



**The Government of Eswatini
Ministry of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs**

Annual Performance Report

April - December 2024



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II. Minister's Preamble

Honourable chair, the Ministry kindly present the annual performance report of the 2024/25 fiscal year. The Ministry's core objectives are that of fostering sustainable youth development, preserving our cultural heritage, promoting the creative industries and sporting excellence in

Eswatini. This requires coordinated and effective efforts across all sectors of government with the Ministry's technical departments and parastatals, to ensure a successful integrated approach to national development. In the period under review a total budget of **E58,537,506.00** was released and already **E54,766,422.00** has been expended by the end of the quarter.

Youth entrepreneurship flourished, significantly exceeding targets. The Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF) approved a total of ninety (**90**) loans with a total value of **E3,882,552.00** during the period under review, representing a strategic investment in the nation's young entrepreneurs. A total of 108 young people were trained in business plan writing and cash flow management during the period, selected from various constituencies. This substantial growth was facilitated by the establishment of new satellite offices, expanding the Fund's reach into previously underserved communities and fostering a more robust support ecosystem through strengthened partnerships with insurance providers and financial institutions. While loan disbursement performed strongly at E1,329,320, the overall repayment rate, although exceeding 80%, highlights an ongoing need to reinforce repayment adherence among beneficiaries.

The Ministry through the Arts and Culture Council, in realizing the need to develop an industry that would create significant employment opportunities and businesses, launched the talent identification programme through the National Arts and Culture Awards (NACA) 2024. This programme was aimed at identifying talented Emaswati from Tinkhundla level. And indeed, the NACA was able to identify new talents, from all the corners of the kingdom. The grand finale showcased the best of Eswatini with over 50 award winners went home with great prizes. The establishment and equipping of regional arts centres further democratized access to cultural resources, significantly expanding the reach of Eswatini's artists.

The Ministry through the Eswatini Sport & Recreation Council (ESRC), made a provision in the form of grants support totaling **SZL 3'323'809.37** which was disbursed to various sports bodies during the period under review for various sports development initiatives, including international participation and sports for development initiatives. A further **SZL 1'170'379.00** was disbursed to the Eswatini Olympic & Commonwealth Games Association in respect of 50% of accreditation fees for the African Union Sports Council Region 5 Youth Games scheduled for Namibia, July 2025. The Ministry is grateful to the support extended to licensed national sport bodies by various corporate entities. Total sponsorship support of **SZL 11'355'000.00** was received during the period under review by respective licensed sports bodies for their various sport initiatives/activities/events. A total of **SZL 262'000.00** podium finishers incentives were disbursed

to various athletes for podium performances achieved at various regional, continental and global sports activities.

Other podium finishes were realized through the participation of the Eswatini Schools Sports Association in the Confederation of Southern African Schools Sports Association Games hosted in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, attaining a total of 18 medals. The Eswatini Chess Federation also put the country on the global map in their participation in the 45th Chess Olympiad hosted in Budapest, Hungary attaining a bronze Medal finish in Group E of the Open Section.

Chair, the Ministry through the Eswatini National Youth Council (ENYC) has achieved significant milestones in addressing youth issues and advancing youth development in 2024. Key achievements include the successful implementation of the youth empowerment program reaching diverse skills support such as T-Vet, entrepreneurship and general agriculture. This has been by and large through the acceleration of youth ventures, there-by providing business incubation, intensifying the mind-set change program and continued strategic linkages building with partners such as Junior Achievement, the Youth Fund and increasing resource mobilization endeavors with partners such as the New Zealand Government as a means to increase the numbers of young people reached with socio-economic development programs. The Life Skills Education program has also been the pinnacle of youth development ensuring that the youth is afforded a high quality of life.

Chair, as I conclude may I draw the attention of the honourable house to the challenges faced by the Ministry in addressing youth issues. Chair, we appreciate the support we get from government and partners including the UN agencies, the EU, World Bank to name but a few. But the capacity of the Ministry remains questionable in terms of its human resource. There is need to strengthen the Ministry especially the National Youth Council to ensure all the resources availed by government and partners are used efficiently and the intended outcomes from programmes being implemented are achieved.

III. Introduction

This report provides a comprehensive assessment of the performance of the Ministry of Sport, Culture, and Youth Affairs (MoSCYA) in Eswatini in the current fiscal year (April-December 2024).

It offers a detailed analysis of the Ministry's achievements, challenges, and strategic responses across all key mandate areas, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to transparency and accountability in public service delivery. This consolidated report integrates data from the Ministry's three thematic areas i.e. Youth Development, Sports Development and Creative Industries Development providing a unified and comprehensive overview of the Ministry's performance during this crucial period.

The MoSCYA's activities are firmly aligned with Eswatini's national development priorities, as articulated in the National Development Plan, the Eswatini National Youth Policy (2020) and further elaborated upon in the National Arts and Culture Policy (2023). This report not only demonstrates the significant progress made across all key mandate areas but also showcases the synergistic impact of the Ministry's integrated approach, illustrating how the coordinated and collaborative efforts of its constituents collectively contribute to the advancement of youth empowerment, cultural preservation, and sporting excellence.

Governance and Administration

The year 2024/25 witnessed significant strengthening of governance and administrative capacity across the Ministry of Sport, Culture, and Youth Affairs' (MoSCYA), directly enhancing the Ministry's ability to deliver on its mandate. The appointment of new leadership at key parastatals has injected fresh perspective and energy into our operations. These improvements reflect a proactive approach to ensuring efficient and effective operations across all sectors.

Strengthened Leadership and Governance

ESRC - Board Appointments

The Eswatini Sport & Recreation Council (ESRC) saw the appointment of a new board on July 19th, 2024, following the expiry of the previous board's term on March 31st. This nine-member board, comprising diverse expertise in sports administration, business management, and community development, completed comprehensive induction and corporate governance training in August and September, underscoring the Ministry's commitment to robust governance standards across all its agencies.

ENYC – CEO

The Eswatini National Youth Council marked a significant milestone with the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer a position which has been vacant for a long period. His mandate encompasses critical areas including youth empowerment, strategic planning, and resource mobilization, reflecting our focus on strengthening institutional capacity for youth development.

Enhanced Service Delivery Through Decentralization

The Ministry prioritized enhanced service delivery through strategic decentralization. The Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture (ENCAC) successfully operationalized regional arts centres across all four regions of Eswatini, to support local artistic development. Concurrently, the Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF) strengthened its regional presence by establishing strategically located satellite offices, complementing enhanced debt recovery capabilities through the engagement of specialized legal services and strengthened partnerships with financial intermediaries. These initiatives significantly improved accessibility to resources and services for young entrepreneurs and artists.

Policy Implementation and Progress

The implementation of the National Arts and Culture Policy gained momentum, as evidenced by ENCAC's establishment of the regional arts centres. These new facilities significantly enhance access to cultural resources across the country. The improved risk management framework implemented by YERF and strengthened sports administration by the ESRC also align with the MoSCYA's overall strategic objectives. The table below details these key policy milestones:

Table 1: Policy Implementation Milestones 2024/25

Policy Area	Key Achievement	Impact
Arts & Culture	Regional Centres Establishment	Enhanced access in all regions
Youth Enterprise	Credit Guarantee Framework	Improved risk management
Sports Development	Governance Structure Enhancement	Strengthened sports administration
Youth Development	Digital Integration Framework	Improved program delivery

This year's achievements demonstrate the MoSCYA's commitment to strong governance, effective administration, and the delivery of quality services across all its mandates. The ongoing efforts to improve accessibility and responsiveness to the needs of Eswatini's youth, artists, and athletes are vital in promoting sustainable and inclusive national development.

IV. SUMMARY OF MINISTRY EXPENDITURE

In the year under review, the Ministry was allocated a budget of **E117,064,953.00** for both recurrent and capital expenditure. A total of **E77,064,953.00** was allocated for recurrent

expenditure against a budget allocation **E40,000,000.00** for capital programme. Under recurrent expenditure a budget of **E58,537,506.00** was released in the period under review and already **E54,766,422.00** has been expended. Under capital expenditure **E40,000,000.00** has been committed and a contract has been signed with the contractor on site for the rehabilitation of Somhlolo National Stadium. Below is a summary of the Ministry's expenditure in the period under review:

Control Item	Annual BUDGET	Released BUDGET	Re- Allocations	Total Spent or committed	Variance	%
00-CTA Charges	1,100,944.00	825,702.00	0.00	725,897.00	99,805.00	12
01 – Personnel Costs	8,357,647.00	6,335,163.00	0.00	7,574,261.00	(1,239,098.00)	(2)
02-Travel Communication	520,373.00	765,704.00	(300,000.00)	412,084.00	349,717.00	46
04-Professional Services	6,634,063.00	4,525,127.00	(75,400.00)	486,723.00	3,610,388.00	80
06-Consumables	325,709.00	825,702.00	165,400.00	327,601.00	82,877.00	20
07-Durables	1,500,000.00	410,478.00	0.00	0.00	375,000.00	100
10 –Internal Transfers	57,940,325.00	375,000.00	0.00	44,705,240.00	0.00	0
11-External Transfers	685,892.00	44,705,240.00	(90,800.00)	534,526.00	60,567.00	10
Total	77,064,953.00	595,092.00	0.00	54,766,422.00	3,338,256.00	6

The Ministry's release budget is E58,537,506.00 and its overall expenditure is E54,766,422.00 as at 31st December 2024 showing that 94% budget allocation has been expended.

MINISTER'S OFFICE -ACTIVITY 10

CONTROL ITEM & DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	RE-ALLO CATION	TOTAL SPENT \$ COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
00 –CTA Charges	174,600.00	130,950.00	0.00	171,948.00	(40,998.00)	(31)
01-Personnel Costs	1,793,226.00	1,379,055.00	0.00	1,636,385.00	(257,330.00)	(19)
02-Services	183,727.00	476,501.00	300,000.00	249,614.00	222,984.00	47
04- Professional Services	49,842.00	37,380.00	0.00	658.00	36,722.00	98
06- Consumables	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
07-Durables	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Total	2,201.39500	2,023,886.00	0.00	2,058,155.00	(38,622.00)	(2)

The Department's release budget is E2,023,886.00 and the total expenditure is E2,058,155.00 as at 31st December 2024 showing a 2% overall over expenditure.

ADMINISTRATION – ACTIVITY 11

CONTROL ITEM & DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	RE-ALLOCATION	TOTAL SPENT \$ COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
00 -CTA Charges	533,158.00	399,867.00	0.00	498,253.00	(98,386.00)	(25)
01-Personnel Costs	5,129,439.00	3,875,502.00	0.00	4,560,612.00	(685,111.00)	(18)
02-Services	143,439.00	122,268.00	0.00	89,716.00	32,552.00	18
04-Professional Services	408,626.00	306,465.00	0.00	201,556.00	76,044.00	27
06-Consumables	311,472.00	324,401.00	90,800.00	258,300.00	66,104.00	20
07-Durables	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Total	6,526,134.00	5,028,503.00	0.00	5,608,437.00	(608,797.00)	(12)

The Department's release budget is E5,028,503.00 and the total expenditure is E5,608,437.00 as at 31st December 2024 showing a 12% overall over expenditure.

CONTROL ITEM & DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	RE-ALLOCATION	TOTAL SPENT \$ COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
00 –CTA Charges	110,001.00	82,500.00	0.00	55,696.00	26,804.00	32
01-Personnel Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
02-Services	76,343.00	64,599.00	0.00	42,936.00	21,663.00	34
04- Professional Services	2,916,348.00	1,812,258.00	(300,000.00)	0.00	1,812,258.00	100
06- Consumables	14,237.00	10,677.00	0.00	7,103.00	3,573.00	33
07-Durables	1,500,000.00	375,000.00	0.00	0.00	375,000.00	100
10 – Internal Grants	22,710,412.00	17,032,806.00	0.00	17,032,806.00	0.00	0
Total	27,327,341.00	19,377,840.00	0.00	17,138,541.00	2,239,298.00	12

The Department’s release budget is E19,377,840.00 and the total expenditure is E17,138,541.00 as at 31st December 2024 showing that 88% budget allocation has been expended.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS

CONTROL ITEM	ANNUAL	RELEASED	RE-ALLO	TOTAL SPENT \$	VARIANCE	%
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& DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	BUDGET	CATION	COMMITTED		
00 –CTA Charges	283,183.00	212,385.00	0.00	0.00	212,385.00	100
01-Personnel Costs	1,143,807.00	862,227.00	0.00	1,105,585.00	(243,358.00)	(28)
02-Services	41,832.00	38,718.00	0.00	0.00	38,718.00	100
04-Professional Services	1,462,098.00	1,096,566.00	0.00	284,508.00	812,057.00	74
06-Consumables	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
07-Durables	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
10 – Internal Grants	24,415,221.00	19,561,415.00	0.00	19,561,415.00	0.00	0
11 – External Grants	685,892.00	595,092.00	(90,800.00)	534,525.00	60,566.00	9
Total	28,032,033.00	22,366,393.00	0.00	21,441,033.00	880,368.00	4

The Department’s budget release is E22,366,393.00 and the total expenditure is E21,441,033.00 as at 31st December 2024 showing that 96% budget allocation has been expended.

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

CONTROL ITEM	ANNUAL	RELEASED	RE-ALLO	TOTAL SPENT \$	VARIANCE	%
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& DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	BUDGET	CATION	COMMITTED		
00 –CTA Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
01-Personnel Costs	291,174.00	218,379.00	0.00	271,680.00	(53,301.00)	(24)
02-Services	75,032.00	63,618.00	0.00	29,817.00	33,801.00	53
04- Professional Services	1,797,149.00	1,272,458.00	0.00	399,151.00	873,307.00	69
06- Consumables	0.00	75,400.00	75,400.00	62,200.00	13,200.00	18
10 – Internal Grants	10,814,692.00	8,111,019.00	0.00	8,111,019.00	0.00	0
Total	12,978,007.00	9,740,874.00	0.00	8,873,867.00	867,007.00	9

The Department's budget release is E9,740,874.00 and the overall expenditure is E8,873,867.00 as at 31st December 2024 showing that 91% budget allocation has been expended.

V. Parastatal-Specific Performance

1. Eswatini National Youth Council (ENYC)

Introduction

The Eswatini National Youth Council (ENYC) plays a crucial role in advancing the Ministry of Sport, Culture, and Youth Affairs' (MoSCYA) mandate of fostering youth development. Its

mission, **[to provide, facilitate, and support an all-inclusive multi-sectoral national youth development framework that is focused on strengthening the capabilities of the youth by providing opportunities and platforms that will enhance the youth to utilize their capabilities for their personal development and that of their communities and the country through a comprehensive, integrated and concentrated approach]**, is intrinsically linked to Eswatini's national development goals as outlined in the 2020 National Youth Policy.

The second quarter of 2024 witnessed significant progress in the ENYC's efforts to empower youth through diverse initiatives. While achieving notable successes across key areas, the ENYC also navigated operational challenges, primarily related to budgetary constraints and resource limitations. This section details the ENYC's performance, highlighting achievements, challenges, and its strategic alignment with the MoSCYA's objectives. The ENYC's diverse programs had a wide-ranging impact on the lives of Eswatini's youth, focusing on health and well-being, education and training, food security and nutrition, innovation and entrepreneurship, good governance and leadership, and social capital.

The Council continued to foster both core and coordination activities as per the mandate and Key activities included;

- 1. Health and Well-being** – The Life Skills Education program implemented in four (4) hot spots in the country with one (1) per region namely; Hhohho Region –Mahwalala under Mbabane West Inkhundla, Manzini Region –Mbhuleni under Kwaluseni Inkhundla, Lubombo Region – Mzilikazi under Lugongolweni Inkhundla and lastly Shiselweni Region – Sibetsamoya under Mtsambama Inkhundla.
- 2. Social Competency** - The life skills education (LSE) training manual was reviewed to enhance its relevance and effectiveness of the program. Stakeholders were engaged in consultations to gather insights for improvements.

Tune Me Promotion – Promotional activities conducted under the Tune Me platform during five major events included; The WORLD AIDS Day Commemoration, Lisango Dialogues, Peace Corps Resource Fair, Mbabane Youth Day and Crime Prevention Campaigns.

- 3. Social Capital** – Incwala SBCC Live discussion, International Day of the Girl Child, supported Langa Lethu Charity Organization, which is a Youth-led organization for people living with special needs/disabilities, to host a sport day. In collaboration with Scouts, Brigades, and Girl Guides, the Council further advocated for Youth Peace and Security. As a member of the Shiselweni regional stakeholder GBV network, the participated in

same. A total number of two Lisango focus group discussions on gender based violence were conducted in the Manzini and Shiselweni regions.

- 4. Education and Training** – As part of the technical committee for the youth Career Expo, the Council jointly implemented the Youth career expo in all four regions reaching 25000 in school youth and 180 out of school youth.
- 5. Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Employment** – Commemorated the International Youth Day themed “From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways to sustainable development”. Participated in the 2024 International Trade Fair under the theme "Accelerating Business Growth Through Digital Transformation", Supported ten (10) youth to participate in the business and leadership growth summit.
- 6. Food Nutrition and Security** – Council supported and advocated for further support of 130 aspiring young agriculturalists in partnership with WFF.
- 7. Capacity Development and Infrastructure** – Conducted training of 60 youth on the Commonwealth Values and Principles; Participated in the SADC Resource Mobilization Strategy.
- 8. Good Governance and Leadership – International Coordination**
 - a) Ghana** - Participate in the 2nd Consultative Dialogue for National Youth Coordinating Mechanisms, Regional Platforms and Youth Civil Society Organizations.
 - b) Zambia** - Benchmarking best practices to inform and strengthen the LSE program implemented in Eswatini.
 - c) Rwanda** - Participate in the 2024 Youth-Connekt Africa Summit held in Kigali under the theme "Jobs for Youth through innovative skilling “
 - d) Algeria** – Participate in the Pan-African Youth Forum held in Algeria from November 1st to 4th, 2024, with the theme "1 Million Next Level is Knocking: Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century".
- 9. Monitoring, Research Evaluation and Learning** – Website development, other media

Insights from this report highlight the significance of continuous innovation and collaboration to meet the evolving needs of the youth.

Table 1: ENYC's strategic objectives and the key performance indicators

Strategic Objective	KPI	KPI Definition	Target	Actual	Data Source	Percentage (%) Achievement	Variance Analysis	Weighting (Optional)
HEALTH AND WELL BEING	CONDUCT TUNE ME PROMOTION	A total #of 250 youth participated in the Tune Me platform, where the youth were supported with SRH information and services.	100	250	Tune Me platform	250%	The Eswatini International Trade Fair and the Umhlanga reed dance ceremony attracted more youth to the Tune Me platform.	250%
	SUPPORT UMHLANGA REED DANCE	A total number of one thousand (1000) young maidens was reached during the annual national Umhlanga Reed Dance. The young girls were assisted with SRH information and life-skills education (LSE).	500	1000	LSE platform	1000%	The young maidens were reached through strategic partnerships with Khulisa Umntfwana and NERCHA	1000%
	UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES REFLECTION	There are two annual country programme meetings that support the SYP country programme on LSE. This activity is on course.	2	1	UNFPA Participants register	50%	There is one CCA meeting that will be conducted in the third quarter. The performance is on course.	50%
EDUCATION AND TRAINING	SHISELWENI REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS GBV NETWORK FORUM	A total number of forty-five (45) Shiselweni stakeholders participated in the forum. The meeting transitioned to partners updates as follows; Murders and attempted murders amongst youth relationships (crimes of passion). Rape cases reported amongst AGYW between ages 15-40 years. Worrysome school dropouts that flee from their homes, making them more vulnerable to SGBV. The worrysome issues of the nonavailability of sexual kits in health care facilities that hinders the investigation of GBV cases.	1	1	GBV network Forum registry	100%	On-course	100%
FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION	WOMAN FARMER FOUNDATION GRADUATION	A total # of 29 young women enrolled in the Climate Smart Innovative Youth Tunnel Project. The youth were equipped with agri-business skills, value chains, business compliance and innovative farming techniques. The call for youth involvement in economic sectors that promote self-reliance, and entrepreneurship cannot be over-emphasized.	2	2	WFF registry	100%		100%
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE	LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM	A total #of 10 youth entrepreneurs were supported by the ENYC to participate in	1	1	MOU with the leadership and	100%		100%

		the leadership and entrepreneurship forum. The youth gained practical knowledge in leadership, business management, entrepreneurship and networking opportunities with industry leaders and other youth participants.			entrepreneurship growth forum			
	Establish the Youth Development Consortium (YDC)	The YDC concept was reviewed and changed after realizing that there was need to develop a coordination framework, first. This concept has been fully developed and shared with the UNFPA for support.	1	0	UNFPA	0%	After realising the need to develop a coordination framework, the concept had to be reviewed to incorporate the framework. This caused some delays in the processes of the YDC establishment.	0%
	South to South exchange programme	This activity was not implemented	1	0	UNFPA	0%	This activity was not implemented due to logistical challenges since this is an international activity. However, the challenges have since been rectified and this activity will be implemented in the third quarter	0%
	Mind-set change Programme	This activity was not implemented	800	0	ENYC program plan	0%	This activity will be implemented in the third quarter due to delays as a result of the tendering process	0%
	STATE OF THE YOUTH REPORT VALIDATION WORKSHOP	A total # of 30 key stakeholders participated in the validation of the State of the Youth in Eswatini report.	1	1	Validation workshop registry	100%	The report will be shared once the contributions that were made by stakeholders during the validation have been incorporated.	100%
	ORGANIZE THE COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY (IYD) AT NATIONAL LEVEL	A total #of 60 youth participants participated in the International Youth Day (IYD) commemoration.	60	60	Participants registry	100%	This Activity was a success	100%
	CONDUCT INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY REGIONAL DIALOGUES	A total # of 275 youth participants were reached.	300	275	ENYC/UNFPA registry	91.67%	This Activity was a success	91.67%
INNOVATION ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT	ESWATINI INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR	A total #of 700 young people were reached during the EITF.	1	1	EIPA registry	100%		100%

	ENACTUS COMPETITION	A total # of twelve (12) tertiary institutions from across Eswatini, providing a platform for young innovators to present entrepreneurial projects.	1	1	ENACTUS registry	100%	The Luyengo Campus emerged as the overall champions with their WASTE MANAGEMENT project.	100%
	YOUTH LET LEADERSHIP SUMMIT	A total # of 50 youth participated in the Summit. The Summit was aimed at empowering young leaders and providing a platform for interaction with accomplished speakers from different sectors.	1	1	Youth Let registry	100%	The activity was a success	100%

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Policy Pillar	Activity	Explanation of variance
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<p>SOCIAL CAPITAL</p>	<p>LISANGO</p>	<p>In line with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, the Council conducted focus group discussions (FGD's) within the Shiselweni (Mathendele Township) and Manzini (Kwaluseni Inkhundla) regions. The FGD's targeted 100 youth participants per target area and a total number of 229 young people were reached.</p> <p>The FGD's recorded 109 attendees, (72) females and (37) males in the Shiselweni region and 120 attendees with (78) being females and (42) males in the Manzini region.</p> <p>The dialogues were aimed at; Educating young people about the prevalence and impact of gender-based violence (GBV) in their communities, providing strategic support services and linkages towards addressing GBV, promoting gender equality through community engagements and involving men and boys as prevention to address the prevalence of GBV there-by, promoting positive gender norms.</p> <p>The dialogues highlighted the urgent need for continued awareness, education community engagement and also underscored the significance of fostering mutual respect, gender equality and accountability among young people. The event empowered participants to become advocates for change and provided practical tools to address GBV within their communities.</p> <div data-bbox="590 898 1629 1237" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>The Council in partnership with Khulisa Umntfwana conducted an SRH-R live discussion aimed at empowering Adolescent Boys and Young Men (ABYM) with life-skills to assist them make informed</p>
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	<p>INCWALA SBCC</p> <p>–</p> <p>Langaletu Charity Organization</p>	<p>decisions about their sexual health and well-being to prevent HIV and GBV. This was one critical opportunity to reach ingatja in empowering with life-skills education. The Live discussion reached a total number of 1000 views on the same day. Thirty (30) ABYM were present during the discussions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharing information on GBV and HIV prevention to address common misconceptions and myths 2. Address and challenge harmful gender norms and stereotypes that contribute to HIV transmission and GBV. 3. Encourage open communication, respect, and consent within relationships <p>The Council continued to promote social inclusion and equity services to ensure that all youth including marginalized groups have equal opportunities. The Council supported Langa Lethu Charity Organization, which is a Youth-led organization for people living with special needs/disabilities in hosting a sports day. The theme of the event was “Inclusive empowerment through sports: creating a sustainable Eswatini, leaving no youth behind”. This activity aimed at;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Inclusion: By ensuring that no youth is left behind, sports can be a powerful tool for social inclusion, helping to integrate marginalized or disadvantaged groups into the community. 2. Youth Empowerment: Empowering youth through sports provides them with a platform to express themselves, build confidence and take on positive roles in society. 3. Sustainable Development: By promoting sustainable livelihoods through sports, the Council sought to ensure that the benefits are long-term, contributing to overall community development. <p>The Shiselweni regional stakeholder GBV network forum provides partners with the opportunity to share their quarterly feedbacks on GBV issues affecting the region inclusive of;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adolescent Girls & Young Woman (AGYW) who are more vulnerable.
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	<p>Shiselweni regional stakeholder GBV network forum</p> <p>International Youth Day Commemoration</p>	<p>2. Strengthen case identification, management, referral mechanisms.</p> <p>A total number of forty-five (45) Shiselweni stakeholders participated in the forum, inclusive of the DPM’s Office, DCS, DPP, Ministry of Health, Home Affairs, EWADE, Nhlangano Town Council, SOS, Zuzani Goshen (a Shelter for women, youth and children who are GBV survivors) World Vision Eswatini, NATICC, NERCHA, SWAGGA, ENYC, FLAS etc.</p> <p>The International Youth Day (IYD) was commemorated on the 12th August 2024 at the George Hotel, Manzini. This year’s theme is dubbed "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development" The event highlighted the pivotal role of digital technologies in driving sustainable development and creating opportunities for young people. The IYD was characterized by engaging panel discussions inclusive of young leaders and experts in the digital space. These discussions explored the positive prospects of digital platforms that can be harnessed to foster innovation, job creation and the overall youth empowerment program in Eswatini.</p> <p>The event also featured exhibition stalls where organizations and young entrepreneurs showcased their digital solutions and projects. The exhibition provided a platform for knowledge sharing, networking and inspiration for the young attendees. A total number of sixty (60) stakeholders and (275) young people from all four regions of Eswatini actively participated, making the event a successful celebration of youth potential in the digital era. The Youth representatives including online viewers emphasized the urgent need for greater access to affordable internet and digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>The review exercise to assimilate the economic empowerment component within the LSE manual continued in the four (4) LSE ‘hots spots’ namely; (Mbabane West) Mahhwalala, (Lugongolweni) Matjeni,</p>
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	<p>Life Skills Education Manual Review</p> <p>Hlathikhulu Crime Prevention Gala Dinner</p>	<p>(Shiselweni) Mbilaneni and Mangwaneni and (Kwaluseni) Mbikwakhe – aimed to gather direct feedback on the revised manual's content. A total number of 156 young people were consulted in all four (4) hot spots, (96) being females and (60) males. The overall underlying activities were;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To Conduct a series of focus group discussions with out of-school youth across diverse geographical areas and socio-economic backgrounds. 2. To ensure that the final product (LSE manual) directly addresses the needs and perspectives of end users (youth). 3. To ensure that the findings from the discussions will inform the youth economic empowerment component and be integrated in the manual for LSE beneficiaries before the manual's publication and distribution in the targeted hot spots. <p>The Hlathikhulu Police Service in collaboration with the Council, raised funds for youth and crime prevention initiatives. The recent gala dinner raised over E200,000 in money, livestock and other valuable items. The Council supported the participation of 20 young people, (10) males and (10) females. The funds will be channeled towards supporting crime prevention initiatives and community development projects, particularly focusing on youth engagement and empowerment. The National Commissioner of Police, Mr. Vusie Manoma Masango, acknowledged the collaborations between the Hlathikhuu police and the Youth Council and emphasized the significance of such collaborative efforts in combating crime. The Commissioner highlighted the police service's commitment to reducing crime and fostering a safer society.</p> <p>The Council implemented the Life Skills Education Programme in four (4) hot spots, one (1) in each region. The identified hot spots were;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="590 1344 1234 1386"> <thead> <tr> <th>Region</th> <th>Inkhundla</th> <th># of youth reached</th> </tr> </thead> </table>	Region	Inkhundla	# of youth reached
Region	Inkhundla	# of youth reached			

<p>Life Skills Education</p>	<p>Hhohho Mahwalala 40</p>
	<p>Manzini Mbhuleni 40</p>
	<p>Shiselweni Sibetsamoya 40</p>
	<p>Lubombo Mzilikazi 40</p>
	<p>The Programme was segregated into three (3) success portfolios, being Mobilization and sensitization of communities – Community sensitization meetings were conducted in all the hot spot sites in a bid to mobilize youth participation and ownership of the project. There were orientation meetings on LSE at Inkhundla level inclusive of community gate keepers/leaders in all the regions.</p> <p>During the community mobilization exercise, eight (8) young people together with the peer facilitators were selected by the Inkhundla Councils to lead the mobilization of youth participants during the sessions. A total number of fifty-five (55) gate keepers were reached in all the regions. Emerging youth challenges shared by community leadership included;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The lack of adequate information and limited uptake of SRH services in communities 2. High Teenage pregnancy and unplanned, unwanted pregnancies 3. High HIV prevalence among the youth 4. Gender based violence <p>Refresher Training of Peer Facilitators or Educators – A total number of 10 youth peer educators were re-engaged from the previous Life Skills Education (LSE) implementation due to the limited resources. The training was conducted over two and half days with an overall goal of increasing skills and knowledge towards adopting protective sexual behaviours among young people aged between (15 - 30</p>

		<p>years). A total number of one hundred and sixty (160) young people were targeted in all implementation sites.</p> <p>The LSE out of school manual was used to capacitate the youth peer facilitators with a recap on topics relevant to the targeted hot spots in order to be able to disseminate accurate information to participants. Topics included;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, understanding sexuality, Building healthy relationships, personal values, their bodies and emotions etc. 2. Support of strategic stakeholders from the Ministry of Health (SRH unit) which covered the Sexual Reproductive Health component, Teenage & Unplanned pregnancy, Family Planning formed part of the trainers. 3. The Eswatini national aids programme (ENAP) covered; condom usage, STI's 4. DCS empowered the participants on GBV trends covering a wide range of social issues, GBV statistics, referral mechanism and ENYC Programmes on Planning for the future and aligning the importance of vocational skills and entrepreneurship training for livelihood on understanding sexuality. 5. Also covered during the training were issues of entrepreneurship paying particular attention on the basic elements of developing a business idea, incubation as well as exploring funding opportunities through Kwakha Indvodza. <p>Community sessions were conducted during the implementation period in all the targeted hot spot communities. A total number of 160 youth participants were reached, 73 males and 87 females. 109 Youth between the ages (18- 24) years were recorded and 51 youth between the ages (24, but below 30) years were recorded.</p>
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	<p>ESWATINI INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR - 2024</p>	<p>The Council participated in the 2024 International Trade Fair under the theme "Accelerating Business Growth Through Digital Transformation." This platform presented the ENYC the opportunity to showcase its programs and also to involve youth entrepreneur beneficiaries in marketing their products, promote youth-focused initiatives such as the Tune Me platform, engage with other key stakeholders and the Kingdoms leadership, His Majesty the King Mswati III. The Council leveraged on its partnership with the Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund in sharing comprehensive information and engagements of the youth development agenda on social development and economic empowerment. A total number of 700 young people were reached during the fair.</p> <p>Key Highlights, Youth Entrepreneur Participation: The Council engaged some of the youth entrepreneur beneficiaries from the Insika Yelikusasa Lensha Yeswatini (IYLY) project to showcase and market their products at the ENYC stall. These young business owners, representing a variety of sectors including fashion, agribusiness, and retail, were given the opportunity to present their products to both local and international attendees. This not only provided them with exposure but also practical experience in networking and business promotion in a high-profile setting.</p> <p>Visit from His Majesty, King Mswati III: The highlight of the fair was the visit by His Majesty King Mswati III at the ENYC stall. During his visit, the King interacted with the youth entrepreneurs, taking time to inquire about their products and their journey as young business owners. His encouragement and engagement was highly motivating for the youth, further emphasizing the significance of youth-driven business innovation and development in Eswatini. The King’s presence at the stall highlighted the government's recognition of ENYC’s role in supporting youth entrepreneurship.</p>
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	<p>Mahamba Gorge Hiking Awards Ceremony</p>	<p>As a key stakeholder, the Council participated in the Mahamba Gorge Hiking 10TH Anniversary Awards Ceremony that was held in honour of sponsors and strategic partners who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and support to MGH over the past decade. The Council was honored with a stakeholder award. This recognition celebrates the Council’s significant contribution towards youth empowerment and community development in the Shiselweni region. The awards ceremony announced the allocation of the 10th Edition project support towards of E30,000. E5,000 was allocated towards supporting youth initiatives aligned to this year’s NKWEE theme: “Lets invest in Preventing GBV”. Standard Bank in support of the theme distributed 250 school shoes worth E60,000 to 10 schools within the Mahamba corridor.</p>
	<p>JA/ENYC Incubation Program</p>	<p>The Junior Achievement Incubation program housed in both the Manzini and Shiselweni youth centers continues to attract young entrepreneurs. However, the numbers of these young people continue to decrease, this is due to that, the funding for the project phased out. There were 12 young people that accessed the center in Nhlngano and a total number of 9 that accessed the center in Ludzeludze. The Council is working closely with JA to transition new programs such as coding, basic computer skills and social media monetizing platforms, this will present a more attractive platform for the youth entrepreneurs in accelerating their ventures.</p> <p>The Council in collaboration with World-Vision Eswatini in the Shiselweni region conducted a business coaching session to a group of one hundred (100) entrepreneurs. The business coaching session was meant to;</p>

<p>YOUTH LET LEADERSHIP SUMMIT</p> <p>Sitjeni life skills centre T-Vet Graduation</p> <p>Mpaka Vocational Center Graduation</p>	<p>ENYC representatives as speakers during the day and financial support in the form of meals for dignitaries. The summit fostered a sense of community, empowered young leaders and amplified youth voices.</p> <p>The Council participated in the Sitjeni life skills center T-vet graduation. A total number of 104 skilled youth graduated (76) being females and (28) being males on the following categories; Catering and decoration, fashion designing and sewing, electrical grade 3 and computer hardware and programming. The Council challenged the graduates to use all available platforms such as the youth fund to access resources for their start-up journey.</p> <p>The Council participated in the Mpaka Vocational Centre graduation. A total number of 128 skilled youth graduated. The areas of graduation included the following categories; Air Conditioning, Building, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Electrical Wireman, Welding & fabricating, Sewing and Motor Mechanics.</p> <p>The Council responded to a call and also supported three (3) other youth led organizations with the application process. The Council’s proposal was on Empowering Young mothers and Youth with disabilities in Rural communities through Sustainable livelihoods. The three (3) other organizations are; Langaletu organization, Asitakhele and Hlumisa. The Council with exception, engaged Langaletu, an organization of youth living with disabilities in developing a proposal responding to a call from the New Zealand government. The Council was fulfilling one of its strategic mandates, which is to Strengthen Institutional Capacity and Enhance Coordination Mechanisms. The proposal was based on support for</p>
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<p>ESWADE Community Engagement</p>	<p>The ENYC participated in the ESWADE’s community engagement session held at Lusabeni, sharing information through presentations to 40 young people. The community engagement was aimed at assisting the youth in identifying opportunities and taking advantage of development projects, resources and opportunities in their communities in pursuing general agriculture. Stakeholders present to support the engagement included, Likusasa Letfu, Royal Eswatini Police Service and community gatekeepers. Information that young people were keen to receive addressed the following areas; Employability Skills, Market Research & Linkages, Entrepreneurship essentials, mindset change, and crime prevention. This platform strengthened ENYC’s role as a facilitator of youth access to development information.</p>
<p>UNFPA Country Programmes reflection workshop</p>	<p>The UNFPA Country Programme reflection training focused on empowering UNFPA Implementing Partners through the use of transformative results in achieving maximum impact incorporating the following stages;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Findings for evidence based programs, inputs and outputs for future outcomes and results using the following planning model; VUCA-volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguous. 2. TUNA - turbulence, uncertainty, new, ambiguous and lastly; BANI- bristly, anxious, nonlinear and incomprehensible. <p>The ENYC participated in the Common Country Analysis (CCA) workshop; an important exercise designed to build an evidence base for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including youth leaders, government officials, development partners, and civil society organizations, to discuss the</p>

	<p>STATE OF THE YOUTH REPORT VALIDATION WORKSHOP</p> <p>Eswatini Youth Expo</p>	<p>Strengthening Data Collection and Research: Conduct regular studies on youth demographics and program effectiveness. Establish feedback mechanisms for youth to voice their concerns.</p> <p>The Eswatini National Career Expo is a multi-stakeholder programme targeting both in and out of school youth and aimed at creating and raising awareness of the capabilities of young people and presenting an enabling environment for the youth to implement those capabilities for futuristic, sustainable livelihood purposes. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security is the lead ministry on this programme and the National Youth Council is one of the main stakeholders which plays a critical role of ensuring that the expo aligns with youth development goals.</p> <p>The primary objective of the expo was to provide;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Career guidance 2. Employment opportunities to both in-school and out-of-school youth 3. Equip young people with the necessary information and resources to make informed career choices. <p>Regional Expos</p> <p>Following the national launch, a series of regional expos were convened to ensure widespread reach and accessibility of the programme, even at grassroots level. These regional events allowed for a more localized approach, addressing specific regional needs and providing tailored information for the youth.</p> <p>Youth Participation</p> <p>A total number of twenty thousand five hundred and two (20502) in-school youth participated in the career expo. A total of one hundred and eighty out of school youth participated in the career expo. The following are possible justifications for then significant disparities of participation from the two co-horts of youth;</p>
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	<p>International Coordination</p>	<p>The Council participated in the following coordination activities as a way and means of keeping up with the acceleration of the International Youth development agenda with key stakeholders including SADC, PYU and AU;</p> <p>Algeria – The Pan-African Youth Forum held in Algeria with the theme "1 Million Next Level is Knocking: Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century", aimed to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a). The revitalization and reimagining of the African Youth Charter. b). The creation of platforms for collaboration where young people can connect, share ideas and build networks supporting their personal and professional development c). Promoting youth diplomacy by encouraging youth-driven solutions and leadership skills across member states. <p>Zambia – This mission aimed at benchmarking best practices to inform and strengthen the Eswatini chapter LSE program there-by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a). Ascertaining experiences on new CSE concepts as per the revised LSE manual in order to deliver a more comprehensive program. b). Interacting with LSE beneficiaries, behavioral gains and the adoption of healthy sexual behaviors for young people. c). Strengthening the Eswatini chapter CSE programme through the integration of the economic empowerment component. <p>Ghana</p>
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		<p>The consultation was convened under the theme: "Re-engineering Africa's youth development ecosystem towards stronger engagement and inclusivity: building resilient youth institutions to guarantee the Africa we want". This high-level consultation engaged National Youth Coordinating Mechanisms and other critical stakeholders with an objective to reform and revive Africa's youth development ecosystem. The dialogue brought together Presidents of National Youth Councils and equivalent structures, Heads of Regional Youth platforms, special National Youth delegates, Youth CSOs, Directors of youth, Ministers responsible for youth, regional and international development partners.</p> <p>MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULATIVE MEETING;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To gather insights and recommendations from National Youth Councils to inform the broader reform process of the Pan African Youth Union. 2. To empower National Youth Councils, Youth civil society organizations and stakeholders on youth development with the necessary tools and knowledge through a toolkit to effectively implement Article 12 of the African Youth Charter. 3. To operationalize the decisions made by the Specialized Technical Committee to reform the Pan African Youth Union. 4. Review the African Youth Charter: To ensure that the Charter remains relevant and effective in addressing the evolving needs of African youth. 5. To establish clear administrative and legal frameworks to govern the Pan African Youth Union's operations and electoral processes. 6. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the key recommendations and action points outlined in the African Youth Summit of the Future Declaration. <p>Rwanda</p>
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		<p>The 2024 Youth-Connekt Africa Summit, hosted by the Government of Rwanda, highlighted the innovative and entrepreneurial leadership of Africa’s youth who are developing context-relevant solutions. The event also challenged the ecosystem to invest more in skilling young people and building market-places for youth-led start-ups. The ENYC was afforded the opportunity to actively engage in critical discussions on youth skilling, share experiences and achievements in empowering young people and explore new partnerships and strategies to enhance impact.</p> <p>Brief Summary of Mission Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest in Future-Ready Skills for the youth. 2. Promote Youth Entrepreneurship, through enabling youth-led start-ups to thrive by creating and strengthening a supportive ecosystem that includes funding, mentorship, and business development resources. 3. Build Collaborative Ecosystems to strengthen partnerships among the government, private sector, civil society, and academia to scale up skilling efforts and economic opportunities. 4. Leverage Digital Transformation through positioning Eswatini as a leader in the digital economy by equipping its youth with advanced technological skills, introducing programs in coding, data analysis, artificial intelligence, digital marketing and ensuring that these skills reach rural and urban areas alike. <p>Staff capacity - Inability to decentralize the youth program Limited Resources – Making it cumbersome to fulfill the mandate</p> <p>Support the T-VET Kits distribution activities Support Mind-set change activities</p>
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		<p>Conduct Lisango Focus Group Discussions</p> <p>Support National Events</p> <p>Complete LSE review and submit final draft</p> <p>In a joint venture, develop the OVC grant and school placement system</p> <p>Website Content Management</p> <p>Youth Connekt Feedback Meeting</p> <p>Conduct MAHAMBBA Gorge Hiking Preparations</p> <p>Career Expo</p>
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Challenges

The ENYC faced several key challenges during this reporting period:

- **Subvention Support:** Limited funding and budgetary constraints hindered innovation and program growth, limiting the Council's ability to fully realize its potential. This was particularly impactful on initiatives requiring substantial resources.
- **Staffing:** A severe shortage of program staff hampered the establishment of program impact and resulted in staff burnout, negatively affecting staff morale. This limited the Council's capacity to effectively implement and monitor its programs.

Success Factors

Several factors contributed to the ENYC's successes during this quarter:

- **Strategic Partnerships:** Continued strong relations with key development partners (such as UNFPA) proved instrumental in implementing successful programs and securing crucial support.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Establishing strategic partnerships with UNDP and the European Union has secured valuable support and collaboration for youth empowerment programs.
- **International Collaboration:** Collaborating with the World Bank on youth empowerment initiatives will expand the ENYC's capacity to address unemployment and promote entrepreneurship.

Achievements and Process Improvements

Several process improvements contributed to enhancing the ENYC's efficiency and effectiveness:

- A live budget tracking framework was implemented to monitor daily budget commitments, ensuring alignment with the overall budget.
- Development of a supplier database enhanced procurement and accounting efficiencies.
- A comprehensive annual staff development plan was created to enhance staff capacity.

Future Outlook

The ENYC's strategic plan for the next quarter (Q4 2024) focuses on building upon the successes of Q3 and addressing the identified challenges. Key priorities include:

- **Finalization of Outstanding Audits:** The ENYC will complete all outstanding audits to ensure financial transparency and accountability.
- **Procurement of Vehicles:** The procurement and delivery of vehicles will be finalized to improve program delivery and operational efficiency.
- **Performance Reviews:** The ENYC will initiate its first performance reviews, evaluating the past six months and identifying areas for improvement.
- **Supplier Database Completion:** The development of a comprehensive supplier database has been completed, enhancing procurement processes and promoting efficiency.
- **Policy Review:** A thorough review of the ENYC's organisational policies will be undertaken to ensure alignment with current standards and best practices.
- **Insika Project Implementation:** The ENYC will oversee the implementation of the Insika Project, ensuring effective management and delivery of this important initiative.
- **Financial Data Management:** The ENYC will update accounting data systems, periodically reconcile the general ledger, and ensure accurate financial reporting.
- **Regional Office Enhancements:** The Shiselweni Regional Office will undergo branding and maintenance.
- **Staff Training and Development:** The comprehensive staff training plan will be implemented, ensuring that all staff members have the necessary skills and knowledge to improve organizational effectiveness.
- **Vehicle Maintenance:** The ENYC will ensure the proper maintenance and insurance renewal of its office vehicles.

VI. Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF)

Introduction

The Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF) is a crucial component of the Ministry of Sport, Culture, and Youth Affairs' (MoSCYA) strategy for fostering youth empowerment and driving economic growth in Eswatini. The YERF's mission—to provide accessible and sustainable business finance to young entrepreneurs—directly contributes to the MoSCYA's broader strategic objectives and aligns perfectly with Eswatini's national development priorities as outlined in the 2020 National Youth Policy. This segment details the YERF's performance during the period ended December 2024, highlighting its key achievements, challenges, and strategic alignment with the Ministry's overall goals. It provides key highlights for the period ended 31st December 2024. A total of ninety (90) loans with a total value of E3,882,552 were approved during this period under review.

Loan Approved and Declined

Assessment and Approval of Applications

During the period under review, a total of 183 applications with a total value of E6,447,938 were assessed. Out of these, 90 applications were approved, while 88 applications were deferred and 5 withdrew their applications due to personal reasons, including further education and relocation to South Africa.

Reasons for Deferred or Declined Applications

The primary reasons for deferred or declined applications included:

- Poor or inadequate production structure, such as a lack of reliable irrigation systems, fencing, or inadequate poultry houses
- Saturated or lack of markets
- High competition
- Marginal cash flow projections
- Highly indebted applicants with other financial obligations

However, the Fund is committed to supporting aspiring entrepreneurs in identifying alternative and profitable business ideas. To address these challenges, the Fund is collaborating with other financial lending institutions, including commercial banks and the Eswatini Agriculture Development Fund (EADF), to co-finance projects with inadequate production structures. This collaboration provides both working capital and infrastructure loans to support the development of these projects.

The Fund is also negotiating with development partners, such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to access blended financing opportunities. Blended financing combines grant financing with loan facilities to provide a more sustainable and viable solution for entrepreneurs.

Market Linkages and Facilitation

The Fund is also working to establish market linkages and facilitate business relationships between young entrepreneurs and well-established and reliable buyers. This concerted effort aims to address some of the challenges faced by entrepreneurs and provide them with the necessary support to grow their businesses successfully.

The Fund received a total of 90 loan applications with a total value of E 3.8 million during this quarter.

Figure 1: Loan Approved by Region April-Dec 2024

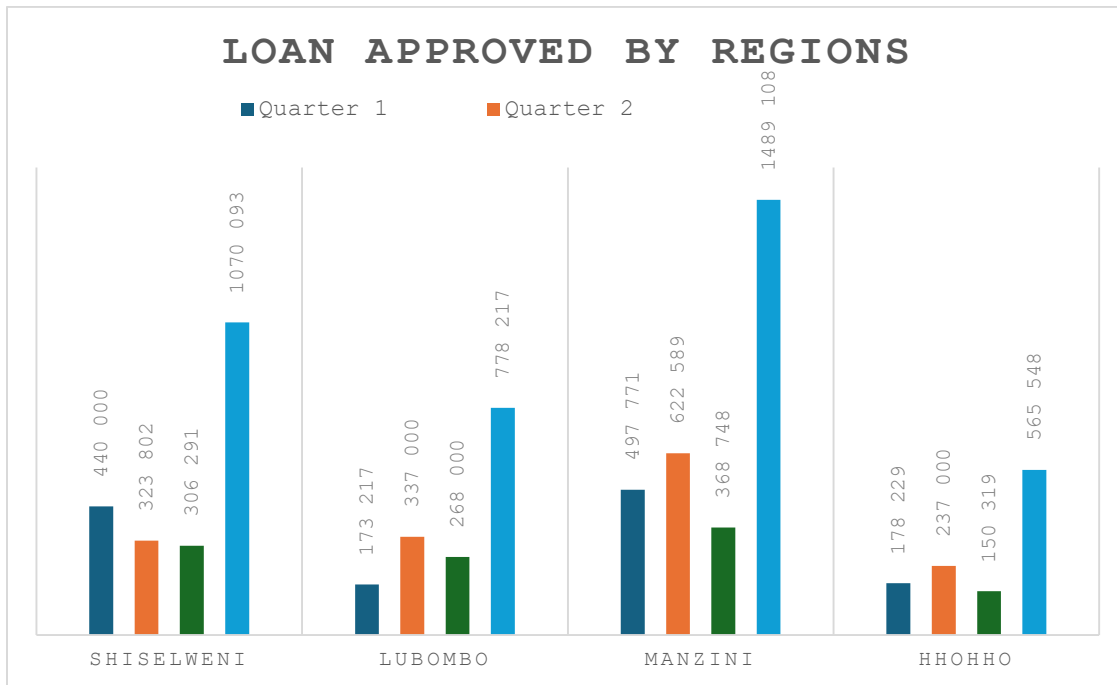


Figure 2: Loan Approved in Percentage April – Dec 2024

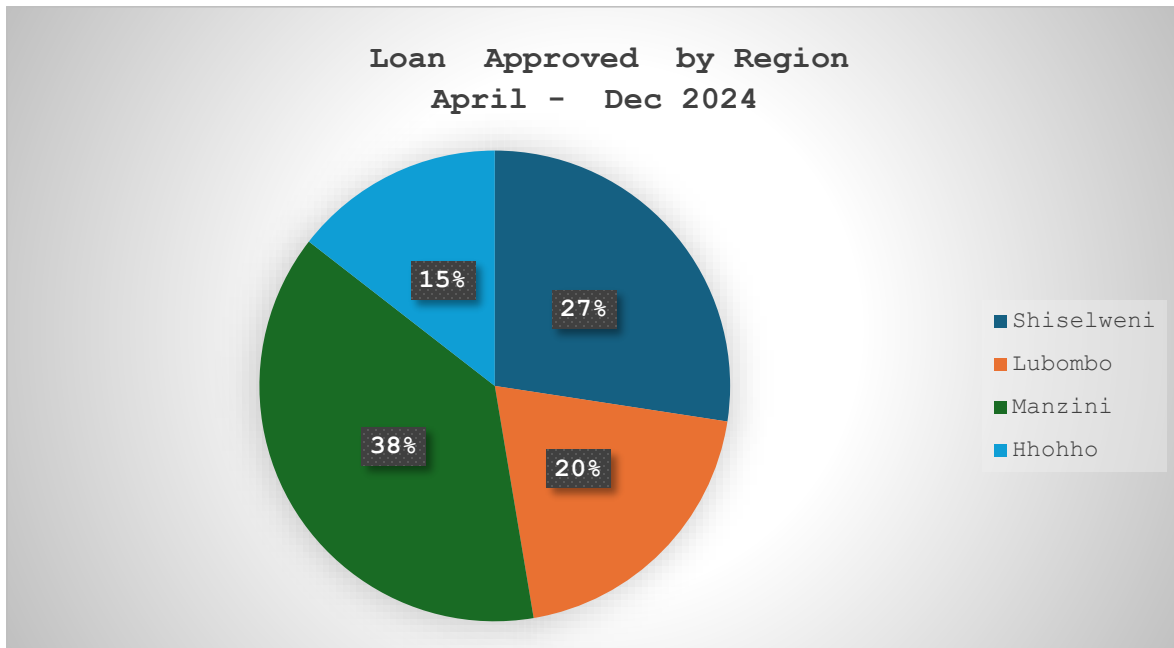


Figure 3: Loan Approved by Sector April-Dec 2024

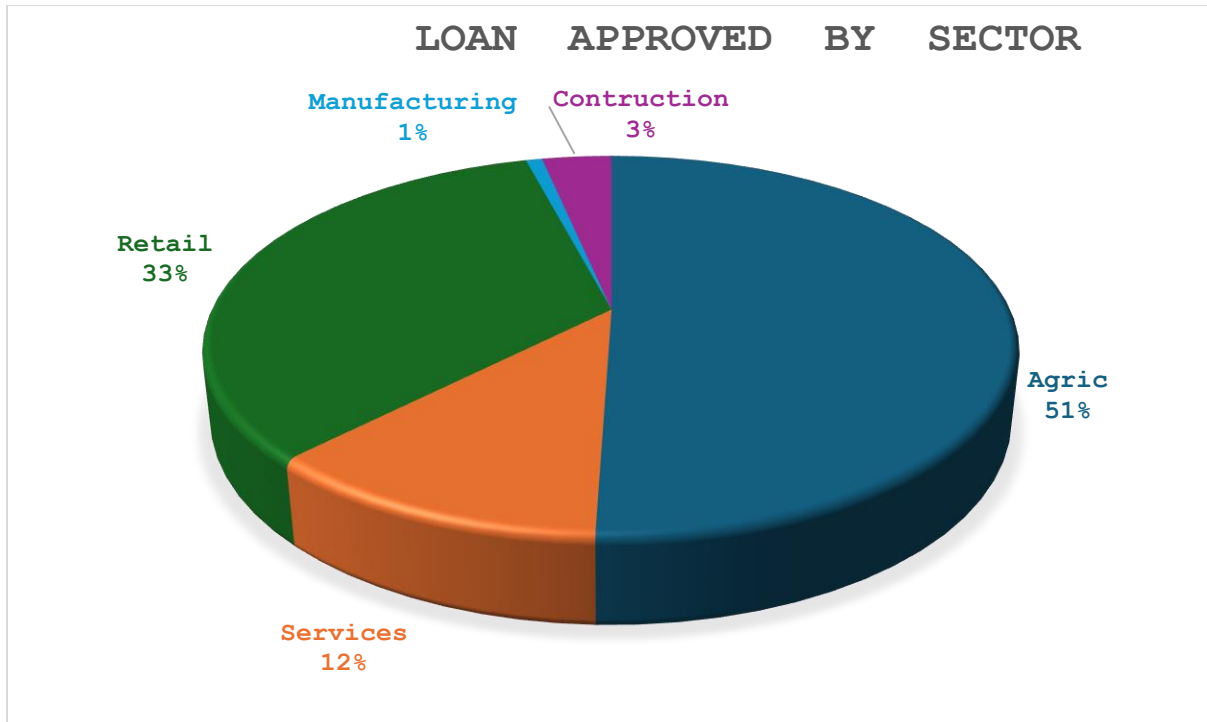


Figure 4: Approved by Region Oct-Dec 2024

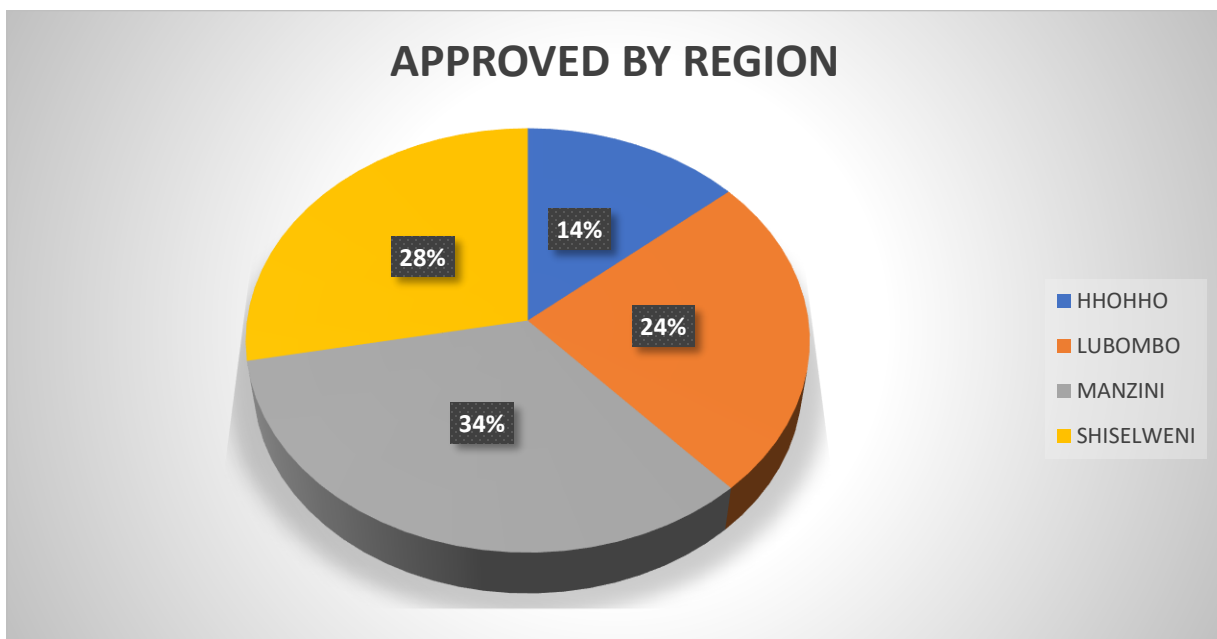
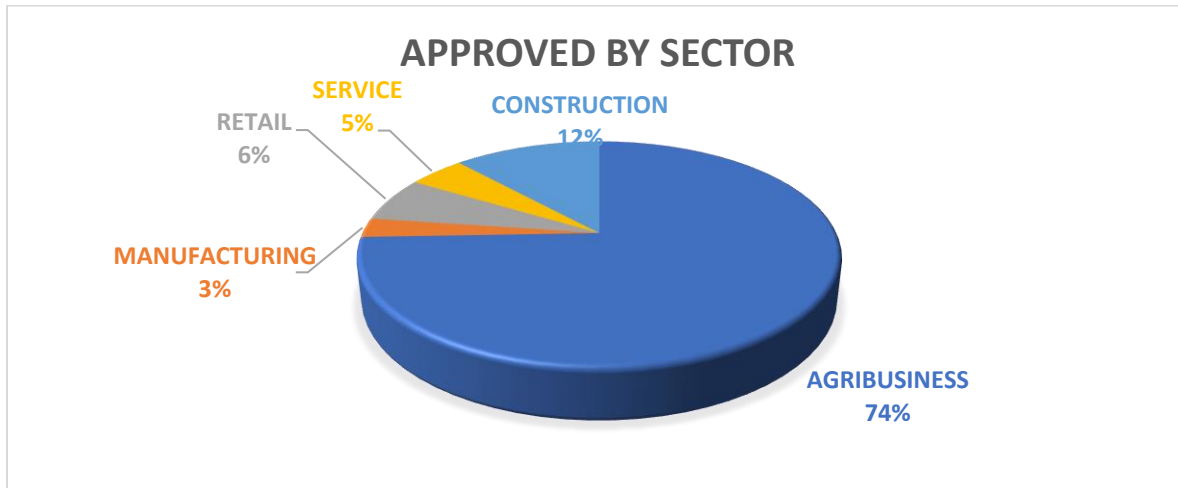


Figure 5: Approval by Sector Oct - Dec 2024

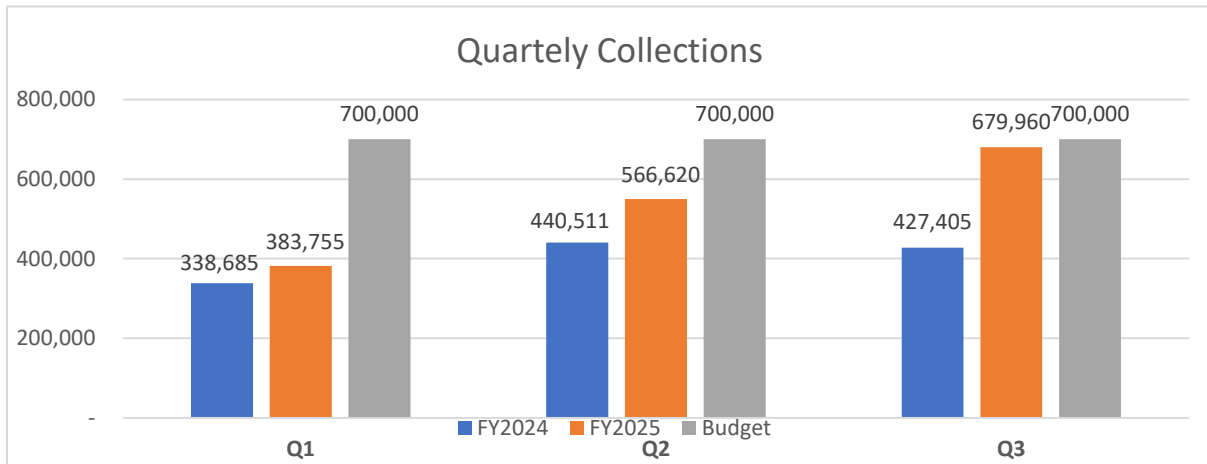


Loan repayment

The total loan repayment is at 99 percentage (%) of the E690,000 quarterly set strategy target. This loan repayment is inclusive of both the payments received as per the current loan agreements and debt collection exercise. The total loan repayment during this period amounted E679,960 to compared to E566,620 in the previous quarter excluding those blacklisted, closed bank accounts and those with lawyers for litigation. This is a 20% increase from the previous quarter.

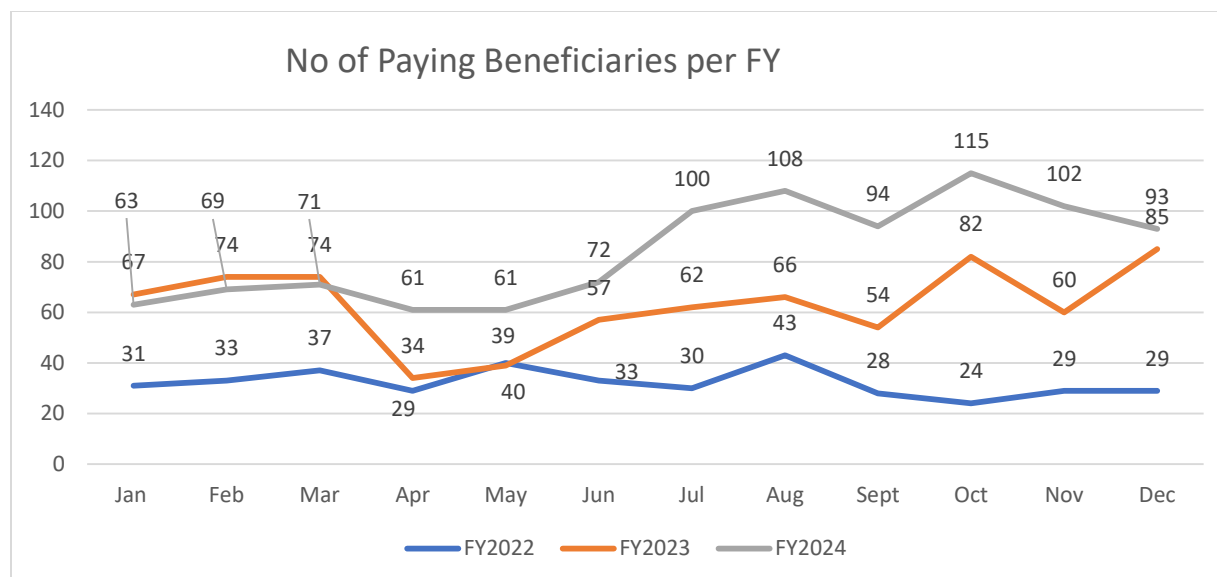
- Two (2) clients plus another two (2) clients from old debts settled their loans in this reporting period versus three (3) and two (2) for new and old debts respectively in previous quarter'24.
- The Department collaborates with the Debt Recovery Team on the debt collection efforts where both old (pre-2019) and new (post-2019) clients are being reminded to repay the loans. In this reporting period, a sum of E19,789 was collected from old debts (pre-2019) compared to E48,590 from previous quarter. Collections for the 3rd quarter FY2024/25 amounted to E679,960 compared to E566,620 the previous quarter. The quarterly collections trend is shown in **Figure 6** below for FY2023, FY2024 and FY2025.

Figure 6: Comparison of Quarterly Collections



The Fund observed an increase in the number of clients that are servicing their loans consistently monthly has increased compared to previous years, but this is still low given that there are currently 425 clients. The trend of paying clients is shown below in **figure 7**.

Figure 7: Number of Paying Clients



Intermediary

The Intermediary has been able to disburse for 49 clients, recommended 29 applications for approval and revised 2 previously declined applicant. There were no applications that were withdrawn by applicants in the reporting period. There are no applications that were withdrawn by applicants in the reporting period.

Strategy Implementation

Funding

The Department has facilitated funding of 29 businesses worth E1,093,358.

Loan repayment

The amount repaid in the period under review is E679,960 against an expected amount of E1,315,097. This represents a collection rate of 52%, which is still below the desired minimum target rate of 70% per quarter.

Business support

The YERF clients receive mentoring and coaching services from the Fund. 191 clients were visited in the period reported on and thirteen (13) were linked to markets for their products.

Thirty-three (33) beneficiaries were trained by the Fund in collaboration with CFI to capacitate the clients or beneficiaries on enhancing their financial management skills. This is part of the capacity building program for the Beneficiaries to strengthen their business management skills.

The Intermediary also focused on the assessment of eight (8) loan applications for bean production valued at E287,253 which shall all be sold by the beneficiaries to National Maize Corporation (NMC), where offtake agreements have been signed between the beneficiary and NMC in place.

Emerging Risks

These risks have the potential to negatively affect the performance of funded businesses which will increase delinquency. The World Economic Forum (WEF) regularly assesses global risks and emerging challenges through its Global Risks Report, which analyses potential threats that could disrupt economies, societies, and environments. This report summarizes the key emerging risks identified by the WEF, highlighting their potential impacts and implications for governments, businesses, and communities.

Key Emerging Risks

- **Climate Change and Environmental Degradation**
 - Increased frequency of extreme weather events.
 - Impacts on food security, water supply, and biodiversity.
 - Long-term effects on health and economic stability.

- **Cybersecurity Threats**
 - Rise in cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure and personal data.
 - Potential for severe economic and social disruption.
 - Increased vulnerability of organizations and governments to ransomware and data breaches.

- **Geopolitical Tensions and Conflicts**
 - Heightened tensions between major powers potentially leading to conflicts.
 - Risks of trade wars and economic sanctions affecting global supply chains.
 - The resurgence of nationalism and its impact on global cooperation.

- **Technological Disruption**
 - Rapid advancements in artificial intelligence and automation.
 - Concerns over job displacement and workforce skills mismatches.

- Ethical dilemmas arising from emerging technologies, such as AI governance.

- **Public Health Risks**
 - Ongoing threats of pandemics and the emergence of new infectious diseases.
 - Strain on healthcare systems and the need for robust public health policies.
 - Importance of global cooperation in vaccine distribution and health initiatives.

- **Economic Inequality**
 - Increasing wealth disparity leading to social unrest and instability.
 - Risks associated with economic recovery post-COVID-19, particularly for vulnerable populations.
 - Need for inclusive policies to address systemic inequalities.

- **Resource Scarcity**
 - Competition for critical resources, including water, energy, and raw materials.
 - Impacts on geopolitical stability and economic development.
 - Importance of sustainable resource management practices.

New and Emerging Risks faced by the Funds

Lack of Entrepreneurship culture

- Lack of entrepreneurship culture and training to enable youth entrepreneurs to develop viable and sustainable businesses.
- The lack of business skills and acumen leads to high business failures since the business owners are unable to mitigate against the business risks.

Mitigations

- We have proposed compulsory entrepreneurship training for new beneficiaries as part of the YERF program. This is subject to Board approval.
- An Entrepreneurship Toolkit has been finalised and disseminated to the public through our website and social media platforms.

Uncompetitive Sectors

Livestock

- Input costs for the livestock sector has increased mainly due to supply chain challenges, the Russia-Ukraine war, depreciation of the USD/SZL exchange rate and other factors.
- The livestock sector has become uncompetitive with most farming businesses showing little or no profitability. This ultimately impacts loan repayments for facilities granted for this sector.

Mitigations

- The EU livestock research has commenced with technical initiatives driven by the Ministry of Agriculture already underway. The Entrepreneurship component which YERF will be part of is progressing slowly due to some setbacks.
- Funding for the Livestock sector continues to be on hold except for vertically integrated businesses.

Mobile Money & E-Payment

- Banks and other businesses are continually introducing and updating mobile money platforms which bring efficiencies and reduces fees for the end user. These new innovations, however, pose challenges for the traditional mobile money vendors who are being made obsolete in the process as most of their functions can now be done electronically.

Mitigations

- Funding to the sector will be maintained at current level and monitored closely.

Climate Change Risks and Natural Disasters

- The escalating temperatures, fluctuating precipitation cycles, and unprecedented meteorological phenomena such as flooding, hailstorms and heat waves are posing mounting challenges for agriculturists. We have experienced several localised storms in the current season that have destroyed infrastructure and crops.
- Produce for agribusiness farmers is being destroyed by the adverse weather conditions.

Mitigations

- A specialised insurance product has been implemented to cover the impact of climate change risks.
- Proposals have been submitted to prospective partners for co-financing loan product for infrastructure funding for agribusiness farmers.

FUNDING

Applications

There is a pipeline of 236 applications amounting to E9,975,730 awaiting technical assessment by the intermediary. All the 236 applicants have been pre-assessed. From the 1st batch (114), 49 were approved, 31 declined, 21 deferred, 5 withdrew and 8 are underway. From the 2nd Batch, 13 were approved, 15 declined, 18 deferred, none withdrawn and 23 are underway. Yet with the 42 NMC applications, 5 are maize meal and 37 are beans. Beans are to be assessed in January 2025 when the season is about to commence. From the 5 maize meal applications, 2 are ready for credit committee presentation and 3 are still to be assessed.

Reasons for withdrawal/deferment

- Over/Underage of applicants.
- Relocation to SA of applicants.
- Finding employment by applicants.
- Feedlot projects where there is no vertical integration.
- Unhealthy credit worthiness – indebtedness.
- Giving up of applicants – due to missing documentation, not returning with submissions.

MENTORING AND COACHING (M&C)

The clients under YERF were supported to smoothly run their businesses and comply with all their obligations. The mentoring and coaching interventions included, facilitating the disbursement process, developing marketing and sales strategies, linkage facilitation (Market, supplier, technical experts, service provider), assessing financial performance, product costing and pricing and budgeting. These interventions were provided as per business needs. A total of 191 businesses support activities were carried out in the period under review.

The points of discussion included a review of the business performance, the production plans and demand for produce. Solutions to identified challenges which include poor product quality, input shortages and reported poor payments by customers.

The Fund has also started to conduct refresher training with partners on identified weaknesses of the clients. Currently CFI is supporting the Fund with resources to capacitate clients on personal financial management which has an effect on the financial management of the business finances.

LOAN REPAYMENT CAMPAIGN AND BENFICIARY RECOGNITION

The YERF loan repayment campaign and recognition of compliant beneficiaries was held on December 19, 2024. Eighty-five (85) beneficiaries, who have diligently repaid their loans or are currently repaying them without default, were recognized during the event. This initiative aimed to promote responsible credit behaviour and encourage loan repayment, ensuring the sustainability of the Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF), as poor repayment has posed challenges for the Fund in recent years. Beneficiaries who have not yet repaid their loans are encouraged to approach the office to make new repayment arrangements, thereby avoiding potential negative impacts on their credit profiles, including the risk of being blacklisted or facing legal action.



Figure 8- Honoured YERF beneficiaries in attendance.

The honoured beneficiaries were those who received funding from FY 2020 to FY 2023, as well as earlier beneficiaries who were funded before 2016 through a collaboration with the Imbita Women's Trust. These beneficiaries had accessed various YERF products, including standard loans, order finance, and Khula Natsi Loans.



Figure 9- Beneficiary giving a testimonial during the event.

During the event, beneficiaries shared their personal stories and testimonies, illustrating how the loan assistance had positively impacted their livelihoods. They expressed their commitment to supporting the government and commended YERF for its fruitful collaboration with the MTN Foundation, which sponsored loans for beneficiaries under the Khula Natsi Program. In addition, they highlighted the challenges they face as young entrepreneurs, providing valuable insights into the realities of youth entrepreneurship and the need for financial support.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Trainings or Business Clinics

A total of 108 young people were trained during the period under review.

Hlatikhulu Office Activation – Selected youth from various constituencies served by the Hlatikhulu satellite office received training in business plan writing and cash flow management. Additionally, two representatives from the Methula constituency, along with an employee from the sports centre, were engaged in the program to ensure they could effectively assist and address any inquiries from the youth both at the office and constituencies. Participants have been assigned the task of developing their cash flow projections and business plans for their respective ideas which will be discussed next month.

This is part of our decentralization efforts to build the capacity of potential applicants before they submit their loan applications. Individuals attending the training are from constituencies that include Nkwene, Mtsambama, Khubuta, KuMethula and Hlatsi Town. The goal is to empower these individuals by providing training to young entrepreneurs who are interested in accessing

YERF funds but struggle with the application process. The topics covered are idea generation, business planning, and cash flow management. Successful participants will be guided through the YERF application process and selected to become YERF ambassadors in their respective constituencies. This initiative will also foster the development of SMART ideas. The plan is to launch and calendar the program with two sessions per month.

Currently there are 12 young people participating in the program. The graduation is expected to be determined by the readiness of the trainees to submit the completed loan applications.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

The following challenges are noted in the period:

- i. The very hot temperature may affect the yields of clients who are in agriculture. Clients are reporting that both crops and livestock in particular broilers have died due to suspect heat stress
- ii. The clients still show challenges related to capacity to manage their businesses, contracts and the cashflows
- iii. There is still the need to fully operationalise the regional offices by increasing the personnel
- iv. The issue of clients that do not make themselves available for business support activities that include mentoring and coaching sessions poses a high risk to loan repayment and the sustainability of the businesses. This leads to worse performance due to either lack of skill or experience in business management.

VII. Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture (ENCAC)

Introduction

The Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture (ENCAC) plays a vital role within the Ministry of Sport, Culture, and Youth Affairs (MoSCYA), serving as the primary agency responsible for the preservation, promotion, and development of Eswatini's rich artistic and cultural heritage. The ENCAC's mandate aligns directly with the MoSCYA's broader strategic objectives and contributes significantly to achieving Eswatini's national development goals as outlined in the National Arts and Culture Policy (2023). This section details the ENCAC's performance during the second quarter of 2024, highlighting key achievements, challenges, and strategic alignment with the Ministry's overall goals. This period witnessed significant progress in promoting Eswatini's arts and culture both domestically and internationally, through the highly successful launch of the National Arts and Culture Awards 2024, the implementation of the Swazi Rally Cultural Experience, and the staging of the Limuva Arts Festival.

NATIONAL ARTS AND CULTURE AWARDS 2024

On the 14th of August 2024, amidst the vibrant ambiance of Happy Valley in eZulwini, we officially launched the highly-anticipated NACA Awards. The star-studded event was attended by prominent members of the creative industry, media, artists, the Minister of Sport, Art and Culture, and the Portfolio Committee. The prestigious launch was hosted by the talented KrTC, who unveiled the noble vision of the awards—to celebrate and recognize the trailblazers of the arts and culture industry, in line with the Arts and Culture policy.

NACA REGIONAL ACTIVATIONS:

Taking the NACA Awards experience on the road, we set out on an ambitious journey to reach every corner of Eswatini with our head-turning, branded NACA Awards Mobilisation truck. From Madlangempisi to Lavusima, from Siteki to Siphocosini, we traversed the length and breadth of the country, bringing the excitement and energy of the awards to all artists, regardless of their location. This initiative was a critical part of our mission to ensure inclusivity and mass participation. It allowed us to engage with both established and emerging artists, creating a level playing field and offering everyone a fair chance to register and participate in the awards.

Our activations also served as a platform to educate the public about the importance of supporting and celebrating the creative industry. Through our performances, interactive activities, and engaging conversations, we were able to connect with communities and spread the message of the NACA Awards far and wide. By the end of our journey, we had made a significant impact, reaching thousands of artists and citizens across Eswatini. We had not only captured the attention of the public, but also created a sense of ownership and excitement around the awards.

REGIONAL AWARDS

LUBOMBO REGION

The 1st stop on our NACA Regional Awards tour was the picturesque Lubombo region. Setting the tone for the events to follow, the regional awards showcased a diverse array of performances by nominees and traditional groups. Lubombo attracted 72 nominees vying for 16 arts and culture categories. The highlight of the event was the energetic display of the traditional Mthilane

SHISELWENI REGION

The Shiselweni Region National Arts and Culture Awards, held on 16th October 2024, was a triumph, attracting an impressive mix of stakeholders and members of the community. Attendees included Portfolio Committee members, Arts Board representatives, esteemed artists, nominees, and local MPs, creating a dynamic and engaging atmosphere that truly highlighted the essence of the awards. The Shiselweni region had a total of 36 nominees were competing for 12 arts and culture categories

MANZINI REGION

The Manzini Region National Arts and Culture Awards took center stage, gathering over 200 esteemed guests and stakeholders, including MPs, corporate leaders, and prominent figures in the industry. A total of 81 nominees competing for 23 arts and culture categories in the Manzini region.

HHOHHO REGION

The Hhohho Region National Arts and Culture Awards was a resounding success. Attracting over 200 guests, the event recognized and celebrated the exceptional talent and dedication of individuals and organizations within the Hhohho region to create awareness and generate excitement for the event, two activations were held in the bustling towns of Piggs Peak and Buhleni. A total of 91 nominees were competing for 19 categories in this region

NATIONAL NACA AWARDS:

Leveraging on the success of the Regional Awards, this brought **120 winners** from the regional level to join the shelved artists for the national finals, totaling **310 nominees** in contention for the coveted awards.

On the night of the national finals, on the 15 December 2024 an audience of over 1400 gathered at the Esibayeni Lodge to witness an unforgettable show of glitz and glamor, with performances spanning all genres and featuring artists from the regional to national awards levels. The ceremony was graced by esteemed guests, including the Prime Minister, Minister of Sports, Art and Culture, Members of Parliament, corporates, media, and nominees.

The night was a resounding success, with 50 winners going home with a custom-designed gong and E5000 prize money, making for an unforgettable and highly memorable event.

Quadrennial Periodic Reporting (QPR) for the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in Eswatini.

The **2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions** places information sharing and transparency stands at the heart of the 2005 Convention. Upon ratification, Eswatini committed to submit every four years “quadrennial periodic reports” on the policies and measures adopted, and challenges encountered in implementing the Convention.

The Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture, being a key stakeholder in the implementation of the convention, assumed the responsibility to ensure the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. The Council was responsible of compiling Eswatini report.

These reports are key instruments for civil society to engage with government officials in assessing progress made to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions.

Eswatini ratified this Convention in 2016, after an extensive consultative exercise with various government departments, civil society organizations’ and national arts and culture bodies.

The convention seeks to:

- a) to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions;
- b) to create the conditions for cultures to flourish and to freely interact in a mutually beneficial manner;

- c) to encourage dialogue among cultures with a view to ensuring wider and balanced cultural exchanges in the world in favour of intercultural respect and a culture of peace;
- d) to foster interculturality in order to develop cultural interaction in the spirit of building bridges among peoples;
- e) to promote respect for the diversity of cultural expressions and raise awareness of its value at the local, national and international levels;
- f) to reaffirm the importance of the link between culture and development for all countries, particularly for developing countries, and to support actions undertaken nationally and internationally to secure recognition of the true value of this link
- g) to give recognition to the distinctive nature of cultural activities, goods and services as vehicles of identity, values and meaning;
- h) to reaffirm the sovereign rights of States to maintain, adopt and implement policies and measures that they deem appropriate for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions on their territory;
- i) to strengthen international cooperation and solidarity in a spirit of partnership with a view, in particular, to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in order to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions.

In Eswatini, in the last four years, the sector has suffered through the COVID-19 pandemic. The government and the council had not anticipated the crisis and struggled to stabilise the sector. There were many reasons to this, but the most important ones were that the government and other cooperation organisations shifted focus in their priorities. The council's resources did not meet the demands of the sector thus falling short in means to implement the 2005 Convention. The pandemic was 2 years of no activity, the sector had to re-adjust and re-build, the drafting of the National Arts and Culture Policy started with the consultation of Civil Society Organizations. Capacity building programs are being implemented to popularise the National Policy and also this coincided with the implementation of a segment of the Arts and Culture Policy in the establishment of regional art centers. We strongly believe we are on course in this implementation of the 2005 Convention, although there's still need to further prioritize the sector at government level. This can assist increased budget allocation. A few exercises have to happen for this to happen, for

instance, we need to properly measure the sector to show the benefits of investing on it. It must be reported that the arts, entertainment sector has contributed 0.1% to Eswatini GDP.

A continuous engagement with the local UNESCO Commission to develop programmes that are cognizant of the objectives of the Convention for the country benefit from the 2005 Convention

SCHOOLS CULTURE COMPETITION

The National Arts and Culture Policy calls for the promotion of cultural awareness of the youth through formal and non-formal education to ensure that they are prepared to play their role in the cultural life of their communities. The Council through the Schools Culture Association facilitated and hosted the schools culture competitions pitting primary and high schools from across the kingdom.

The Inyatsi Schools Arts and Culture Competitions received a huge boost with a total sponsorship of E700, 000. The primary sponsor, Inyatsi Foundation, has generously contributed E500 000, which will ensure the event's success and sustainability.

Additional sponsors included the Eswatini Network of Women, which injected E150 000, and Imsebe Publishers, contributing E50 000 to the cause.

The competition started with a training workshop for the teachers and pupils held on April 2024. The workshop participants were equipped on various artistic skills for the various art codes that exist in the different schools. The arts codes in existence includes; Ummiso, sibhaca, Ingadla, umzingili, drum majorettes, contemporary dance, Umbholoho, theatre/ drama.

MAHAMB A GORGE MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024

The National Arts and Culture Policy outlines the importance of culture to boost tourism. Culture is one of the major motivation factors for the development of cultural tourism. Tourism can benefit from culture through, the diversification of the tourism product, enhancement of the product by acting as a pull factor, being a tourist attraction on its own and as a link with other sectors of the economy.

The Council, in view of the opportunity presented by the tourism oriented Mahamba Gorge Hiking Event; saw the need to introduce the cultural product to boost regional tourism in the kingdom.

The Mahamba Gorge Music Festival initiative seeks to re-direct tourism to the Shiselweni region, providing another platform for business growth in the region.

The inaugural Mahamba Gorge Music Festival attracted a reasonable number of arts consumers to enjoy the Comedy, poetry, DJ's, live performances from the 63 Eswatini artists that belt it out in the Shiselweni region

AFRICA DAY CELEBRATION

The Council joined the rest of Africa for the 58th celebration of Africa Day.

In the kingdom, the Council has several events to commemorate the day under the theme: *"Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa we Want"*.

The Council joined the celebrations in line with the African Union directive for member states to recognize and commemorate the 25th May as day an Epic dance competition was witnessed at Shiselweni Arts Centre and Siteki Arts Centre where the cream of local dance teams locked horns for the cash prizes.

The dance competitions were spiced with fashion shows where local designers were displaying their ethnic inspired designs, as part of the Africa Day theme.

The Hhohho regional centre joined the Africa Day celebrations by staging the Street Arts Festival where they showcased a variety of arts and culture activities including fashion designs, traditional dances, poetry, comedy and street drama.

With this year's commemoration, the African Union has highlighted the critical role played by the world's cultural and creative industries, including their contributions to GDPs. By declaring 2024 as the *"AU Year of the Arts, Culture and Heritage"*, the African Union urges Member States to invest in African culture and heritage as drivers of the economic growth and social development goals outlined in both the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Indeed, creative industries and cultural infrastructure contribute significantly to livelihoods, particularly in developing nations on the African continent. It is worth noting in this regard that a significant portion of those employed within creative and cultural industries in Africa are women. Arts therefore advance is SDG 5 on Gender Equality.

WRITERS AND AUTHORS WORKSHOP ON COPYRIGHT IN TEXT AND IMAGE-BASED INDUSTRIES AND REPROGRAPHY IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

In the absence of the Writers and Authors Association, the Council was tasked to identify and coordinate the participation of writers and authors in the training workshop organized by Eswatini Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Society (ESWACOS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade, through the Eswatini Intellectual Property Office (EIPO), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The meeting highlighted that reprographic licensing allows institutions and individuals to legally reproduce copyrighted works while ensuring that authors, illustrators, and publishers receive appropriate remuneration for their contributions.

The training was well attended by over 20 authors and writers at the American Corner, Manzini Public Library.

MUSIC RIGHTS HOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

In collaboration with the Council affiliates, the National Arts and Culture bodies, participated in the Music Rights Holders Training Workshop facilitated by the Eswatini Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Society (ESWACOS), in collaboration with the ministry of commerce, industry and trade and the Eswatini Intellectual Property Office (EIPO).

The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including singers, songwriters, musicians, producers, arrangers, music publishers, and record label owners.

Its primary aim was to educate and empower attendees with critical knowledge about copyright and essential music business practices.

The workshop marked a significant step forward in empowering Eswatini's music professionals, equipping them with tools to navigate the industry and advocate for their rights.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ENTC vs. ENCAC

In a bid to create opportunities and platforms for creatives to showcase their products and talent, the Council is seeking new partners in the cultural space to collaborate. In the period, the Council engaged the Eswatini National Trust Commission, a cultural organization to establish a

partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding for the purposes of collaboration and cooperation in various programs.

The purpose of this MOC between the ENTC and ENCAC is to provide a transparent, legitimate and accountable framework through which the Partners will collaborate and cooperate in the implementation of Mlawula Campfire Festival.

The key areas of collaboration envisaged among the partners includes information exchange, collaborative planning and joint fund-raising for the Mlawula Camp Fire Festival.

The Mlawula Campfire Festival is an ENTC flagship annual event held at the Siphiso campsite on the last weekend of October. The event target market is local and international camping enthusiasts; outdoor adventurers; families and companies looking for a different and refreshing adventure filled weekend away littered in a pristine and scenic wilderness area. The aim is to continually grow the festival and establish it as the biggest camping event in the country.

ENCAC through the Lubombo Arts Centre sought a partnership with ENTC to participate in the Camp Fire Festival, a collaboration in the providing artists for the festival. This was great opportunity for Lubombo artists to shine in their backyard yet international festival.

A total of 37 artists had the opportunities to grace the Mlawula Campfire Festival.

MISS CULTURAL HERITAGE 2024/25

The Council launched the Miss Cultural Heritage 2024/25 under the directorship of the office. The pageant was able to attract the participation of corporate entities as they pledged financial and technical support. Herein is the list of the friends of the pageant;

- i. Eclipse Investment
- ii. Workers College
- iii. Imisebe Publishing
- iv. Oukitel Eswatini
- v. Lassies Crafts

Miss Cultural Heritage Pageant committee has worked extensively in recruiting, in the four regions, and grooming the girls in readiness for the finals. Twenty-three girls contested for the pageant and they all qualified for the finals representing all four regions. The contestants were further taken for a boot camp (a cultural induction) at Mlawula Nature Reserve. They had a meet

and greet session with the Rangers, where they had a chance to ask a pertaining nature reserves and the communities surrounding it. They were also introduced to heritage sites in the Kingdom and their importance. The purpose of the boot camp is to educate the young girls the way of life of Emaswati, which also include, kutfota, kusindza and the different cultural dances in the country. The boot camp also incorporated rehearsals for the finals which were held at Mlawula Nature Reserve in partnership with the Mlawula Campfire Festival.

With attractive prize packages for the winners; which included prize money, bursaries and hampers, the event took off on a high note, showcasing the diverse talents that exist in the kingdom. The eventual winners from all four regions are

- i. Gcinizwi Tsikati - Queen
- ii. Nonkazimulo Bennet– Manzini Region
- iii. Precious Dlamini – Lubombo Region
- iv. Mbali Mashiloane – Shiselweni Region
- v. Senamile Mwali – Hhohho Region

MISS ESWATINI 2024/25

Temvelo Mtsetfwa was crowned Miss Eswatini 2024 in a glamour-filled event held at the Happy Valley Hotel. Scooping the First Princess crown was Nowethu Motsa while the Second Princess went to Claire Matisa. The top three ladies were all smiles and looked classic in their all-black evening gown designs. The pageant license holders Oukitel Eswatini had upgraded the grand prize for the pageant to a brand-new car, the JAECOO J7 for the newly crowned Temvelo Mtsetfwa.

SWAZI RALLY CULTURAL EXPERIENCE (RIDER'S RALLY 2024)

The Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture has collaborated with Rider's Ranch, an events venue based in Sidvokodvo, Eswatini, to set up a unique Eswatini Cultural Village to provide a unique and memorable cultural experience.

The Rider's Ranch, known for its unique castle-inspired architecture and being home to one of the largest motorcycle events in Eswatini, has seen the need to create a cultural village installation that showcases the rich and diverse heritage of Eswatini.

The main objective of the cultural village installation is to promote and preserve the culture and identity of Eswatini, while also creating economic opportunities and empowerment for the local community.

The Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture was running the cultural experience program at this traditional village. The cultural experience program had a mixture of culture and performative arts including music, poetry, contemporary dance, fashion and drama.

The village and program attracted the attention of the visiting bikers from within and outside the country, who gained a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Swazi way of life.

The cultural village, not only performance space also supported local artists, chefs, artisans, and craftsmen, who were showcase their talents and products, and generating income from their work.

The program was also able to foster social cohesion and pride among the Swazi people, celebrating their heritage and diversity. This was evident each time a group was performing, they would join the dance or singing.

REGIONAL MUSIC REHEARSAL ROOM

In the quest to improve access to arts facilities in the regions, the Council has set up fully equipped regional music rehearsal rooms, which are essential spaces for musicians to practice, write, and record music. The rehearsal rooms are located in the regional arts centres in Lubombo-Siteki, Shiselweni-Nhlangano, and Hhohho-Mbabane.

During the public presentations of the facilities it was noted that these spaces have a significant impact on the music industry by providing a place for musicians to develop their skills and create contemporary music, and by fostering a vibrant and diverse local music scene.

Rehearsal rooms will be operated as a non-profit business, but based on membership to the facility. The minimal subscription shall also contribute towards the expenses of training programs offered by established and experienced music professionals.

The rehearsal rooms are an essential part of the music ecosystem and play a crucial role in the development of musicians and the music industry. They provide a dedicated space for musicians to practice, write, and record music, and help to nurture local music scenes by providing a place for musicians to come together, collaborate, and perform. They act as a critical meeting point between amateur and professional musicians and bands.

SETTING UP OF MANZINI ARTS CENTRE

The Manzini Arts Centre, situated at the Cathedral Complex opposite St. Theresa Primary School, is under construction. The new Centre has ample space for both indoor and outdoor, to be a home to a wide variety of local arts and community groups, including the music recording studios and rehearsal room.

The centre will be a meeting place where creatives can come together to experience and enjoy the arts. Art classes and workshops will be on offer throughout the year for people of all ages, and all of the Centre's art studios and meeting rooms, including an exhibition space, will be available for hire.

At present the space needed little alterations to be repurposed for artist studios, exhibit space, classrooms, performance and rehearsal space, office space, and the required administrative, storage and other support space.

The spaces will be developed and managed in a collaborative model with complimentary partners whose use of the space would provide a dynamic and synergetic presence in the community and create affordable workspace and venues appropriate to house artist studios, galleries, theatre space, a community arts workshop space, a design workshop and arts administration offices.

ESWATINI CHORAL MUSIC TO THE WORLD

THE Minister of Sports, Youth and Culture Affairs Bongani Nzima bid farewell to choirs that will be representing Eswatini at the International Tiro Mpane Choral competition in Johannesburg.

It must be reported that four choirs namely, Emmanuel Methodist Choir, Mbabane Methodist Choir, His Majesty's Correctional Services Choir, and the Royal Eswatini Police Services Choir represented Eswatini in this prestigious choral competition. He encouraged the choirs to conquer at the competition, reminding them that their achievements reflected the honor of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

INCWALA CEREMONY

In promoting and marketing the rich Swazi cultural heritage, the Council inducted the beauty pageants in this sacred national ceremony through the participation in the national dance. The beauty queens attended most parts of the national event, visiting the various regions with the regiments. The participation in these national ceremonies and events is part of their responsibilities as ambassadors for young people.

It also serves as a learning experience, equipping the beauty queens for their participation in international competitions. As country ambassadors, the queens are expected to be conversant with the Eswatini Culture, traditions and customs.

MPUMALANGA CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

In strengthening the existing relationship with Mpumalanga Provincial Government through the department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, our kingdom participated in the annual Mpumalanga Cultural Experience held at Mbombela.

With an array of artistic activities in the different parts of Mbombela, the Eswatini traditional dance troupe participated in the traditional Street Carnival Experience, joining other traditional groups from the different provinces and the Republic of Mozambique. A forty-member culture troupe including a Gospel Artist represented Eswatini at the Cultural Experience.

The Mpumalanga Cultural Experience is an initiative by the province intended to promote social cohesion and nation building through culture while giving young and upcoming artists an opportunity to showcase their talent.

REGIONAL ARTS CENTRES

REGION	ACTIVITIES
LUBOMBO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated the participation of artists at the Mlawula Campfire Festival • Supported the Miss Cultural Heritage finals at Mlawula Camp Fire 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted the Lubombo Regional Awards 2024 at Ubombo Country Club, Big bend • Co-ordinated the participation of regional winners to the NACA 2024 • Miss Teen Charity presentation • Schools Poetry Training Workshop • Africa Day Celebrations (Dance Competitions, Fashion show, Fine Arts Exhibition) • Miss Teen Contestants auditions and crowning • KaLanga Schools Arts Festival (competitions at KaLanga Umphakatsi) • Good Shepard College Culture Night
<p>HHOHHO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limuva Arts Festival 2024 • Africa Day Celebration (Street Arts Festival) • Mangwaneni Culture Day • Hosted the Hhohho Regional Awards 2024
<p>SHISELWENI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahamba Gorge Music Festival • Miss Teen Shiselweni Contest • Shiselweni Regional Awards 2024 • Masiphula High School Culture Day • Evelyn Baring High School Culture Day
<p>MANZINI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangcongco Talent Show • Manzini Regional Awards 2024 • Supported the VOC Gospel Crossover event • Shukuma Ntfongwaneni Inkhundla, Manzini South • Manzini Youth In Craft, Arts and Sports

NATIONAL ARTS AND CULTURE ASSOCIATIONS

A SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL -DECEMBER 2024

ASSOCIATION	ACTIVITIES
1. ACAESWA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VOC Gospel Crossover at Mavuso Trade Centre NACA 2024 Participation in the ESWACOS Copyright Workshop
2. ESWAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO ACTIVITY
3. ENCMA (CHORAL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Bank National Choral Music Competition Tiro Mpane Choral Competition Participation in the ESWACOS Copyright Training Workshop
4. ASTG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for Theatre Week scheduled for March 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of a volunteer director to coordinate ASTG activities • Networking with local & international organisations to support theatre in the kingdom • Mobilised participation in the NACA 2024
5. ESTMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Meetings with memberships • Participation in the ESWACOS Training Workshop on the Eswatini Draft Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Regulations 2024 • Participation in the NACA 2024
6. ESCCA (Schools Culture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Schools Culture Competitions • National Schools Choral Music Competitions • NACA 2024 Participation
7. PAGEANTS ESWATINI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of national pageants Framework • Miss Cultural Heritage 2024/5 Crowning • Miss Eswatini 2024/25 • Pageant winner's participation at Incwala National Ceremony
8. ESWATINI MODELS ASSOCIATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilise participation of membership in the NACA 2024 • Participated in the ESWACOS Training Workshops • Establishing Regional Sub-committees • Regional Auditions for new models

<p>9. ESNUA UMBHOLOHO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACA AWARDS 2024 •
<p>10. IMIGIDVO YESINTFU ESWATINI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRADE FAIR Traditional Dance Competitions • Nkhaba Traditional Dance Competition
<p>11. ESWATINI FILM & TELEVISION ASSOCIATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The casting for 25 actors for the film titled ‘Mahlaba’ • The filming of ‘Mahlaba’, a SiSwati film featuring international cast. • Participation in the ESWACOS Training Workshop
<p>12. VISUAL ARTISTS NETWORK ESWATINI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTN Bushfire Festival Exhibition • Mahamba Gorge Music Festival Exhibition • Copyright Training Workshop for right holders • Formation of regional sub-committee (Manzini and Lubombo) •
<p>13. Eswatini Fashion Designers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilised participation of member’s participation in NACA 2024 • Organised wardrobe (outfits) for Miss Cultural Heritage 2024 finals and Miss Eswatini
<p>14. ESWATINI POETS ASSOCIATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of a new interim Committee, currently reviving regional committees and activities • Reviving the administrative structure of the Association • Participated in Training Workshop organised by the America Embassy and ESWACOS
<p>15. Composers Forum</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged by the CHORAL Association to compose prescribed songs for the Standard Bank Choral Music Championship 2025. • Tasked by Eswatini Schools Choral Association to compose songs for the Eswatini Bank sponsored competition, celebrating the bank 60th Anniversary.
<p>16. Eswatini Events Managers and Promoters Association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the Event Management Regulations in Eswatini • Forging partnership with Eswatini Royal Eswatini Police • Event Accreditations and licensing • Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright Training Workshops
<p>17. COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSIC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected new office bearers • Aailed 4 artists to perform at the Mlawula Camp Fire Festival • Hosted the Amigos at Gobolondlo Hall, Piggs Peak
<p>18. ESWATINI NATIONAL DANCE ASSOCIATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step Africa Dance Workshop with the support of American EMBASSY • Dance Competition at Timphisini • NACA 2024 dance choreography •
<p>19. WRITERS & AUTHORS ASSOCIATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Workshop on copyright protection in text and image-based industries, in particular, reprography licensing in the education sector

ENCAC continued to monitor their activities and further availed grants to assist, undertake promotional and development projects. In this quarter under review, ENCAC availed administrative grants to assist the Associations to effectively carry out their administrative activities.

It is high time that Arts and Culture bill is enacted to respond to today's challenges. We are hopeful that the arts and culture act will stimulate economic activity in the arts.

We are noting a greater need to adopt measures to strengthen participation and access to culture by digital means. Often the measures include access to virtual training in the digital domain or even in other areas. The recent NACA 2024 actively on the digital space, presenting an opportunity to our creatives to embrace digital transformation. This presented a pressing need to secure internet access and digital tools for artists.

This is an opportune moment to try to structure partnerships with mobile internet service providers and cultural and creative industries (CCIs). Artists and CCI players need support to be able to get online to continue to produce and disseminate their works. Ensuring that artists have digital skills, including digital monetization skills, becomes more crucial.

VIII. Eswatini Sport & Recreation Council (ESRC)

Introduction

The Eswatini Sport & Recreation Council (ESRC) plays a vital role within the Ministry of Sport, Culture, and Youth Affairs (MoSCYA), serving as the primary agency responsible for regulating and promoting sporting excellence and increased participation in sports and recreation across Eswatini. The ESRC's mandate aligns directly with the MoSCYA's broader strategic objectives and contributes significantly to achieving Eswatini's national development goals as outlined in the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. This section details the ESRC's performance during the reporting period ended 31st December 2024, highlighting key achievements, challenges, and strategic alignment with the Ministry's overall goals. This period witnessed substantial progress in maximizing participation through the highly successful Tinkhundla Talent Search program and the promotion of Shukuma Eswatini initiatives. Significant achievements were also made in maximizing sporting excellence, through athlete support, coach development, and participation in international competitions. However, the ESRC also faced challenges, primarily related to infrastructure limitations and resource mobilization, necessitating proactive mitigation strategies.

NATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS GRANT SUPPORT

The national sports associations grant support seeks to provide support to licensed sports and/or recreation bodies for various sports development and sports for development initiatives that are in line with the sports development continuum and national development index. Grant support totaling **SZL 3'323'809.37** was disbursed to various sports bodies during the period under review for various sports development initiatives, including international participation and sports for development initiatives. The table below shows the summarized disbursements made during the period under review:

APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER - DECEMBER
1'149'652.50	1'128'506.87	1'045'650.00
TOTAL SPONSORSHIP		3'323'809.37

A further SZL 1'170'379.00 was disbursed to the Eswatini Olympic & Commonwealth Games Association in respect of 50% of accreditation fees for the African Union Sports Council Region 5 Youth Games scheduled for Namibia, July 2025.

NATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

The following capacity development initiatives were executed by respective recognized sports bodies during the period under review. These initiatives entailed the training and accreditation of administrators, coaches, referees, medics etc.

ASSOCIATION	ACTIVITY	DATES	OUTPUTS
Eswatini Football Association	EFA Administration and Management Course	18-22 April 2024	13 Participants Certified.
Eswatini Swimming Association	Level 1-World Aquatics Coaches Certification Course	20-22 June 2024	6 Coaches Certified Level 1 Coaches.

ASSOCIATION	ACTIVITY	DATES	OUTPUTS
Basketball Association of Eswatini	National Coaches Clinics	26-28 th July 2024	24 * BASE National Level Basketball Coaches Certified
Eswatini Boxing Association	National Level 1 Coaches and Judges Course	20-25 August 2024	22 * EBA National Level 1 Referees and Judges Certified
Eswatini Football Association	FIFA MA Referees Course	6 th – 9 th August 2024	31 * FIFA MA Referees Certified.
Eswatini Rugby Union	World Rugby Level 1 Fair	15 th – 18 th August 2024	2 * World Rugby Level 1 Fair Officials Certified.
	WR Level 1 Officiating	15 th – 18 th August 2024	3 * World Rugby Level 1 Referees Certified.
	Educator	15 th – 18 th August 2024	1 * World Rugby Educator Certified.
Eswatini National Volleyball Association	International Referees Course	7-15 July 2024	1 * FIVB Level 1 Referee Certified.
	FIVB Level 1 Coaches' Course	12 th – 16 th August 2024	38 * FIVB Level 1 Coaches Certified.

ASSOCIATION	ACTIVITY	DATES	OUTPUTS
Athletics Eswatini	World Athletics CECS Level 2 Course	11 – 24 November 2024	1 Level 2 Coach Certified.
	First Aid Course Level 1	December 2024	

ASSOCIATION	ACTIVITY	DATES	OUTPUTS
			15 Technical Officials Certified.
	DNSS Level 1 Coaching Course & Kids Athletics Course	July – December 2024	45 Coaches Certified.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Eswatini Sport & Recreation Council is grateful to the support extended to licensed national sport bodies by various corporate entities. Total sponsorship support of **SZL 11'355'000.00** was received during the period under review by respective licensed sports bodies for their various sport initiatives/activities/events as summarised in the matrix below:

APRIL - JUNE	JULY - SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER - DECEMBER
1'475'000.00	4'595'000.00	5'285'000.00
TOTAL SPONSORSHIP		11'355'000.00

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: MAXIMIZING PARTICIPATION IN SPORT/PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES/RECREATION ACTIVITIES FOR AN ACTIVE ESWATINI.

SHUKUMA ESWATINI PROGRAM

The following are Shukuma Eswatini outreach activities that were delivered successfully during the period under review at the following Tinkhundla constituencies:

- Timphisini Inkhundla - Saturday, 15th June 2024
- Mtfongwaneni Inkhundla - Saturday, 29th June 2024
- Siphofaneni Inkhundla - 12th October 2024
- Zombodze Emuva Inkhundla - 19th October 2024
- Mbabane West ** - 31st December 2024
- Mbabane East ** - 31st December 2024

The Mbabane West & East Shukuma activities were a collaboration with the Philani Maswati Charity Organisation.

TINKHUNDLA TALENT SEARCH COMPETITION – ATHLETICS & FOOTBALL

The Tinkhundla Talent Search & Identification Programme was officially launched by the Honorable Minister of Sports, Culture & Youth Affairs on 12th June 2024. As a result, the Shukuma Eswatini outreach activities were paused in the second quarter (July-September 2024) to give way for delivery of the talent search competition in particular the football component.

Football Competition:

The Football competition was delivered successfully, with the following Tinkhundla emerging as Regional Champions and each receiving **SZL 20'000.00** for their achievement.

- Hhohho Region - Timpisini Inkhundla
- Manzini Region - Kwaluseni Inkhundla
- Lubombo Region - Lomahasha Inkhundla
- Shiselweni Region - Sigwe Inkhundla

The four regional champions progressed to the national finals contested at the Somhlolo National Stadium and Timpisini Inkhundla emerged overall National champions and received a cash incentive of **SZL 50'000.00**.

Other Tinkhundla centres received varying prize amounts for their participation in the tournament ranging from SZL 2'500.00 to SZL 50'000.00. A total of **SZL 487'500.00** was disbursed in this respect.

Athletics Competition:

The athletics competition was successfully concluded at the close on November 2024. 10 young athletes were identified from the entire exercise and shall be receiving support from the Council, through the licensed sports body, Athletics Eswatini, for their progressive development.

A total of **SZL 153'300.00** was disbursed as prize monies throughout the entire competition as summarized below:

- Zonal Eliminations - SZL 66'000.00
- Regional Eliminations - SZL 52'800.00
- National Finals - SZL 34'500.00

NATIONAL WOMEN SPORT DAY

The National Women Sports Day was successfully hosted at the Eswatini Football Association Technical Centre, Lobamba on Saturday, 11th May 2024. The activity attracted well over 500 women participants from various sectors of society including Lutsango and Ingadla regiment from 8 Tinkhundla (2 per region) that participated in the culture competition. Support for transportation of the Tinkhundla women participants was provided. These Tinkhundla centres were: Methula & Sandleni (Shiselweni Region), Nkomiyahlaba & Ntondozi (Manzini Region), Mayiwane & Ntfontjeni (Hhohho Region) and Mpolonjeni & Sithobela (Lubombo Region).

NATIONAL DISABILITY SPORTS DAY

The National Disability Sports Day was successfully delivered on Friday, 22 November 2024 at the Eswatini Football Association Technical Centre, Lobamba. The activity attracted well over 1'000 participants from the various centers or institutions of learning. These included the following institutions:

- Ekwetsembeni Special School
- Mzimpofo/St. Joseph's Schools
- Matsetsa School for the Deaf
- Siteki School for the Deaf
- Ecinisweni Special School & Nhlangano Vocational Centre
- Embhasheni Special School

DISABILITY WEEK & WALK FOR LIFE

Further, **SZL 40'000.00** support was extended to the Eswatini Paralympic Committee for the delivery of the Youth Disability Sports Day and Walk for Life activity at St. Joseph's Mission School, Mzimpofo on Friday, 27th September 2024. The activity, themed "Making Noise", attracted a total 250 students and teachers. Various sports demonstrations were conducted preceded by a 3km walk. This is part of the Ministry's drive and efforts of ensuring equitable access to sport and recreation by all citizens, including the disabled.

ANNUAL BRAVE THE BREAST WALK

Support totaling **SZL 20'000.00** was provided to the Eswatini Breast & Cervical Cancer Network for the delivery of the annual Brave the Breast activity. The activity was hosted successfully on Saturday, 26 October 2024 at the Eswatini Football Association Technical Centre, Lobamba.

PHILANI MASWATI CHARITY ORGANISATION/SHUKUMA ESWATINI CROSSOVER

Shukuma activity for the Mbabane West and Mbabane East Inkhundla were delivered in collaboration with Philani Maswati Charity Organisation on Tuesday, 31 December 2024. The crossover event featured various sports activities during the day headlined by an aerobics session featuring renowned local instructors and South Africa's King of Squats. Notwithstanding the festive season, this Shukuma activations was fairly executed and was presided over by the Honorable Minister of Sports, Culture & Youth Affairs.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Maximizing Sports Excellence for a winning Eswatini MAXIMIZE SPORTS EXCELLENCE

PARIS 2024: OLYMPIC GAMES

Eswatini participated at the 2024 Olympic Games hosted in Paris, France between 26 July – 11 August 2024. The following performances were recorded by Eswatini representatives:

ATHLETE	EVENT	RESULT	COMMENT
Sibusiso Matsenjwa	100m Preliminary Round	Position 2 – 10.39	Qualified To Heats
	100m Heats	Position 7 – 10.39	Eliminated From Competition
Hayley Hoy	50m Butterfly Heats	Position 8 – 1:08:36	Eliminated From Competition
Chad Ning	50m Breaststroke Heats	Position 4 – 1:09:85	Eliminated From Competition

AFRICAN UNION SPORTS COUNCIL REGION 5 – REGIONAL ANNUAL SPORTS AWARDS

The AUSC R5 Regional Annual Sports Awards 2024 (RASA 2024) were hosted in Lusaka, Zambia on Saturday, 25th May 2024. Eswatini athletes were nominated in the following categories:

AUSC R5 AWARD CATEGORY	ESWATINI NOMINEE	SPORT CODE
AUSC R5 Junior Female Sportsperson of the Year	Hayley Hoy	Swimming
AUSC R5 Sportsperson of the Year	Luca Fraser	Swimming
AUSC R5 Sports Journalist of the Year	Fabrice Musonera	Eswatini TV
AUSC R5 Sportsman of the Year	Mancoba Nhlabatsi	Athletics

Hayley Hoy was crowned Region 5 (SADC) 2024 Junior Female Sportsperson of the Year, whilst Luca Fraser and Fabrice Musonera were runners up in their respective nominated categories. Hayley Hoy was presented with the prestigious RASA trophy plus additional prize money totaling SZL20'000.00 and both Luca Fraser and Fabrice Musonera received prize money totaling SZL5'000.00 each.

The 2024 RASA event was also a celebration of the Region's Silver Jubilee. Mr. Absalom "Scara" Thindwa and Mr. Maswazi H. Shongwe were awarded recognition certificates for their outstanding achievements and lasting contributions to sport in Southern Africa and beyond over the 25-year period between 1998 and 2024.

These recognitions were handed over to both individuals by the Honorable Minister of Sports, Culture & Youth Affairs on 28th June 2024 at Mountain View, Mbabane.

AFRICAN UNION SPORTS COUNCIL REGION 5 YOUTH GAMES

Eswatini has confirmed participation in the upcoming African Union Sports Council Region 5 Youth Games scheduled for Windhoek, Namibia between 3 July 2025 to 14 July 2025. Eswatini shall be represented by a total delegation of 84 athletes, 17 coaches/managers and 5 team

management officials. Initial payment of **SZL 1'170'379.00** in respect to initial deposit (50%) for accreditation fees/participation fees has been made to the Games Local Organizing Committee in Namibia.

ESWATINI NATIONAL SPORTS REWARDS PROGRAM

The National rewards program seeks to provide recognition to excelling athletes at respective recognized regional, continental and global sports activities as well as recognition for meritorious service by other sports practitioners. The program entails three aspects – National Sports Awards, National Sports Hall of Fame and Podium Finishers Incentives.

A total of **SZL 262'000.00** podium finishers incentives were disbursed to various athletes for podium performances achieved at various regional, continental and global sports activities as depicted in the matrix below:

EVENT	RESULTS	TOTAL INCENTIVES
African Union Sports Council Region 5 Darts Championships	1 Gold Medal 1 Silver Medal 3 Bronze Medals	SZL 45'000.00
Confederation of Southern African Schools Sports Association Athletics Championships	3 Gold Medals 8 Silver Medals 8 Bronze Medals	SZL 55'000.00
45 th Chess Olympiad	1 Bronze Medal	SZL 50'000.00
AIBA Nelson Mandela Boxing Championships	2 Silver Medals 1 Bronze Medal	SZL 27'000.00

EVENT	RESULTS	TOTAL INCENTIVES
African Judo Open/Championships	1 Gold Medal	SZL 10'000.00
Dance World Cup	1 Silver Medal	SZL 75'000.00

The following podium performances were recorded during December 2024 and shall be accordingly incentivized by the Council at outset of the ensuing quarter.

ASSOCIATION	ACTIVITY	PODIUM FINISH RESULTS
Eswatini Association Swimming	Africa Aquatics Zone IV Regional Championships	<p>Luca Fraser: 50m Breaststroke Gold Medal 100m Breaststroke Bronze Medal 200m Breaststroke Bronze Medal</p> <p>Hayley Hoy: 100m Butterfly Gold Medal 200m Butterfly Gold Medal 800m Freestyle Bronze Medal 3km Open Water Challenge Gold Medal</p> <p>Chadd Ning: 50m Breaststroke Gold Medal 100m Breaststroke Bronze Medal</p>
Eswatini Association National Netball	Africa Netball Region 5 Cup 2024	<p>Eswatini Men's National Team: Men's Netball Silver Medal</p>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: MAXIMIZE SUPPORT FOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A UNITED ESWATINI.

SITHOBELA AND HLATHIKHULU SPORTS CENTERS

One-Stop-Shop Concept:

The centers have become a one-stop-shop for the Ministry of Sports, Culture & Youth Affairs. Both sports centers have welcomed the Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund who have set up information desks in order to provide the necessary information to the youth in these areas.

Weekly Activities:

Weekly activities involving children from the schools within close proximity continued as per schedule, Thursdays & Fridays at the Hlathikhulu Sports Centre and Wednesdays at the Sithobela Sports Centre.

Additionally, out of school youth also visit the centre for the array of sports activities available including chess, darts, cue sports (pool), table tennis, junior football, etc. On average, each centre attracts 30 youth on a daily basis.

Rehabilitations:

Rehabilitation of the Sithobela Sports Center Soccer pitch was concluded during the period under review. The soccer pitch is now in a usable state. The Council shall now shift focus to the Hlathikhulu Sports Centre for the rehabilitation of sports courts fencing and basketball backboards damaged by various windy storms in recent months in the ensuing fiscal period.

SANDLENI BASKETBALL MINOR REHABILITATION

Support was provided for minor rehabilitation of the Sandleni Basketball Court in readiness for the National Basketball Tournament Sponsorship Launch which was presided over by the Prime Minister of Eswatini on 23rd August 2024. The Basketball Court is now in useable condition.

SHUKUMA ESWATINI LEGACY INITIATIVE

Support was provided to the following Tinkhundla Centres in respect to the Shukuma Eswatini Legacy Project. The Shukuma Eswatini legacy program entails upgrading of sports field at the Tinkhundla centres at which shukuma activations have been hosted. This is done over and above the food parcels/hampers provided to underprivileged families (1 homestead in each Chiefdom making up the Inkhundla constituency).

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INKHUNDLA	PROJECT	STATUS
Mtfongwaneni	Sports Field	Ongoing
Sandleni	Sports Field	Complete
Siphofaneni	Outdoor Ablution Facilities	Pending
Timpisini	Sports Field	Complete
Zombodze Emuva	Sports Field	Complete

ESWATINI OLYMPIC & COMMONWEALTH GAMES ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

The following significant activities were implemented by the Eswatini Olympic & Commonwealth Games Association during the period under review:

Sports Administration Course Level 1

The second edition of the Sports Administration Course Level 1 was successfully delivered and concluded during the period under review. The course attracted 60 participants, including sports administrators, media personnel, and head teachers from all four regions of the kingdom. Course attendees undergo an exam with a pass mark of 80% which qualifies them for the Sports Administration Course Level 2. The Level 2 Course shall be rolled out in 2025.

Olympic Day Run

The 2024 Edition of the Olympic Day Run was hosted by the Eswatini Olympic & Commonwealth Games Association as follows:

Mbabane Municipality (Prince of Wales Sports Ground) - Friday, 21st June 2024

The activity was hosted in collaboration with the Mbabane Municipality Council and attracted well over 1'000 participants from nine primary schools within the municipality.

Olymp Africa Sports Development Centre, Lobamba - Saturday, 29th June 2024

The activity attracted well over 1'000 participants from schools within the vicinity of the center.

The Olympic Day Run is a mass participation activity that seeks to encourage active and lifelong participation in sports and further propagate Olympic values (Olympism). This event supplements the other mass participation activities executed by the Council.

Commonwealth Games Federation

The Commonwealth Games Federation Board, led by its President, Chris Jenkins, hosted their first ever Board meeting outside of Europe in Eswatini at the Hilton Hotel, Mbabane on 25-28 September 2024. The hosting of the meeting in Eswatini marked a significant milestone for the country, showcasing the country's ability to host international events and highlighting its commitment to sports and the Commonwealth Games.

ANOCA Extraordinary General Assembly

The President and Secretary-General of EOCGA attended the ANOCA Extra Ordinary General Assembly hosted on the sidelines of the Olympic Games. The following was confirmed during the Extra Ordinary Meeting:

- African Games to be hosted by Egypt in 2027
- African Youth Games to be hosted by Angola in 2025
- African Beach Games to be hosted by Equatorial Guinea in 2025
- Youth Olympic Games to be hosted by Senegal in 2026.

Doping Education

In a bid to adhere to the UNESCO Convention and further ensure fair practices in sport and maintain the integrity of sports through doping control, a three-day training program for Doping Control Officers (DCOs) was concluded during the period under review. The training was held at the Bethel Court, Ezulwini from 08th – 10th July 2024. A total of thirteen DCOs were certified at close of the training increasing the number of DCOs in Eswatini from one to fourteen. The increased number of trained DCOs will enable the country to effectively monitor and enforce anti-doping measures, ensuring fair play and safeguarding the reputation of its elite athletes.

Lesotho National Youth Games

The Eswatini Olympic & Commonwealth Games Association led a team comprised of four sports codes namely, athletics, boxing, teqball and taekwondo to the inaugural Lesotho National Youth

Games. The team performed fairly well attaining a total of 7 medals, 4 gold medals and 3 silver medals.

Constitution Review Exercise for National Federations

The Eswatini Olympic & Commonwealth Games Association reinforced its commitment to high standards of governance by initiating a comprehensive review exercise of national federations constitutions. This proactive measure seeks to ensure alignment of all constitutions with ideals of the Olympic Movement and respective international federations as well as adherence to applicable local legislation.