



## Working Towards Private Sector Development

Various projects under the Private Sector Development of the Lesotho Compact have been engaging members of the Lesotho's business community on several projects of the private sector development. The aim of these meetings have been to share information of the projects with the business community to solicit their support and buy-in of the project. The success of most of the private sector development projects is dependent on the willingness and cooperation of the business sector. Once in function, the projects will benefit the business sector by speeding their business transactions as well as resolution of their disputes. Having started on 14th June, 2010, the business meeting are expected to be completed by the 2nd of July 2010.

The projects which participated in this joined initiative include Civil Legal reform, Credit Bureau, Automated Clearing House, National ID Card System as well as the Gender Equality in Economic Rights. This initiative is part of the broader outreach activities which are intended to engage relevant stakeholders to encourage participation and support and wider understanding of different MCA- Lesotho projects. The business, as part of private sector plays a critical role in contributing to the growth of a national economy. By design, the Private Sector Development projects aim to increase private sector activity in Lesotho by improving access to credit, reducing transaction costs and increasing participation of women in the economy.

Organizers of the workshops are content about the progress made so far. According to Mrs. Neo Ntho, Public Outreach Focal Point for the National Identity Card Project based at the Ministry of Ministry of Home Affairs and Public Safety and Parliament Affairs, the meetings are clearing some of the misconceptions about MCA-Lesotho and especially the National Identity Card project. "Most people ended up understand and appreciating intention and the benefits after presentations and explanations", she said. Mr. Libete Selapane, the Public Outreach Focal Point for the Civil Legal Reform Project based at the High Court of Lesotho also alluded to the fact that some people did not know about MCA-Lesotho and the projects that are being implemented under the Lesotho Compact. He said that it was encouraging to see people transform from a state of misunderstanding to a point where they became appreciative and are willing to be supportive. Ms. Mpho Mosaase, the Gender Officer who was part of the workshop presenters further explained that they experienced a very good reception from the participants. "People were very much interested in the projects in general as they felt they would indeed have a positive impact on their business operations in the long run. In particular they were interested in gender issues as they were not aware of the contents of the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act". They were also happy about the collaborative effort with the different projects as this afforded them an opportunity to see how inter-related all the projects were" she emphasized.



**Businesses can grow from small scale to high productivity through mobilization of resources, leading to greater participation in the economy**

Information that was shared on credit bureau has also been highly appreciated by the participants. It was highlighted that when access to credit is improved and regulated, businesses can begin to make sustainable profits which will in turn grow their businesses. Also, the availability of a reliable database that informs businesses about credit seekers' identity and credit history, leads to more volumes of transactions. This will enhance the security of credit provision in the country. The more business volumes, the more the businesses will grow, resulting in economic growth in the country.