# CDGG Highlight Report – 2nd Quarter, 2014

## 1.) Overall Project status

Consolidation of Democracy and Good Governance in Lesotho (CDGG) is a four-year programme jointly funded by Irish Aid and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It aims to deepen democracy and good governance through improved electoral processes, effective functioning of parliament and enhanced promotion of human rights. To achieve its primary goals and objectives, the CDGG has identified, albeit not limited to, the following key institutions as enabling partners: The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), National Assembly, the Senate, Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and the Correctional Service (now Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights) and the Office of the Ombudsman.

* **2014 Targets**
* (1) Electoral reforms to ensure that elections add value to democratic governance and political stability.
* (2) Parliamentary reforms to improve the effectiveness of the legislature in its three-pronged mandate of law-making, representation and oversight.
* (3) The promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

 **Programme Management**

During a meeting of CDGG Implementing Partners on April 1st 2014, at the UN House, it was agreed that all outstanding activities were supposed to be completed by May 30th, however, due to circumstances beyond our control, it was not practical to complete all activities as two activities were still underway by the time we reached the deadline. At the same meeting IPs were also requested to submit end-of-project reports by June 30th. So far, only the Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights; Office of the Ombudsman; the Senate and National Assembly have submitted reports at the time of writing this report. The IEC had not submitted the report.

The consultant who will undertake the end-of-project evaluation has been identified and preparations for her to sign the contract are at an advanced stage.

It is anticipated that the consultant will commence her assignment the week of

It is anticipated that the consultant will commence her assignment the week of July21st and complete the week of August 25th. Thereafter, the Project Manager will focus on ensuring that all outstanding payments are processed and begin to start the process of transferring assets to CDGG IPs which will be followed by operational and financial closure of the project.

2014.

**2.) Quarter 2nd reports**

**Ombudsman’s office**

* Engaged a consultant to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation system for the office of the Ombudsman. The consultant commenced her assignment on May 21st, 2014 and the final documents are expected by July 21st. The purpose of developing an M & E system is to improve organizational performance and also to enhance personal growth and development of the human capital of the office.

**Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)**

* Commissioner Mamosebi Pholo and Ms. Lydia Macheli attended a five-day workshop organized by EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance in Jordan from April 7th to 11th, 2014. The workshop focused on REINFORCING CREDIBILITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES: Role of Electoral Stakeholders and Electoral Administration.

The workshop brought together participants from 45 countries covering Africa, Europe, the Americas, Middle East and Asia Pacific. The topics covered were Definition of Electoral Concepts, Impact of other State Institutions in the Credibility of Elections, Political Parties and Candidates, Media, Civil Society and Electoral Observers, Stakeholders at Work: Sharing Lessons Learned, Regional Perspective of Challenges and Opportunities of Regional Cooperation and Improving the Work between EMBs and Stakeholders. Report available.

* Commissioner Dr. Makase Nyaphisi and Mr. Lebohang Bulane undertook a study tour to India from 21st to 25th April, 2014. The study was organized by the Electoral Commission of India (ECI) and it coincided with the 24th April 2014 National and Local Government elections and had the primary objectives of understanding facets of Indian democracy, the election process, decentralized and participatory developmental initiatives taken at the local government level in India.
* During the period 21 – 25 April 2014, delegates toured the Utah Pradesh state in the Agra Constituency. They witnessed and learnt from some of the unique election practices in India, which include:
* Use of technology in election management
	+ Communication Plan for Election (COMET)
	+ The use of Electronic Voting Machine (EMVs)
	+ Randomization process of EMVs,
* Monitoring of media,
* Expenditure Observers

**National Assembly**

* Due to the fact that the National Assembly completed all its activities by December 31st, no activities were undertaken this year.

**Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights**

* Held a consultative workshop on human rights policy from 15 to 16 June, 2014. The consultative workshop on the development of a national human rights policy was facilitated by Professor Michelo Hansungule from the Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. Participants were drawn from various Ministries, Non- Governmental Organizations, Media and Civil Society Organizations.

The workshop was officially opened by the Deputy Attorney General, Adv. Tsebang Putsoane, who delivered a statement on behalf of the Minister of Law.The nature and concept of human rights was discussed. Human rights were defined and elaborated as those rights that are inherent to a human being i.e. every Mosotho. It was stated that rights are individually held. Jack Donelly was quoted as defining human rights as follows: “Fundamental entitlements due to every human being which a human being holds by virtue of being human.” The Constitution of Lesotho spells out fundamental rights in Chapter 2, however, it was pointed out that there is no constitution in the world that defined the concept of human rights before articulating the rights. Though not defined in most local and international instruments, human rights are sufficiently described and in any case are being implemented.

Human Rights Protection Machinery at the various levels was also discussed. It was stated that at the United Nations level, there is the Human Rights Council that is presently made up of 47 members. There are also various treaty making bodies which are responsible for monitoring the various treaties, such as, the Human Rights Committee that is responsible for monitoring the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. At the African Union level, there is the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights as well as the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights and these are responsible for monitoring of human rights. At the domestic, there are courts of law that are responsible for protection of human rights.

**Senate**

* Completed the process of printing Sesotho and English Versions of Senate Standing Orders.
* **3.) Planned Activities for 3rd Quarter 2014**

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

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| * Conduct an evaluation of the project
* Handover of assets to Implementing Partners
* Wrap-up
* Operational and financial closure
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| **4.) Legend** |       | **On target****Areas to watch****Areas to address****On Hold** |