

Press Release No. 1 of 2020-2021

Honourable Minister of Development Planning Launch of Lesotho Tertiary Education Student Bursaries Means Testing Mechanism Development; Stakeholders and Public Consultations – 12th Aug 2020

The Minister of Development Planning, Honourable Selibe Mochoboroane, will today launch the beginning of the Government of Lesotho consultations with Stakeholders and the Public on the development of Lesotho Tertiary Education Student Bursaries Means Testing Mechanism. The Mechanism, to be implemented through the National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS), is a strategy intended to improve the criteria for targeting and determining eligibility for award of tertiary education bursaries to Basotho students, based on their need.

This is through using a combination of academic merit and household ability to pay for a student who is seeking a bursary. The rationale for this undertaking is to help the financially needy Basotho students admissible into tertiary institutions, to access and pursue priority tertiary education for skills development, which will contribute towards the country's human capital development and empower them to participate in the national economy and alleviation of poverty.

Researchers, appointed by the Ministry of Development Planning (MDP) and the Consultant on the Means Testing Mechanism development, will contact mapped Stakeholders and Public representatives to get their views on the kind of Means Testing approach they propose as responsive in the context of Lesotho's economic needs. A Questionnaire will also be placed on the NMDS Facebook page (national manpower development secretariat) for members of Public at large to also have an opportunity to provide their views. All the Stakeholders and the Public are therefore requested to cooperate and provide all their views and information that will assist the country to come up with the most suitable approach to focus tertiary education student bursaries to those Basotho who are in need.

This Means Testing Mechanism development came about as part of the envisaged reforms to the Lesotho Loan Bursary Fund (LBF) together with its governing National Manpower Development Council (NMDC) and the administering agency the NMDS, in order that they become effective and efficient and respond to the challenges and needs of Basotho in accessing tertiary education bursaries and access priority studies. It is therefore critical for all those mapped as Stakeholders and Public representatives as well as the Public at large to provide full cooperation and support with information for a responsive Means Testing Mechanism to meet Basotho's needs.

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