



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

LRA announces implementation of Rent Relief subsidy

Maseru, 14th October 2020: The Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA), today held a news conference intended to announce and explain the process that will be followed as the Authority implements the Government – Sponsored Rent Relief Subsidy. The rent subsidy is meant to assist businesses that are struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic national lockdown.

The rent relief subsidy will cover a period of one (1) month of April 2020 for commercial property tenants with lease agreements between themselves and commercial building owners or managers whose businesses were not operational during the national lockdown.

The businesses that are eligible for rent subsidy are to meet the following criteria:

- Tax compliant businesses.
- Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs).
- Businesses registered with the Ministry of Trade or any competent authority.
- Has a sub-lease agreement with Property Owner/Manager not less than 3 months old; and
- Businesses that are up to date with their rental payments.

The rent subsidy excludes the following: residential property, commercial property occupied by tenants who were operational during national lockdown, tenants to LNDC, BEDCO, City Councils and Government properties and any other property owners not in business of renting out commercial buildings.

The LRA will pay rent directly to the property owner or manager on behalf of the eligible tenant once the application and processing of the claim is complete. A Registration Form that will be filled by the property owner/manager and a Payment Request Form to be filled by a tenant are obtainable on the LRA website www.lra.org.ls and at LRA Advice/Service Centres. Applications will be received from today, 14th October 2020 until Friday 15th January 2021. Meaning that after the 15th of January 2021 no application will be accepted.

The Rent Relief subsidy was one of the pronouncements the Government of Lesotho made in April to assist struggling businesses and LRA was tasked with a responsibility to administer it on behalf of the Government.

For more information please contact the Call Center on 5221 5555 / 2223 5555 or info@lra.org.ls and t.mncina@lra.org.ls/t.loko@lra.org.ls or call 52215531/52215433