



**ROYAL PALACE  
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

**REMARKS BY HIS MAJESTY AND CHANCELLOR ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF  
LESOTHO'S 13<sup>th</sup> COUNCIL - MONDAY THE 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2019**

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**HONOURABLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING,**

**CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL,**

**DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL,**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR,**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS DISTINGUISHED SITTING OF THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO. NOTING THAT WE ARE STILL IN THE FIRST MONTH OF THE YEAR, I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU ALL A PROSPEROUS AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF 2019.





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IT HAS BEEN TWO YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS SINCE THE INAUGURATION OF THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO. THIS THEREFORE MEANS THAT 2019 IS THE FINAL YEAR FOR THE 13<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, A YEAR IN WHICH COUNCIL WILL CRITICALLY REFLECT AND REVIEW PLANS TO ENSURE THAT BY SEPTEMBER 2019, MUCH OF WHAT COUNCIL <sup>had</sup> COMMITTED TO ACHIEVE WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THIS COUNCIL, YOU WILL RECALL THAT I CAUTIONED THAT THE JOURNEY AHEAD WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE AN EASY ONE AND URGED YOU TO BE PREPARED TO CONFRONT THE CHALLENGES THAT THIS UNIVERSITY FACE WITH RESOLVE. I KNOW THAT THE PAST TWO YEARS WERE NOT EASY, YET IT IS IN THIS PERIOD THAT NUL BECAME MORE VISIBLE AND GAVE US HOPE AND CONFIDENCE THAT IT IS ON THE RIGHT PATH TOWARDS MAKING MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT ENDEAVOURS OF LESOTHO.

**HONOURABLE MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL,**





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DURING THIS PERIOD OF JUST OVER TWO YEARS, SEVERAL NEW PROGRAMMES WERE DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ACCREDITATION. WELL OVER THIRTY (30) PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN OFFERED PROBATIONARY ACCREDITATION STATUS UNTIL THE YEAR 2023 WHILE TWO PROGRAMMES HAVE RECEIVED FULL ACCREDITATION. WE APPLAUD THIS IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT AND TAKE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT OUR UNIVERSITY IS MODERNIZING ITS PROGRAMMES IN RESPONSE TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE SOCIETY.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NUL WATER INSTITUTE (NULWI) FOR WHICH RECRUITMENT PROCESSES FOR LECTURES IS UNDERWAY IN READINESS FOR THE APPROVAL AND ACCREDITATION OF PROGRAMMES, IS ANOTHER GROUND BREAKING PROJECT TO BOAST ABOUT. I HAVE BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT PLANS ARE AFOOT TO START OFFERING PROGRAMMES UNDER THE WATER INSTITUTE IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2019.





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THE PROGRESS REGISTERED TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING IS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS GREAT POTENTIAL TO DEVELOP OUR HUMAN CAPITAL IN THOSE CRITICAL AREAS THAT WILL ENSURE THAT LESOTHO ACHIEVES HER ASPIRATIONS FOR ACCELERATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IMPORTANTLY, THE APPROVAL BY THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SIGNIFICANT PROJECT WILL PROVIDE A MUCH NEEDED STIMULUS TOWARDS BRINGING TO FRUITION THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT. WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT IN ADDITION TO A PLETHORA OF RELATED BENEFITS, SUCH A SCHOOL WOULD CUT THE COSTS OF TRAINING ENGINEERS FOR LESOTHO BY MORE THAN HALF.

MOST RECENTLY, WE ALL WITNESSED WITH GRATITUDE AND PRIDE THE LAUNCHING OF THE NUL INNOVATION HUB IN NOVEMBER 2018, A CONCEPT WHICH WHEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED COULD ADDRESS THE PLIGHT OF OUR UNEMPLOYED YOUTH AND STIMULATE OUR STAGNANT ECONOMY. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NUL INNOVATION HUB, IS ONE OF THE MUCH NEEDED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE QUEST TO INCUBATE ENTREPRENEURIAL





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CULTURE AMONG THE STUDENTS, AND IT IS INTENDED TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN INVENTING A MARKETABLE PRODUCT AND THE ACTUAL MARKETING OF THE PRODUCT. THE STRIDES MADE BY THE UNIVERSITY IN HARNESSING EXPERT KNOWLEDGE FOR INCUBATION OF BUSINESS MODELS FROM CONCEPTION TO INDUSTRIAL MASS PRODUCTION IS HIGHLY COMMENDABLE. WE REMAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT THE INNOVATION HUB AND THE ENVISIONED INDUSTRIAL PARK WILL REPRESENT A GENUINE PARADIGM SHIFT IN TACKLING UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF JOB CREATORS AND NOT JUST JOB SEEKERS.

THIS INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT IS A CULMINATION OF EXTENSIVE PREPARATORY WORK DONE BY THE UNIVERSITY STAFF AND STUDENTS IN THE LABORATORIES AND WORKSHOPS. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE NEED TO FAST-TRACK THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS WELL APPRECIATED BY THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT OF THIS UNIVERSITY.

**CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**





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DESPITE THE COMMENDABLE ADVANCES THAT NUL HAS MADE TOWARDS MEETING THE TARGETS SET OUT IN ITS 2015-20 STRATEGIC PLAN, THERE ARE STILL SOME CHALLENGES WHICH THREATEN THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED WITH URGENCY AND DETERMINATION. THE CONTINUED DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT QUALIFY TO PURSUE MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PROGRAMMES AT UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LEVEL HAMPER THE OVERALL NATIONAL PROGRESS IN THESE CRITICAL AREAS. THE UNSTABLE AND INSECURE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF NUL LARGELY DUE TO ITS HIGH DEPENDENCE ON GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION HAS REMAINED A MATTER OF GREAT CONSTERNATION FOR YEARS. IF NOT DEALT WITH PROMPTLY, THIS CAN RETARD THE AMBITIOUS PLANS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES ARE REQUIRED FOR LECTURES AND STUDENTS TO DO THE NECESSARY TESTS, EXPERIMENTS AND RESEARCH IN THE LABORATORIES IN ORDER FOR THEIR IDEAS TO BECOME VIALBLE BUSINESS CONCEPTS THAT CAN BE DEVELOPED. WE ARE MINDFUL OF THE RATHER DIRE ECONOMIC SITUATION OUR COUNTRY FACES, COUPLED WITH





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THE COMPETING DEMANDS FOR RESOURCES FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS; HOWEVER WE HOPE THAT THE PLEAS FOR ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE UNVIERSITY WILL BE MET WITH A SYMPATHETIC EAR BY GOVERNMENT AND ALSO BY OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS. AT THE SAME TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE UNVERSITY, AND ALL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, TO SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF REVENUE IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE HIGH DEPENDENCE ON GOVERNMENT SUBVENTIONS.

**CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL,**

HAVING GONE THROUGH A MYRIAD OF SUCCESSES AND SETBACKS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, I URGE YOU TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF HARD WORK DISCIPLINE AND DETERMINATION IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF YOUR TENURE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO STAY FOCUSED AS WE ALL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE SUCCESS OF THIS UNIVERSITY IS



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DEPENDENT ON THE GUIDANCE OF ITS GOVERNING STRUCTURES SUCH AS COUNCIL.

I WANT TO APPLAUD THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS UNIVERSITY THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR THEIR STEADFASTNESS WHILE IMPLEMENTING THE UNIVERSITY'S FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2015-2020. I KNOW THAT THE ACHIEVEMENTS REALIZED BY NUL IN THE PAST THREE YEARS WERE ANCHORED ON THIS STRATEGIC PLAN AND THE COMMITMENT OF THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

**HONOURABLE MINISTER, CHAIRPERSON AND DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL,**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

LET ME CONCLUDE MY REMARKS BY THANKING ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THIS INSTITUTION, AND ALSO THANK YOU





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FOR THE DILIGENT DISCHARGE OF YOUR VARIOUS OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS OVER THE AFFAIRS OF THIS UNIVERSITY. I ALSO WISH TO THANK YOU FOR THE SACRIFICES YOU HAVE MADE IN THE PAST TWO AND HALF YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY, AND FOR THE CONTRIBUTION YOU CONTINUE TO MAKE THROUGH YOUR VALUED EXPERIENCES AND EXPERTISE, ALL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE.

IT IS NOW MY HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO DECLARE THIS THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL OFFICIALLY OPENED.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND KIND ATTENTION.

**KHOTSO! PULA! NALA!**