



Standard Lesotho Bank



**BEDCO**  
Basotho Enterprises Development Corporation  
— we grow business —

**REMARKS BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF THE  
LESOTHO REVENUE AUTHORITY  
ON THE OCCASION TO LAUNCH THREE BUSINESSES UNDER  
BACHA ENTREPRENEUSHIP PROJECT (BEP)**

**Thursday 16 November 2016**

- I. Master of Ceremonies, allow me to align myself with the greetings and the protocol that you have diligently expressed, but allow me to pay my respects to:
- II. The Minister of Small Business Development, Cooperatives and Marketing Honourable Chalane Phori who is our Guest of Honour this evening;
- III. The Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Small Business Development, Cooperatives and Marketing Mr. Lerata Pekane who is also here with us;
- IV. The Chief Executive Officer of BEDCO;
- V. The representative of the Chief Executive of Standard Lesotho Bank;
- VI. Management and staff from the three institutions; LRA, BEDCO and Standard Lesotho Bank;
- VII. Distinguished members of the media;
- VIII. Invited guests;
- IX. Ladies and gentlemen.

Ke boikarabello ba rona bohle ho ikakhela ka setotsoana kholisong ea moruo oa naha ea habo rona molemong oa moloko ea kajeno le ea ka moso. Mosotho oa khale o ne a opile khomo lenaka ha a re kopano ke matla; letšoele le beta poho; matsoho a hlatsoana; ha lefu la noha lona ele ho tsamaea ele nngoe. It is not easy, it was not easy, it has never been easy and it will never be easy. Re le li organisation tsena tse tharo re ile ra hlokomela ho tloha sethathong hore re ka tseba feela ho tliša phapang toantsong ea bofuma le tlhokahalo ea mesebetsi ka hara naha ea habo rona ha feela re ka kopanya matsoho.

We are fully aware of the abject poverty facing our country which is being exacerbated by high rate of unemployment. What we are doing as the three sister organisations may seem not enough to onlookers but we are optimistic that in the long run it will definitely make a difference.

Morao tjena taba ea entrepreneurship has become a ***buzz word*** to the extent that we tend to believe that we can all become entrepreneurs. The alarming unemployment especially amongst skilled youth is the main reason for this inference. In the past, when you had a university degree you were guaranteed a job and not just a job but a job of your choice. But even at that time we still had young people who aspired to become entrepreneurs and for me that's what entrepreneurship is all about. I seriously believe that if as a country we consider entrepreneurship as a solution to our socioeconomic problems then we

need to prepare our young people from a very early age by revamping schools curricular and programmes offered at tertiary level.

Lilemo tse na tse tharo tseo re bileng ka hara project, re ithutile lintho tse ngata mabapi le theho le kholiso ea likhoebo tse nyenyane. E bang ka mora boitlhatlhobo bo tebileng boo re tlang ho kena ho bona malebana le project ena, re lumellana ho tsoelapele ka eona, katamelo ea rona e lokela ho ba e fapaneng le ha re ne re e thakhola ka selemo sa 2015.

So as we evaluate this project we need to ask ourselves hard and difficult questions if we were to succeed in our endeavour to contribute towards Lesotho's socioeconomic development. We need to find ways and means to identify and recruit true and genuine aspiring entrepreneurs. The little resources at our disposal need to be utilised wisely. It has been a short but long journey in terms of lessons learned.

As LRA, we reaffirm our continued support towards developmental initiatives, and as a public entity, we will continue to align ourselves with the Government of Lesotho's developmental priorities; one of which is to empower the youth, in particular, by facilitating their active participation in the economic activities of this country.

We are greatly indebted to the management of our partnering organisations, for not just agreeing to come to the party with us, but for

putting in place processes aimed at ensuring sustainability of this project. We have enjoyed the partnership we had over the past three years, and we strongly believe that there is a potential for the three of us to continue with our partnership in other areas of common interest and benefit.

Now turning my attention to the new businesses we are launching today, I just need to plead with the beneficiaries that perseverance, determination, dedication and commitment are the four pillars that can get you to your dream land. I urge you all not to despair but continue fighting. There are challenges everywhere that even well-established and stable entities do come across. But when we come across them we do not quit; we press on. Unfortunately, with the little resources that we have, we cannot assist all of you, but like I said, this should not be the end of your dreams.

With those few words, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all for your attention.