

**REMARKS BY THE HON. MINISTER OF
EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

HON. 'MAMOOKHO PHIRI

**ON THE OCCASION OF OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE
COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHE)
QUALITY ASSURANCE AMBASSADORS**

HELD ON 25th AUGUST 2021 AT AVANI MASERU

**HIS MAJESTY, KING LETSIE III
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL ON HIGHER
EDUCATION
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY MOET
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF CHE
DISTINGUISHED QUALITY ASSURANCE AMBASSADORS
OFFICIALS OF MOET AND CHE HERE PRESENT
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!!**

It gives me great pleasure to officiate at this occasion of the official launch of the CHE Quality Assurance Ambassadors. Quality is a pillar of education in any country, and any aspect of life. Education is the foundation of good citizenry, sound service delivery in both public and private sectors, and advancement in all spheres. Quality should, therefore, never be compromised under any circumstances, because if it is, the consequences would be far reaching.

Your appointment and installation as Quality Assurance Ambassadors at the Council on Higher Education comes at the right time given the challenges that education is faced with in our country and the world

over due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has imposed changes on how teaching and learning take place. All institutions are compelled by the prevailing circumstances to seriously consider blended learning or fully fledged ODL. While approaches to teaching and learning may change, quality is a constant which should be maintained at the same level at all times. It is therefore, critical that the Ministry through CHE should ensure that quality is not compromised even in the mist of these challenges.

I have been informed that you have been identified and selected as CHE QA Ambassadors because you have accumulated wisdom gathered over the years, not only through your studies, but also through wealth of experience. We are therefore, justified to have high expectations for the assignment at hand. Your contribution will go a long way, since it increases the capacity of CHE to deliver effectively on its mandate.

You come on board at a time when the country has just started earnest implementation of the Lesotho Qualifications Framework (LQF). This is going to transform our education system in that the LQF clearly defines duration of programmes at various levels in a different way from the current practice. For example, LQF dictates that a Diploma should take

two years of study, but our practice over the years is that a Diploma takes three years. A level 7 LQF qualification (Bachelor's Degree) should generally take three years, but in our case it takes four years. Clearly, things have to change in a big way as we implement LQF fully. Quality assurance is an integral part of implementing LQF, because qualifications have to be accredited first before they can be registered on the LQF. You have your work cut out for you. As Quality Assurance Ambassadors you are automatically ambassadors for the Lesotho Qualifications Framework.

As you embark on this important journey you should always follow the Higher Education Act No.1 of 2004, Lesotho Qualifications Framework (LQF) and Quality Assurance Standards among other instruments as your guiding stars. The scope of operation will increase gradually for you in relation to the LQF particularly because CHE has a full mandate to implement LQF across all spheres of education, from Basic education, Technical and Vocational together with Higher Education.

Even though Lesotho is currently going through a rough patch in our finances due to economic down-turn and COVID-19, the Government is fully aware of the need for increased investment in the improvement of

quality assurance not only in higher education, but across the board in order to improve quality of teaching and learning, and ultimately of graduates.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Please enjoy the journey, impart knowledge and be impactful as you go along. Take full advantage of the opportunity to contribute towards improvement of the higher education sub-sector in the Kingdom. You have at your disposal a dedicated team in the Secretariat under the stewardship of the Council and Chief Executive of CHE.

It is now my singular honour and privilege, on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Training, and indeed on my own behalf, to officially launch the first cohort of CHE Quality Assurance Ambassadors.

I thank you for your attention.

KHOTSO!!!

PULA!!!

NALA!!