



## **2024/2025 PRE -BUDGET CONSULTATIONS FORUM WITH CITIZENS**

### **'Manthabiseng Convention Centre**

#### **Opening Remarks for the Honourable Minister of Finance and Development Planning**

##### **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Allow Me to Pay My Respects to:

His Majesty King Letsie III and Head of State

The Right Honourable the Prime Minister and Head of Government

The Honourable President of The Senate

The Chief Justice and Judges of The High Court

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The House

My Colleagues, Honourable Ministers of His Majesty's Government

Honourable Members of Both Houses of Parliament

Their Excellencies, Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International  
Organisations

Distinguished Members of the Private Sector

Distinguished Members of The Media

Sechaba sohle sa Basotho ka hare le ka ntle ho naha

Bo 'M'e le Bo Ntate, Good morning,

I am truly pleased to have an opportunity to make some opening remarks and welcome you all to this important event where we will be consolidating citizens views and concerns which will inform the 2024/2025 National Budget.

Your presence here reflects a shared commitment with the Government of Lesotho to promoting good governance through improving transparency, accountability, citizen engagement and recognizing the power of collective decision-making.

The budget is more than just numbers. It reflects our priorities and aspirations as a society. By engaging the public in the budgeting process, we ensure that the choices we make resonate with the needs of our citizens.

We have embarked on a comprehensive public financial management reform agenda, which should lead us to, not only, improving on the processes to ensure effective engagement, but also achieve the desired development outcomes with less costs.

Today's discussions hold immense value as we explore ways to enhance public involvement in shaping the budget. Your insights and perspectives are invaluable as we strive to create a financial plan that serves our communities equitably and efficiently. I am eager to hear your thoughts and ideas, and I am confident that our collaborative efforts will contribute to a more inclusive and responsive budgetary framework.

We should also remember our set development priorities:

- Economic growth progression, that is inclusive and sustainable, focusing on commercial agriculture, diversification in the

manufacturing sector and mining beneficiation, tourism and technology and creative industry development

- Development of infrastructure that is supporting economic growth
- Building human capital, which means focusing on the development of requisite skills, access to efficient basic health services, food security and nutrition,
- Promoting good governance and building effective institutions, equitable participation of women, youth, those with disability
- Ensuring environmental sustainability, resilience and dealing with vulnerability

Given limited resources, It means in each of the development pillars we need to select programmes that can help us reach our set development targets more efficiently and quickly, whilst leaving no one behind.

I hope we can achieve this today, our resources cannot allow us to do everything and anything.

Turning to our partners ,

Let me take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to our development partners, and for today, special thanks go to UNICEF which supports all the analytical works done and these consultations. The National University of Lesotho, First National Bank and Development for Peace Education thank you also for joining this partnership and providing support in different ways. Your involvement in this endeavour exemplifies your genuine concern for our nation and its citizens.

To all those in the room, thank you for being part of this important dialogue and for your dedication to building a stronger and more engaged society.

I wish you fruitful engagement and declare the meeting opened

**I Thank You.**