

The Right Honourable the Prime Minister, Dr. Motsoahae Thomas Thabane,

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

Honourable President of Senate,

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,

Her Ladyship the Acting Chief Justice,

Retired Deputy Chief Justice, Ntate Dikgang Moseneke - Head of the SADC Facilitation Support Team,

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister,

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers,

Representative of the SADC Executive Secretary,

Excellencies Heads of Diplomatic Mission and International Organisations,

Honourable Senators and Principal Chiefs,

Honourable Members of the National Assembly,

Baruti Ba Moshoeshe,

All Invited Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sechaba sa Thesele,

It is with great joy 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 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 enthusiasm 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 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 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 that will follow, we are demonstrating our determination to recapture or regain our reputation as a Nation of peace. And in so doing, I hope we will stand

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 polarization. The security situation in Lesotho was precarious, causing some of our country men to flee their homes and seek refuge across the border. Many had little hope that meaningful progress would be made. I would be dishonest if I said all of those problems have now 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 these well-known and well documented 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 the Government, some Leaders who had sought refuge in other countries for political reasons returned home in due time and took 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 to us during those times of trial and tribulation. 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 to our course, but have also contributed sacrificially by deployment of military and civilian personnel to help calm the situation in Lesotho. At this juncture, allow me to recall, with sadness, 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 efforts have not been in vain. This engagement has no doubt led to the deepening of friendship, respect and love between our two countries and people.

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**”, and they did this honourable act by 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 will continue to flourish.

Equally, we are grateful to the National Dialogue Planning Committee (NDPC) for diligently guiding the National Dialogue Process. Yes 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 this process. 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 reforms, these Public Officials remained onboard. Their sacrifices and dedication to contributing 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, Mothehi oa Sechaba sa rona, moo a neng a re **“O ka nketsang ha e ahe motse, motse ho ahoa oa morapeli Thesele”**. Hape ka le kopa hore mosebetsing ona oa bohlokoahali le hloke boikhabo, `me le tsebe hore Sechaba le Naha li tla pele ho lintho tsohle.

Likatileho tseo le li fihletseng ho fihlela mona, ke letsóao la hore likopo tseo tsaka li ile tsa ananeloa, `me ke mona `moka ona oa Bobeli oa Lipuisanao tsena tsa Tlhopho Bocha o atlehile. Ketlong lena ke kholisehile hore bohle re ikemiselitse ho fetoha le hona ho khutlisa seriti sa rona

etsoe re ne se re fetohile sesomo le sets'ehisa ka hare ho Hloahloa ena ea Afrika 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 le rata,

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 tsoela pele ka leeto lena la Tlhopho Bocha re ka utloisisa e le kannete moelelo le botebo ba pina ena eo e leng thapelo ea rona Basotho. Ke ts'epo eaka e kholo hore ha mantsoe a pina ena a ka thopothela lipelong le likellelong tsa rona, re ka tlohela litloaelo le

mekhoa ea rona ea ho phelisana ka litoants'oano 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 tlo re hlolela liqholotso tsa rona tsohle. Re ka ba le melao e metle e fetang melao eohle lefatšeng, empa ha feela re sa fetole lipelo tsa rona le likelello tsa rona, ha fela re sa fetole le litloaelo tsa rona tse soto, re tla lula re hamela letang teng. 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 kenye lipelong tsa rona moea oa lerato la Naha, lerato la Sechaba sa Basotho le moea oa kutloelano bohloko.

Bahlomphehi baka,

Bo `Me 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 ona ka lichelete. Ke leboha le Baetapele bohle ba Sechaba ho kenyelletsa le Makhotla a bohanyetsi ka 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 Dikgang 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.

Bo 'Me le bo Ntate,

Sechaba sa Heso,

Allow me, therefore, **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,** to conclude and to officially declare this Multi-Stakeholder National Dialogue Plenary II officially closed.

Molimo O boloke Lesotho le Basotho.

KHOTSO! PULA! NALA!