



YEARN FOR ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

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YES PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POST-MCC: YES ADVANCES A BASOTHO-OWNED, PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

The Yearn for Economic Sustainability (YES) reaffirms its manifesto position that Lesotho's development must be anchored in ownership, production, and sustainability — not perpetual donor dependency. As the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) account terminates on 19 December 2025, YES states clearly that this moment marks a transition, not a collapse. It is the moment to implement the economic philosophy upon which YES was founded: moving Lesotho from aid to assets, from consumption to production, and from poverty management to wealth creation.

YES reminds the nation that the Lesotho Highlands Water Project Treaty, signed on 24 October 1986 between Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa, recognises water as a sovereign economic resource of the Kingdom of Lesotho. YES proposes the establishment of a Sovereign Water and Infrastructure Savings Fund, whereby a legally protected portion of LHDA royalties is saved annually and invested in productive infrastructure for the benefit of current and future generations.

YES will promote Basotho-owned bottled water enterprises exporting premium high-altitude Lesotho water to South Africa, the Middle East including Dubai, and the United States of America. This aligns with the YES manifesto principle of exporting value, not raw resources, and ensuring national resources create jobs, revenue, and dignity for Basotho.

YES will champion the establishment of a Lesotho Diamond Exchange, supported by local diamond cutting and polishing industries, and the creation of a global diamond trading market headquartered in Lesotho. This will ensure transparent valuation, competitive international bidding, and full beneficiation of Lesotho's diamonds at home.

YES advances its 60–20–20 agricultural strategy: 60 percent food security production to feed the nation and reduce imports; 20 percent commercial agriculture to strengthen agro-industries and domestic value chains; and 20 percent export-oriented agriculture to generate foreign currency and grow the economy. YES affirms that a food-secure nation is a sovereign nation.

YES further declares that all laws, regulations, and policy frameworks passed by Parliament primarily due to the influence or conditionality's attached to the MCC account shall be comprehensively reviewed. Where such laws do not fully reflect the interests, values, and socio-economic realities of Basotho, they shall be amended or repealed through lawful parliamentary processes to ensure that Lesotho's legal framework serves Basotho first and upholds national sovereignty.

The end of MCC funding is not the end of development. It is the beginning of economic sovereignty. YES stands firm in its belief that Lesotho is rich in resources, Basotho are capable, and poverty is a policy failure, not destiny.

The post-MCC era must be guided by sustainability, ownership, justice, and national dignity.

Issued by:

Yearn for Economic Sustainability (YES)

Economic Justice • Resource Sovereignty • Basotho First

Molefi Ntsonyana

