



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HONOURABLE MINISTER OF
JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND REHABILITATION AND OF
LAW AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR. MOSES REFILOE
MASEMENE AT THE INUGOURAL SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON THE 19TH TO 31ST
JUNE 2006, GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND.**



LESOTHO

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
HONOURABLE MINISTERS
EXCELLENCIES
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I deem it high honour and special privilege to be given this opportunity to address this august body. Allow me to commence by joining others in congratulating you Mr. President and your team in the Bureau for your election. That election is an expression of high confidence in your leadership skills which you have ably demonstrated over the years.

The international community is pinning its hopes on you and the Bureau that you lead to steer this Council skillfully and gingerly during this delicate and sensitive formative phase. The stakes are high. The hopes are equally high. We take comfort in knowing that you will discharge duties of the office with unquestioned competence, efficiency and dignity. Lesotho, on its part, promises you requisite support and cooperation.

Graduation from Human Rights Commission to the Human Rights Council can be seen as a logical progression in the quest for ever more effective, efficient and hopefully impartial approach to the promotion, protection, compliance, monitoring and evaluation of Human Rights. The establishment