



**Visit by SACU Executive Secretary, Tswelopele Moremi, to the Chairperson of the SACU Council of Ministers, Honourable Timothy Thahane, Minister of Finance and Development Planning for Lesotho 12 - 13 January 2009.**

1. The SACU Executive Secretary, Ms Tswelopele Moremi accompanied by the Communications Manager, Ms Shungu Malikongwa undertook a consultative visit to Maseru, Lesotho on 11 - 13 January 2009.
2. Lesotho is currently the Chair of SACU. The objective of the SACU Executive Secretary's visit was to discuss; with the SACU Chairperson of Council, Council Hon. Timothy Thahane, also Minister of Finance and Development planning for Lesotho, and the SACU Chairpersons of SACU Customs Commission Ms Motena Tsolo; strategic and operational issues for the 2009 SACU Work Programme, and agree on the way forward.
3. Under operational initiatives for the year 2009 it was agreed that the operations of SACU institutions, among these the Secretariat, Commission and the Technical Liaison Committees (TLCs) be reviewed with the view of streamlining and improving their output. It was also agreed that a work plan be developed for the implementation of decisions taken by Council at its last meeting held in Walvis bay on 05 December 2008.

4. In addition, the Chairperson of Council together with the Executive Secretary held a Press Conference. The Press Conference provided an opportunity to brief the media implementation of the 2002 SACU Agreement, progress made and challenges encountered to date. Both the Chairperson and the Executive Secretary highlighted the important developments that have taken place with the establishment of the Secretariat and efforts made in the establishment of other SACU Institutions as well as the development of a common Industrial Policy.
5. An evening reception was held on the last day of the visit for the SACU Executive Secretary and SACU Stakeholders in Lesotho.

**END**

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