



Governance Institute for
Sustainable Development



SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Pre-Planning Meeting

Lesotho APRM Popular Sensitisation Project (LAPS)

*Towards a Non-State Actors-Driven APRM
in Lesotho*

27 July, 2021

Inclusive participation, open dialogue and idea exchange leading to consensus



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Background – Lesotho and APRM

- ❖ Lesotho was the 12th country to accede to the APRM in June 2004, and was among the first cohort of African States that started the APRM process, but like earlier said, the country dropped the ball on the way,
- ❖ Lesotho could have been part of the countries that are in the second generation of peer review,
- ❖ A National Consultative Workshop was held in October, 2005 in Maseru,
- ❖ The aim was to sensitize the nation about the APRM and to enable stakeholders to appreciate the APRM as well as to create ownership of the process by the citizens.



Background – Lesotho and APRM

- ❖ Participation was drawn from the following stakeholders - Parliament, youth, women, government, churches, media, people with disability, trade unions and the Elderly.
- ❖ A Cabinet consortium was put up in July, 2006. A National Governing Council (NGC) appointed the same year, civil society negotiations finalized and contracted in November 2007.
- ❖ Two Technical Research Institutes (TRIs) that had the requisite capacity in the area of research were selected:
 - Lesotho Institute of Public Administration & Management (LIPAM)
 - Institute of Southern African Studies (ISAS)



Introduction

- ❖ The Governance Institute for Sustainable Development (GISD) presents a proposal for establishment of a Lesotho APRM Popular Sensitisation Project (LAPS).
- ❖ The Lesotho APRM Popular Sensitisation Project (LAPS) is intended to conscientise Lesotho's non-state actors – CSOs, private sector and think-tanks on the need to resuscitate the NSA-led APRM in Lesotho,
- ❖ The envisaged LAPS is intended to build the capacity of civil society organisations, private sector and think-tanks so that they appreciate the APRM further,
- ❖ The above makes the GISD's work of establishing a LAPS easier as it will not start from the beginning to teach on APRM, but to remind CSOs, the private sector and the think-tanks,



Introduction

- ❖ Another critical objective of the LAPS will be to facilitate co-creation of written submissions by the identified marginalised groups on key governance issues, as it will be discussed later,
- ❖ The LAPS will also bring together NSAs to prepare Lesotho for the second-generation country review,
- ❖ APRM is not a new phenomenon in Lesotho, but due to lack of proper leadership and continuity on major developmental issues, the ball was dropped on the way,



Introduction (Cont...)

- ❖ LAPS will deal with the marginalised groups
 - **youth,**
 - **women,**
 - **children,**
 - **unemployed** and
 - **diaspora,**
- ❖ The thought of adding the diaspora on the list of marginalised groups is premised on the notion that Lesotho has a great number of citizens who are living outside the country, who are trying to eke out life in the cold there,



Establishing the LAPS Lesotho

It is proposed that a Lesotho APRM Popular Sensitisation Project (LAPS) be established to reinforce the existence of an NSA-driven APRM in Lesotho,

- ❖ The LAPS is envisaged to be a vehicle that drives the APRM into action in Lesotho from the non-state actors viewpoint,
- ❖ It will facilitate wider sensitisation of the APRM in Lesotho to all corners of the country, particularly with intent to:
 - ❖ Re-energise,
 - ❖ Re-ignite
 - ❖ Stimulate non-state actors to participate fully in the APRM,



Establishing the LAPS Lesotho

- ❖ The Project will also mobilise the participation of youth, women, children, the unemployed and the diaspora to make their voices heard on critical governance issues that they will find worthy to present to the government,
- ❖ The project will further build the capacity of NSAs, foster better knowledge of the APRM and its rules and opportunities, and facilitate submissions on the key governance issues in Lesotho.
- ❖ The Project is intended to facilitate Lesotho's second generation review,
- ❖ This exercise is expected to be largely led by the NSAs, instead of a government-led process,

Partnership between SAIIA and GISD

- ❖ The GISD proposes a partnership with SAIIA, which is premised on the following:
 - Sensitisation of the civil society, private sector and thinks-tanks on the APRM to participate fully in the process,
 - Developing an NSA-driven APRM in Lesotho,
 - Identifying critical governance issues, particularly in the Political and Democratic Governance sphere,
 - Facilitation of other sectors – youth, women, children, unemployed and the diaspora to identify their governance issues that they want for review,

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Partnership between SAIIA and GISD

- Editing of and production of youth, women, children, unemployed and diaspora submissions on their issues for review,
- Facilitation of learning from other APSs in the SADC region and elsewhere on establishing a LAPS Lesotho (benchmarking on best practices as a new baby),
- Helping the LAPS Lesotho to secure funding from donors for the project,
- Sharing of reports to the rest of the other APS by the LAPS on progress,
- Launching the LAPS Lesotho



Sensitisation of CSO, private sector and think-tanks,

- ❖ The GISD will hold a workshop/forum for sensitisation of CSO, private sector and think-tanks with intent to achieve the following:
 - Bring together various NSAs - CSO, private sector and think-tanks to confer on the state of APRM in Lesotho,
 - Stimulate the NSAs - CSO, private sector and think-tanks to fully participate in the APRM,
 - Provide confidence to the NSA-driven APRM in Lesotho by the NSA fraternity,



Sensitisation of CSO, private sector and think-tanks,

- ❖ The GISD will hold a workshop/forum for sensitisation of CSO, private sector and think-tanks with intent to achieve the following:
 - Participate in a workshop (physical or virtual) organised by the GISD as a sensitisation exercise to the entire NSA fraternity,
 - Meeting youth, women, children, unemployed and diaspora representatives and getting a glimpse of their understanding of the APRM (Virtual),
 - And finally, to form a CSO/private sector/think-tank working group on the APRM,



Benchmarking: Lessons from other countries' APS

- ❖ The GISD will visit other APS in other countries (physical or virtual meetings) with intent to:
 - Gather experience with countries that have already established APS – Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe etc
 - Learn best practices on the functioning of APS,
 - Share own insights and experiences on the establishment of the LAPS,
 - Leverage on the network to build own strength,

NB: If the COVID-19 lockdowns continue in the countries identified for benchmarking, virtual meetings can be arranged (zoom or Microsoft Teams)



Opportunities for an NSA-driven APRM

- ❖ An NSA-driven LAPS has the following opportunities:
 - Brings together various CSO, private sector and think-tanks to confer on the state of APRM in Lesotho,
 - Stimulate the CSO, private sector and think-tanks to fully participate in the APRM,
 - Provide confidence to the NSA-driven APRM in Lesotho by the NSA fraternity,

Opportunities for an NSA-driven APRM

- ❖ An NSA-driven LAPS has the following opportunities:
 - Develops an independent APRM process, without government influence,
 - Provides a platform for capacity-building of NSAs - CSOs, private sector and think-tanks,
 - As government looks less interested in the APRM with leading the process for the second-generation of country review, this creates an opportunity for NSA to drive the process,

Opportunities for an NSA-driven APRM

- ❖ An NSA-driven LAPS has the following opportunities:
 - There is also another opening for NSAs to influence the government to regain strength and participate again fully in the APRM,
 - Lesotho will gradually adapt to internationally-accepted standard for good governance and ultimately, democratic consolidation,



Opportunities for an NSA-driven APRM

- ❖ An NSA-driven LAPS has the following opportunities:
 - As such, the country will be a bait for international assistance, which hinges on adherence to good governance principles, as the country is continually losing crucial partners due to perceptions of rampant corruptions, bad governance,
 - An example of this is the near loss of AGOA and MCC (USA) as a result of bad governance



LAPS to expand scope of APRM to emerging themes

- ❖ An NSA-driven LAPS has the opportunity to expand APRM:
 - With focus on the Political and Democratic Governance, there is a lot that can be explored in this thematic area only, this is the most wanting area,
 - There has been talk of **state resilience** as another added theme, this is felt to bode well with efforts to build the state resilience as it has become a weak link towards attainment of political and democratic governance,
 - The state was already weak, but this situation has been aggravated by the advent of COVID-19, as the state has indeed lost its direction,
 - Therefore, intention to reinforce the state as an engine of political and democratic governance is of paramount importance, especially during the COVID-19,



LAPS to expand scope of APRM into new themes

❖ Building a resilient state that shifts from fragility involves:

- Strong **institutions** that execute their mandates effectively, independently and autonomously,
- Strong **regulatory systems** within the state,
- Consistency in the **application of the law** within the state,
- State's ability **to respond to its challenges** – rampant corruption, management of talent migration from Lesotho to other countries (human capital flight) leaving the state vulnerable to other countries,
- **Legitimacy** of the state in the eyes of the citizens,

LAPS to expand scope of APRM into new themes

- ❖ Building a resilient state that shifts from fragility involves:
 - Political processes for reconciliation of citizens' expectations and state's expectations (**social contract**),
 - Another factor of state resilience is the ability of the state to **respond to and cope with change** – what is critical is capacity, effectiveness and legitimacy,
 - Resilience also talks to critical issues of **availability of resources and infrastructure** to offset emerging situations such as COVID-19, conflict, other diseases etc,
 - As government looks less interested in the APRM, with the process for the second-generation of country review, this creates an opportunity for NSA to drive the process,
 - There is also another opening for NSAs to influence the government to regain strength and particulate again fully in the APRM,



Implementing Body/Agency

- ❖ The Governance Institute for Sustainable Development is an independent thin-tank that is intent to develop strategic initiatives, which empower people to decisively act towards bringing about change in their lives. It achieves this through the following:
 - Promoting dialogue and debates on national issues,
 - Conducting research on a variety of national topics,
 - Promoting exemplary and inspiring leadership,
 - Promoting good governance practice within organisations,
 - Developing youth for change,



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Thank You!

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