Lesotho COVID-19 Donations lines launched

17th April 2020, Maseru: Econet Telecom Lesotho in corroboration with the Government of Lesotho through the National Command Centre launched channels to solicit donations towards COVID-19 pandemic.

Econet customers who have registered for EcoCash will use a merchant account **35382** to donate while non-EcoCash subscribers can send their donations to **62093030**. Well-wishers from other countries such as South Africa, United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA), Netherlands, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will also be able to use WorldRemit platform to send their donations into **62093030**.

The Chief Executive Officer of Econet, Mr Dennis Plaatjies said other local customers who are not using Econet network can also deposit their donations directly from the nearest EcoCash agents into the same designated COVID-19 donations number **62093030**.

Standard Lesotho Bank account holders can transfer money from their bank accounts to their EcoCash accounts then make their donations into a COVID-19 merchant account **35382** through ***100#**

"Novel Coronavirus is a global issue that does not discriminate between the rich or the poor, we need to join hands as a nation and be prepared for the fight, thus the reason for setting up these donations lines" said Plaatjies

Only authorized personnel from the National command centre committee will be allowed to monitor the accounts, make withdrawals and disburse the donations to worthy beneficiaries. Funds, regardless of the amount collected, will be donated to the victims of COVID-19 and their families in Lesotho as a way of showing them support. Donations can also be used to buy personal protective equipment against Coronavirus which is currently what the country needs.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The disease was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province, and has since spread globally, resulting in the ongoing 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic.

Common symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Other symptoms may include fatigue, muscle pain, diarrhea, sore throat, loss of smell and abdominal pain. While the majority of cases result in mild symptoms, some progress to viral pneumonia and multi-organ failure. As of 8th April 2020, more than 1.44 million cases have been reported in more than 200 countries and territories, resulting in more than 83,400 deaths. More than 308,000 people have recovered.

Even though Lesotho has not yet reported a single case of COVID-19, it remains at risk with the continuously escalating situation. As a result, it is imperative to make hay while the sun is still shining.