



**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND
METEOROLOGY**

HONOURABLE FRANCIS MOKOTO HLOAELE

AT

**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY: ADDRESSING CURRENT AND EMERGING
DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES**

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

28TH NOVEMBER 2018, 2018

Madam President of the General Conference,

Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr Yukiya

Amano,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the government of Lesotho, I would like to appreciate the invitation to participate in this important conference. Before proceeding any further, please allow me to commend the President and the IAEA for well-organized conference which I have this distinct privilege to address too.

Lesotho, like other developing countries, is faced with the scourge of climate change and other development issues including poverty and food insecurity.

The Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme continues to support member states in integrating nuclear techniques in realising their national development goals. This support has also been extended to Lesotho since 2009. Lesotho therefore conveys heartfelt gratitude to the support it has received during the implementation of the first Country Programme Framework. The human capacity building, the equipment and the technical expertise acquired from the Agency are very useful in the attainment of Lesotho's National Strategic Development Plan initiatives.

We are also grateful for the support from the Agency in the development of the second Country Programme Framework (CPF) to cover the period 2018-2023. This second CPF is drafted within the same time frame as Lesotho's NSDP II, the CPF has defined sector priorities in the fields of human health and nutrition, agriculture and food security, water and environment, energy and industry as well as nuclear and radiation safety. The second CPF 2018-2023 is scheduled for signing on 29 November 2018. It is expected to contribute to realizing the sector priorities in a bid to meet the socio-economic development needs and

address the emerging challenges including those related to food insecurity, climate change, poverty, human and animal health energy and water insecurity. Lesotho has been experiencing increasing frequency of natural disasters and extreme weather events such as droughts, storms and floods. Agriculture, a major source of living in the rural areas that is estimated support over 60% of the country's population is in steady decline while food insecurity, human and animal diseases, soil loss, land and environmental degradation are increasing.

One of the major challenges that we have had to grapple with is non-communicable diseases including cancer. Cognizant of this, we have, through IAEA's technical guidance and financial contribution, initiated a major project to establish the first National Radiotherapy Centre in the country. Our doctors and other experts are already attending long term fellowships.

Lesotho acknowledges the Agency's support to address the effects of climate change through the use of nuclear and isotopic techniques. The Ministries of Water and of Agriculture and Food Security have been enabled with human and infrastructural capacity to assess ground water resources and to identify climate resilient crops and livestock using nuclear techniques. These assessments and research are therefore expected to inform national policies and plans on climate change adaption and monitoring therefore contributing to the realisation of SDG 2: Zero hunger, SDG 6: Clean water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy and SDG 13: Climate Action.

I have an hour to inform you that the Radiation Protection Agency Bill has been enacted into law. The Act paves way for the establishment of tan independent Regulatory Body to ensure the safe and secure use of nuclear science and technology. The Agency's continued assistance in developing skills for the Department of Environment in authorization, inspection and enforcement is acknowledged as it ensures immediate implementation of the Act once the Regulatory Body becomes operational.

I THANK YOU!