

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

28th JANUARY, 2019

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

Your Majesty and Chancellor, Members of the 13th Council, Vice Chancellor and Principal Officers of the University, it is once more my honour and privilege to welcome His Majesty in his capacity as the Chancellor of the National University of Lesotho, on this occasion where he is presiding over the Annual Meeting of today, 28th January, 2018, in fulfilment of the requirements of the governing instruments of the National University of Lesotho. As Council, we are obligated by these same instruments to give an account of matters that preoccupied us during the period under review, and to present an outlook for the year ahead.

Your Majesty and Chancellor, as the end of term of office for the 13th Council approaches, it is appropriate to look back at the journey that has been travelled, a journey indeed that, apart from being punctuated by the perennial challenges arising from the inadequacy of resources, has been marked by conditions of stability that permitted learning to proceed without major interruptions. Council considers it appropriate to applaud the efforts of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Nqosa Mahao, and his management team for providing the correct leadership and upholding healthy relations between itself and other key players within the realm of human capital development.

Council further wishes to acknowledge the cordial atmosphere which has surrounded the engagement by the University delegation with the Honourable Minister of Education of Training. Indeed the issues on the table do not promise any easy solutions, but further dialogue on these issues should enable us to successfully navigate out of a very difficult situation. With continued interactions by all concerned parties, it may also be wise to explore the experiences of the education funding campaign (referred to as Sethabathaba) that was established in the 60s to invest in the education of the Basotho children. This appears to have similarities with the campaign styled as "One Man One Beast" which called for each Botswana family to contribute a cow to fund the infrastructure development of their University. The campaign became so successful; Batswana did not look back, and were from that moment onwards left with a good feeling of fulfilment and ownership of the institution.

Your Majesty and Chancellor, you have never missed even a single graduation ceremony, and we recall that at one time you had to shift your travel schedule to be present for the graduation ceremony. We honestly feel indebted to you for always being there for us.

In the current paradigm where our society is experiencing fractious political activity, the University may be challenged to play a pivotal role in driving a culture change to promote higher levels of tolerance, through the design of a series of training programmes in topical subjects such as anger management, shared vision crafting, and such similar modern thinking topics. The University should strive to position itself as a solution provider. This is RESPONSE ABILITY, which is where the word "responsibility" has been derived, and indeed which should typify the work and nature of the institution.

Your Majesty and Chancellor, on behalf of the 13th Council, I conclude by pledging our allegiance to your office. We stand ready to accept new directives to undertake and discharge our mandate with renewed vigour and determination.

I thank you.

Tseko A. Bohloa