



**CLOSING REMARKS BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER,
DR MOEKETSI MAJORO**

**AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY THE STAKEHOLDERS FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE PEACE, NATIONAL UNITY AND RECONCILIATION**

**‘MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTER
MASERU**

23 JULY, 2021.

It is with a deep sense of humility and gratitude that I stand before you today to deliver brief closing remarks at this landmark occasion. Over the past three days you engaged in frank, and yet constructive discussions geared towards operationalising the decisions of Basotho on **peace, national unity, healing and reconciliation**. I am elated about the significant progress that we have made. The long meetings that you held and the attendant sacrifices that you have made have not been in vain. As we leave this hall, we shall do so with joy and confidence that the journey towards addressing all the issues that have turned Basotho against one another, has begun.

I would like to commend the high attendance and phenomenal participation of Basotho at this historic event even under the risks of Covid 19. The enthusiasm that I have witnessed, both from virtual platforms and in this room during the deliberations is satisfying. We are grateful for the valuable insights shared by national and international experts and able facilitation of the various themes of this important dialogue on Lesotho's peace and stability.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The National Reforms terrain has been long, arduous and clouded by uncertainties and suspicions. But, every turn that we took, and every mountain that we climbed in this journey, has been worth it. Today, we can all attest to the fact that our collective efforts are beginning to bear fruit. Our destiny, **"The Lesotho We Want"**, can no longer remain a mere utopia. This Forum has demonstrated our thirst for peace as a nation.

Let it, therefore, be our collective resolve that the instability that has hitherto beguiled us, shall from today onwards, be a thing of the past. Peace and stability should naturally lead to prosperity. As we move forward, let us not forget our **traditional peacebuilding mechanisms**, and where other nations have gained success in resolving crises, let us not hesitate to take lessons learnt, tailor them to our context, and resolve our situation. **At the risk of repetition, allow me to reiterate that**

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. Peace and Unity Even as we move forward with implementation of the decisions for this Forum, let us do so with brotherly and sisterly love as well as understanding and compassion. As Leaders, we owe it to our Country and People, to unify Basotho and lead this country to prosperity.

We must also acknowledge that even as the International Community and Development Partners have rallied behind us throughout our journey in the reform process up to this point, the process is however owned by Basotho. **It should be recognized for what it is, as an initiative by Basotho, for Basotho, with the assistance of the international community and Development Partners.**

The motivation and drive to maintain this process should begin from within each of us. Let us take on a positive attitude to conflict, so that we do not fight against one another when conflict arises, but instead, boldly resolve it with a view to strengthening our solidarity as a nation. Should we be true to this, conflict resilience will be a legacy and inheritance for future generations; a legacy that will be a solid bedrock for sustainable peace and national prosperity.

At the same time, allow me to remind you, leaders of different sectors across the nation, that you are not the exclusive owners or overlords of the reform process. **The process belongs to every Mosotho down at the village level.** I, therefore, call upon you to take what we have forged over these three days back to your constituencies and all those you represent. **Their ownership of this process will be the key to its success, because over and above the categories of victim or perpetrator, mediator or instigator, each one is a Mosotho.**

To the NRA, I do not have enough words to thank you for the job well done. You have exemplified determination and commitment to your task. Your fidelity to the dictates of Basotho will be the key to your success. As I said when officially opening this Forum

three days ago, the reforms are a process. As Government, we will fully support you as you implement the reform process.

Sechaba sa Heso,

Leeto lena leo re le tsamaileng ho fihlela mona la Thlopho- Bocha, le re hopotsa ka 'nete le ka tieo hore **Lesotho le lecha ke toro ea rona bohle**. Re le Basotho re qalile leeto lena re qaqolohane ka maikutlo, empa ka mamello le mamellano, eka sitana le kutloelano bohloko, mafapha ohle a kene lipuisanong ka boitebalo ho fihlela mothating ona oo re lumellanang ka e meng ea meoloane ea Khotso, bonngoe ba sechaba, pholo, eka sitana le poelano ea Basotho.

Ntumelleng, lebitsong la 'Muso oa Lesotho le lebitsong la ka, hore ke le lebohe bohle ho tsoa boteng ba pelo eaka ka mosebetsi o khabane, o thata, oo le o entseng matsatsing ana a mararo. **Ha ho qeea-qeeo, khotsong le poelanong ke moo re eang ka kutloano le tumellano**. Ke tumelo eaka e felletseng hore Morena Molimo o tla re hauhela a re fumanele khotso ea moshoelella le boiketlo 'moho le kholo ea moruo.

Ho lona NRA, re isa tanki le teboho. Le entse mosebetsi o bokhabane. Tšoarang joalo le tiise ho feta mona. 'Muso o tla le fa tšhetso eohle hore le phethe thomo ena eo le e fuoeng kajeno.

We are also deeply grateful to SADC, the Leader of the Facilitation Team and our Development Partners, in particular the UNDP and the European Union, for their gracious financial and technical support, which has made this Forum and dialogue a remarkable success. We pledge our full cooperation with these Partners in the road ahead.

It is now my singular honour and privilege, **Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**, to officially declare this Forum closed.

Molimo O boloke Lesotho le Basotho.

KHOTSO PULA NALA!!!