



**PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
BUDGET SPEECH TO THE PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF
LESOTHO FOR
THE 2026/2027 FISCAL YEAR**

"Accelerating Economic Transformation; Building Resilience"

By

**HONOURABLE DR RETSELISITSOE MATLANYANE, MP
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

MASERU, LESOTHO

18 FEBRUARY 2026

Honourable President; Honourable 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

His Lordship Chief Justice

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The House

My Colleagues, Honourable Ministers of His Majesty's Government

His Lordship President of the Court of Appeal

Honourable Members of the Council of State

Honourable Leader of Opposition

Honourable Judges of the High Court and Court of Appeal

Honourable Deputy President of the Senate

Honourable Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Honourable Members of Both Houses of Parliament

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

Distinguished Members of the Media

Basotho ba heso, ka hare le ka ntle ho naha.

Kea le lumelisa

I. Introduction

1. I am pleased to present the Budget Estimates for the 2026/27 fiscal year, guided by the theme: *"Accelerating Economic Transformation; Building Resilience"*
2. In recent years, our efforts have been directed towards restoring macro-fiscal stability, strengthening governance and laying foundations for inclusive, broad-based and sustainable job creating growth.
3. These efforts were not only deliberate and necessary but informed by deep reflections of the underpinnings of our journey of development since time immemorial, our beliefs and practices that have become norms and tradition, yet they collide with the basic principles of transformative and progressive economic policy. These efforts have helped us to stabilize our fiscal position, expand social protection, invest in infrastructure and build resilience in the face of external shocks.
4. However, stabilization is hardly a sufficient condition for prosperity. Foundations alone do not create opportunity. A nation does not transform by simply preserving what exists. It transforms by building what does not yet exist.
5. We now enter a new phase in our journey to transform our economy. A phase that needs clarity, resolve, and demands acceleration, structural reforms, and productive expansion. Bahlomphehi, a phase that puts the needs and ambitions of Basotho to be placed ahead of those of individuals.
6. The time has come for us to move decisively from recovery to flight, from dependence to diversification, and from constraint to opportunity. This budget therefore represents more than an annual financial plan. It is a strategic instrument to reshape the structure of our economy and to redefine ourselves. It is a commitment to unlock the productive capacity of our people, empower enterprise, and position Lesotho as a competitive participant in regional and global markets.

7. **Hon. President, Right Hon. Speaker,** the argument for transformation has never been more compelling. The global economic landscape has become is bullish and hostile. Our economy continues to face structural constraints that limit growth and job creation. Youth unemployment remains unacceptably high.
8. Our revenue base remains vulnerable to external volatility. And global economic conditions – marked by geopolitical tensions, technological disruption, and climate pressures – demand that we strengthen our economic resilience with urgency and foresight.
9. Yet within these challenges lie incredible opportunities – advances in technology, tapping into and expansion of regional markets, growing demand for sustainable production and our own natural and human resources present pathways to a more dynamic and diversified economy.
10. To seize these opportunities, we must empower the primary engine of sustainable growth – the private sector. Government must create a conducive environment, provide infrastructure, and ensure the stability within which enterprise can thrive. On the other hand, private sector must be willing to take risks, investment must expand, innovation and creativity must be accelerated. Jobs must be created not by temporary stimuli, but by sustainable productive activity.
11. This is a defining moment in our nation’s development path. The decisions we take today will shape the trajectory of our economy for years to come. This budget therefore sets out a clear and deliberate course of action to transform Lesotho into a more productive, competitive and resilient economy driven by private initiative and supported by a capable and enabling state.
12. As we embark on this path, we do so with determination, conviction, and with confidence in the ingenuity and resilience of us as a people.

II. RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

13. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker,** allow me to set the scene by giving a brief on recent economic developments, challenges and risks as well as opportunities, and thereby shed light on the economic environment underpinning the 2026/27 National Budget.
14. **Hon. President, Right Hon. Speaker,** I now turn to the macroeconomic environment underpinning the 2026/27 National Budget.

Global And Regional Macroeconomic Developments

15. Global growth remains relatively resilient, projected at 3.3 percent in 2026 and 3.2 percent in 2027, supported by productivity gains, technological investment, and the transformative impact of artificial intelligence. However, this resilience masks tightening financial conditions, elevated interest rates, rising public debt, climate-related shocks, and a shift toward more inward-looking policy priorities. These dynamics have reduced the availability of concessional finance and reshaped global trade relations, making growth more uneven and less predictable.
16. Growth in advanced economies is expected to remain stable at 1.8 percent in 2026 and 1.7 percent in 2027. The United States economy is forecast to expand by 2.4 percent in 2026, slowing to 2.0 percent in 2027, supported by favourable fiscal policies, easing interest rates, and corporate tax incentives. While this performance reflects resilience, it has not translated into improved outcomes for smaller, trade-dependent economies facing higher trade barriers.
17. Across emerging markets and developing economies, growth is projected at 4.2 percent in 2026, down from 4.4 percent in 2025, reflecting weaker capital inflows, heightened trade uncertainty, and increasing exposure to protectionist measures. China's growth is expected to moderate from 5.0 percent in 2025 to 4.5 percent in 2026 and 4.0 percent by 2027, while India's growth, after reaching 7.3 percent in 2025, is projected to stabilise at 6.4 percent in both 2026 and 2027.

18. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to show resilience but subdued growth, projected at 4.6 percent in both 2026 and 2027, supported by macroeconomic stabilisation and reforms. However, tighter external financing conditions, less secure trade preferences, and climate disruptions continue to weigh heavily on small, open economies. South Africa, Lesotho's principal economic anchor, is projected to grow by approximately 1.4 percent in 2026, supported by improved energy availability and stabilising macroeconomic conditions. This recovery supports relatively stable SACU revenues and remittance inflows, but it remains stabilising rather than transformative and does not fundamentally alter the region's low-growth trajectory.

Global Outlook

19. Looking ahead, global growth is projected to remain broadly steady, at around 3.25 percent over the medium term, while global inflation is expected to decline further towards 3–4 percent. However, risks remain tilted to the downside. These include renewed trade tensions, geopolitical shocks that could disrupt supply chains and commodity prices, and a potential reassessment of technology-driven productivity expectations that could weaken investment and trigger financial market corrections. Elevated public debt levels in several economies may also exert upward pressure on long-term interest rates, tightening global financing conditions.
20. To put things in perspective, we're faced with a global economy that is undergoing a fundamental transformation – a transition that is complex and painful to say the least and characterized by a movement from an orderly rules-based multilateral trading system. While global growth remains relatively resilient, the benefits of this growth are unevenly distributed. For small, open, and trade-dependent economies like Lesotho, the operating environment has become significantly hostile and complex.
21. The multilateral trading system that once favoured economies such as ours is giving way to a more fragmented, protectionist, and competitive global order. Heightened trade tensions, tariff wars, and the strategic re-shoring of

supply chains are redefining global commerce. These shifts have direct and severe implications for Lesotho.

Implications for Lesotho

22. For Lesotho, these global and regional shifts have had direct and severe consequences. Although growth in major economies remains positive, heightened trade barriers and uncertainty around trade preference regimes have weakened confidence in vulnerable economies. While Government successfully secured a one-year extension of AGOA and a moderation of tariffs to around 15 percent, tariffs remain elevated by historical standards, and global trade tensions continue to weigh heavily on long-term investment planning. Heightened uncertainty in global trade and financial markets underscores the importance of preserving fiscal buffers, safeguarding external stability, and remaining vigilant to spillovers through trade, SACU revenues, and regional financial conditions.
23. The impact has been most pronounced in the textile, apparel, and mining sectors, historically our largest private-sector employers. International buyers are de-risking supply chains, diverting orders away from smaller economies. Factory and mine closures, job losses, and declining household incomes have followed, posing risks to employment, foreign exchange earnings, skills retention, and social stability. At the same time, external concessional financing has contracted sharply. The cancellation of MCC Compact II and other support reflects a structural withdrawal of grant financing rather than a temporary fluctuation, creating funding gaps in health, water, and agriculture.

Domestic Economic Developments

24. Economic growth in 2024/25 registered 4.2 percent, driven largely by Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II, with construction growing by 6.3 percent. The textile industry rebounded to 3.2 percent growth, from -11.1 percent in 2023/24, as firms accelerated order completion amid AGOA uncertainty. This momentum proved temporary. In 2025/26, growth declined to 1.4 percent due to external shocks, including higher tariffs on exports and a continued decline in global diamond prices. The downturn was

most pronounced in textiles and mining, where reduced orders, layoffs, care-and-maintenance decisions, and cost-containment measures, including workforce reductions, mine-life revisions, and targeted royalty relief, were implemented to preserve cash flow and sustain operations.

25. Inflation remains contained, moderating to 4.3 percent in 2025 and stabilising at 4.5–4.7 percent over the medium term, supported by easing food and fuel prices, though upside risks persist from exchange-rate volatility and global trade disruptions.

Domestic Economic Developments

26. **Hon. President, Right Hon. Speaker,** looking further ahead, our medium-term projections show the economy growing sluggishly at 1.5 percent in 2027/28 and 1.6 in percent 2028/29. The improvement in the agricultural sector is expected to be anchored by enhanced breeding practices on livestock coupled with anticipated favourable weather conditions on crops. In the manufacturing sector, operational factory spaces in Tikoe and Belo are anticipated to benefit the textiles and other manufacturing sectors. There are also aspirations of diversifying into Regional and European market.
27. However, the growth anticipated from these initiatives will not offset the deterioration in AGOA related firms, resulting in worsening of the textile industry growth projections.
28. On the contrary, the mining industry over the medium term continues to be under pressure with the continued global demand price slumps, oversupply and competition from synthetic diamonds. Mining fell sharply with estimates showing marginally around -3.5 percent. Diamond sector pressures are expected to persist until global demand and prices stabilise, potentially limiting near term growth.

Fiscal Developments and Outlook

Revenue and Expenditure Performance

29. **Hon. President, Right Hon. Speaker,** In 2025/26, total revenue is estimated at M27.1 billion, equivalent to 60.2 percent of GDP. Tax revenue amounted to M10.7 billion (24 percent of GDP), comprising M5.4 billion from income taxes and M5.3 billion from taxes on goods and services. Value-added tax contributed M4.3 billion, while excise revenues stood at M1.0 billion. Grants amounted to M1.8 billion (4 percent of GDP), while other revenue totalled M5.4 billion (12 percent of GDP), including property income of M351.3 million. SACU receipts accounted for 20.4 percent of GDP, remaining a critical pillar of fiscal performance.
30. Recurrent expenditure totalled M19.3 billion (42.7 percent of GDP), including social benefits of M2.5 billion and interest payments of M1.1 billion. Capital expenditure amounted to M6.4 billion (14.2 percent of GDP). The fiscal year will close with a headline surplus of approximately 3.2 percent of GDP, against an approved deficit of 2.5 percent, driven largely by exceptionally high-water royalties of M4.78 billion. This outcome is temporary and cyclical and masks a persistent weakness: under-execution of the capital budget.

2026/27 Budget Outlook

31. For 2026/27, the revenue outlook is cautiously optimistic. Personal Income Tax is projected at M3.54 billion, above the M3.11 billion approved in 2025/26. Corporate Income Tax is projected at M1.11 billion, broadly stable. Value-added tax remains the main downside risk, with a projected M4.67 billion, below the M5.01 billion approved in 2025/26, reflecting subdued consumption.
32. Total expenditure is budgeted at M30.97 billion (67.3 percent of GDP). Recurrent expenditure amounts to M21.94 billion (47.4 percent of GDP), while capital expenditure rises to M9.03 billion (19.7 percent of GDP), reflecting a decisive shift toward infrastructure investment and execution. Over the medium term, revenue is projected to stabilise at 67.8 percent of GDP in 2027/28 and 69 percent in 2028/29, while expenditure declines to

67.7 percent and 62.0 percent of GDP, resulting in fiscal surpluses of 2.9 percent and 7.0 percent of GDP respectively.

33. The external position has weakened due to declining textile and diamond exports. While the balance of payments remains supported by LHWP-II capital inflows, the current account deficit is expected to widen in 2026 before improving as construction imports normalise. Foreign reserves are projected to remain adequate at around six months of import cover, though sensitive to SACU volatility, diamond prices, and fiscal execution risks.
34. The Government of Lesotho total debt stock as at end January FY2025/26 amounted to M22.7 billion (50 percent of GDP), a decline of M667.2 million from M23.4 billion at the end of FY2024/25. This reflects a 3 percent reduction in debt stock, with the debt to GDP ratio falling from 54.3 percent to 50 percent. The composition of public debt also shifted during the period, with share of domestic and external debt moving from 15.4 and 84.6 percent to 16.9 and 83.1 percent respectively. The external debt portfolio remains mostly concessional at a share of 88.4 percent, besides the Country graduating from IDA low income to low middle income country, which presented the country with the hardened high costs of borrowing from the international financial markets.
35. The country's debt risk rating remains unchanged from 2024/25 fiscal year at moderate level of debt distress with limited space to absorb shocks.
36. Hon. President, Right Hon. Speaker, this macroeconomic context leads to one clear conclusion: This reality compels a deliberate shift in policy priorities—towards strengthening domestic revenue mobilisation, enforcing disciplined and efficient expenditure, and restoring credibility in policy execution. Building economic resilience is no longer optional; it is now the central organising principle guiding Government's policy priorities for the 2026/27 financial year. Before turning to policy priorities, allow me to highlight the risks and vulnerabilities posed by the current conditions.

Risks and Vulnerabilities in 2026/27

37. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker,** the Government remains committed to maintaining a sustainable fiscal path. However, in the context that I just highlighted, **heavy reliance on SACU transfers,** projected to stabilise at around 20 percent of GDP, poses a major macro-fiscal vulnerability, especially given South Africa's economic performance and regional trade dynamics. External trade shocks, including new tariffs on our apparel exports combined with global diamond market weaknesses, threaten domestic revenue and reserve buffers. A minor decline in regional trade growth could necessitate a mid-year fiscal adjustment.
38. Fiscal risks also arise from **contingent liabilities associated with State-Owned Enterprises and Public-Private Partnerships.** Many SOEs continue to operate with significant levels of non-guaranteed debt, estimated at 1.4 percent of GDP. In addition, some legacy PPP contracts contain termination clauses representing potential exposure of up to 3.8 percent of GDP. A comprehensive audit of these agreements is underway to avoid risks that could breach the proposed 60-percent-of-GDP debt ceiling under the Fiscal Rules framework.
39. **Trade barriers and protectionist policies** in any form undermine investor confidence and long-term planning in vulnerable, trade-dependent economies. For Lesotho specifically, the impact exerts more pressure in the textile and apparel industry, historically our largest private-sector employer and a cornerstone of our export base. What was once our comparative advantage anchored by preferential access to one of the largest markets, has now become a structural vulnerability. International buyers are actively "de-risking" their supply chains, diverting orders away from smaller economies such as ours. The result has been factory closures, large-scale job losses, and increased pressure on household incomes. This erosion of our industrial base poses long-term risks not only to employment, but also to skills retention, foreign exchange earnings, and social stability.

40. These factors makes one conclusion inescapable: Lesotho can no longer rely on episodic growth, preferential access, or external financing to sustain jobs and public services. Resilience must now be built deliberately—through stronger growth, domestic revenue mobilisation, public financial management, and institutions capable of executing policy with speed and precision. Fiscal policy remains the ultimate central instrument and anchor for restoring confidence, social protection, and enabling private-sector-led growth.
41. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, this state of affairs has led to an **external financing environment that has tightened significantly**. Globally, development assistance is being reprioritized as advanced economies face rising debt burdens, geopolitical tensions and associated threats, demographic shifts and pressures, and higher domestic spending needs. For low-income countries, this has translated into reduced concessional development assistance.
42. As traditional sources of grant support recede and global development finance becomes more selective, our resilience increasingly depends on how effectively we anchor growth within our immediate region. The regional economy is no longer a secondary consideration; it is now the primary buffer through which Lesotho must absorb external shocks, sustain trade, secure revenue and protect livelihoods. It is against this backdrop of reduced external financing and heightened fiscal responsibility that regional developments, particularly within the Southern African region, assume renewed strategic importance. The situation forces us to forge new strategic alliances as we strengthen existing partnerships.
43. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, the bloated public-sector wage bill, estimated at approximately 17 percent of GDP, remains among the highest in the region and is fiscally unsustainable. It crowds out spending on the most essential growth inducing infrastructure such as roads and bridges, health infrastructure, schools, and productive infrastructure. This must be contained as a matter of urgency. Government cannot be the employer of first choice and last resort. We have must do everything to see that the

private sector takes its rightful place and plays its role effectively in this country. To the private sector, government cannot be your only client. You have to move into productive economic activities and sectors. There's no way around this.

44. Finally, the withdrawal of international health financing has created an estimated annual funding gap of M1.5 billion. We are appreciative to the Government and people of the United State of America (USA) for the resumption of part of funding towards control of HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases including Tuberculosis through the US Department of State, and that will disburse USD218, an equivalent of M3.5 billion over a period of five years starting in April 2026. The 2026/27 Budget further introduces measures to internalize these costs through reprioritization, capitalizing on efficiency gains, and sustainable financing mechanisms without compromising fiscal stability.
45. In navigating a more uncertain global environment, Government has identified three strategic opportunities to strengthen resilience and unlock sustainable growth. First, we will accelerate product and market diversification to reduce concentration risks and expand export and domestic value chains. Second, we will forge new partnerships while deepening existing ones to mobilise investment, technology and access to markets. Third, we will pursue the strategic optimisation of all our natural resources, ensuring that they are managed prudently, leveraged for value-addition, and translated into lasting economic and social returns for the nation.

Fiscal Strategy and Medium-Term Policy Direction

46. **Hon. President, Right Hon. Speaker**, this macroeconomic context leads to a clear and unavoidable conclusion: Lesotho can no longer rely on preferential market access, episodic growth, or external financing to sustain jobs and public services. This reality compels a deliberate shift in policy priorities, towards strengthening domestic revenue mobilisation, enforcing disciplined and efficient expenditure, and restoring credibility in policy execution. Building economic resilience is no longer optional; it is now the

central organising principle guiding Government's policy priorities for the 2026/27 financial year that I now turn.

47. This fiscal stance allows Government to fund national priorities while maintaining stability. However, key risks remain. SACU revenue volatility continues to pose significant uncertainty, given the large share of SACU receipts in total revenue. Implementation risks linked to the ambitious capital programme may hinder timely execution. Additionally, projected increases in interest payments to both residents and non-residents demand careful monitoring.
48. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, I now turn to Government's fiscal strategy, which underpins this Budget and guides our policy choices over the medium term.
49. Lesotho's fiscal position has improved in recent years, supported by strong SACU receipts and higher water royalties. While this has provided temporary relief, it has also underscored a clear reality: our public finances remain highly exposed to external and cyclical revenues. Sustainable fiscal management therefore requires discipline in good times, not only adjustment in difficult ones.
50. Government's fiscal strategy is anchored on three objectives: maintaining macro-fiscal stability, reducing vulnerability to revenue volatility, and creating durable fiscal space for growth-enhancing investment and human development. Within this framework, fiscal policy will be guided by the structural balance rather than temporary windfalls, to avoid pro-cyclical spending and protect future budgets.
51. To strengthen resilience, Government will institutionalise mechanisms to save a portion of windfall SACU and mineral-related revenues, while allowing transparent and measured use during periods of economic stress. This approach will smooth expenditure, protect priority programmes, and enhance fiscal credibility, including through the finalisation of regulations to establish a fiscal stabilisation fund.

52. Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker, reducing excessive dependence on SACU remains a central pillar of this strategy. Government will intensify domestic revenue mobilisation through strengthened tax administration, improved compliance, and modernised payment systems to reduce leakages. The focus will be on broadening the tax base and improving efficiency rather than increasing the burden on compliant taxpayers or vulnerable households. To this end, the Tax Administration Bill Amendments, Income Tax Amendments, and VAT Administration Bill will be tabled in the 2026/27 financial year.
53. Non-tax revenues will also receive renewed attention. Fees, charges, and resource-based revenues will be managed with greater transparency and predictability to ensure fair and reliable returns from public assets. In this regard, Government is actively engaging the Republic of South Africa on the review of the water royalty framework under the Lesotho Highlands Water arrangements, to better reflect the economic value of this strategic national resource, evolving cost structures, and long-term sustainability, in a cooperative and mutually beneficial manner.
54. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, the global mining sector is undergoing a period of pronounced adjustment. The sustained decline in rough diamond prices has placed pressure on operating mines, employment, and long-term investment, particularly in Lesotho's high-cost, deep-level operations. Mining remains a strategic pillar of our economy, and Government's response is guided by a clear principle: fiscal rigidity that accelerates mine closures ultimately destroys jobs, revenue, and national assets. Government is therefore developing an overarching, rules-based fiscal stabilisation framework for the mining sector, prioritising employment preservation, continuity of operations, and extension of mine life during periods of market stress.
55. On the expenditure side, Government's priority is not merely how much we spend, but how well we spend. While protecting essential services in health and education, Government will strengthen the efficiency, targeting, and delivery of social protection programmes to ensure resources reach the most vulnerable households. At the same time, firm control will be exercised over

rigid recurrent expenditures, particularly the wage bill, to preserve space for operations, maintenance, and high-quality capital investment.

56. Capital spending will increasingly be driven by project readiness and execution capacity, with priority given to projects that are fully prepared technically, financially, and institutionally, so that public investment translates into completed infrastructure and tangible economic returns.
57. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, borrowing will remain prudent and strategic. Government will prioritise concessional financing for high-impact projects, carefully manage fiscal risks and contingent liabilities, and strengthen oversight of public enterprises. Within this framework, Government has created the policy and institutional space for the engineering and potential issuance of diversified financing instruments, including a Diaspora Bond, longer-dated infrastructure bonds of seven years and beyond, and the groundwork for a Green Bond framework to support renewable energy and climate-aligned investments.
58. This fiscal strategy reflects a decisive shift: from short-term pressures to long-term resilience; from reliance on volatile revenues to domestic effort; and from budget expansion to disciplined execution.
59. To this end, Government will operate a rules-based fiscal framework anchored on the following quantitative parameters:
 - a) Debt ceiling: 60 percent of GDP (hard ceiling);
 - b) Debt anchor: 50 percent of GDP (medium-term target);
 - c) External debt limit: 40 percent of GDP; and
 - d) Structural deficit target: 3 percent of GDP, adjusted for SACU volatility, supported by operational expenditure guardrails.

III. POLICY PRIORITIES

Short- and Medium-Term Goals, Including the NSDP II Extension

60. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, Government's short- and medium-term policy framework remains firmly anchored in the Extended National Strategic Development Plan II. The extension of NSDP II to 2027/28 provides a critical planning horizon within which Government will consolidate ongoing reforms, complete priority interventions, and safeguard development momentum following successive global and domestic shocks. This framework continues to guide national priorities, public investment decisions, and the allocation of scarce fiscal resources in a disciplined and strategic manner.
61. Inclusive, broad-based and sustainable economic growth remain the primary and central objective of Government. While macroeconomic stability may not be sufficient, it is certainly a necessary condition for growth. We have to turn our fiscal fortunes into sustained, job creating growth while reducing our vulnerability to shocks. As such Government will continue to implement reforms that guard and maintain macroeconomic stability while expanding productive capacity and accelerating private-sector-led growth across agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, services and other growth-driving sectors. We will continue to strengthen the business environment through targeted regulatory reforms, improved investment facilitation, and enhanced access to finance, particularly for micro, small, and medium enterprises, while promoting export diversification, value addition, and high-impact infrastructure investment.

Infrastructure Development

62. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, in our pursuit of broad-based, inclusive, and sustainable growth, infrastructure development is not optional, it is foundational. Government's policy direction is to prioritise infrastructure that enables productivity, trade, private-sector participation, and job creation. This includes investments in roads and connectivity networks, bridges, aviation infrastructure, renewable energy generation and

transmission, irrigation systems, border management facilities, as well as education and health infrastructure.

63. These investments will unlock domestic and international trade, strengthen tourism, enhance energy security, improve agricultural productivity, and expand the productive capacity of our human capital. A coordinated approach, supported by improved project preparation and accelerated implementation, is essential to maximise economic returns, crowd in private investment, and ensure that infrastructure spending translates into tangible growth and employment outcomes.
64. As Government builds new infrastructure, we are equally mindful of the growing threat posed by climate-related disasters to existing assets. Floods, droughts, and extreme weather events are increasingly damaging public infrastructure and imposing recurrent fiscal costs. Accordingly, this Budget prioritises not only new construction, but also the reinforcement, rehabilitation, and climate-proofing of vulnerable and ageing infrastructure, ensuring durability, resilience, and value for money over the asset life-cycle.
65. Our economy has long been government led and heavy, and dependent on external revenues.
66. A central policy goal is to rebalance towards private investment and exports. This entails:
 - Promoting private sector led growth and export-oriented industries to create jobs and reduce poverty
 - Improve the business climate (simplifying regulation, creating a competitive environment and unlocking access to finance)
 - Diversification beyond apparel, diamonds and water exports
 - Building resilience to external shocks

Fiscal Consolidation and Revenue Mobilisation

67. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, fiscal discipline and effective revenue mobilisation remain the cornerstones of macroeconomic stability. Sustainable growth cannot be achieved without stability, and stability cannot be secured if the fiscal framework remains vulnerable to external shocks and structural weaknesses. Government will therefore remain firmly committed to enforcing fiscal discipline across the public sector.
68. A strengthened control environment will ensure that every loti spent delivers measurable economic and social returns for the benefit of Basotho. Accountability systems will continue to be reinforced to minimise waste, inefficiency, and leakage. Government will protect and progressively expand capital expenditure, while insisting on timely execution, so that public investment delivers growth and development dividends. At the same time, recurrent expenditure will be rationalised and confined to enabling the effective functioning of public institutions without inefficiency.
69. In addition, to limit our vulnerability in the face of an uncertain global economic environment we will continue to;
- Build frameworks that enable us to save and invest windfall revenues wisely- creation of a stabilization fund
 - Improve public financial management and procurement – e-procurement to limit the resource haemorrhage that we’re currently suffering
 - Promote fiscal discipline and better public spending
 - Target spending towards high return infrastructure that creates value and spin-offs.
70. Government’s revenue mobilisation strategy seeks to maximise domestic revenue collection while remaining cognisant of prevailing global and domestic vulnerabilities. Revenue raised will be directed primarily toward service delivery and productive capital investment, ensuring that compliant taxpayers see tangible benefits from their contributions. Efforts to simplify compliance and reduce administrative burdens will continue, supported by investments in digital tax systems, including the expansion of electronic filing and payment platforms, particularly for VAT.

71. Systems to improve the collection of non-tax revenue, including fees, charges, and penalties, will be strengthened through the rollout of cashless payment solutions and enhanced accountability mechanisms. In parallel, Government will review selected fees, charges, and penalties to ensure fairness, efficiency, and alignment with service delivery objectives.
72. As part of our ongoing digital transformation agenda, Government has made significant progress in implementing the e-Government Payments Integration project, working initially with one mobile network operator, while other financial services providers are at various stages of onboarding and system integration. This initiative is modernising and streamlining the payment of public services across Ministries, reducing reliance on cash at service points, lowering administrative costs, and minimising risks associated with cash handling. It will also improve convenience for citizens by simplifying and standardising how government services are paid for.
73. I am pleased to report that the development phase has been successfully completed, and the system is now in the final stages of testing, with a public launch planned for early April. This reform forms part of a broader effort to modernise public financial management and transform Lesotho's payments landscape for the benefit of all Basotho.
74. Government will also continue to nurture strategic partnerships with development partners, bilateral and multilateral institutions, and the broader international community, to mobilise concessional financing, technical assistance, and investment in support of national development priorities.

Strengthening Productive Sectors for Growth, Jobs, and Exports

75. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, it is the resolve of this Government to harness our natural resources, human capital, skills, innovation, and creativity to unlock Lesotho's comparative advantages and strengthen productive capacity and trade competitiveness.

76. The agricultural sector remains significantly under-exploited, limiting progress toward food security, import substitution, and rural employment. Government views agriculture as a catalyst for industrialisation through agro-processing value chains that can generate decent jobs and export earnings. Accordingly, this Budget prioritises investments in skills, research, and institutional capacity aimed at unlocking the full potential of this strategic sector.
77. Through the strategic utilisation of our water resources, Government will roll out transformative investments in irrigation infrastructure. Increased agricultural output will be processed domestically to support import substitution and export diversification, strengthening foreign-exchange earnings while deepening value chains within the economy.
78. Government welcomes the one-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which provides a critical, though time-bound, opportunity to stabilise exports, protect jobs, and reposition the manufacturing sector. This extension is being treated not as a pause in reform, but as a bridge for decisive action. During this period, Government is working with industry and financial institutions to support firm-level restructuring, productivity improvements, and market diversification, while accelerating regional trade integration and reducing over-reliance on a single preferential regime. Instruments such as the Inclusive Growth Facility are being deployed to provide targeted working capital and machinery finance, enabling exporters to meet orders, retain employment, and improve competitiveness. Our objective is clear: to emerge from this transition with a more resilient, diversified, and competitive productive base.
79. Our policy aims to:
- Diversify exports and reduce reliance on a single or few markets
 - Strengthen regional trade and leverage the African Continental Free Trade Agreement while exploring new markets (bilateral and multilateral) and opportunities for cooperation for mutual benefit and gain.
 - Support productive business activities in key sectors such as manufacturing, energy production, agriculture and services.

Digital Transformation

80. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, we live in a digital era, and Lesotho cannot afford to fall behind. Digital transformation is both urgent and indispensable to accelerating growth, inclusion, and effective participation in the global economy. Government will therefore accelerate investments that enable digitisation and the development of a digital economy across all sectors.
81. Targeted actions will be implemented to expand ICT access and connectivity, improve reliability, and bridge the digital divide. Infrastructure will be extended to underserved areas, connectivity in public institutions will be upgraded, and partnerships with satellite service providers will be deepened to reach communities beyond the limits of terrestrial networks. Affordable public internet access points will be rolled out to enable broader participation, particularly among young people, in the digital economy.
82. Within Government, digital systems will be modernised, cyber security strengthened, and electronic platforms expanded to improve service delivery, transparency, and information sharing. Investments in digital skills for public servants will ensure that systems are secure, accessible, and responsive to the needs of citizens.
83. Through these measures, Government is broadening digital reach, reducing connectivity gaps, and enabling Basotho to participate fully in a modern, knowledge-based economy.
84. We aim for;
- Enhance access to digital infrastructure and service
 - Improvement of service delivery across government and private sector
 - Reduction of time and cost of transacting
 - Enhancing creativity, innovation and inclusion

Human Capital Development

85. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, sustained investment in human capital remains fundamental to long-term development. Government will

continue to improve education and skills development, expand technical and vocational training, and support entrepreneurship to equip Basotho with skills aligned to labour-market needs.

86. The health system will be strengthened to improve efficiency, quality, and access, including a review of tertiary healthcare delivery. Social protection systems will be modernised to better target and support vulnerable households, ensuring that growth is inclusive and that no Mosotho is left behind as the economy transforms.
87. In parallel, Government is placing renewed emphasis on nutrition as a foundational pillar of human capital development. Preventing stunting, malnutrition, and diet-related health conditions is essential to building healthy bodies, sharp minds, and a productive workforce. This Budget therefore prioritises early-life and community-based nutrition interventions, recognising that investments in nutrition yield some of the highest long-term social and economic returns.
88. Government will scale up preventive nutrition programmes, including maternal and child nutrition initiatives, school-based feeding, and community-level delivery mechanisms such as nutrition clubs. These platforms will be used to promote balanced diets, local food production, and nutrition education, particularly in rural and climate-vulnerable communities. By strengthening nutrition outcomes across the life cycle, Government is investing not only in better health, but in improved learning outcomes, higher productivity, and a more resilient future for Basotho.
89. Policy priorities in this area include:
 - Improving education outcomes and workforce skills
 - Maintaining social protection and economic inclusion programs
 - Reducing urban-rural inequality and supporting vulnerable groups.
 - Human capital development, enhancement and inclusion

Governance and Institutional Strengthening

90. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, good governance is a foundation for stability and sustainable development. The Government is committed to enhance capabilities of oversight institutions and facilitate the completion of constitutional reforms to adopt best practices for public financial management, local governance. Other focal areas include access to justice, crime prevention, and the effective delivery of public services.
91. ***Effective Parliament Oversight, an in particular preventative oversight requires the right interface between the legislature and the executive through creating an ecosystem that allows regular, effective and timely reporting. There is room to enhance rules within which public scrutiny happens to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.***
92. Furthermore, for Lesotho to position herself as a viable investment destination strong corporate governance norms and practices are vital to securing long term capital investment. Therefore, Governance instruments such as shareholder agreements, should receive special attention and be reviewed where necessary to secure the interests of the government. Leadership and quality technical training for different cadres will be our focus to improve policy development and service delivery.
93. Effective parliamentary oversight, particularly preventative oversight, depends on a well-functioning and transparent interface between the Legislature and the Executive. Government will therefore support reforms that promote regular, timely, and meaningful reporting, while strengthening the rules and procedures that govern public scrutiny to ensure that oversight is both efficient and impactful.
94. Complementing these reforms, targeted leadership development and technical training across key cadres will be prioritised to strengthen policy formulation, institutional performance, and service delivery across the public sector.

95. Furthermore, as Lesotho positions itself as a credible and competitive investment destination, strong corporate governance standards will remain essential for mobilising long-term capital. Government will review and strengthen governance instruments, including shareholder agreements and related frameworks, to safeguard public interests and improve the management of state participation in commercial entities.
96. Public Financial Management will remain a central pillar of Government's reform agenda in the 2026/27 financial year. Priority will be given to strengthening fiscal discipline, improving budget credibility, and ensuring that public resources are managed transparently, efficiently, and sustainably. Government will continue to modernise treasury operations through improved cash management, strengthened commitment controls, and enhanced expenditure oversight to prevent the accumulation of arrears. These reforms will be supported by the ongoing upgrading of financial management systems, strengthened internal audit and accountability mechanisms, and a renewed focus on linking budgets to results. Together, these measures will safeguard public finances, protect service delivery, and reinforce confidence in the stewardship of national resources.

IV. Sector Allocations: Economic Growth and Investment Promotion

97. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker,** a total of M1.8 billion is allocated to the Economic Growth and Job Creation sector to stimulate private sector activity, boost productivity, and expand employment opportunities.

Trade and Investment

98. An allocation of M437.4 million has been directed to Trade and Investment to strengthen economic competitiveness, expand market access, and support enterprise development across priority sectors. Resources will support market diversification across the European Union, United Kingdom, European Free Trade Association, African Continental Free Trade Area, Southern African Customs Union, and the Southern African Development Community.

99. Spending under this programme is structured around three priority areas: modern trade facilitation, economic diversification, and investment-climate strengthening, aimed at improving efficiency, reducing business costs, and expanding productive capacity.
100. Under trade facilitation, funding will support the operationalisation of the National Single Window for Trade, integrating ten Ministries into a unified digital platform. Border modernisation investments at Maseru Bridge, Ficksburg, and Qacha's Nek will improve logistics efficiency and regional competitiveness. Free business registration and the digital licensing system will lower entry barriers for entrepreneurs.
101. For economic diversification, allocations will support industrial development in Maseru and Leribe, the Maseru Apparel and Textile Hub, and the establishment of three new industrial hubs for cosmetics, essential oils, and spices. Investments in horticulture and poultry, valued at M2.5 billion, will be facilitated to strengthen food security and domestic production. Entrepreneurship support will continue through BEDCO, the Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion Facility, and the Lesotho Enterprise Assistance Programme.
102. To expand trade in services, funding will support implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade in Services, including skills preparation for Basotho professionals in information technology, education, finance, and health.
103. To strengthen the investment climate, allocations will support finalisation of the Special Economic Zones Bill, completion of sector strategies for textiles, apparel, and automotive manufacturing, and continued construction of the Standards and Quality Infrastructure building. Development finance instruments, including partial credit guarantees, supply-chain finance, quasi-equity instruments, the Inclusive Growth Facility, and the Co-operative Development Fund, will support Basotho-owned enterprises and community-based economic activity.

Agriculture

104. An allocation of M1.1 billion has been earmarked for Agriculture to strengthen food security, raise productivity, and support sustainable farming systems. Expenditure in 2026/27 will prioritise food production, irrigation development, livestock protection, and the strengthening of key agricultural value chains.
105. To improve crop production, Government will support share-cropping blocks through subsidised agricultural machinery, including equipment procured from China and the Republic of Korea, to expand cultivated land and improve efficiency. The Maseru Storage and Logistics Facility will be fully operationalised to strengthen national grain reserves and post-harvest management.
106. To support climate-resilient agriculture, Government will establish irrigation schemes at a minimum of eight sites to stabilise production, reduce dependence on rainfall, and enable year-round farming across priority crop zones.
107. To safeguard livestock, allocations will finance a free national vaccination programme targeting Sheep Scab and Anthrax, strengthened border biosecurity controls, and preparatory works toward establishment of a National Animal Diagnostic Laboratory.
108. In the wool and mohair subsector, funding will support continuation of the Merino Breeding Programme and upgrading of the Quthing Artificial Insemination Facility, including installation of a Liquid Nitrogen Plant, to improve fibre quality, productivity, and rural incomes.

Tourism, Culture and Sports

109. An allocation of M288.7 million has been provided to the Tourism, Culture and Sports sector to expand tourism offerings, preserve national heritage, and strengthen sports development. In 2026/27, spending will prioritise tourism infrastructure, destination marketing, and heritage protection, including commencement of accommodation facilities in Ha Kome and

Semonkong, rollout of a national tourism brand campaign, engagement of tourism ambassadors, and enhanced digital marketing, alongside resources for the finalisation and enactment of the Tourism Act to modernise the sector's regulatory framework.

110. To support growth in tourism, culture, and sports, Government has prioritised high-impact investments within the sector. M150 million has been allocated for sports infrastructure to upgrade key facilities and expand access to quality sporting amenities nationwide. In addition, M55 million has been provided for tourism promotion, cultural development, marketing, and tourism asset development, aimed at strengthening destination visibility, preserving heritage, and enhancing the quality and competitiveness of Lesotho's tourism offering.

Human Capital Development

111. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, the Human Capital Development sector receives M8.1 billion to strengthen education, health, skills development, and social welfare programmes, ensuring a capable, healthy, and socially supported population.

Education

112. An allocation of M3.5 billion has been provided to Education to improve learning outcomes, expand access, and advance critical sector reforms. In 2026/27, Government will prioritise curriculum reform, strengthening technical and vocational education, and expanding early learning and basic education, supported by investments in classrooms, laboratories, workshops, modern equipment, and teacher training for the new three-tier curriculum. Resources are also allocated to improve governance and quality assurance through strengthened school management, faster infrastructure delivery, expanded digital learning, improved learning materials, and modernised education data systems, to ensure a more equitable, resilient, and labour-market-responsive education system.

Health Services

113. An allocation of M3.1 billion has been provided to the Health sector to strengthen service delivery, improve healthcare infrastructure, and enhance population well-being. In 2026/27, Government will intensify reforms anchored on Primary Health Care, focusing on stronger community-based services, prevention, and a more responsive health system, including improved maternal and child health, expanded immunisation and community health services, elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and strengthened environmental health covering water, sanitation, food safety, and climate-health actions. Resources will also modernise the national referral system, strengthen prevention and management of communicable diseases, advance establishment of Lesotho's Medical School through accreditation, infrastructure and equipment, and reinforce disease surveillance and emergency preparedness, supported by improved health data systems and operationalisation of the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre.

Infrastructure Development Priorities

114. An allocation of M6.5 billion has been directed toward Infrastructure Development Priorities to accelerate national development, modernise critical public assets, and support economic growth through improved connectivity, service delivery, and resilience.

Information, Communication and Technology (ICT)

115. An allocation of M386.4 million has been provided to the ICT sector to advance digital transformation and expand access to modern technological services. Funding will prioritise expansion of connectivity to underserved areas, upgrading ICT infrastructure in public institutions, partnerships with satellite service providers to reach remote communities, rollout of affordable public internet access points, and modernisation of Government digital systems, including strengthened cyber security, expanded e-platforms, and digital skills development for public servants.

Energy

116. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, an allocation of M1.7 billion has been designated for the Energy sector to strengthen energy security, expand access, and support sustainable power generation. In 2026/27, Government will intensify investment in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure, guided by the National Energy Compact, to accelerate universal access to affordable and reliable energy. Resources will, among other initiatives, support expansion of generation capacity through additional solar and hydropower projects, upgrading of substations, establishment of strategic fuel reserves, continued grid expansion, deployment of mini-grids and solar home systems, upgrading of rural networks, and electrification to support industrial and economic development, while mobilising private-sector participation and strengthening financing mechanisms. Complementing these investments, multi-year programmes, including Renewable Lesotho, will continue expanding green mini-grids, solar-powered water solutions, improved cookstoves, and off-grid electrification through 2028, reinforcing energy resilience and supporting climate-resilient and inclusive growth.

Water

117. The Water sector has been allocated M2.4 billion to enhance water security, improve supply systems, and strengthen resource management. Funding will support expansion of Integrated Catchment Management under the ReNOKA Project, construction of 17 new rural water systems across all districts, maintenance of village water schemes, and implementation of climate-resilient water and sanitation investments. Under the Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project Phase II and III, allocations will support completion and expansion of water distribution networks, transmission pipelines, reservoirs, pumping stations, and construction of 1,027 sanitation facilities, increasing national water coverage.

Roads and Buildings

118. A total of M2.1 billion has been allocated to Roads and Buildings to strengthen national connectivity and upgrade critical infrastructure. Funding will support construction and rehabilitation of asphalt and gravel roads

across districts, commencement of strategic projects including the Katse–Thaba-Tseka Road and the Tebelloong vehicular bridge, initiation of new road works, feasibility studies, rehabilitation of priority corridors, and procurement for railway rehabilitation.

119. Allocations will also support completion of bus terminals, community council offices, police stations, aviation infrastructure upgrades at Moshoeshoe I International Airport, waste management facilities, fire services infrastructure, maintenance of Government buildings and housing, and implementation of community-based climate resilience projects under the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility.

Governance and Institutional Strengthening

120. An allocation of M9.7 billion has been designated for Governance and Institutional Strengthening to enhance public sector efficiency, reinforce accountability systems, and support institutional reforms.

Advancing Security, Good Governance, and Economic Diplomacy

121. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker, Economic transformation cannot** be sustained without security, good governance and national resilience. Investment, enterprise and service delivery depend on a stable environment, trusted institutions and the capacity to manage risk, whether fiscal, climatic or security related. The measures I now outline are therefore integral to safeguarding the economic gains envisaged in this Budget.
122. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker,** as part of our commitment to Governance and Institutional Strengthening, Government will undertake a comprehensive review of allowances for Chiefs to ensure that their remuneration is aligned with their expanding responsibilities in community leadership and local administration. Strengthening traditional leadership remains a key pillar in enhancing governance effectiveness and social cohesion. In the security sector, Government will further prioritise the intake of new recruits into the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) to bolster law-enforcement capacity, improve public safety, and ensure adequate staffing to meet emerging security demands across the country.

123. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, the military has increased deployment across high-crime areas such as Mokotakoti, Mokhotlong, Matsieng, Peka, Fobane, Khubelu, Matelile, Berea and Rothe. This heightened presence has improved public safety, reassured communities and contributed to a reduction in violent crime. With enhanced training, upgraded infrastructure and strengthened personnel development, security challenges will be further mitigated.
124. To promote stability and curb corrupt practices, Government will reinforce national early-warning and intelligence systems and intensify efforts to prevent terrorism and related activities. Cyber-attacks persistently threaten people, companies, and governments globally. In response, Government will strengthen national cyber security by protecting public systems, financial platforms and critical economic infrastructure against cyber-attacks, fraud and data breaches.
125. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, Lesotho will not retreat. We will strengthen our resilience and assert our economic sovereignty. Government is pursuing a more vigorous approach to economic diplomacy, transforming foreign policy into a strategic instrument for national economic security. Our missions abroad will become frontline agents for investment promotion, trade facilitation and the building of new strategic partnerships.
126. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, to protect financial sector integrity and comply with FATF standards, Lesotho will embark on a National Risk Assessment (NRA) to identify, assess, and understand specific money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF) risks. Gaps in systems, including those in the registration and monitoring operations of legal persons, virtual assets, and corruption will also be identified. A Risk-Based Approach will be used to develop and implement a programme of action to address areas where vulnerabilities are highest to prevent laundering of money and prioritize resource allocation accordingly.

Statistics and planning systems

127. Strengthening of national Statistical systems remains paramount for evidence-based policy making. The population Census to be undertaken in

April/May this year will provide valuable information about the whole population to assess how the quality of life is changing and informs policy making on what needs to be improved as well as review of priorities and infuse geographical considerations. It also comes at an opportune time when the performance review of NSDP is due and National Vision 2066 is under development. A think tank is to be established by End of April to undertake analytical work and possible scenarios that can set Lesotho on a higher economic growth trajectory and position Lesotho on a sustainable long-term development path and exploit the industrial revolution as well as beneficial integration into global markets.

Anticorruption and Institutional Reforms

128. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, the Directorate will strengthen anticorruption and institutional reform measures in the upcoming financial year with an allocation of M70.8 million. This will include expanding public awareness programmes, conduct corruption risk assessments and integrity audits, and enhance investigative and prosecutorial capacity. The Directorate will enforce asset declaration requirements and lifestyle audits to promote transparency and accountability. A national corruption typology study will be undertaken to inform targeted interventions and guide policy reform. In addition, technological systems will be upgraded to improve operational efficiency and reduce vulnerabilities to cyber-related threats.

Cross-Cutting Issues

129. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, the Cross-Cutting Issues portfolio receives M508.6 million.

Youth Development and Empowerment

130. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, Youth development and empowerment have been allocated M124.3 million. When this Government declared youth unemployment a National State of Disaster in mid-2025, it was not merely a symbolic gesture. It was a recognition that we cannot build a stable future while our most energetic asset, our youth, remains on the

side lines. Government continued to intensify its strategic partnerships with all stakeholders to join forces to address the unemployment crisis.

131. In collaboration with our development partners, we rolled the Power Hub Initiative that seeks to establish dedicated youth innovation centers in every district, starting with Berea and Quthing in 2026/27. These hubs will provide market-aligned training in digital coding, agro-processing and high-end textiles (linked to the ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative).
132. On the other hand, the National Volunteer Corps (NVC) has been scaled as a frontline for bridging the *"no job without experience"* gap. For 2026/27, we are increasing the budget for the NVC to allow for an additional 2,500 placements for unemployed graduates. This initiative also has a host-partner incentive where the government subsidizes 50% of the stipend for any private firm that hosts an NVC volunteer for a minimum of 12 months, with a pathway to permanent employment.
133. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, to ensure immediate relief, the Youth Apprenticeship and Public Works Programme is being revived and scaled. A mandate has been issued that at least 40% of the labor force on all government-funded infrastructure projects, including the LHWP-II secondary roads, must be recruited from the local youth population. These participants will not just earn a wage but will receive trade certifications that enable them to compete for future regional construction projects.
134. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, financial investment is only half of the equation. To truly address the "National Disaster" of youth unemployment, we must move from *ad hoc* programs to a permanent, legally binding institutional framework. I am pleased to announce that for the 2026/27 fiscal year, the government has prioritized the finalization and enactment of the National Youth Development Bill. This Act will legally establish the National Youth Council (NYC) as the supreme coordinating body for all youth-led organizations and initiatives within the country. The Council will not only advocate for youth interests but will serve as a regulatory body to ensure that youth-focused programs - including the NVC and CAFI - are meeting their performance targets.

135. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, the era of "nothing for the youth without the youth" starts now. Once enacted, the Youth Development Act will mandate, among other things, the inclusion of youth representatives on the boards of public institutions and agencies that deal with youth-centric issues, from education to sports and trade. We indeed have moved from declaring a disaster to delivering a solution. To the youth of Lesotho: *this budget is your invitation to the workshop of national development. The tools are now in your hand.*
136. The Inclusive Growth Facility is already demonstrating its ability to translate policy intent into tangible economic impact within a single fiscal year. Through our partnership with First National Bank Lesotho, Government has operationalised a M100 million guaranteed on-lending structure under the IGF, enabling the Bank to deploy its own balance sheet in support of priority productive sectors, particularly textiles and apparel, while prudently managing risk.
137. On the strength of this structure, tailored financial products were developed and taken to market within the same financial year. As a result, an active financing pipeline now exceeds M200 million in assessed demand, spanning working capital, machinery acquisition, logistics expansion, and factory upgrades. This pipeline, already under credit assessment and early deployment, has the potential to stabilise existing employment and unlock further job creation as production scales.
138. That Government was able, within one fiscal year, to design the facility, structure risk-sharing instruments, partner with a commercial bank, go to market, and commence disbursement reflects a new level of institutional agility and delivery capability. Alongside this, Government has allocated M300 million to a dedicated IGF window through Lesotho PostBank, focused predominantly on small and emerging enterprises across a broader range of productive sectors, where a strong pipeline of SME financing is already under consideration.
139. Over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, Government will scale this model by extending IGF risk-sharing arrangements to additional commercial

banks and development finance institutions, broadening sectoral coverage and deepening access to finance while crowding in private capital in support of inclusive growth.

Climate Resilience and Sustainability

140. Climate adaptation and green development remain central to strengthening national resilience and ensuring sustainable development across all sectors. Last year, Lesotho hosted the 2025 International Wool and Textile Organisation Wool Round Table, reaffirming our commitment to sustainable rangeland management. Through this work, 2,892 hectares were restored to support rural livelihoods. Despite ongoing climate-driven land degradation, we rehabilitated 59,909 hectares and continued expanding forest cover through the revived Green Recovery Initiative.
141. To reduce urban pollution, Government introduced the plastic levy in December 2024. Revenue from this levy will, among other interventions, finance the construction of buy-back centres in Maseru and Maputsoe, to promote recycling, create income opportunities, and support a cleaner and greener Lesotho.

Disaster Risk Financing

142. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker**, in 2026/27, the Government will strengthen Disaster Risk Management by accelerating the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and completing the National Resilience Strategic Framework to guide coordinated resilience actions across all sectors. Disaster Risk Management working groups will be revived at all levels to improve coordination and preparedness.
143. The National Early Warning Strategy will be updated to strengthen hazard forecasting and community alert systems, alongside the undertaking of comprehensive hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments to inform safer development planning and improve support to households at risk. In parallel, financial preparedness will be reinforced through continued participation in the Africa Risk Capacity mechanism.

V. Conclusion

144. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker,** this budget is grounded in a simple but profound conviction: the future prosperity of our nation depends on our ability to transform our economic structure and unlock the productive potential of our people - ho lokolla bokhoni bo felleletseng ba Basotho.
145. From the global shocks we face, through the fiscal choices we make, to the reforms we implement and the investments we prioritise, this Budget has followed a single logic: resilience built through discipline, inclusion driven by opportunity, and growth enabled by digital and institutional transformation. These are not slogans. They are the organising principles of the 2026/27 Budget and the pathway to a stronger, more self-reliant Lesotho.
146. We have chosen a path that prioritises resilience over vulnerability, productivity over dependence, and opportunity over stagnation. We have chosen to place enterprise at the centre of growth, to invest in infrastructure that expands possibility, and to strengthen institutions that support long-term development - ho aha metheo ea ntlafatso ea moshoelella.
147. **Hon. President; Right Hon. Speaker;** as we conclude this Budget Speech, let me reaffirm, with absolute clarity, the central message of the 2026/27 Budget: this is not a Budget of hesitation; it is a Budget of action. It is built to stabilise our economy, reform our institutions, and unlock inclusive growth for every Mosotho. It is a call to strengthen national resilience, modernise our systems, and confront our challenges with the courage and confidence they demand.
148. The journey ahead will not be without difficulty. Structural transformation requires discipline, persistence, and collective resolve - It demands that we manage our public finances responsibly, implement reforms consistently, and maintain the confidence of citizens and investors alike.
149. This is the moment for Lesotho to choose boldness over comfort, discipline over complacency, and progress over stagnation. The direction we take from here will define the legacy of this Parliament and the future of our nation.

We cannot allow another generation of Basotho to wait for the economic potential of this nation to be fully realised. Re ke ke ra lumela hore bana ba rona ba emele bokamoso bo neng bo ka ahoa ke rona kajeno.

150. For the public service remuneration, it is proposed that the 2026/27 salaries and wages be adjusted by 2 percent across-the-board. The tax credit and thresholds will be adjusted accordingly to partially offset the effects of inflation, protect lower and middle-income earner from bracket creep and sustain fairness with the tax system while preserving revenue stability.
151. **Hon. Members,** it is with deep humility that I thank this august House for the time and attention granted to present this Budget. But humility must walk hand in hand with determination. The decisions we make together in this House must reflect the urgency of the moment and the aspirations of the Basotho people who trust us with their future.
152. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his steadfast leadership, and to my colleagues in Cabinet for their partnership and collective resolve. I also thank all ministries, agencies, and departments whose hard work and technical expertise shaped the foundations of this Budget.
153. To the dedicated staff of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, your discipline, analytical rigour, and sacrifice made it possible to deliver a credible and forward-looking Budget. Kea le leboha.
154. My appreciation also extends to our development partners, civil society, the private sector, traditional leaders, and every Mosotho who contributes to our national progress.

KHOTSO! PULA! NALA!

ANNEX I					
GOVERNMENT BUDGET OPERATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 - 2028/2029					
Budget Item	Actual 2024/25	Projection 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	Budget 2027/28	Budget 2028/29
REVENUE	27,696.6	27,147.2	29,611.2	32,027.0	34,623.9
Tax revenue	10,433.4	10,741.0	11,138.7	11,720.5	12,156.4
Taxes on income, profits, and capital gains	5,188.6	5,426.3	5,741.6	5,947.7	6,096.3
Income tax - payable by individuals	3,178.8	3,425.7	3,541.8	3,672.2	3,766.2
Income tax - payable by corporations and other enterprises	1,121.9	1,058.0	1,112.5	1,145.7	1,169.6
Income tax - other	887.8	942.5	1,087.3	1,129.8	1,160.6
Taxes on goods and services	5,244.1	5,311.4	5,396.1	5,771.8	6,059.1
Value-added tax	4,309.4	4,284.9	4,666.5	5,009.9	5,266.5
Excise taxes	920.0	1,015.8	674.8	706.1	735.0
Taxes on specific services	14.6	10.7	33.2	34.6	35.7
Taxes on the use of goods and on permission to use or perform activities			21.7	21.2	21.9
Grants	1,440.1	1,780.8	2,656.6	1,523.9	1,293.6
Other revenue	4,273.8	5,445.2	5,747.7	7,370.2	9,177.7
Property income	1,094.2	351.3	421.4	422.1	437.7
Dividends	271.5	251.7	223.9	230.6	237.2
Rent	512.5	93.3	163.7	161.9	170.0
Sales of goods and services	3,122.3	5,060.9	5,288.1	6,914.0	8,702.1
Electricity Muela	28.3	50.9	69.8	73.3	77.0
Water Royalties - LHDA	2,897.7	4,778.0	4,953.4	6,439.5	8,371.3
Administrative fees	48.8	46.1	61.5	51.2	34.9
Incidental sales by nonmarket establishments	147.5	186.0	203.2	350.0	218.9
Fines & forfeits	5.8	22.1	8.0	5.5	8.3
Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue	51.5	10.8	30.3	28.7	29.7
SACU	11,549.2	9,180.2	10,068.2	11,412.3	11,996.1
EXPENSE (Statutory + Non Statutory + Salary Increase)	18,125.7	19,267.8	21,942.0	21,408.1	22,407.4
Compensation of Employees	7,519.3	7,651.7	8,636.6	8,926.5	9,053.8
Wages and salaries	6,747.9	6,891.4	7,862.5	7,992.6	8,119.8
Use of goods and services	2,850.0	3,298.3	4,884.4	4,277.2	4,810.2
Interest Payments	857.9	1,074.1	873.2	916.9	921.4
Nonresidents	339.5	494.0	375.3	394.1	396.0
Residents other than general government	518.4	580.1	497.9	522.8	525.4
Subsidies	759.0	606.0	569.8	524.9	638.8
Grants to international organisations	195.8	50.5	65.4	110.4	111.6
Grants to other general government units	2,051.0	2,298.3	2,463.7	2,060.9	2,022.9
Social benefits	2,322.3	2,516.1	2,646.6	2,673.5	2,924.7
Other expense	1,570.5	1,772.9	1,802.3	1,917.9	1,923.9
Student Grants	1,279.6	1,202.7	1,384.7	1,446.9	1,456.5
Other	290.9	570.1	417.6	471.0	467.4
Capital Budget	5,401.8	6,437.7	9,029.9	9,237.4	8,697.7
GoL	2,339.0	3,580.9	3,708.8	4,497.0	4,834.0
Donor Grants	1,160.0	1,376.1	2,222.3	1,081.4	838.8
Donor Loans	1,902.8	1,480.7	3,098.8	3,659.0	3,024.9
CASH SURPLUS / DEFICIT	4,169.1	1,441.8	-1,360.7	1,381.4	3,518.8
% GDP	9.5%	3.2%	-3.0%	2.9%	7.0%
GDP	44103.5	45098.8	45779.9	47249.5	50148.2

* Use of goods and services incorporates arrears payment of M947.3m

ANNEX II					
GOVERNMENT BUDGET OPERATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 - 2028/2029 [% of GDP]					
Budget Item	Actual 2024/25	Projectio n 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	Budget 2027/28	Budget 2028/29
REVENUE	62.8%	60.2%	64.7%	67.8%	69.0%
Tax revenue	23.7%	23.8%	24.3%	24.8%	24.2%
Taxes on income, profits, and capital gains	11.8%	12.0%	12.5%	12.6%	12.2%
Income tax - payable by individuals	7.2%	7.6%	7.7%	7.8%	7.5%
Income tax - payable by corporations and other enterprises	2.5%	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%	2.3%
Income tax - other	2.0%	2.1%	2.4%	2.4%	2.3%
Taxes on goods and services	11.9%	11.8%	11.8%	12.2%	12.1%
Value-added tax	9.8%	9.5%	10.2%	10.6%	10.5%
Excise taxes	2.1%	2.3%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Taxes on specific services	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Taxes on the use of goods and on permission to use or perform activities	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Grants	3.3%	3.9%	5.8%	3.2%	2.6%
Other revenue	9.7%	12.1%	12.6%	15.6%	18.3%
Property income	2.5%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
Dividends	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Rent	1.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Sales of goods and services	7.1%	11.2%	11.6%	14.6%	17.4%
Electricity Muela	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Water Royalties - LHDA	6.6%	10.6%	10.8%	13.6%	16.7%
Administrative fees	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Incidental sales by nonmarket establishments	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%
Fines & forfeits	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
SACU	26.2%	20.4%	22.0%	24.2%	23.9%
EXPENSE (Statutory + Non Statutory + Salary Increase)	41.1%	42.7%	47.9%	45.3%	44.7%
Compensation of Employees	17.0%	17.0%	18.9%	18.9%	18.1%
Wages and salaries	15.3%	15.3%	17.2%	16.9%	16.2%
Use of goods and services	6.5%	7.3%	10.7%	9.1%	9.6%
Interest Payments	1.9%	2.4%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%
Nonresidents	0.8%	1.1%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Residents other than general government	1.2%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
Subsidies	1.7%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.3%
Grants to international organisations	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Grants to other general government units	4.7%	5.1%	5.4%	4.4%	4.0%
Social benefits	5.3%	5.6%	5.8%	5.7%	5.8%
Other expense	3.6%	3.9%	3.9%	4.1%	3.8%
Student Grants	2.9%	2.7%	3.0%	3.1%	2.9%
Other	0.7%	1.3%	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%
Capital Budget	12.2%	14.3%	19.7%	19.6%	17.3%
GoL	5.3%	7.9%	8.1%	9.5%	9.6%
Donor Grants	2.6%	3.1%	4.9%	2.3%	1.7%
Donor Loans	4.3%	3.3%	6.8%	7.7%	6.0%
CASH SURPLUS / DEFICIT	9.5%	3.2%	-3.0%	2.9%	7.0%
% GDP					
GDP					

ANNEX III			
ANNUAL % CHANGE IN REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES			
Budget Item	Budget 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	% Change
REVENUE	28,590.5	29,611.2	3.6%
Tax revenue	9,948.3	11,138.7	12.0%
Taxes on income, profits, and capital gains	5,194.3	5,741.6	10.5%
Income tax - payable by individuals	3,113.2	3,541.8	13.8%
Income tax - payable by corporations and other enterprises	1,107.3	1,112.5	0.5%
Income tax - other	973.8	1,087.3	11.7%
Taxes on goods and services	6,034.5	5,396.1	-10.6%
Value-added tax	5,014.8	4,666.5	-6.9%
Excise taxes	964.2	674.8	-30.0%
Taxes on specific services	35.8	33.2	-7.3%
Taxes on the use of goods and on permission to use or perform activities	19.7	21.7	9.8%
Grants	3,489.4	2,656.6	-23.9%
Other revenue	5,972.9	5,747.7	-3.8%
Property income	695.5	421.4	-39.4%
Dividends	270.7	223.9	-17.3%
Rent	403.3	163.7	-59.4%
Sales of goods and services	5,271.7	5,288.1	0.3%
Electricity Muela	69.8	69.8	0.0%
Water Royalties - LHDA	4,953.4	4,953.4	0.0%
Administrative fees	62.6	61.5	-1.8%
Incidental sales by nonmarket establishments	185.8	203.2	9.4%
Fines & forfeits	5.3	8.0	49.4%
Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue	0.3	30.3	9669.7%
SACU	9,179.9	10,068.2	9.7%
EXPENSE (Statutory + Non Statutory + Salary Increase)	20,298.2	21,942.0	8.1%
Compensation of Employees	8,157.2	8,636.6	5.9%
Wages and salaries	7,398.4	7,862.5	6.3%
Use of goods and services	4,498.8	4,884.4	8.6%
Interest Payments	1,084.0	873.2	-19.4%
Nonresidents	494.6	375.3	-24.1%
Residents other than general government	589.4	497.9	-15.5%
Subsidies	518.9	569.8	9.8%
Grants to international organisations	53.4	65.4	22.5%
Grants to other general government units	1,981.3	2,463.7	24.3%
Social benefits	2,520.2	2,646.6	5.0%
Other expense	1,484.5	1,802.3	21.4%
Capital Budget	10,690.9	9,029.9	-15.5%
GoL	4,288.6	3,708.8	-13.5%
Donor Grants	3,084.6	2,222.3	-28.0%
Donor Loans	3,317.6	3,098.8	-6.6%
CASH SURPLUS / DEFICIT	-1,117.4	-1,360.7	21.8%
% GDP	-2.5%	-3.0%	20.4%

ANNEX IV					
GOVERNMENT BUDGET OPERATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 - 2028/2029					
Budget Item	Actual 2024/25	Projection 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	Budget 2027/28	Budget 2028/29
REVENUE	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Tax revenue	38%	40%	38%	37%	35%
Taxes on income, profits, and capital gains	19%	20%	19%	19%	18%
Income tax - payable by individuals	11%	13%	12%	11%	11%
Income tax - payable by corporations and other enterprises	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%
Income tax - other	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%
Taxes on goods and services	19%	20%	18%	18%	17%
Value-added tax	16%	16%	16%	16%	15%
Excise taxes	3%	4%	2%	2%	2%
Taxes on specific services	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Taxes on the use of goods and on permission to use or perform activities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Grants	5%	7%	9%	5%	4%
Other revenue	15%	20%	19%	23%	27%
Property income	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Dividends	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Rent	2%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Sales of goods and services	11%	19%	18%	22%	25%
Electricity Muela	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Water Royalties - LHDA	10%	18%	17%	20%	24%
Administrative fees	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Incidental sales by nonmarket establishments	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Fines & forfeits	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
SACU	42%	34%	34%	36%	35%
EXPENSE (Statutory + Non Statutory + Salary Increase)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Compensation of Employees	65%	83%	86%	78%	75%
Wages and salaries	58%	75%	78%	70%	68%
Use of goods and services	25%	36%	49%	37%	40%
Interest Payments	7%	12%	9%	8%	8%
Nonresidents	3%	5%	4%	3%	3%
Residents other than general government	4%	6%	5%	5%	4%
Subsidies	7%	7%	6%	5%	5%
Grants to international organisations	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Grants to other general government units	18%	25%	24%	18%	17%
Social benefits	20%	27%	26%	23%	24%
Other expense	14%	19%	18%	17%	16%
Student Grants	11%	13%	14%	13%	12%
Other	3%	6%	4%	4%	4%
Capital Budget	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
GoL	43%	56%	41%	49%	56%
Donor Grants	21%	21%	25%	12%	10%
Donor Loans	35%	23%	34%	40%	35%

REVENUE BUDGET ESTIMATES					
MINISTRIES	Total Expenditure 2025/2026	Approved Budget Estimates 2025/2026	Proposed Budget Estimates 2026/2027	Projections 2027/2028	Projections 2028/2029
RECURRENT REVENUE					
301 - Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition	58,981,108	58,826,148	72,888,499	124,037,497	87,312,794
302 - Health	9,429,160	21,312,786	20,866,690	19,741,828	20,114,986
303 - Education and Training	3,975,529	2,786,900	3,966,440	4,011,440	4,211,440
304 - Finance and Development Planning	17,676,010,739	20,731,536,705	21,746,110,671	24,435,385,409	25,494,327,732
305 - Trade, Industry and Business Development	8,896,348	12,727,548	5,625,272	5,484,272	4,899,272
306 - Gender, Youth and Social Development	41,590	1,284,678	366,435	403,663	442,267
307 - Law and Justice	1,102,321	3,960,800	3,994,960	4,116,100	4,105,500
308 - Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police	41,660,063	35,188,784	43,433,116	33,772,885	16,728,279
309 - Prime Minister's Office	32,791	-	58,400	60,600	61,700
310 - Information, Communications, Technology & Innovation	2,743,621	14,796,513	7,018,205	7,018,205	6,988,225
311 - Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences	88,389	89,400	158,000	159,200	160,460
312 - Foreign Affairs and International Relations	73,052	1,258,800	1,223,600	1,074,780	1,307,204
313 - Public Works and Transport	29,894,990	36,636,888	35,935,087	36,587,838	36,969,545
314 - Environment and Forestry	157,617	483,700	503,700	510,734	914,953
315 - Natural Resources	3,784,404,463	5,359,410,133	5,118,631,627	6,602,749,131	8,542,925,103
316 - Labour and Employment	4,955,047	7,014,418	3,556,307	3,556,307	3,556,307
317 - Judiciary	24,430,133	6,079,981	7,949,028	4,064,928	8,308,046
318 - Independent Electoral Commission	444,554	1,350,004	1,263,200	2,170,000	859,001
319 - His Majesty's Office	5,854	-	9,500	9,500	9,500
320 - Public Service Commission	5,995	-	7,200	7,560	7,938
323 - Pensions and Gratuities	34,466	-	-	-	-
324 - Statutory Salaries and Allowances	1,928	-	2,568	2,568	2,568
335 - National Security Services	59,315	-	72,240	74,568	75,720
336 - Disaster Management Authority	6,972	-	40,000	-	-
337 - Defence	739,488	858,500	1,281,900	1,351,565	1,513,565
338 - National Assembly	59,084	-	-	-	-
339 - Senate	3,762	-	11,085	11,085	11,085
340 - Ombudsman	2,817	-	5,400	5,400	5,400
341 - Energy	371,103,011	581,549,639	554,949,640	580,999,269	607,229,113
342 - Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture	2,877,417	4,313,350	4,506,595	4,680,015	5,361,049
343 - Public Service	6,517,922	7,136,162	7,613,804	9,100,248	10,172,624
Grand Total	22,028,739,545	26,888,601,836	27,642,049,169	31,881,146,596	34,858,581,376
DEVELOPMENT REVENUE	-	3,084,712,585	1,775,760,301	745,503,760	468,587,243
301 - Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition	-	134,341,142	87,471,201	-	-
302 - Health	-	288,607,683	656,406,248	282,589,232	-
303 - Education and Training	-	169,917,069	17,260,160	5,000,000	5,000,000
304 - Finance and Development Planning	-	1,501,514,064	411,085,739	-	-
305 - Trade, Industry and Business Development	-	17,026,560	-	-	-
306 - Gender, Youth and Social Development	-	5,000,000	3,000,000	-	-
308 - Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Poli	-	113,265,244	160,500,000	86,300,000	86,300,000
313 - Public Works and Transport	-	300,000,000	300,000,000	300,000,000	300,000,000
314 - Environment and Forestry	-	66,816,489	26,450,030	19,849,822	20,346,067
315 - Natural Resources	-	296,897,029	96,711,484	51,764,706	56,941,176
341 - Energy	-	191,327,305	16,875,439	-	-
Total Development Revenue	-	3,084,712,585	1,775,760,301	745,503,760	468,587,243
Grand Total	22,028,739,545	29,973,314,421	29,417,809,470	32,626,650,356	35,327,168,619

Ministries and Sub-Head	Total Expenditure 2025/2026	Approved Budget Estimates 2025/2026	Proposed Budget Estimates 2026/2027	Projections 2027/2028	Projections 2028/2029
301 - Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition	448,912,138	578,125,672	548,935,673	417,759,117	350,039,759
302 - Health	2,248,878,367	2,434,527,265	2,695,155,665	2,247,144,446	2,379,194,496
303 - Education and Training	2,814,270,289	3,076,548,715	3,319,070,694	1,068,447,593	1,142,994,199
304 - Finance and Development Planning	2,373,826,259	2,786,181,860	3,920,785,256	2,838,063,055	2,944,485,639
305 - Trade, Industry and Business Development	96,501,593	115,661,808	115,378,865	65,870,343	18,558,706
306 - Gender, Youth and Social Development	1,188,231,550	1,381,626,522	1,480,873,657	426,858,992	460,074,138
307 - Law and Justice	332,457,678	368,576,674	398,278,445	153,730,449	138,629,641
308 - Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police	1,502,103,038	1,893,575,794	2,144,627,448	938,673,133	913,966,633
309 - Prime Minister's Office	228,938,127	269,276,764	276,475,515	207,481,377	207,579,535
310 - Information, Communications, Technology & Innovation	180,490,746	251,650,503	264,695,313	214,762,152	220,407,661
311 - Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences	52,148,462	69,765,539	70,751,553	46,384,425	46,667,536
312 - Foreign Affairs and International Relations	61,916,160	483,505,894	547,624,931	524,922,124	546,236,896
313 - Public Works and Transport	199,325,036	220,056,534	260,664,854	191,611,726	193,614,447
314 - Environment and Forestry	96,645,562	140,207,928	151,956,240	94,735,074	99,117,081
315 - Natural Resources	569,550,414	730,637,196	659,773,877	471,392,274	483,640,094
316 - Labour and Employment	68,752,253	82,285,670	78,894,412	54,125,515	60,926,046
317 - Judiciary	149,385,793	163,508,119	210,091,939	125,562,981	663,207,863
318 - Independent Electoral Commission	105,153,305	139,258,808	115,460,376	127,933,887	127,933,886
319 - His Majesty's Office	14,768,003	17,735,110	26,990,195	18,164,875	18,526,299
320 - Public Service Commission	11,630,583	15,391,683	16,119,842	9,566,021	9,735,598
321 - Public Debt	2,246,456,241	3,593,022,778	2,989,212,754	3,138,680,742	3,154,374,140
323 - Pensions and Gratuities	1,243,575,047	1,629,720,093	1,632,036,477	1,991,998,892	1,991,998,892
324 - Statutory Salaries and Allowances	37,055,413	53,051,049	61,637,304	60,765,177	60,795,409
325 - Subscriptions to International Organisations	129,516,168	175,872,074	202,902,000	236,685,057	255,619,862
326 - Refunds to Erroneous Receipts	595,089	2,268,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
331 - Contingencies Fund	-	955,684,354	300,000,000	300,000,000	300,000,000
335 - National Security Services	120,982,282	138,090,450	129,786,370	46,090,447	40,978,842
336 - Disaster Management Authority	68,184,308	75,606,994	82,648,374	84,532,677	84,677,078
337 - Defence	658,305,372	735,017,459	868,896,118	434,596,516	470,768,777
338 - National Assembly	112,649,956	141,085,756	175,132,732	94,790,029	79,067,710
339 - Senate	28,983,523	37,850,556	47,316,477	31,552,346	30,103,883
340 - Ombudsman	9,969,410	14,346,709	16,517,994	9,133,220	9,665,165
341 - Energy	21,309,825	25,659,976	23,593,529	13,097,393	13,937,247
342 - Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture	85,703,938	93,360,134	158,779,102	76,924,091	77,243,326
343 - Public Service	67,629,796	77,088,637	88,543,609	52,955,611	51,028,609
Grand Total	17,574,801,723	22,965,829,078	24,099,607,589	16,834,991,759	17,665,795,092

CAPITAL ESTIMATES BY SOURCE OF FUNDING			
Row Labels	DONOR GRANTS	DONOR LOANS	GOL CAPX
301 - Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition	87,471,201	362,043,755	38,943,000
302 - Health	316,872,380	68,642,126	56,947,486
303 - Education and Training	17,060,160	126,210,272	15,000,000
304 - Finance and Development Planning	518,127,549	146,827,687	410,634,234
305 - Trade, Industry and Business Development	80,315,820	149,180,746	92,500,000
306 - Gender, Youth and Social Development	6,000,000	62,316,730	
307 - Law and Justice			24,450,000
308 - Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police	160,500,000		608,399,998
310 - Information, Communications, Technology & Innovation		-	103,719,547
313 - Public Works and Transport	300,000,000	205,333,666	1,284,270,000
314 - Environment and Forestry	26,450,025	120,804,809	2,400,000
315 - Natural Resources	49,652,660	1,326,397,614	379,582,724
319 - His Majesty's Office			20,000,000
339 - Senate			90,000,000
341 - Energy	651,546,026	530,999,013	452,000,000
342 - Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture			130,000,000
Grand Total	2,213,995,822	3,098,756,418	3,708,846,987