
NEWSLETTER

BY BUDGET CONTROLLER



CELEBRATING WOMEN LEADERS AND THEIR UNSUNG HEROES IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In public financial management (PFM), effective leadership is key to guiding fiscal policies toward growth, stability, and sustainability. Today, we celebrate the extraordinary women leading this vital sector, both in Lesotho and globally. As the African proverb wisely notes, "When a woman rises, the community rises with her." These trailblazers exemplify this strength, demonstrating remarkable resilience and ingenuity under pressure.

These women shape financial strategies and serve as role models, integrating economic stability with sustainable development goals. Their leadership drives transformative policies, ensuring efficient use of public resources and fostering transparency.

Behind them are dedicated networks of women supporting these leaders with expertise in data analysis, strategic planning, and implementation. Recognizing both the prominent leaders and their supportive teams highlights their collective effort in advancing PFM and laying the groundwork for a more equitable and sustainable financial future.

HONOURING OUR TRAILBLAZING LEADERS

- Honourable Deputy Prime Minister:

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister directs the Budget Committee with outstanding leadership and strategic insight, essential for crafting the national budget and aligning it with national priorities for stability and growth. Her dedication to transparency and efficiency establishes a high benchmark in public financial management, integrating innovative practices to maximize resources for long-term objectives. Despite transitioning from her previous role as Chief Justice, her remarkable strength and resilience in mastering the complexities of financial management are evident, particularly when confronting unfamiliar challenges.

Supporting her is a distinguished women minister on the committee, who brings valuable expertise and perspective. Together, they form a powerful team that enhances the committee's effectiveness in addressing diverse financial issues and ensuring the budget reflects national interests. Their collaborative leadership drives impactful financial strategies, promoting sustainable economic development and stability.



Honourable Minister of Finance and Development Planning:

The Honourable Minister of Finance and Development Planning stands at the forefront of shaping the nation's economic strategy and development. Her innovative approach, coupled with unwavering dedication, has been crucial in navigating the country through various financial challenges while driving economic progress. Her leadership is pivotal in crafting financial policies that are not only effective in addressing immediate fiscal issues but also strategically aligned with the country's long-term developmental objectives.

Under her stewardship, financial policies are developed with a keen eye on future sustainability, ensuring that they support comprehensive growth and development goals. Her ability to balance short-term needs with long-term aspirations reflects a profound understanding of economic dynamics and a commitment to fostering a resilient and prosperous economy.

By integrating forward-thinking strategies and maintaining a focus on the nation's overarching goals, the Honourable Minister ensures that economic policies contribute meaningfully to the country's progress. Her leadership exemplifies a blend of strategic vision and pragmatic solutions, setting a strong foundation for enduring economic stability and development.

Women Executive Management of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

The Principal Secretary plays a crucial role in supporting the Minister and overseeing the Ministry's operations. Her exceptional organizational skills and coordination ensure the effective implementation of financial policies and the smooth daily management of the Ministry. By translating strategic decisions into actionable plans, she maintains the operational integrity and efficiency of the Ministry.

In parallel, the dynamic Women Heads of Departments (HODs) drive critical functions within the Ministry, including policy development, planning, budgeting, and financial regulation. Their expertise and dedication are vital for advancing public financial management with precision and accountability. Together with the Principal Secretary, these leaders foster a culture of excellence and transparency, ensuring that the Ministry operates effectively and meets national financial and development objectives.

Chief Accounting Officers (CAOs) in Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs):

Women Chief Accounting Officers (CAOs) are making significant strides in financial oversight and public sector management by enhancing diversity and bringing unique strengths to their roles. They advocate for a more inclusive approach to financial management, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and ethical practices. Their leadership drives reforms and ensures effective use of public resources while also mentoring and empowering other women, breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields.

Similarly, women leading Planning, Accounts, and Procurement Units in Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) are vital to financial planning and oversight. Their meticulous work ensures effective and transparent management of public funds, enhancing fiscal responsibility and accountability. By promoting gender equity and driving improvements in financial practices, these leaders bolster the integrity and efficiency of public financial management, supporting broader goals of sustainable and inclusive governance.

Auditor General and the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

The roles of the Auditor General and the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) play critical roles in public financial management. The Chairperson of the PAC ensures rigorous scrutiny of government financial practices, advocating for transparency and accountability while driving reforms and holding entities accountable for their use of public funds. Her leadership enhances financial oversight and promotes ethical governance.

Similarly, the Auditor General conducts audits to verify the accuracy and integrity of financial statements, identifying areas for improvement and ensuring regulatory compliance. Together, the Chairperson of the PAC and the Auditor General fortify the oversight framework, uphold high standards of fiscal responsibility, and inspire confidence in public institutions through their combined leadership.

Celebrating the Unsung Heroes

Behind every leader is a network of dedicated women who provide essential support, often behind the scenes. These unsung heroes include:



ECONOMISTS:

Economists play a vital role in analysing economic conditions and forecasting future trends. Their work helps in crafting policies that are responsive to economic realities and in assessing the potential impacts of financial decisions. Their insights are invaluable for strategic planning and long-term economic stability.



Budget Analysts:

Budget analysts are essential in developing and monitoring budgets. They work closely with various departments to ensure that financial plans are realistic and align with organizational goals. Their attention to detail and analytical skills ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively.



ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS:

These professionals play a key role in maintaining financial accuracy and transparency. Their work in preparing and auditing financial reports ensures that all transactions are recorded correctly and that public funds are managed responsibly.



Support Staff:

Women in various support roles, including secretaries, administrative staff, and cleaners, are integral to the smooth functioning of public financial management and other sectors. Their dedication ensures that daily operations run efficiently and effectively, from managing documentation and providing administrative support to maintaining clean and organized workspaces. Their contributions, though often behind the scenes, are essential for creating a productive and professional environment, supporting the broader goals of the organization and reinforcing the overall success of public institutions.



WHY THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS MATTER

Celebrating women leaders in public financial management (PFM) is crucial as their leadership directly influences the stability and growth of economies worldwide.

Their strategic vision and commitment drive transformative policies that ensure efficient use of public resources, enhance transparency, and integrate sustainable development goals. By recognizing their achievements, we acknowledge their significant role in shaping fiscal policies that not only address immediate financial challenges but also lay the groundwork for long-term economic stability and growth.

These leaders, from deputy prime ministers to ministers of finance, exemplify excellence and innovation, setting high standards for effective financial management and serving as role models for future generations.

Equally important are the unsung heroes who support these leaders, including economists, budget analysts, accountants, and administrative staff. Their behind-the-scenes contributions are vital for the successful implementation of financial policies and the smooth operation of financial systems.

Economists provide essential insights for policy development, budget analysts ensure effective resource allocation, and accountants and auditors maintain financial accuracy and transparency.

Administrative support staff, though often less visible, play a crucial role in the daily functioning of public financial management. Celebrating these individuals highlights their indispensable contributions and reinforces the collective effort required to advance public financial management towards a more equitable and sustainable future.
