# CDGG Highlight Report – 1st 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.

* **2013 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**

* In November 2013, with the exception of the National Assembly, four of the CDGG partners requested the remaining activities to be postponed to 1st quarter 2014 due to various reasons including preparations of submissions for the 2014/2015 financial year and the fact that Parliament closed early for Christmas vacation and the IEC had a temporary commission which could not make certain decisions.

The initial plan was to complete all the activities by end of March 2014 and thereafter conduct an evaluation and wrap up the project. However, due to delays caused by budget presentations by various Government Ministries, institutions and statutory bodies to the Ministry of Finance and to the National Assembly, the anticipated activities were not carried out as planned. The budget process affected programme delivery due to the fact that Principal Secretaries, Clerks of Parliament and other heads of institutions including their implementing officers were not available. In addition, following the presentation of the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance on February 20th, budget discussions continued until the National Assembly passed the Appropriations Bill 2014/2015 on March 24th, 2013. This caused delays in programme implementation and hence the request by CDGG IPs to conclude all activities and present end of projects reports by June 30th, 2014.

**2.) Quarter 1reports**

**Ombudsman’s office**

* Developed TOR‘s for the consultant who will develop the Monitoring and Evaluation system for the office
* Prepared materials for the sensitization workshop for Principal Secretaries and CEOs of Parastatal organizations. Awaiting the Government Secretary’s authority for convening of the workshop

**Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)**

* Preparations for two By-elections at Thaba-Phechela and Thaba-Moea and 27 Local By-elections.
* Collaborated with LCN for observation of February 15th National By-elections at Thaba-Phechela and Thaba-Moea constituencies and 27 Local By-Elections

**National Assembly**

* Due to the fact that the National Assembly completed all its activities by December 31st, no activities were undertaken in 2014.

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

Finalized preparations for the consultative workshop on human rights policy scheduled for 15 to 16 April, 2014.

**Senate**

* Finilzed preparations for printing Sesotho and English Versions of Senate Standing Orders together with the Orientation and Public Participation Manuals.

## 3.) Planned Activities for 2nd Quarter 2014

## SENATE

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| DESCRIPTION |
| Workshop on public participation for Senators facilitated by the Free State Legislature  |
| Print Sesotho and English language versions of Senate Standing Orders |

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

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| DESCRIPTION |
| Present to Parliament the National Human Rights Commission Bill 2011.  |
| Develop a strategic plan and a human rights policy for the Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights. |
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| Hold drafting meetings and a validation workshop on the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and develop an implementation plan |
| Develop a strategic plan for the Ministry |

**OFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

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| DESCRIPTION |
| Sensitisation workshop for Principal Secretaries and Chief Executives of Parastatal Organisations |
| Develop a Monitoring and Follow-up system |

**IEC**

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| DESCRIPTION |
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| Hold a dialogue on gender for electoral stakeholders |
| Capacity building for new Commissioners |

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

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| High level meeting at the end of April / May |
| End of project reports by CDGG IPs expected in mid-June |
| Conduct an evaluation of the projectWrap-upOperational closure |
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| **4.) Legend** |       | **On target****Areas to watch****Areas to address****On Hold** |