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**MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**2024-25**

FEBRUARY 17, 2025

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## 1.0 LIST OF ACRONYMS

**ABE** - African Business Education Initiative

**ACMS** - Aid Coordination and Management Section

**AfDB** - African Development Bank

**AI** - Artificial Intelligence

**ASCENT** - Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation

**CANGO** - Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations

**CBE** - Central Bank of Eswatini

**CDSF** - Community Development Special Fund

**CLEAR AA** - Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results for Anglophone Africa

**ClimSA** - Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications

**CMS** - Central Medical Stores

**COMESA** - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

**CP** - Country Programme

**CPD** - Commission on Population and Development

**CPE** - Comprehensive Country Programme Evaluation

**CPI** - Consumer Price Index

**CSO** - Central Statistical Office

**CSOs** - Civil Society Organizations

**CTA** - Central Transport Administration

**DAO** - Development Approval Order

**DBSA** - Development Bank of Southern Africa

**DHS** - Demographic and Housing Survey

**DPMO** - Deputy Prime Minister's Office

**DPR** - Detailed Project Report

**DPs** - Development Partners

**EDF** - European Development Fund

**EDFI** - European Development Finance Institution

**EHIES** - Eswatini Household Income and Expenditure Survey

**EIPA** - Eswatini Investment Promotion Authority

**EMDEs** - Emerging Market and Developing Economies

**EPO** - Economic Planning Office

**ERS** - Eswatini Revenue Service

**ESA** - East and Southern Africa

**ESARO** - East and Southern Africa Regional Office

**ESCIEA** - Eswatini Composite Indicator for Economic Activity

**EWSC** - Eswatini Water Services Corporation

**EXIM** - Export-Import Bank

**FANR** - Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources

**FAO** - Food and Agricultural Organization

**FEWSNET** - Famine Early Warning Systems Network

**FIC** - Finance, Investment and Customs

**GBV** - Gender-Based Violence

**GDP** - Gross Domestic Product

**GET.invest** - Global Energy Transformation [platform]

**GET.transform** - Global Energy Transformation [platform]

**GF** - Global Fund

**GIS** - Geographic Information System

**GIZ** - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation)

**GIZ** - Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Corporation)

**GOR** - Gross Official Reserves

**HCPI** - Harmonised Consumer Price Index

**HIES** - Household Income and Expenditure Survey

**HIV/AIDS** - Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

**HLPF** - High Level Political Forum

**HMCS** - His Majesty's Correctional Services

**HR** - Human Resources

**I&S** - Infrastructure and Services

**IATI** - International Aid Transparency Initiative

**IBRD** - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

**ICC** - International Convention Centre

**ICP** - International Cooperating Partners

**ICPD PoA** - International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action

**ICPs** - International Cooperating Partners

**ICT** - Information and Communication Technology

**IDA** - International Development Association

**IDT** - Industrial Development and Trade

**IFRC** - International Federation of the Red Cross

**IGPs** - Income Generating Projects

**IMF** - International Monetary Fund

**IPM** - International Planning Meetings

**ITC** - International Trade Centre

**JETRO** - Japan External Trade Organization

**JICA** - Japan International Cooperation Agency

**JSE** - Johannesburg Stock Exchange

**LEED** - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

**LoNa** - Lomahasha – Namaacha

**LPF** - Livable Planet Fund

**LUSIP** - Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project

**M&E** - Monitoring and Evaluation

**M300** - Mission 300 Initiative

**MCC** - Millennium Challenge Corporation

**MCIT** - Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade

**MCIT** - Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade

**MEPD** - Ministry of Economic Planning and Development

**MGHERC** - Mbabane Government Hospital Emergency and Referral Complex

**MIC** - Middle-Income Countries

**MICS** - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

**MIP** - Multi-Annual Indicative Programme

**MIS** - Management Information System

**MLSS** - Ministry of Labour and Social Security

**MMC** - Millennium Challenge Compact

**MNRE** - Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy

**MOA** - Ministry of Agriculture

**MoET** - Ministry of Education and Training

**MOF** - Ministry of Finance

**MOFAIC** - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

**MOFAIC** - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

**MOH** - Ministry of Health

**MOLSS** - Ministry of Labour and Social Security

**MP** - Member of Parliament

**MPCC** - Monetary Policy Consultative Committee

**MPCU** - Microprojects Programme Coordinating Unit

**MPP** - Micro Projects Programme

**MTAD** - Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development

**MTBPS** - Medium Term Budget Policy Statement

**NCP** - National Contact Point

**NDCC** - National Data Coordination Centre

**NDP** - National Development Plan

**NDS** - National Development Strategy

**NERCHA** - National Emergency Response Council on HIV and AIDS

**NHO** - National Handicraft Organisation

**NHTC** - National Handicraft and Training Centre

**NTA** - National Transfer Accounts

**OCHA** - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

**OPD** - Outpatient Department

**PBC** - Planning and Budgeting Committee

**PEPFAR** - President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

**PFM Act** - Public Finance Management Act

**PHC** - Population and Housing Census

**PHU** - Public Health Unit

**PIM** - Public Investment Management

**PIP** - Public Investment Programme

**PMC** - Project Management Consultancy

**PMO** - Prime Minister's Office

**PMS** - Performance Management System

**PMU** - Project Management Unit

**PPCU** - Public Programme Coordinating Unit

**PPI** - Producer Price Index

**PRMEU** - Poverty Reduction, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit

**PRSAP** - Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan

**PSHACC** - Public Sector HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee

**PWDs** - People with Disabilities

**RDF** - Regional Development Fund

**RDTs** - Regional Development Teams

**RI** - Regional Integration

**RISDP** - Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan

**ROC** - Republic of China (Taiwan)

**SA** - South Africa

**SACU** - Southern African Customs Union

**SADC** - Southern African Development Community

**SADCC** - Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference

**SAMIDRC** - SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo

**SDG** - Sustainable Development Goals

**SDPs** - Sector Development Plans

**SHD&SP** - Social and Human Development and Special Programmes

**SNC** - SADC National Committee

**SNRL** - Strengthening National – Regional Linkages

**SRHR** - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

**SSA** - Sub-Saharan Africa

**TICAD** - Tokyo International Conference on African Development

**ToRs** - Terms of Reference

**TVET** - Technical and Vocational Education and Training

**UN** - United Nations

**UNDESA** - United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs

**UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme

**UNESWA** - University of Eswatini

**UNFPA** - United Nations  
Population Fund

**UNICEF** - United Nations  
Children's Fund

**UNICEF** - United Nations  
International Children's  
Emergency Fund

**UNSDCF** - United Nations  
Sustainable Development  
Cooperation Framework

**UNWFP** - United Nations  
World Food Programme

**USAID** - United States  
Agency for International  
Development

**VET** - Vocational Education  
and Training

**VLR** - Voluntary Local Review

**WBG** - World Bank Group

**WEO** - World Economic  
Outlook

**WFP** - World Food  
Programme

**WHDP** - Water Harvesting  
and Small Medium Dams  
Project

**WHO** - World Health  
Organization

**WTO** - World Trade  
Organization

## **2.0 PREAMBLE**

### **2.1. INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Chairman, it is an honour to duly present to this Honourable House, the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development's end of Financial Year (FY2024/25) Performance Report. Kindly allow me to express my sincere gratitude for the support and guidance we receive from Parliament as we execute the Ministry's mandate. In this report, we have outlined the Ministry's budget execution up to the end of the third quarter, and projections to year endr, further highlighted key achievements as well as some of the challenges the ministry has faced in the course of the year.

### **2.2. RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **Economic Performance**

Honourable Chairperson, allow me to first briefly update the Portfolio Committee on the recent economic developments in Eswatini and outside our borders. Recent data and economic projections indicate a positive outlook for the domestic economy, in the short to medium term. We envisage significant private and public sector driven construction activity, coupled with returns to investment in sectors such as manufacturing, mining and ICT, to drive domestic economic activity in this period. Real GDP growth is forecast to average 5.4 percent (period 2025 – 2027) and to peak at 8.3 percent in 2025. Earmarked construction activity includes the implementation of large private sector-led projects in the energy sector (e.g. 13.5 Megawatts Hydro-Lower Maguduza, 75 Megawatts solar plant, 20 Megawatts Biomass plant amongst others), commercial shopping centres, Central Bank headquarters as well as the construction of other private sector office buildings.

Public sector led projects include the Mpakeni dam, construction of the MR14 and MR21, parliament building, completion of LUSIP II project and other rural development projects. The construction sector is expected to also induce direct and indirect multiplier effects in other sectors including the wholesale and retail trade, financial services, professional services, mining (i.e. quarrying), transport as well as improvement in consumer spending brought by the creation of employment linked to the projects.

However, heightened economic risks remain and may weigh heavily on the short to medium term economic prospects. These include the mounting exposure of the domestic economy to climate change induced shocks, supply chain disruptions due to intensifying geo-political tensions, policy uncertainty due to the transition of government in several countries (e.g. the US government transition with impact already being felt in the area of external assistance) as well as unanticipated delays in the implementation of planned projects.

Mr. Chairperson, on price development, domestic consumer inflation is expected to remain relatively moderated compared to past periods. In 2024, headline inflation averaged 4.0 percent compared to an average of 5.0 percent in 2023. Food inflation, which was a major inflation driver in the period, averaged 3.9 percent in 2024 relative to 12.8 percent the previous year, following the supply chain disruptions triggered by the Russia – Ukraine conflict. On consideration of global and domestic developments such as the anticipated price of key commodities particularly brent crude oil, exchange rates developments, as well as changes in domestic administered prices (mainly utility tariffs), domestic inflation is expected to average 4.9 percent in the short to medium term (2025 – 2027).

Looking at global and regional developments, Mr. Chairperson, according to latest projections, global growth is expected to be steady at 3.3 percent in 2025 and 2026 from a growth of 3.2 percent in 2024, indicating weakened post COVID 19 recovery and the lingering effects of geopolitical tensions. In the region, our



key trading partner, the SA economy, is expected to rebound by 1.5 percent in 2025 from a growth of 0.8 percent in 2024. Eswatini's export-oriented sectors are expected to benefit from rebounding external demand in these key markets.

### **2.3. KEY ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED:**

#### **Planning and Budgeting**

For planning and budgeting purposes, the Ministry continued to produce timely short to medium term economic analyses and projections, guiding the country's economic policy direction. Moreover, in strengthening planning processes, the Ministry is currently finalizing the development of an online database system to act as a data repository for all socio-economic indicators and relevant information necessary for evidence-based planning.

The Ministry is also working on public investment reforms in order to improve the manner in which Government projects are managed throughout the life cycle, to address the glaring issues of inefficiency in the processes of planning, budgeting and implementation. Guidelines for public investment management (PIM) have been developed in the current financial year with assistance from partners as well as consultations with key ministries that have a key role to play in the implementation of projects and also the Ministry of Finance in particular. They were presented to cabinet during the retreat and they were due for submission to cabinet for approval at the time of compiling this report. Once approved the Ministry will engage comprehensively with ministries and coordinate activities that will lead to coming up with a pipeline of quality (with economic benefits and likely to change lives of citizens for the better), projects that can attract financing not only from the Government consolidated funds but also external partners and private sector partnerships.

The Ministry has successfully coordinated and consolidated the capital expenditure estimates for all Government projects, totalling E7,247 billion. This

output has been achieved under very challenging circumstances, given the ongoing government liquidity problem and lower than previous year projected revenues.

### **Coordination of poverty reduction programmes and the sustainable development agenda**

The Ministry successfully developed the Multi-dimensional Child Poverty Analysis using the 2023 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey data. This was the second Multidimensional Child Poverty Diagnostic study conducted in the country since 2018. The purpose of the analysis is to understand the poverty situation of children in the country. The study focused on eight dimensions of child poverty (nutrition, health, child protection, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, housing and information) and measured a number of indicators for children in the age groups 0-23 months, 24- 29 months, 5-14 years, 15- 17 years and 0-17 years. The report findings show that 46.5% of the children (0-17 years) in Eswatini are multi-dimensionally poor meaning that they are deprived in at least 3 dimensions of well-being.

On SDGs monitoring our focus this year is more at the local level. A number of sensitization workshops and data collection exercises are currently ongoing to inform the 2025 SDG Voluntary National Review(VNR).

The ministry is also at the final stage of developing a National M&E Policy with the main objective of enhancing effective monitoring and evaluation of policies, strategies and development programmes. As part of operationalizing the National Development Plan (2023/24 -2027/28), the Ministry is working on putting in place a framework to institutionalize monitoring implementation and evaluation of results through the development of an enhanced NDP M&E framework. This will also result in the production of bi-annual NDP progress reports as well as an end of term evaluation.

## **Coordination of population issues**

Honourable Chairperson, a final draft Population Policy is now in place pending the final stages of approval projected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year.

This ministry has also spearheaded the implementation of the 7th UN and Eswatini joint Country Programme (2021-2025). As the programme comes to an end in the current financial year, a Comprehensive Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) was undertaken in preparation for the development of the next Country Programme (CP). Quarterly programme progress reviews were successfully held and the Annual Programme progress review also incorporated the Country Programme Evaluation and the Programme Audit processes.

In an effort to inculcate the culture of integrating population issues into development planning, the ministry through the Population Unit conducted training workshops to build the capacity of Planners and Regional Development Teams on integrating population issues into development planning.

## **Production and dissemination of official statistics**

The Central Statistical Office (CSO) continued to provide essential data and information required for evidence-based policy, planning and decision-making. This data includes monthly Consumer Price Index reports and other economic quarterly reports such as the Producer Price index, etc. The CSO successfully completed data collection for the Household Income and Expenditure Survey and the Inter Censal survey.

In the coming financial year, the CSO will embark on the preparatory activities for the 2027 National Population and Housing Census which will include producing the profile of all housing conditions for all households in the country. The information received at the end of the exercise will assist Government to identify those who are living in substandard housing units and can be considered for Government social support services, funds permitting.

Furthermore, the CSO will undertake an Economic Census during the 2025/26 financial year to identify all businesses in the country, whether formal or informal that contribute to economic growth. In all these data collection efforts the support of the public and Honourable Members of Parliament is imperative.

### **SADC office and regional integration**

During the 44<sup>th</sup> SADC Heads of State and Government held in Zimbabwe, August, 2024 Eswatini signed the SADC Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism. The Ministry also facilitated the receipt of a second and third consignments of meteorological infrastructure equipment and accessories which were a donation from the SADC Secretariat. These two donations were part of the implementation of the Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) Programme, funded under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF (European Development Fund).

Training for the national SADC Cluster Sub-Committees (CSC) was conducted in November 2024. The training covered Resource Mobilization, Regional Integration and Project Management.

The Ministry participated in all statutory meetings under the Treaty where progress on the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan was discussed. During the Extra Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 in Zimbabwe, to discuss the deteriorating situation in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eswatini reaffirmed its support for peace and security in the region.

### **Regional and community development**

The Microprojects Programme Coordinating Unit (MPCU) continues to augment government's effort in improving access to social services, livelihoods and overall socio economic development for Emaswati through the execution of infrastructure and income generating projects (IGPs). In the period under review,

MPCU completed a total of 274 projects. Twenty-three (23) projects are under the Community Development Special Fund (CDSF). These are; 4 dip tanks, 3 water supply schemes, 7 suspended foot bridges, 1 community market, 1 community hall and 7 rural electricity schemes. These have benefitted a population estimated at 63 610.

One hundred and fifty-one (151) capital projects were completed for ministries comprising of one hundred and thirty-four (134) structures under the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) and seventeen (17) projects for other ministries. Projects completed include the following; rehabilitation the Outpatient Department (OPD) at the Mbabane Government Hospital, rehabilitation of the Public Health Unit (PHU), staff houses and hostel blocks at the Hlatikhulu Government Hospital, rehabilitation of an ABECO tank at Mdzimba 2 Army Barracks, construction of a four tower and maximum security wall at Matsapha Correctional Facility, construction of two double storey cell blocks at the Matsapha Correctional Facility, renovation of the old PPCU building, construction of a police holding structure with kitchen and ablution at the Prime Minister's Office, rehabilitation of the Hlathikhulu Revenue Office, rehabilitation work at the High Court, rehabilitation of Public Sector HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee (PSHACC) offices, construction of eNgabezweni Fire Station, rehabilitation of Big Bend Fire Station and fencing of Siphofaneni Fire Station.

Under the Regional Development Fund (RDF), one hundred (100) projects were completed comprising of sixty-four (64) infrastructure and thirty-six (36) Income Generating Projects (IGPs). These will directly benefit a population estimated at 15,922.

### **Millennium Projects**

Mr. Chairman, the Millennium Projects Management Unit continued to implement the convention centre and five-star hotel. I wish to inform Parliament that it has not

been possible to complete the convention centre in the current financial year. One of the main challenges is that some of the work in the interior cannot be done simultaneously as one contractor needs to finish its part before others can continue. Therefore, the revised practical completion date for the ICC is now October 2025 and the interior fit out on the building is now estimated at about 84%.

Construction of the new parliament buildings has not commenced due to pending feedback from the Exim Bank of India on the detailed project report (DPR) (Lot 1) which was completed and submitted in June 2024.

### **Aid coordination and management**

The Ministry recognizes the importance of External Aid in the development of the country, especially in the drive to move from lower middle-income to high income country classification. This requires economic transformation that is focused on fostering sustainable economic growth, eradication of poverty, strengthening of health systems, and most importantly ensuring transparency and accountability in governance institutions especially in the use of resources.

As a developing nation, external Aid remains a significant part of the overall resource envelope for financing national and sectoral development plans. Over the last few years, the volume of external assistance received by the country has increased significantly both as a proportion of Government revenue and a proportion of Gross Domestic Product.

Consequently, as of 1 July 2024, the Kingdom of Eswatini was reclassified into a "Blend" country eligible to receive financing under the World Bank's most concessional terms, the International Development Associations (IDA) facility which is typically reserved for low income countries. The reclassification made available approximately US\$27 million for access by the country to fund a project of its choice and US\$39 million for access to fund the ASCENT Eswatini Project. The IDA20 resources are on a "use it or lose it" basis, which means that the allocations will be forfeited if not committed by June 30, 2025.

I would like to make special recognition of all the development partners that are involved in supporting the health sector for assisting government improve the

delivery of health services including the fight against HIV and AIDS which led to the attainment of the 95-95-95 target. There is need to sustain this gain and strive to reach the 100-100-100 target.

I would also like to recognise the partners who have trusted the government accounting systems and provided us with budget support. I further would like to recognize the partners who have joined hands in the fight against youth unemployment including addressing the mismatch between available skills and the skills needed by industry, and started programs aimed at addressing this scourge.

Finally, I would like to recognize all the development partners working with government across the various sectors for joining hands in the strive to improve the lives of Emaswati.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the Honourable Committee is aware of the regrettable developments that are circulating in the Development Cooperation landscape. A significant donor to this country is currently reviewing its policies for external aid and this is impacting many countries including Eswatini significantly. The ministry is monitoring these developments with keen interest and will keep the committee updated.

While we appreciate the importance of external assistance in this country, it is also important that, as a country aspiring to reach first world status, we should strive to graduate from being recipients of external Aid to be a highly industrialised nation, capable of supporting other countries to develop.

#### **2.4. OVERALL OPERATIONAL/RECURRENT AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

Chairperson, the ministry received a budget allocation of **E267,8 million** for operational expenditure. To date 97% (**E245,6 million**) of that amount has been spent. The Ministry received a capital budget of **E1,992,181,000** which is equivalent to **31%** of the total government capital budget. During the reporting period, **E1,203,900,139** has been released, reflecting an estimated overall implementation rate of **60%**.

## **2.5. OVERALL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

Chairperson, kindly recall that the overall capital expenditure for the FY 2024/25 was appropriated at **E6.36 billion** as reflected in the budget Book of Estimates. However, this figure was later revised downwards by E48 million to finance the supplementary budget no. 1. Total capital expenditure for the current financial year now stands at E6.29 billion. To date **E3.193 billion** has been released of which **E2.596 billion** has been actually spent. This translates to about **50.49%** overall commitment rate, while actual spending was at **41.04 %** at the end of third quarter. The ongoing liquidity problem has continued to affect timely payments and execution of projects. Government is struggling to clear payments from the past few years, while the outstanding bill is accumulating arrears.

Lastly, Honourable Chairperson, I humbly request for your support as I submit the budget request for the Ministry for FY 2025/26 amounting to **E1,555,054,708** of which **E180,002,708** is for recurrent and **E1,375,052,000** capital expenditure. I am also requesting for continued support and guidance as the Ministry continues to execute key programs planned for the coming year, in spite of the difficult and prevailing fiscal situation in government.

**I thank you,**

**Dr. E.T. Gina (MP)**

**Minister for Economic Planning and Development**



### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

The Ministry of Economic Planning and Development is a central government agency guided by the following mission, vision, and mandate.

#### **MISSION**

To drive integrated planning, sustainable, economic growth, resource mobilization and utilization and sound macro-economic management by providing an enabling policy environment and quality data.

#### **VISION**

To be the lead agent for the provision of strategic policy direction in comprehensive and adaptive economic planning, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development and effective project implementation in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

#### **MANDATE**

The mandate of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development is to assist government in the formulation, co-ordination and implementation of economic policies and intervention measures that will effectively and efficiently accomplish the country's major economic and development objectives. The Ministry derives its mandate and portfolio responsibility from Legal Notice No 25 of 2009. In practice, the Ministry has three overarching roles:

- **Central Agency**-The Ministry is one of the three central agencies, together with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Public Service. The Ministry assists in the formulation and monitoring of policies and has a key role in the budgeting process. Further, the Ministry plays a key coordination role in the development of priority development programmes

and projects, with planning officers deployed at the central Ministry and across the whole of government.

- **Capital Projects Programme**-The Ministry is responsible for the coordination of the public investment programme (PIP), planning and budgeting and execution of some strategic projects, through the Millennium Projects Management Unit and the Microprojects Coordination Unit, whose main area of focus is the implementation of community development projects to alleviate poverty.
- **Service Delivery**-The Ministry directly provides several services to the public, principally in the form of statistics and economic analysis. Further, the Microprojects Unit delivers projects for community development through the Regional Development Fund (RDF) and Community Development Special Fund (CDSF) as well as executing projects for ministries like health and education which serve communities.

#### 4. DEPARTMENTS

The Ministry is comprised of the following departments, directorates and units which work together to effectively fulfill its mandate:

- The **Administration Department** which is made up of the Human Resources, Accounts, Transport, Registry and Library sections.
- The **Economic Planning Department** which is comprised of the following divisions:
  - Macroeconomic Analysis and Research Unit
  - Sectoral Unit
  - Aid Coordination and Management Section
  - Poverty Reduction, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit
  - The National Population Unit
- Micro Projects Programme
- Millennium Projects Management Unit

- Southern African Development Community Unit
- The **Statistics Department** which is made up of the following Units
  - Economic Statistics
  - Demographic and Vital Statistics
  - Agriculture and Social Statistics
  - Statistical Services.

## 5. RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

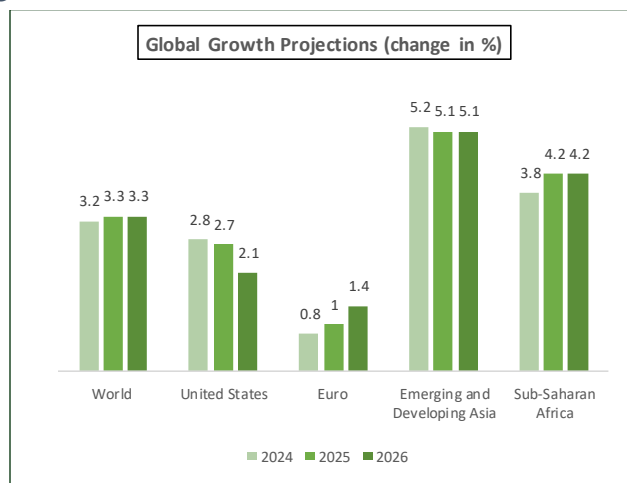
### *Global developments*

Global growth remains weak, broadly flat at 3 percent, on account of negative supply shocks that have had long-lasting effects on output and inflation since 2020, with varied impacts across individual countries. Nevertheless, resilience has been observed in some countries as cyclical imbalances are being gradually reabsorbed, supporting disinflation and alignment of these economies with growth potential. Generally, global prices of goods have stabilized, whilst others are declining. On the contrary, services inflation remains high, partly reflecting rapid wage increases and slowing the momentum of global disinflation. With the heightened level of uncertainty, global growth is expected to reach 3.3 percent in 2025 and 2026, from 3.2 percent in 2024. The risks to the outlook could emanate from significant shifts in trade and fiscal policies imposed by newly elected governments in several countries, vulnerabilities due to financial markets volatility affecting monetary policy stance and further intensification of geopolitical rifts could weigh on trade, investment, and the free flow of ideas. However, on the upside, the consensus observed in some governments is expected to enhance fiscal sustainability and financial stability. Moreover, supportive financial conditions emanating from a less restrictive monetary policy stance as well as robust labour markets in key economies such as the United States is expected to support growth.

Closer to home, the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region is projected to grow by 3.8 percent in 2024 and further rise by 4.2 percent in 2025 and 2026 reflecting the easing inflationary pressures, less restrictive financial conditions and stronger performance in major industrial commodity exporting countries.

Table 1: World Economic Outlook- January 2025

Countries	Est.	Est.	Proj.	Proj.
	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>World Output</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Advanced Economies</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>
United states	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.1
Euro Area	0.4	0.8	1.0	1.4
United Kingdom	0.3	0.9	1.6	1.5
<b>Emerging Markets and Developing Economies</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Emerging and Developing Asia	5.7	5.2	5.1	5.1
China	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.5
India	8.2	6.5	6.5	6.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.6	3.8	4.2	4.2
Nigeria	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.0
South Africa	0.7	0.8	1.5	1.6



Source: International Monetary Fund January 2025, WEO update

### Domestic Economic performance

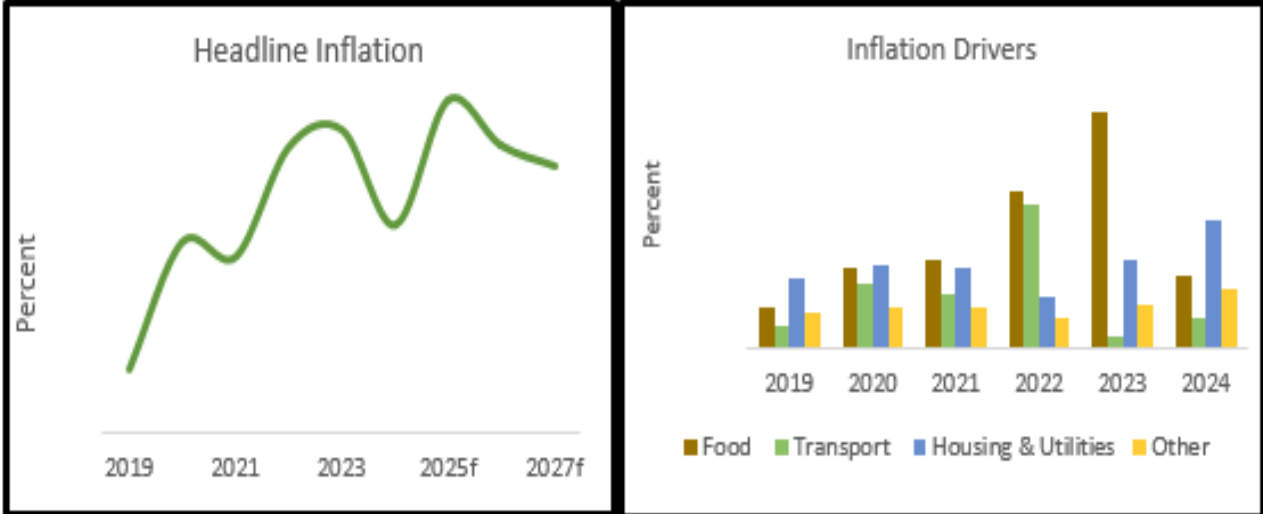
Economic activity remained on a positive trajectory in 2024, with an estimated GDP growth of 4.8 percent following a growth of 5.0 percent in 2023. Economic activity continues to be bolstered by investments in key sectors such as the manufacturing, agriculture and ICT activities. A buoyant growth is further projected for 2025, reflecting the resilience of the domestic economy amidst the headwinds weighing down on growth. In 2025, growth will mainly be driven by higher construction activity, which is expected to contribute about 2.5 percentage points to overall growth and induce multiplier effects in related subsectors such as ‘quarrying’, ‘wholesale and retail’, ‘transportation’, ‘manufacturing’ as well as ‘financial services. Up scaled public and private sector projects in the period include dams, roads and buildings, energy projects as well

as shopping malls. Other sectors such as tourism, manufacturing and mining are expected to maintain steady growth in the short to medium term, in line with ongoing investments.

**Inflation**

Domestic headline inflation declined from 5.0 percent in 2023 to 4.0 percent in 2024, depicting a significant moderation in basic food prices in 2024 relative to 2023. Sub-categories such as ‘meat’ as well as ‘bread and cereals’ were amongst the commodities with slower price changes in the period relative to 2023. ‘Housing and utilities’ as well as ‘transport’ prices on the other hand, reflected an increase in the review period, driven by hikes in utility tariffs coupled with increases in housing rentals. General prices are expected to remain relatively contained and maintained within the target band of 3 – 6 percent. Inflation is forecasted to rise to 5.25 percent in 2025, with inflationary pressures emanating from global exchange rate policies, declining oil prices, rising food inflation as well as the impact of administered prices.

Figure 1: Inflation Drivers and Headline Inflation Forecast



Source: Central Statistics Office and Central Bank of Eswatini

## *Monetary Policy*

Monetary policy in Eswatini became more accommodative in 2024 following the reduction of the discount by a cumulative 50 basis points. The Monetary Policy Consultative Committee unanimously set the domestic discount rate at 7.0 percent in January 2025, whilst the prime lending rate was cut to 10.5 percent. At these rates, the total credit extended to the private sector grew by 6.6 percent compared to the previous year, and was recorded at E20.399 billion in 2024. This was mainly supported by an uptick in credit extended to 'businesses', 'households' as well as 'other sectors' (i.e. parastatals, local government & other financial corporations). Credit extended to businesses amounted to E10.565 billion, which reflected an 8.8 percent increase in the review period. This was mainly observed in economic subsectors such as 'Agriculture', 'Mining & Quarrying', 'Manufacturing', 'Construction', 'Distribution & Tourism' as well as 'Other sectors'. On the contrary, credit to the 'Real estate' subsector declined in the period. Similarly, household credit grew by 2.7 percent on account of an increase in credit for 'motor vehicles' as well as other personal (unsecured loans).

On financial buffers, the stock of gross official reserves (GOR) amounted E10.122 billion in December 2024, which reflected a 15.1 percent growth compared to December 2023. At this level, the reserves were sufficient to cover 2.5 months of imports, which was below the internationally recommended threshold of 3 months. The uptick in the reserves in the period under review was mainly attributable to increases in the quarterly inflows of the SACU receipts, net inflows of foreign currency from the Central Bank's trade with the local banks as well as payments received from the JSE listing program.

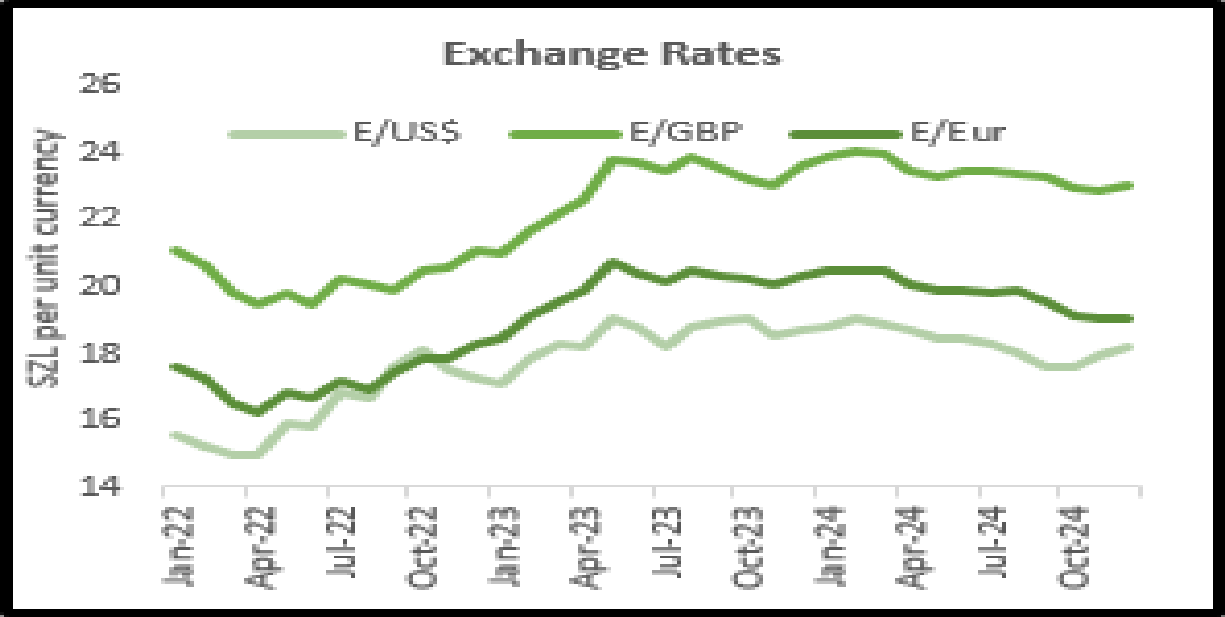


Source: Central Bank of Eswatini

### **Trade and Exchange Rate developments**

The trade balance reflected a surplus amounting to E2.14 billion in 2024 as total goods exports increased by 13.3 percent whilst goods imports were up by 10.6 percent in the same period. On exports, growth was mainly driven by exports of agricultural products, sugar, soft drink concentrates, food processing as well as textile products. The growth was in line with production output observed in the period as well as favorable market dynamics. Imports, on the other hand, reflected robust growth in imports of capital goods and final consumption products.

Exchange rates developments, as influenced by the global environment, presented mixed dynamics in the period. The Lilangeni strengthened against the US Dollar and the Euro, whilst weakening against the British Pound. In 2024, Lilangeni averaged E18.31 to the US Dollar, appreciating by 0.7 percent relative to 2023. Similarly, the local currency averaged E19.81 to the Euro, appreciating by 0.8 percent, whilst averaging E23.39 to the British Pound, which was a 2.0 percent depreciation in the period relative to 2023.



Source: Central Bank of Eswatini

## 5. GOVERNMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME-2024/25

### Budget

The overall national capital budget for FY2024/25 is **E 6,336 billion** which is more than that of the previous year (2023/24) by **E0.482 billion**. Of the total capital budget, local financing stands at **E3,406 billion**, grants at **E0.492 billion** and loans at **E2.438 billion**.

### Expenditure

Total amount committed for this reporting period stands at **E3.193 billion** of which **E 2.011 billion** are local funds and **E1.162 billion** are external funds. This translates to an estimated overall commitment rate of **50.49%**, of which **59%** is for locally financed projects, and **35%** for grants and **40.46%** is foreign loans.



## 6. THE MINISTRY'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME-2024/25

The Ministry received a capital budget of **E1,992,181,000** which is equivalent to **31%** of the total government capital budget. During the reporting period, **E1,203,900,139** has been released, reflecting an estimated overall implementation rate of **60%**.

Table 2: Ministry's Capital Programme, 2025

Project Code	Project Title	Budget	Revised Budget	EXEC Released	Exec Actual	Impl. Rate
G42299	Implementation of Development Strategies	25,000,000	25,000,000	2,099,342	708,561	8%
G46799	Millennium (Sikhuphe) Project	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-	0%
G50999	Support to UNDP Country Programme	23,105,000	23,105,000	23,105,000	11,000,000	100%
G52699	The Eswatini Economic Census	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,188,400	399,909	99%
G54863	Construction of new Parliament Building	320,000,000	320,000,000	-	-	0%
G54899	Construction of new Parliament Building	60,000,000	60,000,000	5,408,278	5,408,278	9%
G57599	The Eswatini Agricultural Survey	14,200,000	14,200,000	14,192,970	7,855,271	100%
G57699	Intercensal Survey	8,000,000	8,000,000	7,834,158	3,980,641	98%
G58563	Construction of an International Convention centre	360,693,000	360,693,000	360,683,979	360,683,979	100%
G58599	Construction of an International Convention centre	749,307,000	749,307,000	499,700,820	352,862,337	67%
G60199	Eswatini Household Income and Expenditure Surveys	12,489,000	12,489,000	12,427,484	10,718,335	100%
G60970	Microprojects - Infrastructure Development VI	40,702,000	40,702,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	86%
G60999	Microprojects - Infrastructure Development VI	183,000,000	183,000,000	183,000,000	183,000,000	100%
G61663	Construction of Five Star Hotel	140,025,000	140,025,000	24,233,759	24,233,759	17%
G61699	Construction of Five Star Hotel	35,000,000	35,000,000	33,934,531	33,934,531	97%
G63570	Support to Taiwan Country Programme	7,200,000	7,200,000	-	-	0%
G64099	Procurement of Government Land	4,000,000	4,000,000	1,091,418	1,091,418	27%
G64770	Capacity Building in Central Ministries	1,260,000	1,260,000	-	-	0%
H36299	Construction of the National Referral Hospital	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-	0%
<b>Grants</b>		<b>49,162,000</b>	<b>49,162,000</b>	<b>35,000,000</b>	<b>35,000,000</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Loans</b>		<b>820,718,000</b>	<b>820,718,000</b>	<b>384,917,738</b>	<b>384,917,738</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Local</b>		<b>1,122,301,000</b>	<b>1,122,301,000</b>	<b>783,982,401</b>	<b>610,959,281</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,992,181,000</b>	<b>1,992,181,000</b>	<b>1,203,900,139</b>	<b>773,973,040</b>	<b>60%</b>

Source: Government Commitment System, January 2025

## 7. MINISTRY'S RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE

Estimated recurrent budget for the Ministry of Economic Planning for the year 2024/2025 is **E 267,775,040.00**.

Table3: Recurrent Budget Expenditure Summary by Activity –2024/25

ACTIVITY	Estimated Budget	Revised Released	Expenditure & Commitments	Variance	Variance %
<b>10 Minister's Office</b>	3,097,712	4,201,200	3,988,685	212,515	5%
11 Administration	235,962,335	221,524,067	218,505,138	3,018,929	1%
12 Economic Planning Office	14,371,370	14,392,643	12,356,067	2,036,576	14%
31 Central Statistical Office	12,888,011	10,823,516	9,637,561	1,185,955	11%
32 Aid Coordination and Man	952,394	884,022	642,665	241,357	27%
34 Population	503,218	426,356	292,270	134,086	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,775,040</b>	<b>252,251,804</b>	<b>245,422,386</b>	<b>6,829,418</b>	<b>3%</b>

Source: Government Commitment System, January 2025

Table 4: Recurrent Budget Expenditure Summary by Activity –2024/25

SUMMARY BY CONTROL ITEM /Detailed	Estimated Budget	Revised Released	Expenditure & Commitments	Variance	Variance %
00 C.T.A. Charges	2,718,537	1,669,136	923,347	745,789	45%
01 Personnel Costs	33,485,682	31,087,450	27,300,720	3,786,730	12%
02 Travel & Communication	3,522,784	6,072,184	5,100,749	971,435	16%
04 Professional Services	2,480,809	2,589,194	1,717,747	871,447	34%
06 Consumables	1,379,625	1,271,240	968,325	302,915	24%
10 Internal Grants	41,231,000	41,231,000	41,231,000	-	0%
11 External Grants	182,956,603	168,331,600	168,331,608	-8	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,775,040</b>	<b>252,251,804</b>	<b>245,573,496</b>	<b>6,678,308</b>	<b>3%</b>

Source: Government Commitment System, January 2025

## **8. MINISTRY'S PERFORMANCE BY DEPARTMENT**

### **8.1 ADMINISTRATION**

The Administration Department is in charged with the overall administration management and coordination of the Ministry's operations as elaborated under the functions and objectives.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Introducing sound systems for performance and supervisory management
- Ensuring an effective and efficient transport management system.
- Ensuring an effective and efficient financial and accounting management system.
- Ensuring the adherence to and efficient filing and record management system
- Improving communications and information flow system both internal and externally.

#### **FUNCTIONS**

- Coordinating all Departments, Sections and Units within the Ministry through fostering the overall administration and management of the Ministry's operations.
- Ensuring that all Departments, Sections and Units meet their targets as scheduled, and the Ministry's Mandate is adhered to in order to provide the public with efficient and effective service delivery.
- Directly supervising common services such as the Ministry's Human Resource Management, registry, switchboard, library, and transport and support staff.
- Administration of policies and the Ministry's Budget Process, including actively participating in the National Government Planning & Budgeting Process

- Administration and Management of Human Resources related issues such as the facilitation of staff recruitment, appraisal, confirmation, promotions, deployment, discipline and welfare.
- Coordinating activities and reports as well as other issues that may be demanded by higher authorities.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### Promotions:

- In the period under review the Ministry has successfully promoted nine (9) officers to senior positions.
- The Ministry has authority to fill five (5) vacant entry level positions in the Planning Cadre

### Performance Management System (PMS):

- The training of Middle Management is continuing.

### Management Audit:

- The Ministry has seen a gradual implementation of the Management Skills Audit Report.

### Survey Projects:

- The Central Statistical Office through the Civil Service Commission has recruited 137 temporary staff to execute the National annual agriculture censal survey.

## **CHALLENGES**

- The Circular No: 8 of 2018 that caused freezing of vacant positions has made it difficult for some departments to function properly. Staff is continually being depleted. Subsequently, staff in the affected

departments are over-stretched which has negative effects on quality service delivery.

- In just over four months' period the Ministry has seen an increase in staff turnover as a result five resignations were processed.
- The continued uncertainties concerning the provision of fuel to the Ministry's pool of cars causes strain on service delivery, particularly in the department of Central Statistics Office which periodically conduct surveys.

Table 5: Budget Execution for the Administration Department

Details	Estimated Budget	Revised Released	Expenditure & Commitments	Variance	Variance %
00 C.T.A. Charges	1,833,820	884,419	588,394	296,025	33%
01 Personnel Costs	6,530,185	6,569,300	5,237,261	1,332,039	20%
02 Travel & Communication	1,477,563	2,396,963	1,633,972	762,991	32%
04 Professional Services	632,774	871,280	514,586	356,694	41%
06 Consumables	1,300,390	1,239,505	968,325	271,180	22%
10 Internal Grants	41,231,000	41,231,000	41,231,000	0	0%
11 External Grants	182,956,603	168,331,600	168,331,600	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>235,962,335</b>	<b>221,524,067</b>	<b>218,505,138</b>	<b>3,018,929</b>	<b>1%</b>

Source: Government Commitment System, January 2025

## 8.2 ECONOMIC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Economic Planning Department has the overall responsibility of coordination & management of economic and social policies and strategies for the effective planning, implementation, resource mobilization & allocation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, resource allocation for the public investment programme. The office is also responsible for multi-sectoral implementation of the national population policy and the coordination of SADC initiatives.

### OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

Provides overall economic advice on the management of the economy and related economic policy issues.

- Management of the long-term national development objectives, strategies, policies and their efficient operationalisation to achieve development outcomes.
- Preparation of a series of development plans reflecting the national and sectoral development policies to be pursued in the medium term.
- Strategic prioritization and allocation of resources to national policy objectives and priority development initiatives.
- Co-ordination and monitoring of the technical and financial implementation of all the development plans and programmes to achieve project outcomes cost-effectively and efficiently.
- Monitoring the technical and financial implementation of the capital budget through half-year and annual project progress reports and undertaking project site visits.
- In conjunction with the other government agencies, the private sector, the donor community and other stakeholders, co-ordinate and integrate all sectoral policies to align with the overall national economic development framework.
- Provide effective administration, coordination, and monitoring of grants - financial and technical assistance.
- Collaborate with the line ministries in the preparation and submission of program and project proposals to bid for the allocation of resources.
- Membership of the Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC) and provide advice on the effective strategic allocation of resources among the numerous project proposals from the line ministries and other government agencies that are competing for the limited budget resources.
- Collate and analyse public expenditure data.

- Monitor and evaluate the impact of development programmes and projects.
- Monitoring the performance of the economy and carrying out macroeconomic analysis and advice on economic performance and related policy.
- Implementation of the Millennium Projects; and
- Implementation of the Population Policy.
- Strengthen the Planning Cadre and build capacity for development planning, implementation of the budgeting framework and other relevant tools for guiding resource allocation.

*Table 6: Budget Execution for the Economic Planning Office - 2024/25*

Control Item	Estimated Budget	Revised Released	Expenditure & Commitments	Variance	Variance %
00 C.T.A Charges	154,530	154,530	82,605	71,925	47%
01 Personnel Costs	13,158,888	13,223,900	11,276,982	1,946,918	15%
02 Travel & Communication	851,952	881,952	890,218	8,266	-1%
04 Professional Services	150,000	104,261	106,254	1,993	-2%
06 Consumables	56,000	28,000	-	28,000	100%
11 External Grants	-	-	8	-8	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,371,370</b>	<b>14,392,643</b>	<b>12,356,067</b>	<b>2,036,576</b>	<b>14%</b>

*Source: Government Commitment System, January 2025*

### **8.2.1 SECTORAL UNIT**

The role of the Sectoral Division is to coordinate the planning, budgeting implementation, management, and monitoring of Government's capital investment programme as well as guide the formulation and revision of public policy, including fiscal policy management in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance.

The Division allocates and consolidates resources for capital expenditure to ensure that government programmes and projects are fully supported to achieve national and sectoral development objectives. Public investment supports the delivery of key public services through public and economic infrastructure development to connect citizens and firms to economic opportunities that can culminate to economic growth. The economic and social impact of public investment critically depends on its efficiency, hence the need to improvement the manner in which projects are managed through a life cycle approach.

## **OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS**

- Coordinate implementation of sector policies in line with the National Development Strategy and National Development Plan
- Compile and update the Sector Development Plans (SDPs) which form part of the National Development Plan (NDP).
- Conduct periodic site visits to all capital projects as part of the monitoring of projects so that required interventions can be taken timeously but also to inform budget preparation.
- Appraise and select project proposals as part of the preparation processes for the annual capital expenditure estimates which forms part of the National Budget.
- Coordinate and consolidate annual capital expenditure estimates for submission to the Ministry of Finance for publishing of the Budget Book of Estimates.
- Provide technical support to the planning cadre and project managers on projects preparation activities and capacity enhancement on planning tools and projects implementation issues.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**



- As at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, the Division processed requisitions amounting to **E3,193,257,359 (50.49%)** of the revised total capital expenditure.
- Out of the warranted amount about **E2,595,699,678 (62%)** was the reported actual expenditure.
- Under the Ministry's projects the recorded expenditure at the end of January 2025 stood at **E1,203,900,139 (60%)** of the total budget amounting to **E1,992,181,000**
- Presented the public investment (PIM) guidelines to Cabinet during the January 2025 retreat. They are due for submission to Cabinet for approval so that they can be used to guide public investment management processes in Government.
- There is no major project completing in the current year, which implies less scope for new projects.

## **CHALLENGES**

- The ongoing fiscal challenges continue to undermine the efficiency and effectiveness of public investment as government continues to delay payments for work already done by contractors. This results in delayed implementation and completion but with increased cost for the projects.
- There are missed opportunities of implementing growth-inducing projects due to lack of scope for new projects brought about by the high level of commitment on big projects.
- The risk of having incomplete and unusable projects is high as government continues to face cash flow challenges which further delays payments.
- Due to the ongoing fiscal situation government is battling to clear a sizable number of claims from the past year.
- Some projects are commenced without passing the mandatory appraisal/selection process. This has given rise to projects that are

commenced without proper planning, ownership and secured funding thus increasing the fiscal burden.

- Implementation issues arising from Ministries requesting for budgets for projects that are not ready to implement.
- Insufficient technical capacity to fully comprehend implementation & technical issues of construction projects.
- Lack of institutional memory on many of the ongoing projects, for instance, information on starting and completion dates of projects is not known in ministries due to changes of officers responsible for execution of projects. Furthermore, project objectives cannot be tracked, and consistent reporting is also affected by changes in project management teams.
- Accumulation of arrears continues to be a challenge, and threaten the survival of some contractors in the construction industry in the near future.
- It has also not been possible for the office to visit many projects in the reporting period due to focus on the budgeting work.

### **8.2.2 MACRO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH UNIT**

The Macroeconomic Analysis and Research Unit (Macro-Unit) is mandated to monitor the performance of the economy through carrying out macroeconomic analysis and research as well as forecasting key macroeconomic aggregates. The analysis is used to advise government on how to pursue sustainable macroeconomic management actions and achieve economic recovery, fiscal consolidation, private sector promotion, poverty reduction and human capital development. The major key objective is to ensure shared and equitable growth to be achieved as envisaged in the national vision.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS**

- Monitor economic developments in the four sectors of the economy through Annual Company Surveys, modelling, research and data collection.

- Undertake quarterly, annual and periodic reviews on the performance of the economy.
- Macroeconomic modelling and forecasting of key macroeconomic aggregates e.g. GDP forecasts.
- Preparation of the macroeconomic framework for monitoring economic performance and as input in the national planning and budgeting process to ensure consistency of forecasts.
- Provide economic input to the budget process, budget speech, MTBPS, and Government Negotiating Team.
- Prepare the first 4 chapters of the National Development Plan to ensure consistency with development objectives, strategies, and policy.
- Liaise with and provide information to national and international stakeholders such as IMF, World Bank, AfDB, and other stakeholders.
- Coordinate the activities of the Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee.
- Participates in the following committees: Investment Committee, Development Approval Order (DAO), Special Economic Zones Committee, and Trade Data Reconciliation among others.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **1. Economic Performance Monitoring**

To support evidence-based policy formulation, the Unit:

- Produced and disseminated quarterly Economic Bulletins, which provide detailed analysis of the domestic economic performance and global economic developments on a quarterly basis as well as presenting policy issues.
- Produced and disseminated the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) projections for the period (2024-2027) necessary for the setting of the domestic fiscal policy and for budgeting purpose.

- Produced quarterly updates on the Eswatini Composite Indicator for Economic Activity (ESCIEA). This indicator provides insights on business cycle movements to inform policy direction.
- Produced and disseminated the 2024 Economic Review and Outlook, providing analysis on performance trends.
- Prepared and submitted to the SACU Secretariat, the country's Economic Background Paper, which is important for the determination of SACU shares.
- Prepared and submitted the economic update to the SADC Secretariat on progress made in meeting the macroeconomic convergence target. Participated in the SADC Macroeconomic Subcommittee.
- Prepared and submitted the government position paper reflecting the affordability stance for Government.

## **2. Data collection, analysis, and database management**

The Unit was able to timely collect and disseminate economic data and ensure an up-to-date database.

- Continued the development of a web-based online database application for the Ministry to serve as a centralized data repository of all data and products.
- Continuous updating of data for all economic and social indicators.
- Continued data collection with companies via the company survey exercise for 2024.

## **3. Development and maintenance of modelling, forecasting, and analysis tools.**

- In the process of finalizing the development of a Macro-Econometrics Model, that will assist the Ministry with a timely projection of

economic activity whilst also ensuring turnaround time in the assessment of the impact of external or economic shocks.

- Continued to update the country's Macroeconomic framework using the Financial Programming and policy tool. Continuous updates and development are on-going together with the Macro-Fiscal Working Group (CBE, MOF, ERS).

#### **4. Data and information sharing**

- Continued to disseminate and provide information as requested by Stakeholders.

#### **5. Liaising with stakeholders**

- Provided input in the special economic zones committee, DAO and Trade facilitation meetings.

### **CHALLENGES**

- High staff turnover affecting the Unit's deliverables and turnaround time.

#### **8.2.3 AID COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT SECTION (ACMS)**

The ACMS under the EPO is responsible for mobilization, oversight, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation of external assistance (mainly grants) to the Kingdom of Eswatini. The ACMS serves as the entry point for current and prospective external Development Partners (DPs) who provide or who are considering extending grant assistance to the country. To discharge its responsibilities, the ACMS is guided by the PFM Act 2017, the Development Cooperation policy 2019 and the specific covenants in place with the individual Development Partners.

## **OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS**

The detailed functions of the ACMS are to:

- Develop and implement the country's policy on development cooperation and advise government accordingly;
- Prepare and ensure effective development cooperation agreements are in place with the Development Partners;
- Provide guidance to current and prospective development partners on national priorities, sectors, projects and programmes requiring external funding;
- Formulate and appraise proposed projects and programmes to be funded through external assistance (grants and loans) and ensure their alignment to national priorities and needs;
- Ensure proper monitoring, evaluation and auditing of projects and programmes funded through external assistance;
- Undertake and lead on external resource mobilisation activities, domestically and internationally,
- Organize development cooperation forums between the government of Eswatini and its development partners;
- Report on external assistance received by the country.

## **ESWATINI DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

The Kingdom of Eswatini has twenty-six (26) external development partners that reported their assistance to the ACMS as at 31st March 2023. Some of these partners are resident in the country and publish their data in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Registry, a voluntary multi-stakeholder initiative to improve the transparency of aid spending. External assistance for the promotion of economic development and welfare is provided in the form of grants and loans with grant assistance remaining predominant despite the country's middle-income status.

Table 7 below presents grant assistance allocated to the country for the 2024/2025 Financial Year.

*Table 7: Grant assistance to Eswatini for 2025/26*

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER	MINISTRY/ AGENCY	ACTIVITIES	2025/26 BUDGET
United States of America (USA)		PEPFAR, Ambassador Self Help Grant, Peace Cops, etc (Grant period = Oct 2024 to Sept 2025)	72,000,000.00 USD
ROC (Taiwan)	PMO	Security upgrades for Prime Minister's Offices	1,300,000.00 USD
		Support for Government Grand Plan of Action	465,000.00 USD
	DPMO	Construction of houses for the vulnerable	200,000.00 USD
		Rehabilitation of St Joseph's School (Mzimpofo)	350,000.00 USD
	MOA	Construction of medium earth dam at Sidvokodvo and Mangcongco	919,000.00 USD
		National Grain Reserves	2,859,000.00 USD
	MOH	Strengthening Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Eswatini	400,000.00 USD
		Purchase ambulance to service Ikhwezi, Lubuli and Ndzevane Clinics	100,000.00 USD
	MEPD	CECI Advisory Services	400,000.00 USD
		Construction of Potable Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes at Nkwene (Phase 4); Maphungwane-Lukhetseni (Phase 3) and Lubuyane (Phase 3)	3,592,000.00 USD
		MEPD Capacity Building Project- Phase 2	100,000.00 USD
		Management Consultancy for Sikhuphe resettlements	30,000.00 USD
	MOET	Survey of households with uninhabitable main-houses in Eswatini.	150,000.00 USD
		Purchase of Computers and Accessories for rural Primary and Secondary Schools	500,000.00 USD
		Construction of Computer Laboratories in 6 rural Primary and Secondary schools	600,000.00 USD
	MCIT	Enhancing Junior Achievement (JA) Financial Program for Schools and out of School youth	90,000.00 USD
		Capacity Building of tertiary students in business and entrepreneurship skills.	90,000.00 USD
		Industrial sewing machines for the NHTC	417,000.00 USD
MLSS	Eswatini Business Digitalization and Enhancement Project	400,000.00 USD	
	Upgrading and replacement of farming and training equipment, at the Malkerns Vocational Services Training Centre	100,000.00 USD	
MOFAIC	Procurement of office equipment for Eswatini missions abroad	300,000.00 USD	
United Nations (UN)		Official Development and Technical Assistance	21,000,000 USD
Global Fund (GF)	NERCHA+CAN GO	HIV/TB grant (Grant period is Oct 2024 – Sept 2025)	14,476,915.00 USD
	NERCHA	Malaria Grant (Grant period is Jan 2025 – Dec 2025)	754,513.00 USD
European Union (EU)	MOA	Eswatini Livestock Value Chains Development projects	1,600,000.00 Euros
	MNRE	Agriculture value chains via sustainable and inclusive Energy project	197,582.13 Euros
	MOET + MLSS	Skills for youth employability, entrepreneurship	3,500,000.00 Euros
	MOET	Skills for Vulnerable youth	500,000.00 Euros
Japan	DPMO	Support to Gender Based Violence and Mental Health	800,000.00 Euros
	MOET	Construction of 4 secondary schools (Ngwenyameni, New Thulwane, Maphungwane and Lavumisa)	2,700,000.00 USD
	WFP	Food Assistance through World Food Programme	132,641.00 USD
Saudi Arabia	NERCHA	Malaria Grant (Grant period is Jan 2025 – Dec 2025)	754,513.00 USD
	MOFAIC	Construction of new offices for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2,000,000.00 USD

*Source: Author's Compilation, February 2025*

## **COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)**

The United States of America and the Kingdom of Eswatini enjoy good bilateral relations since 1968 when Eswatini got independence. In the year under review, US support to the Kingdom of Eswatini went to a number of areas including the following:

- **Health Promotion and Health Systems Strengthening**—through the USAID programme, the US allocated about USD 71 million to the Kingdom of Eswatini as its contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS in the country. This support contributed immensely in the fight including the attainment of the “95-95-95” benchmark by the Kingdom of Eswatini.
- **Youth Development and Education**—through the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, the US supported 4 emaSwati to pursue master’s degrees programmes in the United States. These came from both the public and private sectors. Through the Mandela Washington Fellowship, the US supported 12 emaSwati attend six-weeks leadership and professional development programs in US universities.
- **Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)**—the 2025 scorecard for the Kingdom of Eswatini was released by the MCC. In this scorecard, the Kingdom of Eswatini meets 8 out of the 20 indicators. Among the failed indicators, the country does not meet the compulsory indicator on Control of Corruption. The Ministry continues to collaborate with relevant government ministries and the US Embassy to facilitate processes that will enhance performance in the scorecard and enable the country’s qualification for the MMC grant.

## **II. COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**

In the year under review the focus was mainly on the implementation of the following activities:

- **Water Harvesting and Small Medium Dams Project (WHDP) - €14.25 Million**

The project which started in December 2016 and aimed to develop 16 water schemes to extend the growing season and ensure food security in: Nkamazi, Mswati, Mkhovu, Mgubudla, Mavulandlela, Meleti, Sigombeni, Buhlungu,



Mhlangeni, Manzamnyama, Nkalane, Nkwene/Nyelele, Mkhondvwanyane, Mkhwenyane, Sgcineni/Mzumnene, and Mancubeni was fully completed and the schemes officially handed over to the beneficiaries in August 2024. All schemes are in the defects and liability period which ends in February 2025.

- **Agriculture Value Chains via Sustainable & Inclusive Energy Project - €7.45M**

The project seeks to contribute to inclusive economic growth and job creation by boosting the sustainable and inclusive development of Eswatini key agriculture value chains via renewable energy and energy efficient investments. The value chains under consideration are those more important for rural development and trade under the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement, as well as those with a potential for sustainable and inclusive growth and job creation. The following has been accomplished under the project to date:

- The Eswatini ElectriFi window to finance projects from local developers in the renewable energy sector was agreed and opened on 18 November 2020 with the European Development Finance Institution (EDFI) and will run for at least 12 years.
- A contribution agreement was signed with GIZ on 8 November 2022 to support the public sector improve the business environment in the renewable energy sector.
- The project partnership (EU, Alliance for Rural Electrification, GET.invest and GET.transform, as well as the Government of Eswatini) hosted the EU Green Power Transformation Forum 2024 on 17-18 September 2024. The forum discussed renewable energy technologies and solutions in Eswatini and enabled business partnerships and knowledge sharing to mobilise investments in renewable energy in Eswatini.

- The Project Steering Committee (chaired by MNRE) met twice, in July 2024 and October 2024, to review project progress.
- A call for proposals for the “Catalyser for Energy Transition in Eswatini” was issued in April 2024 and a contract signed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 11 November 2024. The objective is to provide tailor-made support to smallholder farmers, farmer companies, women, youth and people/groups living in vulnerable situations with business ideas in:
  - identifying the renewable energy and energy efficiency investment potential in their operations;
  - creating awareness on the legal and financing requirements of such investments;
  - bundling investment projects so that they meet Finance Institutions’ criteria;
  - developing bankable investment concepts and applications;
  - providing coaching and monitoring during their investment project implementation when desired or necessary.

- **Eswatini Livestock Value Chains Development Project - €9.15M**

The project seeks to contribute to economic growth and job creation, poverty reduction and gender equality through improving smallholder livestock productivity at community level, supporting the establishment of inclusive, efficient and transparent markets as well as the establishment of SME and job creation along the value chain. It is implemented through the International Trade Centre (ITC) following a Contribution Agreement signed with the EU on the 14 May 2023. Project implementation commenced on 1 July 2023 and the following was achieved in the year under review:

- 25 officers from the Ministry of Agriculture were trained on Artificial Insemination
- 3 rangeland officers were trained on GIS and remote sensing.
- 48 participants were trained in Export and Quality Management (11-13 September 2024).
- The project procured critical livestock handling and management equipment which was handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture for distribution to farmers.
- The project established eight rangeland management committees in the four regions, specifically at: Luhlekweni, Gangakhulu, Kazinyane, Ndzingane, Sphameni, Mnyani, Ndzomane and Mahlangatsha.
- The project engaged agro-processors on availability of waste/alternative feed resources for animal nutrition
- The project conducted livestock marketing auctions in Lubulini Dip tank and Luhlekweni

- **Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 – €27M**

The cooperation's focus under this area was on finalising the projects under the MIP and contracting the implementing entities to commence project implementation. The following was achieved during the financial year under review:

- Skills for Youth Employability, Entrepreneurship Project €14M – Preparation of the project was concluded and a contract is due to be signed with GIZ to coordinate its implementation. The project aims to:

- Support capacity building of key Government of Eswatini entities for the effective and inclusive governance, planning, management, oversight and delivery of TVET.
- Support TVET providers to offer inclusive access and quality curricula/training programmes, which respond to skills needs in targeted sectors of the economy identified through baseline analysis and surveys in the inception phase, including green and circular business models.
- Upgrade the training facilities of selected public TVET providers in targeted sectors including entrepreneurship, digital and green skills, as well as taking into account environmental and disability considerations.
- Support the establishment of a multi-stakeholder, TVET coordination mechanism at national level for policy implementation, donor coordination and appropriate models of sustainable funding.
- Produce a Mapping of VET needs and potential business partners in selected priority sectors to orient VET interventions.
- Facilitate engagement between key private sector organisations and public TVET providers to forge productive partnerships which guide market-driven TVET services for improvement in quality and relevance of programmes, as well as the identification of skills needs and concrete employment opportunities.
- Work with private sector organisations to mobilise and support enterprises within their respective sectors to provide workplace-based learning opportunities for TVET learners.
- Identify and engage with enterprise incubators and accelerators and facilitate collaborative partnerships with TVET providers to promote transition into entrepreneurship and self-employment amongst graduates from TVET programmes.

- **Skills for Vulnerable youth €7.5M** – Preparation of the project was concluded and a contract is due to be signed with the International Trade Centre (ITC) to coordinate its implementation. The project seeks to:

- Provide capacity building for community-based organisations, CSOs, local governments and training providers to deliver entrepreneurship, employability, entrepreneurial including basic digital competence and life skills programmes with a focus on women, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups at community level.

- Support young entrepreneurs, particularly women entrepreneurs, through business mentoring and incubation, small grant funding, access to market and provision of start-up kits such as materials and equipment.

- **Support to Gender Based Violence and Mental Health €5.5M** – Preparation of the project was concluded and a contract is due to be signed with the Finish Red Cross to coordinate its implementation. The project concerns:

- Strengthening of capacity of government and CSO partners to provide quality mental health awareness and services.

- Conduct trainings, awareness and advocacy campaigns for improved understanding of youth mental health and the psychosocial support on offer at community-level.

- Offer targeted support for young people and their families coping with adolescent mental health issues, including specific interventions at school and community levels and referrals to mental health support services, life skills, recreational, creative arts and sports facilities.

- Creation of women and/or youth safe-houses and centres providing services for the empowerment and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

### **III. COOPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)**

The Ministry's focus under the cooperation during the period under review was on concluding the implementation of ongoing projects funded with the 2024 bilateral cooperation budget and on proposing the distribution of the 2025 bilateral Cooperation Budget. The following had been achieved at the time of reporting:

- Implementation of the 2024 Bilateral Cooperation Budget
  - Procurement and installation of IT and communication equipment for the Private and Cabinet Offices - US\$ 150,000.00. The procurement process was completed and a supply contract signed. The delivery and installation of the IT and communication equipment was done in December 2024.
  - Construction of Potable Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes at Lubuyane (Phase 3), Sigombeni (Phase 4) and Ntuthwakazi (Phase 2) – US\$ 2,231,191.00. Contractors for the above-mentioned projects were engaged by the Micro Projects Programme and project implementation is in progress.
  - Construction of Executive Aircraft Hangar-Phase 2 - US\$ 7,500,000.00. Project implementation which commenced in the previous financial year continued during the year under review and is expected to complete during the first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year.
  - Eswatini Government 5G Network and Smart City Development – US\$ 2,000,000.00. A contract was signed in April 2024 and preliminary assessments carried out. The project is on-going and expected to complete in the first quarter of 2025/26 financial year.
  - Critical Information Infrastructure Protection & Enhancement – US\$ 100,000.00. The procurement process for consultancy services continued during the year and envisaged to be finalised before the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

- Deeds Registration and Information Management System (Phase 2) – US\$ 65,000.00. The system had been developed and undergoing tests before final handover to the client.
- Upgrading and replacement of training equipment, furniture at the NHO training centre (Phase 2) = US\$ 154,131.00. The project entails the procurement of: IT equipment (computer stands, projectors, laptops and WiFi extension to cover all workshops); sewing equipment/machines; metal work equipment; electrical workshop equipment; Kitchen equipment; customized minibus (inclusive bus) for transporting learners. The procurement process was completed and delivery of the goods expected before 31 March 2025.
- Purchase of Computers and Accessories for rural Primary and Secondary Schools – US\$ 500,000.00. The schools are Esibuyeni, Mshingishingini Nazarene Primary Schools and Langa, Mphundle, Sigombeni, Mbekelweni, Ezulwini Community, Mayiwane, Elulakeni, Nzongomane and Velebantfu High Schools. The equipment had been procured, delivered and installed by November 2024.
- Construction of Computer Laboratories for rural primary and secondary schools- US\$ 600,000.00. The schools are: Salem, Sidloko and Enhlanhleri Methodist Primary Schools and Jerusalem, Ikhwezi, and Lobamba Lomdzala High Schools. The Project is implemented by the Ministry of Education through the Micro Projects Programme. Project implementation commenced in December 2024 and is expected to be complete by the end of the 2024/25 financial year.
- Ambulance Acquisition/Procurement for His Majesty’s Correctional Services (HMCS)- US\$ 307,000.00. This Project entailed the procurement of 4 ambulances to support HMCS in-house clinics in the four regions. The ambulances were delivered and handed over to HMCS on November 2024.
- Establishment of digital law library at the Attorney General’s Office- US\$ 80,000.00. The procurement process was completed by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the project is envisaged to complete by the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

- ### Distribution of the 2025 Bilateral Cooperation Budget

The Ministry facilitated the approval of projects to be funded with the 2025 bilateral cooperation budget. The exercise entailed inviting projects proposals from line ministries and agencies, prioritising the project proposals, facilitating Cabinet approval of the priority list and submitting the approved list to the Embassy for approval and onward submission to the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The following projects were subsequently approved by the Government of the ROC (Taiwan) for funding in 2025:

*Table 8: Approved Projects*

Ministry	Proposed Activity	Activity description	2025 Budget (US\$)
PMO	Security upgrades for Prime Minister's Office	For continued upgrade of the Prime Minister's Offices which includes: dual covered gate entry with security features; guard house and security observation facility; road development, widening and new lanes; centralized security control center with facilities; surveillance cameras and equipment; emergency gate; installation of lightning system; solar panel system (frame and wire) for power backup;	1,300,000.00
	Support for Government Grand Plan of Action	For obtaining the skills necessary to implement the Government Grand Plan of Action including a vibrant "Think Tank" comprising the best expertise locally and broad.	465,000.00
DPMO	Construction of houses for the vulnerable	For the construction of decent shelter for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable elderly persons. The amount will construct about 33 two-rooms structures each estimated at US\$ 5,600 (about E100,000).	200,000.00
	Rehabilitation of St Joseph's School (Mzimphofu)	For the rehabilitation of classrooms and other relevant facilities at St. Joseph's school for the deaf.	350,000.00
MOA	Construction of medium earth dam at Sidvokodvo and Mangcongco	For the construction of: a 111,550m <sup>3</sup> earth dam in Sidvokodvo (Mkhiweni) to provide water for livestock and for irrigation of an area up to 10 hectares (USD 585,000.00); Construction of Mangcongco earthdam at Dwalile Chiefdom (Mangcongco) (USD 334,000)	919,000.00
	National Grain Reserves	For the construction of 2 x 20,000mt steel maize storage silos (at E25 million each) to boost the storage of maize in Eswatini.	2,859,000.00
	Strengthening Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Eswatini	The support is continuing from previous years. It goes towards the purchase of chemotherapy drugs and lab reagents; payment of salaries for specialists (Oncologist, Pathologist and Cytologist) providing professional services in the medical field under Government hospitals; and the training of staff.	400,000.00



MOH	Purchase ambulance to service Ikhwezi, Lubuli and Ndzevane Clinics	For the purchase of an ambulance to service Ikhwezi, Lubuli and Ndzevane Clinics in the transportation/referral of patients to surrounding bigger health centres (Matsanjeni, Gonco, Hlathikhulu and Good Shepherd Hospitals) thus reducing deaths resulting from the lack of transport.	100,000.00
MEPD	CECI Advisory Services	For the contracting and payment of professional fees for CECI Engineering Consultants, Inc. Taiwan for the provision of advisory services in the implementation of infrastructure projects funded under the 2025 ROC (Taiwan) Bilateral Cooperation budget.	400,000.00
	Construction of Potable Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes at Nkwene (Phase 4); Maphungwane-Lukhetseni (Phase 3) and Lubuyane (Phase 3)	For the completion of Potable Water Supply Schemes at: Nkwene; Maphungwane-Lukhetseni and Lubuyane.	3,592,000.00
	MEPD Capacity Building Project-Phase 2	To support the Central Agencies (MEPD, MOF and MOPS) in short and long-term training of selected officers involved in Planning and Budgeting.	100,000.00
	Management Consultancy for Sikhuphe resettlements	Consultancy to undertake a comprehensive study for the resettlement of residents affected by the construction of the Sikhuphe (KMII) International Airport, develop and cost model for their resettlement.	30,000.00
	Survey of households with uninhabitable main-houses in Eswatini.	To support the CSO in the: hiring of enumerators, drivers; field coordinators; supervisors; GIS officers and IT Officers; leasing of 4x4 vehicles; fueling of vehicles; as well as purchase of communication airtime vouchers for the survey	150,000.00
MOET	Purchase of Computers and Accessories for rural Primary and Secondary Schools	For the purchase of computers and accessories for 20 schools across the country (5 schools per region): <i>The schools Manyovu, Lomahasha, Langa, Mpaka, Duze High Schools (Lubombo Region); Luhlokohla, Mbekelweni, Mjingo, Phumtile High schools and Esibuyeni Primary school (Manzini Region); Buhleni National Primary, Ezulwini Community High, Mayiwane High, Nkhaba High, Ndzingeni High (Hhohho Region); Elulakeni High, Florence Christian Academy High, Velebantfu High, Hlathikhulu Central Primary, Siyendle High Schools) (Shiselweni Region).</i>	500,000.00
	Construction of Computer Laboratories in 6 rural Primary and Secondary schools	For the design, construction and supervision of construction of computer laboratories in six schools across the country. <i>The schools are: Ikhwezi, Duze, Matsetsa, Florence Christian Academy High Schools; and Phocweni and Mpofu Methodist Primary Schools.</i>	600,000.00
	Enhancing Junior Achievement (JA) Financial Program for Schools and out of School youth	For capacity building of: in school youth in entrepreneurship, financial literacy and job readiness; out of school youth in the establishment and management of own companies. Also, to support attachment of trainees to companies and help them experience the world of work and make informed decisions on	90,000.00

MCIT		carrier choices. Learners to be also capacitated on the culture of saving and investing money.	
	Capacity Building of tertiary students in business and entrepreneurship skills.	For the capacity building of tertiary students and unemployed graduates in utilizing business solutions through trainings and provision of seed capital.	90,000.00
	Industrial sewing machines for the NHTC	For the procurement of 60 industrial sewing machines and 15 over-lockers for the National Handcraft and Training Centre	417,000.00
	Eswatini Business Digitalization and Enhancement Project	To enhance the digital commerce ecosystem in Eswatini. The project will focus on integrating payments and logistics services into the “Buy Eswatini” platform, developing an enhanced “Buy Eswatini” app and planning for sustainable business operations and commercialization.	400,000.00
MOLSS	Upgrading and replacement of farming and training equipment, at the Malkerns Vocational Services Training Centre	This includes: a tractor, a mould board plough, a tractor mower, heavy duty 500m drip rolls, 100m pvc irrigation pipes, a layer chicken battery cage, 30 chairs, 5 Sonia chairs, a 3 plates electric stove, a micro-OP cabinet high spin washer.	100,000.00
MOFAIC	Procurement of office equipment for Eswatini missions abroad	For the purchase of furniture and other office equipment for the missions in <b>Johannesburg, Washington D.C. and Ethiopia</b>	300,000.00

*Source: Authors’ Compilation, February 2025*

#### **IV. COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN**

The main objective of the Technical Cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Kingdom of Eswatini is to promote economic and social development in the Kingdom of Eswatini whilst prioritizing the improvement of the basic life of the socially vulnerable. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Eswatini are the main agencies for implementing the cooperation in the public and private sectors. Several socio-economic programs were implemented under the Technical Cooperation during the year under review.

## □ **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Projects**

- **Improvement of Secondary Schools Project:** The Government of Japan approved a grant of JPY 1,613 Billion (about SZL 183 Million) for the Improvement of Secondary Schools Project where four (4) secondary schools will be constructed in Ngwenyameni, New Thulwane, Maphungwane and Lavumisa. The agreements for the grant and project implementation were signed between the two governments on the 7th August 2024. Following the signing, JICA and the ministry have been coordinating project initiation. A Japanese consultant has since been engaged through JICA to supervise project implementation which is expected to commence this 2025 and run for the next three years ending in 2028.

## □ **Food Assistance Grants**

Home-grown School Feeding through the United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) – Since 2019, the Government of Japan has been providing food aid to the Kingdom of Eswatini through the UNWFP Home-grown School Feeding Programme. This project is implemented through the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, WFP, FAO and other stakeholders. It currently supports close to 25 000 pupils, in 50 primary and secondary schools across the four regions.

During the reporting period, the Government of Japan approved a contribution of US\$1.3 Million (about SZL23 Million) to WFP Eswatini to help feed Orphans and Vulnerable Children attending Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs).

## □ **JICA ABE/SDG Training Program**

The government of Japan through JICA provides post graduate degree training scholarships and internship programs under the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative and the SDG Global Leadership Program for the youth. This year, the 12th batch of the programme was invited and twelve (12) applications were

sent from Eswatini. The selection process is expected to be completed by February 2025.

#### □ **JICA short term training Program**

Short term training scholarships are provided by the Government of Japan to capacitate Eswatini in specific courses. The trainings are conducted in Japan and sometimes in third country partners that are experts in the particular field. During the reporting period, a total five (5) Eswatini participated in the following training courses:

- Curriculum and Textbook Development for Professional Enhancement of Mathematics and Science Educators
- Inclusive Education System for Children with Disabilities
- Market-oriented Agriculture Promotion (Planning and Management)
- Quality Improvement of Primary Science Education – ‘Teaching and Learning’
- Strengthening Laboratory Techniques and Surveillance System for Global Control of HIV and Related Infectious Diseases

#### **V. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (UN)**

The cooperation is guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021–2025. The framework represents the UN Development System’s collective offer to support the Kingdom of Eswatini in addressing development priorities and gaps as mainly articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Implementation of the UNSDCF 2021-2025

In the financial year under review an evaluation of the current cooperation framework (UNSDCF 2021-25) was done. In this exercise, the ministry

coordinated meetings with key informants which included Government ministries and departments, Civil Society Organizations, the Private Sector, and representatives of people living with disability. The report with findings and recommendations was validated during the third quarter of the Financial Year.

- **Development of UNSDCF 2026-2030**

Following the validation of the evaluation report of the UNSDCF 2021-2025, the process of developing the new cooperation framework (UNSDCF 2026-2030) began. Two stakeholder engagement meeting were held, the first one involving stakeholders from Government, the Private Sector and Civil Society held on 24 to 26 November, 2024 and the second engagement between the United Nations and Government held on 16 January, 2025 and attended by the HE the Right Honourable Prime Minister and some Cabinet Ministers. The two meetings focused on agreeing on the priority areas for the new cooperation framework whose development would continue during the oncoming financial year.

## **VI. COOPERATION WITH THE WORLD BANK GROUP (WBG)**

The following occurred under the cooperation with the World Bank Group during the financial year under review:

- Statutory Meetings with the World Bank Group
- 2024 WBG/IMF Spring Meetings – the Ministry (Minister, Principal Secretary and Principal Economist) attended the 2024 WBG/IMF Spring meetings held in Washington DC (USA) from 13 to 22 April 2024.
- 2024 African Caucus – The ministry (Minister and Principal Economist) also attended the 2024 African Caucus Meeting for African Governors of the WBG and the IMF held in Abuja Nigeria on August 1-3, 2024

- 2024 WBG/IMF Annual Meetings – the Ministry (Minister, Principal Secretary and Principal Economist) attended the 2024 WBG/IMF Annual meetings held in Washington DC (USA) from 23 to 30 October 2024.
- Preparing the “Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation in Eswatini” (ASCENT Eswatini) Project – US\$ 100M

Following the launch of the Mission 300 Initiative (M300) by the WBG and the AfDB which seeks to connect 300 million people in Africa with electricity access by 2030 and the start of the Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation (ASCENT) Program in East and Southern Africa which aims to connect a 100 million people in 20 East and Southern Africa countries, the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini expressed interest to join the ASCENT Program on 22 Nov 2024 alongside Burundi, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, and Tanzania (ASCENT pilot countries).

The ASCENT Eswatini Project preparation commenced with the project successfully negotiated with the Bank in January 2025. Following these negotiations, the World Bank Board approved an IDA credit in the amount of US\$39 million equivalent and an IBRD loan in the amount of US\$51 million equivalent to the Kingdom of Eswatini for the ASCENT Eswatini project. This proposed project will be co-financed by a performance-based grant in the amount of US\$10 million from the IBRD Surplus-Funded Livable Planet Fund (LPF1). The funds will go towards reinforcement of the electricity network; expansion of connections (both on-grid and off-grid) and towards technical assistance, studies and capacity building and other support.

- **Preparation of the Eswatini Youth Employment Opportunities Project – US27M**

Following the reclassification of the Kingdom of Eswatini to a "Blend" country eligible to receive financing under the World Bank's most concessional terms, the International Development Associations (IDA) facility, which is typically reserved for low income countries (LIC's), the Ministry submitted a request for a project on youth employment and development of a social registry as the priority activity to be financed with the IDA20 resources.

Preparation for the Eswatini Youth Employment Opportunities and Social Protection Project commenced during the financial and is now at an advanced stage. The project aims to increase income earning opportunities for targeted youth in Eswatini and this entails:

- Investing in Income-Earning Opportunities for youth focusing on on-farm and off-farm activities.
- Support on-the-job training to build skills and create income earning opportunities for youth.
- Demand-driven short-term training and certification of skills provided focusing on on-farm and off-farm activities.
- Developing a dynamic and digital social registry for targeted interventions (i.e. build on ongoing work on the development and pilot data collection in Shiselweni, improve efficiency in social protection programs; develop systems for beneficiary identification, MIS, and grievance redress)

#### **8.2.4 POVERTY REDUCTION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION UNIT**

The Poverty Reduction, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit is responsible for poverty reduction in the country which is facilitated through the country' National Development Strategy and the National Development Plans. It is also responsible for coordinating, monitoring and evaluation of the National Development

Strategy and National Development Plans which integrates regional, continental and global development agenda.

## **OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS**

The main function of the division is to serve as the Ministry's focal point on the coordination, formulation and updating of poverty reduction strategies and programmes by:

- a) Initiating and facilitating the preparation of specific poverty diagnostic studies, analysis and research to increase knowledge and understanding of the nature and extent of poverty.
- b) Coordinating the implementing of the PRSAP through regular consultations with Sector Working Groups, ensuring that sector programmes and projects are in line with the PRSAP, pro-poor and are eligible for inclusion in the national budget.
- c) Facilitating the formulation of specific poverty reduction initiatives and assisting in the establishment of the information requirements of the national planning system and in the formulation and implementation of the strategies for data collection, analysis and dissemination.
- d) Designing, implementing and maintaining national monitoring and evaluation systems to assist in tracking progress in the implementation of national, regional and sectoral policies and programmes.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. The Ministry successfully developed the Multi- dimensional Child Poverty Analysis using the 2023 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey data. This is the second child poverty diagnostic study conducted in the country since 2018. The purpose of the analysis was to understand the poverty situation



of children in the country. The study focused on eight dimensions of child poverty (nutrition, health, child protection, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, housing and information) and measured a number of indicators for children in the age groups 0-23 months, 24- 29 months, 5-14 years, 15- 17 years and 0-17 years. The report findings show that 46.5% of the children (0-17 years) in Eswatini are multidimensionally poor meaning that they are deprived in at least 3 dimensions of well-being. The report identified recommendations to be implemented by the relevant ministries and partners in order to improve the well-being of children in the country. The report is still under review by the management to facilitate approval and subsequently publishing.

2. SDGs implementation - The Ministry collaborated with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA) successfully conducted a series of capacity building workshops on the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) which assesses the progress made in the implementation of SDGs at local government levels. The workshops aimed to equip the towns/municipalities on how to effectively undertake the process of developing the VLR report that will be presented at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) scheduled for July, 2025. At the local government level, sensitization workshops and data collection exercises are currently ongoing to inform the Voluntary National Review(VNR).
3. The Ministry successfully developed the draft **National Monitoring & Evaluation Policy** and conducted a number of stakeholder consultation workshop to build capacity on M&E, get inputs on the draft policy document and buy in from stakeholders. The main objective of the M&E policy is to enhance efficiency in monitoring and promote quality evaluations, which are to be used for learning to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and impact of government interventions

for development. The workshops brought together the primary and secondary users of the policy which included government officials, development partners, non- governmental organizations implementing government projects and programmes to solicit inputs on the draft National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy. Valuable insights and perspectives were solicited from stakeholders to finalize the policy. The next is to present the final draft policy to stakeholders for validation and then submit it to Cabinet. This activity is supported by UNICEF who have provided technical assistance in the form of a consultancy company (Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results for Anglophone Africa (CLEAR AA) based at the Wits University in the Republic of South Africa.

4. In an effort to operationalized the National Development Plan (2023/24 - 2027/28), the Ministry is putting in place measures to institutionalize monitoring implementation through the development of the **NDP M&E framework**. To this end, the Ministry secured technical assistance to assess the M&E situation in the public sector and support the development of the NDP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which will include the NDP indicator meta data and reporting tools. The expectation is that all government ministries and partners will utilize the tools to follow-up progress and conduct evaluations of development initiatives being implemented. Thus far, the consultancy team has presented the inception report and conducted stakeholder consultations workshops to concretize on the NDP targets, indicators, baselines and data sources for each National and Sector Outcome. This has culminated into the draft NDP M&E Results framework. The development of the meta data and reporting tools is underway. In addition to this, the consultancy team is working with the division to finalize the first NDP Annual Progress Monitoring report.
5. The Ministry through the Poverty Reduction, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (PRMEU) is in the process of developing an academic paper on the

poverty alleviation in the country. This process is in collaboration with UNDP country office and the main objective is to identify sustainable measures for mass poverty alleviation in the country that will culminate into most of the population that is currently under poverty line reduced drastically and ultimately extinct.

## **CHALLENGES**

- Limitations in timely availability of data and information which compromises timely production of reports that form a basis for policy decisions, policy formulation and resources allocation.

### **8.2.5 NATIONAL POPULATION UNIT**

The National Population Unit (NPU) was created to effectively coordinate, the preparation, multi-sectoral implementation, review, monitoring and evaluation of the National Population Policy, and to facilitate the integration of population dynamics in development policies, plans and programmes and to inculcate a culture of evidence-based planning and programming. The goal of the policy is to improve the quality of life of the people of Eswatini, by influencing population trends as well as responding to emerging challenges such as diseases and climate change.

## **FUNCTIONS**

- Coordinate the formulation, review, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Population Policy (NPP). The policy is one of the initiatives aimed at operationalizing the National Development Strategy (NDS), the National Development Plan (NDP), the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme (PRSAP), as well as the International Conference on

Population & Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA).

- Ensure operationalization of the NPP through joint Government of Eswatini (GoE) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Programmes (CPs) within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The current Country Programme on Population and Development for 2021-2025 is being implemented by both governmental and nongovernmental organizations and coordinated by the Ministry. The Country Programme is on its second year of implementation and focuses on the following:
  - ✓ Strengthening reproductive health, gender equality and equity;
  - ✓ HIV prevention especially among young people;
  - ✓ Covid-19 Pandemic infection prevention;
  - ✓ Improving data collection, management and use and;
  - ✓ Strengthening national capacity building and partnerships.

The CP will contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) specifically Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). It will also indirectly contribute to the attainment of Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries) and Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels).

## **THE 7th COUNTRY PROGRAMME (2021-2025)**

## **THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRESS REVIEW**

The unit successfully implemented the 7<sup>th</sup> joint Country Programme (CP) 2021-2025 in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), partners and stakeholders including government, non-governmental organizations, bilateral and multilateral development partners, private sector, faith based organizations and academia.

Quarterly progress review meetings with implementing partners and stakeholders were conducted to reflect on achievements, challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt of the 4 outcome areas (Sexual reproductive health and rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, population dynamics and adolescents & youth). This process also entailed resource monitoring as well as activity monitoring.

The advocacy for this programme focused on strengthening capacity of the health systems with regards to issues of maternity and mortality; increasing multi-sectoral capacity in addressing gender-based violence; mainstreaming demographic intelligence at national and subnational levels; and empowering adolescents and young people with skills and capabilities to exercise their constitutional rights and well-being. The highlight for the programme this financial year was a donation of a vehicle by the UNFPA to the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, National Population Unit to support the programme implementation.



Source: National Population Unit Office



Source: National Population Unit Office

**COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION (CPE)**

The 7th joint country programme (2021-2025) is coming to an end of its implementation period. In preparation for designing the next country

programme, a Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) was commissioned in September 2024. A reference group was established to oversee the evaluation process. It is implemented in line with the UNFPA Evaluation Handbook which is a guide for conducting CPEs. The evaluation criteria are anchored on a) relevance b) effectiveness c) efficiency d) sustainability e) coverage f) connectedness and g) Coordination. The main aim of the CPE is to provide an independent assessment of the performance of the UNFPA 7th country programme (2021-2025) including a detailed analysis of various facilitating and constraining factors influencing programme delivery and the achievement of intended results. The CPE findings will provide a set of actionable recommendations for the next programme cycle. The main components to be covered by the evaluation are as follows:

- Sexual & Reproductive Health
- Population & Dynamics
- Adolescents & Youth
- Gender & Social Norms

The evaluation process consisted of five phases

- Preparatory (August 2023)
- Inception (September 2024)
- Data collection (October 2024)
- Analysis and reporting (November 2024)
- Dissemination (December 2024).

The data collection phase was completed in November 2024 and the Analysis and reporting is ongoing and the timelines shall be adjusted accordingly. The independent Evaluation team presented a draft report in January 2025 wherein the reference group provided comments to be incorporated into the final draft report which will be validated by implementing partners and stakeholders. The principles of ethical considerations and differentiation of



participants guided by the UN Sustainable Development Group programming principle of 'Leaving No One Behind' were adhered to. A draft of the next country programme is expected to be in place by end February 2025.

*Picture 3: Country Programme Evaluation Focus Group Discussions*



*Source: Country Programme Evaluation Preliminary Report, 2025*

## **COUNTRY PROGRAMME AUDIT**

An audit was conducted on the UNFPA Country office from 11 to 29 November 2024. This audit also covered the implementation of the country programme. This audit was conducted as part of the organization's commitment to ensuring transparency, accountability and the effective use of resources in achieving the shared goals. The Country office had not been audited for over 20 years hence this process was an important milestone.

The Audit was carried out by the Office of Audit and Investigation Services (OASIS) focusing on evaluating the effectiveness of governance, risk management, and control process related to collaborative projects. Relevant



documents were reviewed. The draft Audit report was issued in January 2025 and the final report is expected by end of February 2025.

### **Annual Programme Review**

The National Population Unit (NPU) and UNFPA Eswatini Country Office organized the 2024 Annual Review and Planning Meeting from Tuesday, 3rd to Thursday, 5th December, 2024 at Esibayeni Lodge Hotel. The main objectives of the 2024 Annual programme review meeting of the Government of Eswatini and UNFPA 7th Country Programme and 2025 Annual Planning meeting were as follows:

- To review 2024 programme performance (results), with specific attention to reporting the progress towards achievement of the annual targets;
- To share lessons learned and good practices or strategies for programmatic response towards acceleration of attaining the planned results; and
- To develop 2025 workplans.

Outcome groups deliberated and came up with activities that will be implemented in 2025 including the key deliverables, expected time for the deliverables and the estimated costs for doing the activities based on the estimated budget that will be available for programming. It was noted that there were some setbacks experienced such as major staff turnover in UNFPA and from the side of the partners. One of the highlights of this meeting was the introduction of the Hlonipheka Programme and its partnership with the European Union which shall implemented as a part of the Country Programme. The UNFPA country office updated the implementing partners and stakeholders on the new profile of the office, including its job descriptions following the realignment of the country office.

### **INTERNATIONAL: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF ACTION (ICPD-PoA)**

Eswatini participated at the ICPD@30 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) wherein UN member states reflected on progress since its inception in 1994, including its contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and celebrating 30 years of its implementation termed 'ICPD@30'.

The Government of Eswatini was represented by Minister Economic Planning and Development and Director National Population Unit at the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development held in New York, USA at the end of April 2024. The main objective of the Session was to reflect on the review the implementation of the programme of action of the On the thirtieth anniversary of the ICPD@30, UNFPA commissioned five think pieces to take stock of progress and provide future-focused ideas on how to achieve the ICPD PoA in a world of radical transformation. Under the framing of Navigating Megatrends: The ICPD Programme of Action for a Sustainable Future, the five think pieces are titled:

- Demographic Change and Sustainability
- The Future of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- The Future of Population Data
- ICPD and Climate Action
- A Safe Digital Future

The 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development was a culmination of continental progress review reports that were consolidated to produce a global report. Eswatini contributed to the Africa report which documented progress on the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development by all African member states. The Africa report presented Africa's position on the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD-PoA). The country report was prepared following consultations with various stakeholders, detailing successes and challenges in

implementing the 88 commitments under the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD-PoA).

## **REGIONAL REVIEW: EXPERT GROUP CONSULTATION ON THE ESAR MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES FLAGSHIP REPORT**

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) extended an invitation to Middle -Income Countries (MIC) to participate in an Expert group consultation on the East and Southern Africa Regional Middle-Income Countries flagship report which was held from 4-5 November 2024, in Johannesburg. The Expert Group consultation drew participants from Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Eswatini was represented by the Director National Population Unit.

The main objective of this forum was to share findings of the analysis that was done by the UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Middle income Country Technical hub (MIC-Hub) on a range of development and human capital indicators for 13 Middle income countries in the region prior to the dissemination of the comprehensive analysis. The key analytic findings of the flagship report focused on 4 critical areas and identified the key messages outlined as follows:

- a) People Centered Development “Unlocking women and youth-centric human capital potential “*The intricate dynamics of development, growth and inequality in the East and Sothern African (ESA) countries*”.**

### **Key Messages and Policy Implications**

- Place people-cantered development at the heart of policy
- Implement targeted policies to manage the inequality-growth nexus
- Adopt a multidimensional approach to inequality

- Address health and educational inequities for female empowerment
- Reduce the gender pay gap by addressing unpaid care work
- Empower adolescent girls to unlock a demographic dividend
- Human capital as a foundation for inclusive development
- Escape the Middle-Income Trap through unlocking human capital potential
- Leverage the EMDEs framework to address structural challenges

**b) Survival, Health and Education: “Building the Foundations for the Future”**

**Key Messages and Policy Implications**

- Strengthening Primary Health Care, ensuring access to essential medicines and vaccine
- Address malnutrition by addressing food insecurity and poverty
- Providing quality prenatal and postnatal care
- Strengthen Public Health Infrastructure through Investing in public health systems to detect, monitor, and respond to outbreak
- Implement quality improvement initiatives to enhance the quality of care
- Leverage partnerships with the private sector to improve healthcare delivery
- Expand access to high-quality early childhood education programs, especially for disadvantaged children
- Foster partnerships between schools and communities to mobilize resources and support student learning

- Address the health and nutritional needs of students to enhance their cognitive development and learning capacity

**c) Gender Equality and Labour Utilization of Women and Youth  
“Leveraging human capital accumulation for the future”**

**Key Messages and Policy Implications**

- Address secondary education dropouts for girls (esp. early pregnancies and marriages)
- Foster gender-transformative initiatives at school and community levels (discuss and reframe social norms that confine women and men in traditional roles)
- Strengthen access of youth (esp. women) to tertiary education, particularly STEM
- Increase investments in public care infrastructure (esp. child care)
- Invest in transportation, public safety and urban infrastructure esp. for the working age population
- Implement legislation and policies that protect work-life balance and grant social rights (maternity, paternity leave)
- Ensure a package of essential GBV services across health, social services, justice and police
- Ensure accountability at policy, implementation and individual levels (incl. holding perpetrators accountable)
- Strengthen collection, management, analysis and use of administrative records, population data on GBV and Harmful Practices

#### **d) Teenage Pregnancy and Human Capital Development: “Navigating Challenges: SRHR and Teenage Pregnancy in Middle Income Countries”**

##### **Key Messages and Policy Implications**

- Comprehensive Sexuality Education should be strengthened and it should go along with provision of services in schools
- Reduce marriage before the age of 18 years
- Reduce pregnancy before the age of 20 years
- Increase use of contraception by adolescents at risk of unintended pregnancy
- Reduce coerced sex among adolescents
- Reduce unsafe abortion among adolescents
- Increase use of skilled antenatal, childbirth and postnatal care among adolescents
- Parents and healthcare providers should routinely discuss emergency contraception as part of contraceptive counselling for sexually active teens.
- Comprehensive Sexuality Education: education programs in schools and communities (out-of-schools) should include information on emergency contraceptives, how it works, where to obtain it, and the importance of using it in a timely manner.

##### **ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES**

##### **WORLD POPULATION DAY COMMEMORATION AND LAUNCH OF THE STATE OF THE WORLD POPULATION REPORT**

World Population Day commemoration and the launch of the State of the World Population Report were successfully held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2024. The theme for

the commemoration of World Population Day was **“Embracing the Power of inclusive Data towards a resilient future for all”**.

The event was graced by the Honourable Minister of Economic Planning and Development, Regional Administrator for Lubombo, UNFPA Head of Office; Directors; Regional Development Team members of the region, stakeholders and partners which was inclusive of People living with Disabilities and youth.

The minister in his remarks highlighted the critical role of data collection in addressing megatrends such as climate change, healthcare system; hoping the country have a multi-hazard early warning system before disaster strikes to ensure No One is Left Behind.

Presentations were centered around the theme. The Central Statistics Office presented on the evolution of data collection up to the current digital era where the office is currently using GIS enhanced by satellite imagery to obtain information at household level and other methodological improvements in data collection where everything is digitized.

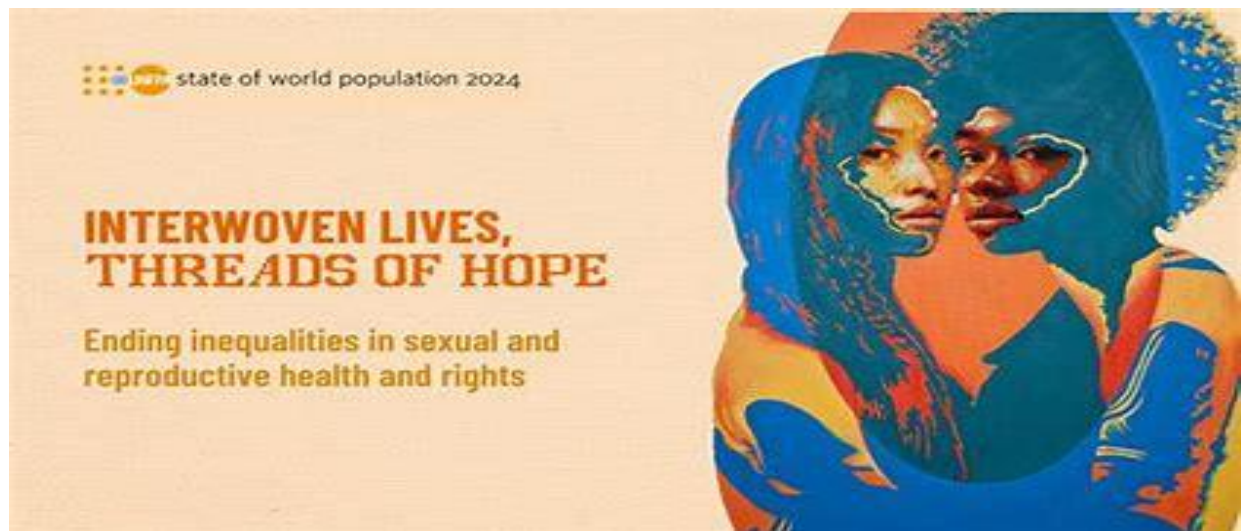
Students (2) from UNESWA presented their projects where they used Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning software to analyze demographic data, this was part of harnessing the power of inclusive data

The theme of the State of the World Population Report was **“INTERWOVEN LIVES, THREADS OF HOPE; Ending inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights”**.

It acknowledged that in 2024 the world marked the thirtieth anniversary of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development ICPD that was in Cairo. The Conference produced a watershed global agreement putting people at the centre of Development, one that committed to realizing better, rights and choices for All. The report affirmed a vision of human potential that has inspired significant progress ever since, echoed and amplified by the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable agree in 2015.

The key highlights in the report was that thirty years ago governments around the world agreed that SRHR were foundation stones of global development - a ground breaking consensus paving for decades of progress. New evidence for the state report pointed inequalities and disparities within the systems and societies. The report argued that the anniversary of the ICPD was an opportunity to pivot health and social systems towards providing services that empower all people, respect their diversity, uphold their dignity, and support them to realize their rights and bodily autonomy. It called further for commitments to unwind the inequalities and disparities that divide the societies.

*Picture 4: State of the World Population Report, 2024*



*Source: State of the World Population Report 2024 (cover page)*

## **INTEGRATION OF POPULATION ISSUES INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP**

The Unit successfully conducted a series of training workshops on integrating population issues into development planning. The first training targeted Planners from the various sectors in government and those from non-governmental organizations.



*Picture 5: Planners and other professionals*



*Source: National Population Unit Office, 20 September 2024*

The main aim of the trainings was to sensitize professionals on the importance of integrating population issues into the planning process at national, regional and local levels and to build capacity to enable them to do it and provide them with the relevant tools (Life cycle Approach, Population Situational Analysis).

The training was also done in collaboration with UNESWA who made a presentation on harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) in population issues. Participants were encouraged to enroll on on-line courses at UNESWA to learn more on the use of AI to enhance productivity in the workplace.

It is worth mentioning that it covered that at every stage in the life cycle, people have different needs and prospects which have different effects on the development processes. Thus, the life cycle analysis is meant to bring out our expectations of the life situation of a particular population group, such as pregnant women, infants, children, adolescents, etc.

The Population Situation Analysis makes more explicit the interactions between individual behavior and demographic dynamics, providing the basis for an

integrated appraisal of the population and development dynamics and their linkages and impacts on other phenomena like poverty, inequality, and well-being. The tool also contributes to more efficient evidence-based programming to achieve the desired outcomes.

The subsequent trainings covered the four regions targeting the Regional Development Teams (RDTs). The unit partnered with UNESWA to include the component on harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) in population issues to expose the participants on the role of technology specifically artificial intelligence (AI) in integrating population dynamics into regional development planning.

*Picture 6: Lubombo Regional Development team*



*Source: National Population Unit, 09 October 2024*

## **FINALIZATION OF THE REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY**

The Unit engaged on the review of the National Population Policy wherein consultations with stakeholders were held at all levels in 2023 and 2024, the

process is at its final stages where as part of the validation process the Public Programme Coordinating Unit (PPCU) will review and approve for the next level in line with the Public Policy drafting guidelines. Upon PPCU approval, it is envisaged that the final draft policy will be submitted to cabinet for approval by the end of the financial year.

## **POLICY BRIEFS**

In collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, the Unit produced two policy briefs titled: 1) *“Improving access to education among PWDs, post COVID 19 era”* and 2) *“Promoting employment among PWDs”*. The policy briefs were a result of an engagement of teachers, parents and employers of people with disabilities who were engaged to uncover the challenges faced by PWDs in relation to education and employment opportunities in Eswatini. These products are used advocacy tools towards removing barriers on issues affecting Persons with disabilities and promoting the principles of living no one behind in economic growth and development.

The unit through technical support from UNFPA has been part of a project where various African countries are working towards producing National Transfer Accounts (NTA) estimates for their respective countries with the aim to develop policy briefs which will provide findings that will be linked to policy options in the context of demographic trends. The data analysis stage was completed and the policy brief shall be completed by the end of the financial year. This project is also aimed at promoting information and knowledge sharing among countries

## **HARNESSING THE NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND**

The Unit continues to coordinate various stakeholders on the ICPD-PoA across all sectors and on accelerating sector-specific efforts towards the full realization of the Demographic Dividend. Issues raised during such presentations are taken up to the relevant fora for further consideration.

## **COORDINATION WITH OTHER SECTORS**

The National Population Unit collaborated with other stakeholders on climate change training, development of the Monitoring and evaluation Policy and Social Protection Monitoring and Evaluation. The unit participated at the State of the Youth report validation workshop. The main focus was on fact checking on data of the report and making recommendations to ensure that the report was in line with the youth needs and addresses the challenges they face.

## **CHALLENGES**

The National Population Unit has inadequate human resources.

## **8.3 MILLENNIUM PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT**

The Unit has the responsibility of planning, implementing and management of the Millennium Projects.

The Millennium Projects Management Unit (PMU) has the following projects in the current financial year; **International Convention Centre, Five Star Hotel, New Parliament Building, and the National Referral Hospital.**

## **OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS**

- To establish several projects which would promote faster economic growth and create new jobs in accordance with the National Development Strategy (NDS).
- To create an enabling environment and attract new domestic and international investment in infrastructure, tourism, and general business development.

## **G585/99/63 International Convention Centre (ICC) Project**

The purpose of the project is to provide a world-class conferencing facility along with an associated five-star hotel. The long-term goal is to provide facilities that will be used to host local, regional and international meetings. The ICC will accommodate a range of government, public and corporate activities including theatre, conferences, exhibitions, and private functions. The lack of a facility has in the past contributed to regional and international meetings being held outside the country, hence the loss of business and revenue generating opportunities. The International Convention Centre's multipurpose hall, theatre and exhibition space have also been designed to allow flexibility in usage. The whole building has been designed according to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The ongoing works onsite are primarily focused on the interior fit out of the facility, which includes the following trades;

- Ceiling works
- Wall (Acoustic Padding, Tiling and Painting)
- Boiserie/Wall Cladding
- Floors, Tiling and Carpets
- Fitting including sanitary and building services
- Supply of furniture, decorative fitting and chandeliers.

*Table 8: G585 99/63 International Convention Centre Project Budget*

<b>Source Code</b>	<b>Annual Allocation (E)</b>	<b>Amount Warranted (E)</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure (E)</b>
<b>63</b>	360 693 000	360 683 980	360 683 980
<b>99</b>	749 307 000	468 605 678	355 353 333
<b>Total</b>	<b>111 000 000</b>	<b>829 289 658</b>	<b>716 037 313</b>

*Source: Government Commitment System-January 2025*

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

The revised practical completion date for the ICC is now October 2025. The interior fit out is currently at 84% , overall progress is 84% complete.

- Works on both the high end and general areas are progressing well and these includes; the ceiling boards installation, plastering, mouldings, ceiling decorative detailing and applying of base paint.
- Installation of the wall cladding/boiserie by Turri is complete in the small conference rooms and other important rooms.
- Wall and floor marble polishing is complete in most of the high end areas.
- Applying and painting of gold leaf is in progress.
- Fittings including sanitary and building services is almost complete in all the rooms.

#### **CHALLENGES:**

- Late payments by government resulting in accumulation of interest charges.
- Inadequate budget allocation to the project resulting in increased costs and time overruns.
- Liquidity problems and additional works to be done on the finishes has also contributed to ICC not finishing in 2024.

#### **G616/99/63 Five Star Hotel Project**

The Five Star Hotel is situated on the northern end of the site and is linked to the ICC by a pedestrian bridge. The hotel comprises a total area of 51 000 square metres. The hotel consists of 7 Floors including the basement with a total of 299 rooms. Out of these rooms, 263 are standard rooms (54m<sup>2</sup>), 20 junior suites (110m<sup>2</sup>), 5 executive suites (200m<sup>2</sup>), 6 presidential Suites (300m<sup>2</sup>), 5 royal suites (1000m<sup>2</sup>), central foyer, all-day Café, Shopping and Coffee shop, restaurant/ballroom, gymnasium, multipurpose rooms, outdoor decks and entertainment, large swimming pool.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Five Star Hotel Grey box is substantially complete.
- The focus of works for Five Star Hotel is on the swimming pool and the cladding.

Table 9: Five Star Hotel Project Budget

Source Code	Annual Allocation (E)	Amount Warranted (E)	Actual Expenditure (E)
63-Taiwn	140 025 000	24 233 759	24 233 759
99-Government	35 000 000	33 934 531	33 934 531
<b>Total</b>	<b>175 025 000</b>	<b>58 168 290</b>	<b>58 168 290</b>

Source: Government Commitment System-January 2025

## G548 Construction of New Parliament Building

The New Parliament Project aims primarily to provide for two (2) Chambers of Parliament, namely, House of Assembly and Senate. Each Chamber accommodates waiting areas, ablutions, stock room, digital studio, officials' booth, press gallery, Recorders' booth and Interpreters' booth. The project site is fifteen (15) hectares and situated at Lobamba.

Table 10: Construction of New Parliament Building

Source Code	Annual Allocation (E)	Amount Warranted (E)	Actual Expenditure (E)
63- EXIM	320 000 000	3 672 552	3 672 552
99-Government	60 000 000	5 408 278	5 408 278
<b>Total</b>	<b>380 000 000</b>	<b>9 080 830</b>	<b>9 080 830</b>

Source: Government Commitment System-January 2025

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Lot 1: Consultant Final Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted and approved by Cabinet and submitted to EXIM Bank for approval and No Objection.



- Lot 2: Project Management Consultancy (PMC) - Consultancy Agreement signed between Voyants Solutions and the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini and has been submitted to EXIM Bank of India for a No Objection.
- Lot 2 Contract Inclusion submitted to Exim Bank and awaiting approval of the Detailed Project Report (DPR): Lot 1 approval.

## **CHALLENGES**

- Delayed approval of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) by EXIM Bank of India hinders progress to move to the next stage of procuring the Main Contractor.

## **8.4 MICRO-PROJECTS PROGRAMME (MPP)**

The Micro Projects Programme (MPP) implements community projects under the Community Development Special Fund (CDSF) and Regional Development Fund (RDF) for the Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development (MTAD). The Unit's mandate further extends to the implementation of capital projects for various Government Ministries.

### **OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS**

The Programme is intended to enhance Government's national development efforts in addressing socio-economical needs thus addressing poverty alleviation. This is achieved through the following areas of intervention:

- (i) Improved access to social infrastructure through increased number of completed infrastructure projects;
- (ii) Empowerment of local communities through training and full involvement of Project Committees in projects implementation;



- (iii) Implementation of infrastructure and income generating projects implemented under the RDF and
- (iv) Construction of capital projects under various Government Ministries.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **I COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL FUND (CDSF)**

In the financial year 2024/25 twenty-three (23) projects were completed under various sectors. These comprise of 4 dip tanks, 3 water supply schemes, 7 suspended foot bridges, community market, 1 community hall and 7 rural electricity schemes. Completed projects will benefit about 63 610 people. Presented below is detail on projects within the different sectors.

#### **a. Agriculture Sector**

Four (4) projects were completed in this sector, comprising of 3 dip tanks and 1 veterinary office. These projects have improved access to livestock extension services and animal health and welfare for about 13 580 people.

#### **b. Water Supply and Sanitation Sector**

Three (3) water schemes were completed benefitting about 5 590 people. Water sector projects have reduced distances between water collection points, improved access to potable water and a decline in incidences of water borne diseases is expected.

#### **c. Transport and Communication Sector**

Seven (7) suspended footbridges were constructed to completion in collaboration with Engineers in Action (EIA) Eswatini. The completed suspended footbridges will benefit a population estimated at 34 140. These sector projects have improved trade, communication and access to social centres.

#### **d. Community Centres**

Two (2) projects were completed in this sector, 1 community market and 1 community hall to benefit about 6 850 people. Community halls provide space which enables beneficiaries to hold gatherings, cultural and social events in enclosed structures. Community markets on the other hand provide a conducive environment for business operations where even stock is protected from unfavourable weather conditions thus improving business performance.

#### **e. Rural Electrification**

Provision of electricity has improved domestic livelihoods for an estimated population of 3 450 who benefitted from the connection of electricity power lines for 7 electricity schemes completed in the reporting period. Electricity connections in homesteads promotes establishment of micro businesses and improves basic lighting and security.

### **II LINE MINISTRIES' CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Presented below is a brief on completed and practically completed capital projects in this reporting period;

- The Unit completed one hundred and thirty-four (134) structures under the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), one hundred and thirty-two (132) structures in schools and two (2) structures in tertiary institutions. Completed structures comprised of; 46 classrooms, 14 staff houses, 35 emergency response structures, an administration block, 4 kitchens, 1 computer laboratory, 1 agriculture laboratory, carpentry fittings in 6 structures, 7 toilet units, perimeter fence installation in 6 schools, provision of potable water supply in 11 schools, rehabilitation of an administration block at the Manzini Industrial Training Centre and construction of a storage facility at the Manzini Regional Education Office (REO).

The initiative to provide potable water in schools, the scope included; development of boreholes, installation of solar powered pumps, installation of palisade fencing, installation of pumping main and distribution pipelines, installation 2 x 10m 3 steel stands, installation of 2 x 10m 3 plastic tank and construction of standpipes.

- Remedial works at Mbabane Government Hospital Emergency and Referral Complex (MGHERC) were attended. These entailed installation of the heat extractor system in the medical gas plant room, equipment servicing in the plant room, servicing the latest installed theatre equipment, re-training of the user staff, fixing leakages in the hospital kitchen, installation of a security gate to the theatres, servicing of air conditioning system and attending to blockages in the sewer system.
- Supply and installation of an oxygen tank at Mbabane Government Hospital, a project funded through the Global Fund (NERCHA) is practically complete.
- The Unit completed rehabilitated the Outpatient Department (OPD) at the Mbabane Government Hospital.
- MPCU rrehabilitated the Public Health Unit (PHU), 16 staff houses and 5 hostel blocks at the Hlatikhulu Government Hospital. Work done in the PHU included construction of additional offices; Youth friendly, Health Inspector, Sister' and Matron's offices. Implementation is complete.
- Construction of a double-storey operation centre/administration building at the Central Medical Stores (CMS) is practically complete. This project is funded by the World Bank, however there are snags to be attended.
- MPCU practically completed construction of Ndunayithini Clinic, kaZondwako Clinic Maternity Department, a waiting area and extension of a veranda clinic building at Ezulwini Clinic.
- Rehabilitation of the medical ward at Piggs Peak Government Hospital is practically complete.
- MPCU practically completed rehabilitation of wards 4 and 5 at the National

Psychiatric Centre.

- The Unit completed rehabilitation of an ABECO tank at Mdzimba 2 Army Barracks.
- Construction of platforms for new accommodation at Zombodze Camp including completion of an Academy structure at Mbuluzi Academy is practically complete.
- A complex for the physically challenged at Mankayane is practically complete. There are snags which need to be attended before final handover.
- Three (3) police stations were rehabilitated and have attained practical completion, these are; Mafutseni, Malkerns and Siteki.
- The Unit practically completed rehabilitation of a dining hall with kitchen, a common room and administration block at the Nhlanguano Vocational Training Centre.
- Construction of Mtsambama Inkhundla is complete however there are snags still to be attended while re-construction of three (3) Tinkhundla Centers is practically complete. These are; Kwaluseni, Lamgabhi and Ndzingeni.
- MPCU practically completed the construction of an Aquaculture Research & Production Centre Phase 1 and 2 including an earth dam and cultivation ponds at the Malkerns Research Station.
- A four tower and maximum security wall and two double storey cell blocks (Lot 4 and 5) have been completed at the Matsapha Correctional Facility while rehabilitation of two blocks (Lot 1 and 2) is practically complete.
- Perimeter fencing was installed at Vuvulane and Big Bend Labour Offices and the projects have attained practical completion.
- The Unit has practically completed construction of a lecture theatre with basement at the Nhlanguano National Library as phase 1 of the library re-construction work.

- Rehabilitation of archives at the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Public Service and Ministry of Economic Planning Development (MEPD) is complete.
- Two (2) projects were completed and one (1) practically completed for the Prime Minister's Office. Renovation of the old PPCU building and construction of police holding structure with kitchen and ablution was completed while re-construction of car ports at Cabinet Office is practically complete.
- Rehabilitation of the Hlathikhulu Revenue Office was completed.
- Two (2) projects Gamula and Hlathikhulu factory shells are practically complete and they are already functional.
- Rehabilitation work at the High Court of Eswatini in Mbabane is complete.
- The Unit completed construction of eNgabezweni Fire Station and refurbishment of Big Bend Fire Station which includes perimeter fence installation at Siphofaneni Fire Station.
- Public Sector HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee (PSHACC) offices were rehabilitated to completion.
- MPCU practically completed work at Somhlolo National Stadium in preparation for the country's 55: 55 celebrations. This entailed: construction of a boundary walls and gates installation, rehabilitation of the grandstand, installation of clear view fence around the sports field, laying of concrete slab around the sports field to protect the running track, installation of a surveillance system, installation of the Public Address System (PAC), rehabilitation and extension of the royal box, construction of a lift shaft in VIP area, installation of a water reticulation and potable water storage system.

#### **IV REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

One hundred (100) projects were completed, 64 infrastructures and 36 Income Generating Projects (IGPs). These will directly benefit an estimated population of 15 922. One hundred and sixty-nine (169) project applications were received

in the reporting period. Eighty-seven (87) IGPs and eighty-two (82) infrastructure projects from Eswatini organized groups. A total of one hundred and fifty-eight (158) projects were both desk and field appraised.

## **CHALLENGES**

- Implementation has been suspended for some ongoing projects due to unavailability of funds.
- Delayed transfer of funds into the relevant Units' accounts has had a negative effect in the overall projects implementation processes. This also attracts costs escalation on the projects.
- Service providers (contractors and suppliers) experience cash flow problems emanating from delayed payments on work done. This then affects their overall performances in the delivery of services.
- MPP experiences a high demand especially for community projects which cannot be implemented due to budget constraints.

## **8.5 SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) UNIT**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Unit serves as the Secretariat of the SADC National Contact Point (NCP), responsible for coordinating all SADC activities at national level, in the implementation of the SADC Regional Integration (RI) agenda.

The SADC Organization is a regional economic community bloc comprising sixteen (16) Member States (MS) namely; Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This organization was established through a Treaty. Article 5 of the Treaty outlines the SADC objectives and they include amongst others, poverty alleviation with the ultimate objective to eradicate it;

consolidation, defending and maintain democracy, peace, security and stability; promoting self-sustaining development based on collective self-reliance, interdependence of Member States and achievement of complementarity between national and regional strategies and programmes. The objectives also include promotion and maximization of productive employment and utilization of resources of the Region to achieve sustainable utilization of natural resources and effective protection of the environment as well as gender mainstreaming and support of the socially disadvantaged in the RI agenda.

## **OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS**

The SADC Unit has the following objectives:

- Is responsible for ensuring that the implementation, monitoring and evaluating of SADC programmes at national level are executed timeously and ensuring broad and inclusive consultations to prepare inputs required by the organisation. As a SADC Member state, Eswatini participates in all the activities of SADC and is involved in the development of all SADC policies, plans, programmes and projects for the achievement of Regional Integration to eliminating poverty in the Region.
- Ensures that Eswatini participates effectively and efficiently in all SADC activities, by coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the Regional Integration (RI) agenda and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) as a blue print plan to guide SADC.

The RISDP and the various SADC Protocols and other Legal instruments for each sector are official documents that serve to provide SADC Member States (MS) with a strategic direction and guidance with respect to SADC programmes and activities. The national coordination function is derived from the regional policies and programmes coordinated from the five (5) Directorates and core focal areas

of the SADC Secretariat, namely; (i) Industrial Development and Trade (IDT), (ii) Finance, Investment and Customs (FIC), (iii) Infrastructure and Services (I&S), (iv) Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR), and (v) Social and Human Development and Special Programmes (SHD&SP).

There is also an Organ for Peace and Security cooperation, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Extra Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2024**

The Unit successfully facilitated the country's attendance and participation in the Extra Ordinary Summit meeting of Heads of State and Government, on the El Nino situation in the SADC region. The Summit was hosted through a virtual platform, on the 20th May, 2024. The Summit was preceded by meetings of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials and, the SADC Council of Ministers, respectively. The Summit presented an opportunity to the SADC MS to share experiences of the El Nino induced droughts and floods, accompanied by strong winds and extremely high temperatures, which exacerbated the threat of food insecurity in the region.

The Extra Ordinary Summit was also attended by SADC International Cooperating Partners (ICPs); the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and Red Crescent Society and, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET).

Highlights of the Summit include an update on prior (October 2023 – April 2024) climate and weather situation in the region, and their impact across multiple sectors: Agriculture and Livelihood Security; Food Security; Nutrition; Health;



Water and Energy. The Summit called for coordinated, integrated, and harmonized interventions to address the adverse impact of the disasters experienced in the region. The impact of the disasters is estimated to have affected 61 million people. In response, the Summit launched a SADC Regional Humanitarian Appeal of US\$5.5 billion required to augment domestic resources of the affected Member States, in response to the impacts of the disaster. The Summit urged MS with surplus grain harvest to be open for trading with those in deficit, to curb the then eminent hunger.

### **Launch of the Lomahasha – Namaacha (LoNa) water project**

During the period under review, on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024, a ground-breaking ceremony of the Lomahasha and Namaacha (LoNa) cross-border water supply project was undertaken by the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Republic of Mozambique Governments’ representatives, in partnership with the SADC Secretariat representatives. The project budget is estimated at EUR16 million, under the SADC Regional Fund for Water Infrastructure and Basic Sanitation (SADC Water Fund). The project is funded by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and SADC-German Regional Development Cooperation. The aim is to ensure access to potable water by the surrounding communities on both sides of the borderline, and to build climate resilience through shared infrastructure development by the two countries. Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC), is the implementing agency of the LoNa project.

### **44<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2024**

The Unit coordinated Eswatini’s attendance and participation in the 44<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, which took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024, in Harare, Zimbabwe. The Summit was preceded by preparatory meetings of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials and, the SADC Council of Ministers, respectively. The Theme for the 44<sup>th</sup> Summit is *‘Promoting innovation*

*to unlock opportunities for sustained economic growth and development towards an industrialized SADC’.*

Highlights of the Summit include the reminder for Member States (MS) with outstanding annual contributions and additional assessed contributions to expedite the remittance of the amounts due. Furthermore, the Summit appreciated the SADC Secretariat’s report for 2023/24 implementation of the RISDP, which starts by reflecting on global and continental economic trends, and the regional (SADC) economic performance. Overall performance in the implementation of the RISDP2020-30’s five thematic areas (Peace, Security and Good Governance; Industrial Development & Market Integration; Infrastructure Development in Support of Regional Integration; Social and Human Capital Development; and, Cross-cutting issues including gender, youth, environment and climate change, and disaster risk management) indicates that the region is on track, with an average score of 5.6 out of 10. However, there is room for improvement, as other sectors remain below 5, like Industrial Development and Market Integration and, Social and Human Capital Development, with scores of 4.3 and 4.5, respectively.

### **SADC Secretariat Recruitment Exercise**

The SADC Secretariat, in a bid to fill eight vacant positions in the Secretariat office, extended an invitation to Eswatini to invite, shortlist and forward qualifying candidates during the period under review. The Unit, through government communication channels extended this invitation nationwide, and the response was massive. Hopeful Emaswati responded to the call in high numbers. However, only eleven applicants met the specified requirements, in four of the eight advertised positions. The shortlisted applicants were forwarded to the Secretariat for consideration.

### **2025 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition launch**

During the period under review, the Kingdom of Eswatini received an invitation from Secretariat to participate in the 2025 annual SADC Secondary School Essay Competition. The topic for the essay competition is *‘How can innovation enhance SADC industrialization and sustainable economic growth and development?’*, and the deadline for submission of top-three essay entries to the SADC Secretariat is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025. The essay topic is derived from the theme of the 44<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government (*‘Promoting innovation to unlock opportunities for sustained economic growth and development towards an industrialized SADC’*).

Procedurally, the Unit duly extended this invitation to the Ministry of Education and Training, to launch the competition nationwide and manage the shortlisting process, emphasizing that all high schools be afforded an opportunity to participate in the competition. The regional top-three winners will receive USD1,500.00; USD1,000.00; USD750.00, plus a certificate signed by the SADC Secretariat Executive Secretary, respectively. At national level, the top-three winners will receive USD500.00; USD300.00; USD200.00, plus a certificate signed by the Minister of Education and Training, respectively.

This competition is a result of a directive of the Council of Ministers, whereby in 1996 the Council approved the establishment of the annual SADC Secondary School Essay Competition to support the process of regional co-operation and integration in the region. This exercise also enhances youth involvement in the SADC RI agenda, thus strengthening its sustainability. All secondary school going students from the SADC MS are eligible to participate in this competition, and the shortlisting at national level is done by the Ministries responsible for education.

### **2025 SADC Tertiary Institutions Essay Competition launch**

In the period under review, the SADC Secretariat launched the 2025 SADC Tertiary Institutions Essay Competition, inviting MS to participate. The topic of

the competition is *‘What impact do you believe the SADC Founders and Frontline States’ footprints have had on the Southern African Political and Socio-economic discourse to date?’* The Unit accordingly extended this invitation to the Ministry of Education and Training, to launch it nationwide and manage the shortlisting process, highlighting that all recognized institutions of higher learning be afforded an opportunity to participate in the competition. The regional top-three winners will receive monetary awards accompanied by a certificate signed by the SADC Executive Secretary. The monetary awards will be USD2,000.00; USD1,500.00; USD1,000.00, respectively. The overall regional top ten winners will receive a certificate signed by the SADC Executive Secretary. The winners will be announced through the SADC website, including social media platforms on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The deadline for submission of the top-three essay entries to the SADC Secretariat is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

This initiative, as approved by the Council in 2020, is aimed at providing due recognition to the Founders of SADC for their contribution to the establishment of SADC (1992) and subsequent pursuance of the regional integration agenda. The Founders of SADC are Eswatini, Lesotho, Botswana, Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania. The Frontline States, who formed the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980 (the precursor of SADC) are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Tanzania, and Zambia. This competition is to enhance awareness of SADC citizens, through evidence-based research, of the historical genesis and process of regional integration and the pivotal role played by the Founders of SADC.

### **Youth Awareness on SADC Structures and Activities**

The Unit randomly receive requests from schools to provide short lectures to school going children on the SADC organization and its activities. During the period under review, the Unit hosted Ngcina Primary School, whereby 130 learners (from Grades 5 ,6 & 7) were presented the SADC organization

structures, the activities undertaken in the cooperation and, the benefits of being a member of the regional economic community as a country. The Unit always encourage schools to take the opportunity and arrange the visit to enlighten the learners and their teachers on the RI agenda.

### **Extra Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

With the SAMIDRC mandate set to expire on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024, amid the persistent instability in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the SADC Secretariat initiated the convening of an Extra-Ordinary Summit meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024, in Harare. As customary, the summit is preceded by SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials and, the Council of Ministers meetings in preparation. The Unit successfully coordinated Eswatini's attendance and participation in the Extra-Ordinary Summit, and its preceding meetings.

The Summit was for Member States to consider an up-date on the security situation in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); to consider the Field Assessment Report on the SADC Mission in the DRC (SAMIDRC), and; to review the SAMIDRC mandate to inform the future of the Mission, before it came to an end in December 2024. The Summit approved an extension of the SAMIDRC for twelve months, and the associated expense.

### **Strengthening National – Regional Linkages (SNRL) II programme**

In partnership with the SADC Secretariat and the German Corporation, the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH successfully launched a Call for Proposals (CfPs) to SADC Member States (MS), under the SNRL II programme. Briefly, the SNRL II programme is aimed at supporting MS capacity to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of SADC Commitments

by: (1) Improving the institutional framework for implementing regional integration in the SADC MS; (2) Setting up Monitoring and Evaluation systems for implementing regional integration in selected MS, and; (3) Strengthening strategic communication capacities of SADC and the MS on all activities and impacts of SADC.

Following the Unit's successful participation in the CfPs, securing funding under the SNRL II programme, a capacity building (training) exercise for the national SADC Cluster Sub-Committees (CSC) was conducted during the period under review (November 2024). The training covered Resource Mobilization, Regional Integration and Project Management. However, there was low attendance observed, as the workshop coincided with the budgeting period for the forthcoming FY2025/26, which preoccupied a majority of the targeted CSC members.

### **Donation of Meteorology Equipment by SADC Secretariat**

During the period under review, the Unit facilitated the receipt of a second and third consignments of meteorological infrastructure equipment and accessories donation from the SADC Secretariat; consignment clearance and exemption from domestic taxes. These two donations are part of the implementation of the Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) Programme, funded by the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF (European Development Fund). The third consignment is pending tax exemptions and delivery. The main objective of SADC ClimSA programme is to improve the provision of regional and national climate services, and to strengthen the climate services infrastructure in the SADC region. Hence, the Secretariat, in partnership with the EU provides the necessary equipment to improve climate services at regional and national level, which enhances the region's disasters early warning systems.

## **Signing and ratification of SADC Protocols and Legal Instruments by Member States (Eswatini)**

The Unit, in response to the SADC Secretariat's call for Member States to finalize the signing, ratification/accession of legal instruments, made follow-up on the relevant line Ministries/Departments for the six protocols/legal instruments that were pending signing by the Kingdom of Eswatini at the beginning of the period under review. One (SADC Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism) document was successfully signed, under the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. This leaves Eswatini with five documents pending signature, being: 1. Protocol against trafficking in persons; 2. Protocol on Statistics; 3. Agreement regarding the status of SADC standby force and its components deployed within the region for purposes of training, peace support operation, exercises, and humanitarian assistance; 4. Agreement amending the protocol on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters 2019; and, 5. Agreement amending the Protocol on Extradition 2019. The Unit continues to track progress in preparations for signing of the outstanding legal instruments, ahead of their entry into force (upon fulfilment of a two-thirds majority ratifications by MS, as per Article 22 of the SADC Treaty).

## **Establishment of the SADC National Committee (SNC)**

The Unit is in the process to establish a SADC National Committee (SNC), as per Article 16A of the SADC Treaty. The Unit initiated the Cabinet approval procedure during the period under review, for the formation of this important national body, in the implementation of SADC programmes at national level. Cabinet approval is pending. The Treaty specifies that the SNC key stakeholders include government, the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and workers/employers' organizations. Responsibilities of the SNC include: (1) Providing Member State inputs in the formulation of SADC policies, strategies and programmes of action; (2) Coordinating and overseeing, at national level, the implementation of SADC programmes of action; (3) To initiate projects and issue papers as an input to the preparation of the RISDP,

in accordance with the priority areas set out in the SADC Common Agenda; and, (4) Creation of a national steering committee, sub-committees and technical committees. The Unit has secured funding, through the SNRL II (GIZ) programme, to facilitate induction of the envisaged newly formed SNC, which was planned for November 2024. This exercise had to be postponed indefinitely, pending the establishment of the SNC. Further delays in this regard put the secured support at a high risk of forfeiture, as the SNRL II programme expires in the coming year.

## **CHALLENGES**

- Persistent fiscal challenges faced by the country result in delays in remittance of Membership Subscriptions, whereas persistent arrears lead to sanctions imposed, limiting the country's participation in the regional cooperation platforms and decision-making processes.
- There is a need to fill the vacant positions (2) in the Unit, for effective coordination of the implementation of SADC programmes in the country. Currently, the Unit is understaffed and compromised to effectively carryout its mandate.
- The continued delay of the Cabinet Approval on establishment of the SADC National Committee (SNC) affects the formation of a SADC Steering Committee, cluster sub-committees and technical committees, which are key in the implementation of the RI agenda at national level.

## **8.6 CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE**

The Central Statistical Office (CSO) is empowered by the Statistics Act of 1967 to collect and analyse statistics.

## **MISSION**



The mission is “to effectively coordinate the National Statistical System, provide high quality statistical data and information required for evidence-based policy, planning and decision-making for national socio-economic development, administration, accountability, and to promote a culture of using statistics”.

## SECTIONS

The Central Statistics Office is made up of the following divisions and section:

- **Economic Statistics Division**- The main role of this division is to conduct economic surveys / census to measure the performance of the economy and maintain the business register. It is comprised of the following sections:
  - **National Accounts Section** – which compiles and produces economic indicators such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures which are produced quarterly as well as annually. Data collection is done in the country’s establishments covering all the economic sectors. However, follow ups are done by enumerators who visit businesses found to have not responded. Quarterly GDP compilations are done to meet the increasing demand for high frequency GDP estimates of the country.
  - **Price Statistics Section** – The section currently has the following on-going activities:
    - ✓ **Consumer Price Index Survey:** this survey is conducted on a monthly basis and the aim is to produce Consumer Price Indices (CPI) as well as inflation rates or the changes in prices of consumer goods and services in the country. These indices are one of the critical indicators in the monitoring of the country’s economy.
    - ✓ **Harmonised Consumer Price Index (HCPI) for SADC and COMESA:** The main objective of the HCPI is to have one Consumer Price Index (CPI) and inflation rate for the SADC and COMESA regions respectively. It also facilitates comparison of indices within these regions through the adoption of one standard of classification and harmonised

acceptable methods of compilation. At present, the CSO submits HCPI indices to SADC and COMESA Secretariats on a monthly basis.

- ✓ **Producer Price Index (PPI):** A Producer Price Index is a measure of the rate of change in the prices of goods and services produced in an economy in a specified period of time. The CSO compiles this indicator on a quarterly and annual basis.

- **Hotel Tourism Statistics Section (Accommodation statistics)** - This section compiles accommodation statistics from all tourism related establishments in the country. Over and above the lodging statistics, an estimation of tourists' expenditures in the country is compiled on a quarterly and annual basis.

- **Demographic and Vital Statistics Division** – The role of this Division is to conduct population censuses and surveys in order to provide socio economic and population indicators. The division also provides vital events statistics (births, deaths and marriages) which are derived from civil registration. The Population and Housing Census, the Demographic and Housing Surveys and Civil registration are major sources of data that is compiled and analysed within this division. The Population and Housing Census (PHC) is conducted decennially whereas the Demographic and Housing Survey (DHS) also known as the Inter-censal survey is conducted five (5) years after the PHC whilst Vital statistics is compiled annually.

- **Agriculture and Social Statistics Division-** The role of the Division is to conduct annual agriculture surveys, agriculture censuses, and Household surveys in specialized areas such as the Household Income & Expenditure Survey and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). This is done in order to produce agriculture production figures in the Swazi Nation Land and Individual Tenure Farms, timber statistics and other socio-economic

indicators. Health related indicators, Poverty and other Sustainable Development Goals indicators are compiled within this division.

- **Statistical Services Division** – This division is made up of the Information Technology (IT), Geographic Information System (GIS), SWAZI INFO and Publications & Dissemination sections. The role of the division is to provide IT services for the department in particular in the processing of Censuses and Surveys and the SWAZIINFO database for the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and disseminates the outputs of the department.
  - ✓ **The GIS section** is responsible for capturing, managing, analysing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced data. The unit assists other units within the department of Statistics by providing enumeration maps for data collection. The unit also collaborates with other government departments that deal with spatial data.
  - ✓ **The Publication & Information Dissemination section** deals with dissemination of CSO outputs and promotes CSO activities including marketing the office’s products.
  - ✓ The Division is also setting up a **National Data Coordination Centre (NDCC)**. The NDCC is a centralized solution for the management of multiple data sources with the purpose of synchronizing and organizing information to provide a robust resource for responding to needs and questions.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** Production and dissemination of the consumer price indices and inflation reports on a monthly basis have been achieved during the year under review.

**Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI):** Production and submission of monthly HCPI to COMESA and SADC Secretariats for the compilation of the

COMESA and SADC HCPI respectively have been achieved during the year under review.

**Hotel and accommodation statistics:** The CSO compiles accommodation statistics from all tourism related establishments in the country. Over and above the lodging statistics, an estimation of tourists' expenditures in the country is compiled on a quarterly and annual basis. The third quarter report has been compiled and disseminated and the fourth quarter is currently being compiled and is expected to be disseminated by the last week of March 2025.

**Producer Price Index (PPI):** Production and dissemination of this index on a quarterly basis and is ongoing. The third quarter report has been compiled and disseminated, while the fourth quarter is currently being compiled and is expected to be disseminated by last week of March 2025.

**Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS):** MICS is an international household survey programme and it provides data to monitor progress towards achievement of the National and International development targets such as the National Development Strategy, Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (PRSAP), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS (NSF). It also assists government to make informed decisions on priority programmes and interventions. The report has been compiled and disseminated.

**Inter censal survey:** This is the population and housing survey that is undertaken in between population censuses and its purpose is to update population indicators derived from a population census. Data collection for phase 1 (listing) and phase 2 (main survey) data collection has been completed and data analysis is ongoing.

**Eswatini Household Income and Expenditure Survey:** The Eswatini Household Income and Expenditure Survey (EHIES) 2023/24 is a household field surveys conducted by the Central Statistical Office. The results of household income and expenditure survey provide extensive and up to date information on the conditions under which the Swazi populace live, the activities in which they engage their levels of incomes and patterns of expenditures, their demographic

characteristics, and other variables which influence their behaviour. EHIES will provide revision of weights of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The results from the EHIES are also considered one of the important sources of national accounts data. Data collection for this exercise has been completed and data cleaning is ongoing during this period.

### **Annual Agriculture Survey**

The annual agriculture survey is conducted in the rural areas of the country. It is conducted during the farming season each year. Information from this survey is mainly used to calculate the food balance sheet of the country. Data collection for Phase 1 (Listing of Households) is ongoing.

### **CHALLENGES**

- Rationing of fuel as government bowsers are running dry.
- The Statistics department has limited number of vehicles / fleet which is old and prone to mechanical failures / breakdowns.
- Fieldwork interruptions due to shortage of fuel
- Delays in granting of Surveys and Censuses related authorities (engaging fieldwork staff, overtime / flat rate allowances, etc.)
- Inadequate technical staff (unfilled vacancies etc.)

## Annex 1: Government Capital Programme

Head	Project Code	Project Title	Budget (E) 2024-25	Revised (E) Budget	Released (E) Q4	Actual (E) Q4	Impl. Rate Q4
3	G54999	Rehabilitation of PPCU Offices	696,000	696,000	-	-	0.00%
3	G64170	Improvement of Security Surveillance at Prime Minister's Office	4,097,000	4,097,000	-	-	0.00%
3	G64670	Procurement & Installation of IT & Communications Equipment	2,700,000	2,700,000	-	-	0.00%
4	G63699	New Game Park (BIG 5 Merger)	25,000,000	25,000,000	5,000,000	-	20.00%
4	M36670	Reconstruction of Ngwenya Mine Interpretation Centre	3,816,000	3,816,000	3,240	3,240	0.08%
4	R23999	Rehabilitation of National Parks	2,900,000	2,900,000	4,920	1,448	0.17%
4	R24299	Designs of Africa Museum	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-	0.00%
5	P44799	Construction of Institutional Housing for Police Phase 1	11,000,000	11,000,000	11,000	17,500	0.10%
5	P44899	Equipment for State Security and Police Services Phase II	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000	20,868	0.10%
5	P44999	Rehabilitation and Security Fencing of Police Buildings Phase II	19,000,000	19,000,000	18,998	3,704	0.10%
6	G64270	Procurement of IT Equipment for the Deputy Prime Minister's Office	1,080,000	1,080,000	-	-	0.00%
6	S35499	Social Registry Development	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	100.00%
7	G62499	Procurement of Diplomats' residences in missions abroad	22,000,000	22,000,000	21,955	1,734	0.10%
8	P28699	Replacement of Army Barracks	70,000,000	70,000,000	57,274	52,585	0.08%
9	G65399	Tinkhundla Development Plan	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-	0.00%
9	X46670	Rehabilitation of Development Training Centre's for Women (WID)	3,735,000	3,735,000	-	750,090	0.00%
9	X51299	Reconstruction of Tinkhundla Centre's	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000	6,000	0.10%
10	F02799	Cooperation in Energy and Mineral Resources Exploitation	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000	-	0.10%
10	F03167	Shiselweni Network Re-inforcement and Access Project	293,177,000	293,177,000	293,177	293,177	0.10%
10	F03352	Agriculture Value Chain via Sustainable & Inclusive Energy	9,114,000	9,114,000	-	-	0.00%
10	W37099	Feasibility Study-Mkhondvo & Nondvo Dams	3,650,000	3,650,000	948	553	0.03%
10	W37755	Manzini Region Water and Sanitation	200,000,000	200,000,000	200,000	200,000	0.10%
10	W37799	Manzini Region Water and Sanitation	75,000,000	75,000,000	75,000	75,000	0.10%
10	W37899	Eswatini water supply and sanitation project (Hosea, Zombodze, Shiselweni 1 - Tinkhundla)	122,200,000	122,200,000	122,200	122,200	0.10%
10	W37899	Eswatini water supply and sanitation project (Hosea, Zombodze, Shiselweni 1 - Tinkhundla)	120,000,000	120,000,000	120,000	120,000	0.10%
10	X50199	Rural Water Supply XIII	10,000,000	10,000,000	9,996	5,998	0.10%
10	X50999	Sustainable Land Administration and Management	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500	1,500	0.10%
10	X51170	Deeds Registration and Information Management	1,170,000	1,170,000	1,170	1,170	0.10%
10	W38054	Lomahasha Namaacha Transboundary water project	112,000,000	112,000,000	-	-	0.00%
10	W38099	Lomahasha Namaacha Transboundary water project	16,800,000	16,800,000	-	-	0.00%
20	A37299	Water & Irrigation Infrastructure Development	7,000,000	7,000,000	5,000,002	4,999,941	71.43%

Head	Project Code	Project Title	Budget (E) 2024-25	Revised (E) Budget	Released (E) Q4	Actual (E) Q4	Impl. Rate Q4
20	A38155	Lower Usuthu II Extension- Downstream Development	35,000,000	35,000,000	45,304,179	53,609,318	129.44%
20	A38163	Lower Usuthu II Extension- Downstream Development	182,324,000	182,324,000	156,310,057	210,237,089	85.73%
20	A38199	Lower Usuthu II Extension- Downstream Development	200,000,000	200,000,000	100,000,000	100,000,000	50.00%
20	A39552	Eswatini Livestock Value Chain Development Project (ELVCDP)	40,000,000	40,000,000	-	-	0.00%
20	A39799	Mkhondvo-Ngwavuma Detailed Feasibility Studies	30,000,000	30,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	33.33%
20	A39870	Construction of Aquaculture Research and Production Centre	16,981,000	16,981,000	-	25,989,281	#VALUE!
20	A40099	Cordon Fencing	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,000,000	1,999,924	66.67%
20	A40455	Construction of Mpakeni Dam	504,809,000	504,809,000	232,844,162	232,844,162	46.13%
20	A40499	Construction of Mpakeni Dam	125,000,000	125,000,000	60,000,000	60,000,000	48.00%
20	W37699	Water Harvesting, Small and Medium Dams	35,000,000	35,000,000	-	-	0.00%
23	G42299	Implementation of Development Strategies	25,000,000	25,000,000	2,099,342	708,561	8.40%
23	G46799	Millennium (Sikhuphe) Project	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-	0.00%
23	G50999	Support to UNDP Country Programme	23,105,000	23,105,000	23,105,000	11,000,000	100.00%
23	G52699	The Eswatini Economic Census	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,188,400	399,909	99.03%
23	G54863	Construction of new Parliament Building	320,000,000	320,000,000	-	-	0.00%
23	G54899	Construction of new Parliament Building	60,000,000	60,000,000	5,408,278	5,408,278	9.01%
23	G57699	Intercensal Survey	8,000,000	8,000,000	7,834,158	3,980,641	97.93%
23	G58563	Construction of an International Convention center (ICC)	360,693,000	360,693,000	360,683,979	103,780,000	100.00%
23	G58599	Construction of an International Convention center (ICC)	749,307,000	749,307,000	499,700,820	352,862,337	66.69%
23	G60199	Eswatini Household Income and Expenditure Surveys	12,489,000	12,489,000	12,427,484	10,718,335	99.51%
23	G60970	Microprojects - Infrastructure Development VI	40,702,000	40,702,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	85.99%
23	G60999	Microprojects - Infrastructure Development VI	183,000,000	183,000,000	183,000,000	183,000,000	100.00%
23	G61663	Construction of Five Star Hotel (FISH)	140,025,000	140,025,000	24,233,759	24,233,759	17.31%
23	G61699	Construction of Five Star Hotel (FISH)	35,000,000	35,000,000	33,934,531	33,934,531	96.96%
23	G63570	Support to Taiwan Country Programme	7,200,000	7,200,000	-	-	0.00%
23	G64099	Procurement of Government Land	4,000,000	4,000,000	1,091,418	1,091,418	27.29%
23	G64770	Capacity Building in Central Ministries	1,260,000	1,260,000	-	-	0.00%
23	H36299	Construction of the National Referral Hospital	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-	0.00%
23	G57599	The Eswatini Agricultural Survey	14,200,000	14,200,000	14,192,970	7,855,271	99.95%
24	X20299	Urban Development Project	16,200,000	16,200,000	1,635,000	-	10.09%
24	X48099	Inter-governmental Capital Development Fund	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	100.00%
24	X51099	Development of Buhleni Local Authority	15,000,000	15,000,000	3,194,378	3,194,378	21.30%
26	P30599	Rehabilitation of Fire Service Department	2,748,000	2,748,000	2,747,381	2,747,381	99.98%

Head	Project Code	Project Title	Budget (E) 2024-25	Revised (E) Budget	Released (E) Q4	Actual (E) Q4	Impl. Rate Q4
26	P30699	Replacement of Firefighting Equipment & Specialised Vehicles	6,468,000	6,468,000	-	-	0.00%
29	E46770	Entrepreneurship Training for youth in tertiary institutio	1,260,000	1,260,000	-	-	0.00%
29	M34699	Construction of Factory Shells	141,362,000	141,362,000	141,361,486	141,361,486	100.00%
29	M35199	Market Access & Trade Facilitation	7,000,000	7,000,000	6,296,527	5,905,770	89.95%
29	M35499	Rehabilitation of National Handicraft Training Centre and Co-operative Development and Education Centre (NHC and CODEC	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-	0.00%
29	M35770	Enhancing Junior Achievement Eswatini Capacity Phase II	1,620,000	1,620,000	-	-	0.00%
29	M34099	Design of Sidvokodvo Industrial Estate	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	-	100.00%
30	E34399	Water Supply to Schools VII	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,996,315	100.00%
30	E39799	Emergency Response and Rehabilitation of storm damaged Government Schools and Public Institutions Phase	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	100.00%
30	E43799	Construction of Storage Facilities and Rehabilitation of Regional Offices in the Four Regions of the Country	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	100.00%
30	E44999	Rehabilitation of Sebenta Institute	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	100.00%
30	E45099	Extension of Eswatini Skills Center at Pigg's Peak	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-	0.00%
30	E46099	Schools Infrastructure Enhancement Project	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	100.00%
30	E46199	Purchase of equipment, tools and furniture for schools throughout the country.	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	9,976,340	100.00%
30	E46299	Tertiary Infrastructure and Equipment Enhancement Project	18,700,000	18,700,000	18,700,000	18,700,000	100.00%
30	E46570	Purchase of computers and accessories	9,000,000	9,000,000	-	-	0.00%
30	E46670	Construction of computer laboratories in rural primary and secondary schools	10,800,000	10,800,000	-	-	0.00%
30	E46867	Strengthening early childhood development & Basic Education System to Support Human Capital Development	92,600,000	92,600,000	92,600,000	38,161,362	100.00%
34	G60099	Installation of the Intergrated Financial Manangement Information System in Eswatini (IFMIS)	38,897,000	38,897,000	38,897,000	-	100.00%
34	G62261	Financial Inclusion Cluster Development (FINCLUDE)	40,044,000	40,044,000	-	-	0.00%
34	G62299	Financial Inclusion Cluster Development (FINCLUDE)	8,907,000	8,907,000	8,907,000	8,907,000	100.00%
34	G64599	Implementation of Eswatini Electronic Government Procurement System	18,874,000	18,874,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	158.95%
40	E45770	Renovation of Nhlangano, Mbabane and Malkerns VTRS Centres	2,775,000	2,775,000	2,775,000	-	100.00%
40	E45799	Renovation of Nhlangano, Mbabane and Malkerns VTRS Centres	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	3,000,000	100.00%
43	E46499	Reconstruction of Eswatini National Library at Nhlangano	9,000,000	9,000,000	9,000,000	9,000,000	100.00%
43	G61799	Rehabilitation of ETVA	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	100.00%
43	G62763	Construction of a Disaster Recovery Site	22,528,000	22,528,000	-	-	0.00%
43	G62799	Construction of a Disaster Recovery Site	69,500,000	69,500,000	-	-	0.00%
43	G64399	Procurement of Outside Broadcasting Studio	13,000,000	13,000,000	-	-	0.00%
43	G64999	Development of an Integrated Online E-Service Platform	30,000,000	30,000,000	-	-	0.00%
43	G65070	Settling up a 5G Government Network	36,000,000	36,000,000	-	-	0.00%
43	M33199	Construction of Biotechnology Park at Nokwane.	63,205,000	63,205,000	-	-	0.00%
43	T52499	Installation of an Automated Biometric Identification System	7,000,000	7,000,000	-	-	0.00%



Head	Project Code	Project Title	Budget (E) 2024-25	Revised (E) Budget	Released (E) Q4	Actual (E) Q4	Impl. Rate Q4
45	H30899	Construction and Re-purposing the TB Hospital	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	100.00%
45	H31199	Lubombo Regional Hospital Phase I	17,000,000	17,000,000	17,000,000	17,000,000	100.00%
45	H33099	Rehabilitation of Mbabane Government Hospital	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	100.00%
45	H33799	Provision of Equipment to Hospitals, Clinics and Health Centres	26,000,000	26,000,000	24,998,723	6,244,639	96.15%
45	H33899	Institutional Housing for Newly built Health Facilities	6,000,000	6,000,000	12,000,000	6,000,000	200.00%
45	H33999	Water and Sanitation Project II	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	359,568	66.67%
45	H34199	Provision of Security at Health Facilities	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	#REF!
45	H34599	Provision of Water in Health Facilities	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,126,296	100.00%
45	H34699	Rehabilitation of Primary Health Care Facilities	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	14,445,588	100.00%
45	H36570	Strengthening Cancer Diagnosis & Treatment in Eswatini	7,200,000	7,200,000	-	-	0.00%
45	H36867	Health Systems Strengthening	62,500,000	62,500,000	40,000,000	37,599,000	64.00%
45	H36899	Health Systems Strengthening	7,050,000	7,050,000	7,050,000	7,050,000	7,050,000
45	H37099	Reconstruction of Health Facilities	13,800,000	13,800,000	13,800,000	13,800,000	100.00%
45	H37170	Construction of Clinics	11,142,000	11,142,000	-	-	0.00%
46	G63299	Electronic Case Management System	6,950,000	6,950,000	6,124,779	6,124,779	88.13%
46	G65170	Establishment of a Digital Law Library at the Attorney General's Office	1,440,000	1,440,000	-	-	0.00%
49	P31299	Improvement of Prison Facilities	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	100.00%
49	G65270	Ambulance Acquisition	5,526,000	5,526,000	-	-	0.00%
49	P31399	Radio Communication System and Remote Remand II	1,000,000	1,000,000	898,720	-	89.87%
49	P31599	Rehabilitation of Prisons	20,000,000	20,000,000	19,000,000	19,000,000	95.00%
49	P33899	Irrigation Infrastructure for Correctional Farms	3,000,000	3,000,000	-	-	0.00%
50	G63099	Modernization of Civil Registration and Immigration Systems	20,000,000	20,000,000	-	-	0.00%
51	G08299	Rehabilitation, Maintenance and Construction of State Houses	160,000,000	160,000,000	160,000,000	105,000,000	100.00%
53	G50099	Rehabilitation of Government Buildings VI	13,100,000	13,100,000	6,594,018	4,931,318	50.34%
53	G53399	Wiring of Government Buildings V	3,900,000	3,900,000	2,554,381	2,001,553	65.50%
53	G57099	Separation of Meters in Government Houses	3,000,000	3,000,000	70,409	23,492	2.35%
53	G64599	Construction of Arena and Grand Stand at Hlane	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	100.00%
53	T36399	Rehabilitation and Maintenance of the Feeder Roads Network and Rehabilitation of Armcos and Culverts	79,000,000	79,000,000	49,510,645	48,755,659	62.67%
53	T49799	Mphandze-Mbhadlane (MR3 Lot 2)	45,000,000	45,000,000	68,027,971	68,027,971	151.17%
53	T50099	Design Review, Supervision and Construction of Nhlango-Sicunusa Roa	80,000,000	80,000,000	80,000,000	80,000,000	100.00%
53	T50599	Preliminary Designs for Lothair Matsapha Railway Line	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	100.00%
53	T51556	Manzini-Mphandze (MR3 Lot1)	9,000,000	9,000,000	6,689,292	6,750,473	74.33%

Head	Project Code	Project Title	Budget (E) 2024-25	Revised (E) Budget	Released (E) Q4	Actual (E) Q4	Impl. Rate Q4
53	T52070	Construction of Hangar and Workshop at KMill airport	135,000,000	135,000,000	127,926,212	127,926,210	94.76%
53	T52155	Manzini Golf-Course Interchange	62,100,000	62,100,000	33,795,000	-	54.42%
53	T52199	Manzini Golf-Course Interchange			19,966,734	16,945,870	
53	T52199	Manzini Golf-Course Interchange	30,000,000	30,000,000	25,538,803	25,299,138	85.13%
53	T52370	Expansion of Matsapha Inland- Dry Port	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,939,789	1,939,789	96.99%
53	T52599	Emergency Maintenance programme for roads	160,000,000	160,000,000	16,046,566	16,068,781	10.03%
53	T52770	Technical Support to RENAC	8,392,000	8,392,000	-	-	0.00%
53	T52899	Construction of Siphofaneni -Nsoko MR14 & Maloma - Siphambanweni Road MR21	14,000,000	14,000,000	261,339	-	1.87%
56	R22499	Upgrading of Somhlolo National Stadium Phase II	35,000,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	100.00%
56	R23099	Construction of Recreational Facilities in the Four Regions	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	10,000,000	100.00%
58	G63970	Institutional Capacity Development	1,794,000	1,794,000	1,518,289		84.63%
Grant				492,204,000	175,852,992	198,360,253	35.73%
Local				3,394,008,000	2,011,051,120	1,679,313,488	59.25%
Loans				2,438,000,000	986,386,513	701,080,067	40.46%

Source: Government Commitment System, February 2025