



**ROYAL PALACE
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

**STATEMENT BY HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III AT THE LAUNCH
OF PHASE II OF THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT: 27
MARCH, 2014**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH AFRICA, MR. JACOB ZUMA**

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE, THE PRIME MINISTER NTATE
MOTSOAHAE THOMAS THABANE**

HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

YOUR LORDSHIP, THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HONOURABLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

**CABINET MINISTERS FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND LESOTHO**

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE

**MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS**

PRINCIPAL CHIEFS

CHURCH LEADERS

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

SECHABA SA HESO



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AS WE MARK THIS PALPABLY SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING OF PHASE II OF THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT, IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF LESOTHO AND ON MY OWN BEHALF TO WELCOME YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR ENTOURAGE TO LESOTHO. OUR HEARTFELT THANKS ARE DUE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME WHEN YOUR GREAT COUNTRY IS GEARING UP FOR YOUR NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

TODAY, THE 27TH OF MARCH, 2014, THE TWO NATIONS ARE TOGETHER CELEBRATING YET AGAIN, ANOTHER IMPORTANT MILESTONE OF THE PROJECT, THE LAUNCHING OF PHASE II OF THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT. THIS IS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF THE WARM RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

IT WAS ALMOST A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO WHEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO AND OF THE



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA SIGNED A TREATY OF THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT. THE TREATY SIGNED IN 1986 PROVIDES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION IN FOUR PHASES. MOST OF US ARE AWARE THAT PHASE I OF THE PROJECT WAS COMPLETED IN 2004, AND IT WAS MADE OF THE KATSE, MOHALE AND 'MUELA DAMS, TOGETHER WITH THE RELATED TUNNELS WHICH CONNECT THE DAMS FOR THE DELIVERY OF WATER TO SOUTH AFRICA AND HYDROELECTRIC POWER GENERATION FOR LESOTHO. THE PEOPLE OF LESOTHO AND OF SOUTH AFRICA ARE ALREADY REAPING THE BENEFITS FROM PHASE I.

ON 11TH AUGUST, 2011 OUR TWO MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER AFFAIRS IN LESOTHO AND SOUTH AFRICA, SIGNED THE AGREEMENT ON PHASE II OF THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT IN MASERU. WITH THE SIGNING OF THE PHASE II AGREEMENT OF THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT, AND ITS RATIFICATION BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN MAY 2013, THE TWO PARTNERS REACHED A MILESTONE, WHICH TODAY WE ARE MARKING WITH THIS LAUNCHING CEREMONY. TODAY IS AN IMPORTANT DAY, WHICH SETS IN MOTION THE IMPLEMENTATION



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OF THE TWO COMPONENTS OF THE AGREEMENT, NAMELY, THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE POLIHALI DAM AND ITS RELATED ACTIVITIES AND OF THE HYDROPOWER COMPONENT AT KOBONG. ACCORDING TO THE TREATY, THE PROJECT CONSISTS OF TWO MAJOR OBJECTIVES, NAMELY:

- HARNESSING LESOTHO'S WATER IN THE HIGHLANDS BEHIND GIGANTIC AND MASSIVE DAM WALLS, AND DIVERTING IT THROUGH TUNNELS TO SOUTH AFRICA; TO MEET HER DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL NEEDS. THIS OBJECTIVE WILL BE MET IN THIS PHASE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE POLIHALI DAM, AND ITS RELATED ACTIVITIES, AN EVENT WE ARE HERE TO LAUNCH, AND,
- USING THE EXISTING KATSE RESERVOIR AS THE LOWER DAM, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF KOBONG RESERVOIR AS THE UPPER DAM, WATER WILL FLOW FROM THE LATTER INTO KATSE RESERVOIR AND THEN RELEASED THROUGH A TUNNEL AND A POWERHOUSE TO GENERATE 1200 MEGA WATTS OF HYDROPOWER FOR THE BENEFIT OF LESOTHO, WHICH WE ARE ALSO LAUNCHING.



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DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

PERMIT ME TO MAKE A FEW OBSERVATIONS ON THE BENEFITS WHICH WILL ACCRUE TO LESOTHO WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PHASE OF THE PROJECT STARTS. THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TWO DAMS WILL INCREASE TREMENDOUSLY. SIMILARLY, THE CONSTRUCTION OF ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS ROADS AND CONNECTION TO ELECTRIC POWER WILL GENERATE ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

WITHOUT DELVING IN GREAT DETAIL INTO THE ENGINEERING ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT, PERMIT ME TO OUTLINE THE FOLLOWING MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE PHASE II:

- THE PROJECT WILL CONSTRUCT A MAJOR ACCESS ROAD FROM EITHER **HA SESHOTE** TO THE **POLIHALI DAM SITE** OR



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FROM HA MAKOPELA TO THE POLIHALI DAM SITE. THERE WILL ALSO BE OTHER ROADS AROUND THE POLIHALI CATCHMENT AREA;

- CONSTRUCTION OF THE POLIHALI DAM AND ITS RELATED INFRASTRUCTURAL ACTIVITIES WILL GENERATE A LOT OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES;
- THERE WILL BE A TUNNEL FROM POLIHALI DAM TO THE KATSE RESERVOIR;
- RESETTLEMENT HOUSES FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO BE RELOCATED FROM THE DAM SITE WILL BE BUILT, WHICH WILL BENEFIT THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IN LESOTHO; AND
- CONSTRUCTION OF THE KOBONG HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT WILL BRING ABOUT SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF ELECTRIC POWER IN LESOTHO.

THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THIS PROJECT WILL RECRUIT THOUSANDS OF BASOTHO. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT ALL UNSKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED LABOUR ON THE PROJECT WILL BE RESERVED FOR THE BASOTHO, WHILE ALSO GIVING SPECIAL PRIORITY TO LOCAL PEOPLE IN THE PROJECT AREA.



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SPECIALIZED SKILLS WILL PRIORITISE BASOTHO FOLLOWED BY SOUTH AFRICANS, AND LASTLY PEOPLE FROM THE SADC REGION.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE POLIHALI DAM, ITS RELATED FACILITIES AND THE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS WILL BE BORNE BY OUR PARTNERS- SOUTH AFRICA, WHILE LESOTHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COSTS RELATED TO GENERATION OF HYDROPOWER AT KOBONG INCLUDING THE RELATED SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS.

EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE ABOUT THE PHASE II OF THE PROJECT IS THAT, DURING ITS PREPARATORY PHASE, THE COMMUNITY AROUND THE PROJECT AREA WAS FULLY ENGAGED AND THEIR CONCERNS TAKEN ON BOARD. DURING THE CONSULTATION PROCESS, THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT HELD SEVERAL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC GATHERINGS (LIPITSO) IN THE PROJECT AREA. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THESE CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WERE GENUINE. COOPERATIVE AND HONEST. CURRENTLY, THE PROJECT IS CONTINUING TO



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CONSULT THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES ON THE DRAFT COMPENSATION POLICY IN ORDER TO GET THEIR INPUTS AND COMMENTS ON THE POLICY. LATER ON, THERE WILL BE FOLLOW UP MEETINGS TO CONFIRM THAT THEIR VIEWS HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED BEFORE THE POLICY IS FINALISED.

BASOTHO BA KHABANE,

KE EA LE LUMELISA LETSATSING LENA LA THABO HOHLE MOO LE LE TENG EMPA KA HO KHETHOLOHA, KE RATA HO ISA LITUMELISO TSA KA TSE KHETHEHILENG HO LONA SECHABA SA SETEREKE SENA SA MOKHOTLONG.

JOALOKA HA HO SE HO HLALOSITSOE, RE PHUTHEHILE MONA HO TLA THAKHOLA KA MOLAO MOKHAHLELO OA BOBELI OA MORERO OA METSI A LIHLABA. LE TLA HOPOLA, SECHABA SA HESO, HORE KA SELEMO SA 2004, RE NE RE LE MANE HA MOHALE, SETEREKENG SA MASERU, HO THETHA MOKHAHLELO OA PELE OA MORERO ONA OA METSI A LIHLABA. LE TLA HOPOLA HAPE HORE



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MOKHAHLELO OA PELE O ILE OA TLISA LINTLAFATSO TSE NGATA NAHENG EA RONA TSE KANG MATAMO A HA KATSE LE HA MOHALE, LITSELA TSE NOLOFALITSENG MAETO ESITA LE HO FEHLA MOTLAKASE KA METSI MANE 'MUELA.

MOSOTHO HA A RENEKETSA MOSEBETSI O MOTLE ORE: **“NTHO E NTLE E EA PHETOA” KAPA, “THEBE E SEELOA HOLIM’A E ‘NGOE”**. KA HONA, LETSATSI LENA LA KAJENO LE TLA SALA E LE LA BOHLOKOA ‘ME LE KHETHOLOHILENG NAHENG EA RONA KA HA RE KHAKOLA LEOTO LA BOBELI LA MORERO OA METSI A LIHLABA O TLANG HO RE TSOELA MOLEMO KA NOKA E TELELE.

MOKHAHLELO ONA OA BOBELI OA METSI A LIHLABA O ILE OA ETELLOA PELE KE BOITHUTO BO PHARALLETSENG BA MAEMO A RENANG LINTLHENG TSE KANG PHALLO EA METSI LINOKENG TSA SENQU LE KHUBELU, MAEMO A SECHABA A BOIPHELISO, MAEMO A SECHABA A BOPHELO HAMMOHO LE MAEMO A TIKOLOHO. MORERO ONA O RE FUPARETSE LINTLAFATSO TSE HLABOSEHANG TSE LATELANG:



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- KHAHO EA LITSELA TSE NTLE TSE TLA NOLOFATSA MAETO;
- KHAHO EA LETAMO LA POLIHALI HO BOKELETSA METSI KA BONGATA;
- PHEHLO EA MOTLAKASE SEBAKENG SA KOBONG O TLANG HO ANELA LITLHOKO TSOHLE TSA NAHA EA RONA TSA MOTLAKASE OBE O REKISETSOE LINAHA TSA BOHAHELANI; LE
- TLHAHISO EA MESEBETSI E MENGATA E TLANG HO FUMANANOA KE BASOTHO.

BO-'M'E LE BO-NTATE, JOALOKA MORERO OFE KAPA OFE O MOHOLO OA NTLAFATSO, MOKHAHLELO ONA OA BOBELI O TLA AMA MAPHELO A LONA, 'ME KE TIISELITSOE KE BOTSAMAISI BA MORERO HORE BA TLA ETSA SOHLE SE MATLENG A BONA HO TŠELISA BATHO BA TLA ANGOA KE TŠEBETSO EA MORERO KA MOKHOA O KHOTSOFATSANG.



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HAPE, KE TLALEHETSOE KE BOOKAMELI BA METSI A LIHLABA HORE MORERO O TSOILE LETŠOLO HO BUISANA LE LONA SECHABA KA LITABA TSA MORERO TSE TLA AMA KAROLO E 'NGOE EA BAHABI BA TIKOLOHO ENA EA LONA. KE TLALEHETSOE HAPE HORE, HAR'A LINTLHA TSE NTSENG LI TŠOHLOA LE SECHABA, KE LEANO LA MATŠELISO, KA SEPHEHO SA HO HAPPELLA LITABATABELO TSA SECHABA SE TLANG HO AMEHA. KATAMELO E TJENA LITABENG TSA SECHABA, E BOHLOKOA HAHOLO 'ME RE EA E KHOTHALETSA LE HO E THOHOLETSA. KA HONA, SECHABA SA HESO, KE NKA MONYETLA ONA HO LE MEMA HORE LE TSOELEPELE HO TSAMAEA LIPHUTHEHO TSE HLOPHISITSOENG KE BOOKAMELI BA MORERO HO SHEBISANA LE BONA LINTLHA TSE LE AMANG.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

IN CONCLUDING MY REMARKS FOR TODAY, LET ME ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU, PRESIDENT ZUMA, FOR SETTING ASIDE SOME OF YOUR PRESSING ENGAGEMENTS TO COME INTO THE MOUNTAINS



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OF LESOTHO IN MOKHOTLONG TO TAKE PART IN THE LAUNCHING OF PHASE II OF THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT. WE HAVE NO DOUBT IN OUR MINDS THAT PHASE II OF THE HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT, IS YET ANOTHER MILESTONE IN OUR CORDIAL AND ALL-WEATHER TESTED RELATIONS.

FINALLY, IT IS MY SINGULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO DECLARE PHASE II OF THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT, OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED.

KE EA LEBOHA,

KHOTSO, PULA, NALA