



**REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF
EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

AT

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY**

ON

28th JANUARY 2018

HON MOTHEPU MAHAPA

**YOUR MAJESTY THE KING, CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT OF
COUNCIL**

THE RIGHT THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER

HONOURABLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

HONOURABLE MINISTERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS

VICE CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY SENATE

UNIVERSITY SENIOR MANAGEMENT

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY AND PARTNERS

UNIVERSITY STAFF

PIUS XII PARISH

MORENA MABELA MAAMA

REGISTRAR

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

1. Allow me, Your Majesty, to address the 2019 National University of Lesotho Annual General Meeting in which the University shall present an annual report together with an audited statement of the accounts.
2. This year's AGM comes after the University has just launched its HUB, where faculties were showcasing their various programmes, research and work. NUL innovation Hub is a clear evidence of the University's commitment to play its role as an institute of higher learning in fostering economic growth, job creation and export earnings while promoting social inclusion, cultural diversity and human development. Ministry of Education and Training continuously thanks and congratulates Metropolitan for having sponsored the launch and LNDC for its endeavour to partner with NUL to turn this projects into factories.
3. Ministry of Education and Training is convinced that NUL is in the right direction of responding to the national needs as outlined in the NSDP, where emphasis is on skills gap in five production sectors, namely, water, tourism, mining, textiles and technology. However, The Government of Lesotho and the community at large expects NUL to go beyond providing education for all. Among other things, it is expected to direct its human and intellectual capital efforts towards saving the country from the current status. Lesotho leads the park in HIV and AIDS, maternal mortality and tuberculosis not to mention current incidences of Cancer.

3. Your Majesty and President of Council, this occasion further affords the Government of Lesotho that vital opportunity to highlight policy issues that are in line with the core mandate of the National University of Lesotho, particularly the Government's strategic direction on the troika of the University's responsibility on *teaching and learning, research and*

community engagement. My Ministry aims to work even better with the University, for example, in the proposed Secondary School Curriculum Dissemination Strategy, NUL as a teacher training institution is expected to devote time providing training for teachers on the new curriculum as part of teacher professional development.

Developments in higher education in the SADC region and across the African continent call for harmonisation and internationalisation of our programme offerings. I have been reliably informed that the most waited for documents which the Ministry has been working on, are awaiting approval. That's The Lesotho Qualifications Framework (LQF) which defines qualifications, provides pathways for learners and sets clear parameters for registering qualifications, verifying qualifications, and evaluating foreign qualifications among other things. It will enable and ease mobility of learners and graduates within the country and internationally through comparability of the Kingdom's qualifications with any other in the world. Also, the Lesotho Alignment Report to SADACF has reached finalisation. One other legal frame-work which nearly completed, is the NUL bill which has been aligned to the institutions strategic plan.

The Ministry congratulates the NUL for having been able to maintain academic quality and managing fiscal and people resource despite the challenges faced, some of which including student learning, access and affordability, fundraising, sports, and new technology not to mention Staff and student riots alike which have contributed to the down turn of events on and off campus in the recent past, often on non-educational demands

in 2013.
Gvt constant
change and
not supporting
the university.
like other countries
in Africa.
Gvt reducing
subvention massively.

3. A vote of thanks to you Chancellor and President for honouring this occasion with your presence. NUL community, friends and development partners your presences has not gone unnoticed, the future of this university undoubtedly lies in your hands. University staff, both academic and non-academic, I endear your contribution to upholding the good name of our only national university. Let us all continue working together to achieve more. On behalf of the Government of Lesotho and indeed on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Training, I express our hope for a successful National University of Lesotho in the near future.

I thank you all!

KHOTSO!

PULA!

NALA!