA BO NTATA RONA, LE BE LE KHOTSO”,

E SE EKA HA RE NTSE RE TSOELAPELE KA LEETO LENA LA
TLHOPHO BOCHA RE KA UTLUISISA E LE KANNETE MOELELO LE
BOTEBO BA PINA ENA EO E LENG THAPELO EA RONA BASOTHO.
KE TŠEPO EA KA E KHOLO HORE HA MANTSOE A PINA LE THAPELO
ENA EA RONA A KA THOPHOTHELA LIPELONG TSA RONA RE KA
TLOHELA LITLOAELO LE MEKHOA EA RONA EA HO PHELISANA KA
LITOANTŠANO LE LIKHANG TSE SA HLOKAHALENG.

NTUMELLENG HO PHETA LIFELA BAHESO KA HO LE HOPOTSA
HORE TLHOPHO BOCHA KA BO EONA HA SE MAKHONA TSOHLE A



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TLO RE HLOLELA LIQHOLOTSO TSA RONA TSOHLE. RE KA BA LE
MELAO E METLE KA HO FETISISA LEFATŠENG, EMPA HA FEELA
RE SA FETOLE LIPELO TSA RONA LE LITLOAELO TSA RONA TSE
lula re hamela lebateng.
SOTO, RE TLA ~~HAMELA LETANGTENG~~. KA HONA, TLHOPHO BOCHA
E TLAMEHA HO QALA LIPELONG TSA RONA KA BOMONG RE LE
BATHO. KAOFELA HA RE KOPENG MORENA MOLIMO A RE THUSE, A
lipelong tsa rona
KENYE MOEA OA LERATO LA NAHA, LERATO LA SECHABA SA
BASOTHO, LE MOEA OA KUTLOELANO BOHLOKO.

BAHLOMPHEHI, BO MME LE BO NTATE,

HA KE PHETELA POLELO EAKA, KE LAKATSA HO LEBOHA 'MUSO
OA LESOTHO KA TSELA E KHETHEHILENG KA BOIKITLAETSO BA
ONA MOSEBETSING ONA, LE HONA HO TŠEHETSA MOSEBETSI
KA LICHELETE. KE LEBOHA LE BAETAPELE BOHLE BA SECHABA
HO KENYELLETSA LE MAKHOTLA A BOHANYETSI KA



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PARAMENTENG. BOHLE BASOTHO BA KENTSENG LETSOHO TŠEBETSONG ENA KE EA LE LEBOHA. KE LEBOHA HAPE SADC LE NAHA EA AFRIKA BOROA, KA PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA LE LETSOHO LA HAE LE LETONA, MOAHLOLI LIKGHANG MOSENEKE, MOKHATLO OA MACHABA A KOPANENG (UN), LE MOKHATLO OA LINAHA TSA EUROPE (EUROPEAN UNION), KA TŠEHETSO EA BONA. RE LEBOHA HAPE LEKHOTLA LA TSAMAISO EA LIPUISANO TSA NAHA (NDPC), LE BAHLANKA BA SECHABA (GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL TEAM), EKASITANA LE MEKHATLO E IKEMETSENG KA BOITELo BA BONA TŠEBETSONG ENA.

ALLOW ME, THEREFORE, EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO OFFICIALLY DECLARE THIS MULTI-STAKEHOLDER NATIONAL DIALOGUE PLENARY II OFFICIALLY CLOSED.

MOLIMO O BOLOKE LESOTHO LE BASOTHO.



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KHOTSO! PULA! NALA!