

## **Closing remarks by the Honorable Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr. Popane Lebesa, MP**

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Honorable Ministers,  
SSATP Board,  
Distinguished Cooperating Partners,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now come to the end of our deliberations and sadly it is now time to say goodbye to each other.

It is my sincere hope that you have enjoyed your stay in Lesotho and that you will take away with you happy memories, not only with respect to the remarkable achievements of the Maseru SSATP MAG, Annual General Meeting and Conference, but also happy memories of your short stay in Lesotho.

For the past week, we have forged new relationships and cemented the old. We have deepened our conviction that transport can play a leading role in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, but more specifically in poverty reduction and economic growth for Africa.

Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

The communiqué I read out this morning at the commencement of the Annual General Meeting, representing the policy direction the Ministerial meeting set out for the SSATP, as well as the deliberations of the delegates over the past several days, strongly reinforces the vision contained in the Bamako Declaration. Admittedly, the Ministerial Advisory Group Meeting was handicapped by inability of some Ministers to make it to Maseru, due to bad weather conditions which made it difficult for flights either to leave Johannesburg or to Land in Maseru. However, we are glad that three Ministers were able to join us today. The quality of the work realized has however, eclipsed the shortcomings I have just referred to.

The challenge before us is the implementation of the frame work for 2007 work program and the implementation of the priorities beyond 2007. In this context the pivotal role of the National Coordinators cannot be over emphasized. Most importantly they have to ensure that the outcomes of this conference and meeting are well integrated into national transport policy and poverty reduction strategies in the context of the Bamako Declaration.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank you Honorable Ministers and your delegations for having made it to our beautiful Mountain Kingdom. I further more wish to thank the SSATP

Board and management for ensuring the success of this occasion. I would also like to thank most heartedly the Principal Secretary and staff of my Ministry of Public Works and Transport, and members of the organizing team from other Government Ministries, for a job well done. I also thank all delegates from our cooperating partners for attending this occasion, and for their continued support of the SSATP.

To all our distinguished guests to this conference I say bon voyage. It is now my honor to declare this SSATP meeting and annual general conference officially closed.

I thank you.