

Research and Development programme

The Research and Development Programme of the GISD is a programme that seeks to open unearth and bring to the fore, critical and useful data and information that can be used to inform public policy. We are convinced that the development of national policy and achievement of goals hinges on availability of factual, credible and verifiable data that is gathered from various sources. We are of the firm view that absence of credible and fresh data leads to policy decisions being made from conjecture, not support by factual information and also leads to wrong policy directions in many areas.

Our conception of development is that every society, irrespective of how small or big they, they endeavour to advance to the next level. We also hold the firm view that all societies advance the goal of serving members of society. Service delivered to members of society is intended to ensure that members of society's needs and aspirations - access to information, access to social welfare, access to affordable housing, access to low cost utilities such as energy, water, electricity and communication are predicated on sound and effective policies that facilitate economical and cost-effective service delivery of these social needs of society.

We are convince that affordable and easy access of members of society of these mentioned services is a precursor to social development. On the other hand, citizens need to access affordable health services, accessible to land at low cost, access to food and other basic needs such as clothes and shelter. Also added to the list is the ability of citizens to access physical safety and security and this is prompted by reduced levels of criminality. Living in a safe and secure environment is not only cardinal to ordinary citizens, but is also an attraction for foreign investment. The latter has positive effects on economic growth and development. All the mentioned necessities of life require a sound policy that provides a guide on access and the quality of service to be provided for these to be delivered to the ordinary citizens.

We have the firm conviction that a facilitator the envisaged policies to make the mentioned services accessed by ordinary Basotho lies in availability of fresh and reliable information. In the absence of national research institutes or councils as well as bureaus of statistics, the Governance Institute for Sustainable Development stands at a vantage point to close this information and data gap.

We are cognisant of the regrettable truth that much of the studies being undertaken on various issues about Lesotho - rankings of Lesotho on how it

fares in various areas etc are undertaken by external research bodies. The researches that develop data for Lesotho in various are sponsored by international organisations such as the World Bank, United National Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as well as the African Development Bank (ADB). While these studies and researches play a catalytic role in economic development through data that they bring to the fore, they are at a risk of not being demand-driven, but supply-driven from outside. They might be at a risk of lacking the domestic contest as they are sometimes carried out by foreign researchers.

The GISD intends to close the domestic-induced production of data that informs policy-making and acts as baseline for decision on policy development. The ability of a country to make informed decision on policy making and development is an important ingredient of good governance.

Therefore, in implementation of the Research and Development Programme, the GISD collaborates with like-minded organisations in the arena of research. It carries out researches and studies on its own and sometimes engages independent researches to do the work, based on guidelines developed by the GISD to achieve its objectives.