HIS MAJESTY’S SPEECH

AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE SECOND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER NATIONAL DIALOGUE PLENARY

'MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTRE

MASERU

27 NOVEMBER, 2019
- The Right Honourable the Prime Minister, Dr. Motsoahae Thomas Thabane,
- His Excellency President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, Chairperson of SADC,
- His Excellency President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation,
- His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, SADC Facilitator to Lesotho,
- Honourable President of Senate,
- Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
- Retired Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke, Head of the SADC Facilitation Support Team,
- All Invited Distinguished Guests,
- Sechaba sa Basotho se teng koano ka bo mong le ka Mekhatlo ea lona,
- Members of the Media,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,
It is with great joy that we are gathered here today, exactly one year after the first Multi-Stakeholder National Dialogue Plenary was held, not only to punctuate the National Dialogue Process, but to also mark yet another significant milestone in our sacred journey towards building a new Lesotho that we will all be proud of. Even though the National Dialogue Process comes to an end today, the Reforms journey, however, is only beginning in earnest.

Over the past year, Basotho, undertook to take and finish this delicate journey. They came together under the universal identity and pride of our country to build the Lesotho that We Want and Deserve. Basotho, both in Lesotho and in the diaspora, spoke clearly on their aspirations and desires for the Lesotho they Want. The honourable thing to do now is for those who have been trusted with the responsibility to implement the reforms to fully and faithfully turn the dictates of our People into
reality. Lest we forget, may I remind you that Lentsoe la Sechaba ke Lentsoe la Molimo.

We are, therefore, celebrating today as we mark the dawn of a new beginning. It is the day that will go down in the annals of history as the day on which Lesotho defined a new trajectory that assures every Mosotho of Peace, Stability, Freedom and Prosperity. The Basotho Nation, which was once globally renowned and revered for its peacefulness, has decided to stand up in unison and build a Lesotho that will be an envy of all – a Lesotho that future generations will be proud to be part of.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

When we began this journey two years ago, divisions and differences among us as a Nation were too glaring. A dark cloud of uncertainty was hovering over us as a country. Political polarisation was too entrenched. The security
situation in Lesotho was uncertain, while some of our country men had fled their homes and sought refuge in other countries. Many had little hope that meaningful progress would be made. But, today we take a moment to thank the Almighty God for the laudable strides that we have collectively made. If it were not for His Grace, we would not be where we are today. I also wish to thank the entire Basotho Nation and their Leadership for their commitment and resolve to stay on course. Indeed, the resounding success that this Plenary II has been speaks to this truism.

The extra-ordinary support and strategic leadership that my Government has provided to the Dialogue Process is worth my special commendation. It is common knowledge that through the help of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and with the cooperation and active role of my Government, some Leaders who had sought refuge in other sister African countries for political reasons returned home in due time and took part in the
Reforms Process. As we move forward, I wish to assure you of my Government’s full commitment to ensure that all Basotho who are still remaining outside the country for security or political reasons, return home to take part in building a new country.

My sincere gratitude also goes to SADC for their steadfast support to us through all our upheavals.

Your commitment, President Mugufuli, and that of your fellow SADC Leaders to a peaceful and secure Lesotho, does not go unrecognized. Many SADC Countries have not only contributed financially to our course, but have also contributed sacrificially by deployment of military and civilian personnel to help calm the situation in Lesotho. At this juncture, allow me to recall, sadly, that during the deployment of the SAPMIL contingent, two precious lives of SADC soldiers were lost in the line of duty while in our country. To the families and countries of the said personnel, we are eternally indebted. One thing we can
assure you of is that the efforts and sacrifices of your sons have not been in vain.

In the same vein, I wish to thank President Cyril Ramaphosa and the SADC Facilitation Support Team, under the leadership of Retired Deputy Chief Justice Moseneke, for their continued engagement in Lesotho. In the true brotherly spirit and the consistent with the principle of good neighbourliness, you dedicated your time and resources to the Lesotho National Reforms Process. We wish to assure you that your efforts have not been in vain. May relations between our two countries continue to grow from strength to strength for the mutual benefit of our Peoples.

It would be remiss of me not to thank our Development Partners, particularly the United Nations and the European Union, for their financial support to our Reforms Process. We, particularly, commend them for acknowledging that the Reforms belong to Basotho and that it is Basotho who
have to decide on the kind of Lesotho they want, by agreeing to support us without any conditionalities. May cooperation and friendship between the United Nations, the European Union and Lesotho continue to flourish.

Equally, we are grateful to the National Dialogue Planning Committee (NDPC) for diligently guiding the National Dialogue Process. Mistakes may have happened along the way, but as the adage says, "to err is human". As you retire to your normal duties, please do know that we are thankful for your work.

The Government Technical Team, under the leadership of the Government Secretary, also did a sterling job. We must never forget that this Team was formed at the very conceptual stage of the Reforms. It is this Team that gave birth to all the reforms processes and structures that we have today. Despite many challenges in the execution of their duties in the reforms front, these Public Officials remained onboard. Their sacrifices and dedication to
contributing to a new Lesotho shall remain indelibly printed in our hearts. Keep up the good work and remain loyal to Lesotho and Basotho.

Sechaba Sa Heso,


Khetlong lena ke kholisehile hore bohle re ikemiselitse ho fetoha, le hona ho khutlisa seriti sa rona, etsoe re ne se re
fetohile sesomo le setšehisa ka hare ho hloahloa ena ea Africa e ka boroa. Re tsebahala re le Naha e futsanehileng, feela re na le lihloliloeng tse bo taemane, metsi le tse’ ling, tseo ba masene ba inkelang tsona ka thupa ea 'mooane.

Ka mehla ha re bina pina ea rona ea Sechaba, haholo ha re fihla mantsoeng a reng:

"Lesotho Fatše la bo Ntata Rona, hara mafatše le letle ke lona,
Ke moo re hlahileng, ke moo re holileng, re ea lerata,
Molimo a ku boloke Lesotho, O felise lintoa le matšoenyeho,
Oho Fatše lena, la Bo Ntata rona, re ea Lerata",

Ke ne ke ee ke ipotse hore na re utloisisa e le kannete moelelo le botebo ba pina ena o bolelang bo 'ngoe ba rona re le Basotho. Kajeno ke lumela hore re tla e bina re tebisitse maikutlo ho thusia molaetsa o fuperoeng ke pina ena eo e leng thapelo ea rona, ‘me re tla khoa litloaelong lemekheong ea rona ea ho se phelisane ka Khotso.
Bo ‘M’e le bo Ntate, ke rata le eelloe hore SADC ha ena ho lula e shebane le Lesotho ka linako tsohle. Metsoalle ea rona ho tla fihla nako eo ba re nyahlatsang hore re ke re sale re lubana le hleng-hlenyane ea rona ea ho se rate Khotso le botsitso. Ka lebaka leo, ha re nkeng monyetla ona oo Morena Molimo a re fileng ona oa hore re ke re itlhahlhobe, re ahe bo ‘ngoe, re tlohelle litaba-tabelo tsa rona re le batho ka bo mong, re ahe Naha e tla natefela Basotho kaofela.

Ka holimo ho tsohle, ke ile ka ipiletsa ho lona hore ha le kena Tlhopho Bochew ena, le eelloe hore re le Basotho re na le mekhoa le meetlo ea rona e bolelang boleng ba rona. Ka le kopa hore le sireletse Bosotho ba lona ka ho se nke litloaelo tsa balichaba tse ronang Bosotho ba rona, etsoe “Sechaba se senang Moetlo se ea timela”. Ke ile ka le kopa hore ka hare ho Tlhopho Bocha ena ea rona, le sireletse Bosotho le maputulo a Morena Moshoeshoe oa pele, a kang a ho re nyalla Baruti bo Thomas Arbousett le ba bang. Ke tšepa hore le ha leeto lena le ntse le tsoela
pele, ba ikarabellang ba tla etsa sohle se matleng a bona ho sireletsa boleng bona ba rona.

Ke sa le hona moo, ntumelleng ho pheta lifela baheso ka ho le hopotsa hore Tlhopho Bocha ka bo eona ha se makhona tsohle a tlo re hlolela liqholotso tsa rona tsohle. Re ka ba le melao e metle ka ho fetisisa lefatšeng, empa ha feela re sa fetole lipelo tsa rona le litloaelo tsa rona tse soto, re tla hamela letangteng. Ka hona, Tlhopho Bocha e tlameha ho qala lipelong tsa rona ka bomong re le batho. Kaofela ha re kopeng Morena Molimo A re thuse, A keny moea oa lerato la Naha, lerato la e mong ho e mong le kutloelano bohloko.

Ha ke phetela polelo eaka, ke lakatsa ho leboa 'Muso oa Lesotho ka tsela e khethehileng ka boikitlaetso ba ona mosebetsing ona, le hona ho tšehetsa mosebetsi ka lichelete. Ke leboa le Baetapele bohle ba Sechaba ho kenyelletsa le Makhotla a bohanyetsi ka Paramenteng. Bohle Basotho ba kentseng letsoho tšebetsong ena ke ea
le leboha. Ke leboha hape SADC le Naha ea Afrika Boroa, ka President Cyril Ramaphosa le letsoho la hae le letona, Moahloli Likghang Moseneke, Mokhatlo oa Machanba a Kopaneng (UN), le Mokhatlo oa Linaha tsa Europe (European Union), ka tšehetso ea bona. Nka se lebale hape ho leboha Lekhotla la tsamaiso ea lipuisano tsa Naha (NDPC), le Bahlanka ba Sechaba (Government Technical Team), ekasitana le Mekhatlo e ikemetseng ka boitelo ba bona tšebetsong ena. Mosebetsi o motle ruri, ‘me Morena a le atlehise le ho feta.

Allow me, therefore, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, to officially declare this Multi-Stakeholder National Dialogue Plenary II officially closed.

Molimo O boloke Lesotho le Basotho.

KHOTSO!!  PULA!!  NALA!!!