



REMARKS

BY

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

**AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE SECOND
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER NATIONAL DIALOGUE**

PLENARY

MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTRE

MASERU

27 NOVEMBER, 2019

Your Majesty King Letsie III,

**Your Excellency President Cyril
Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of
South Africa and the SADC Facilitator to
Lesotho,**

Honourable President of Senate,

**Honourable Speaker of the National
Assembly,**

Her Ladyship the Acting Chief Justice

**Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and
our Government Coalition Partners**

**Honourable Ministers and Deputy
Ministers**

**Honourable Members of Parliament and
Principal Chiefs**

**Your Lordship Retired Deputy Chief
Justice Dikgang Moseneke, Head of the
SADC Facilitation Team and the
Facilitation Team,**

**Representative of the SADC Executive
Secretary, Mr. Kabanga,**

**Heads of Diplomatic Missions and
International Organisations,**

All Invited Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with a deep sense of humility and gratitude that I stand before you today to deliver brief remarks at this landmark occasion. The National Reforms terrain has

been long, arduous and certainly not without challenges. The journey which began in 2012 is only coming to fruition seven years later. Uncertainties and suspicions clouded the genesis of this reforms process. We had to climb mountains and cross the rivers of despair to come this far.

You will recall that following the 2017 National Elections, His Majesty's Government resolved to prioritize National Reforms that are transparent and inclusive. We did so with a view to changing our political and security trajectory. We may wish to recall that the political landscape in Lesotho has historically been characterised by varying turbulence, with some Parliaments not being able to finish

their five year constitutional terms. Relations among Politicians and our Political Parties have been rocky while security challenges had become part of us. All these factors underlined the need for Lesotho to urgently change course.

Today, the conclusion of our National Dialogue process has dawned upon us. Over the past two days we have had intense and yet fruitful discussions on what options are available to give effect to what Basotho have said they want. I am delighted about the significant progress that we have made. The long meetings that we have held over the past year and the attendant sacrifices that we have made have not been in vain. As we

leave this hall, we shall do so with joy and confidence that the National Reforms Authority has a clear mandate to turn the desires of Basotho into reality.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On the 25th November, 2018 His Majesty King Letsie III stood on this very spot and charged the first plenary to undertake this reforms journey with sincerity, mindful of the duty bestowed upon its participants to contribute to a Lesotho that Basotho would indeed be proud of. It is, therefore, befitting to recognise all the efforts and inputs made by different stakeholders, from the ordinary

Mosotho in the village through participation in the public engagements, to the tireless efforts made by the organisations and individuals who made the whole process feasible.

Your Majesty, you will be happy to hear that Your subjects have been consulted both in Lesotho and in the diaspora. Although best efforts were made to reach Basotho wherever they were, some still courageously travelled long distances, while some endured harsh weather conditions to participate in the public consultations. Various expertise was engaged to work on the submissions in order to capture the essence of the numerous submissions. Thus, Final decisions have been

taken in this Second Plenary based on those inputs.

We are a nation founded on Peace and unity. Our Great Founder, King Moshoeshoe I, built Lesotho on a foundation of consensus, peace and diplomacy. Even as we move forward with implementation of the reforms, let us do so with brotherly and sisterly love and with understanding and compassion. We owe it to our country, People and Leaders, to unify Basotho and lead this country to prosperity. As we do so, let us take inspiration in the Devine Book which says **“Ntlo e itoantsang e fetoha lesupi”** – which is translated **“A house that is divided cannot stand”**.

Sechaba sa Heso,

Leeto lena leo re le tsamaileng ho fihlela mona la Lipuisano tsa Thlopho-Bocha, le re hopotsa ka 'nete le ka tieo hore ***"lehlahalela le lla ka le leng"***, etsoe **Mosotho o ee a re *"bohlale ha bo ahaele ntloana-'ngoe"***. Re le Basotho re qalile leeto lena re qaqolohane ka maikutlo haholo, empa ka mamello le mamellano, ekasitana le kutloelano bohloko, mafapha ohle a kene lipuisanong ka boitebalo ho fihlela mothating ona oo Basotho kaofela ba fihletseng tumellano le chebelo-pele 'moho ka tlhopho-bocha ea Naha ea habo bona.

Ntumelleng, lebitsong la 'Muso oa Lesotho le lebitsong laka, hore ke le lebohe bohle ho tsoa boteng ba pelo eaka ka mosebetsi o khabane oo le o fihletseng. Ke leboha NDPC, Lekhotla la Mekhatlo e ikemetseng, Lekhotla la Likereke Lesotho, le bohle ba etelletseng pele likarolo tse fapakaneng tsa Lipuisano tsena tsa Sechaba. Marena a Sehloho 'moho le Marena ohle a libaka a entse mosebetsi o moholo ho atlehisa morero ona oa Tlhopho Bocha ka ho mema lipitso le ho ts'ehetsa lenane lena ka mekhoha e meng e mengata. Kea le leboha bana ba Moshoeshe. Ke tumelo eaka e felletseng hore Morena Molimo O tla re hauhela re fumane khotso ea moshoelella le boiketlo 'moho le kholo ea moruo.

Ho ee ho thoe Moprofeta ha a bokoe ha habo, empa ntumelleng letsatsing la kajeno ke fetole taba eo ka ho thoholetsa le ho ananela ts'ebetso e khabane ea Bahlanka ba Sechaba **(Government Technical Team)** ba ileng ba ts'epeloa ho thusa 'Muso le Naha ho tlosa **leoto** litabeng tsena tsa Tlhopho-Bocha. Ba sebelitse lihora tse sa tloaelehang ka lisebelisoa tsa bona boholo ba nako, molemong oa hore Naha ea rona e tlohe seretseng seo e leng ka hare ho sona. Banna le Basali ba heso mofufutso oa lona ha o na ho tsoela boeeng joalo ka oa ntja.

Ekaba phoso e kholo ha nkake ka leboha Komitjana e ileng ea thehoa ke tulo ea Baetapele ba Naha (National Leaders Forum

Sub-Committee) ho atametsa litlaleho tsa litsibi haufi le rona. Ruri ke hloletsoe ke bokhabane le boitelo boo banna le basali bana ba Basotho ba sebelitseng ka bona ka nako e khuts'oanyane ba bile ba hloka lisebelisuo tse phethahetseng. Ba ile ba tela mofuthu oa malapa a bona, ba sebetsa bosiu le mots'eare ka boithaopo, empa ka makhethe a hlolang. Ha ke na mantsoe a lekaneng a teboho ho lona. Ke ipiletsa ho bohle ba amehang hore ha teboho ea rona e se be e tsóanang le matséliso a se nang phofo.

We are also deeply grateful to SADC and our Development Partners, in particular the UNDP and the European Union, for their gracious financial and technical support without which

we could not have reached where we are today. We pledge our full cooperation with these Partners in the road ahead.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is now my singular honour and privilege to request you to stand up as I humbly invite His Majesty King Letsie III to deliver His keynote address.

**Your Majesty ntate ke ea u mema u
buoe le sechaba sa hau se mametse
ntate!**