

# LESOTHO VNR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2019



## PRESENTATION TO THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

BY

HON. MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

**1. LESOTHO IN THREE MINUTES - Video**

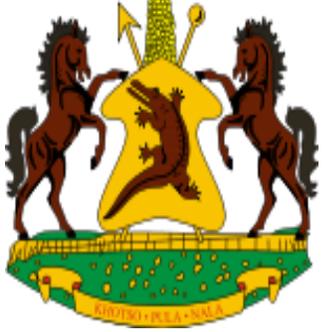
**2. VNR METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS**

**3. POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**

**4. LESOTHO PROGRESS ON SDGs**

**5. CONCLUSIONS**





# VNR METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS



**1. Lesotho VNR 2019 was participatory and inclusive.**

**We included all levels and sectors of government, the private sector, civil society/NGOs, academia, women and youth, special groups, and the media for ownership and awareness creation towards SDGs.**

**2. The process also included innovative ways of remote consultations/data mining through social media.**

**3. Lesotho VNR Report 2019, was also presented to and validated by Cabinet sub-Committee on Sustainable Development Goals.**

# **STRUCTURES**

**The Government of Lesotho has established SDG Implementation Coordination structures as mechanism to facilitate the implementation, monitoring and reporting .**

- 1. The highest structure is the National Oversight and Advisory Committee, chaired by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister.**
- 2. The Cabinet sub-committee is chaired by the Honourable Minister of Development Planning. It ensures effective coordination, advocacy, implementation of sustainable development agenda.**
- 3. Parliament Ad Hoc Committees dealing with SDGs**
- 4. The National Technical Steering Committee is chaired by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Development Planning, with a multi-stakeholder membership.**
- 5. There are also different multi-stakeholder technical groups.**

# **LOCALISATION OF AGENDA 2030**

**Lesotho has mainstreamed agenda 2030, AU Agenda 2063, SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and other international commitments into the National Strategic Development Plan, 2018/19 -2022/23.**



# Linkages between the National Strategic Development Plan Main Pillars and the SDGs.





- 1. Between 2003 and 2018, Lesotho's overall national poverty and extreme poverty headcount ratios declined from 56.6 percent to 49.7% and from 34.1% to 24.1% respectively.**
- 2. In 2018 the GDP growth rate was estimated at 0.66%. GDP per capita in 2018 remained the same as in 2015, at US\$1,401.**

**The NSDPPII and the related public Sector investment programme constitute poverty reduction, growth and employment strategy and core initiatives to at least halve the population living in poverty by 2030**





- 1. The population at risk of food insecurity in Lesotho varies each year, with a projection of 32 per cent, people to be food insecure during the period of July 2019 and June 2020.**
- 2. Although chronic and acute malnutrition has declined since 2004, the nutrition situation in Lesotho is characterised by high stunting rates in children under the age of five years, wide-spread micro-nutrient deficiencies in children, adolescents and adults.**
- 3. There is need to improve quality and upscale infant and child nutrition programmes, nutrition sensitive agriculture, school feeding, nutrition assessment tools, Sanitation and hygiene**





- 1. Lesotho is almost achieving universal primary education, with net enrolment rate is 87%.**
- 2. Pre-primary enrolment (children aged 3-5) stands at 30% (2017)**
- 3. Net Secondary School enrolment rate is quite low at 43.3% . This is due to the high dropout rates and low transition rates from primary to secondary school.**
- 4. The country is in the process of constructing three schools that will cater for people with disabilities at high school level.**



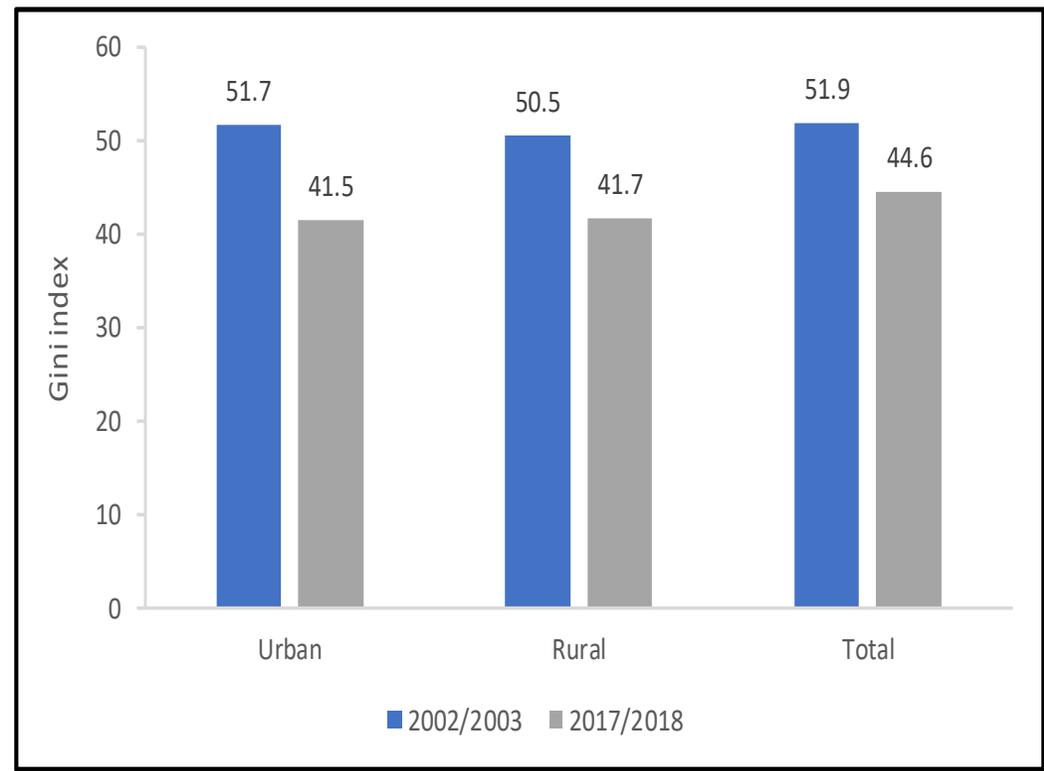
- 1. The country's average growth rate from 2015 – 2018 stands at 1.38%. Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, Lesotho has not been able to achieve the set target of 5% annual growth rate.**
- 2. The rate of unemployment increased from 25.8% in 2015 to 32.8% in 2016. Youth unemployment rate: 29% for males and 34% for females.**
- 3. Growth and employment is expected to rebound significantly in the next 5 years through the adoption of 'BIG-FAST-RESULTS' approach that has yielded 77 private sector projects, with investment of USD1.5 billion and creation of 30,000 direct jobs in the four priority sectors of agriculture, tourism and creative industries, manufacturing, and technology and innovation**
- 4. Decent Work Country Programme III has just been completed, however, large informal sector undermines enforcement of labour rights.**



# Lesotho Reduces income Inequalities, 2002/2003 – 2017/2018

A decline in the level of inequality has been recorded. Gini coefficient was 51.9 in 2003 and declined to 44.6 in 2018.

	Gini Index	
	2002/2003	2017/2018
National	51.9	44.6
Urban	51.7	41.5
Rural	50.5	41.7
Maseru Urban	52.3	40.9
Other Urban	49.9	41.8
Rural Lowland	48.8	41.8
Rural Foothill	52.6	39.5
Rural Mountain	50.6	41.0
Rural Senqu River Valley	53.1	40.5



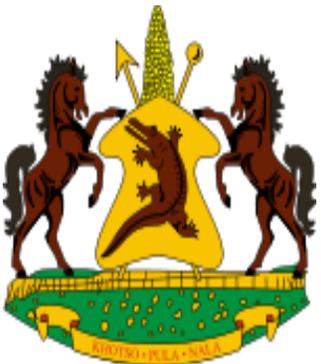
Source: Lesotho BoS, 2019.



- 1. Income Inequality has decreased, therefore, the bottom 10% of income scales has seen some growth.**
  
- 3. In 2018, the government of Lesotho increased the minimum wage in the textile sector from \$85 to \$138. This sector employs majority of workers in Lesotho.**
  
- 4. Some of the critical government initiatives include;**
  - Bursaries at secondary and tertiary level**
  - Agricultural subsidies**
  - Social grants**
  - Progressive income tax**



- 1. Lesotho is highly vulnerable to adverse impact of climate change**
- 2. In the past ten years, Lesotho has experienced successive and cyclic climate shocks such as recurrent droughts, dry spells and floods, which have negatively affected communities and households' livelihoods, with serious consequences on food security**
- 3. Lesotho has established policy and institutional frameworks to address and manage climate change effects, including the development of the National Strategic Resilience Framework 2015-2025, the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), 2017-2027; and Energy Policy 2015- 2025; climate change has also been mainstreamed in the NSDP and in the National Curriculum.**





- 1. Lesotho is a relatively peaceful country, but has seen election outcomes producing unstable coalition governments.**
- 2. Lesotho has established key governance institutions, such as Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences, Office of the Ombudsman and Directorate of Disputes Prevention and Resolution, however, they are not very effective due to gaps in the legal frameworks and limited capacity(technical, financial)**
- 3. Enactment of the Children Protection and Welfare Act in 2011. The Act combines the main elements of children’s welfare and protection in one rights-based legal framework.**
- 4. On ensuring justice for all, Lesotho has established specialised courts such Children’s Court, Land Court and Commercial Court.**
- 5. Lesotho has initiated comprehensive national reforms in the following thematic areas; Constitutional, Parliamentary, Security, Judicial, Public Sector, Economic and Media.**

## Means of Implementation

### Financing and Trade:

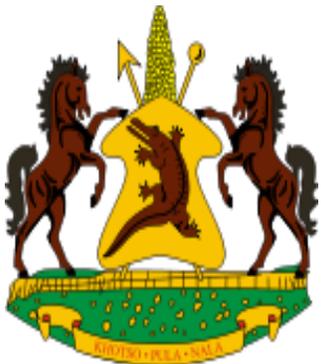
- Domestic tax revenue and other revenues have largely remained constant at about 20% and 5% of GDP respectively. Total government revenue as a share of GDP ranges between 41.3% and 44.3% and is largely influence by SACU receipts. Grants account for 2.6% of GDP. (between 2017/18 and 2019/20)
- Gross Fixed Capital Formation (investment) as a share of GDP is about 20%
- Key efforts for domestic resource mobilisation include, increase of VAT from 14% to 15%

### Technology:

- Mobile network coverage in the country stands at 96% of inhabited areas.
- Phone ownership is at 79% of the population.
- 32.7% of Basotho nationwide have access to the internet.

### Availability of Data

- Lesotho is able to report on only 53% of the 152 selected indicators, 32 of which are customised.



# CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

**The Lesotho 2019 VNR revealed that for Lesotho to effectively achieve 2030 Agenda, we have to address the following:**

1. Implement priority programmes under different SDGs that have high combined impact on poverty reduction in all its facets and unemployment,
2. Mobilise the participation of everyone in the implementation of agenda 2030 and leave no one behind
3. Maintain the momentum for National Dialogue and consultations and implement the agreed National Reform Agenda, to promote lasting peace, stability, inclusive society, with strong and effective institutions.
4. Call on development partners to provide the necessary technical support and close the resource gaps, especially for catalysing private investment, as well as strengthening statistical systems, analysis, monitoring and evaluation

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

