



PRESS RELEASE

TUESDAY, 06 DECEMBER 2022

Substantive discussions on the Lesotho Health and Horticulture Compact During the MCC Mission in Lesotho



Substantive conversations were held on Compact key issues during the two days visit by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Principal Deputy Vice President of the Department of Compact Operations, Ms. Kyeh Kim. The purpose of Ms Kim's visit was to assess progress of the Government of Lesotho towards fulfilling its obligations before commencement of Compact II which was signed in May 2022. The 6th of December marked the end of her sessions with the Ministers and Principal Secretaries of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho. Her visit was short but very eventful and fruitful.

The MCC Delegation led by Ms. Kyeh Kim including the MCA Resident Country Director, Dr. Kevin George and Deputy Resident Country Director, Ms. Kelsey Holden

initially met with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr. Retselisitsoe Matlanyane who is the Government's Principal Representative on the Compact. The discussions focused on the overall Compact program including the timelines, proposed reforms, and counterpart contribution of \$ 22 million towards the Compact budget of \$ 300 million. This funding will support interventions in the health sector, business development sector, and irrigated horticulture sector.

The next meeting was with the Ministry of Health to congratulate the Ministry on the impressive progress achieved in the design of the Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Project. Most importantly, this meeting discussed a series of interventions for which the Ministry is required to support financially in order to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of key components of the HSS project.

Ms. Kyeh Kim, accompanied by her Excellency the Ambassador of the United States of America to Lesotho Ms. Maria E. Brewer, also paid a courtesy call to the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Justice Nthomeng Majara. This meeting deliberated on various matters of mutual interest including the pending three bills – MCA Establishment Bill, Harmonisation Bill and Counter Domestic Violence Bill, as well as other sectoral reforms required for effective and sustainable implementation of Compact II.



Rounding up the fruitful deliberations of the two days was a roundtable discussions with members of the Cabinet in which nine Ministers attended. Delivering her opening remarks on this occasion, the Hon. Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr. Retselisitsoe Matlanyane mentioned that the Government was delighted and grateful to host Ms. Kim. She further

expressed appreciation of the support that the U.S Government through MCC has provided to the Government of Lesotho over the years. To this end, the Hon. Minister assured MCC that there is strong political will to support successful implementation of the Compact despite the economic downturn that the country is facing.

On her part, Her Excellency Ambassador of the US to Lesotho expressed her gratitude to the Government of Lesotho for their continued support in the partnerships that both governments enjoy across various sectors. Ms. Kyeh Kim took the platform to thank the Government of Lesotho for its hospitality. She also expressed her appreciation of progress that the Government has made towards fulfilling its obligations. In this regard, Ms. Kim mentioned that she was looking forward to the passing of gender reforms that

were affected by the dissolution of the previous parliament and expressed her confidence to the leadership of the Government and the Lesotho Compact in dealing with this matter. Most importantly, Ms. Kyeh Kim highlighted the potential of the Compact to make a significant contribution to improving the lives of ordinary people of Lesotho by improving health outcomes, creating equal opportunities for employment, and participation in the economy.

Ms. Kim commended the Government of Lesotho and the Compact Team for their dedication and hard work that has gone into the development of this compact, she said the teams have demonstrated without doubt, country ownership of the Compact which can be a sign of sustainability in the long term.

The meeting closed on a high note after the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister informed MCC that the Cabinet has approved the reinstatement of the pending Bills and a motion will be tabled before Parliament to reinstate the Bills, hopefully in their next sitting.

Lesotho and America enjoy a deep and enduring partnership, unified in their shared values of freedom, democracy, good governance and human rights protection.

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