

**Speech by Khale Majoro on behalf of the graduating students of The National University of Lesotho (the class of 2018).**

Jimi Hendrix says that knowledge speaks but wisdom listens. Fellow country-men, thank you for your wisdom in advance.

It raptures me with honor to be given this golden opportunity to speak on behalf of the graduates (the class of 2018). Fellow country-men, I would like to be of the feeling that you know as well as I do that Lesotho is one of the prominent countries which prioritizes and highly emphasize the essence of education, as a result, it would be unethical if one talks about today (the graduations day) without congratulating all the stakeholders who made this day a reality.

After all, a sociologist Emile Durkheim (1885) states that a society is comparable to a mechanical and or a biological system whose parts function together to achieve a particular purpose. Therefore, the Education system of Lesotho and the society as a whole fit this descriptive analogy very well.

Firstly, I would like to begin by bringing to our graceful awareness that, The National University of Lesotho is one of the leading Institutions of Higher Education in Southern Africa, at both intra-national and international levels. In addition, according to The Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), as well as The Council of Higher Education (CHE) (2015), the majority of the human resource base is provided by The NUL. For instance, in The Higher Education Sector Plan 2013/14-2017/18, one can draw an inference that NUL is a prominent supplier of prospective employees to four out of five Statutory Professional bodies in Lesotho which are the Law Society, Lesotho Medical Dental and Pharmacy Council, Lesotho Nursing Council, Teaching Council and the Lesotho Institute of Accountants p. 14-15. Fellow country-men, this implies that our institution is the cradle place of Higher Education in Lesotho. As a result, a huge round of applause to The NUL community.

Secondly, our university has been, and continues to be an outstanding flag-bearer of national academic development given the fact that it has already celebrated its 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary- that is more than **70 years of creating champions**. Given the unique



history about our beloved beacon of higher education, a lot of responsibility lies on our (the graduates) shoulders. What have we learned during all these years we have spent in lecture rooms, libraries and on the internet? To what degree are we prepared to fit in to the ever changing world of work?

My fellow states men, these questions are not a cause for concern or obstacles to complain about. Instead, they represent exciting adventures to undertake and/or scientific laboratories where an array of spectacular experiments and discoveries await. After all, 'most countries are poor because they spend a lot of time complaining about what they do not have instead of thinking about what they can create' (Cruyff,2016). As a result, may the Mountain Kingdom hear me out, as I stand here on behalf of my peers that,

*We, the class of 2018, promise that we are not the kind of generation that would like to be known for complaining about what they do not have but, we are just ready to think about what we can create. We are well informed about the fact that the institutions of higher education have a pivotal role to play in ensuring that Lesotho fully achieves its aspirations of **'creating a stable, prosperous and peaceful democracy with a healthy and well-informed human resource base'** as articulated in Lesotho Vision 2020. It is on these grounds that I would like to guarantee the whole nation about our readiness as the class of 2018.*

*Secondly, i would like to bring to your attention fellow country-men that, Sustainable Development Goals and Education for Sustainable Development remain a buzzword across all spheres of life at both intra-national and international levels.*

*Peaceful citizens of the mountain kingdom, it is under these realizations that, the class of 2018 would like to declare its perpetual ambition to ensure that each member is willing to be "hands on deck" so that Lesotho finally becomes part of the global community. It is all a matter of "hands on the present eyes on the future". After all if there are no willing hands to take care of the present, the vision of the future hangs on the balance(Queiroz, 2000).*



Fellow citizens of Lesotho, allow me to pass our specific gratitudes to the staff members of the National University of Lesotho for taking good care of us throughout all these years. Your leadership was exceptional through thick and thin. Our beloved lecturers, your guidance proved it that 'greatness is not a function of circumstances, it is a conscious choice' (John Collins). You also taught us that 'there is no use being an academic giant but a social dwarf'(Hendrix 2013).

You taught us approaches and perspectives which we are sure that they will serve as vital analytical toolboxes for us to navigate our spheres of contact. We are ready to serve our nation with pride, open hearts and minds which are critical instead of confrontational.

Lastly, I would like to assure you fellow state men that, what lies ahead will not be easy, neither will it be difficult, it will be CHALLENGING since adversity is a breakfast of champions (Komphelela 2015). As a result, the class of 2018, you are CHAMPIONS! Let us try all we can to ensure that **LESOTHO GOES FOR GOLD.**

**THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR PATIENCE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**