



**REMARKS BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME
MINISTER DR. MOEKETSI MAJORO ON THE OCCASION
MARKING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE BRITISH
HIGH COMMISSION
NO.3 GOLF ESTATES
MASERU
30 SEPTEMBER, 2021**

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR ALLOW ME TO START MY REMARKS BY PAYING MY RESPECTS TO:

HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III.

HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

HONOURABLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.

THE U.K. MINISTER FOR AFRICA - HONOURABLE VICKY FORD MP.

YOUR EXCELLENCY HIGH COMMISSIONER ANNE MACRO.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

Today, we are happily gathered here to witness this important milestone, marking another chapter in the development of the United Kingdom's engagement in the kingdom of Lesotho, which is the long-awaited official opening of the British High Commission in the Mountain Kingdom.

Today's joyful ceremony, which comes few months after the flag raising event, is a clear testimony to the significance of the warm and vibrant cordial diplomatic relations that exists between our two Kingdoms.

We are also greatly honoured, at this auspicious occasion, by the presence of the British Minister for Africa, Honourable Vicky Ford MP, your presence is undoubtedly a measure of the importance that the United Kingdom attaches to our historical background as well as to our friendly relations.

Therefore, on behalf of the Government and the entire Basotho Nation, and indeed on my own behalf, I have the honour to express our warmest and sincerest gratitude to the Government and the People of the United Kingdom for this significant achievement, which will be beneficial to both our two countries and their nations.

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We are not only gathered here simply to celebrate the opening of the new resident, British High Commission but, rather to also revive and strengthen the long bonds of friendship between the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Lesotho.

In this regard, we will all recall that our relations date as far back as 1868 when Lesotho became a British protectorate. Formal diplomatic relations were established in 1966, when Lesotho obtained her independence and our two countries, share the same views and values on major global issues, particularly on promotion of world peace and security, democracy, human rights and international development and cooperation.

From these early contacts, our relations have blossomed steadily. We, therefore, welcome with profound gratitude and satisfaction, the decision by the British Government to reopen the British High Commission here in Maseru after a lapse of fifteen (15) years. It is thus, both an honour and pleasure for the government of Lesotho and the entire nation to welcome you back.

Honourable Ford;

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

I must register the appreciation of the Lesotho government and Basotho in general of the continued support of the successive British governments and non-governmental organisations since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The provision of valuable education opportunities, to many Basotho

students under numerous scholarship programmes such as the Chevening programme; the bilateral defence engagement activities; the support by the Department for International Development (DFID) in many areas of our economy including support to the apparel Lesotho Alliance to Fight Aids (ALAFA), where HIV/Aids treatment is provided to Basotho workers in the textiles industry, are among the many remarkable gestures of support secured.

As we celebrate together on this chilly Thursday, let us once again recommit ourselves to the urgent need to tackle the challenges which confront our two countries. Some of these challenges are climate change and covid-19. To this end, we are deeply grateful for the magnanimous contribution and support rendered to Lesotho by the U.K. government, by displaying your unwavering support towards our vaccine rollout through the Covax facility.

We also wish the U.K success in hosting the forthcoming COP26 summit scheduled for Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021. Lesotho will certainly join other world leaders in addressing this paramount challenge of our time. We are therefore convinced, that there is so much we can do together and look at the future with optimism and eagerness of what has yet to be accomplished. I believe we can work in close and creative harmony, exploring fresh opportunities that will further strengthen our bilateral relations, especially post Brexit.

Excellencies;

As I conclude my brief remarks, I wish to reiterate our profound gratitude in having the physical presence of the British High Commission in Lesotho and to commend the government of the united kingdom for its noble decision to reopen the mission here in Maseru.

It is our fervent hope and strong belief that, with the opening of the British high commission building today, the cooperation that already exists between our two countries, will be smoothly elevated to new heights.

We would also like to assure her excellency high commissioner macro that the government and people of Lesotho will extend to her, all the necessary support and assistance in order to execute her mandate and to make her tour of duty as the British High Commissioner to Lesotho, successful and most rewarding for the benefit of our respective peoples and countries.

I thank you!!!

KHOTSO!!

PULA!!!

NALA!!!