



**SPEECH BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF
LESOTHO REVENUE AUTHORITY MS IDIA PENANE
DELIVERED AT THE ANTI-CORRUPTION SYMPOSIUM IN
PREPARATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY**

04TH DECEMBER 2017

The Programme Director, through you, allow me to pay my respects to:

HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III;

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER;

HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY;

HIS LORDSHIP THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL;

HER LADYSHIP THE CHIEF JUSTICE;

HONOURABLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER;

HONOURABLE MINISTERS;

THEIR LORDSHIPS JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT;

YOUR EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND HEADS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN PARTICULAR THE UNDP WHOM WE ARE PARTNERING WITH IN THIS INITIATIVE;

MY PARTNERS; THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE & THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DCEO;

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

Let me start my remarks by borrowing the words of one of the most creative writers the world has seen. Samuel Johnson writes that

“Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful”

Warren Buffet, one of the most successful business men of our time, on the other hand says:

In looking for people to hire, you look for 3 qualities: Integrity, Intelligence and Energy. And if they don't have the first, the other 2 qualities will kill you.

This is just to highlight the importance of integrity since one with integrity will be above reproach to temptations of corruption. People without integrity have led nations down disastrous paths, brought down conglomerates and left multitudes destitute.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

We live in times of serious moral degeneration. Anti-corruption strategies, governance, control processes, rules and regulations can only achieve so much in combatting corruption if the ethos of the Basotho nation is allowed to degenerate. Leaders, public servants, employees in general and business owners come from family and community settings. That is where they learn the lessons that make them responsible adults and people of high integrity. In our culture, a child was raised by the whole community and every adult was responsible for discipline.

Re etsa khoeletso ke hona re re: Sekoele Basotho! Sentle ke ho boea le thebe le marungoana, ntoeng ea ho khutlisa Boitšoarō. Basotho re tsebahala ka boitšoarō bo botle le Khotso.

It is in settings such as this, that we endeavour to promote integrity by making the nation aware of the rigours of corruption and benefits of acting with integrity.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

We are gathered here today to heed the call of the United Nations to raise awareness on corruption. The United Nations

International Anti-Corruption Day was designated as the 09th day of December by the General Assembly in 2003. We as Lesotho have decided to commemorate this day in a two pronged event. Today marks the first of the two events, which is the discourse on corruption, bringing all sectors of society together in one room to chart the way forward. The commemoration will culminate in a walk led by the police band from Ha 'Nelese to Maseru Club and invitations have been extended to the political leadership of this country, civil servants and the civil society.

The United Nations has issued the theme for this year as "United against Corruption for Development Peace and Security". As the Lesotho Revenue Authority, we see ourselves as the strategic enablers of development through the revenue that we collect on behalf of the nation for the betterment and welfare of the Basotho Nation. We cannot achieve this onerous yet noble task if we do not join the war against corruption.

The Lesotho Mounted Police Service, the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences and You ladies and Gentlemen, as representatives of other institutions, are therefore our strategic partners in combatting corruption and assisting the

country to meet its Sustainable Development Goals. We undertake to always combat corruption and tax evasion and at the same time invite all sectors of society to do the same for the nation and the future generations of this country. Let us energetically and frankly engage each other today to see how best we can prevent corruption.

I thank you!!