

**MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENERGY**

ANNUAL BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT

FY2024/25

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FOREWORD

Mr. Speaker,

Madam President,

The report provides an account of the Ministry's key achievements and details progress, against short-medium and long term objectives of the 'Nkwe' Program of Action and Policy Statement, the strategy objectives and contributions to the National Development Plan in the Financial Year 2024/25. This report also includes an analysis of the revenue collected, recurrent expenditure and the overall utilization of the budget.

In the period under review, the Ministry continued to contribute to the country's socio-economic development through well managed and effective utilization of natural resources and fulfilled its mandate.

In marking the end of the Financial Year 2024/25, may I humbly submit to both Houses of Parliament my Ministry's Annual Budget Performance Report.

HRH PRINCE LONKHOKHELA (SENATOR).

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

(FEBRUARY, 2025)

LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|-------|--|
| AfDB | African Development Bank |
| AMP | Africa Mini-grids Programme |
| CSER | Centre for Sustainable Energy Research |
| CTA | Central Transport Administration |
| DWA | Department of Water Affairs |
| EDM | Electricidade De Mozambique |
| ENPC | Eswatini National Petroleum Company- |
| ESERA | Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority |
| ESIA | Environmental and Social Impact Assessment |
| EWSC | Eswatini Water Services Corporation |
| EEC | Eswatini Electricity Company |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| LMB | Land Management Board |
| MMB | Minerals Management Board |
| MoU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MMD | Minerals and Mines Department |
| NDDC | National Development Data Center |
| NWA | National Water Authority |
| NRAP | Network Reinforcement Access Project |
| OAGS | Organization of African Geological Surveys |
| REAF | Rural Electrification Access Fund |

| | |
|---------|--|
| RDF | Rural Development Fund |
| RFQ | Request for Quote |
| ROC | Republic of China (Taiwan) |
| SEDCO | Small Enterprises Development Company |
| SSEG | Small Scale Embedded Generation |
| SLAM | Sustainable Land Administration and Management |
| UNESWA | University of Eswatini |
| REAESWA | Renewable Energy Association of Eswatini |

PREAMBLE:

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY FY2024/25: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE BUDGET REPORT DEBATE, FEBRUARY, 2025.

Honourable Chairperson,

INTRODUCTION

It is an honour to present the Ministry's Annual Budget Performance Report for the Financial Year 2024/25.

Honourable Chairperson, the report provides an account of the Ministry's key achievements and details progress, against short-medium and long term objectives of the 'Nkwe' Program of Action and Policy Statement, the strategy objectives and contributions to the National Development Plan in the Financial Year 2024/25. The report also includes an analysis of the revenue collected, recurrent expenditure and the overall utilization of the budget.

Honourable Chairperson, during the financial year 2024/25, the Ministry worked diligently in fulfilling its mandate which is to ensure sustainable use and management of natural resources in an endeavor to provide adequate services to the public in respect of water, minerals, energy, surveying, mapping, conveyancing registration of real rights in land and valuation in a transparent manner for the socio-economic benefit of all Emaswati.

Honourable Chairperson, the Ministry appreciates the effort made by the Government through the Ministry of Public Service who managed to fill 20 critical vacancies in the various departments which will assist to create a more efficient and effective service delivery. Furthermore, Government through the Ministry of Public Works and Transport has so far procured 6 new vehicles for the Ministry.

Honourable Chairperson, following the passing of the 4% increment on the water tariffs by the Honourable House, the Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC) managed to implement the tariff in December 2024 through a Legal Notice No. 182 of 2024, as part

of the multi-year tariff for the period 2024/25 -2026/27. This tariff increase is in line with the current inflation rate which is averaging between 4% - 5%. As EWSC mandate extends to rural areas the tariff may not be able to sufficiently cover the investment costs of infrastructure and sustainability costs.

Honourable Chairperson, the Government observed with keen interest the active participation of the public during the electricity tariff review process. The processes were followed by ESERA in accordance with the legal provisions and ESERA awarded EEC an average tariff increase of 14.67% for the financial year 2025/26 and 10.91% for the financial year 2026/27 against EEC's request of 25.99% and 31.9% respectively. However, Government, in her capacity as the sole shareholder of the Electricity Company intensely considered the impact of the approved tariffs to the consumers and in the spirit of curbing inflation, resolved to subject the electricity consumers to an average increase of 8% and 7% in the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27. Whilst Government undertakes to ensure that the funding gap to EEC as a result of this intervention is addressed in the most economic and prudent manner, EEC is also required to exercise more stringent austerity measures to ease the burden on the electricity consumers and the government.

Honourable Chairperson, please allow me to highlight the key achievements and some challenges realized by the Ministry during the financial year 2024/25:

REVENUE

Honourable Chairperson, during the period under review, in the financial year 2024/25, the Ministry was able to collect revenue amounting to E145, 036,309.86; this figure is expected to increase to about E252, 133,017.00 by the end of the financial year.

LAND AFFAIRS.

Honourable Chairperson, the Land Control Section managed to issue 423 Exemptions certificates and 844 farm no rental certificates. The Land Control Board received 7 applications and approved 6 applications. The Natural Resources Board received 43 applications and approved 38. The 4 District Farm Dwellers Tribunal received 27

matters, 19 were completed and rulings were issued, 8 are pending. The Central Farm Dwellers Tribunal received 2 appeals, both matters were completed and rulings were issued.

Honourable Chairperson, the Conveyancing Section on the other hand, received 16 instructions, prepared and completed 110 deeds and documents.

Honourable Chairperson, the Deeds Registry carried out 823 Deeds of Transfer, 685 Mortgage bonds, 43 Ante nuptial contracts, 286 Leases, 5 Notarial Deeds of Servitude, 28 General Powers of Attorney, 42 Crown Grants and 115 Interdicts.

Honourable Chairperson, the Property Valuation Section carried out 175 property valuations for different Government Ministries for the purposes of ascertaining their market value for compensation and rentals.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Honourable Chairperson, the Surveyor General's Department received 110 surveys of which 80 came from private land surveyors and the 30 were carried out by the department's land surveyors. The 30 surveys carried out by the department's land surveyors were requests received from various government ministries, mainly the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Municipalities.

The department surveyed and produced 8 farm subdivisions, 16 individual lot subdivisions and 2 consolidations. Furthermore, 18 leases over various government farms, including those on Eswatini Nation Land, were issued.

DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL LAND POLICY

Honourable Chairperson, one of the submissions made at Sibaya called for the finalization of the Land Policy, hence, the Ministry has resumed the process. Cabinet approved that the process should continue and recommended that the process should be fast tracked. To date, a Steering Committee and a Technical Committee were established comprising of Principal Secretaries and officials from all the Ministries dealing with land issues including the Land Management Board. Meetings have been held to launch the Committees and subsequently came up with a roadmap on how the assignment will be carried out. Terms of Reference for the engagement of a consultant

were also developed. The Committees have also solicited and secured funding from UNDP.

WATER AFFAIRS.

Honourable Chairperson, the Department of Water Affairs continued to rehabilitate and implement water and sanitation projects aimed at promoting economic and social development. During the period under review, completed the construction of the Luhlangotsini and Magubheleni Water Supply projects and these projects are currently being monitored to ensure that they have continuous supply. Four (4) Rural Water Supply Schemes have been converted to use both power from the national electricity grid and solar for pumping. The conversion is meant to assist the rural communities by reducing overhead costs for operating the water supply projects thereby, improving the sustainability of the projects. These water supply schemes are as follows:

Dvokolwako (Phase 1) Rural Water Supply Scheme – Manzini Region.

Phonjwane Rural Water Supply Scheme – Lubombo Region.

KaMfishane Rural Water Supply Scheme – Shiselweni Region.

Gege Formline Rural Water Supply Scheme – Shiselweni Region.

Etjendlovu Rural Water Supply Scheme

Honourable Chairperson, the Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC) continued with the implementation of the Eswatini Water Supply and Sanitation Project (Hosea, Zombodze & Shiselweni Tinkhundla). The construction of Package 1, which consists of the construction of a pump station and 3 reservoirs, has reached 100% completion. Package 2 which is the main pipeline from Nhlanguano to Zombodze is at 67% completion and the main pipeline from Zombodze to Siphambanweni (Package 3) has commenced. Whilst, the construction of the Manzini Region Water and Sanitation Project: Lot 1 is at 45% and Lot 2 is at 18%. Lot 1 consists of a water treatment plant and pumping main and Lot 2 consists of storage reservoirs and a distribution network.

ENERGY AFFAIRS.

Honourable Chairperson, the World Bank loan funded Network Reinforcement & Access Project (NRAP) for the Shiselweni Region is progressing well, with construction of substations at 64% and the transmission line at 81%. The total number of households electrified through NRAP and the Rural Electrification Access Fund currently stands at 4594 of which 964 rural households had ready boards installed.

Honourable Chairperson, the Eswatini Regulatory Authority (ESERA) continued to work on the procurement of power projects and awarded all contracts for the development of the 75 MW Solar PV power plants to four (4) Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to develop five (5) power projects for sale of power to EEC via a 25 – year Power Purchase Agreement. Furthermore, an award of contract has since been issued for a bid proposal received to develop a 20 MW baseload biomass plant. The award has been issued subject to negotiations and optimization of the proposed project ensures an affordable tariff and value for money. A conditional award has since been issued for the development of up to 80MW of generation capacity from co-generation facilities in the country.

Honourable Chairperson, Government observed with keen interest the active participation of the public during the electricity tariff review process. The processes were followed by ESERA in accordance with the legal provisions and ESERA awarded EEC an average tariff increase of 14.67% for the financial year 2025/26 and 10.91% for the financial year 2026/27 against EEC's request of 25.99% and 31.9% respectively. However, Government, in her capacity as the sole shareholder of the Electricity Company intensely considered the impact of the approved tariffs to the consumers and in the spirit of curbing inflation, resolved to subject the electricity consumers to an average increase of 8% and 7% in the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27. Whilst Government undertakes to ensure that the funding gap to EEC as a result of this intervention is addressed in the most economic and prudent manner, EEC is also required to exercise more stringent austerity measures to ease the burden on the electricity consumers and the government.

Honourable Chairperson, the Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) continued to work on the security of power supply and in partnership with Kenya Electricity Generating

Company (KenGen), who is conducting geoscientific studies for geothermal generation potential in Eswatini. There are three (3) potential sites that are shortlisted for further studies and the sites are:

Mvutshini – Lobamba springs and surrounding areas

Mkoba springs and surrounding areas

Lubombo plateau zone and Siteki areas

Honourable Chairperson, the contract between the developer/IPP and the EPC contractor in respect of the Lower Maguduza Hydro Power Station were signed in September, 2024 and the financial close was reached in December, 2024.

Honourable Chairperson, the Maguga 10 MW expansion power project is currently at financial evaluation.

Honourable Chairperson, with respect to the development of a coal fired thermal power plant, an expression of interest was issued to the market for a development partner with financial and technical capacity to develop the plant. The bids received were evaluated and a potential partner was identified.

Honourable Chairperson, the Eswatini National Petroleum Company (ENPC) continued with the development of the strategic fuel facility wherein a contractor - Overseas Electric & Engineering Corporation (OEEC) was awarded the tender for the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) for the construction of the Strategic Fuel Reserve Facility. On the other hand, ENPC commenced with trading in Phephile Gas in April 2024. To date, a total of 41 distribution outlets are selling the product across all four regions in Eswatini.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MINERALS AND MINES SECTOR.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT

Honourable Chairperson, the report of the Multi-Disciplinary Geoscience Mapping project (airborne electromagnetic, radiometric and magnetic survey) for the Shiselweni and Lubombo Regions has been completed. Potential mineral targets indicate the occurrence of critical raw minerals (CRM) in two places. These are minerals of the future that are important for the Clean Energy transition and the defense industry and its

demand is expected to rise by 500% by year 2050. Whilst, the development of the Geological and Mining Information System (GMIS) has led to the integration of prospecting and mining licences found at the Mining Department into the system. A cadastral map has been produced, showing the various concessions that exist within the country. This cadastral map has been very helpful in the administration of the mining sector by the Minerals and Mining Board, as it helps its members to make informed decisions regarding prospecting and mining rights.

MINERALS AND MINES DEPARTMENT

Honourable Chairperson, the Eswatini Anthracite/Mhlume has received approval to utilize an alternative magazine facility for explosives storage. Five candidates from Maloma Mine got Blasting Certification from the Department. Michael Lee Enterprises (Pty) has successfully completed her EIA process and duly granted an Environmental Clearance Certificate to commence on the mining and beneficiation operations at Malolotja.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN FY2025/26

Honourable Chairperson, our budget for the financial year 2025/26 will focus on programs that will stimulate growth in the respective sectors of Land, Mining, Energy and Water aligning them with the Sibaya submissions. The Ministry plans to implement the following initiatives:

- Develop a land policy
- Review the Farm Dwellers Control Act.
- Develop a draft Valuer's Bill.
- Improve access to electricity for households particularly in rural areas.
- Establish a partnership with World Vision for the Universal Water Supply Coverage.
- Diversify energy sources by introducing biomass, solar, and geothermal in the energy mix.
- Improve water resources management and the supply of potable water throughout the country, urban and rural areas.
- Conduct a feasibility study for the development of a State Owned Mining Company.

- Conduct a feasibility study for the DWA/EWSC Merger for the water supply.
- Continue with the Deeds Registry Information System (DRIMS) and the Land Information Management System (LIMS) project.
- Continue with the rolling out the Sustainable Land Administration and Management (SLAM) programme to at least one (1) Inkhundla.
- Continue investigating the country's bedrock geology and identify available minerals in the Shiselweni and Lubombo Regions.
- Disseminate comprehensive geological and mining information to all relevant stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Chairperson and Portfolio Committee members, allow me to humbly request that you consider and approve the Ministry's Annual Budget Performance Report for the financial year 2024/25 and the requested budget for the financial year 2025/26 as reflected below:

- **Recurrent budget head 10: E119,397,621.00**
- **Capital budget head 10: E1,451,741,000.00**
- **Recurrent budget head 15: E27,532,098.00**

Thank you once again colleagues, may God bless us all!

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy derives its mandate and responsibilities through Legal Notice No. 25 of 2009.

1.1 VISION.

To lead in creating a conducive environment for the efficient and effective utilization, beneficiation and management of natural resources and energy in the country.

1.2 MISSION STATEMENT.

To ensure sustainable use and management of natural resources by providing adequate services in water, minerals, energy, surveying, mapping, conveyancing registration of real rights in land and valuation in a transparent manner for the socio-economic benefit of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

1.3 VALUES.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE) as it strives to accomplish its mission and attain its long term vision, has put forth the following values as its guiding principles: -

- **Accountability:**

We are committed to deliver high quality services and always accept responsibility for our actions.

- **Transparency:**

We are open to public scrutiny by all the relevant stakeholders without necessarily compromising confidentiality.

- **Responsibility:**

We are committed to execute our duties responsibly in all our interactions with stakeholders, whilst avoiding harm to the environment.

- **Integrity:**

We are committed to “zero” tolerance to corruption and uphold high standards of integrity to all stakeholders.

- **Professionalism:**

We act professionally in the discharge of our duties and engagement with our stakeholders.

1.4 OBJECTIVES.

The Ministry has envisioned objectives as drivers of its business to propel and foster the aforementioned vision, mission and values. The Ministry has identified the following strategic objectives for the period 2023 – 2028:

- To improve effective execution of programs and projects.
- To develop and improve legislative policy and regulatory framework.
- To improve access and security in energy and water.
- To maximize sustainable exploitation and use of natural resources for current and future generations.
- To strengthen community engagement and stakeholder collaboration.
- To provide strategic direction and crucial services to the Ministry.

2.0 PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES.

The Ministry's portfolio responsibilities are succinctly outlined in the Legal Notice No. 25 of 2009 and Legal Notice No. 189 of 2015 as earlier mentioned under the background.

In order to fulfill the Ministry's Vision, Mission, Objectives and Portfolio Responsibilities ascribed as assigned by the said Legal Notice, the Ministry is equipped and organized to comprise the departments and sections as follows: -

2.1 ADMINISTRATION.

This Department encompasses the office of the Honourable Minister and that of the Principal Secretary. The Honourable Minister is the political head and a vehicle for the Ministry to both Cabinet and Parliament, whilst the Principal Secretary is the executive overseer and Controlling Officer of the Ministry.

The Administration department is entirely responsible for policy, strategic executive direction, direct supervision of all technical departments/sections and common support services of the Ministry for the smooth running and operations as well as the overall creation of a conducive working environment within the entire Ministry.

2.2 LAND AFFAIRS.

The sector consists of 5 sections which have various responsibilities in the issues governing land and they are discussed below:

2.2.1 THE LAND CONTROL AND ADMINISTRATION SECTION

This Section is responsible for the management and administration of land resources through various statutory Boards and Tribunals. In this regard, the Eswatini Nation at large is able to benefit from land use in agricultural development areas. It also provides secretariat services to the statutory boards and Tribunals such as the Land Management Board (LMB).

2.2.2 THE DEEDS REGISTRY.

This Department is responsible for the examination of all deeds or other documents submitted for execution or registration by law permitted and also to take charge of and preserve all the records in the Deeds registry in a document processing system that will provide an effective and efficient storage and retrieval system as well as maximum safety

and security. It is further mandated to collect revenue for the Central Government in the form of stamp duty, fees of office and search fees.

2.2.3 PROPERTY VALUATION SECTION.

The Section is responsible for the appraisal and valuation of Real Estates including land and buildings, equipment and fittings on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

2.2.4 CONVEYANCING SECTION.

This Section is responsible for rendering conveyancing services to Government Ministries and as such the Section facilitates the acquisition and disposal of land involving the Government and the Ingwenyama in Trust of EmaSwati in terms of preparing deeds and documents for registration at the Deeds Registry; and advises on the law and policies applicable to land acquisition and disposal'

2.2.5 THE SURVEYOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

This Department is the National Mapping Agency of the country. It is responsible for the surveying of all government land, including Eswatini Nation Land, as well as the topographic mapping of the whole country at various scales and themes. It provides mapping services to government Ministries, the public and the private sector.

One of the key responsibilities of the department to government is playing an advisory role on matters relating to land administration and management. It is also primarily involved in the development of the United Nations-proposed Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the country to facilitate the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

2.3 THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS

This Department is responsible for the management and development of water resources in the country and serves as a Secretariat to the National Water Authority. The department comprises of the following sections: -

2.3.1 THE WATER RESOURCES BRANCH is responsible for surface water resource development and management.

2.3.2 THE RURAL WATER SUPPLY BRANCH has a mandate to provide clean potable water to the rural communities in the country.

2.3.3 THE HYDROGEOLOGY AND GROUNDWATER DRILLING is responsible for groundwater exploration, borehole drilling and management.

2.4 ENERGY DEPARTMENT

This Department is mandated to effectively and efficiently manage the national energy resources and to work towards accessible, affordable and sustainable energy provision for all the people of the Kingdom of Eswatini, whilst ensuring the international competitiveness of the energy sector as a whole. The department is comprised of the following sections:

2.4.1 PETROLEUM SECTION.

This section seeks to ensure security of petroleum supply in the country, development of policies for alternative fuels and climate change issues.

2.4.2 RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTION.

This section is tasked with exploration for alternative forms of energy in particular to provide for small scale domestic and institutional needs.

2.4.3 ENERGY EFFICIENCY SECTION.

This section seeks to implement methodologies and technologies that help reduce the demand for energy by advocating and implementing technologies, policies and regulation that are energy efficient. The targeted institutions are industrial, public institutions and domestic users. The section seeks to also keep in check negative environmental effects associated with the use of energy to the economy and environment.

2.4.4 RURAL ELECTRIFICATION SECTION.

This is an extension of the electricity grid to rural communities with the aim of providing modern energy to all citizens hence improve their quality of life.

2.4.5 ENERGY PRICING SECTION.

This section manages the pricing of fuel. It also conducts energy surveys for the compilation of energy statistics and analysis.

2.5 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MINERALS AND MINES.

This sector consists of two departments namely:

2.5.1 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

The Geological Survey Department is vested with the mandate to provide reliable geo-scientific data and information through geological mapping, identification and evaluation of the mineral resources of the country. The department is comprised of three (3) support services sections in the Drilling Section that provides core drilling services for the mineral exploration activities; the Cartography Section entrusted with producing geological sketches and maps; and the Laboratory Section with the main function of mineral identification and characterization. The provision of geo-scientific information is disseminated through geological bulletins, geological maps, hydrogeological reports and hydrogeological maps.

2.5.2 MINERALS AND MINES DEPARTMENT.

This Department is responsible for the administration of the minerals and mining industry in the Kingdom of Eswatini. The main task involves the enforcement and compliance with the provisions of the Constitution, Minerals and Mines Act & Regulations, Works and Machinery Act & Regulations, Mines and Quarries (Safety) Regulations and the Explosives Act & Regulations. The mandate also includes an enforcement of the terms and conditions of licenses or permits issued through the Minerals Management Board for reconnaissance, prospecting and mining activities.

2.6 BOARDS:

MINERALS MANAGEMENT BOARD (MMB): The functions of the MMB is to advise *Ingwenyama* on the overall Management of grants, leases or other dispositions conferring rights or interests in respect of minerals or mineral oils in Eswatini.

LAND MANAGEMENT BOARD (LMB): The LMB is responsible for the overall management and regulation of any right or interest in land whether urban or rural or vesting in the *Ingwenyama* in Trust for the Eswatini Nation.

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD: The NRB is responsible to hear and determine applications for subdivisions of land in the rural area, i.e. farms.

LAND SPECULATION CONTROL BOARD: The LCB is responsible to hear and determine applications for Certificates of Consent in respect of transactions where the person receiving title in land is a non-citizen of Eswatini and Certificates of Exemption in respect of transactions where the person receiving title in land is a citizen of Eswatini, respectively.

LAND SPECULATION APPEALS BOARD: Acts as a mechanism wherein decisions taken by the lower body may be reviewed when necessary.

DISTRICT FARM DWELLERS TRIBUNALS: The District Farm Dwellers Tribunals and the Central Farm Dwellers Tribunals regulate relations between farm owners and farm dwellers.

CENTRAL FARM DWELLERS TRIBUNAL: They regulate Farm Dwellers Tribunals at National level and review the work done at the lower (District) where necessary.

2.7 REGULATORY AUTHORITIES:

NATIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (NWA): This is a statutory body whose coming into force is promulgated by the Water Act, 2003 which establishes River Basin Authorities to oversee the management of river Basin matters.

2.8 PARASTATAL BODIES:

ESWATINI ELECTRICITY COMPANY (EEC): This is a corporate body established in terms of the Eswatini Electricity Act of 2007. The entity is a Category A company tasked with the generation, transmission, importing and exporting electricity and performing an integrated power operator system.

ESWATINI WATER SERVICES CORPORATION (EWSC): This is a corporate body duly established under the Water Services Corporation Act, No. 12 of 1992. The Corporation is a Category A Public Enterprise in terms of the Public Enterprise (Control and Monitoring) Act No.8 of 1989. The objectives of the Corporation are to: abstract, store,

transport, purify, supply and collect water, convey, treat and dispose sewage in designated areas.

ESWATINI ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY (ESERA): This is a statutory Energy Regulatory Body established in terms of Sections 3 of the Energy Regulatory Act, 2007 (Act No. 2 of 2007). The mandate of ESERA is the administration of the Electricity Act, 2007 (Act No.3 of 2007) with the primary and core responsibilities of exercising control over the electricity supply industry and regulation of generation, transmission, distribution, supply, use, import and export of electricity in Eswatini. ESERA is also tasked with regulating the downstream petroleum sector through the Petroleum Act No. 18 of 2020.

ESWATINI NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY (ENPC): This is a company established through the Petroleum Act No. 18 of 2020. The company is tasked with sourcing, managing, and distributing strategic stocks, trading in crude oil and petroleum products. The objectives of the company are to secure market and trade in crude oil and petroleum products and to carry out the business of supplying and distributing petroleum and petroleum products into and from the Kingdom of Eswatini.

3.0 REVENUE

The revenue collected in the year under review is as shown on the table below:

| DEPARTMENT | REVENUE ITEM | PROJECTED REVENUE UP TO THE 31 ST DECEMBER, 2024 (E) | ACTUAL REVENUE AS AT 31 ST DECEMBER, 2024 (E) | ESTIMATED REVENUE AS AT 31 ST MARCH, 2025 (E) |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| SURVEYOR GENERAL | MAP SALES | 17,000.00 | 44,340.00 | 60,000.00 |
| DEEDS REGISTRY | STAMP DUTY | 7,000,000.00 | 12,975,164.36 | 20,000,000.00 |
| | OFFICE FEES | 50,000.00 | 94,674.50 | 100,000.00 |
| | SEARCH FEES | 12,000.00 | 13,410.00 | 20,000.00 |
| LAND ADMINISTRATION | NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD APPLICATION FEE + GRANTING OF CERTIFICATES | 50,000.00 | 56,200.00 | 84,000.00 |
| | LAND CONTROL BOARD APPLICATION FEE | 19,000.00 | 26,750.00 | 28,520.00 |
| ENERGY | FUEL OIL LEVY | 129,687,446.50 | 131,011,341.00 | 176,820,497.00 |
| | ELECTRICITY LEVY | 25,741,000.00 | - | 54,400,000.00 |
| MINING | MINING PERMITS | 500,000.00 | 796,460.00 | 600,000.00 |
| GEOLOGY | GEOLOGICAL BULLETINS AND MAPS | 4,000.00 | 17,970.00 | 20,000.00 |
| TOTAL | | 163,080,446.50 | 145,036,309.86 | 252,133,017.00 |

4.0 RECURRENT EXPENDITURE SUMMARY HEAD 10

MINISTER'S OFFICE, ADMINISTRATION, LAND ADMINISTRATION, PROPERTY VALUATION, DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND SURVEYOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | ESTIMATED (E) | RELEASED (E) | ACTUAL (E) | COMMITTED | VARIANCE (E) | VARIANCE % |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 00 | CTA | 9,769,762.00 | 4,513,314.00 | 2,454,277.57 | 28,400.00 | 2,020,636.43, | 45% |
| 01 | PERSONNEL COSTS | 57,968,163.00 | 43,689,045.00 | 51,683,009.10 | | -7,993,964.10 | -18% |
| 02 | COMMUNICATION& TRAVEL | 4,043,973.00 | 4,185,608.00 | 2,789,510.00 | 349,989.13 | 1046107.94 | 25% |
| 03 | DRUGS | 5000.00 | 2,500.00 | 0.00 | | 0.00 | 0% |
| 04 | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | 10,936,390.00 | 7,480,135.00 | 5,394,833.47 | 293,296.86 | 1,792,004.67 | 24% |
| 05 | RENTALS | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | |
| 06 | CONSUMABLES | 3,029,630.00 | 3,862,198.00 | 1,860,848.00 | 1,111,569.39 | 889,780.58 | 23% |
| 07 | DURABLES | 45,175.00 | 2,411,293.00 | 745,358.03 | 1,116,355.70 | 540,579.27 | 22% |
| 10 | GRANTS | 17,370,835.00 | 13,028,124.00 | 9,663,123.84 | | 977,708.00 | 0 |
| 11 | EXTERNAL TRANSFERS | 3,742,234.00 | 3,592,534.00 | 3,280,753.20 | | 311,780.80 | 9% |
| | TOTAL | 106,911,162.00 | 58,505,167.00 | 50,718,432.24 | 866,522.51 | 6,920,212.25 | 12% |

COMMENTS ON THE RECURRENT BUDGET EXPENDITURE

ITEM 00 – CTA CHARGES

The under expenditure of 45 % that reflects an under expenditure, bills are yet to be received from CTA and they consist of cars maintenance and car rentals.

ITEM 01 – PERSONNEL COSTS

The projected over expenditure of -18 % is due to the fact that personnel costs are under budgeted in the Ministry and the cost of living adjustment which was a once-off payment that was effected during the month of December.

ITEM 02- TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATION

The under expenditure of 25% funds under this item are yet to be utilized for payments of external travel, commuted travel expenses and telephone charges.

ITEM 04 – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The under expenditure of 24% which are funds that cater for hospitality and professional services are still going to be utilized for payment.

ITEM 06 - CONSUMABLES

The 23% under expenditure funds would be cleared once payments are processed towards office stationery, protective clothing to mention but a few.

5.0 PERFORMANCE FOR HEAD 10

This section discusses the performance of the Ministry under Head 10 major thematic areas. It looks into the planned activities, performance and conceivable challenges encountered during the period under review. Head 10 encompasses Lands, Water and Energy related activities.

5.1 LAND

5.1.1 LAND CONTROL AND ADMINISTRATION SECTION:

PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

- To render secretarial services to the various boards under this department.
- To offer land related advice to Government as well as the public.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

- 423 (for hundred and twenty-three) Exemptions certificates issued.
- The Land Control Board received 7 (seven) applications and 6 (Six) were approved.
- Issued 844 (eight hundred and forty-four) farm no rental certificates
- The Natural Resources Board received and approved 43 (forty-three) applications and approved 38 (thirty-eight).
- The 4 (four) District Farm Dwellers Tribunal received 27 (twenty-seven) matters, 19 (nineteen) were completed and rulings were issued, 8 (eight) are imminent.
- The Central Farm Dwellers Tribunal received 2 (two) appeals, both matters were completed and rulings were issued.

EXPECTED STATUS BY 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

In line with the mandate of the Land Control and Administration Section, this Section will continue to provide secretarial and other services as and when requested.

5.1.2 THE CONVEYANCING SECTION.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The mandate of the Conveyancing Section is to render conveyancing services to Government Ministries and as such the Department undertakes the following activities, amongst others:

- Facilitates the acquisition and disposal of land involving the Government and/or the *Ingwenyama* in Trust of *Emaswati* in terms of preparing deeds and documents for registration at the Deeds Registry; and
- Advises the Government on the law or policies applicable to land acquisition and disposal.

PERFORMANCE REPORT AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

The department continued to render Conveyancing services to Government and Parastatals. During the reporting period, the department received sixteen (16) instructions and prepared one hundred and ten (110) deeds and documents.

5.1.3 DEEDS REGISTRY DEPARTMENT

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- To continue with examining and registering of deeds and other documents, as well as preserving the records.
- To collect government revenue judiciously in all the services under the office's responsibility.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

Examined and registered the following documents:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Deeds of Transfer | 823 |
| Mortgage bonds | 685 |
| Ante nuptial contracts | 43 |
| Deeds of Lease | 286 |
| Notarial Deeds of Servitude | 5 |
| General Powers of Attorney | 28 |
| Crown Grants | 42 |
| Interdicts | 151 |

5.1.4 VALUATION SECTION

PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

- To continue offering valuation services to government ministries and departments and parastatal organizations.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

The Property Valuation Section Managed to complete **175 valuation assignments** as shown on the following table. These valuations were requested by different Ministries, parastatal organization and one *Umphakatsi* (Constituency).

| ORGANISATION | NUMBER OF PROPERTIES | PURPOSE |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT | 36 | MARKET VALUE |
| MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE | 50 | MARKET VALUE |
| MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE | 19 | COMPENSATION |
| MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE | 6 | MARKET RENT |
| MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT | 8 | MARKET RENT |
| MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND TRADE | 2 | MARKET VALUE |
| LOCAL AUTHORITIES | 9 | COMPENSATION |
| UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI | 2 | COMPENSATION |
| MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT | 13 | COMPENSATION |
| MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT | 4 | COMPENSATION |
| KINGS OFFICE | 2 | COMPENSATION |
| MINISTRY OF EDUCATION | 1 | MARKET VALUE |
| ROYAL ESWATINI POLICE SERVICES | 16 | MARKET VALUE |
| KOMATI BASIN WATER AUTHORITY | 7 | INSURANCE |
| TOTAL | 175 | |

5.1.5 SURVEYOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Finalization of township development for Moyeni township-Siteki, comprising 439 plots.
- Re-adjustment of Manzana Township-Mbabane to eliminate encroachments.
- Continuation of updating the digital cadastral database
- Adjudicating on farm boundary disputes.
- Execution of the examination and approval of cadastral surveys from private registered land surveyors.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

- During the period under review, the Surveyor General's Department received a total of 28 survey jobs. The department examined and approved 18 surveys comprising 47 subdivisions from private Land Surveyors.
- The Department continues to execute surveys for Government and during the quarter under review, 10 surveys were carried out comprising 1 general plan, 14 leases and 2 subdivisions were completed.

EXPECTED STATUS BY 31ST MARCH, 2025.

- Examination and approval of Cadastral Surveys from Private Surveyors
- Execution of Cadastral Surveys for Government
- Continuation of revision of the cadastral database
- Provide maps to the general public as and when required

CHALLENGES.

- The department deeply appreciates the Ministry's decision to purchase two vehicles in the year under review. However, the issue of insufficient number of vehicles remains a challenge. Five survey teams have to compete for the use of two vehicles.

- The roll-out of the SLAM project to the fifty-five (55) Tinkhundla is compromised by the computer system's inability to process data from outside the pilot project area. The Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP) is being approached to rectify the problem.
- Lack of resources to update all the series of the country's topographic maps.

5.1.6 DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL LAND POLICY

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Obtain mandate from Cabinet.
- Finalization of TORs for the Technical Committee.
- Finalization of TORs for the Consultant.
- Mobilize Funds.
- Procure consultant.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

- A Cabinet approval was received through CM:15918 and the plan going forward and Cabinet recommended that the Ministry should try to Fast track the process.
- A Steering Committee comprising of the following was established: PS – Natural Resources and Energy – Chairperson; PS – Housing and Urban Development; PS – Tinkhundla Administration and Development; PS – Agriculture; PS – Commerce, Industry and Trade; PS – Tourism and Environmental Affairs and Chairperson, Land Management Board. Further, a Technical Committee consisting of officials from the aforesaid Ministries was also established in September, 2024. Both Committees have met to plan on how to carry out the assignment.
- A roadmap on the activities was developed.
- Developed and shared Terms of Reference for the engagement of the consultant.
- Solicited and secured funding from UNDP.

EXPECTED STATUS BY 31ST MARCH, 2025.

- Consultant engaged and carried out learning exercises with other countries.

5.2 DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

- Construction of Mpofu distribution network to be at 100%.
- Commissioning of water intake point at Komati River, Detention tank and Horizontal filters (Mpofu). Construct an alternative water source (borehole) at Mpofu to avert the fluctuation of water levels at the river/ intake gallery.
- Luhlangotsini – reached practical completion. Continue to monitor water supply infrastructure prior to commissioning of the system within the course of the fiscal year 2025/2026.
- Construction works of St Peters water supply scheme in the Lubombo region to be 100% complete.
- Magubheleni – reached practical completion. Continue to monitor water supply infrastructure prior to commissioning of the system within the course of the fiscal year 2025/2026.
- Construction of Moti water supply scheme in the Shiselweni region to reach 60% complete.
- Construction of Khuphuka water supply scheme in the Lubombo region; 60% complete.
- Groundwater exploration/surveying on 30 of 40 sites targeting communities without water.
- Water quality surveillance on 10 existing water supply schemes and/or water springs, which were suspect of increasing fluoride levels.
- Conversion of four (4) macro water supply schemes from EEC electricity to solar energy pumping, 100% complete. Continue monitoring.
- Craft a Memorandum of Understanding with ESWADE to complete the Nondvo Dam Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Study.
- Procurement of a consultant to undertake the ESIA for Hawane Dam project.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

- Mpofo - construction of distribution network is complete. Fluctuating water levels at the infiltration gallery (source) was observed which led to extended periods where there is no pumping. An alternative source of supply through the drilling of a borehole by the river bank which is fluoride-free is under construction.
- Luhlangotsini - 100% complete, being monitored to ensure that it provides continuous supply to the community.
- St Peters Water supply scheme - Re-installed submersible pump which had mechanical failure and had to be replaced.
- Magubheleni - 100% complete, continued with the monitoring of the performance of the scheme and capacity building of the community.
- Construction of Moti water supply scheme in the Shiselweni region to reach 55% complete.
- Construction of Khuphuka water supply scheme in the Lubombo region; 60% complete.
- 30 groundwater sites have been surveyed for water supply in communities without water. 12 boreholes have been drilled out of the 30 sites despite the persistent mechanical challenges on the drilling machines.
- Water quality surveillance on 10 existing water supply schemes was performed.
- Conversion of four (4) macro water supply schemes from EEC electricity to solar energy pumping has been completed. Continue monitoring, lessons learnt will help improve designs for solar systems in the future.
- Engaged ESWADE to complete the Nondvo Dam Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Study through a Memorandum of Understanding. Introduction of the consultant to the Regional Administrator and community leadership structures.
- Engaged a consultant to undertake the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Hawane Dam project. Received an ESIA Inception report

for Hawane Dam project. The consultant was introduced to the Regional Administrator and target beneficiaries.

EXPECTED STATUS BY 31ST MARCH, 2025.

Continue the construction of potable water supply schemes to reach the stage indicated below:

- Mpofo to reach 100% completion and commence monitoring and evaluation.
- Luhlangotsini – will be officially opened, the preparations for the official opening would have commenced.
- St Peters Water Supply Scheme will be 100% complete and performance monitoring will be ongoing.
- Magubheleni – will be 100% complete and preparations for the official opening would have commenced.
- Construction of Moti water supply scheme in the Shiselweni region to reach 70% complete.
- 40 sites for water supply in communities without water would have been surveyed and 20 boreholes drilled.
- Water quality surveillance on 20 existing water supply schemes.
- Preparation for conversion of eight (8) macro water supply schemes from EEC electricity to solar energy pumping would have commenced.
- Approval of the ESIA Scoping report for Hawane Dam.
- Introduction of the Nondvo dam project to the Chief's inner council and also the communities.
- Presentation of the Nondvo dam resettlement action plan to the project affected persons.

5.3 ENERGY DEPARTMENT

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

- Conduct Monitoring, Evaluation and Verification (M&E) for the electricity Rural Electrification Access Fund (REAF) Phase 4 and Network Re-Inforcement Access Project (NRAP) Phase 3 and 4 group schemes being implemented.
- Customer education with EEC for NRAP Phase 3 and REAF Phase 4 approved group schemes.
- Identify and submit to EEC a list of beneficiaries to benefit from the ready boards' installation programme.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

- Monitoring, evaluation and verification was undertaken for the electricity group schemes being implemented.
- Customer education conducted with EEC for approved schemes under NRAP 3 and REAF 4.
- 1185 ready boards approved by Select Committee on Rural Electrification (SCORE) installed through EEC under NRAP Phase 1, 2 & 3.

REVIEW OF ELECTRICITY LEGISLATION PLANNED ACTIVITIES

PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

- Final review of the drafts bills by the Eswatini Electricity Company and Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

- Review of the drafts bills by the Eswatini Electricity Company and the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority ongoing.

E-MOBILITY POLICY

PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

- Appointment of consultant
- Submit contract to the Attorney General's office.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

- Consultant has been appointed.
- The Attorney General's Office has finalized the contract for engaging the consultant and recommended that Cabinet be notified before it is signed with the consultant.

BIOENERGY POLICY

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Undertake stakeholder consultations on the Policy
- Initial consultation on the draft policy with PPCU.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

- Stakeholder consultations were done
- Consultation with PPCU held.
- Ministry now waiting for finalized draft from consultant to be taken to PPCU then Cabinet for approval.

ETHANOL BLENDING

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Undertake stakeholder validation on Ethanol Pricing Model
- Presentation of final draft of ethanol blending regulations to the stakeholders which include the oil industry and the ethanol producers among others.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

- Stakeholder validation was done for the Ethanol Pricing Model.
- Presentation of the final draft of regulations is waiting to be presented with the other petroleum regulations which have been sent to the AGs Office for clearance.

CLOSING THE GENDER GAP IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Development of the Gender in Energy Policy.
- Printing of the matrix for integrating gender and energy issues into the primary school curriculum.
- Carry out the internship programmes.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

- Signed a Letter of Collaboration with Empower Southern Africa (ESA) on a five (5) year funded programme by USAID. ESA will be offering technical advisory services to support the Department to develop a Gender and Energy policy and Implementation Strategy.
- Held a stakeholder consultation workshop with ESA to develop the Gender in Energy Policy. The consultant is yet to deliver a draft for the policy.
- Provided internship opportunities to graduate for three months. There are eleven interns attached to different companies to close the gap between theory and practical work.
- A sample of the matrix has been printed and is awaiting recommendation by the stakeholders. The matrix will be used by the Curriculum Designers to integrate gender and energy issues into the primary school curriculum.

PETROLEUM REGULATION AND PRICING

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Conduct consultations with key stakeholders on petroleum regulation which include LPG Regulations, Licensing of Key Development Areas Regulations, Ethanol Blending Regulations and Downstream Petroleum Regulations.
- Produce final report of the Emergency Petroleum Product Supply Plan and Operational modalities of the Strategic Oil Reserve Facility at Phuzumoya in preparation for Cabinet approval.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

- Consultations on Petroleum Regulations with Government entities finalized, consultations with industry players to be done by March, 2025.
- Final report of the Emergency Petroleum Product Supply Plan and Operational modalities of the Strategic Oil Reserve Facility at Phuzumoya produced, presentation to Cabinet for approval will be done by March, 2025.

CHALLENGES

None

FUEL PRICE SITUATION IN ESWATINI

The fuel price situation remained volatile and the crude oil prices traded between the range of US\$73 - US\$89 per barrel due to the fluctuating international prices resultant from the slowing global demand, supply uncertainties and macroeconomic concerns. The Lilangeni/Dollar exchange rate was within E18.84 and E18.18 in the first and third quarter. There were three fuel price adjustments of which three decreases on all products in June, August and September. The oil prices outlook is such that the international price may rise due to supply interruption uncertainties due to geopolitical concerns

**6.0 SUMMARY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR HEAD 15-
DEPARTMENTS OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MINERALS AND MINES**

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | ANNUAL BUDGET (E) | RELEASED (E) | ACTUAL (E) | VARIANCE (E) | VARIANCE % |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 00 | CTA | 4,230,259.60 | 2,316,979.00 | 1,111,829.85 | 1,205,149.15 | 48% |
| 01 | PERSONNEL COSTS | 15,056,035.10 | 10,040,880.00 | 12,928,990.68 | (2,888,110.68) | -28% |
| 02 | COMMUNICATION | 1,130,416.00 | 972,797.00 | 688,340.86 | 284,456.14 | 29% |
| 03 | DRUGS | 2,801 | 2,100.00 | 0 | 2100.00 | 100% |
| 04 | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | 2,165,148.00 | 2,195,248.00 | 10,597,513.20 | 1,135,496.68 | 51% |
| 05 | RENTALS | 1,200,000.00 | 900,000.00 | 0 | 900,000.00 | 100% |
| 06 | CONSUMABLES | 1,766,809.00, | 1,352,239.00 | 1,202,978.15 | 52,648.85 | 3% |
| 07 | DURABLES | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 11 | EXTERNAL GRANTS | 30,000.00 | | | | |
| TOTAL | | 25,581,468.70 | 17,780,243.00 | 3,678,177.95 | 691,740.14 | 4% |

COMMENTS ON THE RECURRENT BUDGET EXPENDITURE

ITEM 00 – CTA CHARGES

The under expenditure of 48% is due to a time lag in the debiting of the CTA charges item as the relevant authority has to compile the difference between the issued coupon for refueling and the exact amount fueled each time vehicles are fueled. Notably, the delays have long time leads. The CTA charges will be offset once the outstanding payments have been settled for fuel, repairs, maintenance and repairing of the Departmental vehicles.

ITEM 01- PERSONNEL COSTS

The over expenditure of -28% is due to the cost of living adjustment of 4% for civil servants in the month of July,2024

ITEM 02- TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATION

The under expenditure of 29% is due to funds that have been set aside for commuted field allowances, commuted bus allowances, MTN bills, and Eswatini Posts and Telecommunications bills for the financial year 2024/2025.

ITEM 03 – DRUGS

The under expenditure of 100% is due to money allocated to procure medical drugs, the budget is insufficient and it will be reallocated from other centers.

ITEM 04 – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The under expenditure of 51% is due to money allocated for the payment of electricity bills, water bills, contracts for the Department and sitting allowance for the Commissioner of Mines.

ITEM 05-RENTALS

The under expenditure of 100% is a result of money budgeted for Lease Agreement from the Landlord, Ram Reality. The payment of the rent is being processed.

7.0 PERFORMANCE FOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT AND MINERALS AND MINES DEPARTMENT-HEAD 15

PERFORMANCE FOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT

The Geological Survey Department had earmarked a number of activities as outlined below in an effort to accomplish its mandate.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Ensure excellence in geo-scientific data and information dissemination to stakeholders.
- Disseminate geo-scientific information to potential mining investors and stakeholders through geological field excursions and sales of maps, reports and bulletins.
- Multi-Disciplinary Geoscience Mapping project (airborne electromagnetic, radiometric and magnetic survey) report for the Shiselweni and Lubombo Regions.
- Continue with the monitoring of all seismic (earthquakes) in the country for disaster management preparedness. The routine maintenance, monitoring, inspection, and repair of seismic network are improved through the procurement of seismic instrumentation and network accessories.
- Establishment of Seismic, Hydro-acoustic and Infrared National Data Centre (NDC), this includes the Capacity Building System (CBS).
- Help Royal Eswatini Police Services (REPS) to successfully prosecute suspects caught with contraband mineral specimen.
- Training on mapping techniques focusing on the use of open source remote sensing using QGIS software, and its use in stratigraphic mapping of the Archean Mozaan Group in the south central part of the country to produce an updated geological map of the Kubuta – Mooihoek area and.

- Provide consultancy services to Ministries and the public on request on geosciences.
- Technical evaluation of hot springs around the country for potential geothermal energy generation.
- To host the 16th Annual General Assembly for the Organization of African Geological Surveys (OAGS)

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

- Excellence in geo-information and data dissemination to potential mining investors continued through sales of maps, bulletins and reports, and conducting field visits to mineral deposits sites.
- The development of the Geological and Mining Information System (GMIS) has led to the integration of prospecting and mining licences found at the Mining Department into the system. A cadastral map has been produced, showing the various concessions that exist within the country. This cadastral map has been very helpful in the administration of the mining sector by the Minerals and Mining Board, as it helps its members to make informed decisions regarding prospecting and mining rights.
- Dimension stone study on the Mooihoek pluton continued and a field team continues to conduct core drilling exercises in the field. Progress is slow, on account of rock hardness and the drilling machine's inability to drill fast through hard rock.
- The report of the Multi-Disciplinary Geoscience Mapping project (airborne electromagnetic, radiometric and magnetic survey) for the Shiselweni and Lubombo Regions has been completed. Potential mineral targets indicate the occurrence of critical raw minerals (CRM) in two places. These are minerals of the future that are important for the Clean Energy transition and the defense industry and its demand is expected to rise by 500% by year 2050. The Department is anticipating handover of the results in digital format, so that the information can be integrated into GMIS.

- Routine maintenance, monitoring and inspection were done in all the seismic stations through the reporting period.
- There was no earthquake or tremor event during the reporting period in the country; however, there was an earthquake that occurred in South Africa, Mpumalanga District halfway in between Paulpietersburg and Mahamba. The vibrations from this earthquake were felt in some parts of Eswatini. The earthquake was predicted as follows: ***Time***- 22 November 2024 08:56:36, ***Location***- Latitude: -27.297, Longitude: 30.939, ***Magnitude***- 3.05.
- Training on Seismic Analysis was provided by Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and through the CTBTO the Department established the NDC.
- The wet chemistry laboratory was used for mineral identification and analysis services to the Royal Eswatini Police Forensic and Science laboratory and to the public at large. A total of twelve (12) samples from the former were successfully analysed for contraband gold, while forty-four (44) samples were received from the public for mineral identification.
- The Department participated in the Geo Thermal Project for mapping, geochemistry and geophysical survey:
 - Three (3) of the hot springs in the country, Mkoba, Mvutjini and the Lubombo plateau basalts are potential sites for the generation of geothermal electricity energy
 - Magnetotellurics, Audio Magnetotellurics and Magnetic survey was successfully performed at Ezulwini, Endzingeni and Siteki.
 - Water and soil samples were collected in the geothermal survey. Part of the analysis was done in the laboratory and other samples had to be shipped to Kenya for other analysis.
- *Collection and Collation of geological information in the south central part of the country is ongoing.* Focus is on the stratigraphic mapping of the volcano-

siliciclastic unit of the Pongola Supergroup exposed in the south-central part of Eswatini. A total of 21km² of planned 48 km² coverage has been mapped.

7.2 MINERALS AND MINES DEPARTMENT

PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

- Conduct audits on mining operations to ensure compliance with regulatory standards.
- Review and assess mining legislation to ensure relevance and alignment with industry best practices.
- Maintain and manage mining production statistics to contribute to GDP analysis and reporting.
- Conduct regular mine inspections with the objective of achieving zero safety incidents and preventing fatalities in the mining sector.
- Issuance of mining and explosives licenses and permits, ensuring compliance with regulations governing the exportation, importation of minerals and safe use, storage, and transportation of explosives.
- Review, assess, and evaluate prospecting and mining applications.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 2024.

- i. A mining company that was granted mining rights at Mhlume has commenced the commissioning phase of its operations.
- ii. Magazine licenses have been issued to the Mpakeni project for the use and storage of explosives.
- iii. Eswatini Anthracite/Mhlume has received approval to utilize an alternative magazine facility for explosives storage.
- iv. Five candidates from Maloma Mine got Blasting Certification from the Department.
- v. Michael Lee Enterprises (Pty) has successfully completed her EIA process and duly granted an Environmental Clearance Certificate to commence on the mining and beneficiation operations at Malolotja.

8.0 PARASTATAL BODIES



8.1 ESWATINI WATER SERVICES CORPORATION.

The mandate of the Eswatini Water Services Corporation is to provide potable water and sewerage treatment and disposal in urban and peri-urban areas.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

- Continue with the implementation for Eswatini Water Supply and Sanitation Access Project (Hosea, Zombodze & Shiselweni Tinkhundla).
- Implementation of the Manzini Region Water and Sanitation Project.
- Implementation of the Lomahasha Namaacha Water Supply Project.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

- Eswatini Water Supply and Sanitation Project (Hosea, Zombodze & Shiselweni Tinkhundla). The construction of Package 1, which consists of the construction of a pump station and 3 reservoirs, was appointed. The project has reached 100% completion. Package 2 which is the main pipeline from Nhlangano to Zombodze is at 67% completion and the main pipeline from Zombodze to Siphambanweni (Package 3) has commenced.
- Manzini Region Water and Sanitation Project: The Lot 1 is at 45% and Lot 2 is at 18%. Lot 1 consists of a water treatment plant and pumping main and Lot 2 consists of storage reservoirs and a distribution network.
- Lomahasha Namaacha Water Supply Project is at 9% progress. The scope of the work includes the construction of a 36km pumping main and 2 reservoirs.

EXPECTED STATUS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

- Manzini Region Water Supply: 60% physical construction for Lot 1 and 30% for Lot 2.
- Eswatini Water Supply and Sanitation Access Project –Package 1 (reservoirs and pump station) at 100% physical progress. 90% completion for Package 2. 15% for Package 3.
- Lomahasha Namaacha is expected to be at 20% construction.



8.2. ESWATINI ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY (ESERA). PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

- Implementation of the National Child Project under the GEF Africa Mini-grids Program – Eswatini.
- Review of two Electricity Sector Standards (Metering and Wiring of Premises standards)
- Implementation of Small-Scale Embedded Generation Framework
- Development of enforcement mechanisms for Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPs) for Distribution Transformers, efficient lighting appliances and other electrical appliances
- Development of Energy Storage Regulatory Framework
- Gazette of the Grid Code (including the new Distribution Network Code)
- Development of Market Guidelines (to include Customer Contestability Rules)
- Development of an Installer Accreditation Program
- Development of Model for allocation of service stations
- Accreditation of Fuel Testing Laboratory
- Undertake Liquefied Petroleum Gas Market Study/ RIA
- Development LPG Installer Certification Programme
- Development of Petroleum Standards
- Implementation of Eswatini Electricity Supply Industry Wheeling Framework
- Implementation of Ring-Fencing and Cost allocation Guidelines
- Revision of the Electricity Multi Year Price Determination Tariff Methodology and Operating Reporting Manual
- Implementation of Connection Charge Guidelines
- Implementation of the Subsidy framework/ Lifeline Tariff

- Review of the Eswatini Electricity Company’s Sixth Multi-Year Price Determination (MYPD6) Tariff Application For 2025/26 and 2026/27
- Procurement of 75 MW Solar PV.
- Procurement of 40 MW Biomass projects
- Procurement of up to 80 MW Biomass cogeneration projects.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL CHILD PROJECT UNDER THE GEF AFRICA MINI-GRIDS PROGRAM – ESWATINI:

During the period under review, the AMP Project developed the TORs for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Bulimeni Solar PV+Battery minigrid system. The tender is planned to be published in early 2025. The project continued with development of a Digital Strategy for the minigrids. The project also carried out national consultation on the preferred minigrid delivery model for the country.

REVIEW OF METERING AND WIRING OF PREMISES STANDARDS FOR THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY:

The Authority in collaboration with the Eswatini Standards Authority initiated a process to review the two standards to ensure that they remain relevant, effective and fit-for-purposes. The aim of this process was to address the needs rising from various industry developments and technological advancements. The technical committee review process has since been completed and the draft standards are now available for public comments and will then be taken through the gazette process by SWASA.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SMALL-SCALE EMBEDDED GENERATION FRAMEWORK:

The Authority developed the Small-Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) Framework in 2021 to support the country’s objectives of promoting private sector participation in the electricity supply industry (ESI), reducing reliance on electricity imports, and increasing local renewable energy capacity, which further addresses climate change. The implementation of the SSEG Framework, in collaboration with EEC, progressed significantly in the previous quarter. Key activities included the review of license terms

and conditions for distribution licensees and stakeholder consultations on the draft bylaws for embedded generation. In the quarter under review, the Authority continued its collaboration with EEC, focusing on additional framework activities such as determining feed-in tariffs and advancing the Solar PV Accreditation Program.

DEVELOPMENT OF ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS FOR MINIMUM ENERGY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (MEPS) FOR DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS, EFFICIENT LIGHTING APPLIANCES AND OTHER ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT:

In collaboration with industry stakeholders, the Eswatini Standards Authority developed MEPs for Distribution Transformers and other electrical appliances and equipment and the Authority has the responsibility to ensure their enforcement in the industry. The Authority continued with its engagement with the Ministry towards the plan to develop Regulations for this and other electrical appliances and equipment to enhance ease of enforcement of these standards.

DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY STORAGE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

The Authority completed the development of the Energy Storage Regulatory framework in Q1 of 2024/25. This framework seeks to provide guidance to the industry on matters relating to the legal, technical, environmental and economic aspects of energy storage participation in the electricity market. The project has since been completed and the framework is available for implementation by the industry.

GAZETTE OF GRID CODE (INCLUDING NEW DISTRIBUTION NETWORK CODE):

In the previous financial year, the Authority completed the review of the Eswatini Grid Code and continued with engagements with the Ministry to have the Code gazetted to give it its full legal effect.

DEVELOPMENT OF MARKET GUIDELINES (TO INCLUDE CUSTOMER CONTESTABILITY RULES):

A review of the existing Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) market structure, policy and legislative framework was carried out to inform the current market liberalization status. Moreover, an assessment of the potential role and participation of contestable customers

in the ESI was also done. Lastly a stakeholder engagement workshop was held to ensure that the Contestable Customer Market Guidelines appropriately incorporate stakeholder input.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INSTALLER ACCREDITATION PROGRAM:

The Authority is in a process to ensure that there is in place a quality assurance framework for solar PV installations in the country. This is aimed at having an installer accreditation framework to promote safe and quality installations. During the period under review, the Authority engaged an external consultant for the development and implementation of the Eswatini Solar PV installer accreditation program. The project was split into two phases; phase 1 – development of a concept note and phase 2: training of assessors, development of assessment materials and implementation of the first local assessment. Phase 1 has since been completed and the Authority is in the process of implementing phase 2.

DEVELOPMENT OF MODEL FOR ALLOCATION OF SERVICE STATIONS:

Component 2 of the project, which is the development of the model to be used for analyzing the viability of proposed retail sites, has been completed. The model was presented industry stakeholders in readiness for final approval by the board and thereafter be implemented. The GIS software and computer servers will be installed in January 2025 and ESERA officers will be trained to maintain and update the map showing under and over saturated areas with retail sites.

ACCREDITATION OF FUEL TESTING LABORATORY:

The fuel testing laboratory successfully underwent a surveillance audit in the month of December 2024 which was conducted by SADCAS on-site. The laboratory is also in the process of adding 2 more test methods on the accreditation scope.

UNDERTAKE LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) MARKET STUDY/ RIA:

LPG market and regulatory assessment study was completed.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN LPG INSTALLER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME:

A benchmarking visit to the LPG Association of South Africa was conducted, covering the various players in the South African LPG sector. These included relevant government departments, regulators, LPG cylinder manufacturers and validators. Drafts of training and testing standards have been developed and comments have been received from stakeholders. The standards are currently being finalized by DIVT in readiness for final approval of standards by the Eswatini Higher Education Council which is expected by end of March 2025.

DEVELOPMENT OF PETROLEUM STANDARDS.

Following the completion of the development of three standards in the first half year of the year, the below new set of three standards are currently being developed through SWASA in this reporting period:

- Handling and storage of LPG at LPG refilling premises.
- Domestic and commercial appliances working on liquified petroleum gas – safety requirements.
- Guidelines for protection of Soil, surface water and ground water contamination, and vapour emission at fuel dispensing facilities.

These are scheduled to be completed by end of March 2025, and thereafter be taken for stakeholder consultation and approval by SWASA.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ESWATINI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY WHEELING FRAMEWORK:

The framework is currently being operationalized through the implementing partner, EEC.

REVIEW OF RING-FENCING AND COST ALLOCATION GUIDELINES:

The Authority completed the revision of the Ring Fencing and Cost allocation guidelines in April 2024. The guidelines have been communicated to stakeholders and implementation is expected in the subsequent financial year 2025/26.

REVISION OF THE ELECTRICITY MULTI YEAR PRICE DETERMINATION TARIFF METHODOLOGY AND OPERATING REPORTING MANUAL:

ESERA is also actively revising the Electricity Multi Year Price Determination (MYPD) Tariff Methodology. The revised Tariff Methodology is scheduled for implementation in the subsequent MYPD control period to ensure transparent and equitable pricing structures within the electricity sector.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CONNECTION CHARGE GUIDELINES:

In response to the February 2023 Tariff Order, ESERA directed the EEC to establish clear implementation timelines for the approved Connection Processes, which include the Connection Charge Guidelines. The Authority has reviewed these operational guidelines with minor changes expected to be made by the EEC prior to operationalization. Engagements between ESERA and EEC are currently on going regarding the operationalization of the Connection Charge Guidelines.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSIDY FRAMEWORK/ LIFELINE TARIFF:

The subsidy framework, which was initiated in the tariff application year 2020/21 and came into effect in April 2021, is under scrutiny by ESERA. The EEC has been tasked with handling customer applications and providing regular reports to the regulator, facilitating analysis and informed decision-making for future tariff reviews. However, the uptake of the subsidy program has been notably low, leading ESERA to develop an awareness program which was implemented in the fourth quarter of the 2023/24 financial year, aiming to boost participation and effectiveness of the program. The Awareness program will run up to 31 March 2025.

REVIEW OF THE ESWATINI ELECTRICITY COMPANY'S SIXTH MULTI-YEAR PRICE DETERMINATION (MYPD6) TARIFF APPLICATION FOR 2025/26 AND 2026/27:

The Authority received a tariff filing from the EEC on 1 November 2024. In its application, the EEC was requesting a revenue requirement of **E4, 219,416,214** for the financial year 2025/26 and **E4, 570,140,772** for the financial year 2026/27. The total revenue requirement was inclusive of the below amounts to be liquidated: depreciation recoveries for 2014/15 to 2020/21 amounting to **E255, 196,413** (refund to customers), under-recovery for the financial year 2022/23 amounting to **E183, 924,690** and under-

recovery for the financial year 2023/24 amounting to **E59, 609,223**. This translated to an average tariff increase of **25.51%** for the financial year 2025/26 and **27.06%** for the financial year 2026/27, excluding the Rural Electrification Access Fund levy and VAT. In line with the legislation, the Authority carried out stakeholder consultations in 11 areas in order to solicit stakeholder input and feedback.

PROCUREMENT OF 75 MW SOLAR PV:

ESERA has awarded all contracts for the development of 75 MW Solar PV power plants to four (4) Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to develop five (5) power projects for sale of power to the Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) via a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement. Various projects are currently at different stages of development and during the period under review, preferred bidders undertook various work streams including securing land rights for project sites, geotechnical studies, and environmental studies as well as preparing detailed plant designs. ESERA also received the much-anticipated lender comments on the bankability of the projects from potential financiers through the preferred bidders. These will be reviewed and consultations will be made with Government through the Ministry as and when required.

PROCUREMENT OF 40 MW BIOMASS PROJECTS:

An award of contract has since been issued for a bid proposal received to develop a 20 MW baseload biomass plant. The award has been issued subject to negotiations and optimization of the proposed project ensures an affordable tariff and value for money. Further consultations with Government of Eswatini on certain bid deviations will be undertaken in the in the next quarter. As a result of the project optimization activities that still need to be undertaken, the project developer has proposed that financial close be scheduled for October 2025.

PROCUREMENT OF UP TO 80 MW BIOMASS COGENERATION PROJECTS:

Two (2) bids were received and evaluated under the Co-generation biomass procurement. Conditional awards have since been issued for the development of up to 80 MW of generation capacity from co-generation facilities in the country. Projects are at different stages of readiness with the earliest project having an indicative date of July

2025 for financial close. Negotiations on project tariffs are scheduled for April 2025 once the feasibility study has been concluded. Commercial Operations Date (COD) scheduled to be by December 2027.

CHALLENGES:

The 75 MW solar tender has reached a critical milestone, with all projects awarded preferred bidder status. However, these projects are progressing on parallel tracks, each navigating multiple work streams. Significant challenges are now emerging, particularly with delays in achieving Financial Close (FC) for the Solar PV projects. Key hurdles include ongoing bidder-led activities such as lender due diligence, securing Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contracts, VAT recovery approval, and finalizing land leases. These complexities have pushed the expected FC timeline to April 2025, posing a significant risk to project timelines and requiring swift, coordinated action to overcome these obstacles.

On-going negotiations and optimization on the awarded 20 MW biomass base load power plant will have an impact on the project timelines. Furthermore, consultations with the Government on certain bid deviations impacting project tariff and the bankability of the project will need to be engaged during the next quarter thus postponing the date for financial close.



8.3 ESWATINI ELECTRICITY COMPANY

The Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) is engaged in the business of generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

CUSTOMER SERVICES:

PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION:

- Continue implementation of Rural Development Fund (RDF)/Micro Projects Programme (MPP) funded group schemes under Phases 5, 6, 7 and 8.
- Continue implementation of Rural Electrification Access Fund (REAF) Phase 3, revise and commence implementation of phase 4.
- Continue implementation of World Bank funded Network Reinforce & Access Project (NRAP) Phases 1, 2, and 3. Review phases 3A and 4 and commence implementation.
- Implement NRAP and REAF ready board installation programme.

CUSTOMER EDUCATION

- To continue with customer education, targeting group schemes including the World Bank funded ones
- To continue covering safety awareness and efficient use of electricity

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024:

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION:

- **RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (RDF)/MICRO-PROJECTS PROJECTS (MPP)**

- Completed the whole RDF/MPP Phases 5, 6 and 7. In phase 8, only 1 scheme was still under implementation as at the end of Q3 (December 2024)
- **RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ACCESS FUND (REAF)**
 - Completed the line construction of 8 REAF Phase 3 group schemes comprising 556 group scheme members.
 - Completed the line construction of 30 REAF Phase 3 group schemes comprising of 1,492 group scheme members.
 - Completed the line construction of 16 REAF Phase 4 group schemes comprising 127 group scheme members and Commenced implementation of 87 REAF Phase 4 group schemes comprising 2,423 group scheme members.
- **WORLD BANK / NETWORK RE-INFORCEMENT PROJECT (NRAP)**
 - A total of 4376 households were connected. Of these connections, 954 are connected through ready boards.
 - Phase 1: all group schemes, comprising 3,915 members, was completed
 - Phase 2: 53 group schemes, comprising 1,759 members, were completed
 - Phase 3: 50 group schemes, comprising 1,545 members, were completed
 - Phase 3A: revised and commenced implementation of 39 group schemes comprising 1, 546 members.
 - Phase 4: started revising 59 group schemes comprising 3,934 members

CUSTOMER EDUCATION:

GROUP SCHEMES INCLUDING THE WORLD BANK FUNDED:

- Continued to provide customer education for approved group schemes with the purpose of providing information about, and not limited to, the following topics:
 - EEC tariff application and motivation
 - Lifeline Tariff Application Process
 - EEC new wiring standards and connection process
 - Issues relating to group scheme funding
 - Challenge relating to substitutions in group schemes
 - Requirements for new customer connections

- Electricity safety tips
- Energy Efficiency
- Servitude encroachment

EXPECTED STATUS AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

- Completion of Rural Development Fund /Micro Projects Programme Phase 8 group schemes.
- Completion of all remaining group schemes under REAF Phase 3 and continuing with implementation of REAF Phase 4.
- Completion of all remaining group schemes under NRAP Phase 2.
- Continue with implementation of NRAP Phases 3 and 3A.
- Commencement of implementation of NRAP Phase 4.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

GENERATION EXPANSION:

- Lower Maguduza Power Plant:
The IPP was to reach financial close for the Lower Maguduza hydropower generation project.
The IPP was expected to conclude engineering designs for the civil works and balance of plant so that purchase orders can be placed for critical long lead-time material for Lower Maguduza.
- To conclude procurement of Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) for Maguga expansion and sign the Contract with the preferred bidder.
- To complete the geoscientific studies for the three sites that have a potential for geothermal power generation.
- To appoint a transactional advisor (TA) for Coal Fired Thermal plant to assist with carrying out due diligence on the qualification and shortlisting process.

TRANSMISSION PROJECTS:

- To complete the construction of Edwaleni II – Stonehenge 132kV overhead line and associated bays
- To finalize designs and EPC bidding documents for the construction of the Maliyaduma-Sihhoye -T transmission line and associated substations.
- To complete the procurement of EPC for the Tambankulu substation project.

WORLD BANK PROJECT (NRAP):

- To complete the construction works for the NRAP (World Bank-funded Shiselweni) 132 kV transmission line and associated substation projects.

EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025.

GENERATION EXPANSION:

- **Lower Maguduza Hydropower Scheme**

The contract between the developer/IPP and the EPC contractor in respect of the Lower Maguduza Hydro Power Station were signed on in September 2024. The financial close was reached.

- **Maguga Hydro Expansion**

The procurement process for EPC commenced and is in progress. It was expected to be concluded before the end of the financial year once all procurement processes are completed.

- **Coal Fired Thermal power plant**

An expression of interest was issued to the market for a development partner with financial and technical capacity to develop the coal-fired power plant. The bids received were evaluated and a potential partner was identified. The appointment of the Technical Advisor was in progress. The mining license has not yet been approved. The EEC was still awaiting formal feedback.



- **Geothermal power generation**

The KenGen team mobilized to Eswatini in September, to carry out the detailed geoscientific study, was in the country for three months collecting all the samples required to give a high confidence output that will determine moving to the next stage. The team completed the data collection process at the three potential sites i.e. Mkhoba, Mvutjini-Lobamba corridor and Lubombo plateau. The team will analyze the data and issue a final report on their findings.

TRANSMISSION PROJECTS:

- **Edwaleni II – Stonehenge 132kV overhead transmission line:**

The overall implementation of Edwaleni/Stonehenge 132kV Transmission lines was at 96%. The project was supposed to be completed in November 2024 but due to the contractor’s financial position coupled with theft of project material, some activities were delayed. Due to the rains experienced in December, the remaining activities were expected to be completed by March 2025 for the line to be commissioned.

| | |
|---|--|
|  |  |
| <p><i>66 kV structures at Stonehenge substation</i></p> | <p><i>Completed 132 kV bay at Stonehenge substation</i></p> |

- **The Maliyaduma – Sihhoye-T 132kV:**

The procurement of Owner’s Engineer (OE) in respect of Maliyaduma – Sihhoye T 132kV was at the final stages. The preferred bidder shall commence activities in the next quarter.

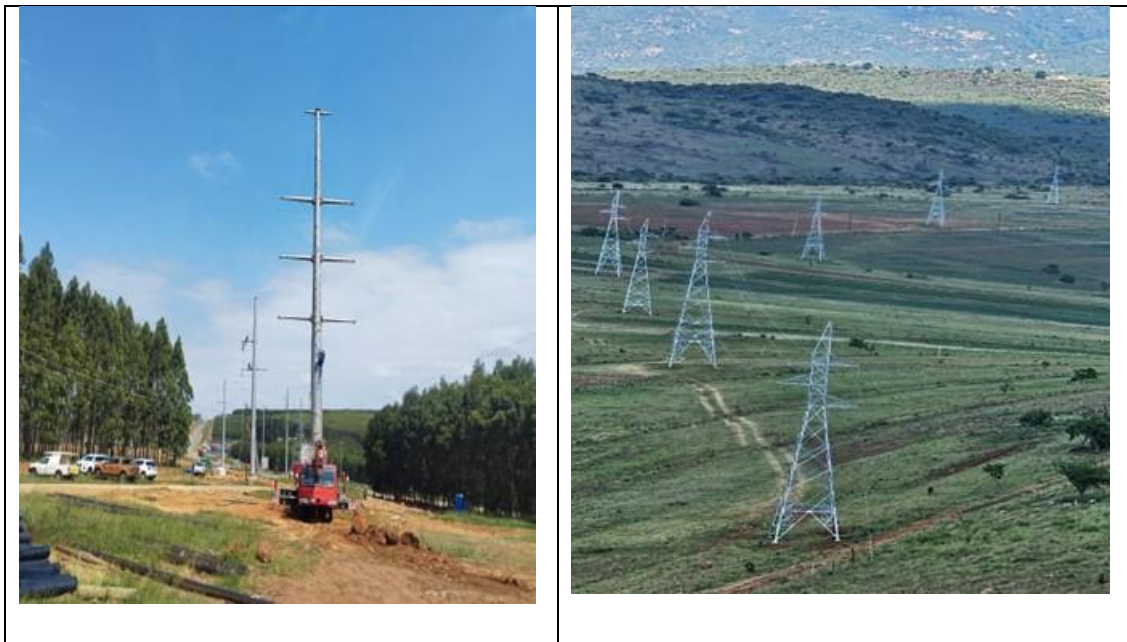
- **Tambankulu Substation upgrade:**

The procurement of the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) is in progress and evaluation of the bids was in the final stages.

NRAP (WORLD BANK FUNDED) PROJECT:



The World Bank loan funded Network Reinforcement & Access Project (NRAP) for the Shiselweni Region was in progress, with construction of substations at 64% and the transmission line at 81%.

On the transmission line lot, the construction of the foundations was completed with a balance of 20 towers still to be erected and 16 km of conductor yet to be strung. Delays were experienced on this lot due to the political unrest in Mozambique that delayed importation of material through Maputo port and also the tower linemen subcontractor was stuck in Mozambique for almost a month.



| | |
|--|--|
| Nhlangano – Lavumisa 132 kV line take-off at Nhlangano II substation | Completed sections of the Nhlangano – Lavumisa 132 kV line |
|--|--|

- On the substation lot, the major works which include civil works and the installation of primary equipment were completed across all the substations. Electromechanical works were in progress. To expedite the project and ensure commissioning of the first substation by March, 2025, testing of primary equipment was in progress.

| | |
|--|---|
|  |  |
| Hluti Substation | Matsanjeni Substation |

CHALLENGES.

- The NRAP suffered huge delays due to the political unrest in Mozambique that delayed importation of material and also disrupted travel arrangement for the Mozambican tower linesmen subcontractor.
- The Edwaleni – Stonehenge 132kVA project suffered delays due to the Contractor’s financial position whose operations were subjected to a business rescue process.

EXPECTED STATUS AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

Generation

- Lower Maguduza developer reached financial close. Construction of the hydro-power station was expected to commence.
- EEC was expecting to receive the Gas-to-power project feasibility study interim report.

Transmission

- Complete the construction of the Edwaleni II/Stonehenge overhead line and associated substation bays.
- Complete the construction works for the NRAP 132 kV transmission line and associated substations.
- Complete the procurement of EPC for the Tambankulu substation project.

OPERATIONS:

PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

GENERATION

- **Ferrera Canal Upgrade:** Continue upgrading the Ferreira canal so as to optimize Power generation at Edwaleni Power Station and Maguduza.
- To continue **optimizing internal generation**, through the hydro power plants, to reduce imports during peak to better manage cost of sales.
- **Luphohlo Dam encroachment and Gazetting:** The process of Gazetting the Luphohlo Dam is still ongoing. The impact assessment was completed and presented to stakeholders for consideration. Comments have been submitted to the Environmental Authority and the authority has approved implementation subject to fulfillment of all conditions as per the impact assessment. We are currently awaiting feedback from Umphakatsi to complete the process and submit it to the Department of Water Affairs for Gazetting the land.
- **Maguduza Rehabilitation:** This is one of the oldest Power Stations and there is need to upgrade the station so as to optimize on power Generation.
- **Transmission line infrastructure upgrades:** Continue upgrading the Transmission infrastructure by ensuring the following:

- Conversion of the Mbuluzi Loop transmission network (Mhlume – Tambankulu, Tambankulu – Simunye and lastly Ngomane – Tambankulu) from wooden poles to steel structures.
- Upgrade protection panels at Nhlangano 2 substation.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024:

INTERNAL GENERATION:

- **Ferreira Canal upgrade:** Currently reconstruction of the Canal is sitting at 30% completion.



Figure: *Ferrera Canal*

- **Optimizing generation:** Lumphohlo Dam Water levels were sitting at approximately 30% for some time by end of the third quarter, with Maguga also sitting at about 70% due to the persistent draught in the region. As a result, during this quarter internal Generation was lower as compared to the same period in the previous year (2023).



Figure: *Luphohlo Dam*

- **Luphohlo Dam encroachment and Gazetting:** EEC continued to address the issue of encroachments and pursued the Gazetting of Luphohlo Dam to prevent future encroachments in the Ezulwini Generation Power Scheme.
- **Maguduza rehabilitation:** Rehabilitation commenced during Q3 and was expected to be completed during the course of 2025.
- **Transmission line infrastructure upgrades:**

Conversion of Hhelehhele – Malindza - Mpaka transmission network from wooden poles to steel structures was completed.



- **Hhelehhele Protection Upgrade:**

Completed the protection upgrade by replacing the old relays with new relays for the Hhelehhele Substation.

CHALLENGES:

Network Vandalism and Cable theft.

- There is an increase in copper theft and transmission infrastructure vandalism despite efforts made to mitigate this risk in collaboration with the Police.

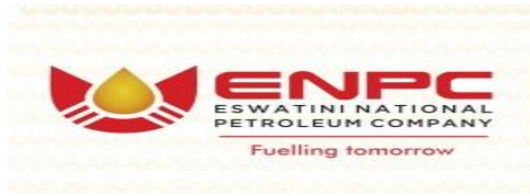


- Some areas are not easily accessible, resulting in difficulty in providing supply.



EXPECTED STATUS AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

- Continue formal engagements for power supply with ESKOM, EDM and USL.
- Continue with the execution of the World Bank, funded rural electrification in the Shiselweni region and countrywide depending on availability of funds.



8.4 ESWATINI NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY.

ESWATINI NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY (ENPC):

The mandate of the company is ensuring fuel supply security in the country, to improve access to petroleum products, to issue rural area fuel retail licenses in key national development areas and to carry out the blending of unleaded petrol with ethanol, amongst other responsibilities. The company aims to achieve this mandate through sourcing, managing and distributing strategic fuel stocks, in line with the Strategic Fuel Reserve Facility's Operational Modalities & Emergency Product Release Plan which governs the handling of the strategic stocks and also allows for ENPC to trade in fuel stored at the facility.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

STRATEGIC FUEL RESERVE FACILITY (SFRF):

- Appointment of a Technical/Transactional Advisor for whose scope of works will include Project Management Office (PMO), Technical and Financial Advisory services required to support the successful execution of the Strategic Fuel Reserve Facility (SFRF) project.
- Secure full loan funding for the construction of the SFRF.
- Appointment of an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor.
- Ready for construction engineering designs completed

RETAIL FUEL STATIONS:

- Designation of 25 areas as key national developmental areas for the construction of retail fuel stations.
- Appointment of service provider for the development of an operational model for the rural retail fuel stations to be licensed by ENPC together with model and layout designs.

- Development of a licensing framework for rural retail fuel stations to be licensed by ENPC.

LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) BUSINESS:

- Commencement on trading in Phephile Gas (ENPC's LPG product)
- Identification of distribution outlets across the country.
- Achieve a market share target of $\geq 1.5\%$ for 2024/25 on LPG sales.

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENPC'S FUEL TRADING BUSINESS:

- Development of a fuel trading strategy and business case.
- Identification and securing of fuel sources.
- Identification and securing of storage facilities and transport logistics.
- Securing of market for fuel.
- Securing of a fuel wholesale license.
- Achieve a market share target of $\geq 2\%$ for 2024/25 on fuel sales.
- Development of company policies.
- Implementation of strategic initiatives based on annual balanced scorecard 2024/25.

PERFORMANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

STRATEGIC FUEL RESERVE FACILITY (SFRF):

- The Overseas Electric & Engineering Corporation (OEEC) has been awarded the tender for the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) of the SFRF.
- The open tender – Request for Proposal for the Technical and Transactional Advisory services has been published for tender submissions.
- There are ongoing discussions financiers to secure loan funding for the construction of the SFRF.

RETAIL FUEL STATIONS:

- The designation of the 25 areas as key national developmental areas (KNDAs) for the construction of retail fuel stations has been approved by Cabinet.

- A tender was issued for the development of a business model for the rural retail fuel stations to be licensed by ENPC, tenders have been received and currently under evaluation.
- A draft a licensing framework for rural retail fuel stations to be licensed by ENPC has been developed following extensive stakeholder consultations.

LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) BUSINESS:

- ENPC commenced with trading in Phephile Gas in April 2024
- A total of 41 distribution outlets are selling the product across all four regions in Eswatini.
- Current market share target stands at 0.69%
- Phephile Gas currently packaged in 5 kg, 10 kg and 14 kg composite cylinders.
- Filling and distribution outsourced to local business operators.

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENPC'S FUEL TRADING BUSINESS:

- ENPC engaged the services of a petroleum industry expert to assist the company to establish the fuel trading business and strategy.
- Potential fuel suppliers identified within the SADC Region and also internationally together with supply terms.
- Investigation conducted on fuel transportation logistics.
- Fuel storage facilities explored in Eswatini and also at the harbour.
- Potential customers identified locally and also externally.
- Fuel wholesale license application made.
- Additional company policies developed.
- Progress realized on the implementation of the organization's strategy.

EXPECTED STATUS BY 31ST MARCH, 2025.

STRATEGIC FUEL RESERVE FACILITY (SFRF):

- Financial close reached on project finance.
- Appointment of the Technical and Transactional Advisor

- Appointment of an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor.
- Ready for construction engineering designs completed

RETAIL FUEL STATIONS:

- Service provider for the development of an operational model for the rural retail fuel stations to be licensed by ENPC together with model and layout designs appointed.
- Licensing framework for rural retail fuel stations to be licensed by ENPC submitted to MNRE.

LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) BUSINESS:

- Phephile Gas distribution outlets at ≥ 50
- Market share target at $\geq 0.8\%$
- Phephile Gas also sold in larger composite cylinders ($\geq 14\text{kg}$)

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENPC'S FUEL TRADING BUSINESS:

- ENPC's fuel trading business strategy and business developed and approved.
- Customers secured.
- Fuel sources and storage secured together with transport logistics arrangements.
- Fuel wholesale licence to allow ENPC to supply local commercial customers secured.
- Business commenced.

CHALLENGES.

ENPC's major challenge was the delay in securing the full loan funding for the SFRF, which has in turn delayed commencement construction of the SFRF. In addition, the delayed issuance of the fuel wholesale license has also delayed the commencement of the fuel trading business.

9.0 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

9.1 WATER SECTOR

9.1.1 RURAL WATER SUPPLY III – X501/99

| PROJECT NAME AND CODE | ANNUAL ALLOCATION (E000) | SUPPLEMENTARY | AMOUNT WARRANTED (E000) | ACTUAL EXPENDITURE (E000) |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| X501/99 - Rural Water Supply | 10,000 | Nil | 10,000 | 10,000 |

PURPOSE:

E10, 000,000 local funds have been allocated for development for new water schemes in various communities across the country in this financial year.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024:

The progress to date can be summed up as follows:

HHOHHO REGION:

- **LUHLANGOTSINI 1 WATER SUPPLY SCHEME; project is practically complete:** The project has reached practical completion and the community is accessing water from the taps. The Ministry is continuing to monitor the performance of the scheme and capacity building of the community prior to commissioning of the water scheme.
- **MPOFU RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME; project 95% complete:** The infiltration gallery at the Komati River is complete. Plumbing and wiring in the control house structure completed. The transmission main to the horizontal

roughing filters completed. Detention tank and 2 horizontal filters at 95% complete. Two (2) slow sand filters and the three (3) reservoirs are complete, pending testing and checking for water-tightness. The distribution network and standpipes have been completed, with testing ongoing.

LUBOMBO REGION:

- **KHUPHUKA RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME; project progress is at 60%:** The steel reservoir has been assembled and erected on site. About twenty (20) kilometers out of thirty (30) kilometers of the distribution main pipeline has been completed. The borehole and rising main have been completed.
- **ST PETER'S RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME; project is 95% complete:** The control house structure is complete, plumbing is complete and wiring is complete, EEC has installed power. The rising main has been completed, and connected to the control house and reservoir. The steel tank structure has been completed. The distribution main has been completed. The construction of 45/45 standpipes is complete, pending connection to network and construction of junctions. Pressure testing of the network is ongoing.

MANZINI REGION:

- **KAPHUNGA RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME; project is practically complete:** The project has reached practical completion and the community is accessing water from the taps.
- **MOTI RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME; project is 55% complete:** The borehole/ control house have been completed. The pumping main is complete. The reservoir has been completed. Construction of the distribution network is ongoing.

SHISELWENI REGION:

MAGUBHELENI RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME; project is practically complete:

The project has reached practical completion and the community is accessing water from the taps. The Ministry is continuing to attend to minor faults and monitor the performance of the scheme.

HYDROGEOLOGY AND GROUNDWATER DRILLING:

30 groundwater sites have been surveyed for water supply in communities without water. 12 boreholes have been drilled out of the 30 sites despite the persistent mechanical challenges on the drilling machines.

LABORATORY SERVICES:

Water quality surveillance on 10 existing water supply schemes was performed.

9.1.2 FEASIBILITY STUDY OF MKHONDVO AND NONDVO DAMS-W370/99.

| PROJECT NAME AND CODE | ANNUAL ALLOCATION (E000) | AMOUNT WARRANTED (E000) | ACTUAL EXPENDITURE (E000) |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Feasibility Study - Mkhondvo and Nondvo Dam - W370/99 | 3, 650 | 3,650 | 0 |

PURPOSE:

E3, 650, 000 local funds were allocated for undertaking the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the raising of the Hawane Dam wall. The project seeks to study environmental and social and that may arise due to the raising the Hawane Dam wall project and then recommend mitigation measures which will be documented in an environmental mitigation and management plan. This project will augment water supply for the Mbabane – Manzini Corridor as a short-term intervention that emanates from the Nondvo dam feasibility study project.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED:

- Draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment report has been received and approved.
- Draft Final Environmental and Social Impact Assessment report has been received and approved.
- Presented the resettlement action plan to the Nondvo dam Project Affected Persons (PAPs) (Mantabeni and Siphocosini Communities).
- Verification of affected homesteads and conduct asset survey for outstanding homesteads.

ONGOING/ OUTSTANDING PROGRESS

- Receiving Final Environmental and Social Impact Assessment report for the Hawane dam project by the Consultant.
- EWADE to present report on findings on the PAPs and how comments from the PAPs have been addressed for EEA submission.
- Continue stakeholder consultation for the Nondvo Dam project.

CHALLENGES:

Procurement process has been slower than anticipated.

9.1.3 MANZINI REGION WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT – W377/99/55.

| Project Name and Code | Annual Allocation E'000 | Amount Warranted E'000 | Actual Expenditure E'000 |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Manzini Region Water and Sanitation Project -W377/99: | 75,000 | 75,000 | 70,000 |
| Manzini Region Water and Sanitation Project - W377/55 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 123,000 |

PURPOSE:

E275, 000,000.00 local and loan fund for the construction of the Manzini Region Water Supply and Sanitation Project to supply water and sanitation services to

Mafutseni, Mtfongwaneni, Nhlambeni, Manzini North (Ticantfwini), Manzini South Tinkhundla.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

Manzini Region Water and Sanitation Project: The Lot 1 is at 45% and Lot 2 is at 18%. Lot 1 consists of a water treatment plant and pumping main and Lot 2 consists of storage reservoirs and a distribution network.

CHALLENGES:

- Cash flow challenges
- Unavailability of funding and land for the sanitation component.
- Consultant dilatoriness.

9.1.4 ESWATINI WATER AND SANITATION ACCESS PROJECT (HOSEA, ZOMBODZE & SHISELWENI I TINKHUNDLA) -W378/67/99

| Project Name and Code | Annual Allocation E'000 | Amount Warranted E'000 | Actual Expenditure E'000 |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ESWATINI WATER AND SANITATION ACCESS PROJECT (HOSEA, ZOMBODZE & SHISELWENI I TINKUNDLA) - W378/67 | 122,200 | 122,200 | 60,000 |
| ESWATINI WATER AND SANITATION ACCESS PROJECT (HOSEA, ZOMBODZE & SHISELWENI I TINKUNDLA) - W378/99 | 120,000 | 120,000 | 120,000 |

PURPOSE:

E242, 200,000.00 local and loan fund for the construction of Eswatini Water and Sanitation Access Project to supply Hosea, Zombodze and Shiselweni I Tinkhundla.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

Eswatini Water Supply and Sanitation Project (Hosea, Zombodze & Shiselweni Tinkhundla). The construction of Package 1, which consists of the construction of a pump station and 3 reservoirs, was appointed. The project has reached 100% completion. Package 2 which is the main pipeline from Nhlangano to Zombodze is at 67% completion and the main pipeline from Zombodze to Siphambanweni (Package 3) has commenced.

CHALLENGES:

- Cash flow challenges.

9.1.5 LOMAHASHA-NAMAACHA TRANSBOUNDARY WATER PROJECT – W380/99

| PROJECT NAME AND CODE | ANNUAL ALLOCATION (E000) | AMOUNT WARRANTED (E000) | ACTUAL EXPENDITURE (E000) |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| LOMAHASHA-NAMAACHA TRANSBOUNDARY WATER PROJECT – W380/99 | 16,800 | 16,800 | 0 |
| W380/54 | 112,000 | 112,000 | 19,100 |

PURPOSE:

E 112,000,000 grant funds and E16,800 government funds for the construction of a 30 km's pipeline, two booster pump stations and two Reinforced Concrete Reservoirs (2 Mega litres tank in Lomahasha and 5.1 Mega Litres in Namaacha) and E16,800,000 local funds for professional services and taxes.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024:

Lomahasha Namaacha Water Supply Project is at 9% progress. The scope of the work includes the construction of a 36km pumping main and 2 reservoirs.

CHALLENGES:

- Lack of access to some of the pipeline routes and resettlement issues.

Existing services on the road reserve.

9.2 ENERGY SECTOR

9.2.1 SHISELWENI NETWORK RE-ENFORCEMENT AND ACCESS PROJECT-F031/67

| PROJECT CODE AND NAME | ANNUAL ALLOCATION (E'000) | AMOUNT WARRANTED (E'000) | ACTUAL EXPENDITURE (E'000) |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| F031/67 - SHISELWENI ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT - | 293,000 | 293,000 | 148,000 |

PURPOSE:

E 293, 000,000.00 loan funds for improving electricity network and access in Shiselweni Region.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

- The World Bank loan funded Network Reinforcement & Access Project (NRAP) for the Shiselweni Region is progressing well, with construction of substations at 64% and the transmission line at 81% grid.
 - 2109 households were connected to the grid under this project during the financial year. Of these connections, 954 are connected through ready boards.

- Phase 1: all group schemes, comprising 3,915 members, was completed
- Phase 2: 53 group schemes, comprising 1,759 members, were completed
- Phase 3: 50 group schemes, comprising 1,545 members, were completed
- Phase 3A: revised and commenced implementation of 39 group schemes comprising 1, 546 members.
- Phase 4: shortlist comprising of 20 group schemes with 838 beneficiaries submitted to EEC for implementation.

CHALLENGES:

- Slow connection rates due to customers who are slow to wire their premises even after line construction have been completed.
- Fluctuations in foreign currency exchange.

**9.2.2 COOPERATION IN ENERGY AND MINERALS RESOURCES
EXPLOITATION –F027/99**

| PROJECT CODE AND NAME | ANNUAL ALLOCATION (E'000) | AMOUNT WARRANTED (E'000) | ACTUAL EXPENDITURE (E'000) |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| F027/99 COOPERATION IN ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES EXPLOITATION | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |

PURPOSE:

E6, 000,000.00 local funds to complete the geosciences mapping exercise for minerals.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024.

The Geological Survey Department has received the final report and has been submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources for onward transmission to the Highest Authority in the land.

PROGRESS ON THE PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF SEISMIC INSTRUMENTATION AND PROCUREMENT OF LABORATORY CONSUMABLES AND INSTRUMENTATION

Open tender and the tender numbers are:-

- Tender 142 of 2024/25 – Supply of Laboratory Consumables, Supply and Installation of Laboratory Instrumentation
- Tender 143 of 2024/25 – The Supply and Installation of Seismic Instrumentation for the Geological Survey Department

The advertisement for the tender was published on the Government website and both of the local newspapers, Times of Eswatini and Eswatini Observer for two (2) days on 24th to 25th July 2024. A compulsory pre-tender meeting was held on the 31st July, 2024 for tender number 142 of 2024/25 and on the 1st August 2024 for tender number 143 of 2024/25 at the Geological Survey Department conference room. A site visit to St Joseph's, where one of the seismic stations is located was conducted after the meeting of tender number 153 of 2024/25. The submission deadline was on the 20th September 2024 at the Treasury Building Conference room at 0900hrs, where they were opened and handed over to the Geological Survey Department.

The tenders were evaluated on 1st October, 2024.

The Eswatini Government Tender Board awarded tenders as follows:

- Tender number 143 of 2024/25: GGMM Investments at a cost of **E3,350,491.68**
- Tender number 142 of 2024/25: Buccos Scientific Services at a cost of **E5,584,848.66**

PAYMENT OF TAX:

The Department negotiated with Eswatini Revenue Services on a reduced tax and was granted 10% tax on the price that was paid which is E1, 800,000.00.

Balance E4, 200,000.00.

9.3 LAND SECTOR

9.3 LAND SECTOR

9.3.1 DEEDS REGISTRY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – X511/70

| PROJECT CODE AND NAME | ANNUAL ALLOCATION (E'000) | AMOUNT WARRANTED (E'000) | ACTUAL EXPENDITURE (E'000) |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| X511/70 - DEEDS REGISTRY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM | 1,170 | 1,170 | 1,170 |

PURPOSE:

E1,170, 000 donor funds allocated for the development of an electronic Deeds Information System in the two (2) phases. A carryover of E1, 453,288.05 from FY2023/24 was paid this financial year.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

The project, which is now at the data migration and user acceptance testing stage has reached 80% progress to completion.

**9.3.2 SUSTAINABLE LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT-
X509/99**

| PROJECT CODE AND NAME | ANNUAL ALLOCATION (E'000) | AMOUNT WARRANTED (E'000) | ACTUAL EXPENDITURE (E'000) |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| X509/99 - SUSTAINABLE LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGMENT | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |

PURPOSE:

E1, 000,000.00 local funds to roll out the SLAM programme to cater for at least one Inkhundla.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

The project has just resumed after a year of suspension due to lack of funding in the FY2023/24.

CHALLENGES.

- The roll-out of the SLAM project to the fifty-five (55) Tinkhundla is compromised by the computer-based geospatial application or system's inability to process data from outside the pilot project area. This is the application associated with the mapping of homesteads and associated elements in the chiefdoms. The Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP) is being engaged to resolve the problem.
- The SLAM Programme involves extensive travel to chiefdoms during the data collection phase of the exercise. The anticipated delivery of a fleet of new vehicles to government will assist in increasing efficiencies during this phase.

10. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Annual end of year report highlights significant progress on all ongoing projects and programs in particular, in the procurement of power projects and supply of power as well as the supply of water in rural areas. The energy supply sector has shown improvements in accessibility of electricity contributing to enhanced service delivery. To date, 88% of the households in Eswatini have access to electricity. Similarly, advancements in water supply initiatives have also increased access for the rural communities, although further efforts are still needed to address the water shortages in some rural areas. However, challenges remain in the Geology and Mining Sectors, particularly concerning the sustainable practices and regulatory compliance. Continued collaboration among stakeholders will continue to address these issues.