



**REMARKS BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO,
THE HONOURABLE MONYANE MOLELEKI
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE POST-ELECTION NATIONAL DIALOGUE
ORGANIZED BY THE LESOTHO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NGOs**

MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTRE

18 OCTOBER, 2017

EXCELLENCIES,

AS THE FACILITATOR HAS APTLY STATED, COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO AND THE SADC IS AT ITS BEST. THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENT ALL SADC DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PHUMAPHI COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. THIS PROVIDES A CONDUCTIVE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH OUR COOPERATION CAN BEAR THE EXPECTED FRUITS.

IN THIS REGARD I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT, IN LINE WITH SADC DECISIONS, THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, HAS SCHEDULED THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE FOR 16 AND 17 NOVEMBER, 2017.

EXCELLENCIES,

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IN CONCLUSION, LET ME WISH YOU ALL FRUITFUL DELIBERATIONS TO PAVE THE WAY FORWARD TOWARDS A LONG LASTING PEACE THAT HAS BEEN ELUDING US FOR DECADES.

I, NOW, HAVE THE HONOUR TO DECLARE THIS POST - ELECTIONS NATIONAL DIALOGUE OPEN.

KHOTSO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

PULA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

NALA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III;
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER;
HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
HIS LORDSHIP THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL,
HER LORDSHIP THE CHIEF JUSTICE,
HONOURABLE MINISTERS,
HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE
HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THEIR LORDSHIP JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT,
YOUR EXCELLENCY DEPUTY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA,
YOUR LORDSHIP JUSTICE FREDERICK WEREMA, CHAIRPERSON OF THE
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,
CHURCH LEADERS AND FAITH-BASED LEADERS
CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA AND
DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I AM DEEPLY HONOURED AND PRIVILEGED ON BEHALF OF THE RIGHT
HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER, TO JOIN YOU TODAY ON THIS
OCCASION OF THE POST-ELECTION NATIONAL DIALOGUE ORGANIZED BY
THE LESOTHO COUNCIL OF NGOS, SINCE OUR ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE
AS THE THIRD COALITION GOVERNMENT, FOLLOWING THE 3 JUNE, 2017
ELECTIONS.

INDEED, THE HOLDING OF THIS DIALOGUE, IS A BUILD UP TO THE PROPOSED IMPENDING NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SADC. THIS IS A VERY MOMENTOUS OCCASION NOT ONLY FOR THE PEOPLE OF LESOTHO, BUT FOR THE REGION AT LARGE. THE SADC AND MEMBER STATES HAVE BEEN WITH US THROUGHOUT OUR TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS TILL NOW, AND HAVE SPEND A LOT, BOTH FINANCIALLY, TECHNICALLY AND IN HUMAN RESOURCES.

EXCELLENCIES,

THIS DAY, MARKS A GENUINE BEGINNING, BY NON-STATE ACTORS OR CIVIL SOCIETY, OF A PROCESS OF THE IMMINENT HOLDING OF A NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SADC, WHICH WILL PRECEDE THE UPCOMING COMPREHENSIVE REFORMS COVERING CONSTITUTIONAL, PARLIAMENTARY, JUDICIAL, SECURITY AND PUBLIC SECTORS. IT IS A MEMORABLE DAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF LESOTHO OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT, TO HAVE A SAY IN HOW THEY ARE GOVERNED BY MAKING INPUTS IN THIS MAMOTH TUSK AHEAD OF US ALL. A TRUE PARTICIPATION OF THE CITIZENRY INDEED.

THE OCCASION MAY BE DESCRIBED AS A NEW DAWN USHERED, FOR BASOTHO TO REFLECT AND SEE WHERE THINGS WENT WRONG AND HOW ALL THAT CAN BE FIXED AND MOVE FORWARD TO THE FUTURE, IN HARMONY AS ONE BIG FAMILY.

ACCORDINGLY, ON BEHALF OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT THAT I AM PART OF, AND ALSO ON MY OWN BEHALF, I WISH TO CONVEY, THROUGH YOU THE LCN, THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS GREAT OCCASION, OUR HEARTFELT FELICITATIONS AND GOOD WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS DIALOGUE AND TO ALL OTHER EFFORTS YOU HAVE STARTED IN THIS LONG JOURNEY TOGETHER, TO FIND PEACE FOR THIS NATION.

YOUR TRACK RECORD IN CONTINUOUSLY BEING INVOLVED IN PEACE EFFORTS DURING TIMES OF CONFLICT, IS A TRUE REFLECTION OF YOUR HONEST INTENTIONS TO HAVE LASTING PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE COUNTRY.

EXCELLENCIES,

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

INDEED THE PAST 4 YEARS HAVE BEEN A PERIOD DURING WHICH OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN IN A POLITICAL TURMOIL OF SOME SORT AS A RESULT OF AMONG OTHERS FLOOR CROSSING IN PARLIAMENT, TO THE DETRIMENT OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN OUR COUNTRY.

BASOTHO HAVE A COMMON DESTINY WHICH COMPELS THEM TO WORK, CLOSELY, TO DEFEAT THE COMMON ENEMIES LIKE CRIME, CORRUPTION, YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT, HIV/AIDS AND POVERTY, AMONG OTHERS.

EXCELLENCIES,

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

LESOTHO ADVOCATES FOR COMMON VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS: PROMOTION OF PEACE AND SECURITY, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE RULE OF LAW, AS ENSHRINED IN OUR CONSTITUTION AND ARTICULATED THROUGH OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO IS GRATEFUL FOR THE EFFORTS THAT THE CIVIL SOCIETY HAS RENDERED SINCE 2014, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN LESOTHO. DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES, THE CIVIL SOCIETY, INCLUDING FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, HAVE REMAINED STEADFAST IN MEDIATION EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE IN LESOTHO.

WE WISH TO ALSO THANK THE SADC FACILITATOR TO LESOTHO AND THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR THEIR SELFLESS EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT BASOTHO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE LASTING PEACE. THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE COMMITMENT OF THE SADC, TO MAINTAIN AND FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE ALREADY EXISTING COOPERATION BETWEEN US.