



THE STATEMENT

**BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE
PRIME MINISTER,**

DR. MOTSOAHAE THOMAS THABANE

MASERU

20 FEBRUARY, 2020

**His Majesty King Letsie III,
Members of the Media,
Sechaba sa Basotho ka kakaretso.**

One of the great Leaders that our Continent has ever had, namely **Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe**, once said that; *"True leadership demands complete subjugation of self, absolute honesty, integrity and uprightness of character, courage and fearlessness and above all a consuming love for one's people"*. These words of this great Son of Africa will, undoubtedly, remain immortal and indeed a compass that every leader must religiously follow while in office.

About four weeks ago, I announced to my fellow country men and women and to the entire international community that I have decided to retire from office as Prime Minister of His Majesty's Government – a move which will also naturally lead to my sojourn in active politics. When I made that announcement, I did so with all sincerity because of the consuming love that I have for my People. For the past 55 years, I have served my country diligently and selflessly. My desire has always been to contribute to uplifting my people out of poverty and hunger. I have worked for a peaceful and stable Lesotho which assures every Mosotho

of freedom, respect for human rights and prosperity. These lofty ideals may not have been fully realized, but, the truth is that some strides have been made towards their achievement. Over the years I have learned that peace does not always come when you expect it to come, but that it must be earned with purpose and hard fought battles. You have to daily work for it, doing the right things in your life to obtain it.

Sechaba sa Heso,

Today I wish to reiterate my announcement to retire from office. I might still have the necessary zeal and fervor to continue serving

my People and Country, but the truth is that at my age I have lost most of my energy. I am not as energetic as I used to be a few years ago. Not only does the job of Prime Minister require sensory perception, but rapid reaction and physical strength are also a necessity for the incumbent in that office. **In this connection, I wish to, with all humility, announce that I effectively retire as Prime Minister with effect from the end of July this year, or at an earlier date if all the requisite preparations for my retirement are completed before then.** I hope that the remaining months that I will spend in office

will afford Parliament and my Party enough time to work on the transitional arrangements.

I am confident that my Party and Parliament will come up with a suitable candidate who will carry the mantle from me and lead Lesotho to lasting peace, stability and prosperity. Beyond that date, I pledge to always avail myself for any advice or guidance that may be needed by my successor.

To the one who will succeed me, please know that being Prime Minister is a calling. It is a calling to serve selflessly and not to be

served. I encourage him or her to be a visionary leader who espouses integrity, humility, accountability, empathy, resilience and positivity. I urge Members of Parliament to choose a leader who will inspire our people to achieve things they never thought they could ever achieve.

I have communicated this message to His Majesty King Letsie III. I also paid a visit, together with Deputy Prime Minister, to His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, a few days ago, to formally inform him of my decision to retire, both as a friendly neighbour and in his capacity as SADC Facilitator to Lesotho. We are all witnesses

to the commitment and remarkable work that President Ramaphosa and the Republic of South Africa have been doing in helping Lesotho find lasting peace and stability. It was only proper that we paid him a visit and formally inform him about my decision to retire.

My fellow Country Men and Women,

It is very unfortunate that some have deliberately decided to distort my decision to retire, either motivated by hate or for political gain. I appeal to all Basotho not to intentionally misconstrue my announcement to retire from office. This decision has been

the hardest to make in my over half a century career in the Public Service. I have been battling with this idea for more than a year now, particularly because serving my people and seeing them prosper is all that I live for. Consequently, retiring when the road to peace and prosperity is still long and winding is, understandably, a hard call for me. Nevertheless, I have confidence that the 4X4 Government, as well as our Parliament, will provide sterling leadership towards marshalling our People and Country to lasting peace and prosperity.

My appeal to Members of Parliament is that even as they differ in ideology and approach to issues, they should always have unity of purpose and remain loyal to their call. They must remember that as Leaders, they wield a lot of influence on Basotho. Their actions and utterances may make or break our Nation. All they do should be motivated by patriotism and ***“complete subjugation of self, absolute honesty, integrity and uprightness of character, courage and fearlessness and above all a consuming love for one’s people”***.

They should never let their judgment be clouded by hatred, jealousy and other negative considerations. Indeed, it is not their hatred for me as a person, or for any Leader for that matter, that will change Lesotho's political, social and economic trajectory, but it is selfless acts of kindness, love and compassion for Basotho, as well as hard work that will usher in an era of true freedom and prosperity for Lesotho and Basotho.

Basotho ba batle,

Even as I retire from office, I urge you not to forget that we have undertaken a very

important journey in our post-independence history – a journey that will culminate with implementation of Comprehensive National Reforms. My passion for reforms has always been evident. When I had the privilege to lead our First Coalition Government in 2012, I prioritized national reforms. It would be recalled that we even dispatched a high level delegation to New Zealand for a benchmarking exercise. It was not surprising, therefore, that our main priority as the 4X4 Government is National Reforms. Today, significant milestones have been made. Through the guidance of the Reforms Roadmap that we adopted in December

2017, and with the assistance of our Development Partners, we launched a successful National Dialogue Process, which resulted with the establishment of the National Reforms Authority (NRA). It is our hope that the NRA will not reinvent the wheel or start the process afresh but, that it will, with all sincerity, implement the dictates of Basotho as enshrined in the Multi-Stakeholder National Dialogue Plenary II Report.

I wish to reiterate my call to all Leaders to unreservedly support the ongoing Comprehensive Reforms process. Even as you do so, please remember that stability is a

sine qua non for the success of the Reforms. Going for elections, for example, under the current constitutional and legal dispensation will only serve to perpetuate instability and lack of service delivery. Let us, therefore, channel all our efforts towards reforming our beloved Motherland.

It will take all of us, as a collective, to redeem our country from doom and reclaim our rightful place within the community of nations as a stable, prosperous and peaceful nation. I pray to God Almighty to grant you the serenity to put Basotho and Lesotho first.

I encourage my successor and all parties in Parliament, and outside of Parliament, to be steadfast in taking the nation on an immediate national healing process that will cement reconciliation amongst Basotho, as well as stability, peace and prosperity that we used to pride ourselves with during the times of "Bo Moshoeshoe oa pele, Lethole, Moletsane, Sekonyela and others who were the founding fathers of the Lesotho we have today.

Furthermore, as a way of concluding reforms and their implementation, maintenance of

stability, and continuity of unity amongst All Basotho, Political Parties in Lesotho and all stakeholders, I implore all Leaders to consider a Government of National Unity (GNU) post 2022 General Elections.

Bo-Ntate le Bo-'M'e,

Ntumelleng ho phethela polelo ena ka ho leboha Morena Molimo ka mohau oa Hae hore ebe O sa re baballetse lefatšeng lena la ba utloang. Ha ke akaretsa polelo ena eaka ka puo ea Moshoeshoe, ke lokela ho supa hore taba kholo eaka letsatsing la kajeno ke ho netefalletsa Sechaba sa Basotho ka qeto eaka ea ho beha meja fatše ke le Tona-Kholo

ea 'Muso oa Motlotlehi, eo eona e tla lelekela hore ke behe meja fatše lipolotiking tsa Lesotho le boetapeleng ba Lekhotla la heso la lipolotiki. Lilemo li mashome a tšetseng seatla joale ke le Mosebeletsi oa Sechaba. Kajeno, lilemo li ile, mafolo-folo le sehlahlo tseo ke neng ke na le tsona lilemong tsa ho feta li qephile, hoja mosebetsi oa bo Tona-Kholo le boetapele ba Sechaba tsona li le boima.

Ka lebaka leo, ntumelleng ke etse phatlalatso ea hore ke entse qeto ea ho beha meja fatše ke le Tona-Kholo ea 'Muso oa Motlotlehi hona selemong sena mafelong a khoeli ea **Phupu**

selemong se holimo, kapa pele ho moo haeba litukiso tsa ho phomola hoaka li ka phetheloa pele nako eo e fihla. E se e le nako e teletsana ke ntse ke seka-seka mohopolo ona, empa nako e fihlile joale ea hore ke o phethise. Ho beha meja hoa Tona-Kholo e ntseng e le tšebetsong hase ntho e tloaelehileng, ebile hase ntho e bonolo ka tlasa molao oa rona. E kaba le khahlamelo pusong le botsitsong ba Naha. Ka hona ke taba e hlokolosi e tlamehang ho tšoaroa hantle. Ke lumela hantle hore nako ena e ntšalletseng pusong, e tla fa Paramente le Lekhotla la haeso la lipolotiki monyetla oa ho

rala taba ena hantle le ho baballa botsitso ba rona.

Le ha ke se ke beile meja fatše, ke ipiletsa ho Baetapele bohle hore ha re khutleleng metsong ea rona re le Basotho. Moo lehloeo le leng teng, ha re jaleng lerato. Moo pherekano e leng teng ha re jaleng bonngoe. Moo phapano e leng teng ha re jaleng kutloano. Rona re le Baetapele, ha re etelleng pele ka mehlala e metle le lipuo tse ahang.

Ketsahalo e bomalimabe ea maoba, eo re ileng ra bona mali a tšoloha ka hare ho Ntlo ea Bakhethoa, le thepa ea sechaba e

senngoa ke batho ba baholo, empe ebe ha e na ho ipheta nalaneng ea Lesotho. 'Moho ha re ntšetseng Naha ena ea Morena Moshoeshoe pele le hona ho tebisa metso ea bonngoe ka hare ho Sechaba sena sa Thesele. Lesotho le Basotho ke tsa Morena Molimo. Ha re tloheleng ho bapala ka Sechaba Baetapele baka.

Ha re eeng Lesothong le lecha moo teng re senang ho sitisoa ho sebetsa 'moho ke lipolotiki - moo teng re tlang ho hlomphana re le Sechaba. Ha re khutleleng tseleng tsa rona tsa khale, 'me re be Basotho ba 'Makhonthe. Kajeno National Reforms Authority e hlapantsitsoe.

Tšepo ea rona ke hore litho tsa eona li tla ithukhubetsa mosebetsing oa tsona oa mantlha li sa itumelle ho khelosa ke lintho tseo e seng tsona pitso ea bona. Ke mema bohle hore re itebaleng, 'me re behe Lesotho le Basotho pele, kaha tšepo ea rona ea ho fetola Lesotho e le ho Lenane lena la Tlhopho-Bocha. Tlhopho-Bocha e pelong eaka haholo, ebile ke lenane la mantlha 'Musong ona oa 4X4. Re ile ra e thakhola 'Musong oa Letsema empa ra khaoletsoa ke nako feela re se re khutla bo New Zealand. Re boetse ra e phamolela holimo hang ha re kena pusong ka 2017. Ke ka hoo re leng mona moo re leng teng kajeno. Bohle ha re

tšehetseng lenane lena molemong oa bana le
litloholo tsa rona, ekasitana le meloko e
tlang.

Ke qetella ka ho pheta mantsoe a ka a
maobeng ka ho ipiletsa ho uena Mosotho ka
bo mong, uena Moetapele, uena 'M' e, uena
Ntate, uena Mocha, hore o qale u be
***phetoho eo u batlang ho bona Lesotho
le le eona.***

MOLIMO O BOLOKE LESOTHO LE BASOTHO.

KHOTSO!! PULA!! NALA!!!