



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER

DR. MOEKETSI MAJORO

**AT THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL REFORMS
AUTHORITY WORKSHOP ON THE FORMULATION OF
THE ROADMAP FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL
SECURITY POLICY AND STRATEGY OF THE KINGDOM
OF LESOTHO**

Manthabiseng Convention Centre

MASERU

30 August, 2021

[Salutations]

Today marks yet another important milestone in our journey towards implementation of Comprehensive National Reforms in Lesotho. We are gathered here this morning to formulate a Roadmap for the development of the National Security Policy and Strategy of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

The Basotho Nation have mandated the National Reforms Authority (NRA) to develop the National Security Policy and Strategy in order to achieve effective security sector reforms and in this regard, I want to thank the NRA for remaining true to its assignment by organizing this very important workshop aimed at ensuring that the dictates of Basotho will eventually come to fruition.

I further note with appreciation that the NRA is on track, in terms of observing one of the fundamental guiding principles for the reform process, namely **inclusivity and transparency**. In terms of the Reforms Roadmap, otherwise known as “**The Lesotho We Want Document**,” the reforms must involve the full diversity of Basotho without discrimination of political, social or other status, and that all Basotho should have a voice through public input on the contents of programmes and policies - either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that represent their interests. Looking at today’s gathering from a bird’s eye view, there is no shadow of doubt in my mind that the meeting epitomizes the aforesaid ideals.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is common knowledge that reviewing and reforming our national security agencies is seen by many Basotho as key to the achievement of lasting peace, democracy and a stable political, security and social environment. Thus, the development of a common and inclusive national vision and policy for the security sector, and the roles that the sector should play in achieving the overall national vision for our country is critical.

As you undertake your work in this workshop, I will beseech you to stay focused on the objectives of this event. We must remember that we are not here to develop the National

Security Policy and Strategy itself, but we are here to draft the Roadmap that will indicate the process for the development of the Policy and Strategy documents.

Even as we all recognize the importance of the documents that need to be developed, we should also recognize that the process for the development of national documents is just as important as the documents themselves.

It would be remiss of me not to sound a warning regarding the complexity of the mammoth task ahead of you. Lesotho is not an island. It is an active member of the Global Village. The issue of security at global level is becoming dynamic day in day out, and by extension gets forever complex. From the traditional weaponry-based security, we are today overwhelmed by the proliferation of new forms of security which include transnational organized crime, human trafficking, artificial intelligence and cyber-crime, to mention but a few.

This calls for more ingenuity in our quest to find lasting solution to the ever-increasing security challenges locally, regionally and globally. This is to say you should be mindful that the roadmap that you are going to formulate in these three days that lie ahead, as well as the ensuing policy and strategy, should all be agile and flexible enough to catch up with the ever diverse, dynamic and volatile security challenges.

In all your endeavours, I can only assure you of the Government's unwavering support and commitment to the process. In the same token, allow me to extend, on behalf of the Government, and indeed on my own behalf, our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our Development Partners, notably the **UNDP** and the **European Union** that are here represented, and indeed to all other stakeholders who have been traversing the rugged reforms terrain with us from start to where we are today. Indeed, your support is not in vain. There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Bahlomphehi Baka,

Sechaba sa Basotho ka kakaretso,

Kea tšepa hore le ea elelloa hore kajeno li akhetsoe teu, tsela li ea e bona khomo tsa sepane sa NRA. Khala ea mosili ha e `moleli a mong, le koana SADC re tsoang, ba ntse ba oma ka hlooho, ba sa qete. Ebang lekote le tsoela-pele ho phethoha ka mokhoa ona, haufi haholo tšimo e tla ba ntšo, ho khotse le mofeta-ka-tsela.

Sechaba sa heso, nakana tsa ho khoesoa ha li khomarele hlooho. Haele mona eka qetellong Molimo o utloile poboli ea rona mabapi le tlhokahalo ea botsitso ka nako e telele, ha re se hloheng re hetla morao ho supana ka menoana ka tsa maobane, re

hahamalleng pele, moo Lekhotla la Tlhopho-Bocha re le laetseng ho re beha teng. Baheso, re bile setšehisa sa balichaba ka nako e telele, ho sa lekane.

Tšireletso ke e 'ngoe ea lintho tse hlokolosi haholo. Hantle mona ke khubung ea taba. Ha re ka opa khomo lenaka karolong ena, botsitso ba eba teng, ho tla tšoana leha re nepile molao oa motheo, tse ling tsohle li tla itšoareletsa ha bobebe. Ha ele mona re se re tlositse leeto ka makhethe, ha re se thunthetseng leeto lena le mahlonoko, la ho leba Lesothong leo bohlang re le batlang. Lenane lena la hore naa re tla aha Leano la Tšireletso joang, ha re le phetheng ka bokhabane. Basotho ba beile tšepo ea bona ho lona hore le tatae ka litaba tsena, 'me le phethise litaba-tabelo tsa bona.

Ka mantsoe ana a makhutšoanyane, ke phatlalatsa mona hore thupelo ena e butsoe ka molao.

Allow me, at the risk of repetition and in the interest of those who still have a challenge with our vernacular, to say that I now declare this **“Workshop for the Formulation of the Roadmap for the Development of the National Security Policy and Strategy of the Kingdom of Lesotho, officially open.”**

I thank you for your attention.

KHOTSO! PULA! NALA!