



2026/27 PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS REPORT

DISTRICTS

2026/27 PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The 2027 pre-budget consultation meetings were held successfully across all ten districts, from the week beginning on the 9th June to the first week of July 2024. The meetings took longer than expected as some meetings had to be rescheduled due to unfavourable weather conditions in the highlands.
- 1.2 The purpose of the consultations was to improve participatory budgeting by engaging the citizens through their local government representatives; community councillors and chiefs; private sector and civil society organisations. With the assistance of UNICEF through The Power Hub Initiative Programme, the 2026/27 meetings saw the addition of a new cohort of representatives from diverse youth organisations who took part in the meetings. The objectives of consultations included dissemination of the performance of the 2024/25 budget, highlights of the 2025/26 budget allocations, and gathering of public inputs on the policy direction for the 2026/27 budget.
- 1.3 Participants in the consultations included Chiefs, District Administrators, District Council Secretaries, Town Clerks, District Council representatives, Urban and Local Councils representatives, Community Council Secretaries, Business Community, Media, Youth organisations, representatives of the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police (Central Government-Planning Unit) as well as Civil Servants at district level.

2. STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

- 2.1 A pie chart illustration of the representation of various stakeholders in all ten (10) districts is made in the rest of the text. The chart on the left presents a disaggregation of the participants by category; Chiefs, Councillors, Youth, and Other and the chart on the right presents a disaggregation of the participants by gender (Male and Female). The “Other” category in the participants disaggregation by participants comprises of civil servants from various Ministries, Media and business.
- 2.2 Representation in most districts was inclined towards chiefs and counsellors, with the youth and business community representation following, respectively. It is evident from the data presented in the rest of the text that majority of these representatives are men. This is an indication of the fact that women are underrepresented in leadership roles, and other spheres. Berea, Qacha’s Nek and Butha-Buthe were exceptions, as they had more female than male representation, standing at 64%, 60% and 58% of the total participants, respectively.
- 2.3 Furthermore, youth representation in most districts was higher this year, relative to the past years. This shows the Government’s commitment towards inclusion of the youth in decision-making and policy making processes. The youth representatives from their respective organisations were given a slot, to present to the audience what their respective organisations do and how they

can be contacted. Additionally, the youth was urged to work in unison to take advantage of the opportunities such as those offered by the Youth Power Hub.

ANNEX 1: MOKHOTLONG ACTIVITY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The 2027 pre-budget consultation meetings were held successfully from the 8th to 11th June 2025 at Tšabi Guest House. The purpose of the consultations was to improve participatory budgeting by engaging the citizens through their local government representatives; community councilors and chiefs; private sector and civil society organisations. With the assistance of UNICEF through the Power Hub Initiative Programme, the 2026/27 meetings saw the addition of a new cohort of representatives from diverse youth organisations. The objectives of consultations included dissemination of the performance of the 2024/25 budget, highlights of the 2025/26 budget allocations, and gathering of public inputs on the policy direction for the 2026/27 budget.
- 1.2 The Meeting was facilitated by officials from the Department of Budget in collaboration with officials from Support Services Departments, Accounts and Administration. Participants were representatives of Chiefs and community councillors from selected villages and constituencies, youth organisations and business community. Most of the participants were new to the meeting and appreciated the efforts undertaken by the MFDP and deemed the initiative educational as they have limited knowledge on budget related issues.

2. OPENING REMARKS

2.1 District Council Secretary (DCS)

- 2.1.1 In his opening remarks, on behalf of the DCS, Mr Thebe Mabesa emphasised the importance of involving the Councillors and Chiefs in financial matters or discussions aimed at the development of the communities which they represent. He also commended the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for taking heed to their needs in preparation for the next year's budget, as he is aware that some of the needs from the previous years' consultations are catered for in the current Financial Year's budget. He acknowledged the presence of the National Security Services (NSS) representative and apologised on behalf of those who did not make it due to bad weather, among which was the youth representatives.

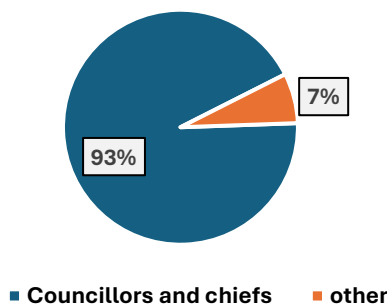
2.2 Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

- 2.2.1 The Budget Controller, Ms Maleshoane Lekomola-Danziger, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning shared in her introductory remarks, the purpose of the meeting which is meant to give an overview of the previous Year's budget performance and the subsequent Year's Budget, to gather policy direction in preparation for the 2026/27 to 2028/29 budget. She also mentioned that a different approach from the previous years will be taken, where participants voiced their opinions by raising hands in the general discussions. However, this year the participants will disperse into

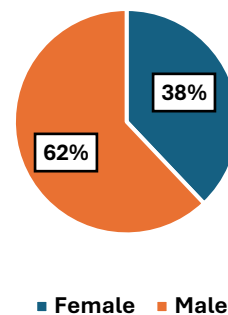
three (3) groups and discuss their ideas, which will then be shared in the form of verbal presentations by representatives from each group. The written presentations from the groups will then be submitted to the facilitators, following completion of the verbal presentations. Finally, the civil servants from the councils were asked to compile a report and share with the District Administrator (DA) and Budget controller, for integration into the final report.

3. STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTATION

Participants by Category



Participants by Gender



4. GENERAL DISCUSSION/EXPECTATIONS

- 4.1 Lesotho has trade relations with South Africa and other SACU Member States and before Lesotho’s exports land in South Africa, export tax and other duties need to be paid. Due to unregulated trade across the porous borders of the two countries, Lesotho loses out on tax revenue since local farmers smuggle sheep and cattle, in and out of the country and these animals are said to be gathered at the land borders in Butha-Buthe, for sale to the South African farmers. The Government should consider institutionalisation and adoption of Livestock auction markets across places with similar characteristics, to reap all potential benefits that can be accrued from these auctions.
- 4.2 Mokhotlong is one of the largest producers of livestock (sheep), and the Country can benefit from value chain processing of both wool and mohair. Therefore, there is a need for construction of agro-processing firms where wool and mohair can be processed into oil and other products thus bridge a gap between local products and consumer needs.
- 4.3 Review of the Lesotho Highlands Water Treaty with more focus on the word “royalties”. The market demand for water in South Africa is expanding and this should, in the future be reflected in the determination of royalties’ rates. The government development budget is increasing at a marginal rate, yet the development needs are exponentially increasing. The gains from the treaty will eventually bridge the financing gap for development issues.

5. GROUP DISCUSSIONS

5.1 GROUP 1

- 5.1.1 There's a need for construction of a bus terminal.
- 5.1.2 The unpaved Thaba-Tseka – Mokhotlong road impedes service delivery and hinders movement between the two districts therefore it should be rehabilitated and strengthened into a paved road.
- 5.1.3 Construction of a Multipurpose sports facility to enhance community engagement in sports especially the youth population. The facility will reduce the after effect of youth unemployment, foster social interaction and contribute to healthy lifestyles.
- 5.1.4 Construction of an abattoir for safe and hygienic processing of animals into edible products as well as construction of a tannery for processing and transforming cow hides and other by-products into shoes and other products. The two will benefit livestock farmers through increased income generation, access to local markets, as well as job opportunities for the local community.
- 5.1.5 A dumping site is needed, as pollution caused by littering affects farms and agricultural produce.

5.2 GROUP 2

- 5.2.1 Construction of Mphokojoane Community Council office.
- 5.2.2 Construction of a Sporting Facility for increased physical activities and recreation. The presence of this establishment will contribute to a decreased crime rate and substance abuse.
- 5.2.3 Construction of the Mapholaneng – Tiping and Thaba-Tseka – Mokhotlong Roads
- 5.2.4 Construction of a Police post in Tlhanyaku (Mphokojoane).

5.3 GROUP 3

- 5.3.1 Construction of the Thaba-Tseka – Mokhotlong Road.
- 5.3.2 Provision of streetlights around the Mokhotlong town is required for improved visibility and enhanced safety and security for individuals and businesses.
- 5.3.3 A dumping site for disposal of waste material.
- 5.3.4 Construction and refurbishment of footbridges in Mangaung – Linareng, Masuaneng – Mpharane, Patising – Motlomo, Ha Khama – Lehlakaneng, Rapeising – Mahausung, Limapong – Masaleng, Maitisi – Mabuseng, Masuaneng – Linareng, Mpeti – Liraoleng.

- 5.3.5 Construction of the Mphokojane Community Council office.
- 5.3.6 Child grants should be revised, since they are currently being awarded to ineligible people.
- 5.3.7 Undertake inclusive consultations for gathering opinions from diverse stakeholders who are party to the district budget.
- 5.3.8 Provision of government emails at district level for efficient and secure communication within the district and with other government entities.

ANNEX 2: LERIBE ACTIVITY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The 2027 pre-budget consultation meetings were held successfully from the 11th to 13th June 2025 at Pitseng, Aloe Guest House. The objectives of consultations were to disseminate the performance of the 2024/25 budget, highlights of the 2025/26 budget allocations, and gathering of public inputs on the policy direction for the 2026/27 budget. The meeting was meant to improve participatory budgeting by engaging the citizens through their local government representatives; community councillors and chiefs; private sector and civil society organisations. With the assistance of UNICEF through the Power Hub Initiative Programme, the 2026/27 meetings saw the addition of a new cohort of representatives from diverse youth organisations.
- 1.2 The Meeting was facilitated by officials from the Department of Budget in collaboration with officials from Support Services Departments, Accounts and Administration. Participants were representatives of Chiefs and community councillors from selected villages and constituencies, youth organisations and business community. Participants acknowledged the efforts undertaken by the MFDP of continuously disseminating the government initiatives and giving feedback on implementation of the previous year's budget.

2. OPENING REMARKS

2.1 District Council Secretary (DCS)

- 2.1.1 The DCS in his welcome remarks, reiterated on the importance of the pre-budget consultations, commending the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for their continued strive in giving the people, through their respective representatives, the opportunity to engage in the policy-making processes. He further expressed his gratitude to the respective representatives who took time off their various duties to participate in the consultations, for the betterment of the district and the Country at large. The DCS also emphasised that the consultations have proven to be effective, as some of the needs they had put forth in the previous years' consultations have been catered for in the current Financial Year's budget and were broadcast on National Television. He also mentioned that relative to the previous years, in the current financial year, the district's capital budget was disbursed earlier.

2.2 Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

- 2.2.1 The Budget Controller, Ms Maleshoane Lekomola-Danziger acknowledged the presence of all in attendance, making special recognition of the representatives from UNICEF and the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police Head Quarters. She shared with the attendants the purpose of the meeting which is to give feedback on the previous year's budget performance and what is contained in the subsequent Year's Budget, to gather policy direction in preparation for the 2026/27 to 2028/29 budget.

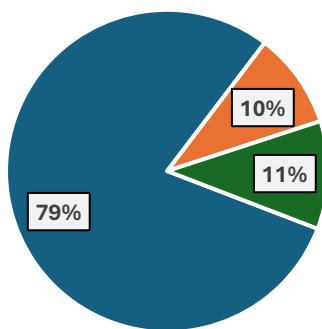
2.2.2 Finally, the BC mentioned that a different approach to gathering the opinions or needs of the participants will be taken, where in the previous years, the participants gave their opinions by raising their hands in general discussions. However, this year the participants will disperse into three (3) groups and discuss their ideas, which will then be shared in the form of verbal presentations by representatives from each group. The written presentations from the groups will then be submitted to the facilitators, following completion of the verbal presentations. Finally, the civil servants from the councils were asked to compile a report and share with the District Administrator (DA) and Budget controller, for integration into the final report.

2.3 UNICEF

2.3.1 On behalf of UNICEF, Ms ‘Mabaruti Motsamai applauded the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for conducting the Pre-Budget Consultations which afford the youth the opportunity to be part of the decision-making and policy-making processes. Ms Mabaruti urged the youth representatives to take the opportunity presented by the consultations to voice out their needs and to also learn how decision-making is done in such platforms. She further mentioned that M49 million seed funding from the European Union (EU) will be awarded to 32 youth organisations under the Youth Power Hub, country wide, encouraging the youth to take up space.

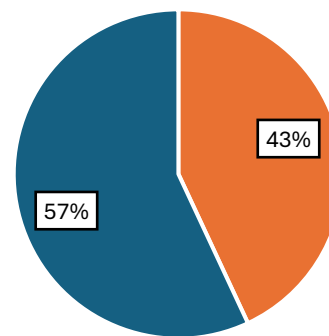
3. STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Participants by Category



■ Councillors and chiefs ■ Youth Reps ■ other

Participants by gender



■ Female ■ Male

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION/EXPECTATIONS

4.1 Maputsoe has an incomplete road, which halted due to disagreements between the contractors and landowners on adjustment private property site.

4.2 Metolong Dam should be considered for production of fisheries to create jobs for the youth.

- 4.3 The Government should consider setting up a fund which will finance businesses set-up by retired miners. The miners will contribute 50% towards the business, while the Government will contribute 50% to the fund, this can help reduce dependence of these miners on Government when they have depleted their retirement package.
- 4.4 Conditions that the M400million set aside in only earmarked for the marginalised groups of youth and women, is disadvantageous to men, especially those who did not get the opportunity to work as well as those who did not get funding opportunities before the age of 35 (youth upper threshold). Delay in implementation of the fund will leave behind those who have attained the last year of their youth and will not qualify in the following year.
- 4.5 The eligible age for Old Age Pension allowances should be revised downwards gradually, to 65 years, as the current 70 years is a bit high, considering the life expectancy rate.
- 4.6 Leribe has functioning factory shells, though there are high retrenchment rates, leaving some of the shells empty due to closure of factories run by Chinese companies. The Government can assist Basotho who are already in the tailoring business to occupy the factory shells, but it seems the governments' focus is on the newly built factory shells at Ha Belo, which brings in the question of whether the shells are going to be occupied or become white elephants due to non-occupancy.
- 4.7 The development budget is increasing marginally, and the government should consider ways to substantially increase this budget class, more especially now that the country has been affected by the Executive Orders from the United States of America.
- 4.8 The absorptive capacity of the development budget has always been low compared to what has been approved. Various reasons have been attributed to low absorptive capacity, and the question is whether the government has undertaken studies to establish the root cause of the problems and ways to mitigate them. This is paramount as the country is in deficit of infrastructure, which hinders economic growth.

5. GROUP DISCUSSIONS

5.1 GROUP 1

- 5.1.1 Construction of roads (paved and unpaved) and bridges for ease of movement.
- 5.1.2 To increase agricultural production and food security, the Government should consider a subsidised ploughing for all Basotho as was the case in the past. Timely distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, tractors, etc), chickens stock subsidy and construction of animal shelters is also advised.

- 5.1.3 The Government should also consider construction of a timber processing facility as Lesotho is the net importer of poles. The establishment will reduce dependency on foreign imports while creating local jobs as well as increasing revenue through export trade.
- 5.1.4 Electricity connection in towns and villages is essential and acceleration of renewable energy production in the district, through solar electricity generation for increased energy supply and improved access to electricity at lower costs is needed. A few places have been identified by some developers for investment in solar electricity production.
- 5.1.5 Water supply: There is a need for one big, elevated gravity-based water supply system, which will benefit more households relative to many pump stations which are costly to maintain.
- 5.1.6 There is a need for a fruit processing firm that will preserve peaches, as they are abundant in the district, enhance local business, while curbing importation of processed peaches in large quantities by local businesses.

5.2 **GROUP 2**

- 5.2.1 Rehabilitation or upgrading of sporting facilities - Thakaneng Hlotse, for recreational purposes and peer education.
- 5.2.2 Construction of bridges (footbridges and roadway).
- 5.2.3 Enhancement of agribusiness through production of fish in the country's various dams.
- 5.2.4 Electricity connection and apollo lights, to curb criminal acts. Availability of lighting makes it easier for community policing and reduces crimes as well as stock theft that is highly prevalent in the communities.
- 5.2.5 Job creation and enhanced agricultural activity for self-sustenance.

5.3 **GROUP 3**

- 5.3.1 There is a need for revision of chiefs and councillors' allowances.
- 5.3.2 Construction of roads and bridges: a bridge connecting Hlotse and Sentsonyane, a footbridge in Libeleteng, roadway bridges in Khapung – Liphofung and Ha Matumo and roads in Qoqolosing, Ha Mojabela, Thaba-Phatšoa, Fobane-Ha Ramoruti, Fobane – Tsoinyane (bolahla).
- 5.3.3 There is a need for construction of a fully resourced Youth Resource Centre to support social development and growth among young people.
- 5.3.4 Electricity connection in the following villages: Motlokoa, Makhula, Ha Lesitse, Ha Matasane, Ha Selei, Qoqolosing, Liphofung and Matlameng.

5.3.5 Construction of dams to facilitate production of fish.

5.3.6 Cannabis licence fees should be revised downwards, to ensure mass production in the country, not for local recreational purposes but for export.

Contacts for youth organisations representatives:

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ANNEX 3: QUTHING ACTIVITY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The 2027 pre-budget consultation meetings were held successfully from the 15th to 17th June 2025 at Hillsvievw Guest House. The purpose of consultations was to improve participatory budgeting by engaging the citizens through their local government representatives; community councillors and chiefs; private sector and civil society organisations to. Further, the meetings were meant to disseminate the performance of the 2024/25 budget, highlights of the 2025/26 budget allocations, and gathering of public inputs on the policy direction for the 2026/27 budget. With the assistance of UNICEF through the Power Hub Initiative Programme, the 2026/27 meetings saw the addition of a new cohort of representatives from diverse youth organisations.
- 1.2** The Meeting was facilitated by officials from the Department of Budget in collaboration with officials from Support Services Departments, Accounts and Administration. Participants were representatives of Chiefs and community councillors from selected villages and constituencies, youth organisations and business community.

2. OPENING REMARKS

2.1 District Council Secretary (DCS)

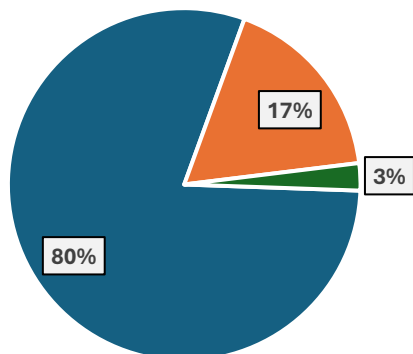
- 2.1.1** The chairman of the Community Council, on behalf of the DCS, appreciated and emphasised the importance of the pre-budget consultations which involves the chiefs and councillors in the budget process. He welcomed all in attendance including the youth representatives as well as the business community.

2.2 Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

- 2.2.1** In her opening remarks, the Budget Controller (BC), Ms Maleshoane Lekomola-Danziger expressed her appreciation for those in attendance and commended the massive youth representation. The BC then gave an overview of the pre-budget consultations, indicating that they are meant to give feedback on the previous Year's budget performance and the subsequent Year's Budget, to gather policy direction in preparation for the 2026/27 to 2028/29 budget. Furthermore, the BC briefly presented the budget calendar, emphasising how the pre-budget consultations feed into it.
- 2.2.2** Finally, the BC mentioned that a different approach to gathering the opinions or needs of the participants will be taken, where in the previous years, the participants gave their opinions by raising their hands in general discussions. However, this year the participants will disperse into three (3) groups and discuss their ideas, which will then be shared in the form of verbal presentations by representatives from each group. The written presentations from the groups will then be submitted to the facilitators, following completion of the verbal presentations. Finally, the civil servants from the councils were asked to compile a report and share with the District Administrator (DA) and Budget controller, for integration into the final report.

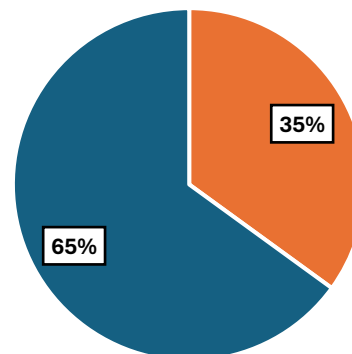
3. STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Participants by Category



■ Councillors and chiefs ■ Youth Reps ■ other

Participants by gender



■ Female ■ Male

4. General discussion/Expectations

- 4.1 How is the solid waste management budget allocated across councils? Is it allocated equally or is there a criterion used. There is a backlog of outstanding payments in some community councils, which cannot be settled, as the urban council refuses to share its budget allocation. Additionally, solid waste management funding was in the past allocated to community councils and was later retracted and funding allocated to the urban council. This has led to accumulation of waste in the district which poses health hazards to the nation and business community.
- 4.2 The disabled people grant should be increased by at least M100.00.
- 4.3 There is a bridge in Mjanyane that was under construction but was never completed, and the materials (sand and concrete) were moved without explanation.
- 4.4 The pre-budget consultation meeting should in the future include all ministerial entities from the central government, whose budget has a bearing on implementation of activities in the Quthing communities. This will provide a better and clearer picture of what is needed, to enhance service delivery in the district.
- 4.5 The US Executive Order and withdrawal of the US government funding to Lesotho has a dire negative impact on Lesotho's economic agenda. The Country is as a result faced with a reduction in US grants, which has led to reprogramming of activities and loss of job and whose ripple effect is reduction of the otherwise anticipated revenue and tax collections. Will the impact of the withdrawal not affect the Government development budget through financing of unsolicited efforts? What effort is the government going to put in place to mitigate the effect of the withdrawal of US grants funding?

5. GROUP DISCUSSIONS

5.1 GROUP 1

- 5.1.1 Job creation for the youth, as it was evident during the Lesotho Defence Force recruitment that there is indeed a youth unemployment crisis. Most of the youth have not performed well in high school, therefore cannot proceed to tertiary. Though there is the Leloaleng TVET, there is a need for a scholarship programme as most of the youth cannot afford the fees. The inadequate job opportunities for youth have led to increased migration to South Africa, which exposes Basotho to vulnerable conditions in South Africa.
- 5.1.2 The district is faced with limited water supply and to conserve this scarce resource, there is a need for training on water conservation and wetlands protection as this can assist in sustainable water supply in the district. There is also a need for trainings on proper care of water and its sources.
- 5.1.3 Rehabilitation of pastures to ensure production of high-quality wool and mohair (Farelane le Seiboko), which the Quthing district is the second largest producer of, in the country.
- 5.1.4 Construction of roads and bridges to ensure ease of movement in the district. Most bridges in the district are low water bridges, which during heavy rains are mostly submerged in water, rendering them impassable and dangerous for both vehicles and pedestrians.
- 5.1.5 Construction of council and health centre buildings; given the rugged terrain in the district and sparsely distributed healthcare centres, patients walk long distances to access the healthcare facilities. Some centres are not conducive as they cannot function properly under adverse weather conditions.
- 5.1.6 The district is poverty-stricken, which aggravates migration of the residents to the neighbouring country, where they engage in a lifestyle that leads to contraction of diseases that require lifetime treatment. The government should therefore create job opportunities that will help the youth to fend for itself.

5.2 GROUP 2

- 5.2.1 There is a lack of roads infrastructure in the district, and this increases the time travelled to acquire services by tenfold. This has led to delays in acquiring antenatal care and delivery assistance for pregnant woman. Terrain and inadequate transportation options have also led to the use of unorthodox modes of transporting the deceased persons. Therefore there is a need for construction of roads and bridges in the districts and among others: roads in Tosing, Ha Makoae, Qomoqomong, Lisamenteng – Balewe, Bolahla and Ha Mohlakoana- Ha Peete.
- 5.2.2 For fair and equitable distribution of agricultural inputs, Council offices can be considered as distribution posts for agricultural inputs (fertilizers), which

are currently distributed from Seaka, making it difficult for farmers from remote areas to access them.

- 5.2.3 There is a need for a youth parliament in the district, which will have representation from various councils and will be a platform for discussion of various issues affecting the youth such as child marriage, migration of youth to South Africa (Ceres farms), alcohol and tobacco abuse. The parliament will assist and facilitate the inclusion of youth in the formulation of the Youth Policy.
- 5.2.4 Establishment of a well-resourced and non-judgemental adolescent corner is needed, where the youth can access health services in an environment friendly to them, without fear of judgement in some of the decisions pertaining to contraceptives.
- 5.2.5 The district is mostly dominated by hard-to-reach places and renders access to health services nearly impossible. Health professionals require terrain-appropriate vehicles to navigate the district and deliver medical supplies. There is therefore a need for terrain-appropriate vehicles that will help in the facilitation and provision of health services, especially in remote areas.
- 5.2.6 More vocational institutions are needed in the district, to facilitate economic growth. There is also a need for construction of a firm which will assist the youth who produce similar products, to work in unison in the production of their respective products (e.g. Aloe juice, rose juice, rock hyrax excrement etc.) to enjoy the economies of scale.

5.3 GROUP 3

- 5.3.1 There is a need for more healthcare facilities, as the ones in operation are not easily accessible to people from remote areas, therefore aggravating illnesses that would otherwise be cured if access was easy.
- 5.3.2 More classrooms are needed in most schools, as in some schools the concept of two classrooms and one teacher is still in practice. Additional classrooms and teachers will ease the student-teacher ratio, leading to improved performance. Furthermore, the integration of digital technology in the school curriculum does not benefit the district as it is still lacking in digital technology.
- 5.3.3 There's a need for resuscitation of resource centres in the district, for ease of distribution of agricultural inputs. The delay in the distribution of these inputs affects yield, since the seeds cannot withstand the prevailing weather conditions owing to the bad timing and delay in sowing.
- 5.3.4 Rosehip is abundant in the district. The district can benefit if a firm/facility is set up for processing of the rosehip into juice or tea. This facility can also facilitate job creation and bigger returns, relative to exporting the rosehip in its raw state.

- 5.3.5 There is improper disposal of garbage in the district, which affects the environment, animals and human life. There is therefore a need for information dissemination on where disposal can be made and how the residents can contribute towards better garbage disposal, for tourism and health purposes.
- 5.3.6 There is a need for construction of rural roads for increased economic opportunities and improved livelihoods.
- 5.3.7 Quthing is abundant in history and has a variety of tourist attractions. There is a need to educate and equip the community on knowledge and skills for effective interaction and engagement with tourists. The district should also package all its attraction activities and points to showcase them on various social media platforms.

Contacts for youth organisations representatives:

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ANNEX 5: MOHALE'S HOEK ACTIVITY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The 2027 pre-budget consultation meetings were held successfully from the 16th to 18th June 2025 at Hotel Mount Maluti. The purpose of consultations was to improve participatory budgeting by engaging the citizens through their local government representatives; community councillors and chiefs; private sector and civil society organisations to. Further, the meetings were meant to disseminate the performance of the 2024/25 budget, highlights of the 2025/26 budget allocations, and gathering of public inputs on the policy direction for the 2026/27 budget. With the assistance of UNICEF through the Power Hub Initiative Programme, the 2026/27 meetings saw the addition of a new cohort of representatives from diverse youth organisations.
- 1.2. The Meeting was facilitated by officials from the Department of Budget in collaboration with officials from Support Services Departments, Accounts and Administration. Participants were representatives of Chiefs and community councillors from selected villages and constituencies, youth organisations and business community.

2. OPENING REMARKS

2.1. District Administrator (DA)

- 2.1.1. Representing the DA, Administration Manager, Ms Libuseng Mampolokeng Lebusa made her welcome remarks, recognising the participants, in their respective capacity (chiefs, councillors and the youth). She urged the participants to commit fully to the day's agenda and voice out, as representatives of their communities, the needs of their people. She expressed her appreciation for the composition of the community representatives (chiefs and councillors) as their differentiated engagement with the people will give a different perspective and eventually a wholesome idea of what the people's needs are and how they can be met. She commended the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for their continued initiative in striving for transparency and public participation in the budget.

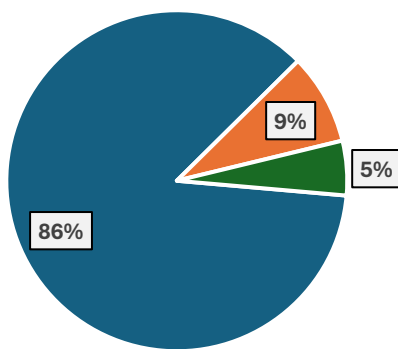
2.2. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

- 2.2.1. The Budget Controller (BC), Ms Maleshoane Lekomola-Danziger, while giving her opening remarks on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, made a special recognition of the DA, who was attending the consultations for the first time since they started. She further expressed her appreciation for those in attendance and went on to give an overview of what the pre-budget consultations entail, indicating that the budget reflects the people's needs. She indicated that feedback on the 2024/25 budget performance will be given, followed by what is contained in the 2025/26 Budget and finally, gathering of the participants' aspirations for the 2026/27 budget.

2.2.2. Finally, the BC mentioned that a different approach to gathering the aspirations of the participants will be taken, where in the previous years, the participants gave their opinions by raising their hands in general discussions. However, this year the participants will break-away into three (3) groups to discuss their ideas, which will then be presented to the rest of the participants, by a selected presenter from each group. The written presentations from the groups will then be submitted to the facilitators, following completion of the verbal presentations. Finally, civil servants from the councils were asked to compile a report and share with the District Administrator (DA) and Budget controller, for integration into the final report.

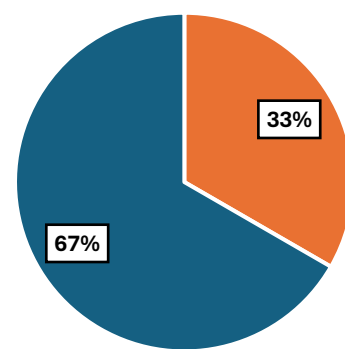
3. STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Participants by Category



■ Councillors and chiefs ■ Youth Reps ■ other

Participants by gender



■ Female ■ Male

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION/EXPECTATIONS

- 4.1. While introducing themselves, the councillors expressed their desire for decentralisation to be in effect, as that will allow them to address the various needs of their communities, which they currently cannot meet satisfactorily, because of the current legal frameworks.
- 4.2. Furthermore, owing to the current legal framework (Central Government) and limited local authorities' powers, communities are faced with depletion of natural resources (sand) which is extracted freely by everyone, even those from Maseru.
- 4.3. They further indicated that high the unemployment rate which leads to criminal activities is one of the challenges that communities face.
- 4.4. Seaka-Ketane, Mohale's Hoek – Mpharane, Phamong-Ketane, Mositsane – Qalakheng roads should be strengthened and upgraded to paved roads. There is also a need for construction of rural roads within the district for easy movement and access to service delivery.

- 4.5. The Lithupeng-tse-Peli road is incomplete, owing to limited budget allocation and expensive maintenance of the yellow plant. Additionally, there is a need for an acquisition of regional yellow plant which will assist in the maintenance of roads, as the yellow plant is currently under the administration of the district council and limits the urban councils' access to the equipment.
- 4.6. How does the Sebatatso initiative reach the youth in remote areas? The initiative seems to be technologically intensive (in information dissemination), therefore leaving out the youth in remote areas, as they do not have access to the internet. This renders the initiative non-inclusive.
- 4.7. Decentralisation can be used as a driving tool to increase revenue obtained from the sale of natural resources (sand, stones), which are currently being extracted freely by individuals who sell them at a profit.
- 4.8. There is a need to construction of additional healthcare facilities to augment the currently overburdened facilities. In some areas, the existing facilities are poorly functioning, contributing to heightened mortality rates and exacerbating the spread of infectious diseases.
- 4.9. Access to water and proper sanitation is among the major challenges facing the district. Some existing water systems are not functioning, and communities draw water from unsafe sources. There is also minimal sanitation facilities which are mostly overflowing due to unattended blockages. This poses health problems to the communities as they are prone to drinking contaminated water which increases the risk of waterborne diseases.
- 4.10. The district is dominated by mountainous areas and has a deficit of infrastructure which requires large funding due to the mountainous terrain. The district is currently underfunded and the current system where funds are allocated equally to all districts regardless of their distinct characteristics should be abolished. Different markers and variables should be considered in equitable allocation of funds to districts.
- 4.11. Engagement of Civil Society Organisations during budget preparation and implementation is advised. Their involvement in budget preparation will ascertain whether planned activities and programmes are in the best interest of the citizens, which will facilitate improved oversight.

5. GROUP DISCUSSIONS

5.1. GROUP 1

- 5.1.1. Civic engagement: the government should promote youth leadership and mentorship programmes, community services or volunteerism programmes, exchange programmes and inclusion of youth in remote areas.
- 5.1.2. The Government should consider decentralisation, by putting in effect by-laws, to ensure optimisation of natural resources.

- 5.1.3. Establishment of the National Youth Council is advised as it will assist in decision making, as underrepresentation of the youth in parliament leaves youth issues unattended. This institution will further facilitate youth empowerment and unlock their potential in development.
- 5.1.4. Youth population possesses a high level of digital literacy and their engagement in smart agriculture should be considered, to ensure that the youth can sustain itself. The youth should also be trained on business, to ensure self-sustenance.
- 5.1.5. There is a need for establishment of fully resourced youth centres in the communities; there is one in the district but is not operational. Young people are mostly involved in harmful activities and availability of youth centres will provide a convenient meeting venue and assist in access to the internet and other resources (books), for assistance with homework.
- 5.1.6. There is a need for construction of a roads network in the district, including rural roads to facilitate easy movement, improved provision of service delivery and economic development.

5.2. GROUP 2

- 5.2.1. Upgrading of youth centres by means of internet/technology connection(digitalisation) and expansion of these centres to other communities.
- 5.2.2. There should be a programme in place that will provide mentorship programmes and financing to youth-led Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The programme will address youth issues, just as is done with the Sebatso Youth Empowerment Initiative and other business-oriented initiatives. There should also be a programme for financing of small businesses (baitšokoli)/street vendors.
- 5.2.3. There should be a consideration for construction of a dam that will supply water in the district, for good health and for business.
- 5.2.4. There is a need for provision of streetlights in urban areas, to curb incidences of crime and to facilitate safe movement at night.
- 5.2.5. Construction of the Ketane road and maintenance of the Mesitsaneng - Maphutsing and the Seaka – Ketane roads, for ease of movement and trade.

5.3. GROUP 3

- 5.3.1. Construction of roads in Seaka – Keta, Mositsaneng, Maphutseng, Ha Tšepo, Braakfontein – Morifi, Makhathe-Qinalosi-Mahase and streetlights in town. Additionally, there is a need for construction of footbridges in Mahase – Mofoka, Hapo – Shalane, Makilanyaneng – Thaba Phiri and Khorong – Ha Ndebele, for ease of movement, especially during adverse weather conditions

(rainy), as currently students cannot go to school during the heavy rains season(s). These roads and bridges will assist with smooth transportation to the market, of the various agricultural products produced by the youth.

- 5.3.2. Provision of electricity connection is essential in Phamong, Mapharane, Ketane, Panta, Tsuloane, Maphutseng. Limited electricity supply renders the district underdeveloped and encourages migration to more developed places.
- 5.3.3. Construction of healthcare facilities/clinics in Qabane, Qobong, Maqoala and maintenance of clinics in Mokotane, to improve access to healthcare for people residing in remote areas.
- 5.3.4. Some parts of Mohale's Hoek are abundant in water while others are not. There is a dire need of water supply distribution and connection to places without water including Qhoasing, Ha Makhathe, Braakfontein and rehabilitation of community tanks/taps in Hloahloeng. The residents of these communities travel long distances to fetch water.
- 5.3.5. Construction of communication towers in Ketane – Mothibi, Hloahloeng – Tipping, Tutulung – Ha Sebili and Fika-le-Motho.
- 5.3.6. There is a noticeable engagement of young people in agriculture, and they are faced with absence of roads infrastructure to deliver their produce to the market(s).

Contacts for youth organisations representatives:

1. Rutanang Community Foundation
+266 50432297
2. Partners in Community Development
+266 59476282

ANNEX 6: MAFETENG ACTIVITY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.** The 2027 pre-budget consultation meetings were held successfully from the 17th to 19th June 2025 at Golden Hotel. The purpose of consultations was to improve participatory budgeting by engaging the citizens through their local government representatives; community councillors and chiefs; private sector and civil society organisations to. Further, the meetings were meant to disseminate the performance of the 2024/25 budget, highlights of the 2025/26 budget allocations, and gathering of public inputs on the policy direction for the 2026/27 budget. With the assistance of UNICEF through the Power Hub Initiative Programme, the 2026/27 meetings saw the addition of a new cohort of representatives from diverse youth organisations.
- 1.2.** The Meeting was facilitated by officials from the Department of Budget in collaboration with officials from Support Services Departments, Accounts and Administration. Participants were representatives of Chiefs and community councillors from selected villages and constituencies, youth organisations and business community.

2. OPENING REMARKS

2.1. District Administrator (DA)

- 2.1.1. In his remarks, the District Administrator representative, Mr Taelo Mohloai welcomed those in attendance and expressed his appreciation for honouring the invitation to participate in the consultations. He emphasised the importance of pre-budget consultations as they provide the opportunity to the people, to voice out their needs and aspirations. He requested the participants to listen attentively and provide inputs on behalf of the communities they serve and that the meeting participants should be mindful that decisions made in this meeting will not only affect the current generation but will also impact on future generations.

2.2. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)

- 2.2.1. On behalf of the MFDP, the Budget Controller, Maleshoane Lekomola-Danziger gave her opening remarks, recognising and appreciation representatives from the DA's office and UNICEF. She then gave the purpose of the consultations which is meant to give an overview of the previous Year's budget performance and the subsequent Year's Budget, to gather policy direction in preparation for the 2026/27 to 2028/29 budget. She also mentioned that a different approach from the previous years will be taken, where participants voiced their opinions by raising hands in the general discussions.
- 2.2.2. However, this year the participants will break-away into three (3) groups to discuss their aspirations, which will then be shared in the form of verbal presentations by representatives from each group. The written presentations from the groups will then be submitted to the facilitators, following completion of the verbal presentations. Finally, the civil servants from the councils were

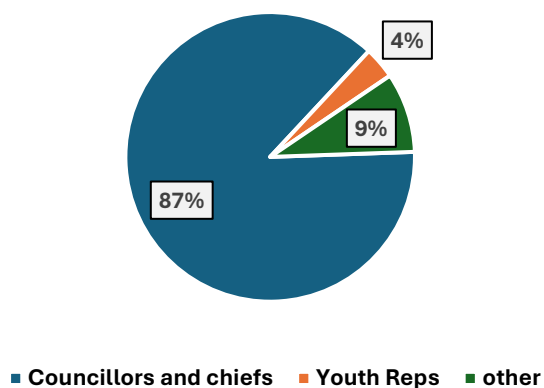
asked to compile a report and share with the District Administrator (DA) and Budget controller, for integration into the final report.

2.3. United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

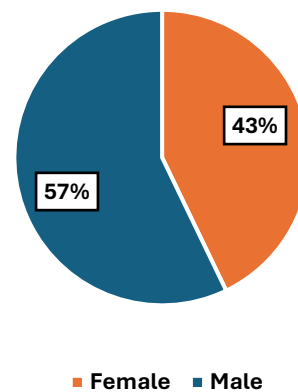
2.3.1. In her remarks, on behalf of the UNICEF, Ms. Mabaruti expressed her gratitude and commended the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for the pre-budget consultations which are a platform for the various stakeholder representatives to voice their people’s needs, as they will be on record and will most definitely be acted upon. She further reiterated that, the pre-budget consultations are an opportunity to the youth to engage in the budget process and decision making, therefore the youth representatives should voice out their needs and participate actively in the discussions.

3. STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Participants by Category



Participants by gender



4. GENERAL DISCUSSION/EXPECTATIONS

4.1. Budget allocations should be on a need basis as opposed to the current system where funding is allocated equally in all districts. Most of the communities’ or councils’ needs are not fulfilled, owing to limited resources.

4.2. Enactment of the Decentralisation Bill to improve service. Currently there are delays in release and allocation of funds to the councils. It is advised that unspent funds at the end of the financial year should not be retired to the Consolidated Fund but be carried forward to the next financial year, to complete outstanding works for which funds were released.

4.3. There should be programmes in place to assist Youth-led NGOs whose focus is on civil and developmental issues, as is the case with youth-led businesses under the Sebatatso Youth Empowerment Initiative, whose focus is entrepreneur development.

4.4. There is a need for employment of additional teachers in some primary schools within the district. There used to be peace corps teachers who filled

in the gaps of shortage of teachers but were last engaged before the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Education and Training is therefore advised to attend to this issue and place teachers in the needy primary schools, taking advantage of the Youth Apprenticeship Programme.

- 4.5.** There is a need for strict regulation of pharmacies and chemists, to help alleviate aggravation of diseases owing to improper administration of some drugs and improper recruitment of personnel. The pharmacies tend to hire nurse assistants in place of pharmacists as a cost cutting measure, in turn compromising the lives of the people. Furthermore, some chemists are transformed into pharmacies and vice versa, without following due procedure. The Lesotho Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Council (LMDPAC) had embarked on an inspection and regular monitoring of these businesses in the district but did not complete the initiative owing to lack of funding. The government may consider subsidising the LMDPAC to effectively and sustainably perform these tasks.
- 4.6.** Access to and provision of household electricity connection is skewed towards the urban parts of Mafeteng, while the rural is left unattended. Crime and stock theft is prevalent in these unelectrified parts of the district. The Government should consider intensifying its efforts in provision of electricity in rural communities.

5. GROUP DISCUSSIONS

5.1. GROUP 3

- 5.1.1. There is a need for electricity connection to facilitate better school performance, business efficiency and cost-effectiveness and to curb criminal acts (robbery and rape). Some schools cannot equip their classrooms with computers as they do not have electricity and business costs are higher due to non-electricity connection.
- 5.1.2. Construction of roads for ease of movement, especially for pregnant women who must travel long distances for antenatal care and childbirth.
- 5.1.3. Water Supply, for drinking and business purposes. Lack of water supply hinders progress of projects that depend on water usage for their survival, such as recycling paper or boxes into toilet paper.
- 5.1.4. Construction of healthcare centres with well trained personnel is essential. Though there are health outreach meetings held, some places are hard to reach, require river crossing, and the proposed times are in most cases are not suitable for all, therefore there is a need for more healthcare centres. Furthermore, recruitment of healthcare personnel should undergo thorough vetting and background checks, especially that of foreigners.
- 5.1.5. Corporate Governance: there is a need for proper succession plans and trainings in cooperatives, to ensure sustainable longevity of those cooperatives.

5.2. GROUP 2

- 5.2.1. Water supply and sanitation: there is a need for clean drinking water and toilets. Approximately 70% of the villages do not have access to clean drinking water. Water sources are contaminated, due to open defecation, which leads to diseases and pollution.
- 5.2.2. Construction of roads and bridges, for ease of movement to and from places of work, healthcare centres and police stations. Absence of roads and bridges prolongs the time one should travel to acquire services. It further makes learners vulnerable during rainy seasons.
- 5.2.3. Universal electricity connection to facilitate provision of services i.e. government officials from the community councils have to travel to town for printing of documents and follow-up on payment of some services rendered. Clinics and police stations depend on electricity for service delivery.
- 5.2.4. There's a need for construction of additional schools in remote areas, as some learners currently walk long distances to get to school.
- 5.2.5. There is a need for climate-smart agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, shade nets and irrigation pumps) that can withstand the dry weather conditions in Mafeteng.

5.3. GROUP 1

- 5.3.1. There's a need for clean water supply and sanitation, for cleanliness and health purposes. There are water tanks currently being built in villages; however, water supply in bigger villages is not sufficient therefore require more than one tank.
- 5.3.2. Climate change has to a larger extent affected Mafeteng. There is therefore a need for training on conservative water usage, especially for agricultural purposes. Additionally, climate change has also brought about an influx of birds that destroy agricultural produce (sorghum), which has led to a decline in yield. Trainings on climate-smart agriculture practices are therefore needed.
- 5.3.3. Healthcare: there's a limited access to healthcare facilities due to uneven distribution and access to roads to reach these facilities. There is need for construction of additional accessible healthcare centres, to alleviate aggravation of diseases, especially for people already on lifetime medication, who are sometimes reluctant or unable to travel long distances to get to healthcare centres.
- 5.3.4. There is a need for construction of additional schools and diverse vocational training institutions that will also provide courses on technology, not just woodwork and more youth resource centres which will work conjointly with the vocational schools. There is also a need to rehabilitate the existing

resource centres, equip and provide them with internet connection. The resource centres will equip the youth with life skills and career guidance.

- 5.3.5. Infrastructure: construction of roads, for ease of access to services. The Mafeteng Hospital is inaccessible to people residing in remote areas, due to bad roads and long distances.

Contacts for youth organisations representatives:

1. Endless Empowerment
+266 57036081
2. The Revolution
+266 56232383

ANNEX 7: BEREA ACTIVITY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.** The 2027 pre-budget consultation meetings were held successfully from the 18th to 20th June 2025 at Blue Mountain Inn. The purpose of consultations was to improve participatory budgeting by engaging the citizens through their local government representatives; community councillors and chiefs; private sector and civil society organisations to. Further, the meetings were meant to disseminate the performance of the 2024/25 budget, highlights of the 2025/26 budget allocations, and gathering of public inputs on the policy direction for the 2026/27 budget. With the assistance of UNICEF through the Power Hub Initiative Programme, the 2026/27 meetings saw the addition of a new cohort of representatives from diverse youth organisations.
- 1.2.** The Meeting was facilitated by officials from the Department of Budget in collaboration with officials from Support Services Departments, Accounts and Administration. Participants were representatives of Chiefs and community councillors from selected villages and constituencies, youth organisations and business community.

2. OPENING REMARKS

2.1. District Council Secretary (DCS)

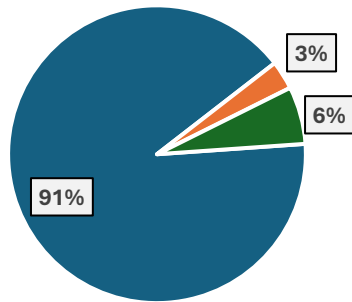
- 2.1.1.** The DCS welcomed all participants including youth organisations such as The Power Hub, Agri Vision Lesotho as well as The Girls Hub. He reiterated on the importance of these meetings and therefore urged the participants to take part freely and actively.

2.2. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)

- 2.2.1.** On behalf of the MFDP, the Budget Controller, Maleshoane Lekomola-Danziger acknowledged the presence of those in attendance and introduced the purpose of the meeting, indicating that, the purpose is two-fold; to disseminate the 2024/25 budget performance, provide the highlight of the 2025/26 budget and to further solicit inputs from the grassroots in preparation for the 2026/27 budget.
- 2.2.2.** Moreover, She indicated in developing the 2026/27 budget policy (budget strategy paper), more emphasis will be placed on unemployment especially youth unemployment. She reiterated that in the event of slow economic growth, the meeting is expected to come-up with strategies that will improve economic growth as well as employment generation. She further emphasised on the administrative challenges faced by both the District Secretary and the community councillors and urged the parties to amicably resolve the challenges for improved service delivery.

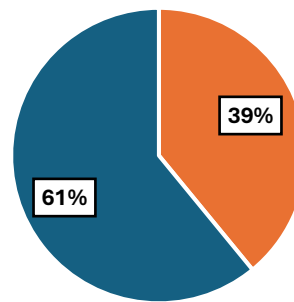
3. STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Participants by Category



■ Councillors and chiefs ■ Youth Reps ■ other

Participants by gender



■ Female ■ Male

4. GENERAL DISCUSSIONS/EXPECTATIONS

- 4.1.** A consolidation of all programmes meant for youth and women empowerment is needed, and dissemination of information pertaining to such programmes should be widespread. It seems there are many such programmes but are unknown to a vast number of the intended groups or beneficiaries.
- 4.2.** The initiatives aimed at providing seed funding or guarantees often have restraining requirements, where for example the SADC requires that an applicant must have M100 000.00 to qualify for the funding and the banks require the applicant to have 30% of the required loan amount to qualify. The government should ease the qualification requirements for improved utilisation of funding.

5. GROUP DISCUSSIONS

5.1. GROUP 2

- 5.1.1. Councillors' allowances should be revised upwards and community policing personnel (mahokela) should also be remunerated.
- 5.1.2. There is a need for roads in Mamathe - Mahlatsa, Lekokoaneng - Ha Senekane, Mateka - Mantheke, Mohatlane - Mona and Sebetia - Phororong.
- 5.1.3. Construction of footbridges in Ha Salemona, Sebalabala - St David, Mafika-Lisiu, Molapo - Mona and Nthafa - Mosiuoa, for ease of movement and to avoid casualties, especially during the rainy season.
- 5.1.4. Electricity connection is a basic need in remote areas. People migrate from remote areas in search of electricity access, and this migration leads to construction of residential houses on agricultural land. There is need for electricity connection in Ntloana-tsoana, Bolanku, Bua-Sono, Pulane, Ha Mona and Ha Tsepe.

5.1.5. There is a need for water supply in Ha Bua-Sono, Cana, Mopeli, Ha Tšepe and Ha Mokolanyane, to alleviate water-borne diseases due to unclean drinking water.

5.2. GROUP 3

5.2.1. There is a need for water supply in Cana, Kolone, Ha Ndebele, Ha Ramoseka, Ha Paape, Qalaheng, Ha Makatane, Ha Mosiuoa, Mafotholeng, Ha Bolisa, Ha Bua-Sono, Ha Mots'oeneng, Piting (Ha Makhoebe), Mapoteng – Mahlatsa, Kubetu, Mokoallong, komakoma, Makeoane, BOSCO, Mamatebele, Machalefose, Sebitiea, Tebe-Tebe – Mokhameleli, Lipohong, Pii, Zone B – Motanasel and Senekane. There are existing water sources that can supply water to neighbouring villages, which can improve sanitation, especially for girls, during their menses.

5.2.2. Electricity connection in Kueneng – Lipeleseng, Senekane, Pulane, Motanasela, Rachere, Ntlama, Khechane – Nkhahle and Makhula.

5.2.3. Construction of footbridges in Lejone – Ramoepana, Mapeshoane – Moorasane, Mokhameleli, Qopo – Ramoseeka, Ha Motjoli – Nkhetlaling, Lefikeng – Qetlane, Posholi – 'Mapa, Makeoane, Patrick – Mokhameleli and Ramapaeane.

5.2.4. Expansion or relocation of the Teyateyaneng town. The Berea council has secured land in Ha Ntjabane and has a town plan ready for implementation. There is therefore a need for construction of roads, water supply and a sewer line.

5.2.5. Construction of roads in Matsokung – Ha Mokhehle, Ha Mamathe – Matelile, Moeketsane – Nokong, 'Matau – Tebalete, Bua-Sono – Senekane, 'Matjotjo – Makhula, Lipohong – Nkhahle, Mateka – Mokhameleli, Ramakoaane, Kolojane -Tlabalesoba.

5.3. GROUP 1

5.3.1. Construction of roads, to facilitate economic growth and service delivery, which is currently constrained by hurdles in movement and transportation. These roads should be constructed in Nokong, Ha Moshati, Lishopong (Lekokoaneng), Libuping – Makebe, Qhooeng and Ntloana-ts'oana.

5.3.2. There is a need for water supply in Liotloaneng, Ha Chetane, Senekane, Tsereoane and Mokhethoaneng, as people are currently drinking from unprotected water sources together with animals. Available water sources can be improved and water tanks built to supply clean water for drinking. The Mokhethoaneng residents draw water from Mohakare for washing.

5.3.3. To curb stock theft, which is on the rise due to darkness, electricity connection in Lipeleseng, Bela-Bela, Kanana Ha Mokhoele, Malimong – Kome, Ntloana-ts'oana and Ha Letlatsa is needed.

5.3.4. There is a need for timely distribution of agricultural inputs and trainings for the youth on general agriculture (crops and livestock), to facilitate economic

growth. Additionally, Construction of factories in Mapoteng, Sehlabeng-sa-Thuathe and Mokhethoaneng.

- 5.3.5. There is a need for construction of High schools in Lipeleseng and Qopo, and a Pre-school in Ha Ramoseeka.
- 5.3.6. Healthcare centres are needed in Ha Souru, Makeoana, Matebele and Ha Ralimo (Baruting).

Contacts for youth organisations representatives:

- 1. The Girls Hub
+266 67426261
- 2. Agrivision Youthlet Organisation
+266 59466456

ANNEX 7: BUTHA-BUTHE ACTIVITY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.** The 2027 pre-budget consultation meetings were held successfully from the 19th to 21st June 2025 at Phokeng Guest House. The purpose of consultations was to solicit public inputs from community representatives, youth organisations and business community to facilitate the development of the 2026/27 budget strategy paper. The Meetings were further meant to improve participatory budgeting, disseminate the performance of the 2024/25 budget, highlights of the 2025/26 budget allocations, and gathering of public inputs on the policy direction for the 2026/27 budget.
- 1.2.** The Meeting was facilitated by officials from the Department of Budget in collaboration with officials from Support Services Departments, Accounts and Administration. Participants were representatives of Chiefs and community councillors from selected villages and constituencies, youth organisations and business community.

2. OPENING AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

2.1. District Administrator

- 2.1.1.** In her remarks, representing the DA's office, Mrs 'Mareatile Nthafa welcomed all attendants and expressed their gratitude for being part of this important exercise. She applauded the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for its continuous visits to the district to gather citizens inputs that will contribute to the development of the district and the Country. She emphasised the importance of a participatory budget and the presence of youth who are usually sidelined in most decision-making platforms, encouraging them to participate actively, for the betterment of the district. She further indicated that the citizens' understanding on budget preparation and implementation is gradually enhanced since the introduction of these meetings.

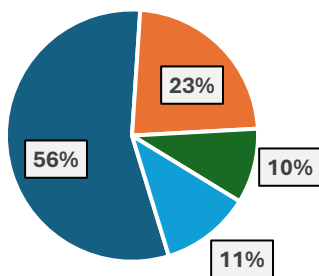
2.2. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

- 2.2.1.** In her remarks, the Budget Controller, Mrs Maleshoane Lekomola-Danziger acknowledged all those in attendance and thanked them for providing time out of their busy schedule and unfavourable weather conditions to participate in the meetings. She indicated that the consultations should be regarded as a platform to directly hear from communities about their development needs and that she expects insightful information that would inform budgetary decisions and ensure that the upcoming budget reflects the needs and aspirations of all citizens, especially young people.
- 2.2.2.** She highlighted the ongoing unemployment challenge particularly youth unemployment, which continues to limit opportunities for many young Basotho. She therefore emphasized that unlocking potential job opportunities requires targeted policies and resource allocation and that full participation by community plays a pivotal role in shaping the country's development landscape. She further urged those responsible for administration of the

district to facilitate a meeting of all central government ministries which are part to provision of service at district level to collectively discuss and share with the citizens the budgetary allocations and performance of their budget allocations. This will intern unveil the gaps that need collaborative interventions and as such immediate actions would be agreed upon.

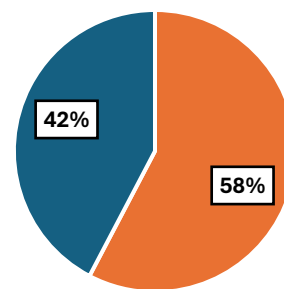
3. STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Participants by Category



■ Councillors and chiefs ■ Youth Reps
■ Business ■ other

Participants by gender



■ Female ■ Male

4. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS/EXPECTATIONS

4.1. Dissemination of information is among the major challenges facing the district. The rural communities are not timeously informed of the development initiatives coming their way and this subjects them to exploitation. An effective and reliable information dissemination strategy is crucial for the development and well-being of rural communities.

4.2. The unspent funds during closure of the financial year are retired back to the consolidated fund and this is a huge concern to the communities. The question that arises is whether the budget was not meticulously prepared or whether the budgeted activities were not undertaken.

5. GROUP DISCUSSIONS

5.1. GROUP 2

5.1.1. **Infrastructure:** construction of footbridges in Lerobane, Mpatloane, Khapung, Makopo and Qalo, construction of road network for ease of movement, construction and provision of houses for government officers, community hall, electricity supply, Sports facilities, Solar streetlights, water supply in Ha Pokane and Bus-stop extension and renovation.

5.1.2. Inclusive vocational training institutions and mini libraries for children.

5.1.3. Accessible tourist attraction points through construction of roads and improvement of tourist sites in Ha Chepheseli (sand dunes), erection of a tollgate at Ha Molapo (Moteng viewpoint).

- 5.1.4. Healthcare posts should be upgraded to healthcare centres and should operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Additionally, sanitary towels should be distributed free of charge.
- 5.1.5. Economic transformation: The Ha Belo factories should be operationalised and BEDCO services be decentralised, to ensure universal coverage. Additionally, free wi-fi around town is needed, to facilitate access for those who cannot afford data.
- 5.1.6. Resuscitate the tree planting initiative to combat effects of climate change, prevent land degradation and soil erosion.

5.2. GROUP 1

- 5.2.1. Construction of roads and bridges; roads in Ha Nqabeni – Ha Leboea, Tša-lemoleka council, Hospital area, Thabana-Mokhele, 'Muela – Mapoteng and bridges in Nqoe, Lehlakaneng – Maoelaoela, Rampai, Boritsa and Tša-lemoleka (Ha Malofo – Ha Makhoahla).
- 5.2.2. There's a need for electricity connection in Lejone – Motete, Ha Chaka – Phoku – Ha Mafika Lisiu, Ha Leboea, Ha Mohlanka, St Helena – Paballong and provision of streetlights from the main circle – to Hospital area – the border post, Pote – Ha Ramalietso, 'Moteng RC – 'Moten community and Seboche – Tipping.
- 5.2.3. Water supply in Barone, Qalo, Mechechane (Ngojane council), Thabana-Mokhele, Mahlekefane, Setlakalleng, Tsime and water and toilets for Mahlekefane are needed. Additionally, water supply sources for the Dr. Strong Thabo Makenete Hospital should be expanded.
- 5.2.4. Agriculture and job creation: Matete has natural resources (Rosehip, stone and mohair) that can be processed. There is therefore a need for training on how these resources can be processed and jobs created as a result. The Ngojane council also has minerals (coal) that can contribute towards creating jobs for the youth.
- 5.2.5. Projects or businesses run by youth and women should be exempted from trading fees, they should rather be issued permits until they reach a certain growth benchmark, after which they can now be issued trader's licences and pay the respective fees. Furthermore, the education curriculum and programmes should be improved.

5.3. GROUP 3

- 5.3.1. The roads in town (A1 Road), communities and remote areas are dilapidated, therefore require maintenance and reconstruction. There is a dire need for roads connecting Nabesna – Selomo – Linakeng – Tsime – Khukhune. Construction of footbridges at Lesia – Linakeng and a roadway bridge at Ha

- Leboea, to facilitate ease of movements for school pupils and sick persons, especially during the heavy rains season, owing to bad road infrastructure.
- 5.3.2. Water supply and sewage: despite completion of one dam, while another is still under construction, there is still a need for construction of more dams as many villages/communities still do not have access to drinking water,.
 - 5.3.3. Electricity connection: remote areas still do not have electricity connection, though electricity is generated in Butha-Buthe ('Muela Hydropower Station). Expansion of existing electricity generation facilities, like the 'Muela Hydropower Station can help reduce the Country's dependence on South Africa for electricity and reduce the cost to consumers.
 - 5.3.4. The Ha Belo factories should be operationalised, so that the youth and other Butha-Buthe residents can get jobs.
 - 5.3.5. There is a need for construction of more clinics, preferably in every 10KM, to facilitate quick access, especially in emergencies.

Contacts for youth organisations representatives:

1. Botha-Bothe Youth and Adults Development
+266 53033943 or 62608322
2. The Astrasapiens
FB: The Astrasapiens
+266 50111081 or 59617566 or 69082475
3. Thriving Youth Leaders initiative
+266 50508109

ANNEX 8: MASERU ACTIVITY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The 2027 pre-budget consultation meetings were held successfully from the 29th June to 1st July 2025 at Khutsong Lodge. The purpose of consultations was to improve participatory budgeting by engaging the citizens through their local government representatives; community councillors and chiefs; private sector and civil society organisations to. Further, the meetings were meant to disseminate the performance of the 2024/25 budget, highlights of the 2025/26 budget allocations, and gathering of public inputs on the policy direction for the 2026/27 budget. The 2026/27 meetings saw the addition of a new cohort of representatives from diverse youth organisations, media as well as a new United Nations Agency, International Organisation for Migration.
- 1.2. This meetings are meant to further improve citizen's understanding on the processes involved in preparing the national budget, importance of the fiscal policy statement, budget speech as well as how the appropriated budget is being implemented. The Meeting was facilitated by officials from the Department of Budget in collaboration with officials from Support Services Departments, Accounts and Administration. Participants were representatives of Chiefs and community councillors from selected villages and constituencies, youth organisations and business community.

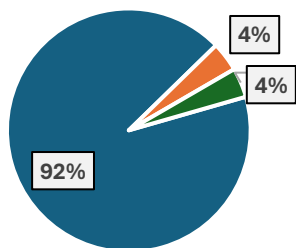
2. OPENING AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

2.1. District Administrator (DA)

- 2.1.1. In his welcome remarks, the DA Mr Tšepo Lethobane urged the councillors and chiefs to go to the people they are representing, to educate them on the budget process to impart education on issues such as scarcity of funds and other issues pertaining to agriculture, climate change and finance. He further stated that the Ha Baraoana-ba-Chere and Likolobeng can generate revenue for the Government, if regulated. He stated festivals are held in Likolobeng, in the spring and summer seasons, however, do not benefit the Likolobeng residents as these festivals are hosted by people/entities from Maseru urban. Littering is among some of the issues resulting from these festivals, leaving the DA's office in collaboration with LHDA with the responsibility to tidy the place.
- 2.2. **Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)**
- 2.2.1. Delivering his opening remarks on behalf of the MFDP, Mr Matete Seeiso gave an overview of what the pre-budget consultations entail. He further gave a presentation of the budget calendar, indicating how the pre-budget consultations feed into the budget process, through the Budget Strategy Paper (BSP). He made emphasis on the fact that the aspirations (water supply, electricity connection etc) gathered from the consultations are not presented at a micro level (villages and Councils) in the BSP but are aggregated.

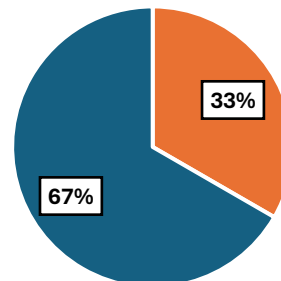
3. STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Participants by category



■ Councillors and chiefs ■ Youth Reps ■ other

Participants by gender



■ Female ■ Male

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION/EXPECTATIONS

- 4.1. The government should recognise the importance of local government structures and that if given the authority they deserve, they will assist in achieving government priorities, including creation of job opportunities. The importance of College of Chiefs (all levels) in the governance structure should not be overlooked and be remunerated accordingly. Lack of offices and inadequate budget allocations for their operation undermines principles of good governance.
- 4.2. Overregulated warrant releases and disbursement of funds hinder timely and efficient use of public funds and negatively impacts public spending and service delivery. There is a need to review and streamline the processes involved and ensure that controls are effective.
- 4.3. Upon completion of their term in administration, the Government should consider provision of retirement package pension to members of local authorities as is the case with members of Parliament under the Defined Contribution Pension Fund.
- 4.4. There is a need for electricity connection in Ha Ramabanta, and rehabilitation of a bridge, for ease of movement.
- 4.5. The Semonkong urban council uses wheelbarrows to maintain roads. There is therefore a need for yellow plant machinery, to facilitate construction and maintenance of road.
- 4.6. There is a need for pavement strengthening to the road leading to Maletsunyane Falls. It has been in the plans, but there is no implementation to date.
- 4.7. The Government should consider the remote areas of Maseru when allocating funds for development. At least three quarters of the districts have a large

deficit in infrastructure development and thus poverty and crime rates are substantially increasing. There is therefore a need for electricity provision and connection, which can be met through upgrading the already existing power stations.

- 4.8. There is a need for construction of roads, water supply and electricity connections in Makhoalipana.
- 4.9. In the quest to create jobs for the youth, the Government should work with community councillors on land allocation to the youth for starting agricultural projects.
- 4.10. Local authority structures be capacitated on budget formulation, for improved understanding and informed response to the public on developmental issues.

5. GROUP PRESENTATIONS

5.1. GROUP 3

- 5.1.1. The Government should invest in the development and rehabilitation of existing tourist attraction centres such as 'Maletsunyane falls, Thaba-Bosiu, Lekhalong-la-Baroa, Mohale and Metolong Dams. The Tourism levy for the said attraction sites should be revised, to optimise revenue generated from them.
- 5.1.2. Agricultural inputs (fertilizers) should be made easily accessible to the people, through resource centres. Bringing agricultural inputs close to the farmers will substantially increase agricultural productivity while reducing the cost associated with the current set-up. Additionally, construction of dams for water supply is needed.
- 5.1.3. The country is rich in places where rainwater flows freely due to its topographical structures. Construction of additional dams in these places with high surface elevation for water harvesting for investment, drinking and irrigational purposes is advised.
- 5.1.4. There is a need for a yellow plant in remote Maseru, to avoid disturbance in the works done in the lowlands of Maseru.
- 5.1.5. Construction and refurbishment of multipurpose sports facilities, to promote domestic tourism, professional sports and revenue enhancement is advised.
- 5.1.6. For revenue enhancement and traffic control in towns, construction of tollgates is needed.

5.2. GROUP 2

- 5.2.1. Construction and maintenance of a roads network in the highlands and rural parts of Maseru, for ease of movement and improved access to healthcare

facilities especially for pregnant women and other ill people. The terrain in other parts of the district and inadequate transportation options has also led to the use of unorthodox modes of transportation of the deceased.

- 5.2.2. Provision of water supply and sanitation, to enhance access to clean water and to improve and attract investment in the water bottling business.
- 5.2.3. In the highlands, the summer cropping season is shorter due to early winter, as such, there is a need for timely distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilizers) and other remote areas. Additionally, to facilitate easy sale of livestock, there is a need for establishment of community livestock enclosures where livestock branding can be done. The enclosures will promote secure livestock and reduce livestock attacks.
- 5.2.4. There is a need for electricity connection for households in the rural communities and healthcare centres. In some parts of the district, some healthcare centres use solar energy generation, and these centres suffer during prolonged cloudy weather conditions when solar energy cannot be generated.
- 5.2.5. Job creation for the youth who graduated from institutions of higher learning but remain jobless, to a point where they are forced to leave the country to seek for jobs elsewhere.

5.3. **GROUP 1**

- 5.3.1. Decentralisation of services for improved service delivery is advised. There is also a need for receipt books in community councils, for recording of revenues collected from range management and grazing control (makhulo) fines.
- 5.3.2. Maintenance of existing roads to ensure longevity of the roads.
- 5.3.3. Trainings and capacity building programmes on ethics for chiefs is advised. Some of the chiefs are involved in illegal deeds, pertaining to land appropriation, by allocating one site to multiple persons.
- 5.3.4. For revenue enhancement and job creation for the youth, there is a need for trainings on better waste management, recycling and reusing of waste.
- 5.3.5. To ensure representation of the youth in political matters, there is a need for a fiscal commitment in the 2026/27 budget, towards the National Youth Council elections.

Contacts for youth organisations representatives:

1. Lesotho Network of the Development of the Blind
Maseru West, Caledon Road, Office 80
+266 50552990
2. Turning adversity into Youth Opportunity (TAIYO)

+266 59073506

3. The Butterfly Central

+266 53186628

ANNEX 9: QACHA'S NEK ACTIVITY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.** The 2027 pre-budget consultation meetings were held successfully from the 1st - 3rd July 2025 at New Central Guest House. The purpose of consultations was to improve participatory budgeting by engaging the citizens through their local government representatives; community councillors and chiefs; private sector and civil society organisations to. Further, the meetings were meant to disseminate the performance of the 2024/25 budget, highlights of the 2025/26 budget allocations, and gathering of public inputs on the policy direction for the 2026/27 budget. The 2026/27 meetings saw the addition of a new cohort of representatives from diverse youth organisations, media as well as a new United Nations Agency, International Organisation for Migration.
- 1.2.** This meetings are meant to further improve citizen's understanding on the processes involved in preparing the national budget, importance of the fiscal policy statement, budget speech as well as how the appropriated budget is being implemented. The Meeting was facilitated by officials from the Department of Budget in collaboration with officials from Support Services Departments, Accounts and Administration. Participants were representatives of Chiefs and community councillors from selected villages and constituencies, youth organisations and business community.

2. OPENING AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

2.1. District Administrator (DA)

- 2.1.1. In his welcome remarks, the DA, Mr Paolosi Habofanoe welcomed the MFDP and the participants. He urged the representatives to appreciate the wonderful opportunity to take part in the planning of the country's future.

2.2. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)

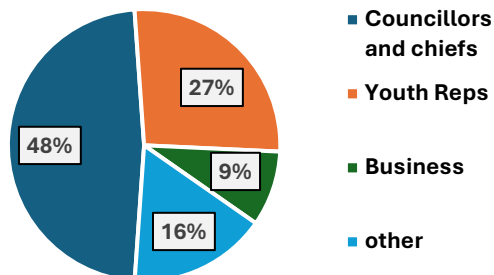
- 2.2.1. On behalf of the MFDP, in his opening remarks, Mr Matete Seeiso gave an elaborate presentation on the budget calendar, emphasising the importance of pre-budget consultations, towards formulation of the National Budget. He reiterated that the pre-budget consultations are a mechanism in which the aspirations of the communities are incorporated in the budget.

2.3. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

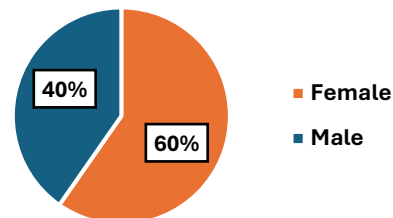
- 2.3.1. In her remarks, on behalf of UNICEF, Ms. 'Mabaruti Motsamai revisited the last time they were in the district to seek youth organisations who would be interested in serving humanity, under a M49 million fund. She urged the youth to take advantage of the opportunity presented to them, to be part of a process that will have their aspirations and concerns on record.

3. STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Participants by Category



Participants by gender



4. GENERAL DISCUSSION/EXPECTATIONS

- 4.1. Part of the district uses electricity generated from South Africa, which is prone to load shedding. These disruptions in electricity supply have a negative impact on both businesses and households. There is therefore a need for electricity connection sourced locally, to offset the negative impact and reap full benefits of access to electricity.
- 4.2. Construction of a tertiary institution with clear strategies on how admissions in tertiary institutions can be increased. Admission in the local institutions is restricted by infrastructure, academic capacity and tuition funding.
- 4.3. Construction of new roads, upgrade and refurbishment of existing roads and bridges to facilitate ease of movement especially for school pupils who cannot go to school during rainy seasons.
- 4.4. There is a need for employment creation for the youth, taking into consideration different talents they possess. Due to the district's proximity to some parts of South Africa, young Basotho who are faced with joblessness migrate to South Africa in search of jobs, and in turn are exploited and subjected to various vulnerabilities. The government is advised to construct factory shells in the district to further accommodate an influx of Basotho who face joblessness and are returning from South Africa.
- 4.5. Enactment of both the Decentralisation and New Public Financial Management and Accountability Bills and their full implementation.
- 4.6. Chiefs play a significant role in governance and community leadership, yet they are demotivated to perform their daily activities due to the allowances they receive. Some are even looking for alternative ways to supplement what they earn. To contribute efficiently and effectively to enhanced governance, there is a need to review their allowances.

- 4.7. Information dissemination should be broadened, this can be done through various Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), which have a larger coverage in membership.
- 4.8. Different initiatives should not be politicised, to ensure a broader and inclusive coverage of the youth.
- 4.9. In the highlands, the summer cropping season is shorter due to early arrival of winter, as such, there is a need for timely distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds). Winter frost arrives earlier in the highlands; therefore, crops are subjected to wilting before they are ready for harvesting.
- 4.10. Budget or funds allocated to councils should be increased, to fast-track development.
- 4.11. There is need for rehabilitation of the Matebeng road.

5. GROUP PRESENTATIONS

5.1. GROUP 1

- 5.1.1. Construction of factories and a tertiary institution, to provide jobs and absorb the youth that has relevant skills.
- 5.1.2. Construction of roads and bridges, to facilitate ease of movement and enhance service delivery
- 5.1.3. Streetlighting in town and electricity connection in villages, to curb criminal acts that are enabled by the prevailing darkness.
- 5.1.4. Provision and connection of water supply in town and in villages.
- 5.1.5. Construction of more market centres, to accommodate merchants who are currently not in the existing market centre.

5.2. GROUP 2

- 5.2.1. There is a need for a quarterly flea market day, which will be a platform for the youth to advertise and sell their products.
- 5.2.2. Construction of a mohair and wool processing plant factory is needed.
- 5.2.3. There is a need for investment in large retail shops as well as large hardware stores in the district, to curb imports, as people currently buy from South Africa.
- 5.2.4. There are places identified to have potential for mining operations in the district but due to lack of funding and other reasons, these places have been left unattended and are not operational. There is therefore a need for the

Government to undertake mineral prospecting, attract investors and facilitate opening of mines in those areas.

- 5.2.5. There is a need for a district science and maths fair that will give the youth a chance to showcase their talents while fostering creativity and innovation.
- 5.2.6. The government should consider tightening the business regulations, to prohibit foreign investors from engaging in small retail shops.
- 5.2.7. Rehabilitation of rural and community roads is advised.
- 5.2.8. Procurement officers should be rotated after every 3 years to ensure that there is transparency in the field.
- 5.2.9. Due to absence of town plans, some residential houses have been built nearness to or within the town boundaries. To facilitate expansion of, and business activity, the government is advised to consider relocation of residential houses built within the town boundaries.

5.3. GROUP 3

- 5.3.1. Construction of roads and bridges in Sehlaba-Thebe-Sehong-hong, Thifa-Mosaqane, Maconzatomose (Matebeng), Chale-Majoe mak'holo, Thuube Sekokoaneng, Ranqhongoane Pheello, Whitehill Molalanyane, Qanya, Semenyane, Sephelane.
- 5.3.2. There is a need for tertiary institutions which will absorb students who have completed high school education in the district, since they migrate and leave the district to Maseru and other places, and never come back once they have completed their studies. This therefore denies their home ground the benefit of having groomed them as well as their contribution to the district economic activities.
- 5.3.3. Talent recognition and grooming for the youth. There is a need for funding of various talents (films, photographers and artists).
- 5.3.4. There is a need for universal electricity supply and power generation in the district, which can be done through wind power generation and enhancement of the Tsoelike hydropower station.
- 5.3.5. There is a need for waste management in the district and along the Mpiti-Sehlaba-Thebe Road, which is already swamped with garbage that threatens the lifespan of this expensive investment. Placement of garbage bins along the roads, to ensure cleanliness is advised. Additionally, there is a need for water supply and sanitation (toilets) in the villages, for drinking and improved hygiene.

Contacts for youth organisations representatives:

1. Qacha Youth Centre, +266 57888677
2. Thaba-li-Maqhoa, +266 63661012
3. Morning Star Film, +266 58543109
4. Sechaba Pheko Foundation, +266 56868457
5. Setšabelo sa Mohau, havenofgrace@gmail.com

ANNEX 10: THABA-TSEKA ACTIVITY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The 2027 pre-budget consultation meetings were held successfully from the 6th – 8th July 2025 at Mohale Oa Masite Lodge. The purpose of consultations was to improve participatory budgeting by engaging the citizens through their local government representatives; community councillors and chiefs; private sector and civil society organisations to. Further, the meetings were meant to disseminate the performance of the 2024/25 budget, highlights of the 2025/26 budget allocations, and gathering of public inputs on the policy direction for the 2026/27 budget. The 2026/27 meetings saw the addition of a new cohort of representatives from diverse youth organisations, media as well as a new United Nations Agency, International Organisation for Migration.
- 1.2. This meetings are meant to further improve citizen’s understanding on the processes involved in preparing the national budget, importance of the fiscal policy statement, budget speech as well as how the appropriated budget is being implemented. The Meeting was facilitated by officials from the Department of Budget in collaboration with officials from Support Services Departments, Accounts and Administration. Participants were representatives of Chiefs and community councillors from selected villages and constituencies, youth organisations and business community.

2. OPENING AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

2.1. District Administrator (DA)

- 2.1.1. In delivering her welcoming remarks, Mrs Sekalakala, the District Council Secretary welcomed all those in attendance and thanked them for their dedication towards this exhausting responsibility of ensuring that the ample services are delivered to the nation. She indicated that despite budgetary and administrative challenges, the community representatives are still committed to their responsibilities and that they should take this platform as an opportunity to convey their collective concerns and further provide insightful contribution that will shape the future of district. Having reiterated on challenges brought by inadequate and poor infrastructure, she further urged the MFDP to look into ways of allocating resources equitable among districts particularly the mountainous ones which are highly vulnerable and at disadvantage due their geographic characteristics. She wished the meeting a fruitful deliberations.

2.2. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

- 2.2.1. On behalf of the MFDP, in his opening remarks, Mr Matete Seeiso he indicated that the purpose of this meeting is to gather insightful inputs that will assist in developing the 2026/27-2028/29 budget policy. He also rendered his apology for the inconvenience caused by rescheduling of the meetings. He reminded the meeting that the postponement was caused by extreme weather

conditions that led to snowfall and urged all in attendance to be cautious on their way back and avoid travelling if the roads have not been cleared.

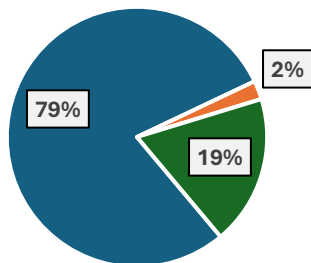
- 2.3. He further gave an elaborate presentation on the budget calendar, highlighting the importance of achieving all the milestones on time and emphasising the importance of “Top-down-Bottom-up” approach to budgeting. He indicated that the pre-budget consultations are the first and most important step towards formulation of the National Budget and that they are a mechanism in which the aspirations of the communities are incorporated in the budget.

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

- 2.4. Ms 'Mabaruti Motsamai emphasised the UNICEF’s role in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), expressing that the Lesobeng Youth Development Association is the only youth NGO that applied for an opportunity under the Youth Power Hub, indicating that the youth in Thaba-Tseka did not apply. She then explained that UNICEF takes a back seat in the actual work done in communities and provides financial and technical assistance to the ministries to achieve the goals.

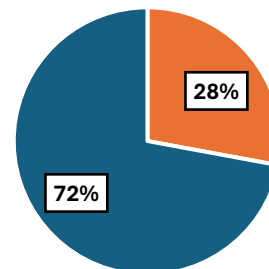
3. Stakeholder Representation

Participants by Category



■ Councillors and chiefs ■ Youth Reps ■ other

Participants by gender



■ Female ■ Male

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION/EXPECTATIONS

- 4.1. Poor implementation of government programmes and projects which leads to low absorptive capacity are the effects of non-decentralised services. The Government is advised to implement full decentralisation of services and fiscus, for improved service delivery.
- 4.2. Lack of access to communication is a challenge to rural communities. There is a need for communication towers to improve access to information in Kuebunyane which has a population of approximately 3000 people.
- 4.3. Import on certain agricultural products should be prohibited and the Government should put in place policies and strategies aimed at boosting domestic production. One of the measures may include closure of borders

for agricultural products, to enable local farmers to sell their products without hectic competition from imported products.

- 4.4. The current community roads construction system has proven ineffective due to the high cost associated with maintenance of yellow plants, staff turnover of yellow plant operators, theft (fuel and parts of the machinery) as well as a piece-meal construction approach undertaken. It is advised that construction of community roads be subjected to the same tendering process undertaken in public works programmes, to ensure timely completion of these roads. Currently, the available machinery works a single road, for years. An example of such a case is the Mateu–Methalaneng road.
- 4.5. There is no budget for maintenance of rural community roads. Upon completion of construction of these roads (earth and gravel roads), they are neglected, subjecting them to dilapidation, erosion and emergence of potholes. Budget allocations should be made for maintenance, taking into consideration the different terrains of districts.
- 4.6. Urban Road Fund is centrally administered by the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Police and Home Affairs. This arrangement neglects the needs of individual districts, as the urban councils are not given the opportunity to budget for their respective districts but rely on the parent ministry as to when construction will be undertaken. It is advised that a transparent programme be established on how construction will be implemented accordingly, one example to learn from is that of the construction of Pitso Houses across the ten districts.
- 4.7. It has become evident that the younger population in their school going age normally goes to the traditional initiation schools (Lebollo). This practice is mostly predominant in the highlands and affect the educational continuity among young people.
- 4.8. There is a need for capacity building or sensitization of the youth on some opportunities available to them and what they need to do to access or benefit from them.
- 4.9. There is a major water supply challenge at the urban demarcations which frequently face disruptions in water supply, while there is limited to no supply in the peri-urban and communities. These disruptions are attributed to old water reservoirs as well as deteriorating infrastructure. The Government should in the short-run, consider ways to mitigate shortage of water supply while developing a sustainable water supply measure in the long-run.
- 4.10. The Development Fund’s budget is allocated equally across the ten districts and does not consider the rugged terrain in mountainous areas, especially Thaba-Tseka, Mokhotlong and Qacha’s Nek. This challenge is also prevalent in the distribution of funds for operationalisation of the districts. The government should consider equitable ways of allocating funds to districts

considering their different characteristics and the impact of such characteristics in effective and efficient service delivery.

5. GROUP PRESENTATIONS

5.1. GROUP 3

- 5.1.1. Budget allocations should consider vulnerability of the communities and districts, in terms of infrastructure development and poverty and should be geared towards construction of roads and bridges, as well as agricultural development.
- 5.1.2. There is a need for improvement of agriculture and ensuring a timely distribution of seeds at resource centres. Additionally, there is a need for market centres where farmers can sell their produce.
- 5.1.3. To facilitate job creation, there is a need for capacity building trainings on crop production and fisheries, to name a few. Additionally, youth-led businesses should be enhanced, as this can create jobs for more people and reduce the number of people seeking jobs in the factories, in Maseru.
- 5.1.4. There is a need for universal water supply, to facilitate agricultural production (fisheries), for export to other countries and contribution towards job creation. This will further improve the country's trade deficit.
- 5.1.5. To ensure prolonged freshness of agricultural produce, there is a need for construction of storage facilities for agricultural produce, including wool and mohair

5.2. GROUP 2

- 5.2.1. There is a need for construction of roads and bridges, for ease of movement and travel, especially for ill persons whose illnesses are sometimes aggravated by the bad road conditions (potholes) while being taken to healthcare centres and for school pupils who cannot go to school during rainy seasons.
- 5.2.2. There is a need for increased electricity connection, to facilitate business development and curb criminal acts.
- 5.2.3. To facilitate seamless communication and marketing or sale of agricultural produce, which is mostly done on social media platforms, there is a need for communication towers, especially in remote areas.
- 5.2.4. Absence of proper sanitation facilities impact negatively on community health and promote illnesses. Proper sanitation facilities go hand in hand with provision of clean water for drinking and hygiene. Limited capacity of water reservoirs renders some standpipes ineffective and unusable, leaving communities without water. To alleviate water-borne and air pollution-related diseases that affect the elderly and other people, due to open defecation, there is a need for clean water supply and provision of sanitation (toilets) facilities.

- 5.2.5. The Country is faced with a high unemployment rate and no job opportunities for the population aged between 50 and 60 years. The Government should consider engaging labourers for construction of community roads instead of using the yellow plant which subjects the projects to delays, due to their breakage and high maintenance cost.
- 5.3. **GROUP 1**
- 5.3.1. Job creation, market centres and police posts, to ensure safety of the products sold at the market centres.
- 5.3.2. Construction of roads and bridges, for ease of movement. poor or lack of these infrastructures hinders provision of emergency transport, making it difficult for the sick to reach hospitals and clinics, particularly during emergencies like childbirth or acute illness. School children/learners and teachers' safety is also threatened during adverse weather conditions. Poor or lack of roads infrastructure further affects transportation of agricultural products to the intended market, which also aggravates food spoilage.
- 5.3.3. Provision of electricity (solar and grid) connection, to ensure safe movement at night is essential.
- 5.3.4. There is a need for construction of sports facilities, to curb youth criminal acts and to also get the youth interested in sports. These sports facilities should not be constructed solely for recreational purposes but should be considered to contribute towards job creation for the athletes, like those who are already making a living from winning athletics competitions.
- 5.3.5. Access to communication including phones and internet is still a challenge in most areas in the highlands, owing to limited infrastructure. The Government should consider construction of communication towers for improved information communication.

Contacts for youth organisations representatives:

1. Lesobeng Youth Development Association
Mr. Teboho Musi
+266 69174618/ 50544882