



**NATIONAL AIDS COMMISSION**

**Powered to Conquer HIV and AIDS**

**REMARKS BY ACTING CE OF NAC MRS 'MANNEHENG  
MOPELI ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCHING  
OF THE NUL HIV AND AIDS POLICY HELD AT THE  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO ROMA  
CAMPUS ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2009**

---

**HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III**

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER**

**MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

**CABINET MINISTERS, ESPECIALLY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL WELFARE HERE PRESENT**

**DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND  
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

**VICE CHANCELLOR OF NUL**

**CHAIPERSON NUL HIV AND AIDS COMMITTEE**

**NUL COMMUNITY**

**MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

It is with great pleasure that I have been invited to deliver a speech at this august occasion of the launching of the HIV and AIDS Policy for the National University of Lesotho. Indeed this is a gratifying move which the National AIDS Commission advocates for.

HIV and AIDS is still an emergency in the workplace and a cause for concern since the pandemic has resulted in significant absenteeism and loss of trained and experienced human resource. This has in turn led to diminishing productivity levels across all sectors. The Tertiary Institutions are no exception to this reality. The move to develop the HIV and AIDS Policy for the NUL community is highly applauded as the most effective way of reducing and managing the impact of HIV and AIDS through implementation of the HIV and AIDS programmes, which will be guided by the Policy we are launching today.

## **DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES**

The National AIDS Commission has been involved in the review, harmonization and alignment of the NUL HIV and AIDS Policy. Without doubt this Policy is well aligned to the National HIV and AIDS Policy as it covers all the four thematic areas of

Management and Coordination, Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support as well as Impact Mitigation. These are areas we have agreed to focus on as a country in the fight against the pandemic.

I am also pleased that the National AIDS Commission has partnered with NUL resulting in the approval of funding for the NUL-CONSULS Project aimed at strengthening the NUL response to HIV and AIDS through among others education, institutional prevalence assessment, access to counseling and provision of ARVs. It is our hope that the project will go a long way towards improving the lives of the students and staff of the NUL, as well as instilling behavior change amongst the NUL community as a whole.

We are already aware of the efforts made by the NUL Community to protect students from engaging in risky behaviours, an example being the banning of alcohol on campus! We commend this move and related interventions, and we bring to all students the message to delay ones sexual debut and have informed choices in life. For those students who are of age, the message is “One Love”, coupled with protected sex – consistent use of condoms.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

Our country has the third highest prevalence in the world at 23.2%. Statistics indicate that there are an estimated 62 new infections and about 50 deaths a due to AIDS related illnesses every day. There are an estimated 270,273 people living with HIV and AIDS in Lesotho. We are by no means proud of these statistics. In fact, this is quite a challenge that we have to jointly overcome.

I wish to note that we have reached milestones in the fight against HIV and AIDS. We can do more to contain the scourge. It is a fact that the launching of this HIV and AIDS Policy will serve as a gateway to having more concerted and directed efforts to dealing with the pandemic. The Institution is grooming the cream of our tomorrow's nation, the youth, and let the Policy provide the basis for which NUL will conquer the fight against HIV and AIDS.

## **DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES**

### **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

With these few remarks I wish to thank the NUL for taking the lead and being the first Tertiary Institution to develop the HIV and AIDS Policy, let this be a guide to the other Institutions so they can follow suit and have their own policies. The Theme for the year is “Universal access and Human Rights”, let us therefore access services arising from the policy and programmes.

I thank you for your attention.

**KHOTSO!!!**

**PULA!!!**

**NALA!!!**