



**Statement by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister of  
the Kingdom of Lesotho – Dr. Moeketsi Majoro**

**During the High-Level Dialogue on Energy**

**24 September 2021**

**President of the General Assembly,**

**Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,**

**Mr. Secretary General,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Mr. President**

Lesotho is committed to ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030 in line with SDG7. In her efforts to attain this, Lesotho has formulated its National Strategic Development Plan 2018/2023, Energy Policy (2015-2025) and Electrification Masterplan which together place strong emphasis on sustainable energy production and access, and explicitly recognises availability of ample renewable energy resources in Lesotho.

With nine years before the test date for SDG7, critical generation and access challenges remain. Domestic electricity production is only 45 percent of daily needs, while access by households, schools and health facilities stand at only 40 percent of needs. Clearly there is still a lot of hard lifting before achieving our national and global goals.

The Electrification Masterplan proposes a two-pronged strategy focusing on grid extension and off-grid solutions, financed by domestic and partner resources. On the generation side, plans

are at different stages of preparation but include a hydropower plant that will increase domestic generation by 50 percent of daily needs, two solar power projects (including one by an independent power producer) to supply 38 percent of daily needs, and a wind energy plant that could supply about 13 percent of needs.

The commissioning of these projects will make Lesotho electricity self-sufficient in the short term before demand expectedly outstrips supply. Lesotho is a member of the Southern African Power Pool and can market any excess power into the pool and is also able to purchase its needs from its neighbours.

Considerable planning, engineering and financial resources are required to successfully implement these projects. At this stage, we estimate that the identified generation projects taken together with the electricity access plans will require at least half of Lesotho's GDP in the near term if SDG7 is to be met by the deadline. I am thankful for the partnerships with the United Nations Development Programme, the European Union and the World Bank for their planning, technical and financial support so far. But more will be needed.

**Mr. President**

I reaffirm the Government of Lesotho's commitment to join the international community in ensuring attainment of SDG7. However, international collaboration and support will be critical to our success.

I thank you!