



PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
BUDGET SPEECH TO THE PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO FOR
THE 2024/2025 FISCAL YEAR

"Building Resilience, Fostering Growth,"

By

HONOURABLE RETSELISITSOE MATLANYANE, MP
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
MASERU, LESOTHO
21st FEBRUARY 2024

Mr Speaker,

Allow Me to Pay My Respects to:

His Majesty King Letsie III and Head of State

The Right Honourable the Prime Minister and Head of Government

The Honourable President of The Senate

The Chief Justice and Judges of The High Court

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The House

My Colleagues, Honourable Ministers of His Majesty's Government

Honourable Members of Both Houses of Parliament

Their Excellencies, Heads of Diplomatic Missions, and International Organisations here Present

Sechaba sohle sa Basotho ka hare le ka ntle ho naha.

Distinguished Members of The Media

Bo-'Me le Bo-Ntate

INTRODUCTION

1. Mr. Speaker, as we stand on the threshold of the Bicentennial year, I am honoured to address you today. This year marks a significant milestone in our history as a nation, a bicentennial celebration that symbolizes not only the passage of time but also the resilience and strength of our beloved nation.
2. In commemoration of this historic milestone, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment that calls for reflection on our past achievement and beckons us towards a future filled with promise and opportunity.
3. It is against this backdrop that I present the budget for the fiscal year ahead, a budget that embodies a spirit of renewal, change and progress as we embark on a new chapter in our nation's journey.
4. This budget is not only a financial plan, but a testament to unwavering commitment to building a brighter and better future for our Nation. It is a roadmap that outlines our collective vision of a next chapter of our nation's story. A vision that is defined by prosperity, peace, social cohesion, and sustainable development.
5. It is therefore befitting that as we navigate the challenges and traverse the terrain ahead, we must draw inspiration from the resilience and determination of our forefathers who paved the way for us and embrace the values of unity, solidarity, peace, prosperity and forgiveness that have been the hallmark of our Nation's identity. I urge us seize this moment to pave a course towards a future that allows every Mosotho to thrive and prosper. Let our journey be a transformative one.
6. For the past 58 years, we have implemented a growth model that puts government at the centre of the economic development and failed to graduate to a private sector led growth and job generating framework. We are witnesses that this model has not served us well. The inevitable has caught up with us. We are at a crossroad. It is time for us to reinvent ourselves and not only think but also do things differently.
7. As a young nation of only 200 years, we stand at the verge of immense possibilities. We need to be not only aggressive and unapologetic about exploring and seizing emerging opportunities, but also excited about doing so. With each passing year, our potential grows and with it the chance to shape our destiny and that of future generations and build a better future.
8. Allow me to set the tone and elaborate on the theme of our upcoming 2024/2025 Budget. The theme of this budget is "Building on Resilience, Working Together, and Fostering Sustainable and Fair Growth."

9. As a nation, we have faced struggles and overcome challenges, demonstrating our resilience over the two hundred (200) years of our existence. However, it is crucial that we enhance our collaboration. This is not the time for internal conflict or pursuing short-term gains. We must unite, set aside our differences as we tackle the tasks of this day and age with the same courageous character that mimics that of our forefathers at their time
10. Our collective effort should be directed towards fostering sustainable growth and creating employment opportunities, especially for youth, women and vulnerable groups of our society. The private sector must be at the forefront and centre of this transformation, with government rallying behind it and playing a supportive role of creating an environment that is not only enabling but conducive and friendly.
11. To this end, the policies that are embodied in this statement seek to place the right stimuli in place, and creating a business environment in which entrepreneurs flourish and build a relationship underpinned by trust with the policy making and implementing agencies, including the largest one, government.
12. By this we seek robust, sustainable, fair, and inclusive growth, the prerequisite for which is a strong and decisive government that is able to guide the private sector appropriately to engage in growth stimulating and productive activities. We seek to rapidly magnify the footprint of the private sector and diminish significantly that of government and limit its activities to provision of public goods and regulatory activities that promote the private sector.
13. We must also ensure that our government includes and protects the weak, elderly, and marginalized members of society. Every citizen should have the opportunity to realize their potential, securing a bright future for all. While this budget may necessitate sacrifices, it is designed to distribute the burden fairly. Its overarching goal is to initiate reforms needed for a better future.

MACROECONOMIC TRENDS AND OUTLOOK

Overview of Current Economic Situation (Global and Regional)

14. Mr Speaker, as we position ourselves, it is crucial to remain mindful of the broader macroeconomic trends and outlook as they are important in carving our path. We have to navigate the rapidly evolving global economic dynamics as they present shocks and uncertainties to our environment, and necessitate that we constantly adapt to new parameters for our strategies to remain relevant and impactful. While our commitment to resilience and growth sets a solid foundation, we must also navigate the ever-evolving landscape of global economic dynamics.

15. In the coming years, we anticipate a steady growth and moderate inflation, buoyed by robust performances in key sectors such as technology, infrastructure, and agriculture. However, we must remain vigilant in the face of external shocks and uncertainties, adapting our strategies to ensure continued stability and progress.
16. Mr Speaker, global economic indicators point to a trajectory of sustained growth and a moderation in inflation throughout the year 2024. Projections suggest a stable global growth rate of 3.1 percent for 2023, which is anticipated to persist through 2024. Subsequently, a modest uptick to 3.2 percent is expected in 2025, propelled by robust growth in the United States and some emerging markets and developing economies.
17. Against the backdrop of resolving supply-side constraints and the implementation of stringent monetary policies, inflationary pressures are subsiding at a faster pace than initially projected across various regions.
18. Projections indicate a deceleration in global headline inflation, with expectations of a decline to 5.8 percent in 2024 followed by a further reduction to 4.4 percent in 2025. This downward trend in inflation is attributed to moderation in energy prices as new technologies are adopted, and their consequent influence on core inflation metrics.
19. In the United States, there is an anticipation of a smooth economic transition amid robust growth and inflationary outlooks that have surpassed initial estimates, indicating that the Federal Reserve (authorities) may not find it necessary to implement rapid interest rate reductions.
20. China's economic resurgence is anticipated to capitalize on the momentum generated by the robust growth witnessed in 2023. Moreover, increased public expenditure geared towards bolstering resilience to natural disasters is expected to further underpin the recovery trajectory in that jurisdiction.
21. In sub-Saharan Africa, economic growth is forecasted to accelerate from 3.3 percent in 2023 to 3.8 percent in 2024 and further to 4.1 percent in 2025. This upward trajectory is attributed to the diminishing impact of weather-related shocks and a gradual improvement in supply chain dynamics.
22. However, in South Africa, growth prospects are anticipated to remain subdued. This is primarily due to mounting logistical constraints hampering economic activities, notably within the transportation sector.

Domestic Economic Developments

23. Mr Speaker, our economic performance exhibits a tendency to align with regional trends, notably with South Africa, given our close integration and interdependence.

24. In the context of this alignment, the domestic economy registered a growth rate of 1.2 percent in 2022/23. Forecasts indicate an uptick to 1.4 percent in 2023/24, aligning with the broader influences of regional and global economic dynamics.
25. The latest national accounts data released by the Bureau of Statistics indicates that the domestic economy achieved an average growth rate of 1.3 percent during the initial three quarters of 2023. This represents a notable improvement compared to the average growth rate of 0.5 percent recorded during the corresponding period in the previous year.
26. Overall, the growth momentum observed is largely attributed to the resurgence in diamond mining activities, robust expansion in the construction sector driven by the Lesotho Highlands Water Project II (LHWP II), and growth across various service sectors. Against this backdrop, the domestic economy is projected to achieve a growth rate of 2.0 percent in 2024/25.
27. Inflationary pressures have abated somewhat, marking a departure from the record-high peaks experienced in 2022. In this context, it is anticipated that inflation will average 6.4 percent by the end of the current fiscal year (23/24), a decline from the 8.3 percent recorded last year (22/23), before further subsiding to 5.5 percent in 2024/25. This easing of inflationary pressures aligns with the global and regional headline inflation outlook. These trends reflect the diminishing impact of elevated domestic food and fuel prices, attributed to the reduction in global energy prices.

ECONOMIC PRIORITIES

Enhancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Private Sector-Led Job Creation

28. Mr Speaker, to build a firm foundation for economic recovery and a sustainable fiscal path, the Government must identify key priority areas under each NSDP Goal and improve expenditure efficiency and effectiveness to continuously achieve much more with each Loti spent.
29. The overriding development goal is to promote and facilitate inclusive, export and private sector led job creating economic growth. The imperatives in this regard, are, restoration of macro-fiscal sustainability, improvement of competitiveness of the investment climate and implementation of strategies to increase productivity and diversification of products and markets in the key growth sectors. The key growth sectors are agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and creative industries, and innovation and technology by building integrated value-chains. In as much as the mining sector, particularly, diamond mining, is not labour intensive, we need to retain value addition in the country through beneficiation.

Building Enabling Infrastructure

30. In support of growth and job creation, the government will focus on building enabling infrastructure to support growth sectors and creating viable public private partnerships to accelerate infrastructure development. We must rebuild the roads and bridges that were swept by heavy rains and address the maintenance backlog.
31. The country must exploit the energy production potential to serve both domestic and regional markets and we will strive to complete the on-going solar energy projects and energy storage facilities coupled with rehabilitation of current production facilities and distribution network.
32. The Government will continue to implement the digital economy agenda in particular, and make key investments for e-government to improve service delivery, facilitate cash less payments and reduce leakages as well as building effective partnerships with the private sector to build essential digital skills and increase digital literacy.

Human Capital Development

33. Mr Speaker, the growth potential cannot be exploited if we do not address the health and skills shortages we have in the country. It is essential to continue to strengthen health systems, implement successful nutrition and WASH programmes as well as improve access to education in hard-to-reach places.
34. The success of this financial plan depends on the energy and devotion of all, but most importantly prudence and good stewardship. Which brings me to the last key pillar of the NSDP – Good Governance, building effective institutions and accountability.

Strengthening Governance, accountability and building effective institutions

35. Mr Speaker, peace and security require economic stability that I will address in this statement. Hazards and impediments to the attainment of peace and rule of law should be dealt with decisively. In this regard, the Government is committed to push the momentum in the implementation of the national reforms' agenda.
36. The focus is to enhance capabilities of key institutions that fight corruption and crime, including homicide, human-trafficking, and gender-based violence. It will also be important to invest in programs that promote a culture of excellence, ethical conduct, mutual respect amongst us as a people and a nation and strengthening service delivery.

Cross-Cutting Issues

37. Mr Speaker, the country must build resilience through effective disaster risk management frameworks, especially to climate shocks, reduce land degradation through improved labour-based programmes; investing on key solutions to keep

Lesotho clean, beautiful, and green, revive communal institutions that promote revival of flora and fauna and preserve our biodiversity and natural environmental ecosystems. It is also critical to build on inclusivity by focusing on youth, women, and empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Medium-Term Fiscal Strategy

38. Mr Speaker, to realise a sustainable economic growth and increase job creation, as well as to build resilient economy, the country must maintain a sustainable fiscal path through fiscal consolidation.
39. Our strategy is to work towards a counter-cyclical fiscal policy to better control the fiscal gap and allow a build-up of buffers for use in times of economic downturn. This means there is a need to maintain fiscal surpluses in good years, especially where there are windfalls and fiscal deficits should be below 3 percent and debt thresholds should not exceed 60 percent of GDP.
40. Mr Speaker, adequate transparency and accountability are critical for ensuring that resource wealth is managed for the benefit of the whole population. The government is committed to putting in place a transparent Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) which seeks to contain expenditure and limit wasteful spending, especially capital expenditure. This will be done by identifying and reducing stalled projects, while improving investment appraisal and execution.
41. Fiscal policy in 2024/25 to 2025/26 through the medium term will continue to support and maintain macroeconomic stability and promote prudent fiscal management which will also help to support investor confidence and development partners, while securing future investment financing needs.
42. Our fiscal strategy will also lay emphasis on diversifying revenue sources and improve the efficiency in revenue collection, whilst containing recurrent expenditure, and in particular the wage bill.
43. The capital budget as a share in the total Government budget is to grow from 13 percent to 20 percent in the medium term. Those allocations should bring commensurate returns by increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our expenditure. This calls for wind down of unproductive spending and accommodate key pipeline projects that contribute to economic and private sector growth.
44. Mr Speaker, I assert with great conviction that we should only do what we can afford to do, in as much as it is important to determine what we CANNOT afford NOT TO DO, within the estimates of good governance and stewardship.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE STRATEGIES

45. The status of our fiscus indicates that there is a dire need for fiscal consolidation by expanding the revenue base and cutting dead wood in both recurrent and capital programmes.
46. In ramping up domestic revenue base and harnessing opportunities for increased development financing the following measures will be implemented:
- Develop a medium-term revenue strategy and a more efficient forecasting model to reduce forecasting errors.
 - Complete the digitization project to facilitate fiscalization of VAT and other Taxes, which will allow digital linkages between RSL and economic units.
 - Facilitate consideration of outstanding Tax bills by Parliament to unlock general efficiency gains and equity in the tax system.
 - Explore options for budget support through grants and concessional financing.
 - Work with the academia and other stakeholders to tap new and innovative financing options, including carbon trading, impact fund, Special Purpose vehicles, green bond markets, for financing critical development projects.
 - Develop a policy for setting Fees and Charges, which lays down uniform methodologies to determine the charges and to the extent possible leads to cost recovery.
 - Revise oil levy to cater adequately for motor Vehicle Assurance and have a new MVA bill.
47. This will require reviews of Acts or regulations and therefore, Parliament commitment to consider expeditiously the submissions when they are made.
48. Mr Speaker, for cost saving and reduction of leakages, the following measures will be implemented, amongst others:
- Improve targeting of subsidies or grants through adoption of Means testing mechanisms;
 - Improve asset management, including fleet management;
 - Establish e-payment gateway to pave the way for cashless payment;
 - Reduce wage bill and increase public sector productivity;
 - Freeze hiring except for critical positions and set attrition targets;
 - Restructure ministries, departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to identify and eliminate redundant positions;
 - Develop policy for voluntary separation and provide negotiated exit packages for selected staff; and
 - Create a path for wage bill to move from 18.5 percent of GDP to reach acceptable levels of around 14 percent.

Monetary Policies

49. Mr Speaker, despite facing significant shocks, the financial sector stood out as a beacon of stability, with its growing GDP contribution in 2023 showcasing its robustness. This resilience is attributed to strategic interventions such as

regulatory enhancements to ensure system stability and alignment with global standards, alongside the promotion of innovative payment systems and the facilitation of financial inclusion. Notably, the Monetary Policy Committee's adept adjustments have effectively maintained inflation rates and policy rates, thus bolstering economic performance.

50. Moreover, the significant expansion of financial intermediation, particularly through increased credit extension to businesses, has propelled sectoral growth. Industry-specific initiatives, notably in the banking and microfinance sectors, are aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and broadening financial inclusion. The ongoing implementation of the Financial Consumer Protection Act underscores the commitment to safeguarding consumers amidst these advancements.
51. However, challenges such as macroeconomic instability and cybersecurity threats persist, highlighting the need for continued vigilance. Therefore, priorities for the upcoming fiscal year include advancing financial inclusion, strengthening regulatory frameworks, investing in infrastructure, fostering capital market growth, and promoting financial literacy. These strategic imperatives underscore the importance of collaborative efforts in fostering sustainable financial sector development and ensuring broad-based economic growth.

2023/2024 Budget Performance

52. Mr Speaker, turning to the 2023/24 budget performance , it is worth noting that Parliament approved revenue of M25.1 billion equivalent to 63 percent of GDP, for implementation of the public policy across sectors. Total expenditure was approved at M24.1 billion, of which recurrent spending was M17.8 billion and 6.3 billion for capital investments. The total expenditure constituted 60 percent of GDP. The assumed budget had anticipated a fiscal surplus of M1.0 billion which was equivalent to 2.5 percent of GDP.
53. The total revenue is expected to decline by 1.6 billion to M23.5 billion due to expected slowdown in nominal GDP. The decline is also attributed to the losses realised by the major companies in the mining, telecommunications, and financial sectors not being able to remit the total budgeted Corporate Income Tax. The 50 percent downward revision of the Alcohol and Tobacco Levy also contributed to the under performance of the revenue. Furthermore, the non-enactment of the Tax Bills and non-implementation of Laws meant to regularise tax administration and enhance collection of the tax revenue affected collections negatively.
54. Expenditure has also been revised down following effective implementation of Public of Public Procurement Act 2023, which prohibits excessive pricing of goods and service by Government suppliers, while eliminating procurement outside Integrated Financial Management Information Systems. Total

expenditure is thus expected to moderately slow to M21.6 billion with recurrent spending slowing to M17.2 billion and capital by M4.5 billion.

55. These developments are expected to result into overall fiscal surplus of M2.2 billion, which is about 5.5 percent of GDP.

Debt Strategy

56. Mr Speaker, total government debt at the end of January 2024 has been recorded at M22.9 billion, made up of external debt of M19.0 billion (83 percent of total debt) and domestic debt of M3.8 billion (17 percent of total debt). The government managed to constrain debt to minimal increase of M176.8 million from the previous financial year.
57. External debt had a net increase of M828.1 million from 2023/24, pushed by new borrowing at M1.1 billion and exchange rate depreciation at M462.6 million while M699.1 million capital repayments reduced the foreign debt stock.
58. Domestic debt stock has declined by a net of M651.2 million, it is currently M3.8 billion after more debt was retired relative to debt contracted for the year. The Government has contracted M554.4 million from the domestic securities market and still demands a further M153 million before the end of financial year, the bulk of which shall fund construction of Petroleum Fund Headquarters.
59. The total debt service by end of January was M2.7 billion and it is expected to reach M3.4 billion by the end of 2023/24. The Country's overall risk of debt distress is assessed to be moderate with limited space to absorb shocks, in accordance with Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) framework. The government plans to issue M500 million treasury bonds to finance enabling infrastructure development to support growth.

SECTOR-ALLOCATIONS

Enhancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Private Sector-Led Job Creation

60. Mr Speaker, institutional and policy reforms are at the heart of efforts to improve food security, job creation and poverty reduction through private sector development. It has been a paramount goal for this government to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth which will be achieved by fostering an environment that empowers businesses to flourish while ensuring that the benefits are shared equitably among all segments of society. A total of M2.1 billion has been provided to accomplish this priority.

Agriculture

61. Agriculture, often referred to as the backbone of our economy, holds immense potential for driving economic development, fostering private sector-led job

creation, and ensuring food and nutrition security for all Basotho citizens. A budget of M1.3 billion has been assigned to bolster agriculture.

62. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for Lesotho to implement a comprehensive agriculture transformation support programme to improve both production and productivity for our agricultural sector. This programme will include enhancing extension services support to farmers, improving agricultural data collection efforts, facilitating access to affordable finance, improving irrigation infrastructure footprint, supporting agricultural value addition activities as well as storage and logistics.
63. Looking ahead, our projects and programs for the upcoming financial years underscore our unwavering commitment to agricultural development. From the Intensive Crop Production program to the Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project, each initiative is designed to propel us towards our goals of sustainable food security and enhanced farmer engagement.
64. MCA Lesotho will invest \$118 Million (LSL2,301 billion) over a period of 5 years in agriculture, to support the development of commercial horticulture in 4 irrigation schemes located in Leribe (Tsoili-Tsoili, Likhakeng, Peka, Kolonyama) and Mohale's Hoek (Phamong). The project will further strategically identify anchor farmers locally and externally to form partnerships with local Small Holder Farmers (SHF) and landowners. The Anchor Farmer Investor will bring their own financial resources, technical expertise, and existing local and export markets. The initiative is expected to increase horticulture production, create jobs, provide business opportunities, and reduce high dependence on imports.

Tourism Development

65. Mr. Speaker, the government has earmarked M140.7 million for the Tourism Sector. The sector plays a pivotal role in stimulating economic activity, generating employment opportunities, and promoting cross cultural exchange. The Tourism Strategy will be developed to understand, address challenges, and maximize growth potential in the Tourism sector. All tourism facilities under the Ministry will be managed by the Lesotho Tourist Development Cooperation for their effective and efficient operation while fostering job creation and sectoral improvement.
66. The investors in the tourism sector, are engaged to establish tourism packages and upgrade accommodation in Butha-Buthe and Semonkong Visitor Comfort Facilities as well as construction of tourism facility in Morifi, Mohale's Hoek. These projects are expected to generate approximately 210 jobs during construction and a minimum of 130 formal jobs during operation, with potential spin-off benefits for other sectors such as transport, food and creative industries.
67. A feasibility study will be undertaken for the development of a comprehensive City Tour packages in the Maseru Central Business District. Furthermore, to capitalize on the Meetings, Incentives, Conferencing & Exhibitions/Events

(MICE) sector, the LTDC plans to revamp the management of the National Convention Centre, attracting regional events and international tourists while creating employment opportunities and stimulating demand for related sectors.

68. Government is exploring further options to support tourism sector such as unilateral waiver of tourist visa requirements for citizens from selected countries or visa-upon-arrival mechanisms with affordable fees. The selection of countries for unilateral waiver will undoubtedly consider unique profile of each country and risks that are inherent in each country. These interventions are expected to boost tourism through tourist arrivals that in turn will result in increased room occupancy rates and average length of stay by tourists. Our renowned waterfalls and heritage sites are also expected to register improved numbers of tourists.
69. Mr Speaker, the government recognizes the importance of fostering a robust sports ecosystem. Five sporting codes will be developed alongside the tourism initiatives. These include codes in soccer, athletics, taekwondo, boxing, and others. This policy underscores the government's commitment to promote leisure and recreation while harnessing the socio-economic potential of sports development.
70. Mr Speaker, the government has announced a comprehensive policy framework to commemorate and celebrate the nation's bicentenary (200 years). Under this policy, a series of national events, including vibrant cultural festivals, captivating historical exhibitions, and community-driven initiatives, will be organized across the country to mark this significant milestone. These momentous occasions will signify the endurance and unity of the Basotho people and underscore our commitment to honouring our rich cultural heritage and history. Furthermore, legacy projects aimed at preserving and promoting our cultural identity will be initiated, ensuring that the spirit of King Moshoeshoe I and the values he espoused continue to inspire future generations.

Trade and Industry

71. Mr Speaker, the Trade sector is one of the identified priority sectors to promote economic growth. The sector has been allocated M599.5 million. A significant progress has been achieved with the construction completion of 16 and 7 factory shells and associated infrastructure at Ha Belo and Tikoe marking a major milestone. This infrastructure supports and elevates our relentless efforts to market Lesotho as a favourable investment destination in Southern Africa.
72. The Lesotho National Development Corporation has this year received firm indications for new investments to utilize this infrastructure amounting to 696 million. The areas of interest have been across sectors but mostly in textiles, clothing, stainless steel bars, electrical wiring accessories, leather seat covers, laundry services, fabric dyeing and garment manufacturing. This makes investment prospects over the medium term very bright. We are positive that

these investments will be actualized, and considerable jobs will be created. To be precise, these investment opportunities are poised to register over 5,500 jobs.

73. Mr. Speaker, limited capacity and access to affordable finance continue to be constraints affecting MSME growth. To address this challenge, government is enhancing capacity and providing funding to targeted groups through empowerment programmes such as Lesotho Youth Acceleration Project, Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion Project and Lesotho Enterprises Assistance Programme.
74. For Lesotho Youth Acceleration Project and over three-year period, the project aims to build capacity for 1,200 enterprises, with at least 150 MSMEs accessing project funds annually to upscale their businesses, consequently creating and sustaining jobs. Additionally, 50 MSMEs per year are earmarked for support in accessing LNDC/Post Bank Seed funding. The project targets the creation of 1,000 jobs annually.
75. Government has established a consortium comprising youth and women-owned enterprises. This initiative focuses on incubating businesses within the priority sectors outlined in the NSDP II, with SYF being an exception as it primarily targets Agricultural Enterprises. Projects under this umbrella are ongoing, with various stages of development. In the 2024/2025 period, it is anticipated to generate 500 new or sustained jobs, building upon the creation/sustenance of over 400 jobs in the previous year (2023/2024). The project is budgeted at M1,2 million funded by the Government of Lesotho and BEDCO partners. Planned interventions include facilitating access to markets, providing business advisory services, offering financial access, delivering business management training, and incubating over 10 new businesses.
76. Mr Speaker, the new investment policy in Lesotho aims to boost exports, diversify products, and create job opportunities. Prioritizing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and enhancing the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector will drive economic growth and generate employment.
77. Through the SEZs policy, the government plans to create a superior business environment, attracting diverse businesses and catalysing structural reforms. This initiative is expected to create thousands of jobs. Similarly, the MSME policy aims to address sectoral challenges, fostering sustainable growth and creating additional job opportunities.
78. Streamlining insolvency procedures, promoting entrepreneurship, and facilitating public-private dialogue are further steps towards job creation. Initiatives such as the entrepreneurship hub and seed financing facility aim to incubate enterprises, with a projected creation of 2,000 jobs in the forthcoming financial year.

79. The textile and apparel sector is a cornerstone of Lesotho's economy, accounting for one-third of GDP and 43 percent exports in 2021, and employing over 40,000 workforce. Plans to further bolster employment include the creation of 8,000 to 10,000 new jobs by 2024-2025, facilitated by the completion of 16 factory shells in Ha Belo and enhancements to laundry facilities. Additionally, the sector's growth initiatives, such as supporting Free on Board (FOB) operations, are expected to generate an additional 5,000 jobs through the establishment of two new factories in 2024.
80. The Lesotho Horticulture Incubation and Training Centre (LHITC), launched in May 2023 supports Basotho farmers in establishing commercial fruit orchards. By providing training, technical assistance, and finance facilitation, it aims to promote horticulture and create new commercial fruit farms. In the 2024/25 financial year, the LHITC plans to expand its training programs and facilitate the planting of 90,000 fruit trees across 60 hectares of land.
81. Overall, these initiatives demonstrate Lesotho's commitment to economic diversification, entrepreneurship support, and the creation of employment opportunities across various sectors.
82. Mr Speaker, the Ministry is committed to advancing crucial legislative measures, including the passage of the following bills: Trade and Tariff Administration Bill, Consumer Protection Bill, Competition Bill, Insolvency Bill, Financial Cooperatives and Legislation Bill, and Investment Bill. The Investment Policy and Special Economic Zones Policy will be finalised to enhance the investment climate as well as fostering both domestic and foreign direct investment in Lesotho.
83. Mr Speaker, you will recall that Lesotho signed a partnership agreement, Compact II entitled Lesotho Health and Horticulture Compact to the tune of \$300 million (LSL 5,85 billion). To this end, it is anticipated that by the end of March 2024 Lesotho shall have met the required condition precedents, and the Compact will be entering into force (EIF). This will mark the beginning of the five (5) years of implementation, which will end in March 2029. The Compact brings the much-needed investment to boost private sector development and job creation.
84. The Business Environment and Technical Assistance (BETA) BETA under Compact II will address challenges facing private sector in Lesotho, through the three components of the project namely; Pipeline Development, Business Ecosystem Strengthening, and Financial Ecosystem Strengthening. The intervention will offer numerous services including customized technical assistance, agnostic business development services (BDS), incubation and acceleration programs, and small (up to \$5,000 or LSL97,500) and medium grants (up to \$100,000 or LSL 1,900,000) to specific value chain projects such as agro processing.

85. One of the main challenges facing private sector in Lesotho especially small businesses, is access to affordable and tailored finance. The MCA Lesotho will establish the Lesotho Impact Investment Fund (LIIF), with the view to providing tailor-made funding instruments that respond to the needs of the private sector. The Impact Fund also provides an opportunity for Basotho and local corporates to co-invest into the LIIF to increase the pool of funds to support local private sector.
86. Mr. Speaker, you will recall that the Right Honourable the Prime Minister just recently launched the Public Private Dialogue (PPD) platform. The aim of the platform is to facilitate dialogue between private sector and Government on issues affecting business community in Lesotho. The MCA has allocated \$10 million (LSL 190 million) to support this noble initiative over the five years of the Compact.
87. MCA – Lesotho has allocated \$10 million (LSL 190 million) for establishment of the standards and accreditation architecture, which will enable locally produced goods to reach the local retail and export markets. MCA - Lesotho is working with UNDP under Lesotho Supplier Development Programme (LSDP) to revive dialogue amongst players in this area including the LSI. Furthermore, MCA – Lesotho will collaborate with the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition’s Research Department to build capacity of their testing laboratories to secure accreditation with international standards bodies so that they can certify locally produced goods for domestic and export markets.

Labour and Employment

88. Mr Speaker, the government has allocated M71.6 million to implement policies and programmes that will improve the labour and employment sector. Lesotho is actively engaged in Bilateral Labour Migration Arrangements (BLMAs) to diversify employment opportunities and promote skills development through agreements with countries such as Qatar, Seychelles, and Mauritius. There are efforts to support and strengthen the labour environment by enacting progressive labour legislation, such as the proposed Labour Bill 2023 and the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Bill 2023. The enactment further underscores Lesotho's commitment on efficient social protection programs, hence the vision to establish a National Social Security Scheme.

Science and Technology

89. Mr Speaker, to strengthen scientific and industrial research and enhance technology transfer and adoption, government will create an enabling environment to promote collaboration among academic institutions, innovation hubs and research institutions to produce commercially viable products that are relevant for our economic growth as a country.
90. The finalisation of research and innovation policies underscores our commitment to advancing science, technology, and innovation. These policies

not only foster coordination and growth but also enhance collaboration between government and institutions of higher learning. By actively involving academia, the government seeks to leverage the intellectual capital of our educational institutions to accelerate the development and pave way for the commercialization of Indigenous Basotho knowledge, driving economic diversification and sustainable development.

91. In the same vein, the National Program for Software Developers marks a forward-thinking stride in constructing a robust and agile digital workforce that will influence the trajectory of Lesotho's technological evolution. The administration aims to establish minimum 200 remote workers by 2029 through the implementation of this initiative. The Government has earmarked 1 million for this endeavour in the financial year 2024/25.

Strengthening Human Capital

92. Mr Speaker, investing in human capital drives equitable economic growth, innovation, and social development. This priority will be accomplished through the allocation of M9.1 billion.

Health Services

93. Health services constitute an integral component of our budgetary considerations. Achieving this will involve an allocation of M3.4 billion. Government will Prioritize community engagement in primary healthcare initiatives that presents an opportunity for cost-saving measures. The emphasis will be more on preventative healthcare measures to alleviate the burden on our healthcare system. Through proactive community involvement, we can identify local solutions to health challenges by leveraging the support of village health workers and local communities and enhance the effectiveness of health education and preventive measures. This approach not only improves health outcomes but also promotes fiscal sustainability, ensuring that our healthcare investments yield long-term benefits for Basotho.
94. Mr Speaker, the Compact II will further provide \$75 Million (LSL1,462.5 billion) over a 5-year period to improve health outcomes through strengthening Lesotho's primary health care improvement of primary health services. It will focus on strengthening health sector prevention efforts and clinical management of GBV cases. The project will take a decentralization approach and digitization of health services. These align with the Government of Lesotho decentralization policy as well as National digital Transformation Strategy both meant for increasing access to quality services.
95. Amid the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, laboratory services have emerged as crucial in clinical decision-making and public health initiatives. Obtaining international accreditation for two laboratories under SADCAS signifies a significant stride towards aligning our facilities with global standards, reaffirming our commitment to delivering robust healthcare services.

96. Mr Speaker, continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) initiatives, complemented by the introduction of quality grants, aim to incentivize high performance across healthcare facilities. In pursuit of sustainable access to medicines and medical devices, government will implement a comprehensive electronic Logistics Management Information System (e-LMIS) to enhance distribution systems to include CHAL facilities.
97. The Maseru District hospital is expected to be completed in March 2024. The hospital represents a monumental milestone in our healthcare infrastructure development. It is poised to serve approximately 450,000 people, ushering in a new era of accessible and transformative healthcare for the Basotho people. Additionally, the bilateral health cooperation with Wuhan No.1 Hospital in China aims to elevate Maseru Hospital to the forefront of healthcare in Africa, benefiting from expertise exchange and training programs.

Disaster Management

98. Mr Speaker, in recent times, we have seen the destructive disaster attacks which have tested our preparedness and recovery capabilities. The government will employ anticipatory measures to swiftly respond to high-risk areas in the event of various shocks, issuing early warnings to the public and develop sovereign risk insurance tailored to safeguard the interests of farmers and businesses with the World Bank support. Promoting climate-proofing measures across all sectors will also be vital in mitigating the impact of environmental uncertainties.

Education

99. Mr Speaker, turning into the education sector, the government has allocated M2.8 billion. Efforts to enhance the educational landscape encompass several key strategies. There is a pressing need to expedite the construction of primary and secondary classrooms, ensuring adequate infrastructure to accommodate growing student populations. Concurrently, a thorough review of existing construction models will be undertaken to optimize efficiency and sustainability. Additionally, to bridge the gap between education and industry, there is a call to update technical and vocational education and training curricula, aligning them with contemporary industry trends and technological advancements, spearheaded by the collaboration between the National University of Learning (NUL) and Lerotholi Polytechnic (LP).
100. To foster localized educational development, decentralization of educational services, particularly the Teaching Service Department (TSD), is paramount. This initiative entails providing comprehensive training to district-level personnel, empowering them to tailor educational policies and initiatives to suit the unique needs of each community. Furthermore, in response to evolving market demands, facilitating the accreditation of key programs that align with emerging needs is crucial, ensuring graduates are equipped with the requisite skills for success in the contemporary workforce. These multifaceted approaches collectively strive to fortify the educational system, fostering innovation, relevance, and inclusivity.

Social Protection

101. The government will continue to provide social safety nets to vulnerable groups, this will also be complemented by sustainable livelihoods programmes which aims to reduce dependency on public assistance. The government will take measures to enhance functionality and internal controls for Old Age Pension and other public assistance systems as well as moving towards cashless payments for grants.

Building Enabling Infrastructure

102. Mr Speaker, creating an enabling infrastructure is crucial for fostering innovation, improving quality of life, enhancing productivity, and promoting sustainable development. Government is investing in infrastructure to meet the evolving needs of Basotho by allocating M4.0 billion.

Roads Infrastructure

103. Government is committed to strengthen construction and maintenance of roads and bridges efficiently to have a resilient road infrastructure by allocating over M1.5 million. The construction works are continuing with the 82km of asphalt layer and Sejabatho Bridge at Mpiti Sehlabathebe; a 44km of asphalt layer and 8km of double seal layer at Marakabei-Monontša road and western spur road respectively; a 19km of asphalt layer at Malesaoana-Butha Buthe; and repair of potholes and desilting of side drains and culverts on the 952km of paved roads.
104. Through the assistance of World Bank, the Government has also successfully completed Mosisi–Mpeako, a 33m footbridge in the Leribe district. Mokhasi–Luka, Ntlhasinye–Makhetheng, Ramosothoane – Ralimpe, Thabantšo–Moeketsi, Sefateng–Baruting and Ntja–Jobo Footbridge in Mohale’s Hoek district. In Quthing, Pulane - Sekokoaneng footbridge, Pali–Leihloana, Malibe- ‘Mone have also been completed. Nyokololi–Tiping footbridge in Mokhotlong, Maliele- Mpele and Lepeli-Thakeli Footbridge in Maseru have been completed. A reinstatement of 3 damaged sections on B44 (Mount Moorosi–Mphaki road); rehabilitation of streetlighting along the A1 Maseru Main traffic circle to Lakeside (1.7km); rehabilitation of streetlighting along the A2 Maseru main traffic circle to Thabong (2.3km) and Kata Kata.
105. The Government of Lesotho will further continue to reconstruct the bridge across Tsoaing River on Motsekuoa to Mantšeli Road (B25) in Mafeteng and commence construction of Koro-Koro bridge along Mahlabatheng to Ha Mofoka Road (B32) in the Maseru district. Tebellong bridge over Senqu river shall also commence in this budget year. Several roads rehabilitation projects such as the 4-kilometre Moshoeshoe Road (A6), Kofi Annan Road (A7) (20km) and A3 Road from Masianokeng-St. Michael’s (11km) will commence during the financial 2024/2025.
106. Mr Speaker, government will undertake the periodic maintenance of the gravel roads from Taung to Matebeng (47km) in the district of Thaba-Tseka, Kepi to Telukhunoana (11.5km) in the district of Berea and Tsoloane to Ha Khitsane

(31.4km) via Liphiring in Mohale's Hoek district. Pavement strengthening of both paved and unpaved roads severely damaged by above normal heavy rains in various parts of the country to restore connectivity and ease movement will also continue. Street lighting, upgrading and maintenance will be done in Thaba Tseka-Sekiring, Ha Khalieli to Pontseng, Mafeteng-Motsekuoa Junction, Thabaneng (Likhoele road), Mafeteng first circle (VanRooyen and Mohale's Hoek Road), Butha Buthe - Likila Village to Main circle, Berea - Olympic Berea to Rural Water Supply, Maseru, Thabong Circle to Lake side, Lancers Inn to Pioneer Circle, Lakeside to Selakhapane, Thabong Circle to Ha Matala Garage, Seputana to Maqalika 4.5km, village Gate to Ha Foso 6.52km.

107. The Road Accident Data Management System (RADMS) will be rolled out to enhance the collection, reporting, and analysis of road accidents, thereby supporting evidence-based policy decisions aimed at achieving sustainable development goals. The system development is slated for completion in 2024/25.
108. In consideration of the litigation hindering the development and implementation of LITIS, Government is compelled to enhance the current eNaTIS to automate processes and decentralize traffic and transport services. This automation will facilitate the adoption of cashless payment platforms and pilot various online service initiatives led by the private sector. Additionally, the Ministry will review pertinent legal frameworks governing traffic and transport to address advancements brought forth by the fourth industrial revolution and address emerging offenses.

Water Resources

109. Mr Speaker, the government has allocated M2.2 billion to show its commitment to implement policies and programs that will ensure sustainable provision of water to the communities as well as protection of water resources. The Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project Phase II is scheduled to commence construction of water supply infrastructure in April 2024/25, focusing on zones 2 and 3 encompassing Hlotse and Maputsoe towns. In 2025/26, the project will focus on zones 6 and 7 covering Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek, including the surrounding areas. The Phase III of the Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project, is currently at its initial stages, focusing mainly on infrastructure designs. The construction of water infrastructure is planned for 2025/26. This phase aims to enhance potable water supply infrastructure and sanitation facilities in zone I of the Botha-Bothe district, including the town and adjacent rural settlements, as well as certain parts of the Leribe district. Upon the completion of these phases, over 550,000 individuals will benefit from a dependable and sustainable potable water supply.
110. The Lesotho Lowlands Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project is nearing completion, with the installation of a 12.5-kilometer pipeline and a one-million-litre command reservoir at Lekokoaneng and Maretintši, scheduled for completion by August 2024. This initiative is expected to provide benefits to approximately 9,000 individuals in the region. Additionally, feasibility studies

will be conducted for multi-purpose dams along several rivers, including Ngoajane, Hlotse, Makhalleng, Senqu, and Maletsunyane. These dams are intended to serve multiple purposes, including providing water for domestic use, irrigation, hydropower generation, recreational activities, tourism, and aquaculture, among others.

111. In addition to safeguarding water security nationwide, the government has expanded its Integrated Catchment Management program. This is particularly pertinent to the planned activities for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) in 2024/25, which entail implementing livelihood improvement programs for affected communities and environmental protection measures such as Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) and wetlands restoration.
112. Mr Speaker, the operation, and maintenance of Phase I infrastructure will involve a major shutdown of the tunnels for six months, beginning in October 2024. Consequently, there will be no electricity generation at the Muela Hydro Power (MHP) station due to the suspension of water transfer from Katse Dam and delivery to South Africa. The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) will utilize this period to refurbish critical sections of the tunnel, thus extending their service life.
113. The LHWP II implementation will entail completing remaining tasks to advance the Oxbow Scheme, finishing construction of essential infrastructure, and continuing work on the Polihali Dam and Tunnel. Additionally, it involves major bridge projects including Senqu, Khubelu, and Mabunyane bridges. Other activities include resettlement housing, relocation of graves, and implementation of a public health action plan. The procurement processes will also continue for construction of public facilities which include the Mokhotlong Prison, schools, Mapholaneng Police Station, and consultancy services for feeder roads.

Energy

114. Mr Speaker, for the Energy Sector, an allocation of M1.1 billion is proposed to address the country's energy requirements. Currently, the country's peak electricity demand stands at 203MW, while the generation capacity is only 102MW. This includes the Muela Hydropower plant (72MW), Ramarothole Solar Plant Phase I (30MW), along with smaller power generation units at Semonkong (180KV) and Katse Hydropower Plant (0.5MW). As a result, approximately 60 percent of the deficit is covered by imports from neighbouring countries such as South Africa (Eskom) and Mozambique (EDM). Government is actively pursuing strategies to augment local electricity generation through the utilization of renewable energy sources like solar, hydro, and wind, aimed at bridging this deficit.
115. In the upcoming fiscal year, plans are underway to increase local generation from 102MW to 173.1MW. This will be achieved by implementing Phase II of the Ramarothole Solar Plant, adding an additional 50MW of electricity generation capacity. Additionally, upgrades to the Katse Hydropower plant will boost its

output to 1.1MW. These initiatives will be complemented by a 20MW Solar Project undertaken by an independent power producer at Ramarothole, enhancing private sector let energy generation.

Mr. Speaker, to improve electricity accessibility nationwide, the Government will continue its efforts to electrify households, businesses, and government institutions, with the aim of increasing the current electrification rate from 53 percent to 58 percent. The goal is to achieve universal access by 2030. This initiative will involve boosting electricity production through various projects.

116. One such project is the Oxbow 90MW hydropower plant, which is currently in the process of procuring consultants for detailed designs. The Rexivista 50MW solar power plant is scheduled for construction by an independent power producer following the completion of the transmission line from Thaba-Tseka to Katse, along with the signing of a Power Purchase Agreement by LEC. Similarly, the Hirundi 50MW wind power plant will be established in Sehlabeng-sa-Masite at Mohale's Hoek after the completion of wind measurements tests.

117. In the financial year 2024/25, a total of 50,000 households will be electrified. Approximately 25,000 households will be connected to the main grid through the Rural Electrification Programme and the Lesotho Renewable Energy and Energy Access Projects. An additional 15,000 households are expected to receive electricity through the deployment of 10 mini-grids under Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives. Specific areas targeted for electrification include; Ha Motanyane, Ha Makhoebe, Thaba-Phatsoa, Tsabalira, Ha Lesoite, Ha Rathoko, Makaung, Chooko, Ntsokoane, Ha Lepolesa, Letuka, Mokotoane, Ha Tumane, Pobeng, Mohlakeng, Tsime (Ha Taolana) Auplase Maqhaka, Sekhutlong Koalabata and Mekaling Metsitseng Khuiting.

118. To alleviate shortage of power supply and load shedding in Qacha's Nek and Mokhotlong, two transmission lines will be erected: one extending from Mphaki to Ha Sekake and the other from Polihali to Mokhotlong. Construction of a substation in the Belo industrial area is currently underway and is scheduled to be completed and commissioned by April 2024. An upgrade of the substations at the Tikoe industrial area from 10MVA to 20MVA and Khukhune is planned to ensure reliable electricity supply.

119. Mr Speaker, to enhance the security of petroleum products, there are plans to construct National Strategic Fuel Reserves along with regional depots in Maqhaka, Mohale's Hoek, and Leribe. The primary objective is to ensure the availability of fuel for a period of 60 days in the event of any supply disruptions.

ICT

120. Mr. Speaker, to improve the business environment, provide seamless access to public services and enhance public service delivery, government will be profiling some public services and migrating them to an online platform. This initiative will reduce transaction costs and queues in accessing public services as well as

minimize revenue leakages. The platform will further assist in cutting down on bureaucracy, improving transparency and accessibility thereby reducing opportunities for corruption. To increase consumption of online services, government intends to enhance sensitization, increase internet access in underserved areas.

121. Government has allocated over M166 million to expand and manage ICT sector. Lesotho has since transitioned from analogue to digital broadcasting following the 2006 International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Agreement. Presently, there are sixteen digitalized radio stations and one TV channel operating in Lesotho. Furthermore, there are plans to expand the digital broadcasting landscape by connecting at least ten radio stations and introducing one Parliament TV channel to the digital platform. Plans are also underway to establish multiple TV channels in collaboration with the private sector.
122. Over the past four years, the implementation of Phase II of the E-Government Infrastructure Project has yielded significant outcomes. Twenty-seven Base Tower Stations (BTSs) have been constructed and commissioned across ten districts. The primary objective of the project is to enhance broadband coverage in rural and underserved areas by establishing an additional twenty-one mobile sites to bolster 4G coverage. The 96km Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) fibre optic network from Roma to Thaba-Tseka will be completed in 2024/25 with the aim of enhancing quality service for mobile data users.
123. The digital services will be enhanced by renovating forty postal service facilities throughout the country into shared digital service centers, known as eService Centers. These centers will serve to strengthen digital access and convenience for citizens. To improve on institutional capacity on ICT access, Government will launch an initiative on National Program for coders in the coming Financial Year.

Strengthening National Governance and Accountability Systems

124. Mr Speaker, in pursuit of a more accountable and transparent administration, Government recognises the need to reinforce the structures and processes that underpin our governance framework. To achieve these goals, M4.3 billion has been allocated.

Strengthened Development Planning Systems

125. In the fiscal year 2023/24, significant strides were made in developing the strategic framework on the extended NSDP II and enhancing accelerated implementation and financing modalities. Moving forward, our focus will shift towards investment management and establishing an efficient investment pipeline. Following the enactment of Procurement Act 2023, Government will establish Procurement Authority which expected manage tenders, make guidelines and oversight on procurement issues.

126. On the front of bolstering statistical capabilities, we recognize the paramount importance of credible and reliable statistics for effective policymaking and monitoring progress. To this end, efforts are underway to finalize the Statistics Act, restructure relevant institutions, and attract top Basotho statisticians. Additionally, the forthcoming results of the labor force survey will inform targeted interventions to address underemployment and unemployment.
127. In the realm of risk management, comprehensive policies and strategies are being developed to identify, assess, and mitigate risks to the fiscal and economic landscape. This includes the finalization of a Risk Management Policy, crafting of Fiscal Risk Statement, and addressing deficiencies in Lesotho's Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing regime with support from international partners.
128. Lesotho is advancing its Public Private Partnership Bill to foster collaboration between public and private sector to fulfil sustainable funding requirements and growth. The Bill aims to establish clear roles, responsibilities and risk sharing mechanisms. By leveraging private sector expertise, the country aims to expedite infrastructure projects, create jobs and improve citizens wellbeing. Lessons from the past pilot projects inform careful projects selection to mitigate risk. Additionally, the Government plans to establish a PPP and contracts management to enhance contracts negotiation and management across ministries.
129. Moreover, ongoing reforms, such as the PEFA assessment and settlement of arrears, demonstrate our dedication to enhancing public expenditure management and financial accountability. These measures are crucial for ensuring macro-fiscal sustainability, efficient public investment management, and the timely settlement of outstanding obligations, ultimately paving the way for inclusive growth and prosperity in Lesotho.
130. Mr Speaker, the finalisation of the development of a new Performance Management Policy signals the government's readiness for full implementation in the upcoming financial year. A comprehensive change management program, spearheaded by the Lesotho Institute of Public Administration, is scheduled as a critical component of the implementation strategy.
131. In the upcoming financial year, significant advancements are planned for the Human Resources Information Management System. These enhancements will involve customizing both the Performance Management System and Recruitment Modules, along with integrating the system with the Lesotho Revenue Services and enhancing its integration with the National Identification and Civil Registry system. The primary goal of these upgrades is to strengthen the efficiency of human resources management systems and processes.
132. Mr. Speaker, the emergence of Project Implementing Units has come with compensation distortionary effects that require urgent attention by the

government to restore equality and fairness in our pay structures. To address this systemic anomaly, the government prioritizes the development of a Job Evaluation and Job Grading Policy. Standardized grading for similar roles will be implemented, extending to all institutional project staff positions. This process will commence in April 2024, and it is expected to be implemented in the second half of the coming year.

Foreign Service

133. Maintaining strong diplomatic relations with other countries is crucial for international cooperation and warm coexistence. In this regard, priority was given to enhancing relations with Lesotho's immediate neighbour, the Republic of South Africa. As part of this effort, the cooperation framework between the two countries was elevated from the Joint Bilateral Commission of Cooperation (JBCC) to the Bi-National Commission (BNC). The Summit marked a significant success, resulting in various outcomes, such as the extension of the Lesotho Exemption Permit until December 2025. Additionally, negotiations commenced on a new migration model to facilitate easier movement of individuals between the two nations.
134. The strength of any nation lies in its people, hence Basotho at home and abroad, play a crucial role in Lesotho's economic advancement and development. Recognizing this, the government has intensified its cooperation with the Basotho Diaspora Community. The success of the program naming a few is already showing positive impact with one of ours, Dr Pali Lehohla, who is now engaged by Bureau of Statistics. Following the adoption of the Diaspora Policy by Cabinet in 2021, the government successfully organized the first Diaspora Homecoming event in December 2023 at Thaba Bosiu Cultural Village. This event underscored the significance of the Diaspora community in Lesotho's economic endeavours.
135. Mr Speaker, cybersecurity, and corruption pose significant and evolving threats to Lesotho. It is essential that security efforts are focused on addressing these challenges to foster the country's development. Effective strategies for combating these threats include implementing early-warning systems through intelligence measures. Additionally, there is a critical need for raising awareness and establishing mechanisms to prevent and mitigate cyber-attacks, which can result in security breaches. Furthermore, establishing a Special Operations Centre with incident response mechanisms is essential to counter adversaries effectively.

Oversight

136. Mr Speaker, in Lesotho, accountability and oversight are fundamental principles upheld to ensure transparency, integrity, and effective governance across all sectors. Through the collaboration of governmental bodies, civil society

organizations, and regulatory authorities, comprehensive mechanisms will be established to monitor and evaluate the actions of public officials and institutions. With a commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting the rights of citizens, robust oversight frameworks will be implemented to scrutinize financial transactions, policy implementations, and regulatory compliance. Through regular audits, investigations, and reporting mechanisms, accountability will be fostered, empowering citizens to hold their leaders accountable for their actions and decisions. This dedication to accountability and oversight will serve as a cornerstone in promoting good governance, enhancing public trust, and driving sustainable development in Lesotho.

Investment Climate Reforms, Mining, and Financial Sector Development

137. Mr Speaker, Government is committed to increasing Basotho participation in the mining industry to enhance their livelihoods and boost their contribution to the country's economic development. Efforts will focus on expanding Basotho involvement in the diamond sub-sector and other mining activities like quarrying of dolerite and sandstone.
138. In 2024/25, the government plans to review the Mine Safety Act 1981 and Mines and Minerals Act 2005 to create a conducive environment for all individuals involved in mining. The legislative review will prioritize Basotho and Basotho-owned enterprises in industrial mineral exploitation while promoting an investment-friendly framework that addresses sustainability and ethical mining principles.

Cross-cutting Issues

139. Mr Speaker, addressing land degradation in Lesotho is crucial for maintaining productive land utilisation. Land rehabilitation programs in Lesotho have primarily served as job creation initiatives, lacking significant impact on degraded lands. For the 2024/25 financial year, the focus shifts to investing in highly degraded hotspot locations with potential for full rehabilitation and high socioeconomic benefits. Return on investment against land degradation is estimated at \$6 for every dollar invested.
140. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry prioritizes private sector-led job creation, including establishing large-scale orchards, investing in irrigation systems, and distributing fruit seedlings to farmers nationwide. Leveraging climate advantages aims to diversify exports and stimulate economic growth, particularly in honey production.
141. Mr Speaker, the government will address tourism and environmentally related crimes, such as pollution. Government's efforts in enforcing cleanliness and pollution control aims to promote clean towns, benefiting public health and economic activities like tourism. The following are specific government initiatives:

- Launching extensive public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the importance of cleanliness and proper waste disposal methods.
- Organizing regular community clean-up events where volunteers come together to clean streets, public spaces, and water bodies.
- Strengthening enforcement of existing regulations related to littering, illegal dumping, and pollution to deter such activities.
- Collaborating with local communities, businesses, NGOs, and government agencies to develop and implement comprehensive cleanliness initiatives.

142. Mr Speaker, the government is committed to promoting gender equity and equality through evidence-based and customer-oriented programs. The inaugural Youth Summit, organized by the youth themselves, aimed to educate, empower, and capacitate young people, fostering patriotism and addressing community issues. Five hundred youth from across Lesotho participated in the summit, including change-makers and young entrepreneurs, sharing experiences and solutions.

143. Mr Speaker as I conclude this financial policy statement, I wish to reiterate that whilst it is important to have the wage bill reduced to acceptable levels, the Government recognises that comprehensive public sector reforms are necessary, which include improving the welfare of the staff and their capabilities to manage, lead and perform their technical work. As I indicated that we are in a tight fiscal situation in the medium-term, but despite this, the automatic notch increase will be accommodated which accounts for 2.5 percent plus 2 per cent salary adjustment across the board. The tax credit and the tax brackets will be adjusted accordingly. In the same spirit, the Old Age Pension will be adjusted by 50 Maloti. These adjustments will be effective from the 1 April 2024.

CONCLUSION

144. I started this speech with a Call to Action and I wish to reiterate ***“Let us Build on our Resilience, Let us Work Together”*** and we will be able to Foster Sustainable and Fair Growth.

145. Mr Speaker, in conclusion, let us JOINTLY approach the task ahead with a renewed commitment that builds on our resilience, and based on our shared understanding, that the sacrifices we make today, will translate to the benefits of tomorrow. We owe it to our children, we owe it to the next generation to put our household in good order, to make it sustainable, fair, and prosperous.

146. The challenges are enormous, but not unsurmountable. We must change our ways. We must realize that we must change long term trends and behaviours now, it cannot be business as usual.

147. It is not a **BIG** Government that will save us, it is not only a good but a smart Government we need. And when we stand united, fortified by our collective

determination, then we **CAN** overcome obstacles, achieve the required transformation, seize the opportunities and foster economic growth and social stability, that will benefit us all.

148. Mr Speaker finally, let me extend a word of gratitude to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister and his Cabinet for his able leadership and support in preparing this budget. I am also profoundly grateful to the staff of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning as well as the rest of the public servants for their useful inputs in making this budget a success. I wish to also express, on behalf of the people and Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho, our appreciation to our Development Partners for their continued support in our course for development.
149. Let us embrace the journey ahead with confidence and optimism, knowing that our resilience will carry us through, and our commitment to growth will lead us and our children to prosperity.
150. With gratitude in our hearts and determination in our souls, let us continue to build a nation that thrives in the face of adversity, a nation where every citizen can flourish.

Khotso! Pula! Nala!

ANNEX I					
GOVERNMENT BUDGET OPERATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 - 2026/2027					
Budget Item	Actual 2022/23	Projection 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Budget 2026/27
REVENUE	17,193.3	23,806.6	27,712.6	27,907.4	28,343.2
Tax revenue	8,433.6	9,741.2	9,948.3	10,944.5	11,375.5
Taxes on income, profits, and capital gains	4,305.9	4,734.7	4,930.9	5,217.7	5,398.7
Income tax - payable by individuals	2,504.6	2,754.0	2,868.1	3,034.9	3,140.2
Income tax - payable by corporations	914.2	1,005.2	1,046.9	1,107.8	1,146.2
Income tax - other	887.1	975.5	1,015.9	1,075.0	1,112.3
Taxes on goods and services	4,127.7	5,006.4	5,017.0	5,726.3	5,976.1
Value-added tax	3,550.8	4,037.9	4,359.1	4,657.4	4,873.0
Excise taxes	550.9	783.9	444.6	852.0	879.5
Alcohol and tobacco		178.7	184.5	193.4	199.1
Taxes on specific services	26.0	6.0	7.1	6.3	6.4
Grants	1,155.1	1,464.8	3,659.9	3,179.5	2,895.0
Other revenue	2,205.1	2,452.1	2,556.3	2,691.6	2,801.1
Property income	711.8	584.7	636.7	669.5	702.6
Dividends	202.4	67.4	163.6	170.6	180.9
Rent	490.8	510.0	454.2	477.9	502.8
Sales by market establishments	1,479.3	1,708.6	1,649.0	1,853.2	1,920.2
Electricity Muela	56.5	84.5	36.6	73.2	73.2
Water Royalties - LHDA	1,422.8	1,624.1	1,612.4	1,780.0	1,847.0
Administrative fees		37.2	72.3	55.6	59.8
Incidental sales by nonmarket establishments	14.0	94.1	195.0	109.9	114.9
Fines & forfeits	0.0	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.3
Miscellaneous and unidentified revenues		24.9	0.3	0.3	0.3
SACU	5,399.5	10,148.5	11,548.0	11,091.8	11,271.6
EXPENSE (Statutory + Non Statutory)	15,599.9	17,158.6	19,061.7	19,460.9	20,157.0
Compensation of Employees	6,921.2	7,158.8	7,866.9	8,033.2	8,225.6
Wages and salaries	6,306.0	6,323.6	6,992.8	7,160.1	7,331.6
Use of goods and services	2,552.6	2,385.3	3,263.4	3,420.4	3,583.2
Interest Payments	709.5	1,006.5	1,006.8	1,104.3	1,211.6
Nonresidents	317.4	351.8	469.0	512.7	560.8
Residents other than general government	392.1	654.7	537.8	591.6	650.7
Subsidies	554.6	787.7	676.2	710.9	722.9
Grants to international organisations	75.2	70.4	143.4	150.5	158.0
Grants to other general government	1,657.2	2,251.9	1,818.2	1,969.9	2,130.4
Social benefits	1,874.6	2,207.0	2,344.2	2,348.8	2,394.0
Other expense	1,254.9	1,290.8	1,942.6	1,722.8	1,731.3
Student Grants	1,030.2	982.8	1,299.6	1,395.7	1,392.3
Other expense	224.7	308.1	643.0	327.1	339.0
Capital Budget	3,206.5	4,480.7	9,695.2	8,791.8	8,842.1
GoL	1,250.3	1,914.3	2,934.3	3,344.4	3,686.0
Donor Grants	792.2	1,025.7	3,264.7	2,775.3	2,482.3
Donor Loans	1,163.9	1,540.7	3,496.1	2,672.0	2,673.9
CASH SURPLUS / DEFICIT	-1,613.1	2,167.3	-1,044.3	-345.2	-655.9
% GDP	-4.3%	5.5%	-2.5%	-0.8%	-1.5%
GDP	37820.5	39,613.6	41,820.2	43,611.2	44,580.9

ANNEX II					
GOVERNMENT BUDGET OPERATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 - 2026/2027 [% of GDP]					
Budget Item	Actual 2022/23	Projected on 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Budget 2026/27
REVENUE	45.5	60.1	66.3	66.7	67.8
Tax revenue	22.3	24.6	23.8	26.2	27.2
Taxes on income, profits, and capital gains	11.4	12.0	11.8	12.5	12.9
Income tax - payable by individuals	6.6	7.0	6.9	7.3	7.5
Income tax - payable by corporations and	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7
Income tax - other	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.7
Taxes on goods and services	10.9	12.6	12.0	13.7	14.3
Value-added tax	9.4	10.2	10.4	11.1	11.7
Excise taxes	1.5	2.0	1.1	2.0	2.1
Alcohol and tobacco		0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Taxes on specific services	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants	3.1	3.7	8.8	7.6	6.9
Other revenue	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.4	6.7
Property income	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7
Dividends	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Rent	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.2
Sales by market establishments	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.4	4.6
Electricity Muela	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Water Royalties - LHDA	3.8	4.1	3.9	4.3	4.4
Administrative fees		0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Incidental sales by nonmarket establishments	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3
Fines & forfeits	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue		0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
SACU	14.3	25.6	27.6	26.5	27.0
EXPENSE (Statutory + Non Statutory + Salaries)	41.2	43.3	45.6	46.5	48.2
Compensation of Employees	18.3	18.1	18.8	19.2	19.7
Wages and salaries	16.7	16.0	16.7	17.1	17.5
Use of goods and services	6.7	6.0	7.8	8.2	8.6
Interest Payments	1.9	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.9
Nonresidents	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3
Residents other than general government	1.0	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.6
Subsidies	1.5	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.7
Grants to international organisations	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4
Grants to other general government units	4.4	5.7	4.3	4.7	5.1
Social benefits	5.0	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.7
Other expense	3.3	3.3	4.6	4.1	4.1
Student Grants	2.7	2.5	3.1	3.3	3.3
Other expense	0.6	0.8	1.5	0.8	0.8
Capital Budget	8.5	11.3	23.2	21.0	21.1
GoL	3.3	4.8	7.0	8.0	8.8
Donor Grants	2.1	2.6	7.8	6.6	5.9
Donor Loans	3.1	3.9	8.4	6.4	6.4
CASH SURPLUS / DEFICIT	-4.3	5.5	-2.5	-0.8	-1.6

ANNEX III			
ANNUAL % CHANGE IN REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES			
Budget Item	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	% Change
REVENUE	25,093.0	27,712.6	10.4
Tax revenue	10,981.9	9,948.3	-9.4
Taxes on income, profits, and capital gain	5,676.1	4,930.9	-13.1
Income tax - payable by individuals	2,575.6	2,868.1	11.4
Income tax - payable by corporations and	2,111.0	1,046.9	-50.4
Income tax - other	989.4	1,015.9	2.7
Taxes on goods and services	5,304.6	5,017.0	-5.4
Value-added tax	4,406.1	4,359.1	-1.1
Excise taxes	849.9	444.6	-47.7
Alcohol and tobacco	439.5	184.5	-58.0
Taxes on specific services	24.2	7.1	-70.5
Grants	1,182.8	3,659.9	209.4
Other revenue	2,779.9	2,556.3	-8.0
Property income	847.7	636.7	-24.9
Dividends	310.1	163.6	-47.2
Rent	519.4	454.2	-12.5
Sales by market establishments	1,929.2	1,649.0	-14.5
Electricity Muela	84.0	36.6	-56.4
Water Royalties - LHDA	1,612.4	1,612.4	
Administrative fees	58.8	72.3	22.9
Incidental sales by nonmarket establish	173.9	195.0	12.1
Fines & forfeits	3.0	3.0	1.7
SACU	10,148.4	11,548.0	13.8
EXPENSE (Statutory + Non Statutory + S	17,557.8	19,061.7	8.6
 Compensation of Employees	7,055.9	7,866.9	11.5
Wages and salaries	6,048.7	6,992.8	15.6
 Use of goods and services	3,437.8	3,263.4	-5.1
 Interest Payments	1,036.6	1,006.8	-2.9
Nonresidents	381.4	469.0	23.0
Residents other than general government	655.2	537.8	-17.9
 Subsidies	485.6	676.2	39.3
 Grants to other general government unit	2,096.5	1,818.2	-13.3
 Social benefits	2,223.5	2,344.2	5.4
 Other expense	1,222.1	1,942.6	59.0
Student Grants	1,109.2	1,299.6	17.2
Capital Budget	6,323.4	9,695.2	53.3
GoL	2,690.5	2,934.3	9.1
Donor Grants	1,025.7	3,264.7	218.3
Donor Loans	2,607.2	3,496.1	34.1
CASH SURPLUS / DEFICIT	1,211.8	-1,044.3	-186.2

**Recurrent and Development Revenue Estimates by Ministry
2024/25 Budget**

MINISTRIES	APPROVED BUDGET 2023/24	PROPOSED BUDGET 2024/25	PROJECTIONS 2025/26	PROJECTIONS 2026/27
Recurrent Revenue				
301 - Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition	34,356,535	89,627,707	96,529,236	107,810,010
302 - Health	29,587,656	21,392,566	21,274,871	22,394,827
303 - Education and Training	4,691,125	3,992,000	4,613,400	9,649,440
304 - Finance and Development Planning	21,144,036,360	21,588,115,161	21,364,387,313	22,449,163,878
305 - Trade, Industry and Business Development	10,836,261	8,834,540	9,285,052	9,703,516
306 - Gender, Youth and Social Development	425,670	1,008,218	1,008,218	1,008,218
307 - Law and Justice	3,908,685	3,877,740	4,075,390	4,161,789
308 - Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police	35,382,479	37,774,962	34,933,444	35,071,438
310 - Information, Communications, Technology and Innovation	19,060,950	19,030,475	-	-
311 - Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences		60,000	61,200	74,400
312 - Foreign Affairs and International Relations		660,000	660,000	660,000
313 - Public Works and Transport	32,402,457	36,177,056	36,361,386	36,601,712
314 - Environment and Forestry	178,500	406,576	454,592	483,570
315 - Natural Resources	2,783,916,267	2,050,267,267	3,357,594,416	3,386,314,522
316 - Labour and Employment	19,369,838	14,550,480	16,506,380	16,444,480
317 - Judiciary	3,111,500	3,119,651	3,253,701	3,419,421
318 - Independent Electoral Commission	304,000	962,000	3,079,000	1,018,000
337 - Defence	5,500,000	-	-	-
338 - National Assembly		-	-	-
339 - Senate		-	-	-
341 - Energy		482,770,868	544,023,511	586,444,927
342 - Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture		4,272,263	4,272,263	4,272,263
343 - Public Service		7,447,076	8,301,780	9,125,964
Total Recurrent Revenue	24,127,068,283	24,374,346,604	25,510,675,154	26,683,822,374
Development Revenue				
301 - Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition	28,202,316	77,788,468	46,555,760	28,614,334
302 - Health	216,867,256	660,404,974	582,258,047	656,490,848
303 - Education and Training	90,222,478	113,779,672	22,387,967	11,460,000
304 - Finance and Development Planning	448,904,706	1,381,000,327	1,442,676,674	1,414,363,731
305 - Trade, Industry and Business Development	6,848,000	14,362,812	-	-
306 - Gender, Youth and Social Development	3,000,000	3,000,000	5,000,000	3,000,000
308 - Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police		104,497,380	-	-
313 - Public Works and Transport		313,504,220	341,164,719	326,879,752
314 - Environment and Forestry	47,634,917	78,295,237	49,782,016	35,090,084
315 - Natural Resources	183,989,100	336,112,514	237,251,988	-
341 - Energy		181,944,262	27,617,950	27,000,000
Total Development Revenue	1,025,668,773	3,264,689,866	2,754,695,121	2,502,898,749
Grand Total	25,152,737,056	27,639,036,470	28,265,370,275	29,186,721,123

**Summary of Recurrent Estimates
2024/25 Budget**

MINISTRY/HEAD	APPROVED BUDGET 2023/24	PROPOSED BUDGET 2024/25	PROJECTIONS 2025/26	PROJECTIONS 2026/27
301 - Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition	557,394,199	543,687,012	547,256,414	548,168,806
302 - Health	2,246,400,266	2,217,909,477	2,322,691,365	2,436,280,459
303 - Education and Training	2,730,081,527	2,677,239,597	2,718,463,700	2,762,470,219
304 - Finance and Development Planning	2,636,253,268	2,739,295,120	2,890,978,118	3,053,080,562
305 - Trade, Industry and Business Development	126,656,950	108,154,699	109,976,700	113,812,900
306 - Gender, Youth and Social Development	1,395,991,863	1,333,345,986	1,363,345,248	1,396,981,738
307 - Law and Justice	329,171,218	346,752,198	349,905,612	358,527,875
308 - Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police	1,730,942,092	1,760,734,917	1,779,721,819	1,802,281,091
309 - Prime Minister's Office	116,587,180	115,811,022	120,074,227	124,231,161
310 - Information, Communications, Technology & Innovation	241,330,995	237,620,224	257,375,037	276,032,361
311 - Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences	74,087,846	60,162,658	62,888,046	63,890,415
312 - Foreign Affairs and International Relations	430,016,310	440,082,625	450,074,840	464,950,011
313 - Public Works and Transport	199,850,400	215,709,117	223,578,287	232,667,788
314 - Environment and Forestry	157,904,947	137,813,392	142,429,936	143,196,973
315 - Natural Resources	186,084,816	299,122,806	310,940,178	326,928,358
316 - Labour and Employment	127,905,749	71,570,835	75,412,625	73,095,010
317 - Judiciary	126,777,683	128,016,359	127,596,143	133,184,379
318 - Independent Electoral Commission	371,061,825	206,246,901	44,440,032	63,626,828
319 - His Majesty's Office	15,365,123	15,176,299	14,497,359	14,983,599
320 - Public Service Commission	13,652,432	15,783,181	13,207,562	13,688,919
321 - Public Debt	3,090,255,138	3,134,007,429	3,265,538,171	3,403,016,218
323 - Pensions and Gratuities	1,621,012,283	1,621,012,272	1,621,012,272	1,621,012,272
324 - Statutory Salaries and Allowances	40,791,728	41,962,662	42,038,076	43,436,475
325 - Subscriptions to International Organisations	124,434,160	305,383,272	323,706,268	343,128,644
326 - Refunds to Erroneous Receipts	2,268,000	2,268,000	2,268,000	2,268,000
330 - Centralised Items	432,990,794	796,790,064	550,000,000	550,000,000
331 - Contingencies Fund	300,000,000	300,000,000	300,000,000	300,000,000
335 - National Security Services	107,302,023	126,313,472	130,063,131	134,453,467
336 - Disaster Management Authority	28,701,068	31,413,205	32,697,409	34,131,571
337 - Defence	652,327,502	669,546,432	677,211,200	657,586,156
338 - National Assembly	102,254,502	102,315,722	107,526,012	110,218,091
339 - Senate	24,222,090	26,166,296	25,239,532	25,356,251
340 - Ombudsman	11,121,132	11,678,027	10,929,001	11,341,683
341 - Energy		24,335,391	27,257,030	25,762,135
342 - Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture		90,725,891	94,701,320	98,949,523
343 - Public Service		72,389,643	70,422,779	74,287,227
Grand Total	20,351,197,110	21,026,542,205	21,205,463,446	21,837,027,165

**Capital Estimates by Ministry and Source of Funding
Budget 2024/25**

MINISTRIES	APPROVED BUDGET 2023/24	DONOR GRANTS	DONOR LOANS	GOL CAP	TOTAL
301 - Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition	552,856,280	77,788,468	700,151,341	20,799,358	798,739,167
302 - Health	940,814,861	660,404,974	272,004,929	234,132,791	1,166,542,694
303 - Education and Training	110,422,478	113,779,672		10,199,999	123,979,671
304 - Finance and Development Planning	609,899,327	1,381,000,327	127,825,533	107,000,000	1,615,825,861
305 - Trade, Industry and Business Development	350,035,900	14,362,812	87,949,800	389,000,000	491,312,612
306 - Gender, Youth and Social Development	19,400,353	3,000,000	95,353,000	-	98,353,000
307 - Law and Justice	5,000,000			15,000,000	15,000,000
308 - Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police	457,800,000	104,497,380		381,300,000	485,797,380
310 - Information, Communications, Technology and Innovation	10,000,000		166,438,902	57,999,999	224,438,901
312 - Foreign Affairs and International Relations				36,000,000	36,000,000
313 - Public Works and Transport	1,170,327,240	313,504,220	-	930,500,000	1,244,004,220
314 - Environment and Forestry	70,705,300	78,295,237	79,307,277	2,400,000	160,002,513
315 - Natural Resources	1,613,170,251	336,112,514	1,384,788,724	188,000,000	1,908,901,238
317 - Judiciary	-				
319 - His Majesty's Office	210,000,000			20,000,000	20,000,000
335 - National Security Services	20,000,000			20,000,000	20,000,000
339 - Senate	183,000,000			140,000,000	140,000,000
341 - Energy		181,944,262	582,317,778	332,000,000	1,096,262,040
342 - Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture				50,000,000	50,000,000
Grand Total	6,323,431,990	3,264,689,867	3,496,137,283	2,934,332,146	9,695,159,296