



**OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS BY HON. MINISTER
OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
HONOURABLE SELIBE MOCHOBOROANE**

**GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO- UNDP END OF YEAR
REVIEW**

08 DECEMBER 2021

MANHABISENG CONVENTION CENTRE

Good morning and thank you Programme Director,

Please allow me to first of all pay my respects to:

HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III

The Right Honourable the Prime Minister

Honourable President of Senate

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly

His Lordship the Chief Justice

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister

His Majesty's Cabinet

Excellencies Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations

Senior Government Officials

Heads of UN Agencies, in particular Mme Betty Wabunoha, UNDP Resident Representative

Heads of Parastatals, Private sector, Civil Society Organizations and the Media here present

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Greetings to you all Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Government of Lesotho – UNDP annual joint review meeting and planning session. This is the third year of the implementation of UNDP – Lesotho Country Programme Document (2019-2023), a year in which development and global cooperation has been focused on rolling back the COVID 19 pandemic.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Lesotho is cognizant of the importance of a strong partnership and collaboration between itself and development partners such as UNDP. As Government we welcome this joint approach to development most especially when it is linked to key national development frameworks such as the NSDP II - which mandates the GOL to lead annual reviews programmes of cooperation with partners. This exercise is done in collaboration with NGO partners, Civil society and the private sector to ensure transparency and participation across all sectors.

The 2019 – 2023 GOL-UNDP programme of cooperation is being implemented in smaller planning cycles known as annual work plans. UNDP, together with respective Ministries that are mandated to deliver services within specific sectors, annually enters into agreements on activities to be implemented in order to achieve all the

expected programme results. They also agree on corresponding annual targets, which serve as benchmarks for progress.

The GOL –UNDP 2019-2023 joint programme has focussed on the following key areas:

- (i) Governance, Accountability, Social Cohesion and Stability;
- (ii) Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth and
- (iii) Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Resilience

Let me mention that, the Ministry of Development Planning, as a custodian of the National Strategic Development Plan is cross-cutting across all the CPD pillars. However, in 2021 it largely contributed in the implementation of the second pillar, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth through the Joint Programme on Economic and Financial Management Integration for the Achievement of SDGs (JP-EFMIS) and the Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth Projects.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, GoL and UNDP are adhering to their commitment set forth in the country programme document of cooperation and are sitting down with different stakeholders to review progress against set targets, identify challenges encountered and propose way forward to address the challenges and explore opportunities and innovative ways of working better in the coming years. This meeting will also present a

summary of progress made in implementation of the rolling work plans across the different sectors. It will identify key areas of support in 2022.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me emphasize that this meeting is an opportunity for us to ensure that our programmes for 2022 are responsive to the impacts of COVID-19 and are also resilient to the uncertainties/risks that may be presented by the pandemic.

Allow me, Ladies and Gentlemen, to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to all of you for your commitment to the development of this country and acknowledge the support of development partners such as the EU, World Bank and the United Nations family as well as other donors agencies, both national and international NGO's agencies who have supported the joint programme. My sincerest appreciation goes to you my colleagues from different line Ministries, Civil Society Organizations who have tirelessly worked day and night to ensure that the rights of every Mosotho are fulfilled. I also wish to thank UNDP for its support to the Kingdom of Lesotho and as Government we look forward to more future years of cooperation.

Thank you and I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

KHOTSO! PULA! NALA!