



KILL CORRUPTION, CREATE JOBS

OUR 5 YEAR GOVERNING PROGRAMME FOR THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS



Ke Nako

Litšebeletso Sechabeng
Moruo O Hole
Lesotho, Mosotho Pele

FOREWORD

SELIBE MOCHOBOROANE
MEC Leader



FOREWORD

While Lesotho has made commendable progress since its independence, we have taken a few steps back on a number of key development areas as a result of political instability, corruption and maladministration. The recent Covid-19 pandemic coupled with climate change hazards among others have heightened the economic challenges for Lesotho, with job security and sustainability most threatened. For us to overcome these setbacks, we require new energy, new ideas, steadfast leadership and a work ethic characterized by excellence and delivery.

Having successfully fought for our colonial independence in 1966, we have ultimately achieved a democratic dispensation. However; since 2012, the lives of Basotho have unfortunately changed for the worst. Political instability which has been augmented by volatile coalitions has stalled progress on major national priorities. In the past five years, there has been an alarming decay in public sector service delivery which has frustrated all efforts to achieve any socio-economic development. The anaemic response to the Covid-19 pandemic was evidence of the clear absence of effective leadership and a capable public service. It is clear that Lesotho needs new, visionary leadership as it enters into its next, very critical chapter.

We need to come together as a nation to uplift our economy and build a prosperous Lesotho that is at peace with itself and its neighbours. We must act with unwavering determination to bridge the development gaps that see us languishing in poverty and trailing behind the curve in meeting our 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Lesotho teeters on the brink, with the very fabric of our society in tatters, so this moment behoves us all to collectively respond to the urgent need to strengthen democracy, to re-imagine and grow Lesotho.

The moment for Basotho to think differently about their leadership and their future has arrived. The time is now. KE NAKO! and the 2022 General Elections have to be the dawn of a new Lesotho that turns the tide on the downward trend of the past 10 years. This has to be a moment of renewal. It is an opportunity to build our democratic institutions and return our country on a path of transformation, growth and development, and MEC is that agent of change.

Under the theme “**Kill Corruption, Create Jobs**” the MEC's 2022/27 Government programme will be characterized by five priority areas, aimed at rapid socio-economic transformation. These priorities areas are:

- 1. Aggressively Fighting Corruption and Enforcement of Law**
- 2. Promoting Private Sector Development**
- 3. Infrastructure Development, Economic Recovery and Growth**
- 4. Strengthening Patriotism and Social Cohesion**
- 5. Improving Social Security Services**

We are wading deep in alarming levels of corruption and crime. With Billions of Maloti unaccounted for according to the Auditor General's latest report as well as ghost projects and other irregularities we exposed through our work on Parliament's Public Accounts Committee and in the Ministry of Development Planning (since 2020), corruption is a significant impediment to our development.

Lesotho tops the list as Africa's murder capital, while horrific police brutality has gone unchecked. Putting these ingredients together, Lesotho resembles a failed state which is no destination for investment. Killing corruption is the key to creating jobs. A conducive investor environment will unlock our economic potential, where we already have opportunities abound in manufacturing, agri-processing, mineral exploration and tourism. We need to urgently turn the corruption tide around if we are to maintain our sovereign integrity, let alone prosper.

The 2022 General Elections needs to be a call to action for all Basotho to come together to rescue our country from the brink. It is a call for Basotho to 2022 to place the country's future in the hands of those who believe in it, whose sole existence has been to work tirelessly to Deliver Services to all Basotho and to Grow Lesotho's Economy for the inclusive benefit of each and every Mosotho.

MEC is ready to write the next chapter in our country's history, through this blueprint that was developed through nationwide consultations. This Manifesto is the People's Manifesto, a compendium of realistic and achievable people-led solutions to address Lesotho's problems.

Under the banner of the National Reforms, the "*Lesotho we want*" is of renewed hope in the fight to eradicate unemployment, poverty and injustice; **to kill corruption and create jobs**. Our next chapter under this backdrop is a chapter where we fiercely and vigorously pursue Service Delivery and Economic Development together for the benefit of each and every Mosotho throughout the mountains and valleys of our Beloved Lesotho.

I encourage every eligible Mosotho to go out and vote on election day. We are at a pivotal moment in our history where we all need to show up to participate in building the *Lesotho we Want!* I hope that our Manifesto will inspire you to vote for the Movement for Economic Change. I am confident that our experience, our commitment and our vision as contained in this document presents the type of government that Basotho deserve.

Ke Nako!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Schibe Mochobane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Schibe" and the last name "Mochobane" clearly distinguishable.

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Kill Corruption, Create Jobs!

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... amongst others, the money you spend to get government services, no longer makes it into our coffers. It is finding its way into people's pockets and we need bring all of that to an abrupt stop!

S. Mochoboroane

Ke Nako

OUR VISION: THE 3 PILLARS OF MEC

MEC is an inclusive Movement with a mission to build a strong, united and democratic Lesotho. It strives for **SERVICE DELIVERY** to achieve **ECONOMIC GROWTH** for the benefit of **LESOTHO** and **BASOTHO** through a value system that is underpinned on the principles of our founding father; King Moshoeshoe I, which is of excellence, empathy, community and accountability.

Service Delivery and **Economic Growth** for the Benefit of **Lesotho and Basotho FIRST** form the 3 pillars of our Movement. Articulated in our motto, these 3 pillars are the basis of our philosophy, our governing attitude as well as our priorities as reflected in this Manifesto.

In its broader vision, MEC imagines a just, prosperous, peaceful and caring civil society geared toward peace and stability, a vigorous market economy, political openness, ecological balance, and an honest, efficient and effective government. For this to be achieved, we believe that a dynamic, determined and compassionate political philosophy needs to lead Lesotho's development aspirations, driven by obligation to **SERVICE DELIVERY** and excellence, bold, innovative and appropriate mechanisms for **ECONOMIC GROWTH** and a jealous commitment to putting the needs and aspirations of **LESOTHO and BASOTHO FIRST**.

Over the past 10 years, the trajectory of Lesotho's economic development has been severely hampered by political instability and rampant corruption. Where progress had been made, lack of reinvestment has eroded fragile gains and today, Lesotho has taken several steps backwards in the attainment of some of its basic goals articulated in the Vision 2020, Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (PRSP), the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP I and II), the AU Agenda 2063 (The Africa We Want), and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. Lesotho's decline emboldened the founders of this Movement to step up on behalf of Basotho, to stand up and resist the very apparent demise of our sovereign integrity. Service Delivery and Economic Growth for the benefit of Lesotho and Basotho first became a battle cry to wrangle Lesotho from the edges of an abyss.

When MEC was formed in 2017 its founding constitution clearly articulated how it envisions Lesotho, and it subsequently developed an overarching policy to pave way to realizing that vision. Implementation has been the cornerstone that saw MEC in action when it contested for the 2017 General Elections as a young party, barely 3 months old. It successfully attained 5% of total votes, gaining 6 parliamentary seats. It also attained a sizable number of councilors in the local government elections. This political leadership represents MEC that is steadfast along its 3 Pillars of Service Delivery and Economic Development, putting the needs of **Lesotho and Basotho First!**

In its young life, MEC has already made significant, tangible strides in advancing the aspirations of Basotho, clearly identifying it as Lesotho's undisputed Agent of Change. MEC is a political

movement poised to bring about real and meaningful socio-economic transformation in Lesotho, having made lauded contributions to the **fight against corruption** through its work by the Leader on the Public Accounts Committee and later as Minister of Development Planning. Through different party functionaries, MEC has also; influenced government policy, stimulated far-reaching Parliamentary debates, and spearheaded a visionary law that is set to drive and secure Basotho-led economic enterprise. Outside of government, it has deepened patriotism, community spirit, collaboration and harmony through the #TemoFesheneng and other agriculture-based development initiatives. Our Leader has proven himself to be selfless, energetic, dynamic, capable and committed to service delivery through his track record. Having served with distinction in various Ministries, his tenacious efficiency earned him the nickname Mr. Delivery, and undoubtedly the calibre of leader Lesotho needs in a Head of Government.

The commitments we make in this Manifesto are in the spirit of **"KE NAKO!"** our slogan which underscores the urgency of NOW. It contains a vision we hope to execute through a decisive mandate in the 2022/27 election cycle, which is an inclusive programme that galvanizes the country around the solutions that will achieve the aspirations of our People.



A POLICY BASED MANIFESTO

Our Manifesto is based on our 3 Pillars:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Litšebeletso Sechabeng | Service Delivery |
| 2. Kholiso Ea Moruo | Economic Growth |
| 3. Lesotho, Mosotho Pele | Lesotho and Basotho First! |

MEC is a centre left Movement that promotes social advancement while advocating for prudent fiscal management. For MEC to achieve its ambitions on social development and transformation, the growth and support of a vibrant and capable Private Sector is paramount. Currently, the biggest threat to the growth of the private sector, and therefore the achievement of our goals of economic development and social transformation is CORRUPTION and CRIME. As a result, it is vital for this major impediment to be immediately addressed, bringing about the theme of this Manifesto "Kill Corruption, Create Jobs!"

ECONOMIC GROWTH

For Lesotho to thrive and to survive, it needs to support itself and trade internationally. The attainment of sustainable economic growth; unlocked by a corruption-free Lesotho, is dependent on changing the management of our resources and reinforcing their ownership. MEC plans to achieve its goal of Economic Change by promoting accelerated infrastructure-led growth that is underpinned by the development of a vibrant Market Economy. This will be achieved through mechanisms that will promote Lesotho's self-reliance through manufacturing, agricultural outputs and natural resources, deepening their benefit for Basotho today and into the future. **Diversification** of the manufacturing sector is also a major priority, with a focus on agri-business (processing). The foregoing will lay the playing field for the stimulation of private sector investment, characterized by the support of small business development, entrepreneurship and innovation. A concerted, systematic development of high-speed, broadband internet services will also buttress a necessary digital economy that will plug Lesotho firmly into the African Free Trade Area and the broader global market.

SERVICE DELIVERY

MEC believes that economic policies can only be effectively achieved if there is an effective **service delivery system**. For our society to thrive, basic services such as roads, potable water, electricity **and the internet** need to be made available to all citizens. Universality of basic services, including education and healthcare are the hallmarks of social transformation synonymous with our ideals. The achievement of this; in the medium to long-term, is central to our priorities. Service delivery for MEC also means taking better care of the vulnerable members of our population through the strengthening of the social grant system and improving transportation and

infrastructure for accessibility and inclusivity. The comfort, welfare and wellbeing of all Basotho is vital, therefore safe and secure spaces through the deepening of the Security Sector reforms has be a major component of an MEC government. This is especially important in the context of fighting corruption and crime to create an enabling environment for economic growth, which in turn enhances service delivery interventions. Re-training and capacitation of the Police and the Legislature, fighting brutal killings, gangsterism as well as gender-based violence, combatting trafficking in persons, rising theft and enhancing border security are priorities that deserve intense focus, especially in the first year of the governing term. Within the civil service, a culture of *professionalism, meritocracy, transparency and accountability* is key. Buttressing this culture is the strengthening of Public Institutions and Governance measures including monitoring, evaluation processes and Parliamentary oversight. MEC's interventions aim to create a lean yet highly efficient and professional public service.

LESOTHO AND BASOTHO FIRST

Currently, ordinary Basotho have very limited -if any - control over strategic economic resources and opportunities. MEC aims for economic change benefit **Lesotho and Mosotho first**, particularly when it comes to the exploitation of its natural resources. MEC's attitude on Lesotho and Mosotho first also means a strong commitment to decentralization of services and financial management. National Unity, Social Cohesion and Patriotism are the result of clean leadership, community empowerment through an enhanced local government, cohesive physical planning to build complete communities and media reform. It involves promotion of talent, arts and culture, heritage and tourism. Lesotho and Mosotho first also informs how we conduct our international relations to strengthen and secure Lesotho's Place in the World. Under a MEC government, Lesotho will take a bolder approach to the protection of our sovereign integrity through professional bilateral diplomacy, aggressive trade and investment promotion and deeper, active and deliberate activity within the multilateral system.

THE 2022 MEC GOVERNMENT:

The Movement's Plan for Economic Change



LITŠEBELETSO SECHABENG

MORUO O HOLE

LESOTHO LE MOSOTHO PELE

Ke Nako

THE MEC GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

The National Reforms, NSDP, RISDP, Agenda 2063 and 2030 SDGs will inform MEC's government policy agenda but unlike previous governments, these under the MEC will be implemented decisively, cohesively and with fervent urgency primarily on the following issue areas:

1. Aggressively Fighting Corruption and Enforcing the Law

The absence of Law and Order results in corruption. In Lesotho, the fight against corruption has only been given lip service, being a convenient election issue but never followed through. Due to the country's decline in the rule of law and international perception, the fight against corruption and crime is our prime focus, the success of which will unlock socio-economic development.

2. Promoting Private Sector Development

A vibrant private sector is vital to achieve sustainable socio-economic growth, and this calls for the relevant policies and a conducive environment for both foreign and domestic investors, MSMEs as well as large scale economic players. MEC will remove impediments to the success of the private sector, including the government's own role in its demise through delayed payments.

3. Infrastructure Development, Economic Recovery and Growth

The adverse effects of Covid-19 have compounded challenges on an already fragile economy. There is a critical need for Lesotho to recover from this depression as well as to accelerate growth for long-term stability. Infrastructure-led growth is necessary for short-term job creation and sustainable development, as poor infrastructure poses a serious risk to Lesotho's economic prospects.

4. Strengthening Patriotism and Social Cohesion

Poor leadership, the absence of local government systems and the lack of government investment in its People conspire to create a fractured society. MEC will work tirelessly to rebuild Lesotho's national fabric through social investment, inclusive government, accountable and transparent leadership and an economic environment that supports individual and collective prosperity.

5. Improving Social Security Services

Lesotho's natural resources need to benefit each and every Mosotho. Therefore, social security services need in part to be linked with Lesotho's exploitation of its natural wealth.

From the proceeds of the sale of water, diamonds and other mineral resources, a Sovereign Wealth Fund will be created as a state-owned investment fund that will benefit all Basotho for generations. This fund will invest in stocks, bonds and other asset classes locally and internationally, generating wealth for the country to be used to fund critical activities such as universal education and grand infrastructure projects.

SNAPSHOT OF THE MEC GOVERNMENT:

Kill Corruption, Create Jobs

As we pursue the key issue areas of the governing term, we will do so guided by our 3 pillars of Service Delivery, Economic Growth and Lesotho, Mosotho first. Our centre-left governing disposition will package our development priorities within our 3 pillars which represent a holistic governing attitude that encompasses ethics, professionalism and integrity as well as social, economic and environmental development.

The governing priorities articulated within the context of our 3 pillars, places Economic Growth as Pillar One, with the recognition that Lesotho's current situation requires the primary focus of the 2022 government to be on economic growth. Service Delivery is expressed as Pillar 2, which understands that there is the desperate need for basic services to be provided as a matter of urgency to support development. Pillar 3 of Lesotho, Mosotho First is not the least important pillar, but cross-cutting to achieve our collective developmental goals.

While we endeavour to roll out our programme, we are alive to the fact that rampant , unbridled corruption and crime are the Achilles heel to Lesotho achieving her developmental goals. Especially in the past 10 years, corruption has permeated every facet of government and daily life. It is rife within the police, intelligence agencies, government procurement and employment, civic services, parastatals and certainly with politicians.

Out of 180 countries, Lesotho ranks at 96 on Transparency International's Corruption Perception index, while it holds the unfortunate title of being Africa's murder capital and 6th in the world. Such statistics have decimated investor confidence that was once very high in 2004/05 due to Lesotho's performance in industrialization assisted by the African Growth Opportunities Act of the United States, as well as our own internationally lauded response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We are aware that the very first issue that needs to be tackled by an MEC government is aggressively combatting public sector corruption and fighting crime. As a result, there will be a return to a conducive environment for economic activity and resultant benefits of employment, upliftment of quality of living standards. This is why we feel that killing corruption is in fact a necessary activity to create jobs. This very activity is the theme to our Manifesto and governing disposition for the 2022/27 governing term. Tacking corruption head on and unapologetically is how Lesotho will be given the chance to change its fortunes, which for now are in the doldrums.

KILLING CORRUPTION & FIGHTING CRIME



To create the conducive environment for investment and economic growth as well as to achieve order and the rule of law, we will:

- Follow up to their logical conclusion, all recommendations that had been made by Parliament's Public Accounts Committee on corrupt public sector activities;
- Conduct forensic audits in all government ministries to uncover any acts of corruption, seeking appropriate remedial action to recover lost funds as well as legal action against perpetrators. This includes illicit drivers' licence issue which has had direct effects on road safety;
- Diligently enforce the declaration of assets provision for all high-level government officials and employees in key transactional positions. This includes procurement officers;
- Undertake in deep investigations on suspected cases of collusion and money laundering that have to do with public sector deals;
- Strengthen business process management that will ensure that public sector employees do not abuse their positions for financial gain, this also means rolling out e-government to minimize transaction tampering;
- Strengthen the DECO including removing political and executive influence on this office. Capacitation will include inclusion of a response division with powers of arrest as well as an asset forfeiture unit;
- Investigate and prosecute acts of police brutality and murders;
- Capacitate all crime fighting agencies, particularly re-training and re-organization of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service. This includes provision of modern facilities and equipment to enable them to perform their duties;
- Take proactive steps to de-politicize and re-train a vast cross-section of public sector employees and conducting analyses on salaries and benefits to ensure that employees are not tempted to seek corrupt methods of supplementing their incomes;
- Strengthen gun laws and controls to address illegal firearms and possession by those who are not fit.

To lay the foundation for the return to order, the MEC has to lead by example by instilling a high level of diligence, professionalism, accountability and commitment to transformative change. Killing corruption as YEAR ONE's principal priority is considered as an essential "housekeeping" activity. In cleaning up the house, the following will also be done:

1. Reduction of the size of Cabinet to a maximum of 16 Ministries. Deputy Minister positions will be drastically reduced, limited only to Ministries with an extensive mandate;
2. Examination of Government's Human Resources to determine areas of redundancies and wasteful expenditure (in relation to salary scales and benefits).
3. Review of benefits packages for all High-Level government officials to determine areas of wasteful expenditure.
4. Utilization of Performance Compacts for all Ministers, Principal Secretaries and Heads of Mission to monitor and evaluate performance;
5. System of weekly media briefings by the Office of the Prime Minister to inform the public on government activities.
6. Elimination of large delegations accompanying the Prime Minister on international trips;
7. Eradication of airport ceremonies for departing Prime Minister and Head of State, as this accounts for wasteful expenditure and an outdated state function globally;
8. Abolishment of first-class travel of Cabinet Ministers. This includes unnecessary travel where Lesotho's interests can be represented by a Head of Mission in the area of accreditation.
9. Examination of wasteful expenditure at Cabinet level. This includes make, use and number of vehicles (including those of the Prime Minister) and other benefits such as DSTV and payment of utilities.
10. Downgrading of Prime Minister, Minister, PS official vehicles to less expensive models as well as the review of all ministry fleets in relation to needs. This will be done in conjunction with roll out of technologies to facilitate efficiency. Virtual meetings, e-government and paperless communication will drastically reduce the need for government to maintain a large fleet. Where transportation is required, vehicles can be rented from private sector service providers.
11. Migration towards a paperless administration, reserving the use of paper for very critical processes such as contracts.
12. Empowerment of Basotho through the production of an electronic database of all of Lesotho's laws to make them easily accessible to the public.

CLEANING UP THE HOUSE



BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

We will build an inclusive economy that will serve as a potent catalyst to address underdevelopment as well as the lack of state investment which has seen Lesotho regressing into despair. We will:

- Champion Agriculture as the anchor economic driver, dedicating resources to modernize and commercialize operations
- Exploit natural resources in an environmentally sensitive manner to deepen self-reliance and build a sustainable, locally driven economy.
- Create small business incubators to support entrepreneurship, ensuring the participation of youth, women, disabled and other vulnerable groups
- Diversify industry to create value adding agri-processing to explore local and international markets
- Nurture innovation and a digital economy, ensuring to level the playing field for Basotho to take advantage of the digital space
- Create the enabling environment for PPP projects in infrastructure development as the necessary catalyst to stimulate socio-economic growth and to address severe under-development

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development is the anchor principle of our Movement, and this is where a great deal of our efforts will be placed. We appreciate the cross-cutting nature of economic activity, or the lack thereof as causing the myriad of social challenges we face, such as rampant crime and corruption, alcoholism and gender-based violence, underdevelopment and poor investment due to a limited tax base. MEC seeks to implement home-grown solutions to Lesotho's economic challenges, aimed at self-reliance, a vibrant market economy, entrepreneurship, innovation and inclusivity.

We aim to transform the economy to ensure it serves the people. Our Manifesto builds on the MEC's consultative process as well as its efforts in Parliament and the Ministry of Development Planning (since 2020) to build a programme that addresses unemployment, especially among the youth and low incomes which do not adequately meet inflation and decent living standards.

Our Plan for job creation considers the concerns raised in the #BachaShutdown of 2020, with a focus on addressing youth unemployment. MEC will strive to create an enabling environment that will facilitate the public and private sector to work in tandem to bridge the gap between skills and the labour market, including the implementation of apprenticeship opportunities for new graduates.

Agriculture and Food Security

MEC places Agriculture and Food Security at the very apex of its overall priorities for the 2022/27 governing term. For Basotho to prosper, they need to return to being capable of feeding themselves without reliance on foreign aid.

Lesotho has been experiencing a major food security crisis since 2012. Estimates by the FAO (2009) and WFP (2016) put the figure of people vulnerable to food insecurity in the country at 549,000 constituting about 30 percent of the total population. This is exacerbated by poor farming practices and continuous drought. Lesotho is vulnerable to climatic conditions that affect harvest yields and cause great loss to livestock. As a result, Lesotho is one of the many developing countries that are dependent on food-aid and imports. In most cases, food aid often involves dumping of surplus food products into the poor countries by the rich ones, with negative consequences.

Food aid does not solve the issues related to poverty and food insecurity. This is because such donations do not provide a sustainable supply of food to the poor. Food aid only provides a short-term relief that is often used as a political weapon and a commercial enterprise. Furthermore, food aid creates dependency on donor countries. This is a threat to food production in countries like Lesotho, exacerbating our seeming recurrent situation of food insecurity.

Evidence shows that people who are dependent on food aid are not willing to produce food for themselves. They look for humanitarian aid from government or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which is what we see in Lesotho today. Food aid depresses prices in local markets, and this is destructive to the local economy, upsetting commercial channels of food trade and marketing. When many people depend on food handouts, the local producers suffer because their goods lack a market. In some cases, food donations force prices on agricultural goods to go down and this affects local producers negatively

MEC aims to employ mechanisms that promote local food production by assisting farmers of varying capacity with necessary inputs to modernize and commercialize farming. It will implement a transparent and accountable farming system that amongst others:

1. Protects existing farmland through a Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act;
2. Supports innovation and new agro-industries such as fruit, aloe and timber plantations, vineyards, cotton and cannabis estates etc.
3. Enhances irrigation methods;
4. Implements technology and formal business operations principles to improve capacity and sustainability;
5. Creates local, regional and international produce markets to guarantee returns;
6. Adopts greenhouse, hydro and aquaponics farm methods to promote year-round productivity;
7. Builds silos in all 10 districts for grain storage to mitigate against drought and emergency food needs;
8. Diversifies food production into aquaculture activities to deepen the benefits of the LHDA water systems;
9. Revitalizes food processing activities in preservation, juicing and export packaging of cash crops into local and international markets.

Natural Resources

Ensuring our viability as a Nation requires us to exploit our natural resources in a responsible and environmentally sensitive manner. Extraction of minerals cannot be at the expense of the natural environment; which is in itself, is a major revenue generator through tourism.

For MEC, water resources as well as the exploitation of minerals in particular, need to be in partnership with the local private sector to deepen the due benefits to Basotho. This position is in line with our key principle of **Lesotho, Mosotho First**.

In the 2022/27 governing term, MEC will pursue the following natural resources priorities:

1. Renegotiate the LHWP treaty to pursue greater benefits for Basotho, including environmentally sensitive recreational and commercial use of water;
2. Re-examine and negotiate PPP agreements with diamond mine operators to ensure transparency and accountability in reporting as well as revenue sharing models. Agreements need to better promote employment of Basotho in high-level jobs and improve corporate social responsibility especially with regard to local communities directly impacted by mining activities.
3. Promote and facilitate value adding industries related to mining activities;
4. Promote and facilitate mining exploration into viability of other high value minerals, ensuring that new mining exploits create a value adding industry to create high skills jobs.
5. Build local capacity through the nurturing of Basotho entrepreneurs to independently undertake mining activities with zero/ limited foreign involvement.
6. Assist in the development of value adding industries such as refinement, polishing and product development from Lesotho's natural resources.
7. Develop a Sovereign Wealth Fund that will channel revenue from natural resources into an investment vehicle that will benefit Basotho for generations.

Small Business Development and Entrepreneurship

Small Medium and Micro Enterprises are the backbone of most economies. Under the stewardship of MEC, the government will drastically improve its support for an entrepreneurial environment, which includes its attitude on the various levels of red tape that make doing business with it, a way of going out of business.

We will endeavour to:

1. Reorganize BEDCO into a contemporary business incubator that supports small businesses through the provision of space, technology and advisory services for the growth of local enterprises;
2. Develop a programme in partnership with the private sector to support mezzanine financing to enable business growth and development;

3. Develop an annual entrepreneur summit and business expo that would provide the platform for a business networking and investment pitching.
4. Support a decentralized approach that would ensure that small business development is carried out in all 10 districts, creating commercial nodes that would sustain local economies and communities.
5. Resuscitate, formalize and grow pottery, candle manufacturing, dressmaking, grass crafting and tapestry weaving into a vibrant home décor industry. These have great export potential, which can be achieved through the African Free Trade system. Further potentials shall be explored to grow local leather crafting as well as a wool and mohair processing, all starting off as small businesses which are piloted for fast-tracking into large industry.

Trade and Industry

Since 2009, there has been very little done by successive governments to build on Lesotho's gains in growing the textile industry which was enabled by AGOA of the United States. There has been no effort to diversify the textile industry through design innovation, accessory manufacturing such as of zippers, buttons etc. or the expansion of fabric milling to supply other African markets. MEC will focus on the diversification of the manufacturing industry, exploring ways of strengthening the textile industry and exploring other manufacturing opportunities for export into the African market through the Free Trade system.

Agri-processing forms a major part of MEC's economic priorities. We will pursue the deepening of increased agricultural productivity to explore value adding industries such as the resuscitation of the Maluti canned Beans production as well as the manufacturing of peach preserves and juices, dried fruits, wine (ice wine) and spirit making.

Innovation and the Digital Economy

Aside of the exploitation of natural resources, innovation and the digital economy have the strongest potential to rapidly develop Lesotho's economy. It is this space that has the greatest possibilities for the creation of employment amongst the youth, and to sustain Lesotho's development into the long term.

Under a MEC government, innovation and the digital economy will be developed through:

1. The robust implementation of e-government and facilitation of online commerce;
2. The roll-out of free WIFI at business incubation hubs, and the negotiation of lower data tariffs by service providers;
3. The development, in partnership with the private sector, of funding mechanisms for innovative products and services that demonstrate market potential;

4. The facilitation of the creation of science parks around tertiary institutions to stimulate research and development.
5. Support of the NUL innovation hub as a catalytic springboard for the expansion of innovative thinking across the country.

Infrastructure Development

We view infrastructure development as a cross-cutting issue that affects all aspects of Lesotho's growth. Since the reconstruction of Maseru following the 1998 riots, there has been a marked decline in infrastructure investment by the State, which has contributed to the weakening of economic growth and development stagnation. Increasing such investments through the enactment of the 2017 PPP Policy will help us grow the economy faster, create jobs and boost incomes. This will help us to strengthen our infrastructure for more and better roads, schools, clinics and hospitals, social housing, public transport, communications systems, water provision, electricity and ICT distribution.

Furthermore, MEC will bring cohesion and create a more rigorous investment climate through the implementation of urban and regional development masterplans that would inform development and investment, support the creation of complete communities and protect valuable agricultural land.

Growth of the Financial Sector

Lesotho's commercial banks are made up; for the most part, of foreign brands which do not have a strategic interest towards the development of the country. This is evidenced through the lack of ease in obtaining credit as well as the lackluster commitment to corporate social responsibility. Foreign commercial banks with operations in Lesotho do not invest in a meaningful way that marks them as valuable players in Lesotho's economic transformation. While these banks remain important, it is nonetheless vital for the MEC government to critically revisit the defunct Agric and Lesotho Building Finance banks as entities with a direct and significant bearing on the country's socio-economic fortunes.

MEC will pursue the formation of a Merchant/ Investment Bank which will play a major role in facilitating foreign direct investment in infrastructure and PPP projects. A Merchant Bank will be an important vehicle to attract the participation by Lesotho's Diaspora on development projects in the country.



THE BASOTHO FUND

The most radical, innovative and appropriate intervention that sets MEC from the rest of the pack is our proposal for the establishment of the BASOTHO FUND. This is a state owned investment holding company which will invest locally and internationally on behalf of the Government of Lesotho and its citizens. This Sovereign Wealth Fund is not the reinvention of the wheel, but the adaptation of models that exist in other countries such as Botswana, Ghana, Senegal, the Middle East and China.

The primary purpose of the Basotho Fund is to ensure that Basotho today and for generations to come, benefit from the proceeds of their finite natural resources. This will be achieved through the channelling of revenue generated from Lesotho's natural resources away from the cyclical consolidated fund, but into a special investment vehicle that can begin its life through the Central Bank. This investment fund will direct income to key development priorities such as provision of universal education and grand infrastructure projects.

What the Basotho Fund will achieve is far-reaching, transformative change and sustainable growth that is made possible through education and the creation of employment opportunities. The Basotho Fund will be a powerful vehicle to drive foreign direct investment in strategic sectors of the economy such as agriculture and mining, also providing economic relief and safety nets during difficult times such as natural disasters and pandemics as experienced with Covid-19.

A Sovereign Wealth Fund is great vehicle to absorb financial capabilities of the diaspora, build investor confidence and eliminate reliance on foreign aid. It is a potent transformative instrument that would enable Basotho to achieve their development aspirations driven by their own economic muscle.

Ke Nako

Moruo o Hole!



STRENGTHENING OUR SOCIAL FABRIC

We will support economic development through social investment in Education, Healthcare and Environmental Management to ensure the holistic improvement of the quality of lives of Basotho. We will:

- Enhance the quality of education at all levels, including the introduction of Early Childhood Development to improve outcomes against a system that addresses developmental needs;
- Improve delivery and access to healthcare facilities to support overall health and life expectancy;
- Improve the social security system to ease the delivery of senior citizen grants as well as the deepening of the disability grant;
- Fast-track the roll out of roads, potable water and sanitation as well as electricity, informed by urban and regional planning. Electricity provision will be in tandem with a fibre-optic network to achieve universal access to high-speed internet.
- Develop waste management systems to protect the environment and public health;
- Create climate change adaptation measures that protect growth and development in the medium to long-term.

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATION

Our Manifesto creates the enabling environment for social and environmental transformation. It boldly tackles the various issue areas that have been neglected by previous governments which have resulted in our dire socio-political situation that calls for real and meaningful change.

Education and Training

Education is at the centre of our drive for social transformation. It is through an appropriately designed curriculum that various problems can be addressed beyond academic performance. Human and interpersonal relations, patriotism and social cohesion, road safety and crime prevention are some of the challenges which can be addressed through the formal education system. While MEC applauds the availability of free primary education, it is important for this system to be enhanced through better quality curriculum as well as teaching and learning methods to achieve the desired outcomes. Extra-curricular activities as well as amenities such as playgrounds, sports facilities libraries and laboratories need to be provided in order for Lesotho to produce the desired caliber of graduates.

Quality education must lead to higher student progression through institutions, and high completion rates in schools, colleges and universities. Unlocking the energy and creativity of Lesotho's young population, by building their skills, capacities and social attitudes, is critical to the eradication of poverty, unemployment, inequality, regional integration and sustainable development. We will ensure that skills development is at the heart of all aspects of our development plans in this Manifesto.

In Education, we will:

- Introduce a curriculum on Early Childhood Development, which is a critical education gap that needs to be filled. It is vital for MEC to provide a conducive environment for the education of young children in order to achieve the desired health and education outcomes, including progression into higher learning. Essential values and principles that build patriotism and social cohesion are learnt at the ECD level. Thus, it is important for Lesotho to invest in this educational stage to create to achieve social transformation.

- Improve Primary level curriculum to address education gaps as well as teaching and learning methodologies in mathematics and sciences. Primary schools need to be improved with facilities such as playgrounds, libraries and laboratories to stimulate learning as well as sporting facilities to groom such talents.
- Promote extra-curricular activities at all levels of basic education (Primary and High School). This is essential to promote the arts, social interaction, agriculture and trade education, road safety and other essential knowledge and skills to foster complete learning and social cohesion.
- Support the transformation of tertiary institutions in order for them to provide the skills that are necessary to build Lesotho's economy and nurture entrepreneurship. The development of science parks will be vital to enable research and development, innovation and entrepreneurship. It is important for the entire education framework to act as an ecosystem that, from ECD, Primary, High School and Tertiary education leads to various activities in and around science parks and small business incubators, further resulting in a robust and vibrant economic environment.

Healthcare Delivery and Access

Access and delivery of quality healthcare remains a major challenge. There has been a severe lack in a strategic development of hospitals and clinics where today, Lesotho spends millions annually sending patients to South Africa and India for cancer treatment. We will make healthcare investment a key priority of our government, ensuring the construction and sound operations of a cancer/ oncology centre, dialysis clinics and the enhancement of pediatric medicine.

We have for a long time been concerned with the seeming neglect of the Lesotho Pharmaceutical Corporation (LPC) which should be in a position today to provide Basotho with a variety of medications, including those for chronic conditions such as high blood pressure as well as a variety of vitamins. We will work at improving the management and output of the LPC to enhance the delivery of healthcare services. We will further explore mechanisms on value adding processes that complement and enhance the revenue potential of Lesotho's cannabis industry.

As the medical cannabis industry continues to grow from a production standpoint, it is important to establish a niche in this market by making Lesotho a destination for medical tourism. The benefits of medical cannabis in pain management, cancer treatment, skincare and mental wellness will be explored towards the development of an industry that can employ a significant amount of people along the value chain.

The response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been an unmitigated disaster, with lack of planning, consultancy and even adaptation of international best practices to address challenges in Lesotho. We will ensure that there is an emergency management framework that will support pandemic and mass trauma response.

In Healthcare, we will:

- Improve the availability of chronic medications at clinics across the country;
- Set and implement standards for re-training to improve patient care that will change attitudes of healthcare providers;
- Improve emergency services; in partnership with the private sector to include ambulance and paramedic services, air evacuation as well as trauma and ICU care.
- Develop a pandemic playbook that will ensure that Lesotho remains capable to respond to mass outbreaks. This will involve the stockpiling of necessary materials and equipment, development of strategies, training and scenario testing.
- Improve nutrition programmes “Mmaphepo” to promote education on balanced diets for small children to address the growing prevalence of under-development.
- Re-examine and improve school feeding systems to determine other interventions such as the provision of multivitamins.
- Enhance dental care awareness which is a critical gateway to deeper health problems.
- Monitor and evaluate the current HIV/AIDS framework to close any gaps, such as in the roll out of dialysis treatment which is a known consequence of prolonged use of antiretroviral medications.
- Evaluate the hospital system to address gaps in access, capacity and treatment to ensure that each district is well served through a quality healthcare delivery system.
- Fast track the enactment of laws that protect the marginalized persons including women and youth, as well as the vulnerable communities in alignment with country commitments.

Supporting Social Security

The old age grant system has been in important development that has made life easier for our senior citizens, especially those who have had to care for their grandchildren who lost their parents to HIV and AIDS. This system; however, has made them vulnerable to criminal activity which is exacerbated by a payment method that has required them to stand for hours in long queues to collect their funds. We will devise methods of streamlining the grant payment system to explore a variety of convenient methods such as direct deposits, cellphone payments and ID based vendor distribution methods within the retail space, clinics and police stations.

As a Movement that places inclusivity at the heart of its principles, we are keen on ensuring that the recently enacted Disability Grant is equitably distributed. Disability needs to be properly defined and provided with adequate interventions beyond a grants system. Early Childhood Development will assist in identifying other types of disabilities such as in learning, dyslexia, autism etc. for individuals to be provided with sufficient assistance for a decent chance at life.

Covid-19 has informed us that there is a need; although infrequent, to provide financial and other forms of assistance during emergency and hardship periods. It is important for MEC to create a legal structure that will prescribe the roll out of emergency financial support during periods of wide-spread and localized emergencies and natural disasters.

Electricity, Water, Sanitation and the Internet

Protection of Lesotho's limited woodlands as well as the mitigation of soil erosion, requires a rapid electrification programme. Since 2012, Lesotho's rural electrification programme has ground to a halt, minus a spike during the tenure of the MEC leader as Minister of Energy. Electrification, delivery of potable water and sanitation are important priorities for us, as these contribute significantly to the socio-economic environment for the holistic improvement of the quality of life for Basotho. We will ensure that such programmes are given a second wind, implemented in tandem with urban and regional masterplans to facilitate cohesive development, build complete communities and support long-term development goals.

On electricity, we place priority on renewable energy, with the exploration of solar and wind alternatives for an energy mix that will guarantee our self-reliance within the next 5 years. Our government will prioritize electricity generation by the private sector for sale into the national grid. The chief objective of a decentralized electricity generation

system is to further ensure that power is affordable for the ordinary Mosotho anywhere in the country, in recognition of its significance in the contemporary economy. For MEC, the roll-out of an electrification programme will be in tandem with that of a high-speed fibre-optic network. There are several schools of thought that call for access to the internet to be declared a basic human right. This is understandable when considering that critical information, healthcare services, educational programmes, commercial activity, employment opportunities amongst others are primarily accessed over the internet. A person without an internet connection these days is a person who barely exists. As a result, MEC will make all efforts to ensure that infrastructure development includes the proliferation of internet services throughout the country. This has positive domino effects in tourism, safety and security, agricultural outputs, trade and industry etc.

Waste Management

One of the greatest threats to the environment as well as health and safety is the current situation with solid waste management, which threatens affected neighbourhoods. For Lesotho to be able to sustainably grow its economy and attract investment, a solid waste management programmes needs to be implemented to include recycling, upcycling, incineration and managed dumping.

We will resuscitate and develop strategically located and designed landfills and work in tandem with the private sector under PPP agreements for the development of recycling and incineration plants. Waste management will require a review of refuse collection by municipalities, where item separation of paper, glass, plastic and organics along adopted best practice should be implemented for appropriate disposal.

Waste management for us, involves the need to address environmental pollution that is caused by littering and illegal dumping of plastic and other hazardous waste. We will enter into smart partnerships with local authorities, communities and corporations through corporate social responsibility initiatives for the provision of waste bins, the organization of cleaning campaigns and the implementation of education and incentives to curb littering and pollution for a clean and safe environment.

Climate Change Adaptation

Lesotho is faced with the adverse effects of climate change, characterized by unusually heavy rainfalls and long bouts of drought. Some of our sectoral priorities such as in Agriculture and Infrastructure development aim to address the effects of climate change through:

- The construction of grain silos for long-term food security to mitigate against periods of drought;
- Greenhouse agriculture for climate smart food production;
- Construction of roads and bridges to withstand heavy rainfall;
- Construction of water catchment reservoirs to harness overflow and runoff water for reuse (especially in irrigation)
- Enhancement of construction regulations to support renewable energy as well as water saving mechanisms which include modern fixtures and recycling of used/grey water.
- A Spatial Planning and Land use Management Act as well as urban and regional development masterplans to inform construction of roads, development of nodes, buildings, agricultural and commercial (including mining) land and location of water reservoirs.

PILLAR 3 : LESOTHO & MOSOTHO FIRST



GOVERNANCE & **PUBLIC SAFETY**

We will protect Lesotho and Basotho from internal and external threats to support the conducive environment for growth. We will:

- Implement Security Sector and Judicial Reforms to enhance the criminal justice system
- Re-train, reorganize and capacitate the LMPS to be responsive to Lesotho's crime fighting needs
- Place focus on Gender-based violence to protect women and children
- Combat human trafficking to protect vulnerable groups
- Shore up our borders to promote movement and commerce while protecting Lesotho and Basotho against external influences on crime

PROMOTING SAFETY & SECURITY

The U.S. Department of State (Overseas Security Advisory Council) has assessed Maseru as being a CRITICAL threat location for crime directed at or affecting official U.S. government interests. Endemic poverty and widespread unemployment continue to contribute to an increase in criminal activity. Limited private-sector work opportunities in Lesotho and South Africa contribute to high rates of unemployment; the official published statistic is 27.5%, but the actual rate is likely much higher, at around 40% (OSAC).

Steadily declining remittances from Basotho workers performing seasonal or mining work in South Africa continue to have a negative impact on Lesotho's increasing crime prevalence.

Exacerbating criminal activity resultant from unemployment; since 2012, Lesotho has seen an alarming law and order decline resembling the chaos that is associated with a failed state. Heavy politicization of security agencies, corruption, cronyism and the manipulation of the criminal justice system has enshrined and emboldened gun violence, brazen armed robberies, vehicle hijackings, murders and high-level assassinations. Basotho no longer feel safe in their country, and the once glaring difference between high criminal activity in neighbouring South Africa is no longer evident.

Foreign investors make their major decisions by assessing; amongst others, the safety and security offered by a potential destination. Lesotho does not offer any potential investor the conducive environment to guarantee the returns on their investment.

We are committed to supporting and strengthening the Security and Judicial Sector Reforms through the strong capacitation of our security agencies and the judiciary to realize sweeping and meaningful changes to Lesotho's criminal justice system as well as public safety and security

Crime Prevention

Since 2012, there has been very little re-investment in the Lesotho Mounted Police Service where the most basic equipment has not been available. Understandably, morale has been low for a number of years, aggravated by poor leadership and political influence within the ranks of the service. This has opened gaping fissures in crime fighting and prevention, where in some cases, police officers themselves have been found complicit in criminal activity.

We are determined to pour the necessary budgetary and human capital resources to capacitate the Police to be active participants in crime prevention. Our efforts will involve:

1. Implementation of Reforms requirements in legal and administrative terms
2. Vetting and re-assessment of existing police officers for deployment appropriateness;
3. Analysis of police/community ratios in order to provide desired levels to create a visible and effective force;
4. Re-training to eliminate inappropriate attitudes, habits and behaviours that are contrary to police service practice and deportment;
5. Provision of equipment, including modern technologies to facilitate efficient service delivery;
6. Elimination of off-duty carrying of guns as well as on beat patrols.
7. Establishment of critical agencies such as VIP protection, Forensics, Community Police, Independent Police Investigation Unit etc. to strengthen service and improve governance
8. Eliminate corruption and cases of police brutality by developing procedures on engagement which includes provision of legal representation, rights of access to phone calls, body and interview room cameras and monitoring.
9. Develop robust gun control and confiscation operations which place a zero-tolerance attitude on illegal firearms.

We are mindful that crime prevention requires a holistic socio-political and economic approach that involves job creation, education and social investment. The subsequent sections of our Manifesto address such problems, which together work to improve society's propensity towards crime.

Gender Based Violence

Gender Based Violence has reached crisis proportions. It affects rural and urban community alike. In our overwhelmingly patriarchal society, women are being violated and murdered in the worst manifestation of gender relations, aggravated by unemployment and alcohol abuse.

As an inclusive Movement, we find this state of affairs as completely acceptable. Under an MEC government, the fight against Gender Based Violence will be intensified. We believe in a multi-sectoral approach that responds to this challenge. Education, Religion,

Corporate Social Responsibility, NGOs and the Criminal Justice System are the key actors that will produce results through a harmonized relationship to avoid working at odds in silos. Together, we will strengthen the broader interventions that address the root causes and effects of GBV, particularly issues of patriarchy, economic relations and other social conditions.

Human Trafficking

MEC understands the dire consequences of Trafficking in Persons. Our porous borders as well as our grim economic circumstances make Basotho vulnerable to incidences of human trafficking locally and internationally. Corrupt border officials have exacerbated this problem by making Lesotho an international link for human trafficking incidences which emanate from outside the country.

Under an MEC government, improved employment prospects, community policing, stronger border security and the empowerment of local government will conspire together to combat human trafficking. This will be supported by strengthening the legal framework to promote the necessary procedures, checks and balances that protect vulnerable groups and support Lesotho's international commitments on this matter.

Enhancing Border Security

The Covid-19 pandemic has shone a bright light on the need for us to strengthen our borders. Analysing the cause and effects of the covid-19 pandemic informs us that much work needs to be done to improve border security, which has historical problems with cross-border stock theft and dangerous and illegal crossings, human trafficking and the prevalence of organized crime syndicates.

We will pursue the use of technology to strengthen border patrol and capacitate the army and police through training and provision of necessary resources. It is important to examine our military assets and disposition to consider their reorganization to create necessary agencies such as a Secret Service, Border Patrol Agency, Narcotics Arms and Ammunitions Control Agency and a National Investigations Agency for a security apparatus that manages several aspects of national as well as border security.

Border security also involves the mutually beneficial management of Lesotho-South Africa relations, which have not been executed well by previous governments. Lesotho needs to adopt a bold, more decisive disposition to actively address the historical

challenges which make border crossing an inefficient service, deeply affecting Lesotho's economic prospects. We will learn from best practice examples of the relationship between the United States and Canada. Canada; like Lesotho, shares its border with a single other country, which is bigger with regard to economic muscle. Borders between these two countries promote smooth movement of goods and people and are managed through various agencies to strengthen their integrity. We will explore and adapt best practice models that would suit our context and range of challenges.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS & GOVERNANCE

Constitutional, Parliamentary and Public Sector Reforms will play a major role in our efforts to strengthen Public Institutions and instill good governance. With **SERVICE DELIVERY** as a cornerstone principle of our Movement, we have passionate interest in ensuring that our government is supported through sound institutions which entrench the pillars of democracy.

Public Sector Service Delivery

At the centre of our priorities is the overhaul of the public service to ensure that it adequately delivers services to citizens in all corners of the country. E-government, customer service and relationship management, performance-based remuneration and a deeper level of transparency and accountability will form the mainstay of our attitude towards service provision.

We will perform a complete vetting of public officers for their suitability to hold their positions. Forensic audits will be undertaken to uncover corruption and malpractice in order to promote a clean service framework. Officers who interact with the public need re-training for capacity building, also undergoing psychometric testing to determine their suitability as customer service agents.

In our government, employment into the public service will be based on merit alone, and the establishment itself will undergo a strategically implemented programme of redundancy analysis and adjustment towards a leaner, more efficient establishment.

Deepening Parliamentary Oversight

We believe in transparency and accountability, and Parliament oversight is a key ingredient to achieving strong public institutions and a governance culture. We will support Parliamentary Reforms, further ensuring that portfolio committees are better involved in the everyday administration of government affairs. This includes:

- Vetting and endorsements; through interviews, of Ambassadors and High Commissioners nominated for posting as well as other high-level actors such as the Attorney General, Director General of the DCEO, the Ombudsman and Principal Secretaries.
- Monitoring and evaluation of procurement processes for high value transactions;
- Mid-year reviews of annual budget performance

Capacitation of Key State Governance Actors

Important public offices such as the DCEO and Ombudsman need to be capacitated through provision of human, financial and physical resources in order for them to effectively execute their mandate. The legal framework governing the DCEO will be reviewed to determine whether they may require additional powers such as of arrest in order for them to better execute their responsibilities.

Support of the governance system requires active transformation of the judiciary. Assisted by the multi-sector reforms, we will further strengthen the judiciary by:

- Ensuring its independence from political and executive branch manipulation;
- Improving spending to address resource provision and expansion;
- Empowering and Improving the Judicial Service Commission by broadening its representation to strengthen effectiveness and independence.

In support of the broader structure of checks and balances, we will re-evaluate the role of the Council of State to provide an additional avenue of capacity to monitor and evaluate our system of government.

NATIONAL UNITY & SOCIAL COHESION

Patriotism, National Identity, Community Spirit and Cooperation are fundamental to a healthy society. We will devise mechanisms of supporting sports, the arts, the preservation of culture and heritage, the promotion of tourism and the growth of the media and broadcasting to develop a cohesive society.

To support this, it is vitally important that the business of Parliament as well as the objectives of the NSDP II, UN Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 are implemented in earnest, in a process that involves public participation and stakeholder engagement. Our governing disposition will ensure inclusivity and stakeholder participation by doing things differently. We will eliminate the silo method of government administration by creating multi-stakeholder dialogue on the vast majority of issue areas, assigning responsibilities, timelines, deliverables and milestones to our undertakings.

A nation that is proud of its identity, informed, entertained and involved is a healthy nation that can come together to grow, innovate and advance.

SAFEGUARDING LESOTHO'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

Due to our geo-political circumstance as an enclave of another country, our sovereign integrity is as good as our international relations on a bilateral and multilateral level. We will endeavour to protect and advance Lesotho's foreign interests in a different manner, by boldly pursuing negotiations for mutually beneficial outcomes, ensuring that agreements do not disfavour Lesotho.

Since independence, our foreign relations disposition has been influenced by the cold war, apartheid as well as our own political instability. It was only between 2002 and 2009 that Lesotho was beginning to reorder its international relations priorities to focus on its own growth ambitions in trade instead of constantly seeking aid. During this time, we were boldly affirming our role and stake in the multilateral system, and this is where we want to see ourselves returning in the next 5 years. We are not proud of our current international outlook since 2012 where Lesotho has become more of an inconsequential begging state mired in crime and a negative image.

As an indebted begging state, we are unable to fully negotiate our international position as well as pursue our development interests. Our strategy to develop a home-grown economy that hinges on Agriculture and Natural Resources will ensure that we return to being an active player on the world stage. With commodities to trade on the global market, improved incomes and living standards and an economic environment that is characterized by innovation will all converge to make us a respectable Nation with a bigger voice in global affairs and soft power influence that will reinforce our sovereign integrity.

Professionalization of the Foreign Service

One of the most important aspects of public sector reform will be the professionalization of the Foreign Service. Our government will:

- Analyse Lesotho's Diplomatic Missions abroad to determine their strategic importance. Some Missions may require closure while others will require to be scaled up to achieve our objectives.

- Expand the human capital and skills level of Foreign Service Officers through new employment and training. It is important to introduce a foreign service examination for entry into the service. There needs to be added focus on foreign language training (French, Chinese, German, Spanish and a variety of African languages) for our service to attain essential capacity which is vital for success.
- De-politicize diplomatic mission postings of positions below those of Heads of Mission to ensure that missions are afforded the right resources to pursue objectives. As per international standards, career diplomats should be posted on a cyclical basis to build necessary representational capacity and institutional memory.
- Heads of Mission nominated for postings should be vetted and endorsed by the Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs. This is to ensure that the government deploys the right person for the right post to achieve the desired outcomes.

Relations with Diaspora

Unlocking a significant portion of Lesotho's development potential requires the involvement of the Diaspora. Basotho outside of Lesotho are endowed with financial resources, technical skills and far-reaching networks. MEC will focus a good proportion of its international relations efforts to promote diaspora engagement. Our efforts will build on the ongoing business of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) which has made good attempts to involve the diaspora in key government programs. MEC will improve on these achievements through the development of investment programs, social networks, appointments of Honorary Consuls, repatriation incentives and business opportunities.

Creating opportunities for Basotho internationally

We shall endeavour to establish and maintain expanded relations with various countries in order to develop a rapport that will enable a more flexible facilitation for Basotho based in Lesotho or elsewhere, to be absorbed for international exposure and opportunities

THE GOVERNING PROGRAMME

In line with our principles as a centre-left Political organization, running a government requires prudent financial management. For over 15 years, budgetary planning has not been in congruence with tax revenue collection. Furthermore, recurrent government expenditure has ballooned drastically against a declining capital expenditure budget. During the tenure of the 10th parliament (in 2017), the overall budget has grown from M16 billion to M20 billion in 2022, with the capital expenditure making up a progressively smaller percentage of the total budget.

An MEC government will take bold steps to reverse this trajectory, which means taking decisive action on issues such as executive remunerations, cabinet size, the overall government wage bill, HR redundancies, implementation of e-government and the growth of the private sector as a preferred employer. Under an MEC government, capital expenditure should outstrip recurrent expenditure, assisted through a dynamic PPP programme that stimulates the growth of the private sector.

1. AGGRESSIVELY FIGHTING CORRUPTION AND ENFORCING THE LAW

Strengthening Governance and Accountability Systems is a key priority

CURRENT STATUS

The past 15 years have been characterized by increasing levels of corruption, severely affects Lesotho's development trajectory. Coalition politicking has led to an increase in government expenditure, largely because of the rampant corruption that is not met with adequate checks and balances, including the politicization of key institutions such as the DCEO.

The size of cabinet and political deployments has almost doubled over the past eight years of coalition governing in Lesotho. Despite warnings from international financial institutions, wastefulness has gone unchecked and, by the Finance Minister's own admission, the country is broke.

The premature collapse of the past two coalition governments has raised stakes for political office to a new level, generating in the process, insatiable greed and conspicuous gluttony among the political class. This has been evidenced in

glaring irregularities in the management of PPEs as well as in the execution of disaster management protocols for the Covid-19 pandemic.

Taking a knock has been Lesotho's image as an investment destination and with that, declining economic activity and increasing levels of unemployment.

SOLUTION

- MEC will strengthen the DCEO, making it autonomous, with powers of arrest. Parliament will play a closer oversight role with regard to the DCEO, including approval of any nominated head of this organization. It is vital to ensure that the DCEO is free from executive and other elements of interference, and therefore checks and balances will be put in place to ensure the autonomy of this key institution.
- To rectify past offences, it is important to conduct deep and far-reaching forensic audits in all government ministries. The unlawful issue of drivers' licenses for example needs to be thoroughly investigated to remove unlawful drivers from the roads and to seek remedial action on such people as well as officials who are found to have transgressed the law for their own gain.
- In relation to government level corruption, it is vital to ensure that current policies are implemented, such as declaration of assets by high-ranking officials. Further to this, periodic lifestyle audits need to be considered, for the purpose of investigating, rectifying as well as deterring instances of economic offences.
- MEC will set up an Independent Police Investigation Unit, that will probe the conduct of the police. This is to protect the safety and rights of citizens, ensure just execution of police duties and root out corrupt and criminal practices. This unit will also play a role to monitor and evaluate police training and policing needs to ensure that there is capacity within the realm of policing towards an efficient and capable criminal justice system.

1.1 Reforming Public Financial Management and the Law Enforcement

CURRENT STATUS

When public financial management and law enforcement systems are weak, investor and entrepreneur confidence is eroded. This results in a *fragile private sector and high unemployment*, as is the case in Lesotho.

- Lesotho has experienced chronic levels of corruption. Its scores poorly on the Corruption Perception Index, at 55 in 2001 and declining sharply to 62 in 2021, departing from the median, acceptable rating of 33.
- In 2019, the Public Account Committee (PAC) report revealed that over M2 billion of public funds were unaccounted for, and in 2021, the Auditor General's report was more damning, putting this figure at over M3 billion. According to Afrobarometer, the top three segments in corruption in Lesotho are the Police, Business Executives and Government Officials.
- Corruption in Lesotho is exacerbated by poor and complicit law enforcement agencies, spearheaded by weak leadership by Prime Ministers who fail to perform due diligence duties. Cabinet Ministers are not held accountable and; in some instances, the Prime Minister has been implicated in corruption allegations.

SOLUTION

An MEC Government will kill corruption by addressing its root causes. Strong financial management systems, regulatory controls as well as multi-stakeholder checks and balances will be put in place, which includes the removal of executive-level officials in procurement processes.

The following governance mechanisms will be put in place:

1. Strengthening of Parliament through the establishment of a parliamentary council that will focus on MP affairs;
2. The Office of the Accountant General will be duly constitutionalized, along with the establishment of a well-regulated National Treasury.
3. Overhaul of the Constitution and Public Finance Management Accounting Act will be pursued in order for the Office of the Accountant General to manage matters of:
 - Public Sector Income

- Public expenditure beyond the treasury i.e., commercial banks, international loans etc.
 - Public Liabilities (borrowings)
 - Public Financial Reporting (preparation, interpretation and facilitation of audit from line ministries, and local government service, SOEs and other GOL subdivisions)
 - Public Financial Management (planning, allocations, investment management)
 - Head of accounting cadre for government
 - Existence and effectiveness of internal control systems (policies, staff, audit)
4. Office of the Ombudsman needs to be strengthened through additional resourcing, public education and exposure;
 5. Lesotho Mounted Police Service needs to be re-skilled, adequately resourced and managed in a manner that supports a conducive and effective police force. This institution needs to be removed from executive level as well as political influence through closer Parliamentary oversight.
 6. The Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences;
 - Transparency, credibility and competence shall be applied when appointing the Director General. Stringent performance management criteria will be placed on this individual, to be monitored and evaluated by Parliament. Lesotho's score on the Corruption Index will be some of the key indicators of performance.
 - Capacity needs to be built with regard to investigation of economic corruption through a unit that is also vested with powers of arrest.
 - Competent, professional unit will be set up to deal with asset forfeiture and lifestyle audits.
 7. The Judiciary should be reformed in accordance with the NRA process. This will include:
 - There should be a clear *separation of powers* that is reinforced between the Judiciary, Parliament and the Executive branches of government.
 - The Chief Justice, President of Court of Appeal, Attorney General and Director of Public Prosecutions offices should not be political appointees , thus it may be prudent to include Members of Parliament, especially from Opposition Benches within the Judicial Services Commission for purposes of transparency. As part of requisite due diligence, any nominee for the position of Attorney

General, and Director of Public Prosecutions should receive a clean police report and be approved by the relevant Parliamentary Committee prior to appointment.

- High Court services should be de-centralized, with additional locations in Maseru's Hoek and Hlotse to re-enforce restoration of justice across the three regions of Lesotho.
- Establish and capacitate a specialized court for economic offences

1.2 Ensuring Professionalization of Key State Entities

CURRENT STATUS

The government's most technocratic roles such as those of Principal Secretaries and Heads of Crown Corporations have in recent times been headed by people appointed purely based on political affiliation with little regard to meritocratic appropriateness in skills, academic qualifications and experience. As a result, such offices have been plagued with alarming levels of incompetence, inefficiency, financial mismanagement and corruption.

SOLUTION

In an MEC government, the key roles of state will be strengthened through the implementation of measures that will ensure capacity, professionalism, performance and protection from undue interference.

- Methodical and Transparent processes will be used for the appointment of Principal Secretaries and Heads of Crown Corporations in order to depoliticize these positions and in turn, the entire public service.
- Codes of conduct will be put in place to strengthen autonomy where appropriate and to enhance accountability, especially with regard to Principal Secretaries.
- Provision of continuous professional development is vital for all public service staff to improve skills, enhance performance and build capacity.
- Financial and physical resources need to be appropriately provided.

1.3 Enforcing Accountable Performance

CURRENT STATUS

Previous governments have failed dismally to apply performance management and accountability measures to ensure that the government's annual programme is being implemented. Some examples include:

- Failure of Parliament to summon Ministries on a quarterly basis to account on planned budget activities and allocations;
- Failure to implement Public Accounts Committee (PAC) recommendations;
- Lack of follow up on Development Planning Minister's report on stalled projects;
- Auditor General's recommendations are not followed in earnest.
- Ministers are shuffled instead of being fired for non-performance or failure to account;
- Implementation of oversight policies is not happening ;and
- Resolutions of Parliament not duly and timeously implemented.

SOLUTION

As one of the 3 pillars of MEC, Service Delivery is of paramount importance to us. We believe in the implementation of performance management criteria that cuts across the board, from the level of Prime Minister, downwards. These include:

- Allowance for the impeachment of the Prime Minister for non-performance.
- A system that ensures Cabinet Ministers periodically account on performance to Parliament, direct stakeholders and the public through the media.
- Enforcement of the dismissal of Ministers on failure to implement resolutions of Parliament or performance of their duties.
- The mandatory implementation of the current performance management system, which through appraisal processes provides for continual monitoring and evaluation of performance along indicators and deliverables.
- Public Service Regulations should be duly amended to facilitate the dismissal (under labour laws) of employees based on poor performance as well as other disciplinary measures such as absenteeism, poor conduct and corrupt/ criminal activity.

1.4 Strengthening Internal Control Mechanisms

CURRENT STATUS

Especially in the past 5 years, political influence and interference in government matters has resembled state capture. Corruption is so endemic within the public service that financial favours are practically part and parcel of any transaction. Lesotho now ranks at a dismally low 38 by Transparency International (2021), indicating that the level of corruption is at a dangerous, crisis level. Some of the incidences of corruption in Lesotho include:

- PAC findings on public funds erosion;
- Ombudsman recommendations on misappropriated funds;
- DPP unorthodox management of cases to suit inexplicable motives;
- Lack of DCEO follow-through on particular cases;
- The appointment of a national of foreign extraction as Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister. This appointment led to various instances where public funds were deviated; on the influence of this individual, for personal enrichment at the expense of the public.

SOLUTION

Parliament needs to play a very close oversight role to ensure that processes, recommendations, reports etc. are fully implemented and necessary remedial actions taken. For Parliament to fully take on this responsibility, political parties also need to devise internal measures that provide due diligence checks and balances on the calibre of individuals they send to parliament. MEC is in the process of devising internal due diligence mechanisms that will ensure that its candidates emerge as proficient and responsible Parliamentarians capable of holding the Executive to account. Some of our measures include:

- Set up of a high-calibre committee entrusted to vet, monitor and evaluate the performance of MEC officials;
- Monitoring of conduct of MEC functionaries and assisting authorities on any investigations;
- Recalling of MEC ministers and other political appointees on matters of corruption, poor performance or misconduct;

1.5 Aligning Public Procurement with Best Practices

CURRENT STATUS

The government procurement system is in disarray, opening up avenues for abuse. In 2007, the Government reformed the Public Procurement System from a centralized to a decentralized system in line with the National Vision 2020,

implementing it in an unreasoned, haphazard manner. As a result, this system has failed to make public procurement more efficient and transparent. The Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) report of 2016 indicated that the reform of public procurement was done without levelling the playing field, resulting in incidences of non-compliance.

SOLUTION

MEC recognizes the significance of public sector procurement to economic development and appreciates that this system requires immediate overhaul in order to close the fissures that allow for corruption, maladministration and collusion. Improvement of the public sector procurement system will need to support financial decentralization for improved service delivery and far-reaching economic growth. Some of our interventions will include:

- Strengthen a Procurement Unit to implement, improve, monitor and evaluate government procurement;
- Introduce e-procurement with online adverts, bidding, supplier evaluation and tracking system for an efficient, secure process.
- Enhance preference and competition mechanisms for local bidders against foreign bidders to give the local business an advantage.
- Provision of empowerment bids to give a further competitive advantage or exclusivity to marginalized groups such as youth, women and people with disabilities.

1.6 Strengthening Income Collection Measures

CURRENT STATUS

Potential tax earnings are lost to government due to weak collection measures. This is glaringly evident at border posts where corruption plays a major hand in loss of revenue.

SOLUTION

We will carry out benchmarking in order for LRA to be strengthened through appropriate best practice methods of tax collection. Solutions will utilize modern technologies to eliminate corruption, promote efficiency and ensure that the public is also protected from poor administration. Over and above business process management we will:

- Reform non-tax revenue collection to be directed to an effective unit of the LRA to improve accountability and enhance government liquidity. Such reform will include payment processes that will guarantee that revenue is collected diligently without undue tampering.
- Enforce collection of dividends from State Owned Enterprises and other concerns in which government has a stake. This includes conduct of investigations to determine whether government is not owed revenue from previous financial years.

2. PROMOTING PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Private sector-led growth is a vital component of an MEC government, in line with our ideals.

CURRENT STATUS

According to the UNICEF budget brief of 2020/2021, The Lesotho poverty rate was 49.7 per cent in 2017/18. Of the poor, about 24.1 per cent are extremely poor, living below the national food poverty line of M352.4 per adult per month. Inequality is also one of the highest in the world with a Gini Coefficient of 0.446. Poverty is exacerbated by a very high prevalence of HIV (25% among adults), high unemployment rate (28.0% overall and 43.2% among the youth aged 15-24).

Exacerbated by Covid-19, Lesotho's private sector has shrunk significantly over the past 10 years, especially with the closure of several apparel manufacturers. Having broken the trend in 2004, government has once again become the major employer in the country.

SOLUTION

MEC recognizes that to achieve holistic growth, government needs to invest in and facilitate for a conducive environment for private sector growth. This begins by the change in attitude that government is NOT a competitor within the market space, nor is it in itself an active business concern, but an enabler of the private sector. To this effect, the mandate of the LNDC needs to be reviewed and reformed towards being an economic accelerator, as opposed to the difficult entity that it is, mired with a litany of red tape at the expense of rapid development.

It is vitally important for Lesotho's private sector to be stimulated through interventions in agriculture, agri-processing, manufacturing, extractives and services in order to build an environment that will absorb skills, create jobs and provide opportunities for public sector workers to transition thus leaving a leaner civil service.

2.1 Streamlining the Public Sector

- Persuade voluntary early retirement by increasing the margin of immediate payable pension from 25% to 50% so that the retirees can have a decent capital to explore entrepreneurial ventures.
- Encourage public servants to get into agri-business by creating incentives through SOEs such as LNDC and BEDCO

2.2 Enterprise and Industrial Development

2.2.1 Enhanced Support to MSMEs

1. The structure and mandate of BEDCO will require transformation in order to make the organization relevant and effective to Lesotho's contemporary needs. The MSME sector is where there are real possibilities to attain a 65% employment rate amongst the semi-skilled and unskilled population and this potential needs to be efficiently explored and meaningful growth achieved.
2. With various market mechanisms in play such as AGOA, EU, Canada and the Africa Free Trade Area, barriers to entry to local and international economic zones for MSMEs will be addressed. These include:
 - a. Implementation of government procurement quota system to economically empower marginalised communities such as people with disabilities, women and youth.
 - b. Enforcement of a procurement measure that calls for all government entities to ensure that 80% of all sourced agricultural produce is local.
 - c. Provision of a 3-year repayment holiday for NMDS sponsored graduates who pursue their own businesses endeavours.
 - d. Provision of relevant training in business management, quality control, marketing, packaging and labelling for local producers to meet international export standards.

2.3 Domestic Investment Support

MEC has already created the enabling legislative framework to support the growth of local businesses by spearheading a law that reserved certain business classes for indigenous Basotho. Over and above this measure, the following is still necessary to deepen these efforts:

1. Enforcement and compliance of the law aimed at protecting domestic support and investment.
2. Support of various cooperatives towards development of local products and services.
3. Broadening access to government shares held in parastatals to Basotho to entice domestic investment.

2.4 Strengthening Support to Industrial and Large Enterprise Sector

Building a strong industry requires the transformation of the LNDC in its structure, mandate and professional capacity. There's a strong need for LNDC to take a more bold, dynamic and contextually appropriate disposition to ignite large-scale commercial activity. Lesotho's very viability revolves around building internationally competitive industries that elevate potential from agriculture, natural resources and other competitive niches (such as in wool and mohair) into large, locally driven export-oriented industries. Large industry has the potential to be Lesotho's largest employer, enabling this sector to return and exceed the 55% employment rate of 2004/05.

1. Lesotho has the potential, through value addition (Manufacturing) to influence a reverse migration of its diaspora who emigrated to South Africa and other neighbouring countries in search of economic opportunities.
2. Locally driven industrial activity will influence technology as well as innovation, thus enabling an economic domino effect into the entrepreneurial environment.

2.5 Transforming the Agricultural Sector

Agriculture is the mainstay of the MEC governing disposition. Once the backbone of Lesotho's economy, this sector has not received adequate re-investment in order to meet the country's basic food needs. MEC recognizes agriculture as the sector that holds significant promise for economic growth for Lesotho, holding realistic and attainable potential as has been experienced before with exports in asparagus, peach juice, canned beans, leather, wool and mohair products. Support for agriculture holds 3 primary objectives:

1. To enhance food security through subsistence farming;
2. To generate economic growth through commercial farming; and
3. To create sustainable, inclusive employment that engages the country's women, youth, women and vulnerable groups.

For the above objectives to be achieved, it is imperative that Lesotho's Agricultural Sector is completely overhauled, utilizing best practices, which includes our own performance in the sector in the 1980s.

CURRENT STATUS

Of the total value of meat imports between 2018 and 2020, chicken dominated imports with an average of 76%. This is followed by beef imports, averaging 12% over the same period. The overall country spending on meat imports increased from M462.3 million in 2018 to M531.7million in 2020. This presents a significant business opportunity for Basotho farmers (new and existing) to service a highly lucrative domestic market.

While livestock farming bears great revenue earning potential for the Mosotho farmer, crop (especially grain) farming also requires nurturing to solve Lesotho's perennial problem as a food insecure country. 21.1% of the population is estimated to have been affected by severe food insecurity in June 2020, were the country yielded a paltry 21782 metric tons of maize, 4111 metric tons of sorghum and 2004 metric tons of wheat.

SOLUTION

2.5.1 Horticulture

The following is the suite of solutions to address challenges facing horticulture in Lesotho:

1. Improvement of physical planning to identify and protect productive land as well as to develop a network of irrigation systems
2. Climate change mitigation through assistance in the implementation of appropriate technologies and farming methods including drought-resistant seeds, greenhouse cultivation, aquaponics, electronic information systems, advanced pest control and renewable energy.
3. Set up of the regulatory framework in the form of a Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act for the protection, management and use of arable land in a manner that promotes production, sustainability, land-owner rights and investor confidence.
4. The theft of crops has been a longstanding problem in Lesotho, receiving very little attention by previous governments. It is important to empower local authorities with a legal framework that will enable them to fight crop theft, beyond the realms of traditional leadership.

2.5.2 Livestock Farming

At the outset, it is important to highlight the significance of the Wool and Mohair industry to Lesotho's future economic prospects.

The wool and mohair industry has for decades, been one of the major sources of income and livelihoods of many rural Basotho. However, in recent years, the government has dealt with this industry in a manner that has negatively affected its development. Through appropriate consultation and buy-in of farmers, MEC will explore methods of deepening the value of this industry to benefit rural communities. This involves value add industries in raw material processing as well as end product manufacturing.

The following industry enhancements will be explored:

- Rangeland management coupled with grass and grain feed production to improve nutrition while ensuring environmental sustainability.;
- Improved access to medical and animal welfare services through concerted skills development in veterinary medicine, supply of medications as well as the construction of dipping facilities;

- Expansion of woolsheds and scouring facilities to bring processing services closer to farmers.

2.5.3 Aggressive Fight Against Livestock Theft

Cross border livestock theft needs to be fought in a systematic manner that includes improving border security. Considering Lesotho's geographic circumstances, it is vital to utilize modern technologies such as tracking chips for animals and drones with night vision capabilities. It is also essential to capacitate police services with helicopters in the medium to long-term.

Bilateral agreements between Lesotho and South Africa will also play an important role in ensuring that interventions receive reciprocal measures on both sides of the border for an effective synergy.

In Lesotho, livestock theft can also be attributed to the proliferation of butcheries that have been found to be selling meat from stolen animals. Under an MEC government, the butchery supply chain will be regulated through a certification process. Butcheries may only sell meat from accredited abattoirs other wholesalers, and duly stamped as proof of origin from an approved source.

2.5.4 Building a Strong Agriculture Value Chain

What cannot be denied is that Lesotho performed well in Agriculture in the early to mid 1980s. For this performance to have been possible, a strong value chain that included egg circles, a dairy depot and cooperatives were established. MEC will not re-invent the wheel, but rekindle Lesotho's own experience and bring it into the contemporary environment. Our programme will:

1. **Support Agricultural Inputs:** The existing policy on input subsidy needs to be maintained but enhanced through implementation through relevant private sector actors. Utilizing stringent service level agreements, this method of execution will improve lead times to ensure that farmers receive inputs in time for successful yields.
2. **Boost Crop Production:** Small-scale farming will be supported through the provision of advanced production and harvesting techniques. Lesotho has the potential to achieve its socio-economic development goals; in part, through high value fruit and vegetable production. The primary aim of support is to improve the winter harvest while also creating an ecosystem that supports cooperatives. State sponsored institutions and

entities that are set up to support agricultural output will be managed through robust performance management systems, also involving public accountability.

3. **Develop Agri-Processing:** Through Public Private Partnerships, agri-processing will be developed in tandem with the growth and success of agricultural production. Agri-business will be developed strategically (and regionally) to coincide with the nature of farming activities in the area. It is important for state owned enterprises such as LNDC to be astute to the value addition needs within the agricultural sector. Thus, necessary departments or units will be established to ensure that Lesotho's agricultural activities have far-reaching economic benefits.
4. **Improve Product Packaging:** This is an area where the youth through graphic design and information technology can bring much needed value to this industry. The packaging of Lesotho's products has been an area that has received little investment. For Lesotho to be competitive on the regional and global market, packaging will be an important aspect of success. While the government may not have the adequate resources to assist with this important activity, strategic partnerships through academia, corporates, commercial banks and BEDCO are capable to coalesce around this goal. The enabling environment will be created to bring about necessary synergies.
5. **Facilitate Market Access:** Lesotho enjoys duty and quota free access to various international markets. What needs to be improved is the exploitation of those initiatives. The MEC government will create the enabling environment to ensure that Lesotho's agricultural products are marketed globally. It will further build export capacity through a re-developed International Airport as well as improved movement of goods and services through land borders. Locally, investment will be directed to the development of produce markets, abattoirs, dairy plants etc. to create a food ecosystem that ensures local food security and surplus management.
6. **Enable Retail Capacity:** A system of off-takes needs to be developed to ensure that local grocery retailers source; for the most part, produce that is grown locally. Product standards, farming methods, produce markets and storage facilities will combine to create the necessary capacity for Basotho farmers to plug into the food supply chain. Once the supply chain is stable, laws will be put in place that will compel grocery retailers to source Lesotho produce.

This value chain mechanism will provide the necessary framework to encourage local and international investment in agri-business. It will support food security, build the commercial sector and nurture secondary industries in transportation, design, communication, technology and services.

2.5.5 Climate Change Mitigation

While Lesotho is a drought prone country, for the past 5 years, our climate has been vastly different to what we are accustomed to. Winters have been colder and longer than usual, while summers are becoming typified by uncharacteristic torrential rains. This situation does not bode well for the country's agricultural exploits. It is therefore important that new farming methods are devised to mitigate against climate change, which is responsible for making our fragile food security situation worse.

The MEC government will take active steps to investigate, pilot and roll out best practices in climate smart agriculture. These include greenhouse farming, seed selection, irrigation methods (including aquaponics) and renewable energy. Urban planning will also consider how water runoff can be harnessed into reservoirs to preserve it primarily for irrigation.

2.6 Resourcing Private Sector Growth

CURRENT STATUS

Mechanisms to fund private sector programs and projects have not been effective, or well thought out. The M50 million youth fund of the Ministry of Small Business Development, the Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) of the Ministry of Finance, and sporadic funding from the Ministry of Gender for women and youth initiatives have all yielded no tangible, transformative results.

SOLUTION

The fragmentation of funding efforts has been the problem, coupled with an uninformed roll out that is not based on empirical evidence. Where funds were disbursed, this was not done in tandem with mentorship, guidance and an accountability system. MEC will consolidate these funds into capacitated agencies that will execute methodical allocation, monitoring and evaluation as follows:

2.6.1 Establishment of an Agricultural Development Agency

While the Ministry of Agriculture remains the custodian of policy, there is a need for a specialised agency responsible for policy implementation. This is particularly necessary to have capable support for agri-business in its entire value system. Lesotho did well in the past by conceptualizing the Agric Bank, but failed to utilize it in a meaningful, sustainable and accountable way. Lessons need to be learnt from this example by developing a proficient and accountable agency which together with LNDC and BEDCO, will provide technical and financial support for bankable investment business cases.

2.6.2 Establishment of a National Development Finance Fund

MEC government will consolidate all financing initiatives under one roof at the Lesotho Post Bank (LPB). This will further assist with decentralization as such funds will be accessible countrywide and made accessible to due recipients who have satisfied eligibility requirements. Farmers (approved by the Agricultural Development Agency), MSMEs, new graduates, women, youth, etc. will benefit from concessionary loans which will be implemented in tandem with relevant government departments for training, monitoring and evaluation. Key actors in this programme include NMDS, LNDC, Academia, BEDCO, Other State-Owned Enterprises and the Private Sector.

Some of the enabling activities include:

- Strategies to discipline debtors towards diligent payment of loans;
- Improvement of commercial courts to strengthen legal and remedial instruments;
- Sound management of business monitoring mechanisms, including audited financial accounts, periodic reports, tax filing and loan payment data.
- Strengthening a credit bureau

Once adequately capitalized, this institution will be self-reliant and sustainable, surviving through loan interests and strategic investments. Due to its socio-economic significance, its viability and professional capacity, is anticipated that this agency; as a development finance entity, will be in a strong position to be able to raise funds from international development finance institutions.

2.7 Rural Youth Empowerment Programme

CURRENT STATUS

While it is vital to empower vulnerable and marginalized groups, previous governments have not approached this goal in a concerted and informed fashion. An inordinate amount of public funds have been spent on menial initiatives such as “fato-fato” and “lihalahala”, which were not based on National Development Goals, critical thinking, developmental merit and empirical data. None of these initiatives have yielded tangible, transformative and sustainable outcomes.

SOLUTION

In concert with academia, traditional leaders, local government, dynamic government offices such as the PMDU, MEC will institute a rural youth empowerment programme that is aimed at achieving improved quality of life against National Development Goals. While fato-fato and lihalahala were failures, the areas in which they worked can still be addressed, but in a fashion that appropriately builds on development strategies. The building of rural access roads, footbridges, agricultural development, tree planting and area beautification for example are all essential components of development while also providing opportunities for skills transfer and permanent employment to promote self-reliance. Some of the work done by rural youth can be packaged into accredited short course programmes for certification to build an individual's credentials.

2.8 Execution of Large Infrastructure Projects

CURRENT STATUS

Basotho, particularly in rural areas are continually frustrated by the lack of infrastructural development. This is due to the absence of planning that includes urban and rural development masterplans that guarantee that the government invests in its people in meaningful ways. Basic amenities such as roads, electricity and access to potable water remain challenges after nearly 60 years of independence. As this situation stands, poor living conditions have encouraged people to migrate to urban centres seeking better living circumstances and economic opportunities. From this, urban centres; especially Maseru, are experiencing exasperatingly high levels of congestion that are choking these habitats. Sporadic dwellings, chaotic informal trading, heavy vehicular traffic, environmental degradation and crime illustrate to this situation.

SOLUTION

Addressing lack of basic services and infrastructural development begins with the development of urban and rural development masterplans under a Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act. Communities need to be planned to ensure that they are complete and inclusive, accommodating all sectors of society and their socio-economic requirements in the forms of schools, medical facilities, public transport, recreational spaces and economic opportunities. Urban and rural planning needs to link Lesotho through a variety of nodes, from CBDs, to outlying urban nodes, agricultural nodes, tourism nodes etc. National roads should be constructed never to cut through communities, but to bypass them. Such plans will ignite opportunities for sustainable growth through investment, PPPs and accelerated growth underpinned by infrastructure development to transform Lesotho.

Infrastructural development will be based on the economic potential of the area. Spatial planning will protect productive land; thus, delivery of services will be focused on the economic needs of the concerned area, catering for the welfare and development of associated communities.

2.9 Strengthening the Tourism Industry

Lesotho's tourism potential is vastly untapped. It is undoubtedly a sector holding great revenue and employment potential for Basotho, requiring a systematic approach that creates an exciting experience and a unique product that sets Lesotho apart from other destinations.

CURRENT STATUS

While commendable efforts have been made to invest in Lesotho's tourism sector, this investment is yet to create cohesive experiential routes that improve tourist revenue within the country. Development of facilities has not been complimented with nodal development, introduction of support service and industries and a marketing outlook that packages Lesotho into a product. Due to the increase in crime, which also targets tourists, there is decreasing confidence in Lesotho as a leisure destination. Unsafe roads, lack of amenities also plays a role that today, Lesotho is viewed as a one day, in and out destination by most international visitors.

SOLUTION

Spatial Planning and Land Use Management will compel Lesotho to produce a development masterplan. Layered within this plan will be tourism development programmes that are linked to natural, cultural, historic and recreational experiences. The MEC government's plan will be to ensure that tourist revenue remains in Lesotho and does not benefit South African border towns. For this to happen, there will be Private Sector driven investment in amenities such as recreational parks, entertainment venues, conferencing facilities, accommodation facilities, museums, galleries, wellness centres etc.

Master planning will overlay the delivery of key services such as roads, electricity and potable water to serve Lesotho's development in Social, Economic and Environmental terms. Tourism plays a central part in this programme where our small geographic area can create a tourist experience route that provides the visitor with an exciting experience from one region of the country to another. Careful consideration will be placed in the development of roads themselves as tourist attractions. Our topography allows for the development of roads to include beautifully designed bridges and tunnels along scenic routes. This infrastructure while serving a key purpose can be utilized as key visitor attractions themselves.

Allied activities to tourism success such as safety and security, education, environmental protection, manufacturing, marketing and ICTs will be provided with necessary support for performance and growth.

2.10 Protecting Natural Resources

CURRENT SITUATION

It is important for the management of the country's natural resources of benefit of Lesotho and Mosotho first. As it stands, Basotho; and rightly so, feel grossly underserved by the sale of their natural resources, from water to diamonds. There has not been any meaningful change to their lives, where it would seem that Lesotho sells water to its neighbour while remaining thirsty itself.

SOLUTION

MEC will :

- Ensure that the legal frameworks for mining are updated, including standardized mineral contracts/mining lease agreements that guarantee returns of mining exploits. This includes mechanisms that monitor and assess revenue, profits, losses and sharing of dividends.
- Prescribe procurement thresholds that ensure localization of the mining supply and value chain. This includes the provision of food, gear, equipment and services.
- Strengthen the capacity of oversight, monitoring and evaluation to ensure compliance.
- In water resources, the LHDA treaty will be renegotiated through the Joint Bilateral Commission of Cooperation with South Africa to deepen benefits to Basotho from the sale of water. This includes domestic use to deepen access to potable water as well as for aquaculture and recreation. Lesotho needs to ensure that it sells surplus water after its own domestic needs have been met. The population of the Gauteng Province where LHDA water serves is over 15 million. Lesotho has an overall population of just over 2 million. LHDA water can be equitably shared by both countries for a mutually beneficial and JUST outcome.
- Establish a SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND that will invest the proceeds of the sale of Lesotho's natural resources to create wealth that will benefit Basotho for generations. This fund will go towards key development activities such as universal education, employment creation initiatives and grand infrastructure projects.

3 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND GROWTH

Promoting inclusive development and building the necessary infrastructure to support growth and sustainability are other major priorities for MEC, which will be addressed as follows:

3.1 Decentralization

CURRENT STATUS

Since the establishment of the local government system, the government itself has only paid lip service to decentralization. With no infrastructure, human and financial resources at a local level, service delivery has been marginal at best. Lack of localized planning, development and administration has also resulted in the very decay of the social fabric in both rural and urban Lesotho, creating a myriad of challenges that are today, overwhelming the government.

SOLUTION

Achieving decentralization will require the bold and decisive implementation of the decentralisation policy. Urban and regional planning, localized budget management and administrative semi-autonomy will enable local councils to develop opportunities for themselves, including establishing their own methods of revenue generation and strategic partnerships.

Local government needs to be characterized by service excellence, as this is the layer of government that directly interfaces with the public. In this case, MEC will make provisions for key administrative infrastructure to be developed to discharge essential services. Area and Customary Chiefs for example need to be provided with adequate office space, equipment and commensurate remuneration to be able to function efficiently. Our traditional leadership structures remain vital and relevant to respond to community needs, especially in outlying areas.

3.2 Economic Stimulus

CURRENT STATUS

Development stagnation is the Achilles heel to Lesotho's development aspirations. Successive governments have failed to ensure that infrastructure development meets the needs of an evolving society and economy.

SOLUTION

For Lesotho, economic stimulus is the convergence of programmes in agriculture, manufacturing, natural resources under an enabling umbrella of infrastructure led growth in tandem with NSDP II. For this to happen, corruption needs to be uprooted in order to promote investment in these key economic drivers. MEC will:

1. Operationalization of the Plenary II Report provisions for legal reforms. This will pave the way for urban and regional planning in support of Lesotho's economic plan, with focus primarily on Infrastructure, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Tourism and Industry.
2. The Lesotho government's current disposition on PPPs needs to be reviewed and transformed to absorb existing opportunities and investor appetite versus real and present needs. Unsolicited proposals and Private Funded Initiatives need to be better considered in order for the government to utilize all opportunities that are available, especially those which emanate from Lesotho's own private sector or diaspora. While the experience of Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital is a cautionary experience, it is also an example mired in conflicts of interest that led to this unfortunate situation. Despite being burnt, the government's attitude to development through PPPs should not close the door on necessary strategic solutions.
3. The proposed **Basotho Fund** (Sovereign Wealth Fund) in the medium to long-term will make significant contributions to accelerated growth through infrastructure development.
4. For benefits in the medium to long-term, it is important for Lesotho to actively pursue its maritime rights. Access to the sea and seaports as per UNCLOS will allow Lesotho to build on its trade priorities within the Blue Economy.

3.3 Infrastructure Development

3.3.1 Infrastructure is a core service necessary to enable the improved standard of living for every citizen. An MEC government will ensure that Lesotho is littered with construction cranes, through PPP projects that will accelerate growth and service delivery throughout the country. It is important to note that infrastructure is a critical cross-cutting activity that affects all aspects of government, from economic endeavours, through to social challenges such as access to healthcare, education and even recreation. Therefore, infrastructure development is at the heart of our governing priorities. The MEC government will:

Through PPPs, respond to basic needs such as roads development, upgrade and maintenance, water and electricity supply, internet provision.

- a. Set up Real Estate Management and Road Maintenance units within the Ministry of Public Works and decentralized into local government structures for adequate infrastructure lifecycle management. Lack of building and road maintenance has several negative results including non-compliance to new codes, urban decay, compromised health and safety and wasteful expenditure.
- b. Harness the development of Factory shells and other commercial buildings under urban plans to address congestion in urban centres (especially in Maseru).
- c. Redevelop the Moshoeshe I Airport to meet ICAO standards while also building its capacity as a cargo management airport to serve both Lesotho's needs as well as those of nearby South African towns which are underserved by their infrastructure.
- d. Through PPPs, build catalytic and strategically important infrastructure such as local government complexes and city halls to facilitate a decentralized administration;
- e. Promote infrastructure development that attracts and builds Lesotho's tourism potential. This includes well designed bridges and tunnels, recreational and entertainment facilities. While covid-19 has minimized business tourism, this sector is beginning to recover. Investment in Meetings and Incentives, Events and

Conferencing facilities have the potential to grow Lesotho's tourism income.

3.3.2 It is vitally important that the PPP policy is put into use to encourage local investment and participation as well as attract foreign direct investment.

4. Other impediments to economic growth include road safety through the overhaul of the road traffic management system, crime fighting, municipal management with a focus on Maseru, as well as other elements that affect Lesotho's Doing Business ratings.

3.4 Fiscal Prudence

As a centre-left Political Party, MEC believes in fiscal prudence, especially in relation to government expenditure. While we endeavour for accelerated development and social justice, we are strong proponents that these goals need to be private sector driven hinging on a robust market economy.

Since its inception in 2011, the Public Sector Pension Fund has grown from M1 billion to M9 billion but has only invested 13% of the 30% targeted for Lesotho. While there is a present opportunity for Lesotho to develop itself through its own resources, the government continues to commit menial amounts of tax revenue to capital expenditure rather than taking the opportunity to pool together local resources through strategic partnerships in order to achieve national growth priorities.

SOLUTION

1. Our attitude towards prudent fiscal management will include deliberate caution on government commitments on long-term debt, especially of foreign origin. Therefore, Public Debt Acquisitions, Mining Agreements and Concessions, Public Private Partnership Agreements and any similar commitments will be subjected to ratification by Parliament.
2. Active steps will be taken to unlock the pension fund for domestic investment, utilizing this opportunity to promote PPPs with Pension Fund participation for revenue earning capital infrastructure projects such as toll roads.

3. To curb wasteful expenditure, Lesotho PostBank (LPB) will be used for distribution of payments for Welfare Grants, Student stipends and funding initiatives (as earlier outlined). LPB's national footprint will assist with decentralization of services, minimal expenditure on administrative overheads and the ability to channel funds to other priorities.
- 4.

4 STRENGTHENING PATRIOTISM AND SOCIAL COHESION

4.1 National Reforms

It is our fervent intent over the governing term to deepen the Reforms Process through implementation of the agenda as demanded by Basotho. Commitment to these reforms will be demonstrated through the provision of human, physical and financial resources as integral elements of the annual planning and budgeting framework. For MEC, the reforms agenda forms an essential part of our governing attitude, where the delivery of our key development priorities will be executed in observance to the implementation of the related reforms issues.

4.2 The MEC Governing Culture

Our governing style will move away from the dysfunctional silo system. To achieve our objectives, our administration will be characterized by an inclusive working culture that operates across;

- a. Political Parties (coalition relations properly governed),
- b. Ministries (collective responsibility guided by National Plans,
- c. the Private Sector (targeted to be economic drivers),
- d. Civil Society (maintaining strong relations for the people)
- e. Media (providing a platform for freedom of speech) and
- f. Other stakeholders
- g.

In tandem with our ideological principles as a Political Party, the MEC government will be consultative and informative to ensure that every Mosotho is able to be involved of the process. We will endeavour to cascade the administrative process through local government structures for participatory government. This will create a spirit of ownership, harmony, cohesion, tolerance and patriotism for sustainable development and prosperity.

4.3 Prioritizing Basotho

In line with our 3 pillars, our attitude when it comes to prospects is simple: By all means possible, any opportunities that present themselves in Lesotho and to Lesotho should benefit Basotho first, especially where public funds are involved. Treaties, Contracts, Concessions, Procurement, Projects undertaken by MEC will need to demonstrate local benefits in terms that can be evaluated.

5 IMPROVING SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES

Our leftist leaning political inclinations compel us enact, support, improve and deepen laws that can sustain social protection strategies, especially for vulnerable persons and groups.

Lesotho's social framework requires for the country to have some very difficult conversations. What is undeniable is that the country needs a physical planning masterplan, and with this, is the subject of relocation of people living in remote, isolated homesteads to larger communities where they can be provided with all the services they require. Realistically, the government does not have the ability to extend essential services to every corner of the country corner of the country, so in some cases, deserving citizens may have unrealistic expectations (in the short-term) due to their extremely remote location.

Masterplanning needs to be a collective, highly consultative process that engages Basotho across the country. It needs to be sensitive to people's way of life. Thus, construction of roads should not split communities apart as is the case presently. Further to this, rural communities should be protected from urban sprawl, heavy industry and pollution as best as possible. Consolidation of communities needs to create a socially, economic and environmentally responsive programme that creates livable urban, peri-urban and rural nodes that ensures that citizens are provided with the basic services they require, resulting in transformative change.

5.1 Enhanced Health Services

The current free health services will be maintained and improved. Challenges persist regarding access to healthcare as well as its quality. This is a direct consequence on development stagnation lack of reinvestment.

SOLUTION

The MEC government will address impediments to the delivery of adequate healthcare services. Alongside this, COVID-19 has taught us an important lesson that robust investment needs be directed at the enhancement of health infrastructure itself. This will primarily be by:

1. Strengthening human resource development with emphasis on Village Health Workers. These critical healthcare first respondents will be engaged as permanent government health workers earning a living wage. We will enhance this valuable network to shore up social welfare responses to issues such as combatting Gender Based Violence, Physical and Mental Abuse, Neglect, Malnutrition, identification of vulnerable people such as child-headed households.
2. Making use of idle but critical infrastructure such as clinics (Global Fund, etc.) to facilitate outreach posts for decentralized health services ;
3. Enhancing laboratories, emergency medical services, pharmaceutical production, hospital capacity and supply network. Central to this plan is the enhancement (through PPPs) of the Lesotho Pharmaceutical Corporation to produce essential medications for local consumption and export. LPC should be a critical value adding component to Lesotho's cannabis industry, where various products can be manufactured.
4. Ensuring that health services are available without discrimination to every citizen including marginalized populations, in all districts of Lesotho.

5.2 Improved Support for Education

Education is critical to achieve transformative and sustainable change. MEC will invest heavily into education at all levels for Lesotho to truly realize its potential.

1. Early Childhood Development (ECD) is fundamental to bring up well nurtured citizens. This is the critical education stage that prepares a child for further

basic education. Communication, confidence, self-identification and essential cognitive skills go a long way to achieving positive outcomes from primary school level education. Further to this, ECD instils key values, principles and social skills that mould positive social behaviours. Personal Safety, Road Safety, Environmental Awareness, Tolerance and National Identity contribute to and improved social fabric.

The MEC government will actively pursue broadening of access to ECD, creating a positive framework that supports children, parents and teachers.

2. Addressing Structural challenges in the Ministry of Education that impede on efficiency, productivity and delivery of appropriate educational programmes to students. Curriculum development, teacher appointments, remunerations need to be overhauled and appropriately managed.
3. Enhancing the curriculum with programmes and facilities that support extra-mural studies in subjects such as music, art, drama, horticulture and technology. Schools need to be improved with playgrounds, libraries, laboratories, auditoriums, staff rooms, counselling rooms, sick bays etc. for a complete, nurturing scholastic experience.
4. Urgently redress the new integrated learning that does not allow for grading, failing to assess competence of students.
5. Improve the quality of learning to produce students who are proficient in the history, culture, geography, governance systems of Lesotho.
6. Preserve Indigenous Knowledge by prescribing a curriculum spreading across various disciplines.
7. TVET qualification need to be provided with an appropriate accreditation and certification framework to improve employment prospects and further education.
8. Investment in tertiary education to vastly improve quality. The aim is to ensure that Basotho do not have the need to seek higher education outside of the country. This investment will entail transformation of Lerotholi Polytechnic into a University. Faculty, facilities, curriculum, partnerships with other institutions of higher learning will come together to produce a quality tertiary education system.

- 5.2.1 The NMDS loan bursary system will be maintained but strengthened through the transformation of this Directorate into an autonomous parastatal. Its scope will be broadened to deepen education support into pre-primary, primary and secondary schools. There is a high risk for vulnerable groups such as the disabled, orphans and child headed households to drop out after primary school, thus needing focused support to complete studies.

An autonomous and transformed NMDS will be able to coordinate education financial aid from international institutions, corporate social investment and other fundraising mechanisms such as the Basotho Fund to sustain itself and its programmes. It will also play a critical role to constantly review skills gaps in the economy to direct education funding towards studies which address skills needs and deficits.

5.3 Low Income Housing

The MEC government is committed to support the development of complete communities. We are determined to build smart and sustainable cities informed by urban and regional planning. The MEC government will roll out a programme that provides low-income housing through PPP projects in the likes of the LEHCO-OP initiative. Soft home loans will be provided to low-income earners such as factory workers, street vendors (baitšukuli), artisans and low-level public officers.

The programme will be implemented through a transformed and capacitated LHLDC that is adequately enabled to deliver on a broadened, countrywide mandate.

5.4 National Social Security Services

The current social security services under the Ministry of Social Development will be strengthened to improve efficiency and broadened to expand their scope. While the social benefits rolled out by the Ministry will continue to receive support through Parliamentary budget allocations, additional funding sources will be explored through Corporate Social Investment especially within the manufacturing and extractive sectors.

To deepen social security, a **national social security insurance** will be introduced to provide benefits to contributors in the event of ill health, unemployment, retirement, disability and death. This programme will be operated through an outsourced asset management entity under the oversight of a duly established National Social Security organisation of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The national social security insurance will be funded; at inception phase, through a Parliamentary budget allocation, and subsequently through monthly contributions from employers and employees.

5.4 Minimum Wage

The following groups shall also be included within paid skills provided for with minimum wages in order for them to receive salaries on a monthly basis.

1. Village Health Workers
2. Pre-school/ Nursery School (ECD) teachers
3. Herd boys

5.5 Social Security Schemes

The MEC government will ensure the stabilization of the welfare system as it pertains to Old Age Grants, Disability Grants and Maternity/ Paternity leave. Such stabilization involves the shoring up of the legislative framework as well as the determination of optimal grant amounts in relation to income streams.

CONCLUSION



Within its short existence since the establishment of The Movement for Economic Change (MEC) in February, 2017, it has proved itself as a vibrant, dynamic and principled party that is capable of leading Lesotho into its next chapter. The National Reforms are ushering in a new era, an opportunity for Basotho to realize the Lesotho they want. This new phase requires empathetic leadership that will ensure that Basotho achieve their development aspirations.

Our 2022 governing term will be characterized by the implementation and institutionalization of the 7 thematic areas of National Reforms. We will support this critical National priority with the implementation of other important National and International Development Programs such as the NSDP II, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals as well as the AU Agenda 2063 to drive far-reaching socio-economic transformation. Our governing disposition; supporting inclusive development, will be consultative and accountable to every Mosotho, utilizing progressive modalities to better interact with the ordinary citizen.

We are under no illusions about this road that lies ahead. We are certain of the difficulties and obstacles we will encounter, but those are difficulties we are prepared to face as now is the time to build our Nation, starting by **Killing Corruption to Create Jobs**. Throughout this Manifesto, we have emphasised that ours is a plan about the inclusive transformation of the lives of Basotho. We firmly believe that the coherent and achievable plan set out in this Manifesto is in step with the needs and aspirations of Basotho, which they have expressed in our own consultations as well as those of the NSDP II and the National Reforms Process. Expressing their desires, Basotho have helped us to develop this Manifesto, which we will work diligently to execute together in Building our Nation.



Ke Nako

Kill Corruption, Create Jobs

Litšhebetso Sechabeng

Moruo O Hole

Lesotho, Mosotho Pele

VOTE MEC



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