



**REMARKS BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF THE LESOTHO
REVENUE AUTHORITY ON THE OCCASION TO LAUNCH THE
INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY – 2018**

LRA VAT Boardroom

Wednesday 05th Day of September 2018

Master of Ceremonies, allow me to align myself with the greetings and the protocol that you have already well-articulated. However, it is incumbent upon me to recognise the presence of my colleagues and partners:

The Commissioner of Police;

The Director General of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences;

Management and staff from the three institutions; the Police, the DCEO and the LRA;

Distinguished members of the media;

Invited guests;

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and singular honour to welcome you all as we launch the preparations for the commemoration of the United Nations International Anti-corruption Day for 2018. We have once again joined hands with our sister institutions as torch-bearers in Lesotho in shunning corruption. This is the fourth year in a row that Lesotho, led by the three institutions that have facilitated this gathering, is joining the rest of the world in adhering to the call of the United Nations to raise awareness on corruption by commemorating the International Anti-Corruption Day on the 09th day of December. As the LRA this comes at an opportune time when we are in the process of sailing new waters and forging new ways of doing things. Our

new strategy, *Rea Aha*, is among others, aimed at achieving an improved compliance culture. This is one of the outcomes we are aiming for. We believe in earnest that we as the LRA, acting in concert with our sister organisations and all other sectors of society, can embed a general compliance culture amongst Basotho and all people living in Lesotho, which would then, lead to increased compliance to tax laws.

This we believe we can achieve by influencing behaviour of the entire nation, through being exemplary and calling upon everyone to shun corruption and show the corrupt that they are but an exception to the well behaved population.

It is a well-accepted fact that the effects of corruption are hazardous to the growth of any nation.

“Young people denied all-empowering education, women excluded from life-saving surgery and workers prevented from working, are just some of corruption’s unwitting victims”.

These are the words of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

We therefore see corruption as a serious stumbling block in achieving our mandate of collecting revenue for the welfare of the citizens of Lesotho and its economic growth. We are however mindful that generally people are compliant and willing to do the right thing. Ours is to make our

processes Easy, Attractive, Social and Timely for them to comply and at the same time deter those exceptions who are not willing to comply by applying the letter of the law. Our interventions such as this campaign, aim to maximise voluntary compliance and cultivate a culture of general compliance amongst the members of the public. Without the vigorous engagement of the public, it is impossible for organisations facilitating this gathering to drive compliance initiatives which will continue to scale down corruption.

The United Nations Theme for last year's campaign was; "United against corruption for development, peace and security"; still relevant to our situation today. The acting commissioner general, then, on an occasion such as this one fittingly used the Sesotho idiom that "*Lehlanya lea bokaneloa*".

As we launch this year's campaign, we call upon the entire nation to join hands with us in being exemplary citizens and showing the corrupt few that they are the scorn and not the elite. We can do this by starting with joining the campaign for this year and making it a success.

Thank you.