

**REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT  
PLANNING SELIBE MOCHOBOROANE  
DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS ON LESOTHO CIVIL SOCIETY  
ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT  
3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 LERIBE**

***MASTER OF CEREMONY, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO,***

**THE HEAD OF STATE, HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III**

**THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE PRIME MINISTER**

**HONORABLE PRESIDENT OF SENATE**

**HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**HIS LORDSHIP THE CHIEF JUSTICE**

**HIS LORDSHIP THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL**

**HONORABLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

**HONORABLE MINISTERS**

**THEIR EXCELLENCIES, HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS**

**UN AGENCIES, AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

**SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

**THE MEDIA**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

## **Bo Mme Le Bo Ntate Kea le lumelisa**

Let me begin by expressing my heartfelt pleasure of being part of this historical process; and I believe everyone present here feels the same. Today marks the beginning of the process leading to the development of the Lesotho Civil Society Organisations Policy.

This is the first policy of this kind in Lesotho. The purpose of today's gathering is to embark on intensive discussions that are intended to bring together your views which are going to shape this policy. The policy should be informed by your views. The consultations are going to be held in all the other three regions.

**Our fellow colleagues from CSOs**, today's gathering marks the beginning of realisation of Government's commitment to enhance collaboration between GoL and non-state actors. The commitment is clearly outlined as one of NSDP II deliverables. The need to have in place a Non-State Actors Policy came as a result of the identified policy gap in the Lesotho Partnership Policy (LPP) in that other stakeholders who are recipients of aid, such as civil society organisations, are not included.

Non-state actors are the strongest arm of the government in the implementation of NSDP as well as SDG agenda programmes. The Government of Lesotho believes that strong and capable CSOs are central to the successful achievement of Lesotho's Vision and the objectives for economic and social development included in the National Strategic Development Plan.

As partners in the development of Lesotho, it is foreseen that CSOs could make a positive contribution to driving community empowerment, inspiring social development and through playing a bigger part in the design and delivery of public services, have an important impact on the eradication of poverty.

Government recognises that CSOs share a commitment to the achievement of Lesotho's Vision and the successful implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan. It is also understood that CSOs recognise the value of a positive relationship with Government and of the wider benefits that a productive partnership can bring.

The outcomes and commitments stated in this policy framework will set the foundation for a productive relationship between the Government and CSOs.

An effective Policy Framework for partnership between the Government of Lesotho and CSOs should achieve the following outcomes:

- (a) A strong, diverse and independent civil society.
- (b) A more effective and transparent design and development of policies, and programmes for the delivery of essential public services.
- (c) High-quality programmes and services that respond to the needs of the Basotho people.
- (d) Clear arrangements both for the management of public or donor funds, where they are used, and for adjusting

programmes and services being implemented with such funds.

(e) An equal and fair society

Colleagues, before I end my remarks, let me congratulate the partners who have helped Lesotho with resources for the exercise. We thank European Union and UNDP in particular. I also wish to thank the technical team which has been assigned to work on this exercise. Last but not the least, the national Consultant leading the exercise, thank you and please count on our support throughout the exercise.

Ladies and gentlemen

Let us work very hard to ensure we have this policy, after which all the required institutional and legal frameworks will be put in place to ensure smooth implementation. The exercise is very challenging as of now because CSOs are so many, most are not coordinated, the legal status of some are doubtful etc.

I therefore appeal to each one of you here to contribute in any possible way to ensure that the policy is successful and represents our mutual goals, which is achievement of the SDGs.

I therefore declare the meeting officially opened.

**KHOTSO! PULA! NALA!**

