



**CABINET RETREAT ON 2018/19 BUDGET STRATEGY
CLOSING REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER, DR MONYANE MOLELEKI, MP ON 10 OCTOBER,
2019, LEHAKOE RECREATION AND CULTURAL CENTRE**

His Majesty, The King
Honourable Prime Minister,
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers
Government Secretary and Principal Secretaries
Distinguished Facilitators
Senior Civil Servants
Ladies and Gentlemen
The media

Allow me to congratulate Ministers and Principal Secretaries for their active participation in the retreat. The aim of the retreat was to discuss key priorities of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) II and the Budget Strategy. The dialogue we witnessed today shows the eagerness of the team, despite challenges facing the country, to find the right solutions to chart a prosperous future.

The retreat primarily focused on the following NSDP II priorities:

- Enhancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Private Sector Job Creation;
- Strengthening human capital;
- Building enabling infrastructure; and
- Strengthening national governance and accountability systems.

There was also consensus that the priorities for productive sectors for the next three years, which will assist in employment creation and economic growth should be **agriculture, tourism and creative industries, manufacturing and technology.**

I am reliably informed that you reflected on the challenges and opportunities facing our country. I am happy to say that you have

realised that to achieve the set policy priorities, it is critical that we maintain political stability, strengthen institutions, align policy priorities with resource allocation and strengthen and institutionalise monitoring and evaluation. More importantly there is need to fight corruption in all its facets.

The retreat has succeeded to create an effective platform for providing leadership and guidance to the public sector on policies for our next budget. **It has also built a firm foundation to start engaging the private sector and civil society on our development agenda in order to position our country for greater prosperity.** I believe that the retreat has provided the opportunity for Ministers and Principal Secretaries to appreciate the budget process so that our country will achieve a broader goal of maintaining the macroeconomic stability.

As we establish synergies to deliver on our national goals and objectives, allow me to caution you that there is need to explore measures to enhance domestic revenue collection, contain Government expenditure, compress the wage bill and scale-up implementation capacity of our programmes and projects.

As I conclude, allow me to express my sincere gratitude for your commitment and ownership of the retreat and your distinguished roles in making this retreat a success. Special thanks go to the Ministers, Chief Accounting Officer, all Senior Government Officials as well as our development partners who always support our initiatives fully. Finally, I sincerely thank the Ministries of Finance and of Development Planning for organising this forum, which encourages Government to serve and deliver as one and I hope that this is the beginning of a series of many more to come.

I now declare this retreat closed.

Khotso Pula Nala