

**FINAL DECLARATION OF THE LESOTHO MULTI-STAKEHOLDER NATIONAL  
DIALOGUE HELD FROM 25 TO 27 NOVEMBER 2019**

**PREAMBLE**

**WE,**

The Leaders of the Lesotho Coalition Government, Coalition of Opposition Parties in Parliament, Parties outside Parliament, Christian Council of Lesotho, College of Chiefs, Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations, representatives of the Youth, Women, Business, Academia, People with Disabilities and civil society organisations including labour and diaspora, having convened as the Second Multi-stakeholder National Dialogue at Mantshabising Convention Centre in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho from 25 to 27 November 2019, as part of our longstanding effort to commit ourselves to participate in an inclusive, participatory, democratic, transparent and comprehensive reforms process;

**INSPIRED** by and committing to uphold the legacy of nationhood and the values of statesmanship bequeathed to Basotho by Moshoeshe the First and the other founders of the Basotho nation;

**RECALLING** our commitments to the SADC Observer Mission to Lesotho (SOMILES) Report of 2014 and the Lesotho Reforms Roadmap which made recommendations for a long-term solution towards achieving political and security stability;

**MINDFUL** of the pledge in which we undertook to prioritise national reforms after the June 03, 2017 General Elections;

**STRESSING** our full, unconditional acceptance and implementation of SADC Decisions and Recommendations;

**COGNISANT** of the commitment of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to assist Basotho to achieve lasting peace and stability, as evidenced by the appointment of a SADC Facilitator (South African President Cyril Ramaphosa) and the deployment of the SADC Missions to the Kingdom, including the Oversight Committee (OC) and the SADC Preventive Mission in the Kingdom of Lesotho (SAPMIL).

**RECALLING** the adoption of the Roadmap for Reforms titled 'The Lesotho We Want' and the recommendation of SADC to prioritise the Constitutional and Security Sector Reforms which should have been completed by May 2019;



**RECALLING** the signing of the Framework Agreement which was aimed at building confidence and trust amongst Basotho stakeholders. This resulted in resolving the perceived politically inspired arrest of opponents and the return of exiles.

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the establishment of the National Leaders Forum which adopted thematic areas following vigorous discussions that led to the promulgation of the National Reforms Act of 2018 establishing the Lesotho National Dialogue Planning Committee (NDPC):

**RECALLING** the successful efforts which were made by the SADC Facilitation Team to ensure that the First Plenary of Multi-stakeholder National Dialogue is as inclusive, participatory, democratic, Basotho-driven and Basotho-led as possible by ensuring:

- a) That all stakeholders including non-government and extra-parliamentary entities participate;
- b) That the exiles return to fully participate in the dialogue;
- c) That the NDPC develops a tool which will be used for the consultation and discussions by Basotho in the various social and political formations;
- d) The In-District Public Participation programme was extended to include both the sectoral and diaspora consultations; and
- e) That the National Dialogue Planning Committee engages experts to crystallise and synthesise all reports in order to make them more user-friendly so as to facilitate the decision making process in the Second Plenary.

**CONFIRMING** the chosen thematic areas which include: constitutional, parliamentary, judiciary, security, public service, economic and media reforms.

**COMMENDING** the National Leaders Forum for the conceptualization and spearheading the promulgation of the National Reforms Authority Act of 2019, the main task of which will be the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of Plenary II.

**RECOGNISING, ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMENDING** the excellent work done by the National Dialogue Planning Committee in the convening of both Plenary I and II.

**APPRECIATING, ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMENDING** all organs of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for guiding and marshalling the National Dialogue Process.

**FURTHER RECOGNISING, ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMENDING** the sterling stewardship and leadership role provided by the Retired Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke and his Facilitation Team to the National Dialogue Process.

**FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPRECIATING** the role played by the international partners in particular the United Nations family and the European Union in their commitment to walk the full path.

**ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPRECIATING** the wise counsel and advice from His Majesty, King Letsie III, for his continuous support to the national dialogue process:

**RECOGNISING AND COMMENDING** all Basotho for the manner in which they embraced the responsibility of engaging in the National Dialogue Process. This was evidenced by the fierceness and robustness of the public debates and engagements in all consultation meetings.

**HEREBY DECLARE:**

1. To remain faithful and committed to the National Reforms Process in the Kingdom of Lesotho.
2. That as stipulated in the National Reforms Authority Act of 2019, the National Reforms Authority is directed to:

- a) Oversee and manage the process of the national reforms concerning the decisions and resolutions of Plenary II.
- b) Ensure the implementation of the national reforms and shall to that end be the custodian of the reforms.
- c) Propose and approve policy documents, draft Bills and any legal instruments from the Chief Executive Officer as may be necessary for national reforms in line with the resolutions and decisions of Plenary II.

3. To direct the National Reforms Authority and Parliament to finally deliver on the mandate given by Basotho in their social and political formations.
4. To adopt all the source documents/reports which were generated through the National Dialogue Process. These reports include First Plenary, In-District, Sectoral, Diaspora consultations, written submission as well as those synthesized summaries of experts and the National Leaders Forum Sub-committee.
5. To adopt all decisions on options agreed upon by Plenary II in the seven thematic areas for the implementation by the National Reforms Authority.

Adopted at Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019.