



**POLELO EA MOHLOMPHEHI TONA KHOLO**

**DR. MOTSOAHAE THOMAS THABANE**

**PHATLALATSO EA HO BEHA MEJA FATSE  
E LE TONA-KHOLO EA 'MUSO OA LESOTHO**

**MASERU, LESOTHO**

**19 MAY, 2020**

## **Sechaba sa Basotho ka kakaretso,**

When I made a voluntary announcement in January this year to retire from office on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, 2020, I did so with all sincerity because of my full conviction and believe that:

***“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the Heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted”.  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)***

But, because of the deeply entrenched political polarization in our society, some

decided to use my announcement for political gain, while others resigned themselves into further entrenching divisions among Basotho. Today I will be vindicated against such pundits.

**My fellow country Men and Women,** I appear before you today to announce that the work that you had assigned me may not yet be over, but the time to retire from the great theatre of action and take leave from public life and office, has finally arrived.

## **Sechaba sa Heso,**

My pre-occupation as Prime Minister for the past three years has been to build stable and resilient Government Institutions and improve the livelihoods of Basotho, as well as assure every Mosotho of a secure future. As a result of our relentless efforts, the National Reforms Authority (NRA) is now in place. The process of comprehensive national reforms will, therefore, come to fruition in the fullness of time. We held the Jobs Summit which has put in place a framework for creation of jobs, particularly for the youth. We have also improved our

social grants for the Elderly, People with disability and other vulnerable groups. These are just a few examples of some of the strides that we have made within the past three years of the 4X4 Government.

Despite these laudable milestones, the road to development remains elusive. The gains that we have made are now, **inter alia**, threatened by the invisible novel Corona Virus that has besieged the whole world and devastated the global economy. From postponing the future of our youth as a result of closure of education establishments and learning institutions, to

halting of economic and social development with the restrictions placed on budding innovators and entrepreneurs, the impact of COVID-19 has, indeed, threatened our development agenda.

These challenges speak to the reality that the job of Prime Minister involves facing a gauntlet of endless challenges which my successor will have to contend with. I plead with the entire Nation and Leadership to give my successor our utmost support. On my part I wish to assure him of my full support at all material times as he strives to achieve the above lofty ideals of fostering

development, protecting the vulnerable and being a voice for the voiceless.

At all times he must know that his success will depend on him building consensus in Government and stretching out his hand across the table to find common ground among all the Political Players and other sectors of society.

**Sechaba sa Heso,**

Allow me to conclude my brief statement by pointing out that the calling to serve as Prime Minister is the greatest privilege that

one can ever have in this country. It has been my greatest honour to serve in that capacity. I, therefore, wish to thank all Basotho from the bottom of my heart for the trust that they bestowed in me. Where I have erred, I sincerely seek your indulgence to forgive me as I did not do so intentionally.

**Allow me also to take this opportunity to thank my Wife and my entire Family for their unwavering support to me as Prime Minister.** Through it all, they have been a pillar of strength to me. Their words of love and encouragement,

coupled with their deeds of support to me have not gone unnoticed. Without a doubt I know that they share my pain, grief and joy.

**Ho lona Lekhotla la heso la Lipolotiki, Kobo-tata ea Basotho, ha ke na mantsoe a lekaneng a teboho ka leeto lena le mahlonoko leo re le tsamaileng `moho.** Kajeno ke tsoa ketapeleng ea puso Lekhotla la heso ke le kopantse e le ntho e le ngoe. Re buile ka lentsoe le le leng hore joale re fetola pitsa litabeng tsa puso. Kahona, chorisang bonngoe boo Banna le Basali ba heso. Ke entse moo ke entseng

teng, ho ho lona kajeno ho bopa bonngoe le ho holisa Lekhotla.

Ho Komiti ea Heso ea Naha, ke le netefaletsa tšehetso eaka e sa thekeseleng ea ka mehla. **Hopolang hore matla, joalo ka monono, ke moholi ke 'muoane a ea iphella. Sebetsang ka nnete eohle le etse ka senna.** Elang hloko hore ***"linong li teng tseleng tsa na tsa eja Ratlali tsa mo siea hloohong bohologoane"***.

It would be remiss of me not to sincerely thank my **4X4 Coalition Partners** for

their support to me over the past three years and their selfless commitment to the course of Basotho. Continue to serve the Nation with all sincerity even in the post 4X4 Government.

To my colleagues in Parliament and in the Political arena, I wish to also thank you for your contribution towards our socio-economic development agenda. Please do not forget that your call is to make Lesotho a country that truly works for everyone, and not just for those in power. **Lehloeo, mona le mafufa ha re li sieeng morao moo re tsoang teng, 'me re sebeletse**

**botsitso le Khotso, re ntse re ruta Sechaba sa habo rona tlhompho le tlhomphano. Boiphetetso le hona ho tlosa batho mesebetsing bao ke sebelitseng le bona mesebetsing le litulong tseo ba leng ho tsona ka lebaka feela la lehloeo kapa tšobotsi ea lipolotiki, tsena tsohle ha li se fumanoa ka hare ho Iona Makobotata, ke ea ipiletsa. Ha re lahleng moea oa boiphetetso re bope bonngoe ba sechaba.**

Ke qetella ka ho lakaletsa Motlotlehi le Basotho bohle bophelo bo botle le ho ba kopela tšireletso ho ea Matla ohle

matšoenyehong a bona le mafung ana a morao-rao a kang bo Corona Virus, haholo-holo ha re se re na le matšoao a lona lefu lena tjena ka hare ho Naha.

Hopolang ka mehla sechaba sa heso hore Lesotho ke eona Naha feela eo re nang le eona re le Basotho. Ha hona Naha e nngoe eo e leng ea Basotho ntle le eona ena, kahona e bouleleng le e rate le ratane le ho utloelana bohloko molemong oa bonngoe ba lona le kholo ea moruo oa Naha ea rona.

**Ha li panoe banna le basali baheso,  
mohoma temeng! Ha ho pekoe!**

**MOLIMO O BOLOKE LESOTHO LE  
BASOTHO.**

**KHOTSO! PULA! NALA!**