



**REMARKS BY THE RT HONOURABLE THE PRIME  
MINISTER DR MOEKETSI MAJORO AT THE  
OCCASION OF RECEIVING THE FIRST VACCINE  
SHIPMENT FROM THE AFRICAN VACCINE  
ACQUISITION TRUST**

**SATURDAY, 7 AUGUST 2021  
MASERU**

Following vaccine shipments of 72,000 doses (AstraZeneca) from Covax and 302,000 doses (Johnson & Johnson) from the United States Government, the Government of Lesotho is pleased to announce a further shipment of 108,000 doses of J&J that arrived today from the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT).

This is the first shipment from the African Union AVAT that is also paid fully for by Lesotho's own cash resources. The AVAT Team (AVATT) has indicated that each month Lesotho will receive the same amount until our 1.6 million dose order has been fulfilled. AVATT has also indicated that should Lesotho utilise its vaccine stocks faster and on time, more vaccines will be allocated to the country.

In this respect, I wish to implore the Ministry of Health, working with its partners including the Lesotho private sector to expedite the vaccination program so that all Basotho in country and in South Africa are fully vaccinated by Christmas.

For every shipment that lands in Lesotho, there are so many hardworking people in Lesotho and in other countries labouring in the background to ensure that we are vaccinated. Basotho are very thankful for their efforts.

In this particular instance, I would like to thank Mr Strive Masiyiwa, Special Envoy for vaccines for his exemplary efforts to secure vaccines for Africa and for Lesotho in particular, Vera Songwe of the Economic Commission for Africa for her dedication to ensuring that Lesotho is not forgotten, and Marie Francoise Marie-Nelly, Worldbank Country Director for supporting Lesotho to secure its financial resources for acquiring the vaccines, John Nkengasong of the Africa CDC for remaining engaged during the

vaccine drought and his outspoken on the need for equitable access to vaccines, the Lesotho private sector (Vodacom Lesotho, Letšeng Diamonds, and Sesi), and the Ministry of Health Team working on vaccine procurement (Dr Ranyali and her team). Due to their efforts, Lesotho is poised to secure another 100,000 J&J doses in the next 2 weeks.

I thank you.