

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY CIRCULAR

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
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From: Permanent Secretary for Economy **Date: 27 April 2020**
To: As per Distribution
Subject: 2020-2021 BUDGET TIMELINES, PROCESSES AND BASELINE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Circular serves to inform Ministries and Departments of the 2020-2021 Budget Timelines, Processes and Baseline.
- 1.2 The Ministry of Economy expects Ministries and Departments to have adjusted outputs and outcomes presented in 2019-2020 Costed Operational Plans due to the current pandemic and following the announcement of the COVID-19 Response Budget 2019-2020.
- 1.3 As such, all 2020-2021 budget submissions - new or on-going - must be accompanied by revised Strategic and/or Costed Operational Plans for 2020-2021 taking into account delivery gaps in the 2019-2020 Costed Operational Plans and a refocus of expenditure in line with the following priority areas.

2.0 Expenditure Guide for 2020-2021 Budget

- 2.1 Given the impact of COVID-19 on the domestic economy, government expenditure will be prioritised to support the following themes:
 - i. Economic recovery and new business development;
 - ii. Access to basic services;
 - iii. Public health funding for COVID-19;
 - iv. Protection for the most vulnerable; and
 - v. Food security.

3.0 2020-2021 BUDGET TIMELINES

- 3.1 The Table below outlines the broad preparation timelines for the 2020-2021 Budget.

Budget Key Milestones	Due Date
Economy Circular on the Budget process and timelines issued	27 April 2020
2020-2021 Budget submissions received from Ministries and Department	15 May 2020
Ministry of Economy assessment of Budget submissions	18 – 29 May 2020
Consultation with Ministries and Departments	Early June
Budget tabled in Parliament	June-July 2020

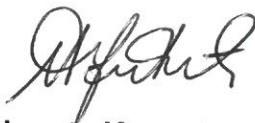
4.0 New Initiative - Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)

- 4.1 The Ministry of Economy has partnered with the Asian Development Bank to undertake an assessment of gender responsiveness in the 2019-2020 Budget using the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) GRB Framework. Cabinet has endorsed the GRB Framework to ensure that gender mainstreaming is reflected in all aspects of the budget cycle and that gender responsive budgeting efforts are sustained.
- 4.2 The GRB initiative will be piloted with the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport and the Ministry of Fisheries. Other Ministries can also volunteer to pilot the initiative by completing the relevant section in the amended Budget Submission template.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 In view of the processes and timelines outlined above, we emphasise the importance of close coordination between Budget Focus Groups of your Ministry/Department and the Budget and Planning Division of the Ministry of Economy to ensure timely preparation of the 2020-2021 Budget.
- 5.2 Ministries and Departments are expected to submit its revised Strategic Plan, Costed Operational Plan, Workforce Plan and Annual Procurement Plan together with the Budget Submission Template on or before 15 May 2020.

5.3 We thank you in advance and look forward to your support and cooperation in the preparation of the 2020-2021 Budget.



Makereta Konrote
Permanent Secretary for Economy

As per distribution:

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