1. The Government of Lesotho has received a loan and grant in the amount of UA 7.22 million from the African Development Bank to finance the Economic Diversification Support Project.

2. The principal objective of this project is to contribute to 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 will involve procurement of goods and the following methods will be used: International Competitive Bidding (ICB); National Competitive Bidding (NCB) and Shopping while consulting services which will be procured using Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS), Least Cost Selection (LCS) and the selection method for Individual Consultants (IC).

3. The project includes the following components:

**Component 1: Enhancing Economic Diversification.** The Project activities under this component include:
- Development of tourism policy, tourism masterplan and implementation roadmap;
- Support the establishment of a National Tourism Council;
- Provide CB to Ministry of Trade and Industry for business linkages industrial policy planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- Develop tourism products, and a promotion strategy;
- Support product development and marketing in the leather and footwear industry;
- Conduct feasibility studies for potential investment projects;
- Provide transaction advisory service and PPP in tourism;
- Capacity building for the establishment and operationalisation of LSI; and
- Develop a national standardization strategy; and provide training on quality standards and certification to business enterprises.

**Component 2: Support to Enterprise Development.** The Project activities under this component include:
- Development of tourism policy, tourism masterplan and implementation roadmap;
- Create an enabling legal and regulatory environment for SMMEs;
- Support assessment of the status of the current BDS market, including private providers, key players, challenges and opportunities;
- Support business incubation & start-ups through competitive grant scheme;
- Build the capacity of BEDCO as facilitator and champion in the development of the BDS market;
- Design appropriate toolkits and training packages for BDS;
- Build capacity of BDS providers using the new training packages;
- Design and roll out curricula across educational (universities) and training institutions for entrepreneurship development;
- Introduce apprenticeship for the graduates through a partnership program with universities, industry and government; and
- Support the introduction of a microfinance program, and improve the operational framework for MSBDC’s competitive grant scheme.

**Component 3: Project Management**
The Project activities under this component include:
- Project core staff salaries;
- Monitoring and Evaluation,
4. Procurement of goods and/or works will be in accordance with the Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group Funded Operations, dated October 2015. Solicitation documents are expected to be available in April 2017.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information, and should confirm their interest, by contacting:

Economic Diversification Support Project
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