REQUEST FOR CURRICULUM VITAE
GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO
ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION SUPPORT PROJECT (ESDP)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR A COMPETITIVE GRANT SCHEME FOR YOUTH ENTERPRISES

1.0 BACKGROUND
The Government of Lesotho (GoL) is committed to fight poverty, accelerate economic growth and improve the welfare of the Basotho. In 2004, GoL launched the National Vision 2020, which outlines the overall national development framework that defines the aspirations of the people of Lesotho. The 2005-2008 Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) attempted to translate National Vision 2020 into actions which would accelerate inclusive economic growth. One of the four pillars of the PRSP is private sector development (PSD), which when implemented would lead to equitable economic growth and rapid employment creation.

The National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2012/13 – 2016/17 builds upon the PRSP. Similarly, the NSDP embraces increased private sector participation in the economy, with specific emphasis on improved business environment; support for productive sector to diversify the economy; and greater participation of MSMEs in the formal economy.

The Government of Lesotho (GoL) recognises access to finance as one of the key constraints for economic growth and job creation, particularly for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). MSME credit markets are commonly characterised by market failures and imperfections, including lack of recognised collateral, high transaction costs of small lending and perception of high risk. In order to address these market failures, government intervention is required. A common form of intervention is through credit guarantee schemes and/or grant schemes.

To address the above challenge facing the MSME sector, the Government of Lesotho requested the African Development Bank (AfDB) to finance the proposed Economic Diversification Support Project (EDSP). The project was approved by AfDB Board of Director in December 2016. The overall objective of the project is to support Government’s efforts to create jobs and promote inclusive growth through enhanced economic diversification and strengthened enterprise development. The specific objective of the Project is to support private sector development through improving partnership, entrepreneurship and skills development, and investment promotion in the selected sectors critical for economic diversification. The Project has three mutually reinforcing components: (i) enhancing economic diversification; (ii) promoting enterprise development; and (iii) project management support.

2.0 OBJECTIVE
The purpose of the Consultancy is to review and develop the operational framework for a Competitive Grant Scheme for Small Enterprises (CGSSE) under Economic Diversification Support Project (ESDP).

3.0 SCOPE
The consultant will carry out an analysis of the financial landscape in Lesotho, and review current schemes that are in operation both locally and regionally to develop the operational framework for a CGSSE. Specific tasks include but not limited to the following:

- Take inventory and assessment of the existing Competitive Grant models in the country and explore possible improvements. Investigate how the design of the new envisaged scheme may be complementary to existing ones.
- Interrogate and review various Competitive Grant frameworks from other countries especially from African countries for customisation to Lesotho environment but not compromising international Best Practices.
- Recommend the high impact industries on employment creation, innovation stimulation, and increase in youth participation in entrepreneurial activities that could be the focus of the scheme.
- Design administrative structure that is practical and representative of relevant players.
- Develop specific guidelines for the effective and transparent implementation of the Scheme, considering good governance and risk management.
Develop the selection criteria for all steps of the process including; initial screening, appraisals and commitment to award grants.

Design beneficiary after care support programme and monitoring mechanism to ensure that the programme yields best results and have a positive impact on poverty reduction and high unemployment rate among youth.

4.0 DELIVERABLES
The consultant will deliver the following:
- Draft Competitive Grant Operational Framework, which highlights criteria for screening business plans, implementation guidelines and administrative structures.
- Final Competitive Grant Operational Framework.
- Aftercare program and monitoring tool.
- A list of recommended high impact industries.

5.0 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSULTANT
- An advanced degree in a similar or related fields
- A minimum of 10 years professional experience in delivering similar assignments
- Strong experience in risk management, and particularly in designing, developing and implementing operational frameworks for grant schemes
- A good knowledge of the MSME sector
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

6.0 DURATION
The assignment is expected to take 30 man-days

7.0 SUBMISSION
The Government of Lesotho now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services by submitting an application letter and detailed curriculum vitae.

Establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group Funded Operations, dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at [http://www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org).

Interested individuals may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 08.00 hours to 16.30 hours.

Interested candidates must deliver their application letter and Curriculum Vitae to the address below by 30th June, 2017.

Electronic submissions of application letters and detailed curriculum vitae (using a single pdf or other protected file) are also encouraged and applicants should include as the subject message “DEVELOPMENT OF THE OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR A COMPETITIVE GRANT SCHEME FOR YOUTH ENTERPRISES” and should be sent to tmofelehetsi@psc.org.ls with a copy to lmakhabane@psc.org.ls

Only shortlisted Individual Consultant will be contacted.

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