



**VOTE OF THANKS DELIVERED BY THE ACTING
COMMISSIONER GENERAL ADV. REALEBOHA MATHABA
TO MINISTER OF FINANCE HON. DR. 'MAMPHONO
KHAKETLA**

6TH APRIL 2016

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

THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FINANCE DR. 'MAMPHONO KHAKETLA;

THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY MINISTRY OF FINANCE;

THE CHAIRMAN AND THE BOARD OF THE LRA;

EXECUTIVE AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF THE LRA;

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HERE PRESENT;

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA.

I feel singularly honoured to have been granted an opportunity to give the vote of thanks to our Minister, Honourable Dr. 'Mamphono Khaketla, for her eloquent and inspiring speech.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have been correctly reminded of our responsibility towards our Taxpayers and on how we should engage with them. I must accept - without equivocation - that while we have consistently been exceeding our targets, there is still room for improvement as far as our service is concerned. As the Honourable Minister

has ably highlighted, we are committed to modernising our processes and capacitating our staff in order to deliver quality service to our people. We are in this regard, grateful to the Government of Lesotho for demonstrably supporting our modernisation agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Notwithstanding numerous challenges we are faced with as far as compliance is concerned, I am delighted to report to the Honourable Minister that the LRA has come to see on a month to month basis, more and more people registering for tax, filing their tax returns and making their payments on time. I can never thank this group of Taxpayers more. I can honestly say that I would not be proudly standing here today if it were not for these Taxpayers who religiously discharged their obligations. We are proud of these Taxpayers, but deeply ashamed that we still have Taxpayers who devise schemes to evade tax and defraud the Government. At the risk of repeating what the Honourable Minister has already said, I appeal to our nation to join the LRA in its relentless fight against tax evasion in order to preserve the integrity of the tax system which we consider to be the national asset.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me at this juncture to thank the law enforcement agencies, including the DECO, LMPS and the FIU as well as the Government Ministries and other agencies, OBFC and the Road Fund, who have collaborated with the LRA to make its job easier and possible.

The strategic partners: the banks, the LIA and the LAA and the LRA Business Partnership Forum, all Taxpayer groupings and development partners, we remain grateful to your assistance in all its forms.

The Honourable Minister, allow me to acknowledge the LRA Board for its counsel and guidance. I wholeheartedly wish to thank the LRA management and staff. My appreciation of their dedication to their job and immeasurable commitment to serve is greater than the words I could express here. I also wish to express my gratitude towards your officials who we frequently interact with and to the Government of Lesotho for its unwavering support to our work.

The Honourable Minister, no words can begin to express my “heartfelt thanks” to you. It is as a result of your thoughtfulness and towering commitment to guide and support the LRA that we are here today announcing positive results to our nation. Even though you do not want to claim this success, your sheer accessibility and responsiveness have had immense impact in our work – you have sincerely invested in our success. With your support, we are indeed emboldened to stand firm and administer the tax laws without fear or favour as we should do!

The Honourable Minister, you have splendidly articulated how you expect us to treat our Taxpayers. We therefore leave here with a renewed determination to work even harder to ensure that our service exceeds our Taxpayers’ expectations and a renewed hope for a better Lesotho that will one day be counted amongst the giants of this world.

Finally, Programme Director, let me appreciate the presence of the Media and the team that organised this function. You have made us proud!

So, Programme Director, I once again, place on record my hearty vote of thanks to the Honourable Minister. Her presence with us

today is of great significance and I now ask the audience to express appreciation in the usual way.

I thank you!!