REQUEST FOR CURRICULUM VITAE

GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION SUPPORT PROJECT (ESDP)

DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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 history of standards work in Lesotho is not clearly documented for various reasons. Previous national plans and strategies did not capture the specific role of quality infrastructure (QI) in the national economy; which led to a delay in putting up necessary institutional frameworks. In most countries, quality infrastructure is mostly by the private sector; but the situation in Lesotho is such that government is expected to drive the programme. Available economic data does not sufficiently reflect levels of activity in different sectors, which led to delays in determining the right QI model for Lesotho.

Despite these setbacks, Lesotho has made significant strides towards building national quality infrastructure since the launch of NSDP 2012/13 – 2016/17; which clearly outlines the need for quality infrastructure development with specific emphasis on improving competitiveness of products and services. A national quality policy and regulatory framework was developed to clearly define roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders dealing with quality infrastructure, providing detail of required legal and institutional frameworks. The draft policy is expected to be approved by cabinet later this year. However, the Lesotho Standards Institution Act (2014) was passed by Parliament to enable the Minister responsible for trade to set up a national standards body which will develop national standards as required by different sectors. Upon its establishment, the Lesotho Standards Institution will be under pressure to deliver quickly on its mandate; as such the proposed Lesotho standardization strategy will provide that leverage. Furthermore, recent developments in regional and international standardization trends present an important opportunity to strengthen Lesotho’s industrial performance and to favour its participation in the world market.
To quickly turnaround and reengineer national quality infrastructure to favour industrial growth and increase exports, the Government of Lesotho solicited support from the African Development Bank to finance the proposed Economic Diversification Support Project (EDSP). The project was approved by ADB 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.

Standardization is particularly important for Lesotho’s economy as it helps to structure markets, develop best professional practices and protect consumers. It is also at the centre of other QI pillars, Accreditation, Metrology and Conformity Assessment.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the assignment is to develop a three year rolling national standardization strategy and action plan, outlining in detail priority areas, stakeholders for standardization, identify standardization subject areas for each priority sector and develop a roadmap with documented objectives for the period covered by the strategy.

3.0 SCOPE

1. Analyse the situation on the ground to understand challenges and identify opportunities.
2. Conduct an analysis of Lesotho's economic landscape in relation to standardization, taking into account national development plans and sector specific policies.
3. Carry out an assessment of economic and socio-economic priorities.
4. Undertake consultations with relevant standardization stakeholder groups to identify their challenges, needs as well as to get their input.
5. Identify sector specific subject areas that are to be covered by the standards programme for a period of three years.
6. Establish a link between national standardization priorities with regional and international standardization activities in order to draw out strategic actions thereof.
7. Estimate and recommend resources that are required by the Lesotho Standards Institution and its stakeholders to implement the strategy.
8. Identify capacity constraints and recommend appropriate capacity building plan.
9. Develop a roadmap for implementing the strategy.
10. Present the draft strategy and its supporting roadmap (time-bound and costed action plan) to relevant stakeholders and incorporate inputs thereof.
11. Prepare and submit the final report highlighting the nature of work undertaken noting the level of success and constraints in terms of the methodologies used; the nature and quality of stakeholder participation; and any lessons learned during the process.
4.0 DELIVERABLES
- Output 1: Inception report to be presented to the Ministry and stakeholders
- Output 2: Situational analysis
- Output 3: Draft standardization strategy and roadmap (time-bound and costed action plan)
- Output 4: Final standardization strategy and roadmap (time-bound and costed action plan).

5.0 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSULTANT
The expert should meet the following Criteria
1. Relevant postgraduate degree with at least 5 years experience in development and operation of national standards institutions.
2. Demonstrated knowledge and experience in standardization from national, regional as well as international perspective.
3. Proven track record of their involvement in a similar exercise.
4. Knowledge and awareness of challenges faced by developing countries.
5. Skilful in managing stakeholder consultations to draw out the best input.

6.0 DURATION
The project shall be completed within months (4) months after signing the contract.

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.
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 A NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN” and should be sent to tmofelehetsi@psc.org.ls with a copy to lmakhabane@psc.org.ls

Only shortlisted Individual Consultant will be contacted.

The Project Manager
Economic Diversification Support Project