

# **GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO**

**FOURTH QUARTER PERFORMANCE  
BUDGET AND FISCAL  
BULLETIN  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE**



Ministry of Finance  
Government of Lesotho

Budget & Fiscal Bulletin  
Fourth Quarter Report – 2019/2020

Vol. 5, Issue 4

***Foreword from Principal Secretary of the  
Ministry of Finance***

Budgets can seem daunting to analyze and understand, which is why the government through the Ministry of Finance publishes simpler documents like the Fiscal and Budget Bulletin to make it easier for Basotho to understand finances and have access to related information. The bulletin is intended to enable meaningful dialogue and participation in the public financial management issues, which include accountability.

Pursuant to the constitutional aspirations of open governance, the Ministry of Finance seeks to reach high levels of transparency such that access to information can be at a click of a button. We, as the Ministry of Finance aspire to develop an online Budget information portal whereby everybody interested to know how public money is used can be able to do so with ease. From school teachers who want to learn more about the education budget, to journalists who want to follow the money and hold government accountable, and to ordinary members of the public who just want to know how their hard-earned taxes are being spent.

It is once again an honor to present achievements, progress and challenges encountered in the implementation of the F2019/20 budget.

This paper summarizes the annual fiscal performance, covering performance of revenues and expenditure. Emphasis is put on the effectiveness rather than efficiency of government revenue and expenditure as a measure to determine the extent to which government has collected and spent planned revenue and expenditure, respectively. To measure effectiveness is to gage the extent to which both revenue and expenditure have reached the (quarterly) mark of the annual budget estimates.

**Introduction**

This bulletin creates a platform for continuous sharing of information on how government generated its revenue and expended funds in various sectors. It gives a quarterly overview of revenue collections and cumulative expenditure performance. It communicates challenges and achievements as implementation rolls and allows for timely employment of corrective measures where necessary.

The Macroeconomic developments, together with Budget and Fiscal developments, are illustrated in this paper. The intention being to review and share information on whether the government's budgetary objectives and policy intentions are being met or at the least, in progress.

The 2019/20 fiscal year's total Approved Budget is M19,012.5 million, of which the Recurrent Budget accounts for M13,844.0 million and the Capital Budget, for M5,168.5million. This compared with a total of M17,114.4 million for fiscal year 2018/19.

The bulletin is divided into three sections. Section one discusses the macroeconomic outlook and issues that correspond with the submission of the FY 2019/20 budget to Parliament. Section two presents the budget and fiscal developments and is divided into three subsections, which deal with the execution of the Government's budgetary transactions (recurrent and capital expenditures) and revenue analysis. Section three provides a summary of the Government's initiatives in the PFM reform arena.

**Section 1 – Macroeconomic Developments**

This year, economic environment remains sluggish, as policy uncertainty and weak regional growth and



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periodic drought continue to weigh on growth and depress investment and job creation. The expected economic growth of 2.6 percent that was projected at the beginning of the year, was disrupted by the end of the year global COVID-19 pandemic<sup>1</sup> which affected trade as well as decline in remittances from South Africa.

The 2019/20 budget was formulated against serious challenges of poverty and high unemployment rate. The macroeconomic stability being susceptible to volatile SACU revenues and high and rising recurrent expenditures putting pressure on the existing budget deficit. While capital spending and investments prospects remain largely unsatisfactory.

Nonetheless, it is the government's commitment to drive towards fiscal consolidation; through the introduction of fiscal policy measures coupled with structural reforms articulated in the NSDP to boost economic growth.

**Table 1: Budgetary Operations – Q4:2019/2020**

<b>Budgetary Operations: January-March 2019/20</b>	
Millions of Maloti	
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>4, 250</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
of which	
<b>Recurrent</b>	<b>3, 109</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>1, 077</b>
<b>Budget Balance</b>	<b>64</b>

*Note: The budget balance is estimated due to certain discrepancy in data reconciliation.*

## **Section 2 – Budget and Fiscal Developments**

This section discusses the overall trends on revenue and expenditure for the fourth quarter period and a

brief overview of the annual performance. It compares quarter to quarter revenue as well as performance against the quarterly target.

The revenue target for 2019/20 was M 17,114.4 million and the actual recorded a decline of M702.4 million. This is brought by lower than expected economic growth and non-compliance of taxpayers. In addition, the last quarter's collections were affected by the lock down in March due to COVID-19 which hindered collections.

Tax revenue deteriorated by 0.4 percent lower than revenue collected during last fiscal year in the same period, M 7,501 million was collected in 2019/2018 in comparison with M7,529 million collected in 2018/19. All major revenue sources have not performed as envisaged relative to the previous fiscal years (Table 2). This was attributable to continuously low diamond prices and extraction of low-quality stones. Also, the appreciation of Rand to the US dollar.

Other revenue declined by 20 percent relative to the previous year, recording M1,429 million. This was attributable to reduction in property income mainly dividends and water royalties.

### **Section 2.1 – The Fourth Quarter's Revenue Performance**

The total revenue collections for the quarter recorded a decline against the same period of the previous year as well as against the target, showing a decline of 1.3 percent and 1.7 percent respectively refer to Table 2. It indicates the decline owing to the deterioration in tax revenue, grants as well as non-tax revenue.

Tax revenue shrank by 7 percent against last year and 6 percent against target. Other revenues also recorded

<sup>1</sup> The first effects of COVID 19 pandemic hit trading members such as China and US and the while it peaked in Q2 of year 2020 in Lesotho



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a decline of 13 percent and missed the target by 35 percent.

**Figure 1: Revenue Shares Q4 2019/20 (in Millions of Maloti)**

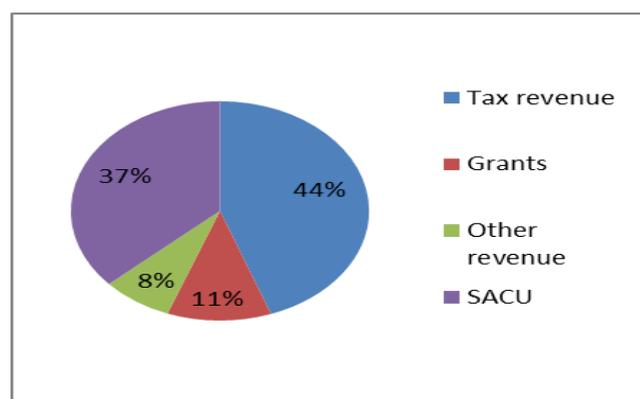


Figure 1 above presents the contribution of revenue types as a proportion to total revenue. Total revenue is mainly supported by tax revenue at about 44 percent of the total revenue. This is followed by SACU receipts at about 37 percent while Grants and Other Revenue contributes 11 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

**Table 2: Revenue Quarterly Performance (in Millions of Maloti)**

Revenue Items	2018/19 quarterly	2019/20 quarterly	Growth in percent
Tax Revenue	2,030.8	1,888.6	-7%
Grants	517.5	479.8	-7.3%
Other Revenue	372.2	324.9	-13%
SACU	1,385	1,556.6	12%
Total	4307.1	4249.9	-1.3 %

**Tax Revenue**

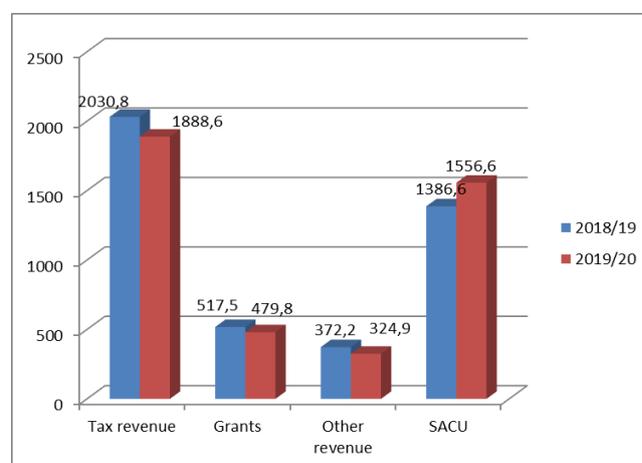
The main drivers under tax revenue, are personal income tax and consumption tax. Personal income tax

comprises of pay- as - you earn and corporate tax. Personal income tax deteriorated by approximately 20 percent compared to last year's collections and against the target. This is explained by unfavourable economic prospects.

Corporate income tax (CIT) contracted by 9.5 percent compared to the same period of the preceding year. This is taxes on profits, after all deductibles, showing losses in the large taxpayers.

Quarter on quarter collection in VAT presents a marginal growth of 1.3 percent even though it missed the target by 2.7 percent. This is attributable to a slow economic activity leading to job losses.

**Table 3: Revenue Performance (in millions of Maloti)**



**Grants**

These are grants from development partners either as budget support or sector budgeted projects. Budget and its performance is mostly dependent on certain benchmarks and conditions. However, progress remains a challenge hence the performance is erratic, currently showing a reduction of almost 80 percent against the previous year. This are mainly capital grants which are funded from development partners primarily for sector projects.



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### Other Revenue

This is a challenging revenue item that line ministries are mandated to collect. Total collections recorded a decline of 35 percent against the projected outturn. This is due to poor administration of the taxes as well as poor governance on the state-owned enterprise.

### SACU

SACU revenue was mainly driven by increased private consumption in R.S.A. Going forward; it is projected that the revenues will go up because of the positive adjustment as well as improvement in trade. The forecast for 2020/21 is anticipated to grow to M8,981 million from the current estimate of M6,226 million due to rise in economic developments in South Africa economy.

## Section 2.2 – The Fourth Quarter's Recurrent Expenditure

**Table 4: 2019/20 Annual Recurrent Budget Performance (in millions of maloti)**

ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET FOR 2019/2020								
	APPROVED BUDGET	REVISED BUDGET	WARRANT RELEASED	TOTAL EXP.	CASH BALANCE	BUDGET BALANCE	EXP AS % OF WR	EXP AS % OF RB
41- Compensation of Employees	7 245.9	7 111.1	6 890.8	6 390.7	786.5	132.9	93%	90%
42- Travel and Transport	489.5	503.5	478.8	443.8	35.0	24.7	93%	88%
43- Operating Costs	2 218.3	2 345.5	2 194.8	2 066.1	129.3	167.3	94%	88%
46- Interests	393.6	630.6	630.6	508.2	66.4	545.3	81%	81%
47- Transfers	1 984.3	2 196.1	2 145.6	2 110.0	67.4	54.7	98%	96%
48- Other Expense	631.9	856.5	847.5	834.5	13.0	8.9	98%	97%
51- Acquisition of Financial Assets	4.5	4.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.5	0%	4%
52- Acquisition of Monetary Gold	2.5	2.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.5	0%	0%
53- Acquisition of Non Financial Assets	35.8	59.4	59.2	54.8	4.4	0.00	93%	92%
59- Contingency Fund	100.0	6.0	0.00	0.00	6.0	0.00	0%	0%
61 Redemption of Bonds	0.00	203.7	77.2	0.00	76.60	126.5	1%	0%
62- Repayments	737.1	540.2	777.6	777.6	166.6	286.3	100%	144%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13 843.6</b>	<b>14 459.8</b>	<b>13 557.2</b>	<b>13 186.7</b>	<b>1 352.8</b>	<b>1 354.0</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>91%</b>

Source: Ministry of Finance; Budget Department

The approved Recurrent Budget for the financial year 2019/20 stood at M13.8 billion. It consisted of the personal emoluments of M7.2 billion and M6.6 billion of the recurring annual operations. The

approved budget was revised to M14.3 billion as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. This revision came about as a result of the reallocation from Capital Budget and the Supplementary Budget that were done in the course of the year.

The Supplementary Budget of M243 million was allocated to the Ministry of Finance to cater for arrears in line with the set principle of prioritising the elimination and curtailment of accumulation of arrears. The Ministry of Development Planning was allocated M179 million to cater for the shortfall in students' loan bursary grants.

Out of the overall revised budget of M14.5 billion, M13.9 billion was released to line ministries, of which M13,2 billion was spent. The recorded expenditure translates into 91 percent of the revised budget indicating satisfactory performance.

### Compensation of Employees

Compensation of employees remains the largest expenditure category, accounting for 52 percent of the total expenditure. This reflects an increase of an annual 2.5 percent notch. This minimal increase is a result of measures that were set in the budget speech of no salary adjustment and freezing all hiring. The measure of cutting minister's salaries by 5 percent had no significant impact on expenditure.

The country is confronted by a weak economy and a widespread of unemployment. The 2019/20 budget proposed a Public Works and Internship Programme, currently referred to as Youth Apprenticeship and Public Works programme and M300 million was set aside to lay a foundation for addressing the double digit (24 percent) unemployment rate. Over 15,500 graduates and 87,000 youth with no qualifications have registered for the programme. The private sector managed to accommodate a modest number of 481 graduates during this financial year.



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**Travel and Transport**

One of the principles which guided and underpinned the 2019/20 budget was to adopt a budget that is affordable, sustainable, credible, and responsive to the growing needs over the medium term. Majors were implemented in line with this principle to curb expenditure under this category without compromising service delivery. These efforts, coupled with the international travel that was ceased in the fourth quarter due to COVID-19, resulted in an expenditure of M448 million against M489 million that was approved. The recorded expenditure represents 16 percent decline compared to 2018/19.

The composition of expenditure under this segment includes short term hire of M111.9 million of which M97.8 million is for Basotho vehicles, subsistence international of M81.7 million, fuel and lubricants with M70.4 million, subsistence local of M68.4 million, vehicle maintenance of M55.1 million and fares international of M53.8 million to name a few.

**Operating Costs**

The budget of operating costs increased by M56.6 million putting the revised budget at M2.27 billion as a result of said reallocation from Capital Budget to Recurrent Budget and virements from Personal Emoluments. The cumulative expenditure under this category stood at M1.5 billion which is 67 percent of the revised budget. The recorded expenditure consists mainly of; Purchases of Health Services with M752 million, Drugs of M206 million, Purchases and Production of material of M144,8 million, Rent and Lease of Building for government use of M97.4 million as well as communications and utilities of M45.6 million and M54.6 million respectively.

**Debt Service**

The budget under debt service is disaggregated into principal repayments and interest. The allocations were M737.1 million and M393.6 million for

Principal repayments and interest, respectively. Following the government policy decision to clear the arrears, the Ministry of Finance was tasked with that responsibility since the said arrears are classified as domestic debt, hence the revised budget of M203.7 million under redemption of bonds.

The 2019/20 expenditure stood at M777.6 million, 508.2 million and M0.68 million for principal repayments, interests, and redemption of bonds, respectively. The recorded expenditure reflects over expenditure on public debt management, which was caused by unbudgeted principal repayment, which was paid below the line and interest of M40 million of the due Treasury Bill at the Central Bank of Lesotho. Due to the challenges brought by the system regarding the configurations of the supplementary budget, the payment of arrears was not made in 2019/20 as was anticipated.

**Transfers**

The approved budget stands at M1.9 billion which was revised to M2.3 billion within the third quarter. The increase is as a result of reallocation from centralized items to the Ministry of Finance under the Youth Apprenticeship Program of M30.0 million and virements to grants line item of M30.0 million to facilitate for the payment of arrears that were due to Lesotho Revenue Authority. Ministry of Education and Training's budget was also revised by M100.0 million from the centralized items head which was to cater for; the issues of teachers' arrears, shortfalls under institutions of higher learning, particularly National University of Lesotho and Lesotho College of Education, utility grant which is provided by the government of Lesotho to supplement free primary education and shortfalls under fencing of the proposed school of fashion, design and textiles. Lastly, Lesotho Highlands Development Authority received an amount of M39.7 million for refurbishment of Muela Hydropower Station which was from the 2019/20 budget reallocation.



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A large chunk of the Transfers allocations went to Pensions with M802.7 million, Lesotho Revenue Authority M332.0 million, Lesotho Highlands Development Authority M73.2 million and institutions of higher learning M323.6 million and social assistance, both in-cash and in-kind at M192.0 million.

## Section 2:3 – The Fourth Quarter's Capital Expenditures

**Table 5: 2019/20 Annual Capital Budget Performance**

2019/2020 ANNUAL CAPITAL BUDGET PERFORMANCE								
	APPROVED BUDGET	REVISED BUDGET	WARRANT RELEASED	TOTAL EXP.	CASH BALANCE	BUDGET BALANCE	EXP AS % OF WR	EXP AS % OF RB
1. GOL Funding	2,831.2	2,963.5	2,707.2	2,687.2	20.0	256.3	99%	91%
2. Dev. Partner Grants	1,015.1	1,015.2	559.8	559.8	-	455.4	100%	55%
3. Dev. Partner Loan	1,322.1	1,322.1	380.1	380.1	-	942.0	100%	29%
<b>GRANT TOTAL</b>	<b>5,168.4</b>	<b>5,300.8</b>	<b>3,647.1</b>	<b>3,627.1</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>1,653.7</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>68%</b>

Source: Ministry of Finance; Budget Department and Ministry of Development Planning

The Capital Budget for 2019/20 stood at M5,168.4 million, consisting of Government funding, Development partner grants and loans at M2,831.2, M1,015.1 million and M1,322.1 million, respectively. It was revised to M5,300.8 million by the end of the financial year resulting from revisions under Government of Lesotho funding. The overall expenditure recorded M3,627.1 million which translates into 68 percent of the revised budget. The low overall performance is due to insufficient information regarding utilization of donor Grants and Loans. The Ministry of Finance had challenges with the budget systems regarding these two fund sources, however the problem is being addressed.

The approved Capital Budget that is funded by the Government of Lesotho in this financial year stood at M2.8 billion and was revised to M2.96 billion. The increase of M191.6 million from the third quarter revised budget of M2.77 billion, is explained by the supplementary and reallocation budget from Centralized Items that were injected into the capital budget during the fourth quarter.

The supplementary budget of M167.1 million was allocated to the ministries of Health for the completion of National Drug Service Organisation (NDSO) warehouse project amounting to M58 million and to Trade and Industry to facilitate speedy implementation of Belo and Tikoe industrial infrastructure projects at M109 million. The Ministry of Health was further allocated M16.7 million for the demolition of Queen II hospital.

The overall capital expenditure sits at M2.7 billion which translates to 91 percent of the revised budget.

### Sectoral Analysis: Economic Sector

#### Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

The Ministry was allocated M34.8 million under government funding with the aim of increasing agricultural production and productivity. This is done through implementation of the following projects in the current financial year: Mushroom Production Project, Irrigated crop Production, Wool and Mohair Production Project and Small Holder Development Project. The overall performance of the ministry under the government funding stands at 75 percent of the Revised Budget.

Two construction works were awarded at Nkhaketse Irrigation Scheme and Malere Irrigation Scheme, respectively. Nkhaketse Irrigation Scheme has been completed while equipment for Setibing has been purchased. The contractor awarded Malere Irrigation



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Scheme has failed to construct river diversion structure to create a dry working zone which has delayed progress of the resuscitation of scheme.

**Ministry of Trade and Industry**

Government of Lesotho capital allocation under this ministry stood at M117,3 million to strengthen investment and trade promotion and promote standards and quality infrastructure. The objectives will be achieved through implementation of the following projects: Belo Industrial Infrastructure, Tikoe Industrial Infrastructure, Standards and Quality Infrastructure, Private Sector Competitiveness and Economic Diversification II and Economic Diversification Support Project. The budget was revised to M282.9 million by the end of the financial year. The overall expenditure recorded M276.3 million which is 98 percent of the revised budget.

All roads have been set out and excavations are progressing for Tikoe Industrial Infrastructure. Work on the estate fencing, sewerage reticulation system as well as 2 platforms that were already allocated before the project commenced have been prioritised on the works programme.

**Ministry of Small Business Development, Cooperation and Marketing**

The ministry was allocated M71.9 million towards increasing growth and market share coverage. This is done through the following projects: Capacity Building to SMME's, Market Centres, Slaughterhouse, Refurbishment of BEDCO Estates and Refurbishment of Lesotho Cooperative College. The ministry's expenditure recorded M42.1 million which translates into 83 percent of the revised budget.

**Ministry of Tourism and Environment**

The ministry was allocated M91.0 million to develop and promote tourism industry as a generator of

economic growth. The budget was revised down to M73.0 million due to poor performance under the National Museum and Art Gallery Project. The overall expenditure was M57.5 million which is 79 percent of the revised budget.

**Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology**

The approved capital budget under this ministry was M35.5 million which was geared towards providing affordable, reliable, sustainable, and accessible communications services. The projects of Transforming Broadcasting Mode and E-Government are aimed at achieving the ministry's goals. The overall expenditure was M34.6 million which translates to 98 percent of the revised budget.

**Ministry of Mining**

The ministry was allocated a modest budget of M17.9 million to increase investment in the mining sector. The following projects are implemented under this ministry, Lesotho Geo-Chemical Mapping and Construction of Geoscience Laboratory. The revised budget M9.2 million due to poor performance under the construction of Geoscience Laboratory. The aggregate performance recorded M4.8 million of the revised budget which translates into 52 percent of the revised budget.

**Infrastructure Sector**

**Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship Affairs**

The ministry was allocated a significant chunk of M388.1 million to develop and upgrade rural roads and local councils' infrastructure. The expenditure recorded a 98 percent of the revised budget. Nonetheless, this might not be the actual expenditure on the ground since when funds are transferred from the consolidated fund to the commercial banks it is recorded as expenditure in the system. Thus, expenditure under



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Development of Rural Community Roads and Urban Roads Upgrading projects is incurred outside the system.

**Ministry of Energy and Meteorology**

The Ministry of Energy and Meteorology was allocated M200.6 million to increase energy access and to enhance climate change adaptation, mitigation, and ozone layer protection. Its revised budget was increased to M220.6 million due to the high performance that was reported under Rural Electrification project which is implemented by Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC). Funds are also transferred to LEC account and recorded as expenditure in the system. Northern District Project was also given additional funding to complete minor activities that lagged behind preceding its closure in December 2019. The total expenditure sat at M218,4 million.

**Ministry of Water**

The ministry of Water was allocated M173.9 million which was revised to M154,6 million during reallocation. This decline was due to under performance in the following projects: Village Water Supply, Five Towns Water and Sanitation, Greater Maseru Water Supply, and Integrated Catchment Management. The ministry's objectives include strengthening the development and management of water resources and increasing access to water and sanitation services to all consumers reliably, affordably and on a sustainable basis. It is implementing eleven projects with the aim of achieving its goals and the aggregate expenditure sat at 62 percent of the revised budget.

**Ministry of Public Works**

The ministry also takes a large share of M428.2 million towards implementation of 15 projects. The objective of the ministry centres on improving access to economic and social services through transport infrastructure. The revised Budget was elevated to M446.7

million to cater for shortfalls under Marakabei-Monontša Project. The overall expenditure sat at M397.3 million, translating into 89 percent of the revised budget. Tele-Alwyn's Skop Road and Bethel Bridge (Construction) projects had been completed. The Runway inspection van for Moshoeshoe International Airport was purchased during the last quarter.

***Human and Social Development Sector***

**Ministry of Ministry of Health**

The approved budget of the ministry was M103.4 million and was increased to M153.2 million. The aggregate expenditure sat at M138.6 million which is equivalent to 91 percent of the revised budget.

**Ministry of Education and Training**

The Ministry of Education and Training had an approved budget of M59.8 million, which was revised to M60.8 million. It is implementing five projects aimed at improving access to quality and relevant education and training at all levels. The overall expenditure sat at M51.3 million which is equivalent to 84 percent of the revised budget.

**Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation**

The approved Budget of the ministry was M58.4 million and was reduced to M52.7 million as a result of underperformance of Vocational Training Centres. The expenditure sat at M51,9 million which translates to 99 percent of the revised budget.

**Section 3 – Public Financial Management Reforms**

The Government resolved to replace the existing Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) with a new one to address challenges of HR data integrity, unaccounted personal emoluments expenditures and ensure sustainability of the wage bill by having only bonafede recipients of salary and



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pensions on the payroll. The following have been developed to guide this process; HRMIS Strategy; HRMIS Governance Structures; HRMIS Specifications; and HRMIS bid document, Request for Proposals, and Special Procurement Notice. An International Competitive Bid process has been launched based on the above for purposes of acquiring a new HRMIS. As part of this above, a payroll data cleaning exercise is being carried out, and records of unaccounted Civil Servants and Pensioners continue to be suspended from the payroll. These will eventually be terminated, representing savings to Government.

**NSDP Financing Strategy**

As part of the completion of the National Strategic Development Plan suite, a NSDP Financing Strategy has been developed. It is important to note that the underlying assumptions of the financing strategy reflect pre-COVID-19 pandemic conditions as the development of the strategy began way before strong COVID-19 prevalence and impact on global economic conditions, and therefore the results of interventions related to COVID-19 may affect some of the analysis.

**Finalization of Procurement Suite: Regulations, SBDs, Operations Manual, and Planning and Reporting Tools.**

The Ministry is in the process of strengthening public procurement through review of existing legal and regulatory framework, and subsidiary implementation tools. The following outputs have been confirmed during the reporting period:

- a. **Operations Manual** - The procedures contained in this manual are intended to provide straight forward, but detailed guidance on the procedures to be followed when conducting procurement using public funds. They are designed to be simple to use and understand, by breaking the overall procurement process down into a series of individual

procedures and breaking each procedure down into step-by-step procedures.

- b. **Organisation Structure and Job Descriptions of Procurement Authority** – This report presents organisation structure options for Public Procurement Authority, staffing needs or requirements and job descriptions proposed for the roles identified in the organisational structure.
- c. **Draft planning and schedule forms templates** - i.e. Asset disposal form template, Procurement Plan preparation and consolidation template, and standard declaration templates for Board of Directors, Central Tender Board, Procurement Committee, etc.

**Development of Asset Management Policy**

The key objective of the consultancy is to develop an Asset Management Policy that outlines a clear framework and principles for the sustainable and effective lifecycle management of all infrastructure assets owned, controlled and/ or maintained by the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho. It covers 3 key stages: 1- Inception Phase, 2- Data Collection and Policy Analysis and 3 - Report Preparation. An inception phase of the above was completed during the reporting period.

**Establishment of Opening Balances – Treasury**

An inception phase of this activity has been completed. The assignment is intended to support the functioning of office of the Accountant General and provide skills necessary to meticulously prepare opening balances for Epicor 10 and subsequent reporting as well as provide technical advice on various issues relating to office of the AG. When fully realised, the delivery of this assignment would contribute immensely towards improvements necessary to meet assessment criteria for PEFA pillar VI “Accounting and Reporting” and PEFA PI-20 “Accounting for Revenue”.



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**Editing Mohlomi Corporate code of Governance**

Editing of the main manuscript of the Mohlomi Corporate Code of Governance has been completed. The code aims to promote compliance to corporate governance principles. It is localised to Country context as the development process covered the review of organisations, governance instruments, compliance with laws and regulations, board conduct, board composition and other aspects of the corporate governance landscape in Lesotho.

**Development of Institute of Directors Website**

For ease of access of information on corporate governance, the Government supported IOD to develop an interactive, visually appealing website that will be used by IOD Lesotho for the dissemination of information to its stakeholders and the public at large. Usability was a central focus of the project as the website needed to be easy to set up and maintain by website administrators with little or no technical expertise. Following the design and development, website administrator and project team members were given a private link to the website to conduct acceptance testing. The website administrators were trained on the maintenance, support, and administration of the website.

The website is now live on the URL: [www.iodlesotho.org.ls](http://www.iodlesotho.org.ls) and email contacts for IOD are: [chefa@iodlesotho.org.ls](mailto:chefa@iodlesotho.org.ls) and [info@iodlesotho.org.ls](mailto:info@iodlesotho.org.ls)

The newsletter is available on the Ministry of Finance website: <http://www.finance.gov.ls>.

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For more information contact  
Ms. Malipalesa Mei ([malipalesam@gmail.com](mailto:malipalesam@gmail.com)) and  
Ms. Nthabiseng Sello ([nthabiseng.sello@gov.ls](mailto:nthabiseng.sello@gov.ls))