REMARKS BY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER

DR PAKALITHA MOSISILI, MP

AT

THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE.

22nd APRIL, 2016.
Your Excellency President of the General Assembly,

Excellencies Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change marks yet another milestone in the international resolve to elevate global concerns on climate change above narrow national interests. Our people throughout the world are watching this event with great hope and expectation, as an expression of our common desire to preserve the earth for posterity. I am convinced that the gains of the Paris negotiations will not be reduced to ridicule through failure to implement this agreement.

The Paris Agreement marks a global commitment to address climate change, outlining appropriate steps necessary to transit to low carbon and attain climate-resilient, sustainable economies. Commitments made by world leaders today will send a clear and strong signal that the time has come to turn pronouncements into concrete action.
Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

MR. PRESIDENT

Lesotho has taken significant steps to build a green, low carbon and climate resilient economy, thus contributing to global action to combat climate change. In this regard, promotion of renewable energy resources is one of our top priorities.

As agreed in Paris, we commit to limiting global temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C and provide mechanisms for recovery on losses and damages due to extreme weather events caused by climate change in developing countries.

I urge all parties to commence implementation of their Indented Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) as soon as possible and to maximize their mitigation efforts in line with the scientific findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
Lesotho welcomes pledges made to provide resources to address climate change. We call upon developed countries to provide substantial financial and technical resources to address adaptation needs, capacity building including technology development and transfer to the Least Developed Countries (LDC) at the required scale. On our part, we need to capacitate our national authorities to allow for direct access to funding for implementation of our urgent needs through satisfaction of the necessary accreditation criteria.

Let me conclude by reaffirming our support and commitment to the implementation of the outcomes adopted in Paris.

I THANK YOU