



**REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FINANCE, DR
RETŠELISITSOE MATLANYANE**

AT THE

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF M200 BANKNOTE MARKING THE 60TH
BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III**

LEHAKOE RECREATION AND CULTURAL CENTRE

13TH JULY 2023

His Majesty the King Letsie III
The Right Honourable the Prime Minister
Honourable President of the Senate
Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly
Honourable Deputy Prime Minister
Honourable Ministers Here Present
Honourable Members of the Senate
Honourable Members of the National Assembly
Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Lesotho
The Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho
Executive Management of the Bank
Financial Industry Leaders
Members of staff of the Central Bank of Lesotho
Members of the Media
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen
Good Morning

It is a great pleasure for me to be invited to this august gathering marking the official launch of His Majesty the King Letsie III's 60th Birthday commemorative banknote.

We are indeed very humbled by CBL's noble gesture to invite His Majesty's cabinet to this important occasion.

You will agree with me, Ladies and Gentlemen, that under normal circumstances, CBL would rightly launch this circulating banknote without the presence of government officials as part of its mandate.

Coincidentally, this launch comes at an opportune moment when the Government is holding national celebrations to honour His Majesty as He celebrates his 60th Anniversary-the Golden Jubilee.

It is in this context that I find it befitting for some representatives of the Government of Lesotho to have been granted this rare opportunity to witness this historical and joyous moment.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This is, therefore, a very special occasion to witness the launch of Lesotho's new M200 banknote to commemorate the 60th birthday celebration of His Majesty King Letsie III.

As oratorically stated by the Governor, this unique circulating commemorative banknote, which is the first to be produced in the history of Lesotho, also marks an important milestone for the Central Bank of Lesotho towards the evolution of Lesotho's currency.

As such, it represents the celebration of a "new dawn", a beginning of a new day which is a sign of living hope and a new era as we celebrate the 60th birthday of His Majesty King Letsie III.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to inform the public that the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho has organized a number of activities to celebrate His Majesty the King's birthday including the conferral of awards to the security personnel, art exhibition, orchestra and banquet amongst others.

The Ministry of Home Affairs will, however, provide a detailed plan on the list of activities to be undertaken by the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho regarding this matter.

Finally, allow me, Ladies and Gentlemen, to invite the Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Justice Nthomeng Majara, who is currently acting as the Prime Minister to deliver the closing remarks.

KHOTSO! PULA! NALA!