TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Lesotho is a land-locked country by the Republic of South Africa (RSA) at a size of about 30,500 km² and a population of about 2 million. The country's fortunes are inherently tied to RSA, which provides Lesotho with access to global markets, its migrants with livelihoods, and influences its national currency, the Loti, which is pegged 1:1 to the South African Rand. The country is characterized by extremely mountainous terrain over approximately two thirds of its area, in which population density is relatively medium. The development of the country's transport infrastructure in the remote mountain regions (such as Thaba-Tseka), is part of the National Strategy to reduce poverty by promoting economic growth and improving access to socio-economic services such as Agriculture, education, health, social welfare, and administrative services. Improving access for major population centers to key border posts and supporting logistical infrastructure to develop productive sectors in lagging regions is a key strategic objective of the government as per the **National Strategic Development Plan II.**

Lesotho's growth and development are constrained by the untapped potential for regional integration with South Africa, and indirectly, other neighboring countries. The Southern Africa Tran-frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) treaty was founded on the realization that natural resources straddling boundaries between the Southern African Development Community (SADC) destinations are shared assets that contribute to regional integration, socio-economic development, and biodiversity conservation. As part of the treaty, Lesotho has identified the Maloti Drakensberg Trans-frontier Corridor (MDTC), which includes four road corridors covering the eastern portion of the country and including the proposed Katse to Thaba-Tseka road project (Corridor 3 of the MDTC), as critical to the SADC regional integration agenda. Further, the establishment of a "Bi-national Commission treaty" signed between the governments of Lesotho and South Africa on November 25, 2021, has identified several areas of cooperation including development of economic corridors, trade and logistics, border management, and implementation of MDTC.

Lesotho has nine border crossings open for commercial trade with South Africa, with three borders (Maseru Bridge, Maputsoe-Ficksburg, and Caledonspoort) operating 24 hours a day and with the Maseru Bridge crossing in the west and the Maputsoe-Ficksburg crossing in the northwest handling most of the activity. Trade routes to the east and south are constrained by high mountains and undeveloped road infrastructure, and, thus, under the proposed project, the

Katse to Thaba-Tseka road investment would close the missing link from the Thaba-Tseka district to the Maseru and Leribe districts, which are key economic and export hubs. Improved border infrastructure with harmonized digitally enabled joint border procedures with South Africa could minimize time and costs at the two main borders. Investment at the Qacha's Nek border, the only commercial border in the east, would provide improved access from eastern Lesotho to South African markets including the city of Matatiele, South Africa, which is only one hour from the border, compared to Maseru which is three hours away. This also provides another step in improving east-west regional integration and creation of a regional corridor with the Port of Durban.

The Lesotho Government has requested the International Development Association (IDA) through the World Bank for possible financing (in the form of a Loan), to assist the Government in achieving its objectives with this policy and strategy. The total original cost of the LITTL-P is estimated at US$80 million. Under the proposed LITTL Project, ***IDA will fund Upgrading of Katse to Thaba-Tseka Road corridor to paved standard and Spot improvements along the A1 Economic corridor(Maseru to Botha – Bothe) ; Regional Trade, Integration, and Logistics Services; Technical Assistance and Capacity building and Contingency Emergency Response Component***.

It is anticipated that LITTL-P will be completed over a period of ***five years*** and will include civil works involving A8 road upgrading and A1 spot improvements with Intersection improvements and bridge rehabilitation, Smart One Stop Boarder facilities at Maseru Bridge and Maputsoe-Ficksburg border crossings, and improvement of Qacha's Nek border facilities, Inspection and laboratory testing facilities and Climate controlled community-level horticulture packing and storage facilities (cold chain) , Technical Assistance and capacity building and Contingency Emergency Response Component. ***The project is expected to start in June 2024 and to be completed by 31st December 2029.***

2.0 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The overall Project Objective is to improve climate resilient regional connectivity on the Katse to Thaba-Tseka road corridor and reduce the costs of trade across selected commercial borders between Lesotho and South Africa. In particular to :-

a) Reduce Travelling time along the A8 corridor

b) Increase Road users benefits from climate resilient road infrastructure along the project corridor by amongst others; reducing vehicle operating costs

c) Reduce end-to-end border crossing time for commercial traders through implementation of smart border systems at Maseru Bridge and Maputsoe-Ficksburg crossings.

LITTL-P implementation will be through The Road Directorate (RD) of the Ministry of Public Works & Transport (MoPWT) which shall be responsible with the overall project coordination and shall directly deal with management of components 1, part of 3 and 4 whilst Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) project of the Ministry of Trade, Industry & Business Development (MTIBD) shall manage component 2 and part of 3.

3.0. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

The main objectives of the Procurement Specialist are to support the Roads Directorate in ensuring the implementation of the Project Procurement Strategy for Development (PPSD) for the Lesotho Integrated Transport, Trade and Logistics Project (LITTLP). In addition, the Procurement Specialist shall also be responsible for ensuring that a comprehensive Procurement Plan is prepared and adhered to. He/She shall also be responsible for assisting in ensuring a functional procurement system within the Roads Directorate.

3.1 Scope of Work

i) Ensuring implementation of the Project Procurement Strategy for Development (PPSD) for Roads Directorate under the Lesotho Integrated Transport Trade and Logistics Project (LITTLP)

ii) Transfer of Skills to the Procurement Staff and any other staff involved in the project (that is LITTL) including the following:

- Support in the preparation of procurement related documents, such as procurement plans, procurement notices, bidding/proposal documents, bid opening, evaluation reports, notifications of award, draft contracts etc in accordance with the World Bank standard forms, as relevant
- Preparation and updating of other procurement-related documents for the project, such as the Procurement Plan, Project Operations Manual, Project Procurement Strategy for Development
- Assist in developing the RD policy, updating and developing the operational manual, procurement guidelines and records management system
- Provide operational advice on concepts, clauses context , policies and procedures for local and international procurement matters
- Coordination of bidding and selection procedures, as well as receipt of bids and proposals
- Maintaining an efficient and contract tracking system (STEP – Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement) and proper filing of procurement related documents for review and no-objection by the World Bank
- Closely monitor the procurement activities in reference to the Procurement Plan timeline and procurement approval processes and bring any slippage of activities immediately to the attention of the LITTL Project Director
- Conduct diagnostic analysis on delays, inefficiencies, etc in the current procurement system, and provide recommendations to improve the same, where possible.
- Preparing monthly and quarterly progress reports of the project

3.2 Duration the Service

The validity of the contract shall be 2 years commencing 1st June 2024 to 1st June 2026.

3.3 Qualifications

The Procurement Specialist shall work in close collaboration with the Procurement Manager and reports directly to the Director General of the Roads Directorate.

The Procurement Specialist shall possess the following

a) A Graduate Degree in Civil Engineering, /Economics,/ Finance,/ Purchasing and Supply Chain Management or other similar degree from a recognized University
b) A postgraduate degree in Project/Contract Management and Business Administration will be an added advantage
c) At least 10 years' experience in Procurement related activities with substantial content of procurement of works/ services in an international, national, public or private organization preferably in a developing country setting
d) Any other general relevant experience in procurement
e) Substantial knowledge of public procurement procedures of Lesotho, as well as World Bank Funding Rules and Regulations and donor funded projects
f) Be fluent in English and , and have an excellent knowledge of spoken and written English
g) Strong interpersonal, analytical and communication skills
Computer Literacy is essential

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	**Points**
Educational Qualifications Degree: Postgraduate/ Master Degree Certificates of professional bodies/ affiliations	 25 5 5 (35 points)
Relevant Working Experience and its adequacy for the proposed assignment (clear information/evidence on work experience is highly essential) World Bank/ Donor funded projects Government funded projects	 35 20 (55 points)
Language (proficiency in English), skills & competencies (attach certificates of proficiency if available) Languages Skills and competencies	 5 5 (10 points)
Total points	**100**

*Experience will be assessed on its relevance to the current assignment.

* Educational qualifications and completion certificates must be attached. Certificates of membership/ affiliations to professional bodies be attached if available

*Certified copies must not be older than 6 months since last date of certifying

*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews