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Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Cecilia B. Rebong
Permanent Representative of the Philippines
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

**21st session of the
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Human Rights Council**

UPR of LESOTHO
21 January 2015

Thank you, Mister President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Lesotho and appreciates its constructive engagement with the UPR process.

My delegation lauds the progress made by Lesotho in the implementation of a number of recommendations received from its first UPR, notwithstanding its resource and capacity constraints. Most notable are improvements in the normative frameworks aimed at enhancing protection for women and children, with the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2011 and the Children's Welfare and Protection Act 2011.

We note the valuable support provided to Lesotho by its international development partners in the formulation of its human rights programs, and we recognize the need for stronger partnerships to further strengthen the implementation of policies adopted by Lesotho, amidst remaining challenges, particularly in the realization of the socio-economic rights of its people.

Considering that combating extreme poverty, exacerbated by the economic crisis, is very important for Lesotho, we appreciate that Lesotho commits to fight corruption and to promote good governance which, we hope, would contribute greatly to providing a conducive environment for development.

We submit the following recommendations for Lesotho's consideration:

1. Intensify efforts to adopt laws and measures to address domestic violence more effectively;
2. Ensure access to education of all children, including those in hard to reach areas, by increasing investments in education infrastructure and training of educators and pursuing all possible avenues for international cooperation; and
3. Enhance capacity of health centers and health service providers, with a view to improving access to quality health services of people, particularly in the rural areas.

We wish the Government of Lesotho success in the implementation of all its accepted recommendations. Thank you, Mister President. *END*