

Yingcamu

Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme

Volume 2



The Poverty Reduction Task Force
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT

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ACRONYMS

PRSAP	Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
PAPPR	Prioritised Action Programme for Poverty Reduction
NGO	Non Governmental Organizations
HIV	Human Immuno Virus
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
CPI	Consumer Price Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	Information Communications Technology
SNL	Swazi Nation Land
CBO	Community Based Organizations
FBO	Faith Based Organizations
VAT	Value Added Tax
SIPA	Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
MPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy
MEPD	Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
SPTC	Swaziland Post and Telecommunications
MHUD	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
MRDYA	Ministry of Regional Development and Youth Affairs
VCT	Voluntary Testing and Counselling
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
HBC	Home Based Care
PEP	Post Exposure prophylaxis
ARV	Anti Retroviral drugs
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
RWSD	Rural Water Supply Department
IMS	Information Management System
RTD	Road Transportation Department
MVA	Motor Vehicle Accident Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
MOJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
SNHB	Swaziland National Housing Board
SEB	Swaziland Electricity Board
WLSA	Women and the Law Southern Africa
STVA	Swaziland Television Authority
SEA	Swaziland Environmental Authority
NDS	National Development Strategy
PPA	Poverty Participatory Assessment
CSO	Central Statistics Office
SWAGAA	Swaziland Action Group against Abuse
SWSC	Swaziland Water Services Corporation
SNC	Swazi National Council
AG	Attorney General
PSMP	Public Service Management Programme
PAC	Public Accounts Committee
MTC	Ministry of Tourism and Communications
MOAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
MOE	Ministry of Education

MOHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
NAMBOARD	National Marketing Board
NMC	National Maize Corporation
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
MEE	Ministry of Enterprise and Employment
MOF	Ministry of Finance
RTD	Road Transportation Department
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
TDL	Title Deed Land
CMAC	Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration Commission
LULOTE	Luhlelo Lolunotsisa Temabhizinisi
SEDCO	Small Enterprise Development Corporation
ASBC	Association of Swaziland Business Community
IEC	Information, Education, Communication materials
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOPSI	Ministry of public Service and Information
NERCHA	National Emergency Response Council on HIV and AIDS
ORS	Oral Rehydration Salts
TB	Tuberculosis

FOREWORD

The Government of the kingdom of Swaziland presents the second volume of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme (PRSAP Vol. II). This volume is a continuation of volume I and it gives a brief outline of the actions required to address poverty based on the strategies developed in the Poverty Reduction Strategy document. This Volume of the PRSAP will form the basis for the implementation and annual monitoring of the progress made in the elimination of poverty. It lists under each Pillar all critical actions to be implemented in order to realize the goals and targets set in these documents. These Pillars will guide the process of formulating, implementing and coordinating projects/programmes through a hub and cluster system which brings together various sectors. The agencies primarily responsible for initiating and implementing each of these actions are also identified in this Action Programme,

Some actions are purely administrative and do not require a lot of resources to implement. It will therefore be possible for the responsible Ministries to immediately act on them. Others require a substantial amount of resources. For these, the ordinary process of preparing the projects and including them in the Sectoral Development Plans and the Medium term Expenditure Framework for budget funding shall be followed. Although some actions may by their very nature determine the order of priority, the national and sectoral priorities will be determined at cluster and sector level. During programme or project formulation, a number of related actions can be combined to come up with an integrated programme. The realisation of the goals and objectives of the PRSAP will entirely dependent on the immediate implementation of the action programme and the mobilization of the necessary resources.

The Government is committed to pursuing a pro-poor policy and implementation programme in order to revitalise economic growth, empower the poor and provide equal opportunities for generating income and resultantly eliminate income inequalities over the next ten years. The Government is further committed through the implementation of this PRSAP and other programmes to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and ultimately the national vision (vision 2022).

A.M.C DLAMINI (Senator)
MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme presents a framework for achieving the objective of reducing and ultimately eradicating poverty in Swaziland and it is presented in two interrelated volumes. Volume I analyses the causes and scope of poverty in the country in all the key sectors and identifies goals and strategies to be pursued so as to reduce to 30% in 2015. Volume II presents the Action Programme for poverty reduction, which will guide agencies in developing pro-poor projects. The goal of the PRSAP is to reduce poverty by more than 50% in 2015 and absolutely eradicate it by 2022.

In March 2002, Cabinet approved the Prioritized Action Programme for Poverty Reduction (PAPPR), which was an interim strategy paper. The interim strategy (PAPPR) emphasised measures that reduce vulnerability and inequality in the very short term. The PRSAP broadens the strategic vision by also recognising the importance of short to medium term measures to fight poverty through policies that sustain rapid and broad-based economic growth.. These three documents are inter-linked and they explain the strategic vision for reducing poverty, the main objectives, and the key actions to be pursued, all of which will guide the preparation of government's medium-term and annual budgets, programmes, and policies.

The PRSAP is based on the following six (6) pillars that will back the policy framework for addressing the problems of poverty in the country:

- a. Macro-economic stability and accelerated economic growth based on broad participation;
- b. Empowering the poor to generate income and reduce inequalities;
- c. Fair Distribution of the Benefits of Growth through Fiscal Policy;
- d. Human Capital Development
- e. Improving the Quality of Life of the Poor; and
- f. Improving governance and strengthening institutions.

The Strategy further seeks to draw attention to the importance of the following issues in facilitating economic growth and addressing poverty:

Macro-economic stability especially in the areas of economic growth and fiscal discipline;

Reducing risks and vulnerability through the provision of social protection programmes for vulnerable groups including children and the elderly;

Fostering of a more equitable and efficient service delivery with regards to access to basic services – primary health care (HIV/AIDS, preventative and curative) and basic education;

Accelerating equitable agricultural production, including consideration for land security, food security and the management of the environment;

Creating employment and business opportunities through the provision of a conducive environment, facilities and options for self-employment in other fields that are non-agricultural.

The production of the PRSAP has benefited from a process of consultations with various groups and segments of society including chiefs and local communities at Tinkhundla level, private sector, donor community, development partners and NGOs. This document has also benefited in form and content from contributions and from the broad participation of civil society. It is an instrument defining policies and actions that will be periodically reviewed and perfected, through a continuous process of consultations. Deeper discussions on the document as a whole, and on various parts, will continue, since planning is an iterative process involving continuous improvement.

The PRSAP volume II is a dynamic programming document, which will enable implementers to incorporate new ideas and develop poverty oriented projects/programmes in line with emerging changes in society and the economy. The key objective – the reduction of absolute poverty – will not be altered, but the tools, policies and targets may change as knowledge of different variables improves. This Programme of actions seeks to elaborate on the Strategy and describe the measures that should be taken to ensure the implementation of the poverty reduction programme. It demonstrates a comprehensive approach to respond to the socio-cultural and economic requirements for an effective and measurable poverty reduction agenda.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The central objective of the Government is to substantially reduce the levels of poverty through the adoption of policies that mainstream poverty reduction in all development programmes and encourage the implementation of measures that improve the capacities of, and opportunities available to all Swazi's, especially the poor. The specific objective is to reduce the incidence of absolute poverty from 69% in 2001 to about 30% by 2015 and eradicate it completely by 2022.

PERSPECTIVE

Besides suffering from acute material poverty, the poor in Swaziland also suffer from a high degree of vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, natural disasters and economic shocks. The CPI profile for low income groups indicate that the poor spend most of their income on food and the prices are rising very fast. They also do not have reliable sources of income. They are usually employed as labourers and seasonal employees with very low wages. To deal with this poverty situation, its determinants, characteristics and associated constraints, the government decided to develop this comprehensive and integrated Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme.

The fight against poverty started even before independence. At independence, government established priority themes such as self-reliance and self-sufficiency in food production. High priority was given to expenditure on agriculture, health and education, to improve human development. Significant investments were also made in developing basic infrastructure and economic policy was based on free enterprise system and private sector driven economic growth.

Whilst, there was notable success on growth, the benefits did not trickle down equitably to the whole population thus widening inequalities. Sixty nine percent (69%) of the population lives below the upper poverty line. In addition, there remain grave social and economic problems. Analysis of data from the 1995 and 2001 Household Surveys provide a detailed profile of poverty. The pattern of wealth distribution indicates that only a small share of the population benefits from the national income. The richest 20% of the population hold 54.6% of wealth whilst the poorest 20% hold only 4.3%. There are also notable urban-rural and regional imbalances. Seventy six (76%) of the rural population is poor whilst 50% of the population in urban areas is poor. Shiselweni and Lubombo are the poorest regions in the country.

POLICIES FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

The PRSAP includes policies and action programmes that ensure that growth is participatory and inclusive. This will take place through greater and equitable access to productive assets in order to increase the efficiency of individuals, groups, families and other institutions, especially in rural areas. Human capital Development is a prerequisite for achieving expected efficiencies, distribution of growth and the optimal use of resources. Furthermore, a pro-poor growth strategy requires a policy climate, which stimulates the private sector in order to accelerate job creation, business development as well as income-generating opportunities through self-employment. It is evident from the data analysis on poverty that when components of the programme are implemented, community, Tinkhundla and regional differences will have to be considered and special attention given to regions with the greatest concentration of poor people.

The basic assumption underlying the PRSAP is that the Government will maintain macro-economic stability and good governance; focus on programmes that reduce vulnerability (especially to HIV/AIDS); human capital development; broad-based participation for empowerment and employment creation; and the implementation of re-distribution policies. Basically, the strategic vision for poverty reduction is the creation of an enabling environment for private investment and economic growth, which will create opportunities for greater participation by the poor and accommodate re-distribution policies that will ultimately empower the poor and enable them to generate their own income.

More than 70% of the population lives in rural areas, and derives their livelihood from agriculture, but only about 30% of households have enough to eat. Most people depend on off-farm income

for survival. In this regard, rural development is a major priority in this PRSAP and it is capable of stimulating agricultural and other non-agricultural activities which will provide opportunities for generating incomes and broad-based growth. Increased production and the successful implementation of a rural development programme depend on infrastructure provision; extension services, technology, markets, social services, financial services. The strategy for rural and agricultural development will also focus on food security, which is fundamental to reducing poverty and other risks faced by the poor.

The PRSAP is based on the following priority areas: (i) macro-economic stability with particular emphasis on fiscal prudence and promoting an equitable pattern of growth; (ii) increasing rural productivity through investing in infrastructural development; (iii) human capital focusing on curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS, improving access to basic education and primary health care; (iv) ensuring food security, proper nutrition and agricultural production; (v) good governance and strengthening governance institutions; (vi) creating employment opportunities and developing existing businesses; and (vii) reducing vulnerability. These areas for action are considered 'basic' and absolutely essential for reducing poverty and stimulating growth. These priorities are derived from the analysis of the poverty determinants in the country, as well as studies and consultations within the public service, civil society, the private sector and others on the issue of poverty reduction.

Broad-based accelerated growth is an essential and powerful tool for poverty reduction in the medium to long-term. This must be accompanied by the design and implementation of re-distributive measures without which, the objective of expanding opportunities and increasing the capacities of the poor will continue to be evasive. In order to effectively address poverty, it is therefore crucial that the PRSAP should contain policies aimed at creating a favourable climate for stimulating investment and productivity as well as achieving an average annual GDP growth rate of more than 5%.

Sound macro-economic and financial management is a fundamental requirement for creating an environment for stimulating accelerated growth and poverty reduction. Of paramount importance is the achievement of fiscal stability, improvement of reserve levels, management of domestic and foreign debt, and controlling the rapid growth of expenditures. Another key element is that of creating employment and expanding opportunities for business development. The PRSAP gives priority to the development of policies that will increase the competitiveness of the economy; promote international trade; broaden the revenue base without causing inequalities and inefficiencies; and expand financial services to benefit SMEs particularly in rural areas.

Good Governance is another essential condition for the creation of an enabling environment for private sector expansion and overall economic growth, as well the successful implementation of the poverty reduction strategy. The quality of government institutions is very important for the

efficient and effective provision of public services to the poor. Actions proposed in this regard include prudent fiscal management; strengthening of the judicial system and law enforcement institutions in order to boost investor confidence, improve personal security and protect the rights and freedoms of the public; strengthen traditional institutions so that the resolution of disputes is ensured and the public can participate in the decision-making process; institute measures to fight corruption at all levels; and implement a decentralisation programme that will bring government closer to the people and reform/build capacity of public institutions so they can better respond to the needs of the poor, in particular.

The PRSAP also embodies education, a basic human right which is enshrined in the country's constitution. The fundamental role of education for poverty reduction is recognised universally. Access to education contributes directly to human development by improving capacities and opportunities, empowering people thus promoting greater social integration and gender equality. It is also widely acknowledged that information is power and an indispensable means of improving the living conditions and standards of all people. Education is also essential for rapid growth. It expands the quantity and quality of human capital available for productive activities, and the ability of the nation to absorb new technologies. The main objectives of this PRSAP in the area of education include achieving universal primary education, improving informal education and vocational training; improving the quality and eliminating the bias against primary in favour of tertiary levels; and eliminating the gap between urban and rural schools. In this context, a larger share of resources will be allocated to basic education.

The programme also considers the impact of HIV/AIDS on the social sectors, particularly education and health. The programme includes a commitment to combat HIV/AIDS and sexual abuse and also considers the issue of school management. Given the serious scarcity of technical and management capacity, which is an impediment to efficient running of schools, the programme takes into account the necessity of building capacity as well as expanding and improving the system of school governance.

Curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS and mitigating against the impact in all the affected sectors is one of the key areas of intervention in this programme. The impact on the economy is already huge and if no immediate action is taken to address the scourge, more losses will be suffered. The PRSAP therefore gives particular emphasis to improving the health sector because of the very heavy burden it carries as a result of the virus. At the same time, the sector plays a fundamental role in contributing to accelerated economic growth. It improves the quality of human capital and by directly improving the well-being of the poor.

Emphasis is also placed on the importance of safe water provision and proper waste disposal, improved nutrition, better health care and facilities. The main objectives of the PRSAP in the health sector are to expand and improve the coverage of primary and quality health care through

special programmes geared towards targeted vulnerable groups such as women and children; a campaign to reverse the current growth of the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and greater efforts in the fight against endemic diseases such as malaria, malnutrition, and tuberculosis. The strategy also includes initiatives in related areas linked to health, such as the provision of physical infrastructure and food security.

Reducing vulnerability is another area of priority that is considered in this PRSAP. Special attention is paid to the vulnerable groups in the country which includes the elderly, people with disabilities, orphans, widows etc. The PRSAP focuses on addressing the basic needs of these groups and ensuring that they are availed an opportunity to participate in and benefit from the growth of the economy. The PRSAP also covers crosscutting and pertinent issues for the achievement of the goal for poverty reduction. These crosscutting issues are complementary, facilitative and supportive of the basic interventions outlined in the Action Programme. These include: population, environment, infrastructure, gender equality and decentralisation.

In order to improve access, facilitate communication and mobility for both urban, rural and commercial institutions and the people, the Government will be expected to take a leading role in ensuring that all stakeholders participate in the development of infrastructure which includes the road network, Information Communications Technology (ICT) and markets. The PRSAP will give priority to the rehabilitation and construction of basic infrastructure to those areas of the country with the largest populations and highest levels of poverty.

IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING

Whilst the PRSAP will be implemented by all stakeholders, Government's major role in the implementation of the PRSAP is that of coordinator and facilitator – providing a favourable policy environment and basic infrastructure to act as a stimulus for the market economy and expanding opportunities for the poor. The implementation of the action programme will be enhanced by the prioritisation of activities in order to meet objectives in a systematic manner and within available resources. This will work within the parameters of the MTEF and principles of sound macro-economic management. Some of the actions should be implemented immediately to create an enabling environment and they do not require additional resources but a mere change of attitude and operational plan.

It is envisaged that there will be close monitoring and evaluation of progress and impact by all stakeholders, which will then be followed by regular reviews of the PRSAP to determine the achievements and shortcomings. With respect to data collection and in order to facilitate effective monitoring, the Government will strengthen the capacity of institutions that collect data and ensure coordination and timely collection and analysis of data.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The underlying principle for the PRSAP is “reducing poverty through shared growth”. It seeks to transform the economy of Swaziland, resulting in a very competitive market oriented economy in which citizens in all the sectors of development participate in and benefit from the generation of their country’s growth. For this to be realised, the following assumptions have been made:

- a) The economy will grow at a rapid pace and in a broad-based and sustainable manner. This is dependent on the existence of a favourable investment climate as well as timely and proper interventions in strategic sectors;
- b) The poor will be empowered through direct participation in this growth, expanding their employment opportunities in small and medium enterprises, industry and services as well as in smallholder agriculture;
- c) Human capacity will be developed to support measures for economic growth and service delivery;
- d) Government institutions will be strengthened in order to improve service delivery; and
- e) The agricultural sector will be transformed through structural reforms and creating linkages with other sectors so that the poor can participate actively and consequently raise their incomes and reduce their vulnerability to the risks associated with poverty and under development.

The PRSAP is very comprehensive and does not treat poverty as an isolated issue. It covers all aspects of development and advocates for addressing all sectoral development issues such that in the process of addressing poverty, overall development is not compromised. It is envisaged that all development programmes will draw strategies from the PRSAP and that it will form the centre of all development efforts. The implementation of the Plan of Actions will revolve around the six pillars identified in the Strategy, which are fundamental for the reduction of poverty in Swaziland. These are the main strategic components for the various activities and policies and their main thrust is:

- a) Macro-economic stability and sustainable pro-poor growth- encompassing employment creation, agricultural development, infrastructure development and investment;
- b) Human capital development – improve access to health and education, curb spread of HIV/AIDS;
- c) Improving the quality of life for the most vulnerable – provide safety nets for the poorest section of the population in the form of housing food security and nutrition, quality of the population, energy, legal protection etc;

- d) Good governance strengthening public and civil society institutions for service delivery, natural resource management and environmental protection and anti-corruption.

The PRSAP has been formulated during times of deepening poverty, declining economic growth and HIV/AIDS. In the past, Swaziland had remarkable levels of economic growth which were driven by agriculture and manufacturing. However, these high growth levels were not reflective of the living standards of the people. The distribution of income was and still is highly skewed and the number of people who have sunk deeper and deeper into poverty has increased over the years. This indicates that, economic growth has not been pro-poor and there is great need to have the poor participating in the dynamics of growth. This should be accompanied by deliberate policies and resource allocation that will empower the poor and provide social protection to help the poorest and the most vulnerable of the poor to come out of poverty.

The implementation of the action programme will therefore be enhanced by the prioritisation of activities in order to meet objectives in a systematic manner and within available resources. This will work within the parameters of the MTEF and principles of sound macro-economic management. Some of the actions should be implemented immediately to create an enabling environment and they do not require additional resources but a mere change of attitude and operational plan. It is envisaged that there will be close monitoring and evaluation of progress and impact by all stakeholders, which will then be followed by regular reviews of the PRSAP to determine the achievements and shortcomings.

The PRSAP volume II focuses on the actions that Swaziland should undertake in order to meet the targets for poverty reduction, which include achieving the MDGs. This document provides the planning framework the implementation of poverty reducing policies and programmes by the Government development partners, civil society and others. It is a product of a highly consultative process and thus represents consensus on the development path to be pursued in order to meet the core objective of reducing poverty. Although government will undertake overall co-ordination of the implementation programme and also monitor the impact of poverty reduction programmes on the lives of the poor, all other stakeholders have an important role to play in reducing poverty. Stakeholders are expected to develop the actions into specific projects and activities and include them in their sectoral development plans and policy initiatives.

The actions presented in this PRSAP depict priority interventions that will have to be undertaken by all stakeholders in order to make a positive impact in the lives of the poor and in the development of the country. They are presented as project ideas which still have to be developed into detailed programmes and projects for inclusion in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework in line with the action plans appended to each Pillar. The Pillars are interlinked and the actions are also closely related with some dependent on the timely and successful implementation of others. These actions include project ideas for which brief project profiles have already been prepared and included in the Prioritised Programme of Action for Poverty Reduction (2002).

This volume focuses on a combination of policies, programmes and services that are designed to reduce poverty. This is part of government's commitment to develop a poverty reduction action programme that identifies practical interventions that will meet the needs of the poor people who face the realities of poverty on a daily basis. The National Development Strategy outlines a vision that pronounces a commitment to fight poverty and accelerate growth. This document operationalises this Vision and thus has established links between economic and socio-political factors that need to be addressed in order to reduce poverty by more than 50% by 2015 and ultimately eradicate it by 2022. It advocates for service delivery that is efficient, effective, non-discriminatory, of good quality, affordable and accessible to all, irrespective of the level of income.

It is hoped that the implementation of the PRSAP will involve the poor who are equally responsible for their upliftment. Once government has created the right conditions, the poor will be expected to participate and work themselves out of poverty. Their participation should be promoted through the process of decentralisation and structural change, which is considered crucial in the implementation of the PRSAP. The role of sectors and implementing agencies is to prioritize, further develop and cost programmes/projects derived from this Action Programme.

CHAPTER 2: POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PRIORITIES FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

2.1 Overarching Policy Objective

The overriding goal of the PRSAP is to reduce poverty by more than 50% by 2015 and then ultimately eradicate it by 2022. This goal is in line with the Vision in the NDS which states that 'by the year 2022 Swaziland will be classified in the top 10% of the middle human development group of countries founded on sustainable economic development, social justice and political stability'. The elimination of poverty in Swaziland is imperative and achievable if all national potential and the support of the international community are fully harnessed. The PRSAP seeks to reduce income poverty and achieve an acceptable level of living standards for the entire population, free from deprivation, malnutrition, vulnerability to ill health and preventable diseases, illiteracy, isolation, poor shelter, voiceless ness and external shocks. The PRSAP advocates for pro-poor fiscal policy and service delivery.

The policy objective is to create an environment that will empower the poor to participate actively in uplifting their standards of living by taking advantage of existing and future opportunities. Central to this is the transformation of the agricultural sector, structural reforms, investing in the lives of the poor to reduce their risks and vulnerability and restructuring the public expenditure pattern. The PRSAP puts emphasis on creating linkages with the manufacturing sector through support to industrial output while at the same time obtaining the means to increase incomes of the poor and fulfilling their basic needs.

Achieving the above targets demands a change in approach as well as additional and more aggressive measures to broaden economic participation. Resultantly, a new pattern of pro-poor development is urgently needed in order to enable the poor to participate and share fully in growth and development. Allowing the poor to participate in the areas of the economy where they could have comparative advantage, will lead to equitable distribution of the gains from growth.

Furthermore, the PRSAP aims to reverse the distortions that inhibit access to services. Unequal access cannot be reversed by only changing policy but also by strengthening governance institutions so that the poor can exploit optimally those opportunities availed to them. It is expected that as an outcome of the PRSAP, the poor will benefit from economic growth through increased incomes generated through wages, self-employment and improved service delivery by government, NGOs and communities.

This policy framework takes into the account the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which have been mainstreamed in the PRSAP goals and targets and have been customised to fit Swaziland's economic situation and planning framework.

2.2 Pillars for the Poverty Reduction Strategy

The PRSAP is developed around six pillars, which form the thematic areas for poverty reduction in Swaziland. These outline the strategic components for classifying certain policies, projects and activities into a coherent framework for reducing poverty. These pillars are expected to provide the necessary stimulus for the economy to grow. Economic growth is a condition for poverty reduction, without which there cannot be any sustainable re-distributive measure. Growth prospects are however dependent on the creation of an enabling environment as well as timely and proper interventions in certain sectors. This must be accompanied by equal participation so that there is macro-economic stability, human capital development, reduced vulnerability, equal treatment and good governance. All institutions will need to be strengthened to improve service delivery and the protection of human rights. The following six pillars form the basis on which the PRSAP has been developed:

1. Macro-economic Stability and Accelerated Economic Growth Based on Broad Participation;
2. Empowering the Poor to Generate Income and Reduce Inequalities;
3. Fair Distribution of the Benefits of Growth through Fiscal Policy;
4. Human Capital Development;
5. Improving the Quality of Life of the Poor; and
6. Improving Governance and Strengthening Institutions

All these pillars are interlinked and also linked with the goals, objectives, strategies and activities that are explained in detail in the strategy document.

2.3 National Policy Priorities

The objective of the PRSAP is to create an enabling environment where there is a potential for sustainable pro-poor growth. The private sector and investment in small and medium enterprises will be the driving force for pro-poor growth. The poor will be encouraged to participate in all the sectors of the economy and to generate their own incomes and be able to feed and look after themselves. Sustainable growth requires a stable macro-economic environment and the mainstreaming of crosscutting issues in all interventions. Government, private sector and other development partners must invest in human capital in order to increase productivity and to effectively address the effects of the HIV/AIDS challenge.

While government will lead the process, poverty reduction requires a multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary, and multifaceted effort on the part of all the stakeholders, which include

Government departments, parastatal institutions, donors, international development organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society, the private sector, and above all the poor themselves. The policies and efforts of all stakeholders need to be synchronised and self-supportive in order to set the pace for effective poverty reduction. For this reason, the Government sets below its broad priority areas to which those of other stakeholders need to be aligned for a maximum impact on poverty reduction.

2.3.1 Fiscal Prudence

Fiscal Prudence is critical for restoring a sound macro-economic environment and is the anchor for all the other reforms that are proposed in this PRSAP. Swaziland's fiscal position has been deteriorating for the second decade since early in the 1990s. The position has severely affected service delivery, the credibility of government including her ability to make sound policy, attract investment, contain inflationary pressure and address the scourge of HIV/AIDS. In this respect, the Government has to give priority to the building up of reserves, secure a favourable balance of payments position and the parity of the currency to the Rand. There should be efficiency in the collection of revenue, prioritisation and targeting of resources towards pro-growth and pro-poor expenditures. It is therefore critical for Government to exercise a high level of discipline and Prudence in determining the policies and decisions that will positively transform the macroeconomic situation of the country and facilitate all the reforms necessary for poverty reduction.

2.3.2 Promotion of a more equitable pattern of growth

Poverty reduction does not take place in a declining economy. Rapid economic growth is necessary, though not a sufficient condition for poverty reduction. World Bank studies indicate that a 1% increase in national income reduces poverty by 1.2% and that a 1% increase in national income reduces the depth of poverty by 1.7%. Furthermore, recent studies have concluded that under an assumption of 2.75% per annum population growth rate, Swaziland requires a minimum growth rate of 5 % per annum in real GDP in order to stop the numbers of the poor from rising. Thus for poverty to decline in Swaziland, the rate of economic growth should be greater than 5%. However, this growth must be accompanied by measures for income redistribution and increased participation of the poor in the generation of wealth. In this regard, the Government will support reforms that will increase access to productive assets such as land, water, information and financial resources by the poor to enable them to be part of the growth.

2.3.3 Investment in people

Human resource development is crucial to reduce risk and vulnerability as well as to build quality human capital so as to create a productive labour force for an expanding economy. The basic focus is to enhance the quality of life for all and in particular address the crisis resulting from the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The main areas for empowerment include basic education and life skills for

both girls and boys; primary health care for all including full immunisation of children against common diseases; maternal health care; access to basic health facilities; promotion of hygiene in private homes and public places; and adequate nutrition especially for infants, children, expectant mothers, and persons living with AIDS.

2.3.4 Ensuring food security

Securing adequate food from own production or the ability to afford to purchase adequate supplies of food is one of the primary conditions that determine the poverty status of an individual. Ensuring that nutritious food is available, affordable and accessible for the poor remains a challenge in this country. Food insecurity has characterised the rural environment with economic collapse and chronic hunger being the main attributes of the living conditions of rural households. The prolonged drought has worsened these conditions as more than 20% of the population now lives on food aid. With the increasing unemployment levels, other independent sources of income have collapsed for these rural and peri-urban households. The vulnerability of most households has increased with the HIV/AIDS pandemic contributing to growing levels of destitution and poverty. Ensuring food security either through own production or increased income earnings is an essential part of this PRSAP.

2.3.5 Increasing agricultural production and productivity on SNL

Outgrowing dependence on rain-fed agriculture will mitigate risk to hunger particularly during the drought. This strategic priority area seeks to turn the SNL into a powerful source of growth commensurate with the size of this land relative to the entire area of Swaziland. Increasing the productivity of SNL will not only increase the overall GDP but will also empower small producers and enhance income distribution without further fiscal reform. Government will endeavour to reduce poverty through the provision of services and infrastructure development in order to increase agricultural production and income generation by the poor, particularly on SNL.

2.3.6 Investment in rural infrastructure

This will not only boost the creation of employment opportunities but will reduce the rate of rural-urban migration by increasing opportunities for investment in rural areas. The government will therefore continue to invest in rural roads and bridges, power supply, rural water supply, rural electrification, industrial parks, Information Communications Technology and telecommunication. Notwithstanding government obligations, investment in infrastructure and telecommunication are not areas of exclusive mandate to the public sector. In this regard, private-public partnerships and private sector involvement in infrastructure development will be greatly encouraged. Selective incentives will also be used to boost both domestic and foreign investment and to make Swaziland more competitive. Special attention will be given to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in order to increase their participation in industrial development and employment creation.

2.3.7 Reducing the poor people's vulnerability

Government will work with other development partners to ensure that vulnerability to Government will work with other development partners to ensure that vulnerability to economic shocks, crop failure, natural disasters, and displacements (due to government projects) are given urgent attention and their effects are greatly minimised. The complex nature of this vulnerability calls for collective and often simultaneous effort of all stakeholders. NGOs, CBOs, FBOs and communities will be encouraged to intervene in order to alleviate suffering and reduce the vulnerability of households to such external factors.

2.3.8 Decentralisation and strengthening governance institutions

Government will endeavour to improve policy making and targeting of resources in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of policies for poverty reduction. The Government will also foster transparency and accountability in the operations and management of Government programmes and take drastic action to discourage practices of corruption or inappropriate public expenditure. With regard to institutional reform, state institutions responsible for accountability, rendering of justice, ensuring the rule of law, human and social equity will be strengthened and their autonomy guaranteed. They will also be closely monitored to ensure proper delivery of services. Tinkhundla centres will be strengthened through gradual decentralisation of power to empower communities to participate in the identification of their priorities, planning, and budgeting for their development. Decision-making and accountability will also be decentralised to the level of Tinkhundla in order to increase the positive impact of public expenditure on the lives of the poor.

CHAPTER 3: ACTIONS ON MACRO-ECONOMIC STABILITY & ACCELERATED ECONOMIC GROWTH BASED ON BROAD PARTICIPATION (PILLAR 1)

Macro-economic stability provides a framework for growth, income redistribution and transformation without which there can be no sustainable reduction of poverty. Instability hurts the poor most as it creates inflationary pressure by eroding the strength of individual incomes. It further exposes the country to external shocks and results in the decline of domestic and foreign direct investment. Instability is often associated with the diversion of resources from productive sectors towards consumptive expenditure. In order to achieve the goal of reducing poverty by more than 50% by 2015, it is important to consider the availability of resources as well as the growth prospects on the basis of which meaningful and sustainable change can be made. The economy would have to grow at a rate of more than 5% per annum. Economic growth requires a framework whereby the private sector can perform to its full potential and draw linkages with other related sectors such as small and medium enterprises, agriculture, environment and social issues. For the country to attain the desired level of growth, it is also critical that more investment should be directed towards research and development as well as in science and technology.

Poverty reduction also requires a policy shift towards re-distributive measures. The PRSAP is presenting a new opportunity to put in place economic policies, which can achieve sustainable and equitable growth and poverty reduction. At the centre of the PRSAP, is the pursuit of a "shared growth" principle which will give legitimacy and fairness to all economic activities and policies that are being undertaken. In this regard it will be crucial for the country to maintain fiscal prudence and to build institutions necessary for accelerated growth. Existing public resources would have to be effectively and efficiently utilized, reallocating them where necessary, to new needs, while ensuring sustainability and adequate response to social pressures. Some of the other fundamental elements for the framework include efficient and equitable revenue collection, proper planning, expenditure control, improved infrastructure, investment in human capital, good governance and safety.

Rapid economic growth is a prerequisite for an effective poverty reduction strategy. A new equitable, dynamic and participatory pattern of growth is required for a serious poverty reduction agenda. The acceleration of economic growth will depend on the recovery of the private sector, which in turn is influenced by a sound macro-economic policy environment. The growth of the private sector will need to be further supported by a complement of public sector policy measures that will improve equity directly and assist in accelerating the transition towards a new growth pattern.

Swaziland's growth must therefore be stimulated and sustained from the average of 2.5% per annum to not less than 5% per annum rising to the over 9% as experienced in the late 1980s. The poor will benefit if the economy is steered towards a labour-intensive growth path that is based on the broad participation of all the active Swazi labour force. The strategy for rapid growth with

broad-based participation implies that Government will facilitate and encourage all Swazis to assume participatory roles in production and to earn income, to their full potential. Forward and backward linkages between tertiary, secondary and primary production sectors will be strengthened and households supported to harness their potential. The performance of the agricultural sector will be improved and idle or under-utilised land released for more productive activities. The following actions will be implemented as a matter of priority in this Pillar:

3.1 Tax Reforms

3.1.1 Increasing Tax Revenue

The deficit financing that is currently taking place in the country, results in inflation and weakens the Lilangeni, which in turn erodes the purchasing power of the poor. Moreover, insufficient tax revenue resulting from a very low tax base and inefficiencies in the collection of revenue has resulted in reduced Government revenues which affect the implementation of development initiatives. In this regard, the Ministry of Finance shall redesign the existing taxation system and explore more effective ways of widening the tax base for the purpose of increasing revenue and promoting equity. The Ministry will also improve its efforts of revenue collection and ensure that corruption in the management and administration of Government revenue is limited.

3.1.2 Introduction of VAT

The introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) as a more efficient and effective means of collecting revenue has taken Swaziland much longer than necessary to implement. The Ministry of Finance through the Revenue Authority will introduce VAT and ensure its efficient management.

3.1.3 Establish the Revenue Authority

In order to ensure efficient collection and revenue administration, the Ministry of Finance will establish and build the capacity of the Revenue Authority in the year 2007. The Revenue Authority will facilitate and ensure efficient collection and accountability in the administration of all taxes and other revenue sources.

3.1.4 Review the taxation of terminal benefits

The high taxation of terminal benefits has been a great concern to a lot of retirees given the fact that they would have been paying taxes all their working lives and the fact that pensions are usually the only means of sustaining pensioners. In this regard, the Ministry of Finance will review and amend the laws pertaining to the taxation of terminal benefits with a view of reducing the tax.

3.2 Facilitating Investment & Growth

3.2.1 Vigorous campaigns to re-attract foreign direct investment.

The decline in domestic and foreign investment in Swaziland is the main reason why the economic rate of growth is declining. The Government shall ensure that the investment environment improves and conduct market research on the types of industries and investors to target and promote. Such promotion campaigns will target labour intensive, value adding and pro growth industries. The Government will adopt policies that promote and enhance industries in which the country has a comparative advantage while at the same time encouraging and adapting to new technologies that will promote investment in new and diverse areas. The Ministry of Enterprise through the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA) consultation with the Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning & Employment will develop an attractive and sustainable incentive package to encourage FDI and domestic investment and prepare an informative brochure containing the latest investment incentives and developments in corporative governance. Business and investor meetings will be arranged in Swaziland at reasonable intervals to discuss the developments in each industry, political and international business environment under which these operate.

3.2.2 Simplify investment processes and licensing procedures

The length it takes to invest or establish a business in the country is not encouraging to investors and hence not facilitative of growth. The Ministry of Enterprise and Employment through the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority and the Small and Medium Enterprise Unit will liaise with all agencies responsible for the successful establishment of investments to ensure that the time it takes for investment procedures, particularly on SNL to be finalized does not exceed a period of one month. Such agencies include immigration, localization and licensing offices.

3.2.3 Rural Industrialisation Policy

The creation of job opportunities in the rural areas is a crucial component of the poverty reduction strategy. Infrastructure and an investment environment that would facilitate increased investment and job creation in rural areas is of paramount importance. In this regard it will be important develop a rural industrialisation policy which would help guide and direct policy initiatives towards industry development in rural areas. This policy would also help identify projects that would be critical for a successful industrialisation process of the rural areas. The implementation of such a policy would ensure that the incidence of urban-bias in the location of industries is greatly reduced. The project would therefore have to identify initial projects for implementation which would to the great extent possible create sustainable job opportunities for the rural population.

3.2.4 Development of a Policy on Micro enterprise Sector

The Ministry of Enterprise and Employment shall formulate a policy for developing the Micro enterprise Sector in Swaziland. The aim of the policy will be to legitimise, promote, and regulate the activities of the Micro enterprise Sector. All obstacles to a free, safe and healthy trading environment will be removed. In this task the Ministry will work with traditional leaders, communities, traders, City and Town Councils and all other stakeholders to ensure a facilitative investment environment.

3.2.5 Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure development is a catalyst to investment, industrial development and economic growth. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport will in collaboration with the private sector and all stakeholders ensure that road, industrial, communication and market infrastructure is developed to the extent that it facilitates business and industrial growth. Apart from the main road networks which are already adequately developed in Swaziland the Ministry will expand the feeder roads programme and ensure that it facilitates access to development centres, schools, clinics and markets. In addition, the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Communications will ensure that communication network is adequately developed in the whole country and collaborate with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that information and communications technology (ICT) is provided in rural areas for the purpose of improving business communication in particular. The provision of other infrastructural facilities such as water, electricity and telephones is also important for economic development. Therefore, more efforts to improve such infrastructure in rural areas will be made. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy will ensure the expansion and equitable implementation of the rural electrification programme. The most impoverished regions of Shiselweni and Lubombo will be given utmost priority.

3.2.6 Investment in Research & Development and Science & Technology

For the country to succeed in achieving the level of growth required to reduce poverty, there has to be increased investment in research and science and technology. The Ministry of Economic Planning, Enterprise & Employment will work very closely with academic institutions to facilitate more investment in research and in science and technology.

3.2.7 Improving the Quality, Length and Maintenance of Rural Feeder Roads

Many rural roads in the country are in a serious state of disrepair yet they are the only connection between the people and services. Their rehabilitation and expansion is therefore absolutely necessary for reducing poverty. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport shall prepare a long-term rural repair and expansion programme for which a

dedicated budget within the Ministry shall be established. The programme shall embrace labour intensive techniques to ensure maintenance capacity. The participation of small contractors and local communities shall be encouraged in the construction of rural feeder roads.

3.2.8 Extension of postal and telephone network to rural areas

Telephone services improve communication with rural areas. Although telephone services are demand driven, SPTC needs technical capacity and equipment to deliver the services to those areas that are in a position to pay for them. In the context of poverty reduction strategy, SPTC shall undertake a market survey of demand for telephone in rural areas and prepare a phased programme to extend telephone services to all areas. On the other hand, postal services are a cheap means of communication affordable to the poor. The current coverage of only 64 post offices is too low for the country. SPTC shall undertake a market survey of demand for postal services and expand the services in rural areas.

3.2.9 Establishing multi-purpose community information centres

While declining poverty will increase the poor people's purchasing power for domestic communication equipment like radios and telephones, it will be cost effective for private sector to be encouraged to provide these services in multi-purpose community centres located in certain strategic areas in the rural areas. Accordingly, the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment shall engage the private sector and promote the idea of multi-purpose information centres, providing postal, telephone, Internet, and television services for communal use.

3.2.10 Increase the rural coverage of print media

The Ministry of Public Service and Information will closely collaborate with print media houses to facilitate the distribution of newspapers and information to rural areas and encourage the provision of developmental mass media programmes targeted at the poor.

3.3 Facilitating Trade

3.3.1 Open Market Infrastructure

In order to promote the marketing of rural produce, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives shall designate strategic places as open markets throughout the country for buyers and sellers to meet and transact their business. Open markets have the advantage of eliminating middlemen and therefore directly benefiting producers while reducing travel costs and the cost to final consumers. In addition, the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministries of Housing and Urban Development, Public Works and Transport and, the Ministry of Regional Development and Youth Affairs will facilitate the development of rural infrastructure and the construction of central markets and information outlets in each region where produce and information on available products can be obtained. In addition, the Ministries of Agriculture and Enterprise and Employment shall promote the development of creative marketing systems such as the open market concept, auctions sales, barter systems etc.

3.3.2 Construct a central market in each region

In order to facilitate the sale of rural produce, a central market should be constructed in each region. At the same time communities will be encouraged to establish common markets at Tinkhundla level. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport will establish one Central market in each region and the Ministries of Agriculture and Enterprise and Employment will encourage and support the establishment of community markets and also facilitate the transportation of produce/products to central markets.

3.3.3 Review of Role of State Corporations in Determining Producer Prices

With the objective of increasing farm prices and improving marketing systems, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives shall review the roles of institutions that market produce such as NAMBOARD and NMC. Their pricing structure will also be reviewed in order to determine the extent and level of efficiency with which these institutions pass over the benefits of market prices to farmers or cushion farmers against adverse market fluctuations. The Ministry shall review the mandates and justify the existence of each organisation based on the benefits accruing to farmers and where appropriate make recommendations for restructuring.

3.3.4 Develop a business directory and product & export promotion mechanism

The promotion of exports and Swazi products within and outside the country has failed to increase the demand for local products. The Trade Promotion Unit has to embark on an intensive export and product promotion campaign through the production and extensive distribution of a business directory, which covers all products that are produced in Swaziland as well as through local and international trade exhibitions. The capacity of the Trade Promotion Unit will be enhanced such that they develop marketing and promotion skills. They will also disseminate as widely as possible information on market opportunities for local products.

3.3.5 Securing External Markets for Swaziland's Products

For the country's economy to grow external markets for domestic products should expand and prices of exports should ensure a meaningful and sustainable development of the local industrial base. The objective will be to ensure significant trade benefits from existing markets such as SACU, SADC, and COMESA, and secure new markets in the rest of Africa and the World. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade shall work with other stakeholders to negotiate good trade partnerships and proactively research better markets for Swaziland's products. The Ministry shall track developments in international markets, observing the demand and prices for specific products and assess Swaziland's comparative advantage and competitiveness. It will then constantly update domestic entrepreneurs and exporters of available opportunities and possible threats through regular publications.

3.3.6 Build capacity for meaningful trade negotiation

Swaziland still lacks the capacity to negotiate trade arrangements in an effective and beneficial manner. Very often the country enters trade arrangements by default and without proper review of the costs and benefits of such membership. As a result of these arrangements the country loses a lot of revenue due to loss of duty as well as markets because of the intense competition from more established industries. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will facilitate the training and capacity building of the teams involved in trade negotiations to ensure that Swaziland benefits from regional integration rather than remain a loser.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS AND TARGETS FOR PILLAR 1

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
PILLAR 1: MACRO-ECONOMIC STABILITY & ACCELERATED GROWTH BASED ON BROAD PARTICIPATION						
To reform the tax system	Declining Government revenue	Establish the Revenue Authority	Revenue Authority Bill approved by Cabinet and ready for Parliament in 2006	Revenue Authority established by 2007	Revenue Authority established and operational	Ministry of Finance
		Introduce Value Added Tax	VAT legislation still to be drafted	VAT introduced by 2008	VAT introduced and maintenance costs collected	
		Improve the collection of taxes and broaden the tax base	30.4% revenue to GDP by 2005/06	70% revenue to GDP by 2010	% contribution of Government revenue to GDP	
		Amend Taxation Laws relating to the taxation of terminal benefits	Amendments to the Income Tax Order submitted to Cabinet	Tax laws on terminal benefits amended by 2007	Tax laws on terminal benefits amended	
To Facilitate investment and growth	Declining FDI and unsustainable domestic investment	Undertake campaigns to increase domestic and FDI	76.6% private investment contribution to GDP in 2005/06 70,000 SMEs in 2003	1000 domestic and 20 foreign investments per year	% increase in GDP Number of new domestic and foreign investment	MEE, SIPA, private sector
		Promote and support labour intensive and /or value adding investment	70,000 established SMEs by 2003	At least 900 labour intensive or value adding industries per year	Number of labour intensive and/or value adding investment	
		Invest in R & D and in science and technology		5 R & D or science and technology companies per year	New investment in research, science and technology	MEE, SIPA, Private sector
		Promote investment in tourism and encourage transport operators to provide services to the sector	3% tourism contribution to GDP in 2005/06	Investment in the tourism sector increased to 10% by 2010	% contribution of the tourism sector to GDP	MOTC, MPWT, MEE, SIPA
		Improve investment incentives		Effective investment incentives	Updated investment incentives	MEE, Finance

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To Facilitate investment and growth	Declining FDI and unsustainable domestic investment	Simplify investment and licensing procedures	1-5 year waiting period on SNL	Investment and licensing process shortened to a maximum of 1 month by 2007	Simplified licensing procedures and increased investment	MEE
		Commercialise SNL agriculture	8.6% contribution of agriculture to GDP by 2002	20% contribution of agriculture to GDP by 2015 50% increase in SNL agriculture commercial activity by 2008	% contribution of agriculture to GDP Increased commercial agricultural activity on SNL	MOAC
		Provide infrastructure and markets to facilitate investment		Adequate infrastructure and markets accessible to all communities by 2010	Number of fully developed infrastructure and accessible markets	MPWT, MOAC, MHUD
		Encourage transport operators to provide affordable storage space for produce		Storage space provided in all public transport vehicles at a minimum fee by 2007	Number of public vehicles providing affordable storage space	RTD, road transport operators
		Improve the quality, length and maintenance of rural feeder roads	44% good roads in the country by 2002	80% good roads by 2015 80% of the rural population living within 1km of an all weather road by 2010	Increase in budget allocation to MPWT and improve quality of roads	MPWT, MOF
		Design and construct foot bridges in all communities that need access		Foot bridges constructed in all communities to allow them full access to services by 2008	Number of foot bridges	MPWT, NGO
		Expand the postal and telephone network in rural areas	11% telephone coverage in 2001 64 postal services in 2001	100% postal and telephone rural network coverage by 2015	Increase in postal and telephone services	SPTC

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To Facilitate investment and growth	Declining FDI and unsustainable domestic investment	Establish multipurpose community information centres		At least 1 multipurpose information centre in each community by 2015	Number of multipurpose centres	Private sector, SPTC, internet service providers
		Increase the rural coverage of the print media		Newspapers and publications available to all communities by 2015	Increase supply of information through the print media	Print media houses, private sector
To facilitate trade	Limited market activity, poor market infrastructure and declining terms of trade	Improve marketing, infrastructure and markets	1 central market in 2006	4 central markets (1 per region), community open markets and auction facilities and good infrastructure by 2012	Fully developed infrastructure and markets	MPWT, MOAC
		Promote the development of creative marketing systems (open market, auction sales, barter trade etc)		50% increase in market activity and local trade by 2010	Increased marketing activity	MOAC, MEE
		Effectively promote locally produced exports	80.8% contribution to GDP at current prices in 2005/06	50% increase in exports by 2010	Increased export revenue	MEE, MFAT, private sector
		Build the capacity of the Trade Promotion Unit and MEE on trade facilitation and meaningful trade negotiation		Fully trained personnel and increased interaction between industry and Govt on trade issues by 2008	Number of public-private sector trade fora	MEE, MFAT, MOPSI
		Review the role of state marketing and trading institutions and encourage increased private sector participation		Effective and efficient marketing systems by 2010	Increased private sector involvement and number of efficient markets	MOAC, MEE, private

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To facilitate trade	Limited market activity, poor market infrastructure and declining terms of trade	Develop a business directory and extensively market and promote local industries and locally produced goods		Effectively developed and dissemination mechanisms for locally produced products	Number of widely disseminated business and export directories	MFAT, MEE, private sector
		Regularly produce and disseminate publications of foreign markets for locally produced goods		Fully researched and widely published information	Number of publications on market opportunities	MFAT, MEE

CHAPTER 4: ACTIONS ON FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF THE BENEFITS OF GROWTH THROUGH FISCAL POLICY (PILLAR 2)

The wide social disparities that exist in Swaziland are an indication that the use of the free market system to distribute the benefits of growth has not been effective. Past growth achievements have hidden significant levels of social inequality, poverty and deprivation. The public budget allocated to social sectors has not made a major impact on the lives of the poor because the mechanisms for delivering these social services have not been pro-poor. Social sector analysis indicates that the allocation of public expenditures within the education sector is biased towards tertiary rather than basic education and more resources are invested in curative rather than preventive health care.

Although both the public and private sector can provide social services, the Government, has the ultimate responsibility for delivering basic social services such as primary health care, basic education, clean water and social security. A structural shift in the public spending pattern is necessary to focus on primary and secondary education levels rather than academic tertiary levels, and, on preventive health services rather than curative services. Investing in people is on its own valuable and ensures universal access to proper nutrition, health and education services. It further enriches the quality of life, empowers people with wider opportunities and advances social equity where the poor are major beneficiaries. Moreover, in addressing the needs of the poor, it will be necessary to re-orient the focus of the national budget toward increased expenditure on the social sectors. Public sector activities will need to be targeted and preventive in order to reduce the socio-economic vulnerability of the poor to major risks such as HIV/AIDS, disaster, gender inequality and social exclusion and deprivation.

4.1 Reducing Inequalities

4.1.1 Establishment of a Poverty Reduction Fund

Regional imbalances in development shall be addressed by preferential public expenditure and other actions targeted at poorer regions, poorer Tinkhundla, and poorer disadvantaged and vulnerable groups with the sole purpose of bringing these marginalized sections of the population to a level where they would start enjoying the benefits of development. For this purpose existing regional development funds, poverty funds and other regional resources shall be consolidated into the Poverty Reduction Fund to be coordinated and managed in a cost effective and efficient manner. The Ministry of Economic Planning and Development working closely with the Ministry of Finance shall steer this process.

4.1.2 Increase expenditure on social sectors

In order to ensure that all and not just a mere 20% of the population share the benefits of growth, as is the case currently, the Government will have to increase expenditure on social services. The areas that will be targeted are education, health and social protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. The Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning will ensure that the budget in these sectors is increased and that projects which are targeted at the poorest section of the population are implemented in the most efficient and effective manner.

4.1.3 Reducing Subsidies to Tertiary Education

Tertiary education, particularly university education is highly subsidised yet the burden of primary education rests upon parents, most of them poor. The cost of educating one university student is equivalent to the cost of educating about 50 primary school pupils. Moreover, the social and economic benefits of educating more primary school children are many times greater than educating one tertiary student. The Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Education shall prepare a plan of operation to reduce government subsidies currently being given for tertiary education and use the savings to finance and develop basic education.

4.1.4 Review of Health Sector Financing

The health sector is under-funded and this partly explains the quality of health services available in the country. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will submit viable projects for improving the sector to the Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning and Development to enable a review of the budget. In addition, expenditure will be redirected towards preventive rather than curative care.

4.1.5 Increasing the share of pro-poor spending

Pro-poor spending is currently less than a third of the capital budget. This is partly because poverty has not yet found its way into the national planning and budgetary framework. The budget shall shift emphasis from traditional development projects to pro-poor projects. The aim is to steadily increase the share of pro-poor projects from 25% in 2004/05 to at least 69% (in line with the poverty rate) and thereafter reduce it as poverty prevalence falls to negligible levels by 2022. The Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning shall be responsible for implementing this action.

4.1.6 Review taxation policy in favour of low income groups

The Ministry of Finance will review the taxation policy such that the high income groups are taxed more than low income groups. Targeted taxes should also be considered in order to increase taxes on luxury goods and activities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS AND TARGETS FOR PILLAR 2

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
PILLAR 2: FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS OF GROWTH THROUGH FISCAL POLICY						
To reduce inequalities and redistribute income through fiscal measures	Highly skewed distribution of income	Establish a Poverty Fund and increase expenditure on pro-poor projects	36% expenditure on pro-poor programmes in 2006/07	Poverty Fund established by 2008 70% expenditure on pro-poor programmes by 2008	Increased expenditure on poverty projects	MEPD, MOF, implementing agencies
		Increase the share of the capital budget on pro-poor projects	36% expenditure on pro-poor programmes in 2006/07	The share of pro-poor projects in the capital budget increased to 70% by 2008	Increased budget on pro-poor programmes	
		Give preference to social spending	26.3 % expenditure on education in 2004/05 9 % expenditure on health and social security in 2004/05	30% expenditure on the education in 2008 15% expenditure on health and social security by 2010	Increased expenditure on social sectors	MOE, MOHSW, MOF, MEPD
		Redirect subsidies from tertiary education to basic education	100% subsidy to tertiary education	Full support to basic education by 2015 80% reduction in subsidies to tertiary education by 2015	Fully subsidized universal basic education	MOE, MOF, MEPD
To reduce inequalities and redistribute income through fiscal measures	Highly skewed distribution of income	Increase expenditure in the health sector and focus more on preventive care	8.4 % expenditure in health in 2004/05 10 % expenditure on preventive and 54% on curative health in 2004/05	13% expenditure on health by 2008 40% expenditure on preventive care and 25% on curative care by 2010	Increased health budget	MOHSW, MOF, MEPD
To reduce inequalities and redistribute income through fiscal measures	Highly skewed distribution of income	Review taxation policy	Amendment to Income Tax Bill submitted to Cabinet in 2006	Increased tax on high income groups by 2008	Increased tax revenue and social expenditure	MOF

CHAPTER 5: ACTIONS ON EMPOWERING THE POOR TO GENERATE INCOME AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES (PILLAR 3)

About 76% of the Swazi population lives in rural areas and derive their livelihood mainly from agricultural activities. Under present rural conditions, yields are low and the concentration is on maize and traditional livestock farming for subsistence purposes. To reach full potential and increase earnings, households need to increase agricultural production, switch to high valued crops, and commercialise overall agricultural production on SNL. Even though SNL land accounts for 56% of total land available, presently, SNL crops provide less than 6% of GDP. This means that only a small proportion of the population residing on SNL land generates Swaziland's national income. By harnessing the income generation potential of the majority of the poor, the gross national product could increase. Areas that will be targeted in the PRSAP include small-medium enterprise promotion, technology transfer, research, and security of land tenure, liberalisation of markets and pricing policy, environmental management and gender equality.

Inequality in income generation and distribution has never been a deliberate Government policy but is a result of limited productivity linkages between rural and urban development; industry and agriculture; large agricultural plantations and smallholder growers; and capital and labour. The pricing policy and the distribution of financial and product markets has not only failed to empower the poor to generate income but has facilitated and promoted the inequality in income distribution. Government plans to empower the poor to generate substantial income through a judicious mix of policies and programmes. The measures are to enable the poor to increase production and meet their basic needs while progressively graduating to self-sufficiency and commercialisation. The increase in the productivity of the poor will not only benefit the poor but the economy as a whole by raising their purchasing power and the effective demand for goods and services in other sectors.

This pillar is one of the most important for reducing poverty as it focuses on empowering the poor to generate their own income and be self-sufficient. A lot of poor people have through various legislature, procedures, cultural practices and poor or lack of infrastructure been deprived of opportunities to empower themselves and generate income. In order for the poor to provide for their families and also engage in income generating activities, they must have access to factors of production. These factors include land, capital or credit, information and other inputs. This PRSAP advocates for facilitating an environment and increasing opportunities for income generation through improved agricultural production, employment creation and income generation in the manufacturing, SME and the micro enterprise sector. The actions below are meant to provide avenues through which the poor can be empowered to create or take advantage of business opportunities and achieve sustainable livelihoods.

5.1 Improving Agricultural Production

5.1.1 Modernisation of agriculture

Dependence on traditional methods and rain-fed agriculture has hampered agricultural production and food security in the country. In order to improve productivity and ensure sustainable farming, modernisation of agriculture and proper animal husbandry is necessary. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives will prepare projects that will ensure proper mechanization and development of irrigation systems for agricultural development. This will be aimed at transforming agriculture from subsistence to a viable, commercialised, profitable and secure industry. The programme will depart from rain-fed agriculture and extensive animal husbandry to intensive, reasonably mechanised, high yield, and profitable farming.

5.1.2 Commercialisation of Agriculture on Swazi National Land

Agriculture productivity on SNL is far below its potential. Therefore there is need to ensure proper utilization of land and better gains from commercial agricultural activities on SNL. Following the adoption of the land policy a law that permits economic activities as well as the use of SNL as collateral should be promulgated. The Attorney General's Office will facilitate this process. The Ministry of Agriculture will intensify all efforts to increase agricultural production and ensure that a commensurate marketing infrastructure is developed to support the commercialisation of Agriculture. Crop farming on SNL is way below its potential and this contributes to low income and food shortage in the country particularly among the poor. Good prices give the incentive to farmers to cultivate more. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives shall each year undertake a market study of cash crops grown on SNL and on the basis of the findings set, announce, and publicise in advance of each planting season attractive minimum prices of cash crops grown on SNL to encourage farmers to produce more and on a commercial basis.

5.1.3 Review the pricing policy for agricultural products

The prices of agricultural produce are very low and not very encouraging to farmers to increase agricultural production. In this respect the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives will review the pricing policy and ensure that prices provide an incentive for farmers to increase production. The monopoly and management of marketing corporations will also be reviewed.

5.1.4 Integrated Irrigation Schemes

Swaziland is heavily reliant on rainfall for her farming needs, particularly on Swazi Nation Land where most of the subsistence production takes place. However, the rainfall pattern

has been erratic of late and some areas, especially the low veld are prone to drought weather conditions. In order to ensure that there is sustained subsistence production, other forms of providing water for agricultural production need to be explored and exploited. Irrigation of the farmlands is one key solution to the problem. Irrigation in some areas is the only way of improving productivity of the land for improved yields and a year-round production regime. Since the poor are unable to afford good irrigation systems, there is need for the Government to provide irrigation systems to communities, particularly the low veld and other poor and dry areas. The Government will put in place a dedicated team of water/irrigation engineers whose work would be to identify areas suitable for agriculture water development and irrigation and construct irrigation schemes of a minimum of 500 hectares in each Region. At the domestic level, water harvesting for domestic use and for livestock will be encouraged.

5.1.5 Construction of Earth Dams

The persistent drought that has affected the country in recent years resulted in crop failure as well as the death of domestic animals. To reduce the impact of drought and address the problem of food insecurity, earth dams shall be constructed in drought prone areas at the rate of 4 dams per year. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives shall implement this project with budget support.

5.1.6 Inkhundla-level Tractor Support Scheme

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in conjunction with the Deputy Prime minister's Office shall review the tractor hire needs of all Tinkhundla and prepare a project for acquisition and or redeployment of an adequate number of tractors to each Inkhundla. This will have to be accompanied by a sustainable management plan for the equipment. Moreover, there is need to review the tractor hire fees in order to facilitate improved access to tractors by all farmers including the poor. This initiative would involve the supply of tractors to be based at each inkhundla level. Each inkhundla would be provided with at least two tractors, which would be run by the inkhundla itself. These tractors would be run by the community development organizations with the assistance of a Development Officer, to be based at the inkhundla. All proceeds from the tractors would be deposited into a Tractor Service Fund. This fund would be used to employ a driver and for tractor maintenance and repair. Besides being utilised by the whole community, these tractors would also plough for the poor at subsidised rates. Households which have livestock will be encouraged to provide and share draught power with poor households in order to ensure prompt planting.

5.1.7 Provision of Extension Services to Tinkhundla

As part of the decentralization exercise as well as ensuring that services are adequately delivered to the people at grass root level, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative will ensure that all Tinkhundla are provided with adequate extension services in order to improve SNL farming. The Ministry of Agriculture will conduct research on the most efficient farming methods and through extension services advise farmers on adopting the necessary modern technology and diversifying their produce. Farmers will be advised to cultivate crops that are most suited for their climate and the most efficient ways of increasing their produce. Well-trained extension officers will be deployed and provided with adequate transport in all Tinkhundla to enable them to service the areas allocated to them. Through extension services synergies with bigger farms on TDL will be identified and skills transfer encouraged.

5.1.8 Organize farmers into cooperatives and channel extension services

The Cooperatives division of the Ministry of Agriculture will facilitate the formulation of more farmers' cooperatives. This will ensure better efficiency in the delivery of extension services and the use and management of financial resources. The youth will also be encouraged to be involved in agriculture and be part of the cooperatives.

5.1.9 Promotion of Traditional Foods and Open Pollinated Seed Varieties

This programme would involve the selection and production of indigenous seeds and open pollinated seed varieties. The Malkerns-based seed bank is in a position to supply some limited quantities of this seed. The project proposes that a community-based initiative would be started whereby these seed varieties would be re-introduced so that eventually homesteads start producing their own seed. This initiative should come with a shift in policy, particularly in view of the fact that MOAC is also promoting the use of hybrid seed varieties.

5.1.10 Promotion of Organic Production Methods

This programme would involve research into the use of kraal manure and other indigenous methods of farming either on its own or with minimal use of chemical inputs e.g. fertiliser. Trials would have to be done on the impact of these methods on different crops and in different agro-regions. The other aspect of the programme would be the promotion of organic production methods. A reputable international organisation in this area would be identified and used for providing the required technical support. There would also be need for research work to support this currently least researched subject in Swaziland. The main aim is to institutionalise organic farming into government's existing program and use it as a viable means for farming, especially by poor farmers.

5.1.11 SNL Sharecropping Project

Many poor and destitute people own land that they are not able to use due to several constraints. Because land on SNL is currently not transferable and cannot be given monetary value, these people go hungry in spite of owning such a valuable asset. It is recognised that the proposed Land Policy aims at addressing this issue, among other things. It is therefore proposed that a project be piloted that facilitates the leasing of SNL land by those who cannot productively utilize it. The returns to the leaser can be in terms of rent or a share of the produce. These contracts would be best monitored at the Umphakatsi level. It is expected that this would open opportunities for the poor who cannot afford to produce on their own to at least earn a living from their land.

5.1.12 Easing Government Farms

Government owns a number of farms that are generally under utilised or idle. The cost of this state of affairs to the Government in terms of production foregone, depreciation and vandalism of infrastructure proves to be too high. At the same time, some communities that are neighbouring these farms do not have adequate land and would like to utilise these farms. It is therefore proposed that an initiative to implement an effective Land Use Plan and to lease out these farms. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives will strengthen the Land Use Section and facilitate this process.

5.1.13 Research into drought resistant crops and livestock

The Ministry of Agriculture shall conduct adaptive research to find drought resistant and water retaining crops and breeds of livestock especially small stock, which even small farmers can afford. The Ministry working through extension services shall popularise these crops and animals and encourage communities to establish pastures and to grow legumes and multipurpose trees to supplement rangeland grazing.

5.1.14 Encourage Crop Diversification

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives will research more crops that can be adapted to the climatic conditions of Swaziland. Through extension services farmers will be encouraged to diversify their crops and maximize land use by concentrating on what they can produce best. The practice of producing the same crops and concentrating on maize production (even where inappropriate) will be discouraged and apart from the Maize Competition, the Ministry will conduct competitions for other more diverse crops in order to encourage their production. On-farm establishment of pastures, legumes and multi purpose trees as well as bee-keeping, medicinal plants, agro-processing, etc will be encouraged.

5.1.15 Produce and Commercialize Goats and Free range chickens

Smaller stock such as chickens and goats (to some degree) are the only livestock which the poor keep. Unfortunately, these sectors are also poorly supported by Government. It is therefore the aim of the PRSAP to develop these products so that the poor can make a living through them. It is recognised that peoples' attitudes towards food are changing as more and more people are looking for more alternatives and often more wholesome foods. It is considered that free-range chickens would meet some of these emerging consumer tastes and preferences. Goat meat is also very popular in the country but is not readily available from retailers. It is therefore proposed that a study be conducted on how production and marketing of goat meat and free-range chickens could be improved. There would also be a drive to promote goat production, through the introduction of improved breeds as well as a marketing drive promoting goat meat as a viable livestock enterprise.

5.2 Empowerment and skills development

5.2.1 Education Review Programme

In order to inculcate the culture of entrepreneurship among the young Swazi population, the system of education in all schools in the country will have to change. The focus of the school curriculum should be on skills development and business management rather than on white-collar jobs. The Ministry of Education will therefore expand the ongoing pilot programme on technical education and other technical and vocational education programmes to all the schools in the country in order to offer all children the opportunity to develop their skills.

5.2.2 Improving access and courses in existing vocational training institutions

Entry requirements into vocational institutions have become more stringent over the years such that it is very difficult for students who have not obtained credits in English, mathematics and others to enter into these institutions. This often means that once a child finishes high school, parents have to spend extra funds ensuring that they meet these requirements by upgrading their subjects. The Ministry of Education will therefore facilitate the review of admission requirements and base admissions on talent rather than numeric ability or proficiency in the English language. In addition, the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment shall review courses offered vis-à-vis job market requirements and prepare a plan of operation for introducing courses that empower graduates for self-employment as well as imparting skills that are on demand.

5.2.3 Develop attachment, mentoring and follow up mechanism for vocational trainees

A lot of trainees in vocational institutions are not exposed to the working environment early enough so that by the time they complete their studies they would not have acquired the requisite experience to work for big industries. The Ministry of Enterprise and Employment will work closely with training institutions to identify mentors and suitable industries where trainees can be attached for certain periods during their training in order to gain experience and understanding of business and industry.

5.2.4 Conducting Training in business management for SMEs and Micro enterprise Sector

The lack of understanding and skills in business management among Swazi entrepreneurs is one of the main reasons for business failure in the country. The Ministry of Enterprise and Employment shall encourage SMEs and Micro enterprise Sector to train their managers and staff on how to plan, establish, conduct, secure finance and manage profitable small scale and informal business ventures. Using existing training institutions, the Ministry will regularly conduct training seminars and workshops for various types of businesses in the SME and Micro enterprise Sectors.

5.2.5 Skills and technology transfer

Very often investors employ foreigners and there is hardly any transfer of skills and technological know how to Swazis. This results in increased dependency on foreign investment and failure to develop industry. The Ministry of Enterprise & Employment will strengthen the training and localization drive and develop a policy that will ensure transfer of skills and technology through law enforcement and an attractive incentive package that rewards companies that are implementing effective training plans.

5.2.6 Employment Re-training Programme

Usually employees find themselves redundant usually after they have been laid off at work or after retiring. Most of them do not have enough sources of income to sustain themselves and their families after the incidence. A programme of employee re-training, either whilst they are still in normal work or just before they leave the working sphere, is relevant for an economy that is experiencing high levels of lay-offs accompanied by poor pension programmes. The programme can also take the form of re-training employees from their redundant fields to other fields that may be demanded by the market. These people have to develop skills for sustaining themselves mainly by integrating themselves into the entrepreneurial arena. The administration and business development skills will therefore be necessary for such people. The Government through the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment will encourage stronger policies that ensure the transfer of skills and technology to Swazis.

5.2.7 Encourage skills transfer from TDL to SNL farmers

Farmers on Swazi Nation Land lack the necessary skills to improve their production whilst their counterparts on Title Deed Land have the technology and know how to produce at maximum capacity. In this regard the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives working through the extension section will encourage partnerships and sharing of information between TDL and SNL farmers in order to improve agricultural production.

5.2.8 Mitigation of the Social Impact of Retrenchment

Although very often it is unavoidable, retrenchment hurt the affected people and their households. However, if planned strategies were implemented, the impact on retrenched persons could be lessened. The Ministry of Enterprises and Employment shall formulate a retrenchment policy that will lessen the social and economic impact on retrenched persons. Such a policy will involve business training in order to encourage the use of retirement packages for income generation; outsourcing of non-core activities by retrenching companies and retraining of employees so that they may adapt to different working environments. The Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance will ensure that workers are adequately compensated and that the benefits are not excessively taxed.

5.2.9 Improvement of Working Facilities for People with disabilities

Some physically challenged people possess the necessary skills to do some impressively productive work and live a normal life. However, because of lack of proper facilities and difficulties of mobility they are not able to fully utilise their skills and maximise their potential. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in conjunction with the Ministry of Education shall prepare a programme to train and equip teachers in order to integrate children with disabilities into mainstream schools. Where appropriate the Ministry will build and equip special schools in order to address specific and unique disability needs. The programme will also establish and equip workshops for the disabled people. Further assistance in the form of developing business skills, credit and support will be provided through the programme.

5.2.10 Ensure the efficient use of Empowerment Funds

The Empowerment Funds that were allocated for the development of communities have been marred by maladministration, mismanagement and corruption. This has resulted in these empowerment funds enriching a few and being ineffective in making meaning impact in the livelihoods of the poor. The Ministry of Finance will work with the Ministries of Regional Development and Youth Affairs and Enterprise & Employment to ensure the efficient management and use of these funds and establish watertight control and accountability mechanisms for these and other development funds.

5.2.11 Empower women and the youth to actively participate in community projects

The Ministry of Regional Development & Youth Affairs working with NGOs and the Ministry of Home Affairs will engage communities on the importance of collective participation in the development of their areas. The role of women and the youth in community development projects will further be enhanced through training and capacity building of women and youth groups. The Ministries of Enterprise & Employment and Finance will engage micro-finance and other financial institutions and encourage them to finance viable projects by women entrepreneurs.

5.2.12 Educate women and the youth on leadership skills

In order to facilitate poverty reduction, it will be important to encourage women to participate in leadership positions, community activities and to support each other in taking up leadership roles in their communities and at national level. The Ministry of Home Affairs working closely with NGOs will mobilize communities and empower the youth and women on leadership skills so that they can participate more actively in the development of their households and communities.

5.3 Creating Employment Opportunities and improving working conditions

5.3.1 Rural Enterprise Development Programme

For an economy that is not only rural based but also much dependent on agricultural production, a programme that focuses on commercialising farm activities, value adding manufacturing industries and the rural micro enterprise sector is absolutely necessary. Under this programme the Ministries of Agriculture and Cooperatives and the Ministry of Enterprise & Employment will assist rural enterprises, to establish businesses that will commercialize agriculture, add-value to locally produced commodities and create job opportunities and increase income of the rural people. The Ministry of Enterprises and Employment shall strategically establish additional factory shells in rural areas covering all four regions so as to promote investment in rural areas. The Ministry will work in collaboration of other agencies to provide infrastructure that is necessary for rural enterprises to flourish.

5.3.2 Enforce employment legislation in order to ensure improved working conditions

Workers, particularly those working in the textile industry are exposed to very unfavourable working conditions. They often are exposed to hazardous substances, work very long hours and at times manhandled or mistreated. There are other groups of

workers such as domestic workers, who are also mistreated, overworked and/or underpaid. All these things are against work ethics. Therefore, the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment will have to enforce employment legislation such that unfavourable working conditions are addressed and that all workers are subjected to better, safer and healthier working condition than is the case at the moment.

5.3.3 Improvement of Business Registration and Licensing

Registration and issuance of licenses, especially in rural areas takes too long and discourages local entrepreneurs. The Ministries of Enterprise and Employment shall undertake an investigative study to establish the causes and sources of bureaucratic delays in issuing business licenses and make recommendations for reducing the process from years to a few days. The study will consider the decentralisation of issuance of licenses to Tinkhundla Centres and the review of the roles of the different players in the process of issuing licenses. Such will involve reviewing the role of Swazi Commercial Amadoda as well as the Road Transportation Board in the issuance of licenses and permits.

5.3.4 Formulate wage policy and amend the Wage Act

The minimum wages stipulated by the law are very low considering the standard of living and inflation in the country. This causes poverty amongst the working poor who fail to meet their subsistence needs in spite of being employed. Therefore, the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment will have to amend the Wage Act, formulate a wage policy and set a minimum wage based on inflation and the cost of living in the industrial towns.

5.3.5 Formulate of a Retirement Policy

The Ministry of Enterprises and Employment in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Social Welfare, Public Service & Information and Home Affairs shall prepare a national retirement policy and ensure the sustainability of retirement benefits. The objectives of the policy will be adjust the retirement age in order to allow Swaziland's youthful population to find employment in private and public sector, while catering for the welfare of the retired persons, the majority of who succumb to poverty following retirement.

5.3.6 Amend labour laws and facilitate adequate compensation of workers

The Ministry of enterprise and employment will strengthen labour laws and ensure that they facilitate adequate compensation of workers in the event of company liquidation, retrenchments, work related injury, unfair dismissal or any other. This will be done in consultation with the Attorney General's Office, CMAC and the Industrial Court so that the law is enforced to the full extent.

5.4 SME and Micro Enterprise Development

5.4.1 Micro enterprise Sector Support Programme

The micro enterprise sector provides employment to many poor families, especially those living in the rural and sub-urban centres. The income derived from this exercise is used mainly for survival purposes as this sector does not generate adequate income to cover other needs. The micro enterprise sector has the potential of absorbing most of the unskilled labour as the demand for their services in the formal sector is declining sharply. A micro enterprise sector support programme will be implemented in support of this sector. The programme would cover areas such as the review and evaluation of policies and legislation that inhibits the prosperity of the micro enterprise sector and provision of infrastructure, equipment, shelter, micro-finances, training and development.

5.4.2 Extension services for the development of business

The Ministry of Enterprise and Employment will revive the business training extension service they were providing to entrepreneurs. This service was discontinued because of shortage of personnel. The Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Public service and Information will ensure that more personnel is recruited to carry out this function in the Tinkhundla centres and through the radio. The training of small-scale investors will also focus on encouraging them to develop diverse and innovative ventures rather than concentrating on the common businesses, which already have saturated the local markets.

5.4.3 Set health and safety standards for Micro enterprise Sector operations

The health and safety conditions under which the Micro enterprise Sector operates are deplorable. The traders as well as their customers are exposed to hazardous conditions because there are no latrine facilities, no clean water and proper shelter, yet in most instances they sell food. The Ministry of Enterprise and Employment in close collaboration with the Ministries of housing and Urban Development and Health and Social Welfare will ensure that appropriate health and safety measures are taken when operating a micro enterprise.

5.4.4 Encourage SMEs to invest in training and capacity building

There are a number of institutions such as LULOTE, SEDCO and others who offer training to SME. However, SMEs do not take advantage of these opportunities. As a consequence they lack the requisite business expertise to develop their businesses into successful ventures. The Ministry of Enterprise and employment will encourage SME to invest in training and capacity building for their businesses and where possible entrepreneurs will be organized into associations and cluster training on business management to micro enterprises provide to them.

5.4.5 Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Development Programme

The Government will create an enabling environment for SME development by increasing the volume, profitability and efficiency of the SMEs and expanding the SME markets, improving their capacity to operate businesses efficiently. Financial institutions will be encouraged to provide capital for starting and/or expanding business and developing supportive legal and regulatory framework where viable. The Government has realised the crucial role played by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the economic development agenda of the country. SMEs do not only provide opportunities for self employment of the people but also creates jobs for others. The magnitude of this role together with its multiplier effects on economic growth is obvious. The Government of Swaziland through the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment recently created the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Unit which has developed an SME Development Policy and also to co-ordinate assistance geared towards the SME sector. To facilitate this project, the capacity of the Small Enterprise Development Company (SEDCO) together with the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA) will be developed.

5.4.6 Ensure proper management and encourage the establishment and ownership of business premises by SME

Most business enterprises operate within leased premises and are very averse to the risk of investing in their own property. This is what has hampered the implementation of rotational occupation of the SEDCO premises, because once they take occupation, most entrepreneurs will not move out even when they can afford to do so. The Ministry of Enterprise & Employment will urge well-established businesses to invest in their own property in order to efficiently run and grow their industries. Existing premises such as SEDCO and factory shells will be efficiently managed such that the investment is recovered and they can be self-sustaining.

5.4.7 Facilitate partnerships and joint ventures

For the Small and Medium Sector to grow it is important that it builds linkages with big businesses and be encouraged to form joint ventures and partnerships with such businesses as well as among themselves in order to take advantage of economies of scale. The Ministry of Enterprise and Employment in consultation with the Federation and Chamber of Commerce and ASBC will regularly hold workshops and seminars to train SMEs about the value of partnerships and joint ventures and also facilitate meetings and linkages with big businesses.

5.5 SME and Micro Financing

5.5.1 Improve access to credit and the empowerment funds

The Ministry of Finance working together with the Ministries of Economic Planning & Development, Enterprise and Employment, Agriculture and Cooperatives and Regional Development & Youth Affairs will develop an effective framework for improving access to credit for business and agricultural purposes. Moreover, these Ministries will review the use and management of the empowerment fund and suggest more efficient methods of disbursing and utilizing the funds in order to avoid corruption and mismanagement. A consolidated Poverty or Empowerment Fund will be established, with very clear guidelines for its management, access and utilization. The Ministry of Finance will finalize the regulatory framework for non-bank financial institutions. This instrument will be facilitative of increased lending to the SME sector while at the same time regulating the activities of these institutions.

5.5.2 Encourage financial institutions to support SMEs

The Ministry of Enterprise and Employment in consultation with the Ministry of Finance will regularly monitor developments in the financing of SMEs and discuss with financial institutions how they can improve the financing where necessary. Financial institutions will be encouraged to participate in the SME and Export guarantee schemes and increase their lending to the SME sector.

5.5.3 Simplify procedures for accessing financial resources

Financial institutions are not very keen to lend to the SME sector because they consider it to be a high risk and costly sector to manage. As such, they make the conditions of lending prohibitive. This results in the problem of lack of access to credit for the sector. The Ministry of Enterprise and Employment working very closely with the Ministry of Finance and related agencies will create a financing framework that will cushion financial institutions from the risk of lending to the sector. The existing guarantee schemes and development funds will be recapitalized and more efficiently managed in order to improve financial access.

5.5.4 Design financing products suitable for the SME and Micro enterprise sector

Access to finance by the SME sector has been affected by the various and very stringent requirements and procedures of financial institutions. Because they on lend client money banks are very risk averse when lending, hence the SME sector has not always been considered suitable clientele. The Ministry of Finance working together with the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment will encourage banks to design products that are suitable and facilitative of the development of the sector. Banks will ensure that such products simplify the lending procedures and make it easier for SMEs to access more funds.

5.5.5 Ensure a reasonable spread of Micro Financing Institutions

Although a number of micro-finance institutions exist in the country, they are concentrated in the Mbabane-Manzini corridor, which services mostly the urban rather than the rural population. The Ministry of finance will establish a regulatory mechanism for the operations of micro-finance institutions and encourage them to spread their coverage to rural areas where investment is mostly needed.

5.5.6 Develop a regularly framework for Micro Finance Institutions

Micro Finance Institutions are not working within a regulated framework and as such are law unto themselves. A lot of people have fallen victim to these unscrupulous lenders who ill-treat them deprive them of their properties. The Ministry of Finance will in this regard, develop a framework for regulating the operation of Micro Finance Institutions and ensuring that they adhere to laid down laws and regulations when lending money.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS AND TARGETS FOR PILLAR 3

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
PILLAR 3: EMPOWERING THE POOR TO GENERATE INCOME AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES						
To improve agricultural production	Declining agricultural production	Increase farming activities and agricultural production	8.7% agricultural contribution to GDP in 2005/06 56 % of households suffer from hunger (2001)	30% increase in agricultural contribution to GDP by 2010 50% reduction in the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015	Increase yields and reduction in the number of people who suffer from hunger	MOAC, all farmers
		Commercialise SNL agriculture		100% increase in commercial agricultural activity by 2010	Increased income from agricultural production	MOAC, SNL farmers, private sector
		Modernise farming methods on SNL		100% modernisations of agriculture by 2015	Improved and modern farming methods	MOAC, farmers
		Review prices of agricultural products as an incentive for increased production	8.7% agricultural contribution to GDP in 2005/06	30% increase in agricultural contribution to GDP by 2010	Improved prices for agricultural products	MOAC, marketing institutions
		Increase subsidised tractor hire serves at Tinkhundla level	% tractor coverage in	100% coverage of tractor hire services by 2010	Number of tractors available to each Inkhundla	MOAC, MOF
		Deploy extension and community development officers to all Tinkhundla		100% deployment of extension workers by 2010	Number of extension officers in each Inkhundla	MOAC, MRDYA
		Organize farmers into efficiently run cooperatives and channel extension services to them		All farmers organized into cooperatives by 2008	Number of efficiently run farmer associations and cooperatives	MOAC, farmers

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve agricultural production	Declining agricultural production	Conduct research into the most efficient and cost effective farming methods for indigenous species and encourage the use of open pollinated seed varieties		Research on more efficient farming methods commissioned by 2007 and increased use of open pollinated varieties	Improved farming methods	MOAC, farmers
		Promote and adopt well researched extension packages suitable for different farming environments		Well researched extension services provided by 2008	Improved extension services	
		Promote organic farming methods		The promotion of organic farming methods by 2007	Increased organic farming activity	
		Encourage mixed farming and diversified crops (bee-keeping, medicinal plants etc).		Mixed farming and diversified cropping promoted by 2007	Increased and diversified agricultural production	
		Establish pastures and encourage the growing of legumes and multi-purpose trees to supplement rangeland grazing		Increased planting of legumes, pastures and improvement of rangeland by 2007	Increased legume, pasture and tree planting on range land	
	Inability to use land appropriately and for commercial purposes	Approve and implement the 99 Year Lease to SNL	Land Policy awaiting approval in 2006	Approval and implementation of the law/policy facilitating 99 year lease by 2007	Effective 99 year lease	

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve agricultural production	Inability to use land appropriately and for commercial purposes	Implement a programme to lease out all idle Government farms for commercial use		All idle Govt farms leased by 2008	Number of leased farms	MOAC, farmers
		Encourage share cropping		Share cropping adopted and all idle or underutilized land fully used for the benefit of the poor by 2010	Hectares of efficiently utilized arable land	
	Poor yields in drought prone areas	Encourage moisture retaining cropping systems in dry areas		Extension services and education on moisture retaining crops provided by 2007	Increased and improved production of moisture retaining crops	
		Research drought resistant crops and livestock e.g. goats and free range chicken		Research on drought resistant livestock undertaken in 2007	Promotion and increased farming of drought resistant crops	
	Shortage of irrigation water	Promote and support investment in irrigation and the construction of earth dams		2 earth dams constructed per year in each drought prone area	Number of earth dams	MOAC
		Plan and implement in each of the four administrative regions, one integrated irrigation development scheme (minimum 500ha each) every five years	1 integrated irrigation scheme (Komati) and another (LUSIP) under construction in 2006	4 integrated irrigation development schemes built in all four regions by 2015	Number of integrated irrigation schemes	MNRE, MOAC, MOF, MEPD

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve agricultural production	Improper land use and lack of draught power	Improve land tenure, efficiency of land use and provide enough draught power in order to ensure prompt planting		Efficient land use and management systems adopted by 2008	Efficient use of land and improved farming methods	MOAC, MNRE
	Poor and ineffective early warning systems	Improve early warning systems		Effective early warning systems in place by 2008	Efficient and effective early warning systems	MOAC, Meteorology
	Lack of agricultural and marketing information	Provide information centres on business, internet, agricultural development, etc.		Information centres in each community by 2015	Number of information centres	MOAC, private sector
To empower and develop skills of the poor	Inadequate transfer of skills and technology	Develop an incentive package to encourage technology transfer from foreign investors to Swazis		Effective transfer of skills and technology to swazis by 2015	Number of skilled and technologically empowered swazis	Private sector, MEE, MOF
	Misuse and inefficient use of empowerment funds	Sensitize and train communities on how to take advantage of and being accountable for empowerment funds		Improved accountability and use of empowerment funds by 2008	Number of successful programmes implemented with empowerment funds	MRDYA, NGO, MEE, communities
	Lack of skills and poor production on SNL compared to TDL	Encourage skills transfer from TDL to SNL and establish joint ventures for TDL and SNL production		Improved farming skills on SNL by 2010	Number of alliances between SNL and TDL farmers for effective skills transfer	MOAC, farmers

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To empower and develop skills of the poor	Loss of jobs through restructuring	Retrain employees on restructured jobs instead of retrenching		Retraining programmes commissioned and implemented on a continuous basis by the private sector	Number of retrained workers	MEE, private sector
	Lack of entrepreneurial and business management skills	Instil entrepreneurial spirit through a reoriented and diversified education system		A reoriented education system adopted in all schools by 2008	Reoriented education system	MOE, MEE, industry
		Train SMEs on business development and management skills in order to ensure sustainability		Training programmes implemented on a continuous basis	Increased number of efficiently managed SMEs	MEE, NGOs
		Establish and train associations on business expertise		Training of business associations implemented on a continuous basis	Number of trained business association members	MEE, MOAC
		Provide training on partnership formation and business association		Partnership and joint venture training provided on a continuous basis	Number of partnerships and joint ventures formed	MEE, private sector
	Lack of involvement of communities in infrastructure projects and poor quality of roads	Train communities and involve them in the construction of roads and other infrastructure		Communities involved and benefiting from the construction of infrastructure in their areas	Number of infrastructure projects involving local communities	MPWT, communities
		Train Land Development Section-MoAC on the proper construction of roads and improve coordination with MPWT		All Land Development officers properly trained in the construction of good quality roads by 2007	Number of trained Land Development officers	MOAC, MPWT

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To empower and develop skills of the poor	Lack of involvement of communities in infrastructure projects and poor quality of roads	Use labour intensive techniques and develop a policy that will ensure the involvement of local communities and contractors in the construction of roads and other infrastructure		Local contractors and communities involved in the construction of every infrastructure project in the country by 2010	Number of local contractors engage in infrastructure projects	MPWT, MOF, local contractors, communities
	Lack of access to vocational and technical education and irrelevant of training to industry needs	Colleges should review admission requirements so that irrelevant subjects are not made a prerequisite for admission		Review of admission requirements by 2007	Increased intake of vocational students	MOE, Vocational Institutions
		Devise a follow up mechanism for attaching and mentoring trainees and conduct a tracer studies to establish absorption of trainees in the market		Continuous mentoring and follow –up mechanism developed by 2007	Number of trainees successfully operating their own businesses or absorbed in industry	MEE, MOE, private sector
	Lack of skills and entrepreneurial capability among poor households particularly those headed by women	Disseminate information to poor households, particularly FHH on income generation, management, asset acquisition and protection		IEC material on income generation and management disseminated by 2007	IEC material effectively disseminated	MEE, SEDCO, business training institutions

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators
To empower and develop skills of the poor	Lack of skills and entrepreneurial capability among poor households particularly those headed by women	Encourage women to save and form associations/cooperatives in order to generate income		Information on forming savings and credit cooperatives by 2007	Increased savings and number of successful savings cooperatives
		Provide training to women associations/cooperatives on business management skills and savings		Continuous training on business management provided by 2007	Number of trained associations
		Educate women and the youth on leadership skills and the value of participating in community activities		Training of women and the youth by 2007	Increased number of youth and women leaders
	Lack of accessible working space for people with disabilities	Provide workshops and tools for people with disabilities to use their production skills		Accessible and well equipped workshops available in all Tinkhundla for the use of people with disabilities by 2008	Number of workshops built
To improve working conditions	Poor employment and working conditions	Amend and enforce employment legislation to allow for improved work conditions.		Employment legislation reviewed, amended and enforced by 2007	Improved working conditions
		Amend Labour Laws to facilitate adequate compensation of workers		Labour laws amended by 2007	Adequate compensation of workers

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators
To improve working conditions	Poor employment and working conditions	Formulate wage policy and regularly update the minimum wage according to inflation		Wage policy and inflation adjusted minimum wage adopted by 2007	Real minimum wage
		Formulate a retirement policy in order to increase the employment of the youth		A retirement policy that allowed for early retirement and social security of pensioners by 2008	An effective retirement and social security policy
To develop the SME and Micro Enterprise sector	Limited number of business enterprises and lack of business management skill in rural areas	Implement a rural enterprise development programme		Fully developed and well planned rural enterprise development programme by 2012	Increased number of rural enterprises
		Simplify investment and licensing procedures	1-5 years waiting period on SNL	Shorten the procedures and length of licensing to a maximum of 1 month by 2007	Increased number of business licences in rural areas
		Encourage and support joint ventures and partnerships between large industries and the SME sector		20 joint ventures formed per year	Number of joint ventures and partnerships between SMEs and large companies
		Revive extension services for business skills and management		Extension services restarted and provided on a continuous basis by 2007	Extension services and training on business management provided to all Tinkhundla
		Encourage SMEs to invest in training and build the capacity of their businesses		Continuous investment in training by SMEs	More SME investing in training their employees on efficient business management

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators
To develop the SME and Micro Enterprise sector	Failure by local enterprises to invest in business premises and inefficient management of SEDCO premises	Encourage the establishment and ownership of business premises by entrepreneurs and efficiently utilize and manage existing businesses premises		100% ownership and efficient utilization of business premises 2015	Increased number of locally owned business premises and efficient use and management of SEDCO premises
	Non adherence to health and safety standards by SMEs	Set and enforce safety, environment & health standards for the operations of SME and Micro enterprises		Full adherence to health and safety standards by 2007	Improved, health and safe working environment for SMEs and customers
To improve SME and Micro financing	Poor access to credit for SME and micro enterprise development	Support micro-finance institutions and encourage the spread of lending institutions and improved lending to SMEs	Financial Services Regulatory Authority Bill being finalized	Increase in SME and micro enterprise financing	Increased lending to SME and micro enterprise sector and women entrepreneurs
		Simplify lending procedure for the credit guarantee and empowerment schemes		Simplified lending procedures for credit guarantee & empowerment schemes by 2007	
		Provide credit and encourage micro finance institutions to support women entrepreneurs		Increase in lending to women owned enterprises	

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve SME and Micro financing	Poor access to credit for SME and micro enterprise development	Provide training on the ability to access credit		Training on credit facilities and how to access credit provided by 2007	Number of trained entrepreneurs and improved access to credit	MFI, Financiers, MEE
		Simplification of application forms/procedures for accessing financial resources		Simplified credit application forms and procedures by 2007	Increased access to credit	MFI, financiers, MOF
		Provide information on available services and products for SME financing and design products that will best serve the SME and Micro enterprise Sectors		Full information on SME financing services and products disseminated by 2007	Improved access to financing information	MFI, Financiers
		Develop a regulatory framework for MFIs		Regulatory framework for micro financing institutions in place by 2007	Regulatory framework for Micro Finance Institutions (MFI)	MOF

CHAPTER 6: ACTIONS ON HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT (PILLAR 4)

Poverty has an income and human aspect and these two are related. The ability of the poor to participate actively in the growth dynamics of the country and to reap benefits from existing and future opportunities depends entirely on the quantity and quality of their human capital. A large and empowered family often means increased ability to participate effectively in economic development and growth, whereas a large and poorly qualified family generally results in lack, helplessness and discontent. The quality of human capital is often determined and/or influenced by access to education, health, safe water and proper sanitation, proper housing, enjoyment of basic freedoms, social security and contentment. The poor are mostly uneducated or if they are educated, they would have gone as far as primary school. They are also prone to ill health, infections and diseases, do not have access to clean water, proper sanitation, and food security and are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS due a number of factors. This kind of deprivation reveals a state of human poverty which is directly related to income poverty.

Basic education, basic health, safe water and sanitation, food security, good nutrition and HIV/AIDS are major factors that affect or contribute to human capital development and are critical for enabling a person to address a range of problems that pertain to the physical, emotional, moral and materialistic needs. The PRSAP recognises the importance of human capital development in enabling the poor to come out of poverty and in this regard is targeting interventions that will address the key issues that negatively impact on the quality of the human capital of the country. With an educated, healthy, enlightened and empowered population, the battle against poverty can be easily won. The Pillar on human capital development is therefore critical in the fight against poverty and empowerment of the poor. The following activities will facilitate human capital development:

6.1 Basic Education

6.1.1 Access to education

6.1.1.1 Introduce Universal Basic Education

The Constitution states that within three years of its coming into effect, the country will introduce universal basic education. This effectively means the Ministry of Education has the responsibility of preparing a master plan for introducing universal and compulsory basic education by 2009. The Government will subsequently standardize all other school expenses in all Government schools and facilitate as well as pass legislation that will compel parents and guardians to send their children to primary and secondary schools nearest to their places of abode. Government will pay for the basic fees of every child admitted to any public primary school, whilst ensuring that the standard of education is not compromised.

6.1.1.2 Admission of children above the average age of lower grades

Many young children who are above a certain age are often denied the opportunity of enrolling into the lower grades of primary school. This reluctance is attributed to the difficulty of managing the behaviour of older children once exposed to younger peers. As a result a lot of children even when offered sponsorship, are deprived of an education because of their age. The Ministry of Education shall review entry requirements into primary schools and adjust and enforce rules that will permit entry of children that are considered over-age. Teachers will equally be capacitated to manage and address the needs of over-aged children.

6.1.1.3 Educating Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Until there is universal and compulsory primary education, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in collaboration with Ministry of Education and other institutions shall develop a project to provide subsidized education to orphans and vulnerable children that otherwise have no prospects for receiving education. Any ongoing initiatives in this regard will be reviewed in order to ensure proper administration and management of the programmes as well as optimum benefits to the targeted population. The project shall identify who the vulnerable are, where they are and in which schools they can be placed.

6.1.1.4 Education and integration of Street Children

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, NGOs and others shall formulate a programme to send all street children to school and life skills training institutions. The street children will be identified from all over the country and integrated in their families and/or communities and where absolutely necessary foster homes and subsequently placed in schools or training facilities, depending on their age and ability.

6.1.1.5 Establish and develop schools and facilities for children with disabilities

There are a number of people in the country with various disabilities. This population is the most marginalized because in all sectors their needs are not considered. In the education sector, the special needs of people with disabilities are seriously ignored such that only three schools in the country provide the education of this group. There is one under facilitated school for the deaf, one catering for children with various disabilities and one vocational institution. Most of other education facilities are either inaccessible or lack the capacity to deal with this section of the population. The Ministry of education needs to establish more facilities to cater for the needs of all people with disabilities and to as much as possible integrate them into mainstream schools by providing relevant equipment and training teachers to understand and address the needs of these children.

6.1.1.6 Improve the curriculum and access to informal education by the Poor

A lot of children for various reasons are not in school and have never been to school yet they have reached an age where it would be difficult for them to enter mainstream school because of their age and in most cases their responsibilities. Existing education facilities do not cater for their needs. Therefore the Ministry of Education shall restructure the informal education programme into a detailed multifaceted system that will expand and improve the delivery of education to isolated communities throughout the country. The proposal shall have motivational elements in the training programme such as acquisition of marketable skills in addition to learning basic literacy like reading, writing and counting.

6.1.1.7 Address the very high school drop out rate

The school drop out rate in primary schools was estimated at 8.8 % whilst the drop out in secondary schools was 27.8% in 2001. The main reasons for this are lack of funds and pregnancies amongst girls. The Ministry will in addition to introducing universal education intensify efforts to educate children on sex (dangers and consequences). The Ministry in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and NERCHA will also introduce campaigns and peer education on the value of education and abstinence.

6.1.2 Quality of education

6.1.2.1 Reducing the Teacher/pupil ratio

Due to the HIV/AIDS scourge, increased enrolment as well as the inadequate number of trained teachers, the teacher/pupil ratio is quite high. This compromises the standard of education and the development of the individual abilities of a child. Under the current circumstances it also becomes difficult for the teacher to identify children who have special needs which possibly affect their performance. The Ministry of education will therefore ensure that there is an increased number of trained teachers and that the teacher/pupil ratio is kept to a manageable level of about 1:30 by constructing more classrooms and providing more teachers.

6.1.2.2 Improve learning materials and facilities in all rural schools

Most rural schools are built by communities with the little resources they have, and are often managed by head teachers who are either poorly qualified, incompetent or have been demoted to serve in the rural areas because of indiscipline. Although there are a number of factors that contribute to a quality education, qualified and well-trained teachers and good facilities are essential for a good quality education. Currently teachers would rather stay out of employment whilst waiting for vacancies in urban schools than use opportunities available in rural areas. This is one of the reasons that such schools tend to

perform poorly when compared to their urban counterparts. This gives rise to repetition and high dropouts. To improve the performance of such schools and to enable the poor to get quality education and equal opportunities, the Government and other organizations will assist rural schools with books, equipment, teaching aids.

6.1.2.3 Retain appropriately trained and qualified teachers in rural schools

Qualified teachers are not very keen to go to rural schools because of the hardships they have to endure and the circumstances under which they have to teach. As a result the standard of education in rural areas is extremely low because of the heavy reliance on temporary high school graduates for teachers. The Ministry will introduce a retention and hardship allowance for teachers who teach in schools that do not have the basic infrastructure.

6.1.2.4 Equip all rural schools and introduce Information Communications Technology (ICT)

Although some schools are now going introducing computer training, a reasonable number especially in the rural areas still do not have basic equipment for practical subjects and computer training. Government has tried through a number of pilot projects (e.g. computers, prevocational subjects, practical subjects) to equip some schools but rural schools are still worse off. It is unfair and unjust for these different groups of students to be made to sit the same examinations whilst the resources are not the same, it has been further noted that good teachers prefer well-resourced schools. Ensuring that all schools have the basic tools for a productive education is essential. The Ministry of Education will expand the ongoing project of purchasing computers for all secondary schools, particularly rural schools. The Ministry will also train teachers in this regard and ensure that information and communication technology is effectively taught.

6.1.2.5 Provision of Outreach Library Services

The Ministry of Education shall design and provide outreach library services in all primary schools and adult education centres. The Ministry will prepare and present a project that will cater for the capital and recurrent costs associated with this programme.

6.1.2.6 Introduce sex education and address sexual abuse in schools

There is a very high rate of pregnancies and sexual abuse, particularly by teachers in the local schools. The Ministry has so far not been able to adequately address this escalating problem. In order to address this problem, the Ministry of education will make it compulsory for all schools to introduce sex education in the school curriculum. The Ministry will also take very serious disciplinary measures against all teachers who abuse

school children sexually. Sexual abuse of students should lead to immediate expulsion rather than transfer, as currently is the case.

6.1.3 Coordination and Management of education

6.1.3.1 Improve the management of schools and finances

The education system has been marred by a lot of management problems and misappropriation of schools funds. Thus far, the Ministry has not been able to satisfactorily address this problem. In this regard the Ministry will introduce effective regulatory measures and also take an active role in overseeing the management of schools. The Ministry will also undertake compulsory audits and prosecute all school managers who are found to be mismanaging school funds.

6.1.3.2 Standardisation of Primary School uniform

Expensive and multiple uniforms in primary and secondary schools increase school expenses and discourage parents from sending their children to school. The Ministry of Education will review the cost of uniform in the different schools and come up with one decent and standard uniform whose cost is affordable to poor parents. All public primary and secondary schools will be compelled to change to the new and affordable uniform.

6.1.3.3 Implementing the Continuous Assessment Policy in Primary Schools

The Continuous Assessment Policy in Primary schools was put in place to continuously monitor and improve the performance of pupils rather than send them away after failing examinations at the end of the year. However, its implementation has failed to take off as expected. The Ministry of Education will sensitise all head teachers about the importance of implementing this policy and thereafter ensure that it is implemented in order to minimize the repetition and drop out rates and reduce the cost of education.

6.1.3.4 Introduce school feeding and garden programmes in all primary schools

Although Government has already introduced a bursary programme for orphans and vulnerable children, a lot of children go to school on empty stomachs and end up sleeping, fainting or falling sick during lessons. It is therefore important for the Ministry of Education to work very closely with the Nutrition Council and the Ministry of Health to reintroduce school feeding programmes in all primary schools. In order to supplement the diet, the Ministry will work with NERCHA, Agriculture and other agencies to provide inputs for planting vegetable gardens in these schools. Under this programme, families, communities and schools shall be sensitised and educated about nutrition and assisted to improve diets in homes and schools.

6.1.3.5 Review the scholarship policy and ensure full recovery of scholarship loans

The Ministry of Education will review the scholarship policy with a view of making it more efficient and sustainable. The Ministry will gradually outsource scholarship loans so that the burden of fully subsidizing tertiary education is reduced and shifted to the beneficiaries. Mechanism for recovering scholarship already offered over the years will be intensified and the arm of the law used where appropriate.

6.1.3.6 Regulate and coordinate the activities of all education providers

A lot of unregulated and uncoordinated education is going on in the country. Private schools are mushrooming everywhere without being regulated or monitored. The quality of education offered cannot be guaranteed. Likewise, for pre-school and informal education, there is no regulatory mechanism in place. As a matter of fact, there is no regulatory mechanism in the whole education system and school managers are left to do as they wish. In this regard therefore, the Ministry will assume its regulatory function and ensure the quality of education and proper management of education.

6.1.4 Education Infrastructure

6.1.4.1 Construction of additional primary and secondary school classrooms

Free and compulsory primary education will initially demand additional school facilities. The Ministry of Education shall conduct a survey to determine the potential increase in enrolment once universal education is introduced. The Ministry will then determine the infrastructural, personnel and facility needs of all the schools and prepare a comprehensive programme to cater for all those needs.

6.1.4.2 Improve infrastructure in rural schools

Rural schools are disadvantaged in terms of personnel, infrastructure and resources. Due to the fact that rural schools have poor infrastructure, a number of teachers and students are reluctant to go to them. In some cases the situation is so serious such that pupils study under trees, stick and mud classrooms and/or sit on the floor. In this regard, the Ministry of Education will embark on a programme to construct adequate classrooms and infrastructure in all rural schools even before the introduction of universal primary education. The programme will aim at improving infrastructure in all rural schools which will include improving roads, providing electricity and water in order to encourage teachers to teach in rural schools.

6.1.4.3 Construct Primary School Teachers Houses in Rural Areas

Teachers are reluctant to work in rural areas because of non-availability of staff houses. Universal and compulsory primary education will require additional personnel in all primary schools. There will be an immediate need for additional staff houses particularly in the rural areas where most children who have never been to school are found. The Ministry of Education shall identify schools in urgent need of primary school teachers' houses and prepare a programme for inclusion in the budget.

6.2 Basic Health

6.2.1 Health Waiver for Vulnerable Groups

To improve access and affordability to health services by vulnerable groups, government shall provide free or subsidized health services for vulnerable groups. These groups are the elderly, orphaned and vulnerable children, people with disabilities and chronically ill (diabetic, cancer, HIV/AIDS). The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare shall formulate a health fee waiver system in order to facilitate access to health services. The Government will also fully evaluate the benefits of introducing social health insurance and the possibility of regulating the price of health care. The programme is aimed at evaluating the Public Health system and verifying if it accommodates the needs of the poor. After the evaluation, a more aggressive, responsive and equitable system will be proposed. Public health services will be decentralised and integrated with social services.

6.2.2 Improving Rural Health Service Delivery

Currently, primary health care service is undermined by understaffing, lack of equipment, and infrastructure. To increase the effectiveness, in service delivery of basic health services in rural areas, additional Rural Health Motivators and other health workers in rural clinics shall be recruited, equipped, and trained. Security and a retention allowance for personnel working under difficult conditions in rural areas will also be provided in order to minimise the exodus of health personnel. The Ministry of Health will therefore prepare a programme to recruit, train, equip and retain health personnel and health motivators in remote and rural areas.

6.2.3 Motivate the private sector to increase their participation in health care delivery

The Ministry of Health working very closely with the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment will encourage the business community to engage in more health care activities. The increased participation of the private sector will ensure increased availability of certain health services, which have become difficult for government to provide because of budgetary and personnel constraints.

6.2.4 Develop and Implement an Immunisation Policy

Immunisation must be continuously carried out to minimise preventable diseases among infants and to reduce infant mortality. At present, immunisation coverage in Swaziland has not yet reached the required target of 100%. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare shall develop an immunisation policy and action plan aimed at ensuring that all children in the country, regardless of parent beliefs are immunised each year. Budgetary resources necessary for the recurrent expenditure in the programme will be sourced.

6.2.5 Strengthen high impact interventions

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will disseminate information on the value of high impact interventions such as de-worming, ORS, insecticide net distribution etc. The Ministry will also provide cotrimoxazole prophylaxis regularly for children of infected mothers in order to reduce HIV infections.

6.2.6 Improve early childhood development initiatives on mental and physical health

The development and good health of a child is determined in the early stages of their life. Once a child is not provided with proper health care in the early stages of their life, the child's life and health will be adversely affected. The Ministry of Health will intensify early childhood health programmes and initiate more programmes to address psychosocial health problems particularly in the face of increasing child abuse.

6.2.7 Improve maternal health

The Ministry of Health and Social welfare will intensify all programmes that address complications and other causes of maternal mortality. The Ministry will ensure that maternal facilities and equipment in all health institutions are adequately upgraded in order to address any emerging maternal problems. Pregnant mothers will be encouraged to have regular check ups in order to ensure the detection and treatment of complications early in the pregnancy. The nutrition of pregnant women will also be made a priority in the plans of the Ministry.

6.2.8 Strengthen the Malaria and TB programmes

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will continue to support the Malaria programme which has proved to be very effective in the malaria prone areas. The Ministry will further increase the number of centres that diagnose and treat TB in the country in order to reduce the escalating TB infections.

6.2.9 Ensure the availability of affordable drugs

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will ensure that all health facilities are adequately supplied with affordable and good quality drugs. The distribution problems currently faced in the issuance of drugs will immediately be addressed by the Ministry.

6.2.10 Provide infrastructure, equip and improve the quality of health facilities

The infrastructure of most health is not adequate and not up to the standard required to maintain a healthy environment. These facilities are also not well equipped, such that for most serious ailments, patients have to be referred to very expensive South African hospitals. The Ministry will improve service delivery to the poor by increasing the number of outreach centres, rural health motivators and training them to improve their skills and knowledge. Physical infrastructure (hospitals, clinics, beds) will also be improved to cope with the rising number of admissions and outpatients. The Ministry of Health will prepare a project for equipping all health institutions with specialist equipment and minimising the expense and rate at which referrals to RSA are made.

6.2.11 Provide training and retention incentives for health personnel

Whereas the burden of disease has increased, a lot of health personnel are leaving the service for greener pastures in other countries. As such, the health institutions are now understaffed and the remaining professionals are overworked and greatly demoralized. Moreover, there are very few professionals with specialized health care skills either in government or private hospitals. This has resulted in the regular importation of doctors with specialized skills, which costs government a lot of money. The Ministry of health will upgrade the local health training institution and provide support for training of specialized doctors. A retention package for all health personnel will also be developed in order to reduce the exodus of health personnel.

6.2.12 Ensure the Security of health personnel

Nurses and other health personnel in rural health facilities are increasingly attacked and mugged by thugs. This acts as a disincentive for health personnel to work in rural areas. The Ministry of Health & Social Welfare will work with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport as well as the Police Department to ensure that all health facilities are secure and that security officers are posted in each health centre.

6.2.13 Disseminate health information

The Ministry will disseminate through the media and IEC material health information particularly on emerging diseases and outbreaks. Such information must be disseminated in a manner that will be accessible to all, particularly people with disabilities.

6.3 Population Issues

6.3.1 Conduct detailed and regular demographic surveys

In order to understand the trends of population growth and determine the level to which the growth and developments in the population enhance or impede economic growth, it is necessary to have up to date demographic data. In this regard, the Central Statistics Office will collect, analyse and disseminate demographic data regularly. This information will be used for planning and monitoring purposes.

6.3.2 Intensifying Family Planning Programme

Swaziland's population is outgrowing the rate of economic growth and the availability of natural resources. In order to bring down the fertility rate and ensure a healthy and quality population, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will intensify current family planning programmes. These programmes will target the poor who often lack the information to take wise family planning decisions. Under the decentralization programme, the delivery points for contraceptives will be extended to Tinkhundla level and the distribution of different contraceptives will be increased. Men will also be drawn into participating in these programmes. Sterilisation will be promoted as a means of family planning. The Ministry working with other key agencies will also encourage and improve access to contraception particularly rural women and intensify programmes that teach good morals to the youth and encourage abstinence amongst the youth and unmarried couples and teach good moral to the youth.

6.3.3 Create awareness of the benefits of maintaining manageable families

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will work very closely with community leaders to create awareness amongst poor families in particular of the benefits of family planning and maintaining families at manageable levels. This will be done at community level through education and awareness campaigns and also through the media.

6.3.4 Promotion of Sex Education and discourage teenage pregnancy

The school curriculum shall be reviewed to include sex education in primary schools to demystify sex among children particularly girls who end up falling pregnant early. Sex education shall also be made part of community development education and will target the youth. The Ministries of Education, and Health and Social Welfare shall also intensify educational campaigns and peer group education in order to encourage behaviour change, reduce teenage pregnancies and HIV infections.

6.3.5 Disseminate information and Assist women to enhance their position on family planning issues

Through educational campaigns targeted at both men and women the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will assist women to enhance their decision making position on family planning issues. The Ministry will also disseminate information on the value of family planning and the different methods, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of these.

6.3.6 Review and strengthen immigration control systems

The Ministry of Home Affairs will on the basis of the trends observed in the demographic surveys review all immigration legislation and in close liaison with the police and Defence establish a mechanism by which the influx of illegal immigrants can be controlled. All immigrants residing illegally in Swaziland will be deported and border controls strengthened. The Ministry of Rural Development and Youth Affairs working with other relevant agencies will ensure the development of all rural areas in order to reduce the level of rural-urban migration.

6.4 HIV AND AIDS

6.4.1 Establish more Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres

Although recently, a lot of investment has gone into voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), the established VCT centres are concentrated in urban areas. To reduce the incidence of HIV, VCT centres should be spread all over rural areas wherever feasible. Accordingly, the Ministry of Health shall establish VCT centres in rural areas and bring them in close proximity to the population.

6.4.2 Curb the Spread of HIV/AIDS

Although a number of initiatives and plans to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS are ongoing, the epidemic and its devastating effects are on the increase. In this regard, there is need to intensify efforts towards reducing the spread through additional programmes. These programmes shall include, among others more campaigns for behavioural change, promotion of the use of condoms for the already sexually active, the supply of free condoms and treatment of opportunistic diseases like STDs. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and NERCHA will continue to implement the National Plan of Action for HIV/AIDS and reviewing it from time to time. Budgetary resources will be made available for this purpose.

6.4.3 Intensify the treatment of STIs and other opportunistic diseases

The Ministry of Health will intensify education programmes and encourage people to come forward and treat Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and other opportunistic diseases. The practice of protected sex will be encouraged and condom distribution intensified.

6.4.4 Introduce HIV and reproductive health education in all schools

The Ministry of Education working together with the Ministry of Health and NERCHA will revise school curriculum to provide for compulsory teaching on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS in all schools so as to expose children to this preventive knowledge at an early stage and prevent teenage infections and pregnancies. Abstinence will be emphasised in this programme.

6.4.5 Disseminate information and sensitise workers on HIV and AIDS

The scourge of AIDS ravages the workforce such that the productivity levels have been greatly affected. The mortality rate as well as morbidity amongst the workforce is very high. It is therefore important that NERCHA and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare intensify their educational and information campaigns on HIV and AIDS in the workplace in order to influence behavioural change and increase awareness amongst the workers. IEC will be distributed to all places of employment.

6.4.6 Provide counselling, care and support to infected and affected workers

Psychosocial problems associated with HIV infections, the effect of mortality and morbidity as well as other social problems also affect productivity in the work place. NERCHA, Ministry of Health and other agencies will have to intensify efforts of providing Voluntary, Testing and Counselling (VCT) services in all the work places. The relevant agencies will conduct more counselling, educational campaigns and encourage workers to care for and support workers who are either infected or affected by HIV and AIDS.

6.4.7 Strengthen and expand interventions such as ARVs and PEP for rape victims and health workers, PMTCT, VCT

The Ministry of Health will also strengthen and expand programmes such as the supply of ARVs and PEP for rape victims as well as health workers and emergency service personnel who are often exposed to or are at risk of HIV infections. Also to be included in this intervention are survivors of sexual violence and health workers, Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission (PMTCT), Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT), Home Based Care (HBC), Blood Safety, Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Nutrition and HIV/AIDS and youth friendly services within health facilities will be enhanced.

6.4.8 Establishment of Home-Based Health Care for People with HIV/AIDS

In order to live positively and eat well, people living with HIV/AIDS require a lot of resources. This depletes already limited resources and results in the increased suffering of poor families who cannot afford the change of diet. Other costs involved are those of health care. Poor families end up failing to cope with the demands of the sickness. In order to reduce their costs, the Ministry of Health will establish appropriate home-based care programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. The program would provide basic care, counselling advice and also assess their coping methods and assist families to improve their nutrition and care capacities.

6.4.9 Design and implement programmes to address needs of those affected by AIDS related mortality

With the advent of the HIV/AIDS scourge, more people are being affected either directly or indirectly. Assessment of the nature and magnitude of the effects of HIV/AIDS on the vulnerable is absolutely necessary in order to target support. Carers and families of people who are infected by HIV are often adversely affected by the morbidity and mortality of their close relatives. Some of these are children who end up being orphans and/or for lack of knowledge being infected by the virus. The Ministry of Health will provide training and advice; counselling and social services for those affected by HIV related morbidity and mortality. The disadvantaged of our society, mainly the vulnerable groups of the elderly, children, orphans and widows are least capable of coping with the effects of the diseases, either in the form of caring for the infected or coping with life after a breadwinner is dead. The study will conduct surveys to determine the nature and extent of problems affecting the children, women and the elderly as a result of HIV/AIDS. Verification of the resources required for the household to care for the people infected with HIV/AIDS and the implications of that on the vulnerable will be necessary.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS AND TARGETS FOR PILLAR 4

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
PILLAR 4: HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT						
To improve access to basic education	Lack of access to basic education	Introduce universal basic education in all public schools	Basic education partly subsidized (2006)	Universal basic education offered in all public schools by 2009	All children of school going age having access to basic education	MOE
		Shift subsidies from tertiary to primary education	100% subsidies to tertiary education	80% shift in tertiary subsidies towards basic education by 2008	Increase spending on basic education vis a vis tertiary education	
		Expand curriculum in all informal educational centres to include vocational subjects		Curriculum expansion for informal education to include vocational subjects by 2008	Informal education curriculum including vocational subjects	
		Admit all children to primary schools		All children unconditionally admitted to primary schools by 2007	Admission requirements for primary schools facilitative of access by all children	
		Ensure the integration of children with disabilities in mainstream schools	Some programmes already started to provide blind children with learning facilities	Full integration of children with disabilities in the education system by 2012	Improved learning materials and facilities to allow for the integration of children with disabilities	
		Integrate and educate street and delinquent children		Continuous integration of street and delinquent children by 2008	Street children integrated into the education system	
To improve quality of basic education	Poor quality of basic education for all and lack of learning materials particularly in rural schools	Provide the necessary teaching materials e.g. Braille, ergonomics – user-friendly infrastructure for children with disabilities	Facilities and materials being provided for the blind	Special teaching materials in strategic schools by 2010	Teaching materials and infrastructure to facilitate the access and education of all children with disabilities	MOE, MOHSW

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve quality of basic education	Poor quality of basic education for all and lack of learning materials particularly in rural schools	Ensure the availability of adequate learning materials and facilities in all schools		All schools well equipped by 2008	Adequate learning materials and facilities in all rural schools	MOE
		Implement the continuous assessment system to reduce drop outs	16.0% repetition and 21.1% drop out rate in primary schools in 2005	100% Reduction in drop out and repetition rates by 2012	rate of repetition and drop out	MOE
		Set up and strengthen outreach libraries		16 Outreach libraries, 4 per region, set up by 2010	Number of outreach libraries	MOE
		Review and redesign school curriculum to include vocational education and practical subjects		Vocational subjects taught in every school in the country by 2010	Vocational subjects introduced in each school	MOE
		Increase the number of Rural Educational Centres and improve the capacity of informal education institutions		At least one rural informal education centre in each Inkhundla by 2009	Number of rural informal education centres	MOE, MRDYA
		Hire and retain qualified teaching personnel		100% availability of qualified teachers in all schools by 2012	Number of qualified teachers	MOE, Training institutions
		Equip rural schools with computers and train students on ICT		All rural schools equipped with computers and qualified instructors by 2010	Number of schools teaching ICT	MOE, MOF, MEPD
To improve the management and regulation of education	Education not properly regulated.	Standardize school uniform		Standard uniform introduced in all public schools by 2009	Number of schools using standardized uniform	MOE
		Coordinate all activities of education providers		Well coordinated informal, preschool and general education system by 2008	Coordination of education activities	

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve the management and regulation of education	Education not properly regulated.	Revise and formulate policies for granting and recovering scholarships to ensure an equitable distribution of available scholarship funds to students in all the various institutions	Scholarship policy under review in 2006	An efficient and sustainable scholarship policy being implemented by 2008	Increased access to and efficient management of scholarship	MOE
		Improve the management of schools and school finances		An efficient and effective regulatory mechanism for the management of schools and school finances in place by 2007	Number of efficiently managed schools and proper use of school funds	
To improve infrastructure and facilities in schools	Poor infrastructure and facilities in rural schools	Construct more classrooms to cater for increased enrolment		Adequate number of classrooms to cater for all students by 2009	Number of classrooms built	MOE, MPWT
		Construct additional teachers houses		Adequate teacher accommodation in all schools by 2010	Number of teachers houses	
		Provide requisite infrastructure in rural schools: water and electricity, laboratories, equipment		Adequate infrastructure and utilities provided in all rural schools by 2015	Infrastructure and utility services provided	
To improve access to basic health	Lack of access to basic health care	Redirect public expenditure towards preventive instead of curative health care	10% expenditure on preventive compared to 54% on preventive care in 2004/05	50% expenditure on preventive and 50% on curative care by 2010	Increased budget and preventive health care programmes	MOHSW, MOF, MEPD
		Increase the budget of the health sector and reduce the cost of access to health care by the poor	8.4 % health budget in 2004/05	Increase in the health budget to 15% of total budget by 2010	Health budget increase	

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve access to basic health	Lack of access to basic health care	Design and develop a health waiver system for all vulnerable people		All vulnerable people having access to health care by 2010	Effective health waiver system	MOHSW, MOF, MEPD
		Improve rural health service delivery		Health services in rural areas accessible and of good quality by 2012	Number of adequately staffed and equipped rural health facilities	
To reduce under five mortality	High infant and child mortality rates	Expand the implementation of the immunization policy	a) 72 % immunization coverage in 2001 b) 10 8/1000 Infant mortality in 2005	100% immunization coverage by 2008 and 75% reduction of child and infant mortality rates by 2015	Number of immunized children and reduced mortality rates	MOHSW
		Strengthen high impact interventions		Wide application of high impact interventions and prevention of diseases	Number of children/people covered	
		Improve early childhood development initiatives on mental and physical health		Early childhood development and psycho-social health programmes provided to all children in need of such by 2008	Number of children covered	
To reduce maternal mortality	High maternal mortality	Improve maternal health services and encourage regular check up by pregnant women	156/100000 maternal mortality in 2002	Maternal mortality reduced by 80% by 2015	Reduction in maternal mortality rates	MOHSW
		Improve maternal equipment and infrastructure		All health centres and hospitals fully staffed and equipped with maternity equipment and infrastructure by 2010	Number of adequately staffed and equipped health centres	

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve the availability and quality of health care service	Inadequate and poor quality of the health service	Motivate the private sector to participate in preventive health care delivery		Increased private sector participation in the health sector by 2010	Number of private institutions involved in the sector	Private sector, MOHSW
		Increase the number of health motivators, train and equip them	3000 rural health motivators (2004)	All communities adequately serviced by trained and equipped rural health motivators	Number of trained and equipped rural health motivators	MOHSW, Medical Stores
To improve the availability and quality of health care service	Inadequate and poor quality of the health service	Increase the availability and improve the mechanisms for distributing affordable and essential drugs to all clinics health centres and hospitals		All health facilities adequately supplied with affordable drugs and a very transparent and efficient distribution mechanism adopted	Number of adequately supplied health centres	MOHSW, Medical Stores
		Provide infrastructure, equipment, facilities and more personnel to meet the demand for health services and improve the quality of health care	a) 187 outreach sites and 162 clinics (2004) b) 2118 inpatient beds (2006)	Good infrastructure and adequate health facilities in all health centres and hospitals by 2012	State of infrastructure and health facilities	MOHSW, MPWT
		Provide adequate security in all rural health centres		Adequate security provided in all rural clinics and health centres by 2008	Number of properly secured health facilities	MOHSW
		Provide incentives to retain health personnel in the health sector		Adequate health personnel retained in the health sector by 2008	Reduced exodus of nurses and other health personnel	
		Strengthen malaria and TB programmes and expand TB diagnostic centres to all rural health facilities		TB and malaria cases quickly diagnosed and effectively treated by 2010	Reduced cases of malaria and TB associated mortality	

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve the availability and quality of health care service	Inadequate and poor quality of the health service	Develop and disseminate health information to the poor		IEC materials and health information disseminated in all communities by 2008	Health information	MOHSW
To manage the size and quality of the population	High fertility rates, unsustainable population growth and poor quality of the population	Conduct educational campaigns to create awareness among poor men and women, about the benefits of small and manageable families and develop targeted IEC material on population control		IEC material disseminated and education on family planning and management regularly undertaken in all communities by 2007	Number of education campaigns and IEC materials disseminated	MEPD, MEDIA, MOHSW, NGOs
		Increase the availability of affordable family planning services and supply of sufficient contraceptives in rural areas		All communities adequately serviced with family planning facilities and sufficient contraceptives by 2008	Number of efficiently operating family planning centres	MOHSW
		Conduct detailed demographic surveys and monitor population growth and demographic trends regularly		Regular demographic surveys conducted by 2007	Number of surveys	MOHSW, CSO
		Undertake special training sessions and disseminate family planning information to enhance women's position in deciding family planning		Education sessions targeted at women conducted regularly in all communities by 2007	Number of education sessions	MOHSW, NGOs, MEPD
		Review and strengthen legislation about immigration control		Effective Immigration legislation and policy in place by 2008	Controlled influx of immigrants	MHA, police
To curb the spread of HIV infections	High level of HIV prevalence	Establish VCT centres in rural areas	37 VCT centres country wide in 2006	Establish VCT centres within 5km of every community by 2010	Number of VCT centres	MOHSW, NERCHA

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To curb the spread of HIV infections	High level of HIV prevalence	Intensify the treatment of STIs and other opportunistic diseases		Information on STIs and immediate treatment of STIs and other opportunistic diseases by 2007	Number of treated cases	MOHSW
		Disseminate information on HIV and AIDS to all public and rural areas		Information on HIV/AIDS readily available in all communities, institutions and public places by 2007	HIV/AIDS information pamphlets of IEC materials disseminated	MOHSW, NERCHA, NGOs
		Strengthen the campaign on behavioural change by encouraging abstinence, faithfulness and condom use	About 70% in patients are infected with HIV (2005)	Campaigns on behavioural change intensified in all communities and among the youth by 2007 and new HIV infections completely eradicated by 2015	Change in behaviour, increased condom use among the sexually active and reduced number of new HIV infections	
		Introduce HIV/AIDS and reproductive health education in the school curriculum		All schools including sex and HIV/AIDS education in their curriculum by 2007	Number of schools with sex and HIV/AIDS education in their curriculum	MOE, MOHSW, NERCHA
		Facilitate the integration of HIV/AIDS services in reproductive health, TB, Blood safety, STI and PMCT programs		HIV/AIDS services fully integrated in all health programmes by 2008	Number of programmes that have integrated HIV/AIDS	MOHSW, NERCHA
		Establish HIV/AIDS workplace programmes in all places of employment		All work places integrating HIV/AIDS programmes by 2008	Number of place of employment with an integrated HIV/AIDS programme	MOHSW, MEE, MOPSI, NERCHA, employers
To mitigate against the effects of HIV/AIDS	Deteriorating standard of living, increased mortality and suffering due to HIV/AIDS	Expand the home-based care programme for people living with HIV and AIDS.		Home based care available to every person living with HIV or AIDS	Number HIV infected person being cared for	MOHSW, NERCHA

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To mitigate against the effects of HIV/AIDS	Deteriorating standard of living, increased mortality and suffering due to HIV/AIDS	Encourage and improve pro-poor coping methods for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.		Education campaigns on the methods of coping with HIV and AIDS undertaken in all communities by 2007	Number of trained households	MOHSW, NERCHA
		Strengthen and expand interventions such as ARV and PEP services for rape victims, health workers and those already infected with HIV	13000 ART recipients in 2005.	HIV interventions such as ARVs, PEPs and counselling services in full supply in all rural health facilities	Number of health facilities and communities fully service with ARVs, PEP and other related services	MOHSW, NERCHA, NGOs
		Strengthen and expand PMTCT, VCT, HBC, Blood safety, management of STIs, Nutrition and youth education programmes		Efficiently run and managed PMTCT, VCT, HBC etc programmes implemented throughout the country by 2010	Number of efficiently managed HIV related programmes	MOHSW, NERCHA, NGOs
		Provide counselling, care and support to infected and affected workers		All infected and affected workers provided with HIV counselling services by 2008	Number of counselled and assisted workers	MOHSW, NERCHA, MOPSI, Employers

CHAPTER 7: ACTIONS ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE POOR (PILLAR 5)

Poverty is also associated with unacceptable deprivation of well-being that often comprises both physiological and social deprivation. Physiological deprivation is a result of the lack of fulfilment of basic material or biological needs, such as nutrition, health, education, safe water and proper sanitation, personal hygiene and shelter. Social deprivation widens the concept of deprivation to include risk, vulnerability, and lack of autonomy, powerlessness, and lack of self-respect. It is for this very reason therefore that this PRASP focuses on the social protection of vulnerable groups, improving housing and housing conditions and ensuring sustainable energy for the poor in order to improve or facilitate the improvement of their living standards and quality of life. With the escalating human capacity challenges caused by HIV/AIDS and other emerging diseases such as diabetics, cancer, hypertension etc. it has become critical for the PRSAP to address the increased burden and demand for social services as well as the constraints the HIV virus in particular is posing on the quality and delivery of service.

Ensuring food security is also a crucial element of poverty reduction, as a majority of homesteads never produce enough to eat. Due to lack of income they also fail to buy enough food. Food insecurity has been declared a disaster in the country and has been the main focus of the Disaster Task Force. Even then, there are very few ongoing activities regarding disaster preparedness, rehabilitation and awareness. Nonetheless, policy and the legal framework already developed have to be implemented in order to ensure disaster preparedness and management. Statistical data further confirms that poverty prevalence is higher among persons with low or no education, no access to safe water and proper sanitary facilities, and people who live in low standards of houses. This pillar focuses on improving the quality of life and will therefore encompass the following activities:

7.1 Social Protection of Vulnerable Groups

7.1.1 Develop a database for all vulnerable groups and identify their needs

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will develop a database for the elderly, people with disabilities, orphans and all vulnerable people. The database will help in determining the numbers and identifying the location and specific needs of all vulnerable people. This database will be developed at community and Tinkhundla levels and be coordinated by the Ministry in order to inform the development of poverty reduction programmes for the vulnerable.

7.1.2 Formulate and implement of a Social Security Policy

The elderly, retirees, and people out of work quickly succumb to poverty. To address this problem, the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment, Public Service and Information and Health and Social Welfare shall formulate or revise existing social security arrangements for all employees so as to improve their welfare benefits after work. The policy shall ensure that all elderly persons and disabled people are provided with social security and that such is well administered.

7.1.3 Social Support to the vulnerable groups

The programme will involve the assessment of the needs, magnitude, and nature of the basic needs for the vulnerable groups and identify specific programmes for assisting the vulnerable access basic needs. Existing structures for supporting orphaned children, although not well defined, cannot cope with such increased demand for their services. There is therefore need for a proper system of identifying orphans, their structures of assistance, form of assistance and magnitudes of helping these needy children. The poor and most vulnerable also need to be assisted to construct proper shelter by promoting the use of low-cost material. The programme will therefore aim at developing the institutions, traditional structures and other implementation mechanisms for offering basic needs to orphans, the elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. These basic needs will include but may not be limited to education, shelter, health and other psychological and social needs.

7.1.4 Reintegrate Street Children into families and Communities

The plight of children who live in the streets is well known. They often go without food for days, are not attending school, do not have shelter or access to other basic necessities. There is another growing concern of abuse of these children by different elements. Although the reasons for being in the streets vary, the problems encountered by all of them are the same. It is therefore important that this growing problem is curbed as soon as possible. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will work with NGOs in this area to understand the underlying problems which drive these children into the streets and address them with the concerned families and communities in order to facilitate the reintegration of these children. The Ministry will further coordinate with the Ministry of Education and ensure that these children are given an opportunity to learn and resume normal lives. In cases where reintegration is not possible, the Ministry will as the last resort, evaluate the possibility of offering half-way houses to accommodate these children.

7.1.5 Educate and re-integrate Juvenile offenders

Juvenile offenders are put at a disadvantage when they are incarcerated. They lose out in terms of education opportunities yet they are expected to function normally after the period of isolation. Moreover they face the problem of being rejected by their families and the victims of their crime which leads to a life of misery and more crime. The Correctional Services working with the Ministries of Education and Health & Social Welfare will ensure that Juvenile offenders are given an opportunity to access quality education while in confinement and that they receive counselling services and are integrated into their communities.

7.1.6 Protect the Interests and assets of widows and orphans

There is a growing trend of property grabbing and failure to distribute assets of deceased persons to their widows and children. As a result, even cases when there could be an estate to take care of the needs of remaining spouses and children, the laws and procedures for managing estates do not adequately address the needs of these people and they end up suffering unnecessarily. The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs will review the laws and procedures of managing estates, the capacity of the Master of the High Court, strengthen and enforce laws against property grabbing and the tendency to disown widows for selfish gain.

7.1.7 Formulate and implement of a Disability Policy

People with disabilities are a seriously marginalized group whose interests and needs are not normally considered in mainstream development. As a result, they are amongst the most vulnerable population. There is no coherent policy for coordinating all efforts to help people with disabilities to improve their standard of living and address poverty. The Ministry Health and Social Welfare shall formulate and subsequently implement a Disability Policy.

7.1.8 Provide scholarships and training for trainers of children with disabilities

Most Schools are reluctant to admit children with disabilities because they do not have the facilities and personnel that can adequately take care and cope with the demands of caring for these children. The Ministry of Education will therefore enhance efforts to train specialist teachers who will be able to manage children with disabilities. The relevant equipment and facilities will be provided in strategic schools in order to facilitate the proper and quality education for these children.

7.1.9 Formulate and implement a Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Children

The number of children living in poverty and/or at risk of being poor due to various circumstances is on the increase. Vulnerable children include orphans, street children, abandoned children, children under abuse, and children with little prospects of entering school or completing school. Although the exact number of this group is not known, it is presumed to be large. There are many institutions doing some work towards improving the welfare of vulnerable children. Some under the pretext of helping these children abuse and use them as child labour. There is however no policy to coordinate their efforts in order to realise a common long-term objective. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Regional Development and Youth Affairs, NGOs and donors shall formulate and coordinate the implementation of a policy on the Protection of Vulnerable Children.

7.1.10 Build community capacity to care for and cope with the needs of vulnerable groups

Although communities live with and can identify the problems of the most vulnerable people living among them, they lack the capacity to handle the situations they are faced with and end up unable to provide any form of assistance to the needy. The Ministry Regional Development and Youth Affairs working with NGOs will build the capacity of communities in terms of training, advice, facilities and implements/equipment to enable communities to provide care for all vulnerable people.

7.1.11 Ease of Access to Premises by the Disabled

Many premises in Swaziland cannot be accessed by physically challenged persons. As a result physically challenged persons are discouraged from searching for employment in these premises. Employers are also reluctant to employ them because they would not easily access the workplace. Accordingly, a law shall be enacted compelling all business premises (public and private) to have passages and parking constructed for ease of access to business premises by people with disabilities. All buildings shall be fitted with ramps, elevators or other facilities to enable the mobility of people with disabilities. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will collaborate with the Ministry of Public Works and other agencies to ensure this action.

7.1.12 Improvement of Food Rationing for the Elderly

In order to improve transparency and fairness in distributing food rations for the elderly, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and Disaster Relief Task Force shall through a database identify the elderly and design and implement a coupon scheme. Food will be distributed to the most in need in a systematic manner that will ensure that none are left out and no one benefits unduly from such assistance.

7.1.13 Improvement of the Pension Scheme

Social welfare grants given to the elderly are too small and the payment system is not cost-effective. The whole pension scheme currently in force is not transparent and has not helped the elderly out of poverty. Moreover, the scheme is not well planned and its sustainability is questionable. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare shall review the implementation mechanism, the amount, how often it is paid, and to whom it is paid and come up with a more satisfactory scheme for pension payment to the elderly.

7.1.14 Develop a mechanism for caring for the elderly and for efficiently utilizing their idle land

Most households are either headed by very elderly people who live with very small children or orphaned children. In most cases because of poor care and nutrition the elderly end up falling sick with no one to properly care for them. The Ministry of Health through the social welfare will identify these people and mobilise the communities to care for and assist the elderly. In addition, because the elderly are no longer capable financially and physically to handle agricultural work, the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with community leaders will device a mechanism of efficiently utilising their idle or under utilised land for the benefit of the elderly and their households.

7.2 Food Security and Nutrition

7.2.1 Improve the nutrition of the poor

Good nutrition is very important in ensuring the health of any population. The Ministry of Agriculture and Health (Nutrition Council) will develop a programme for ensuring food security and the nutrition of the poor communities. The programme will involve increased food production, gardening, the fortification of basic foods and ensuring availability of and access to food through the development of food markets.

7.2.2 Rural Community Based Household Food Security Programme

In order to improve health and nutrition at household level, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives will formulate a programme to establish community-based projects in all Chiefdoms. The small-scale community based projects shall provide assistance and advice to households on growing nutritional crops and vegetables to improve the nutrition of families and ensure food security. The aim of the programme is to provide steady sources of food for the vulnerable people i.e. the elderly, children, orphans and widows. Under this programme fortification of foods will be promoted and nutritious food will be provided in all schools and health facilities to the identified vulnerable groups. Community kitchens or neighbourhood care points will also be developed and where they already exist supported in order to feed and empower orphans and other. The programme will also provide seed funding to chiefdoms for agricultural inputs to facilitate the development of communal farms that will support vulnerable groups.

7.2.3 Educating Women on Nutrition

Poor nutrition causes ill health. Some women are not informed about balancing the diet for their families and the value of breastfeeding, food preservation and storage. Some for no strong reasons abandon breastfeeding in favour of commercial substitutes. Many nutritious vegetables and other foodstuffs are easily cultivated in the back yard. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives shall undertake massive campaigns to educate women and men on proper affordable feeding practices and production high value food crops at household level.

7.2.4 Fortification of Commercial Foods with Multivitamins

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare working closely with the Ministries of Agriculture and Cooperatives and Enterprises and Employment shall make it a requirement for food-processing industries to fortify their products, particularly basic foods with vitamins and mineral salts (Vitamin A, iodine, iron and other possible fortification. The Ministry of Health through the Nutrition Council shall continuously monitor compliance.

7.2.5 Promote backyard gardens and the production of nutritious food

In order to improve nutrition amongst children and at household level, the Ministry of Agriculture working together with the Nutrition Council and NGOs will promote and give advice on the development of backyard gardens in all schools as well as homesteads of orphaned children and vulnerable group, the elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. The Ministry will further promote the growing of nutritious food crops such as fruits and vegetables by individual households and communities.

7.2.6 Promotion of Food Processing

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives shall encourage the processing and preservation of food in order to avoid food wastage and loss of nutritional value. Among others, the processing of indigenous plants and milling of maize flour and groundnuts using labour intensive technology shall be promoted. This programme will build onto the Food Processing Units built by MOAC under the project for the Preservation and Processing of Indigenous Vegetables. Its main thrust will be to nurture the development of commercial village level processing operations.

7.2.7 The Food Storage Technology Improvement

Studies indicate that post-harvest losses are quite high (estimated at 15-20%), particularly for maize. Information from field officers indicates that rural people find the storage facilities recommended by MOAC unaffordable. It is therefore proposed that a research

and promotion project be implemented to reduce post harvest losses and improve storage. The programme would involve the sourcing of expertise from other regions as well as the encouragement of local people to contribute towards the development of this technology.

7.2.8 Increase public awareness on nutrition

The Nutrition Council will work with other agencies to intensify education campaigns on nutrition through the media and community development programmes. The programme will educate communities particularly women and child headed households on the nutritional value of food, food preparation, storage and use.

7.2.9 Improve disaster preparedness

One of the major causes of food insecurity is the lack of preparedness for natural disasters such as drought, floods and other inclement weather conditions. In this regard the Ministries of Agriculture and Cooperatives and Regional Development and Youth Affairs will work very closely in ensuring effective early warning systems, information dissemination and agricultural methods that will improve the preparedness of the country for natural disasters.

7.3 Safe Water and Sanitation

7.3.1 Improve access to safe water

Safe water supply is essential for health, proper nutrition and hence poverty reduction. Water as a basic need should be made available to everyone. In this regard, the Rural Water Supply Branch will develop a phased proposal to extend safe water services to all communities and public institutions particularly schools and health facilities that are hitherto not adequately supplied. The proposal will cover the period of the PRSAP 2005-2015 for priority areas to be covered. Different sources of safe water will be used such as piped water inside houses, piped water in community service points, boreholes, protected springs and others. New water supply schemes will be constructed and the maintenance of existing water schemes will be enhanced. In the meantime, government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy shall assign water tankers and vacuum tankers to each Region. Regional authorities shall ensure the regular supply of water to all communities.

7.3.2 Improve sanitation in rural and peri-urban areas

Using the bush for toilet purposes poses danger to the health of the households and communities involved. A pit latrine is inexpensive to construct and every household should be compelled to have one. The Ministry of Health working in close consultation with traditional authorities will educate communities on the value of using pit latrines and initiate a law that will require every homestead to have a least one ventilated pit latrine.

The Ministry will further ensure that every household has proper sanitary facilities. In addition, the Ministry of Housing and local authorities will develop a regulatory mechanism for settlements in peri-urban areas in order to minimise sanitation problems.

7.3.3 Educate on and encourage water harvesting

The practice of water harvesting should be encouraged particularly in drought prone areas. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy working closely with NGOs will educate communities on the different methods of water harvesting and storage.

7.3.4 Encourage rural communities to participate in water supply maintenance

A lot of water supply schemes built in various communities are no longer functional due to lack of maintenance. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy will encourage communities to participate in the construction of water schemes and sensitize communities on the importance of proper maintenance and how these water schemes should be sustained. Communities will be encouraged to set up water management committees to ensure the maintenance and collection of necessary maintenance finance.

7.3.5 Regularly Monitor the Quality of Water and Construct Safe Water Protection Barriers

During heavy rains, safe water sources get flooded and contaminated, resulting in health hazards. Rural Water Supply Department (RWSD) shall construct effective barriers to protect and monitor the quality of water sources. Where water resources are currently shared with livestock, the RWSD will provide alternative sources of water for human consumption. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy will further develop and acquire appropriate filtration systems, such as slow sand filter, to remove contamination that follows heavy rains. The quality of water will also be regularly monitored and the Ministry will ensure the establishment of Water Quality Control Offices in all four regions.

7.3.6 Build the capacity of water supply agencies

The capacity of the Rural Water Supply Department and other agencies is very limited to enable the effective delivery of the service and meet the demand of all communities. The Ministry of Natural Resources will prepare programme to build the capacity of all water supply agencies under the Government, in terms of equipment, finance and personnel.

7.4 Improving Housing Conditions

7.4.1 Planning Peri-urban Human Settlements

Social infrastructure in peri-urban areas (water supply, sewerage, electricity, roads) is provided in a haphazard and unplanned manner by different institutions. There has been no collaboration between these institutions resulting in the settlement of people without proper planning and provision of social services such as water and sanitary services. The Ministries of Housing and Urban Development and Regional Development and Youth Affairs in consultation with traditional authorities will develop a human settlements policy and appoint an authority to monitor the development of human settlements in rural areas, which are in the outskirts of urban areas. The Ministry will further initiate a law to regulate peri-urban development and ensure that human settlements and social infrastructure services are provided systematically and concurrently.

7.4.2 Develop and Enforce Minimum Housing and Construction Standards in Rural and Peri-Urban Areas

The Ministries of Housing and Urban Development and Regional Development & Youth Affairs working in consultation with traditional authorities will develop minimum housing standard and a mechanism for enforcing these in rural and peri-urban communities. These Ministry of Housing will further propose and implement a mechanism for ensuring communication, coordination and harmonization of activities of utility providers, municipal authorities and traditional authorities in order to avoid conflicts in the provision and management of infrastructure.

7.4.3 Encourage and support the Construction of Low Cost Houses

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Development will promote the design the construction of good low cost houses in urban areas and small towns to be leased to low income earners, with an option to purchase. The private sector will be encouraged to finance and support this programme. For rural dwellings, the Government will assign a competent authority to give advice on housing standards and monitor the development human settlements.

7.5 Ensuring Sustainable Energy

7.5.1 Develop Community Woodlots

Although the ultimate aim of the PRSAP is to encourage cheaper and cleaner renewable sources of energy, it is quite clear that because of current poverty levels, wood will for some time remain the main source of domestic energy for the poor. In this regard, the Ministries of Agriculture and Cooperatives (Forestry Section), Natural Resources and Energy and Regional Development and Youth Affairs shall prepare and implement a

community woodlot project to promote tree growing and nature conservation. Research shall be undertaken into the most appropriate tree species to grow and on what soils.

7.5.2 Encourage forestation and reforestation

Users of wood as a source of energy rose from 122,369 households in 1986 to 172,416 in 1997. In order to ensure that wood requirements are met, the area covered by forests and woodlots should grow at a commensurate pace with the growth of households relying on wood. The Ministry of Agriculture and cooperatives, Forestry Section in conjunction with the Ministry of Regional Development & Youth Affairs shall formulate a programme for forestation and reforestation to restore Swaziland's forest cover and wood reserve to meet domestic needs taking into account the issue of conservation and other land requirements. The Ministry in close liaison with community leaders shall establish locally-based forest management committees for the monitoring of natural resources. The private sector will be encouraged to participate in the programme. The programme shall research on fast growing and appropriate tree species and distribute tree seedlings and provide extension services in order to sustain energy sources.

7.5.3 Research into Affordable, Safe and environmentally friendly Household Energy

Presently, there is limited use of sustainable, safe and clean and renewable sources of energy. Electricity is increasingly being used by affording rural households although it is still too expensive for the poor households. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy shall undertake studies on the use of renewable energy and options for reducing the cost to poor communities. The information and findings will be widely disseminated to communities in order to improve energy efficiency. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy, will in conjunction with other relevant agencies establish a standing Committee to monitor and ensure the implementation of all programmes and policies designed to improve domestic energy. The committee shall make recommendations to government for appropriate action on improving and sustaining energy supply.

7.5.4 Expand the Rural Electrification programme and improve access by the poor

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy will prepare a demand-led master plan to supply electricity to targeted areas of the country particularly: schools, health facilities, community centres, investment centres earmarked for SMEs, and eventually to every household. In addition to allocating budget resources, the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and Ministry of Finance will approach donors and funding agencies to finance the expansion programme.

7.6 Legal Protection of Vulnerable groups

7.6.1 Provision of Free Legal Services

The poor are not in position to hire lawyers and advocates to handle their legal issues. As a result they are highly manipulated and intimidated by lawyers who represent wealthy parties in court cases affecting them. To address this problem, the government through the Attorney General's Office will provide free legal representation to all persons who, have been identified as vulnerable or too poor to pay for their legal representation. The office will ensure that legal interests and rights of the poor are protected.

7.6.2 Provision of Legal Information and Educating Communities on human and constitutional rights

The poor and other vulnerable groups are not informed about their legal and basic human rights. They therefore cannot take advantage of their human rights and do not have any defence when their rights are being violated. To address this, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General Office shall provide free legal literature and knowledge and structured education to communities on a continuous basis to increase their awareness of the law and their rights (legal and constitutional). All convenient forums such as community meetings and schools and the media shall be used to deliver the information and education.

7.6.3 Disseminate educational information and IEC materials

The Gender Unit working with various NGOs and the Ministries of Enterprise and Employment and Justice will disseminate information (IEC materials) and conduct educational campaigns for all rural women on income generation and empowerment, business management, asset acquisition and protection, marriage and inheritance rights in order to empower women in all respects of their economic development.

7.7 Improving other critical services and general quality of life

7.7.1 Design and develop innovative ways of easing the load of household chores on women

Through appropriate technology, the Women in Development will work with communities to develop appropriate technology and more innovative ways to carry out household chores with much ease in order to allow women and school going children more time to engage in income generating activities and school respectively.

7.7.2 Improvement of Quality of the Road Transport Service

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport shall review and implement the regulatory framework for the road transport system to give it transparency including, among other things, the granting of route licences to transport operators and the cost to passengers. The Road Transport Board shall review road service delivery standards to make them enforceable and realistic to transport operators. Consideration will be given to providing coupons entitling senior citizens (elderly), school children, and disabled to ride on public transport vehicles without being cheated.

7.7.3 Speed up the processing of transport permits by the RTB

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport will build the capacity of the Road Transportation Board to speed up the processing and issuing of road permits. The RTB will also be enhanced so that it can establish and maintain a comprehensive Information Management System (IMS) and monitor the use of road transport permits.

7.7.4 Enforce Road Safety Measures

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport shall take measures to improve road safety of all passengers. Such measures will include amending and enforcing road safety regulations, Road Safety Act and Road Traffic Act. The Ministry will also enforce road worthiness test on all public passenger transport.

7.7.5 Improve the Compensation of Victims

The Ministry of Finance and the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA) will ensure proper compensation of road accident victims. The MVA legislation and procedures will be reviewed in order to speed up the process and improve the level of compensation. Free legal service will be provided for poor victims of road accidents in processing their claims.

7.7.6 Road signs and safety facilities for people with disabilities

The Ministry of Public Works and transport will ensure that visible road signs and speed limits are placed in all the country's major roads. Moreover, the Ministry in collaboration with municipal authorities will ensure that pavements are fitted with guard rails and ramps to facilitate the mobility of people with disabilities. The authorities will further improve traffic lights by fitting sound systems that will facilitate the passage of blind people in particular.

7.7.7 Encourage the use of non-motorised means of transport

The Ministries of Regional Development and Youth Affairs and Public Works and Transport in collaboration with NGOs will encourage rural communities to use non-motorized means of transport such as bicycles, carts, donkeys etc. particularly to reduce the burden of carrying water and fire wood, maize meal on women.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS AND TARGETS FOR PILLAR 5

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
PILLAR 5: IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE POOR						
To provide social security for vulnerable groups	Lack of information and data on vulnerable people	Collect data and compile a comprehensive database on the needs, location and situations of vulnerable groups		Statistical information and data on vulnerable groups collected and a comprehensive database compiled by 2008	Effective data collection measures and systems in place and up to date information available	MOHSW, CSO
	Lack of access to education by vulnerable children and other groups	Ensure the education of all vulnerable children		All vulnerable children in school by 2009	Number of vulnerable children in school	MOE, MOHSW, Communities
		Provide vocational skills and education to children and other vulnerable people who no longer qualify for mainstream education		All vulnerable children of school going age integrated in mainstream schools or vocational education centres by 2009	Number of vulnerable children in school or vocational training	MOE, MOHSW, communities
		Secure scholarships and proper training for teachers of children with disabilities		Adequate number of qualified teachers for children with disabilities in strategic schools by 2012	Number of trained and qualified teachers	MOHSW, MOE
		Establish more schools, workshops and equipment for people with disabilities in all four regions of the country.	Only three school for people with disabilities in the whole country by 2006	At least 2 well equipped school and training facilities for people with disabilities in each region	Number of schools and training facilities for people with disabilities	MOHSW, MOE, MPWT
	Lack of social protection for vulnerable groups	Formulate a social security policy and research and implement more efficient ways of paying pension benefits to the elderly	39,217 beneficiaries of Elderly grants in 2006. 7,980 beneficiaries of public grants	A well researched social security policy developed and implemented by 2008	Social security policy in place	MOHSW
		Design a more effective system of delivering food and humanitarian aid to the elderly and other vulnerable households		An efficient and effective system for delivering food and humanitarian aid to all vulnerable households in place by 2008	Efficient delivery of system for humanitarian aid	MOHSW, MRDYA, WFP, NGOs

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To provide social security for vulnerable groups	Lack of social protection for vulnerable groups	Set up a policy on the care of the adult poor and the use of their idle and underutilized land to generate income		Idle land belonging to poor elderly people efficiently utilized to generate income for the benefit of their households by 2008	Number of idle or underutilized farms converted for more efficient use	MOAC, MNRE, MOHSW
		Reintegrate street children into families and communities and provide counselling services for all vulnerable groups and their families		All street and other vulnerable children properly integrated or receiving care/counselling by 2010	Number of vulnerable children including street children receiving care	MOHSW, NGOs
		Educate and reintegrate Juvenile offenders into their families and communities		All juvenile offenders receiving quality education by 2009 An effective reintegration programme developed and being implemented by 2010	Number of Juvenile offenders being educated and successfully integrated	Correction Services. MOE, MOHSW
		Ensure access to assets/estate and benefits by widows and orphans		Inheritance laws and estate management procedures review to facilitate access to and the protection of estates for the benefit of widows and orphans by 2007	Number of properly managed estates	MOJ, MOHSW, Law society, NGOs
		Empower and encourage communities to develop and sustain coping strategies for addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in their communities e.g. Lihlombe, NCP etc		Fully developed capacity of communities to care for vulnerable groups by 2008	Number of fully functional and equipped neighbourhood care points, Lihlombe Lekukhalela and other care structures	MOHSW, MRDYA, MHA
		Rehabilitate all public offices and private companies to improve access by people with disabilities		All public offices and private institution buildings easily accessible to people with disabilities by 2015	Number of buildings that can easily be accessed by people with disabilities	MPWT, Architects, Contractors, private sector in general

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To provide social security for vulnerable groups	Lack of social protection for vulnerable groups	Review road construction standard to cater the access of people with disabilities		All main public roads fitted with guard rails and sound traffic lights by 2010	Number of roads fitted with access facilities for people with disabilities	MPWT, Municipal authorities
		Educate and enlighten women on how to improve the nutrition and general standard of living for their families		All women enlightened and continuously educated on nutrition and improving the standard of living of their families	Number of informed women, communities and/or households	MOHSW, MHA, NGOs, Media
To ensure food security and proper nutrition	Food insecurity and poor nutrition (malnutrition)	Increase agricultural production		Increase in agricultural production and improved availability and access to food security by 2015	Increased yields and number of households having access to sufficient amounts of food	MOAC,
		Adopt different methods of irrigation and reducing dependence on rain-fed agriculture		Increase in irrigated agricultural production	Number of farms with new irrigation schemes and systems	
		Promote backyard gardens and the growing of nutritious food crops such as vegetables and fruits in all communities		Every household having a backyard garden and fruit trees by 2008	Number of households growing nutritious crops and trees	MOAC, NERCHA, MRDYA
		Increase public awareness on nutrition		Improved nutrition of households by 2008	Number of well nourished households and mitigation measures against natural disasters	MOHSW, MOAC
		Improve disaster preparedness		Effective early warning systems in place and preparedness for disaster by 2008	Effective management of disasters	MOAC, MRDYA, Meteorology
		Fortify commercial foods such as salt and mealie meal with vitamins and minerals.		All basic foods fortified with vitamins and minerals by 2008	Types of food fortified with vitamins and minerals	MOHSW, MOAC

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To ensure food security and proper nutrition	Food insecurity and poor nutrition (malnutrition)	Develop and strengthen school feeding schemes		All schools running efficient and well managed feeding programmes	Number of schools providing nutritious food to students	MOE, MOHSW, MOAC
		Promote food processing and proper storage		Every household trained in utilizing effective food processing, preparation, preservation and storage methods by 2008	Number of households using proper and effective food processing, preservation, preparation and storage methods	MOAC, MOHSW
To provide safe water and proper sanitation	Lack of access to safe water and proper sanitation	Improve access to safe water in rural and peri-urban areas		Sufficient number of properly maintained water supply schemes in all rural communities to allow a maximum distance of 2 km to the nearest water supply system by 2015	Number of easily accessible and well managed water supply systems	MNRE, MHSW, NGOs, MRDYA
		Encourage and educate on water harvesting methods for domestic use, irrigation and livestock		All households in drought prone areas well educated on safe water harvesting methods by 2008	Number of households using effective water harvesting methods	MOHSW, MNRE, MOAC, NGOs
		Provision of water tankers where water supply schemes are not yet available		Water tankers dispatched to all areas which are not yet adequately supplied with water	Number of households adequately supplied with water	MOHSW, MOAC, MNRE, WSC
		Sensitisation and training of rural communities on water supply maintenance		All communities trained on water supply scheme management and maintenance by 2008	Number of communities trained and efficiently managing water supply schemes	MNRE, RWSB, Micro projects, NGOs
		Encourage community participation in the construction and maintenance of water schemes		All communities involved in the construction and maintenance of water schemes and other construction projects	Number of communities participating in the construction and maintenance of water supply schemes	MNRE, NGOs, communities

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To provide safe water and proper sanitation	Lack of access to safe water and proper sanitation	Build the capacity and provide resources to water and sanitation service providers		The RWSB and other water and sanitation service providers well capacitated to satisfy the needs of all communities by 2015	Improved water supply and sanitation services	RWSB, MOHSW, MNRE
		Monitor water quality and protect water sources from contamination		The quality of water regularly tested and measures to protect against contamination taken	Number of quality control tests undertaken per year	MNRE, WSC, RWSB
		Establishing and equipping Regional Water Quality Control Offices.		4 regional water quality control offices established (1 per region) by 2008	Number of quality control offices established	MNRE
		Compel every household to have an excreta disposal facility e.g. pit latrines		Every household having at least one pit latrine or any other modern form of excreta disposal	Number of rural and peri-urban households with at least one pit latrine	MOHSW, NGOs
To improve housing conditions	Deplorable housing conditions and lack of human settlement planning for the poor	Develop a policy and assign monitoring authority for human settlements and living standards in rural and peri-urban areas		A housing and human settlements policy developed and implemented in all rural and peri-urban areas by 2008	Human settlements and housing policy	MHUD, MOHSW, MRDYA, communities
		Develop and enforce housing and construction standards in rural and peri-urban areas and eliminate slums		Effective housing and construction standards enforced in all rural and peri-urban areas and slums completely eliminated by 2015	Number of well constructed and safe housing units in rural and peri-urban areas	MHUD, MOHSW, MRDYA
		Promote the design & construction of affordable and low-cost houses.		Low cost housing units designed and constructed for sale to urban and peri-urban residents	Number of well designed low cost housing units constructed	MHUD, SNHB
		Strengthen co-ordination between Chiefs, City and Town Councils and MHUD & social service providers (water and electricity) in the regulation of human settlement.		Properly planned and regulated human settlements by 2008	Number of well planned human settlement areas	MHUD, municipalities, utility providers, traditional leaders

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To ensure sustainable energy	Depletion of energy resources and use of unhealthy energy sources	Promote forestation and the establishment of community woodlots		Every community practising reforestation and having well managed woodlots by 2008	Number of woodlots and replanted forests	MOAC, MNRE, communities
		Distribute tree seedlings to communities for reforestation purposes		All communities supplied with tree seedlings on a regular basis to encourage reforestation by 2008	Number of communities supplied with tree seedlings	MOAC, MNRE
		Undertake feasibility studies on the appropriate tree species for household energy in different areas of the country		Well researched and suitable tree species distributed to household for energy purposes by 2008	Number of households using sustainable wood sources for energy	MOAC, MNRE
		Draw up a Rural Electrification Master Plan and expand the rural electrification programme	No master plan but rural electrification programme is ongoing (2006)	A rural electrification master plan drawn and all communities connected to the electricity grid by 2015	Number of communities and households having access to electricity	MNRE, SEB
		Develop programmes promoting the utilization of renewable energy resources		Renewable energy sources widely promoted and used by a majority of rural and urban households by 2012	Number of households using renewable energy for domestic purposes	MNRE
		Conduct research on new forms of energy		Intensive research on renewable energy sources undertaken by 2007	Increased use of well researched renewable energy sources	MNRE
		Research and dissemination of information on energy saving and efficient cooking and heating methods	Implementation of energy efficient equipment on public building is ongoing (2006)	Well researched energy saving methods and practices promoted and widely used	Increased energy savings	MNRE, SEB
		Implement measures of improving access and reducing the cost of electricity in rural areas		70% of households in rural areas having access to affordable electricity by 2015	Number of households affording and having access to electricity	MNRE, SEB

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To provide legal protection for the poor	No legal protection for the poor	Sensitise and educate the people on their legal, constitutional and fundamental human rights enshrined in the constitution		All communities fully understanding their legal, human, constitutional rights by 2008	Number of people and communities informed of their rights	MOJ, Law society, WLSA
		Provision of free legal representation to the poor		All poor people having legal representation by 2008	Number of poor people provided with legal services	MOJ
		Disseminate legal IEC materials		IEC material on legal issues distributed to all communities	Number of communities to which legal information distributed	MOJ
To improve transport services	Poor access to transport services and increased number of road accidents	Improve and enforce the regulatory framework for road transport		Efficient regulatory framework for road transportation in place by 2007	Regulatory framework	MPWT
		Improve the availability of transport services in rural areas		All rural areas adequately serviced with transport by 2008	Number of buses and public transport vehicles operating in rural areas	MPWT, transport operators
		Monitor the use of permits and facilitate the quick processing of transport permit applications for poorly service areas		A robust permit monitoring, control and approval system in place by 2007	Number of permits issued and the proper usage of permits	MPWT (RTD)
		Develop a comprehensive Information Management System (IMS) on road transport services		An effective IMS in place by 2007	IMS system	Road Transportation Department
		Enforce road safety regulations and the Road Safety Act and Road Traffic Act		100% reduction in public transport accidents by 2010	% reduction of road accidents	MPWT, transport operators
	Limited use of non-motorised transport	Sensitize and encourage communities to use non-motorized modes of transport		Increased use of non-motorised transport such as donkeys, carts etc	Number of people using non-motorized means of transport	MRDYA, NGOs

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline status-year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve transport services	Unsuitability of road infrastructure to people with disabilities	Construct safety measure and facilities to improve the mobility of people with disabilities		Safety of people with disability ensure through the construction of guard rails, sounded traffic lights and ramps in strategic areas by 2015	Disability friendly infrastructure	MPWT, municipal authorities
	Laborious MVA procedures and delayed compensation of accident victims	Revise MVA legislation		MVA legislation facilitative of adequate and timely compensation of accident victims by 2008	Number of well compensated accident victims	MVA Fund, MOF, MPWT
		Provide free/subsidized legal aid to poor MVA claimants and ensure fair and quick compensation of victims		Free legal services provided to all poor accident victims by 2008	Number of compensated accident victims	MOJ, MVA
To improve other social services and general quality of life	Lack of access to social services facilitative of development	Establishing multi-purpose community centres providing postal, telephone and television services		Multi-purpose centres established in all communities by 2008	Number of multi-purpose community centres	Private sector, SPTC, STVA, internet providers and communities
		Design and develop affordable and innovative ways of carrying out household chores.		More innovative and affordable means of simplifying household chores researched and utilised by women in all communities by 2015	Types of developed methods for household activities	MRDYA, MHA, NGO
		Increase TV network / Increase repeater stations		100% TV network coverage by 2015 in all rural areas	Number of household having access to TV network	STVA

CHAPTER 8: ACTIONS ON IMPROVING GOVERNANCE AND STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS (PILLAR 6)

Governance is the exercise of economic, political, and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels. It comprises mechanisms, processes, and institutions, through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their legal obligations, and mediate their differences. Weak and poor governance compromises the delivery of services and benefits to those who need them the most and is open to the influence of powerful interest groups who affect and prejudice policies and programmes. As a result transparency and accountability disappear and the poor become invisible, voiceless, powerless and unprotected. Good governance is therefore crucial for promoting macro-economic stability, growth, participation of the poor, general public, government and the private sector in development. All key players, in particular the private sector must operate in an enabling environment that will facilitate the identification and exploitation of investment opportunities in all sectors without any obstacles.

Despite the fact that, Swaziland has in place all institutions for good governance, there is insufficient institutional capacity to ensure that all processes are conducted efficiently and effectively. There is need to strengthen institutions and processes for accountability, administration of law and justice, public sector management, fostering participation of the poor in decision making through decentralized governance, stamping out corruption, and protection of human rights. This Pillar focuses on improving governance systems and ensuring institutional development that will not only enhance participation but will also ensure that the respect of all basic human rights. The actions that have been identified to facilitate poverty reduction under this Pillar are as follows:

8.1 Law and Constitutional Reform

8.1.1 Strengthening of Law and Order

The failure to enforce law and order results in increased crime, abuse and complete violation of the law. In order to ensure law enforcement, the government shall strengthen and build capacity of the Royal Swazi Police and Correctional Services. Adequate and improved accommodation facilities, training and operating equipment and transport will be provided to law enforcing agencies so that they can enforce law and order and prevent crime. The relevant departments will submit well-coordinated programmes in this regard. The Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Justice will continuously monitor the enforcement of law and order.

8.1.2 Completion of the Codification of Swazi Law and Custom Exercise

Finalization of the exercise of codifying Swazi Law and Custom has been delayed, resulting in the perpetual conflict between the Western and Traditional Laws. With the finalization of the Constitution, the completion of the codification exercise has become even more critical because a lot of clauses refer to Swazi Law and Custom, which still needs to be understood. The Ministry of Justice will ensure that the Task team assigned to codify Swazi Law and Custom works closely with Attorney General's Chambers and the Ministry of Justice to complete this exercise and take all appropriate action to harmonize the traditional and Roman Dutch Law.

8.1.3 Finalize the fair-trading and competition legislation

A fair trading environment is very important for the development of business in the country. The Ministry of Enterprise and Employment will pilot the Fair Trading and Competition Bill. This will facilitate the development of small and medium business without being hindered by the unfair practices and unfair competition from bigger businesses.

8.1.4 Simplify laws and procedures for SME Development on SNL

Laborious licensing procedures and laws associated with business establishment frustrate rather than facilitate businesses, particularly in rural areas. Establishing a business in rural areas can take as long as five years because of the very bureaucratic procedures and processes involved. The Ministry of Enterprise & Employment will simplify these procedures and review the roles of the agencies involved, particularly that of Swazi Commercial Amadoda. It will also be necessary to review the laws associated with location and operation of businesses in order to enable Small and Medium Enterprises to develop.

8.1.5 Improve the legislative framework for accessing and utilizing land

The government will ensure that all land legislation facilitates adequate access and proper utilization of Swazi Nation Land. All laws that currently impinge the rights of any individual to access land shall be repealed in line with the constitution.

8.1.6 Update and enforce inheritance laws

Inheritance laws in the country are not properly enforced and the system for managing estates and inheritance are either very outdated or very inefficient. In this regard, the Ministry of Justice will review the inheritance laws and build the capacity of the Master of the High Court's Office to efficiently manage and administer estates. The Ministry of Justice will also enforce very stringent laws to eliminate the practice of property grabbing from orphans and widowed women by opportunists and family members. The Ministry of

Justice will work very closely with traditional authorities and the Law Society to seriously address this issue and ensure that all these unscrupulous activities are completely discouraged.

8.1.7 Strengthen the maintenance laws

The Ministry of Justice will strengthen maintenance laws in line with the provisions of the constitutions. Men and women who abandon, neglect or fail to maintain their children will be prosecuted.

8.1.8 Amend and Repeal obsolete and discriminatory laws in Swaziland in line with the Constitution

Social and economic conditions have changed since the country's laws were introduced. Some of Swaziland's laws dating as far back as 1902 have become obsolete, are discriminatory and incompatible with the conditions and needs of modern Swaziland. Examples of such laws are the Marriage Act, the Deeds Registry Act, the Administration of Estates Act, the Girls and protection of Women's Act, the Adoption Act, the Wills Act, the Maintenance Act, and the Age of Majority Act. The Ministry of Justice through the Attorney General's Office will work with the relevant Ministries to identify all laws that need amendment or repeal and redraft them for the consideration of Parliament. The provisions of the National Constitution and enforcement structures will be considered.

8.1.9 Establishing the Human Rights and Constitutional Court

Following the adoption of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office shall establish a Human Rights and Constitutional Court to hear all cases concerning human rights and constitutional abuse and violation. The population in particular the poor who will not even be in a position to read the document for themselves shall be sensitised about the role and functions of this court.

8.1.10 Strengthen all criminal laws associated with domestic violence

Domestic violence has become one of the major causes of deaths amongst women. Such cases are either not reported or when reported, perpetrators are not prosecuted. Furthermore, because of dependence on the men for livelihoods, women often withdraw charges against their husbands or partners and this exacerbates the problem of domestic violence. The Gender Unit will work with NGOs and conduct educational campaigns for women to encourage them to report domestic violence cases. The Unit will also liaise with the Ministry of Justice and the Police Department to strengthen laws and enforce such on domestic violence.

8.1.11 Ratify and domesticate all international human rights instruments

Over the years the Government has ratified and made commitments to a number of international human rights instruments such as children's rights, the rights of women, employees and other groups of society. In spite of these commitments, the country's domestic laws and practices still go against the provisions of these declarations. As such, internationally the image of the country in terms of observation of human rights is tainted. The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs will in this regard take an inventory of all affected laws and ensure that they are updated to be in line with the international conventions that the country has committed to.

8.1.12 Enacting and Enforcing Environment Protection Laws

Although laws and bylaws such as the Environment Management Act (2002), Draft H₂O Pollution Control, Flora Protection Act, laws against bush burning and others intended to preserve the environment exist, they are mostly not enforced. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment (Swaziland Environment Authority) shall enact and/or strengthen all laws related to environmental protection and make them well known to the public. The Authority will monitor adherence and enforcement of these laws.

8.1.13 Enforce the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants, which provides for the elimination of incinerators, open burning of waste, leaded fuel etc. was ratified by the country in January 2006. The Swaziland Environmental Authority will facilitate the implementation and enforcement of this Convention.

8.2 Policy Reform

8.2.1 Approval and implementation of the land policy

In order to create a secure land tenure system on Swazi Nation Land (SNL), all the arms of Government will pursue the approval and implementation of the land policy and ensure that it and all associated legislation provide for improved access and ownership of land by all sections of the Swazi population. The Government will ensure that the land policy is approved and implemented as soon as possible and that the related legislation is enacted by Parliament. As part of the strategy to empower the people of Swaziland and enable them to access credit the holders of SNL will be granted 99-year transferable leases. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy working in consultation with all stakeholders will steer the process.

8.2.2 Industrial and Investment Policy Development

The development of an investment policy that will be complemented by a strategic industrial policy is necessary to facilitate proper planning and investment promotion. The policy development initiatives shall ensure that employment-creating industries are given primary focus. Institutions responsible for the assignment of ensuring the prosperity of such investment will also be strengthened. The industrial policy will have components of infrastructure development, industrial planning and development which shall form a central focus in the investment promotion drive. The Ministry of Enterprise & Employment will consult widely and develop an industrial Development Policy.

8.2.3 Formulate a Construction Policy

A policy that will ensure the development of local contractors and their involvement on the construction of roads and other infrastructure projects will be developed by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. The Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance will ensure that the procurement process compels foreign contractors to involve Swazi contractors. The Ministry of Finance will also ensure that loan negotiations consider the development of local contractors.

8.2.4 Land Use and Water allocation Policy

In order to ensure efficiency in the use of land, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative will formulate a land use and protection policy and strengthen the Land Use Section of the Ministry. All idle farms, underutilised or wrongly used land will be fully utilised in line with the policy objectives. The Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Energy will also develop a water allocation policy and ensure non-discrimination in the allocation of water rights.

8.3 Capacity Building & Institutional Strengthening

8.3.1 Institutional Capacity Building

Swaziland has many structures that are all meant to ensure development in the country. However, due to various reasons, some of the structures are not responsive to the needs of the people – either because they lack capacity to initiate and provide development assistance or because of lack of human and financial resources. There is need to assess the capacity constraints of these institutions in order to enhance them and reorient them towards development and the fight against poverty. Although at differing levels of development, all these structures which include Tinkhundla, regional offices and municipal and other local authorities as well as other political structures, Government institutions, NGOs and the private sector are necessary for the implementation of the PRSAP.

The capacity building of traditional and community structures is also crucial for the implementation and monitoring of the PRSAP. All these different structures will need to be sensitized of their role in poverty reduction and their capacity enhanced, in terms of know-how and human and financial resources.

8.3.2 Strengthening the Ministry of Regional Development and Youth Affairs

The Ministry of Regional Development and Youth Affairs (MRDYA) urgently needs to be strengthened to fully execute its coordinating responsibilities in the local administration of the Tinkhundla system of governance. A critical review of the structure and functions of MRDYA including the structure and functions of the entire local administration will be carried out in order to strengthen the coordination capacity of all departments and the effective implementation of the decentralization policy and PRSAP.

8.3.3 Capacity Building in Data Collection and Analysis

The Central Statistical Office has the mandate and responsibility to collect and analyse statistical data. However, in most cases the office lacks the necessary institutional, financial and personnel capacity to produce up to date and relevant data. As such, even when generated, the statistics often falls short of the needs or requirements of users. In this regard the Ministry of Economic Planning & Development will urgently implement the elements of the Statistical Strategic plan that are crucial for improving the capacity of the office and for facilitating the production of timely and quality statistics.

8.3.4 Capacity Building in the Public Service

The Ministry of Public Service and Information will review the relevance and effectiveness of the Public Sector Management Programme. The programme will then be revamped and improved such that it identifies the capacity needs of the public sector and targets those institutions that are particularly responsible for public accountability, good governance, service delivery and community participation for capacity building.

8.3.5 Build the capacity of all academic institutions to provide vocational or skills oriented education

Opportunities for white collar jobs have diminished, yet the education and training system of the country remains geared towards academic and numeric courses. This is one of the major factors that have contributed to the unemployment situation in the country. The ministries of Education and Enterprise and Employment working very closely with industry will develop a human resource development plan and review the training in all institutions in line with the dynamic requirements of the market. The University of

Swaziland will constantly review and upgrade the courses offered by the institution in accordance with current developments and the changing market needs. Colleges such as Ngwane Teacher Training and William Pitcher will also be reoriented towards producing more technical teachers.

8.3.6 Capacity Building of the Legal System

Efficiency and effectiveness of the Swaziland legal system and administration of Justice is highly constrained by inadequate capacity, trained manpower, equipment and lack of data. Due to lack of capacity there are delays in the delivery of justice hence justice is denied. Accordingly, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Office shall prepare and implement a Master Plan to build the capacity of the entire legal system. The plan will ensure recruitment, training and procurement of equipment in order for the legal and judicial system to function efficiently and effectively. Under this action, an office to provide free or subsidized legal services to the poor shall be established in the office of the Attorney General.

8.3.7 Build the capacity of law enforcement agencies

Law and order and law enforcement in the country is greatly hampered by the lack of capacity of the police, courts, prisons and the anti corruption agencies. The Government through the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General and Directorate of Public Prosecution, Police Department and Correctional Services will initiate capacity building measures for all law enforcement agencies and ensure that enough personnel, equipment and materials are available for the effective execution of Justice and the rule of law.

8.3.8 Capacity Building of Human Rights Organisations and Commissions

Human Rights Organisations and Commissions serve a critical role of providing an independent view of the state of human rights in a country. Accordingly the Ministry of Justice and other Government agencies will ensure the establishment of all commissions necessary for the operationalisation of the Constitution. All other existing human rights organizations and commissions will be strengthened and their capacity for researching, addressing and monitoring human rights violations enhanced.

8.3.9 Computerize and facilitate information flow in all Tinkhundla centres

The Ministry of Regional Development and Youth Affairs will prepare a programme to computerize all Tinkhundla centres and train the Tinkhundla secretaries on ICT and data management. The Tinkhundla centres will coordinate community data and ensure that information flows to regional and central Government offices in order to facilitate informed planning.

8.3.10 Strengthening of the Existing Rural Education Centres

Government has eight Rural Education Centres under the Ministry of Education (MOE) that are currently under-utilised. These were set up to provide skills to rural folk in developmental and income generating activities. Unfortunately, due to inadequate resources, the programme was stalled as most of the existing education centres are either non-operational or do not have adequate and appropriate training equipment. The Ministry of Education will strengthen and equip the existing rural education centres and also expand structures to other parts of the country.

8.3.11 Establish and equip regional water supply and quality control offices

In order to ensure wide coverage and proper service delivery, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy will establish and equip water supply and quality control offices in all four regions of the country. These offices will be responsible for ensuring adequate and quality water supply throughout the country.

8.3.12 Build capacity and strengthen mechanisms for good governance

In order to ensure effective devolution of power, service delivery and execution of national functions and duties there is need to review the current mechanisms of decision making, participation, service delivery etc. In this regard the Ministry of Justice and Regional Development and Youth Affairs will openly consult with the public, traditional authorities, Ministries, NGOs to determine how all the elements of good governance can best be achieved under the prevailing system of Governance. In order to avoid confusion, unrest and facilitate informed decision making, the public will extensively be sensitized on the principles of good governance, democracy and the system(s) of governance that best serve the interests of the people in terms of effective service delivery, decision making and participation, freedom of expression, accountability, transparency etc. All changes necessary to improve governance in the country will immediately be effected in all the relevant institutions, communities and organizations.

8.4 Efficiency in Management & Coordination

8.4.1 Public finance, accountability and transparency

Prudent public finance management is very important for development and good governance as it relates to accountability and transparency in the management and use of public funds. In this regard the Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning & Development will develop planning, accounting and monitoring systems that will ensure accountability for every cent used by the Government and eliminate systems that promote the misappropriation of funds. The new systems will also ensure proper monitoring and transparency in the use of public funds. Much more stringent measures will be taken to discourage corruption and the misuse of public funds. The Ministry of Finance will further ensure that procurement procedures are changed and strengthened in order to eliminate corrupt practices.

8.4.2 Right sizing the Civil Service

Government expenditure on personnel long reached unsustainable levels. The personnel budget is already equivalent to about 60% of total Government expenditure and is set to increase even more with recent salary adjustments. All this is occurring in the face of declining growth and serious economic hardships. Therefore, the Ministry of Public Service & Information will immediately start reducing the size of the civil service. The implementation of right sizing programmes will be such that the productivity levels are not compromised and that more efficiency and effectiveness is achieved in the civil service.

8.4.3 Mapping and Delineating Chieftaincy Disputes

In order to reduce disputes among chiefdoms, the government shall map the boundaries of all chiefdoms and through the lay down procedures for succession. The aim of the action is to reduce the negative impact of the disputes among chiefdoms on the social economic development of their subjects. The Ministry of Justice working in collaboration with traditional authorities will ensure good governance on SNL. Publicize through popular civic education exercises the outcomes of delineation of boundary setting and/or gazette them for legitimacy.

8.4.4 Coordination of Peri-Urban Human Settlements

Lack of coordination among authorities responsible for land use and provision of social services has been the major reason for the growth of substandard houses in the outskirts of towns. City and Town Councils cannot address the problem because these areas are outside their jurisdiction. Chiefs are not bound to follow any land-use plan in allocating land to individuals in their chiefdoms. National Water and Sewerage Corporation and

Swaziland Electricity Board respond to demand in providing their services thus providing services in a haphazard and adhoc manner. To address this problem, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development will establish a standing committee of all institutions involved in the development and service provision in peri-urban areas that will liaise regularly and harmonise their activities.

8.4.5 Lease under utilized and idle Farms

Government owns a lot of farms, which are either under utilized, or lying idle. Moreover, a lot more farms are lying idle because they are owned by absent Landlords. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Deeds Office will identify the Government farms and strategize on how they can best be utilized for the benefit of the poor and displaced. Some of these farms will also be leased for commercial purposes in order to generate revenue for development purposes. In the case of absent Landlords the Government will set a policy for the productive utilization of farms that are lying idle and have not been used for a period of more than five years for the benefit of the Swazi Nation.

8.4.6 Improve efficiency of land use and early warning systems

In order to increase agricultural production and ensure food security, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives will have to strengthen the activities of the Land Use section in ensuring efficient and proper utilization of land. The Ministry will also institutionalize and build the capacity of the Early Warning Unit in order to ensure that the system gives timely information and serves the purpose of increased agricultural production and disaster preparedness.

8.4.7 Support the establishment of sustainable Grazing Management

The sustainable management of natural resources is important in ensuring improved and sustainable livelihoods. Swaziland suffers from large patches of land degradation resulting from poor farming methods, overgrazing and overstocking. In order to address this problem, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation will educate farmers on efficient livestock farming and range management. Farmers will be encouraged to commercialize their livestock and keep manageable stocks. Good management practices such as rotational grazing will be introduced. The Ministry of Agriculture will intensify educational campaigns on proper livestock and range management and encourage farmers to keep manageable stocks and commercialize their livestock. The Veterinary Department will strengthen its extension services in order to guide every farmer.

8.4.8 Implement the disaster management plan and policy

The Ministry of Regional Development and Youth Affairs in very close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and other agencies such as WFP will implement the disaster management policy and plan. The plan and policy will emphasize disaster preparedness and definite measures for mitigating the effects of disasters on the population and in particular on nutrition and food security.

8.4.9 Environmental Rehabilitation Programme at the Chiefdom level

Many areas, particularly communal lands in Swaziland are degraded and need urgent rehabilitation. These pose a real threat to the sustainability of agriculture in the country. The Ministries of Agriculture, natural resources and environment will develop and implement an environmental rehabilitation programme that will address the problem on a continuous and sustainable basis. Working with the various Imiphakatsi (chiefdoms) and other relevant NGOs, conservationists would identify rehabilitation projects in the different parts of the country. Effort would also be made to create Conservation Committees in the different Imiphakatsi, structured along the lines of the proposed Forest Management Committees in the proposed Forest Policy.

8.4.10 Implement an environmental management plan on SNL

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Swaziland Environmental Authority will work with farmers, communities and traditional leaders to ensure that an environment management plan is implemented on SNL. Farmers and Communities will be educated on environmentally friendly practices and ways of living. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Natural Resources working with the Swaziland Environmental Authority will undertake educational campaigns on the efficient and sustainable methods of using natural resources. Communities will be encouraged through these campaigns to adopt recycling methods and nature conservation and rehabilitation methods. The Swaziland Environmental Authority will disseminate information and conduct educational public campaigns on environmental issues and effective ways of conserving the environment.

8.4.11 Forest management

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and the Environmental Authority will educate rural communities who are heavily reliant on firewood on the dangers of deforestation and the value of planting trees to replenish the depleted resources. Woodlots and forest management will be encouraged and very stringent laws to discourage the felling of green trees will be enacted and enforced.

8.4.12 Research and implement effective ways of eradicating invasive alien species

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Swaziland Environmental Authority will conduct research and consult internationally on effective methods of eliminating invasive alien species such as Sandanezwe. The Ministry will immediately advise Government of the options available and request a budget for effectively implementing and expanding this activity.

8.4.13 Implement more effective waste management methods

The Swaziland Environmental Authority working closely with local authorities will conduct research and educate the public about more effective ways of managing waste. Public and community campaigns through the media and with the help of NGOs will be conducted to facilitate this exercise.

8.4.14 Develop and enforce effective industrial and domestic waste and gas emission standards

The protection of the environment from pollution is dependent on the enforcement of certain waste management and gas emission standards. The Swaziland Environmental Authority will develop and enforce waste management standards in order to control industrial and domestic waste and gas emission. The Draft Air Pollution Control Regulations will be prepared and submitted to parliament.

8.4.15 Control the importation of toxic materials

The Ministry of Finance working closely with the Customs Department and Swaziland Environmental Authority will control the importation of all toxic materials into the country. The importation of plants will also be highly regulated in order to avoid the increase of harmful and invasive plants. The Swaziland Environmental Authority will develop a Chemicals Management Framework.

8.5 Resource Mobilization

8.5.1 Donors' Conference to mobilize resources for implementing the PRSAP

Swaziland, though a middle-income country has a strong case for donor assistance. Poverty, unemployment and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is high. Income distribution is highly skewed, revenue sources dwindling and the resource base is very limited. Currently external grant aid received by the country is only 3.4% of total revenue and continues to decline. In this regard the Ministry of Economic Planning & Development, working closely with the Ministry of Finance and other development partners will prepare for and convene a donors' conference to raise long-term external resources that will be used to finance programmes developed in line with the objectives of the PRSAP.

8.5.2 Regular partnership discussions with donors

Very often Donors have their own agenda to pursue and impose conditions of the Government which do not necessarily fit within the priorities of Government. In order to ensure clear understanding and support of Government priorities, the Ministry of Economic Planning & Development will coordinate and hold regular partnership discussions with Donors and ensure that donor support is not imposed but rather directed to the priority areas identified by the Government.

8.5.3 Efficient management of existing financial, physical and human resources

Because of inefficient management and lack of accountability, there is a lot of wastage of Government financial, physical and human resource capacity. It is therefore incumbent upon all Government Ministries to ensure proper and efficient monitoring and management systems as well as the implementation of recommendations made by the auditor general's Office, the various commissions of enquiry, PAC and other agencies responsible for accountability. The Prime Ministers office will regularly monitor the implementation of such recommendations and strengthen the monitoring and accountability systems.

8.6 Planning & Implementation

8.6.1 Review the Planning and Budgeting Framework

The Planning and Budgeting framework will have to be reviewed in order to encompass both the objectives of the NDS and the PRSAP and improve the efficiency in the planning and implementation of development programmes. In the next ten years, the planning and budgeting framework will be based on the six pillars of the PRSAP. The success of the drive to achieve higher levels of growth reduce will be determined by how much the planning process, MTEF and the budget translate the actions and policies outlined in this PRSAP into specific implementable programmes. The Ministry of Economic planning & Development will immediately develop and sensitize all planners and implementing agencies of the planning and budgeting framework that will render the NDS and PRSAP effective.

8.6.2 Develop an implementation Strategy for the PRSAP

For the effective implementation of the PRSAP, the Ministry of Economic Planning & Development will develop an implementation strategy for the PRSAP. This will ensure that every stakeholder participates in the poverty reduction programme and that they clearly understand their roles in the planning, implementation, financing, monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction programmes.

8.6.3 Implementation of the Decentralization Policy and Master Plan

Efficient and effective service delivery and targeting are best achieved at a decentralised level rather than under a highly centralised system like the one currently operational in Swaziland. The Ministry of Regional Development and Youth Affairs shall in this regard, coordinate the implementation the decentralisation policy. There will be proper consultation with all key Ministries and Departments to determine precisely to nature and level of decentralisation the country needs, particularly to address poverty. The Ministry will closely collaborate with all relevant implementing agents and central Ministries in the preparation of an implementation strategy, cost estimate and schedule of activities for the programme. The programme will also involve the construction and equipping of offices at Tinkhundla centres, providing infrastructure, recruiting personnel and training, and determining and delegating services to be preformed.

8.6.4 Participation of all stakeholders in the Poverty Reduction Strategy

The participation of all stakeholders is critical for the success of the PRSAP and for effective implementation of programmes. In this regard the Ministry of Economic Planning & Development will ensure proper coordination of all poverty reduction programmes and through sector committees the participation of key stakeholder in planning, programming, implementation and monitoring of poverty programmes.

8.6.5 Introduce and properly coordinate the planning of projects at Tinkhundla

The planning function will be decentralised to all regions and subsequently all tinkhundla in order to capture priorities at communities at grass-root level. Planning officers will be deployed to assist communities with project preparation and with articulating their priorities. This planning system will gradually be decentralized and planning services provided to the regional and Tinkhundla level.

8.6.6 Implement the MTEF

The effective implementation of the PRSAP will depend to a very large extent on the efficient management and coordination of the National Planning and Budget Framework. The framework for project and programme planning has to be facilitative of pro-poor development. Further to this, there is need for technical and political commitment to the goal of reducing poverty by half by the year 2015. The Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) has already been adopted and is being implemented, albeit amidst some teething problems. The Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning & Development will ensure that all the principles of an MTEF are adhered to and that a more systematic planning system is adopted and that specified objectives, priorities and ceilings guide budgets.

8.6.7 Participation of Communities in Design and Implementation of Water Schemes

The lack of participation of local communities in locating and constructing water schemes leads to lack of ownership and poor maintenance. As a result, many water supply schemes are not operational because of lack of maintenance. The communities lack the skills and resources to do the routine maintenance. RWSB shall therefore involve communities and their representatives in the process of designing, choosing sites and actual construction of water schemes. The RWSB shall also mobilise communities and train selected members of communities to administer the schemes and perform the routine maintenance. User fees levied on the water shall be used primarily for maintaining the water supply schemes.

8.6.8 Review Traditions that inhibit the development of women

Most traditions that are still practised in Swaziland have lost their significance and value and will need review. With HIV/AIDS, the tradition of kungenwa no longer guarantees the health and life of the widow or the new husband. The deceased spouse's property that should rightly belong to the orphans or widow is no longer safe. Secondly traditions such as wearing of mourning gowns inhibit the movement and productivity of women, jeopardising their ability to provide for their families. The Ministry of Home Affairs (Gender Unit) and the Attorney General's Office working closely with traditional authorities will ensure that the Constitutional right of women not to be forced or compelled to practice customs to which they are opposed is upheld. The Government will further legislate against and discourage all the forceful and the intimidating application of practices that infringe on the rights of women, such as polygamy, kungena, kuzila, kwendzisa, kuteka.

8.6.9 Strengthening Immigration Control

The number of illegal immigrants has increased to very concerning levels in Swaziland, thus adding a lot of pressure on the country's social services, natural resources and the economy as a whole. The Department of Immigration shall strengthen its efforts to curb the influx of illegal immigrants. More controls and laws that will ensure the removal and barring of these immigrants will be put in place and enforced.

8.6.10 Preventing and Reducing Corruption

Corruption is on the increase in the country and the procedures for punishing or prosecuting offenders are very lenient. The government will study this governance problem and implement recommendations for preventing and discouraging corruption. Offenders will immediately be prosecuted and corrupt practices both in Government and in the private sector discouraged. Following the passing of the Anti-corruption Act, the Anti

Corruption Commission will lead the process of eradicating corruption whilst the Prime Minister's Office monitors its operations. Proper legal action will be taken against those who embezzle public funds.

8.6.11 Design mechanisms of enforcing the Flora Protection Act

In order to protect the country's natural resources and plants, there is need to enforce the Flora Protection Act. The Swaziland Environmental Authority, Ministries of Natural Resources & Energy and Agriculture & Cooperatives will ensure that all measures and mechanisms for enforcing flora protection are adopted.

8.7 Monitoring & Evaluation

8.7.1 Setting up of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism

Poverty reduction is central to all national responses that the Government, development partners, NGOs and other stakeholders are implementing. Many poverty reduction projects/programmes have presumably been implemented by the Government, NGOs and other agencies in Swaziland. However, due to a lack of a proper monitoring and evaluation mechanisms the impact of these programmes has been minimal, although sometimes difficult to quantify or evaluate. In order to ensure that the programmes in the PRSAP have a positive impact on the livelihood of the people, it will be necessary that a proper and systematic way of monitoring the implementation process be developed. Evaluating the impact of each project or programme component will also be vital in the implementation of the poverty projects. Therefore, the Ministry of Economic Planning & Development will develop a monitoring and evaluation system for the PRSAP and produce regular reports in this regard. A poverty reduction Forum will also be convened on an annual basis to inform the public and get views on the implementation of the PRSAP.

8.7.2 Development of a Geographical Information System

The Government has in the past engaged in a number of projects which were aimed at addressing poverty. However, these projects seldom reach the poor and if they do, they do not make much impact in terms of improving their living standards. The Geographical Information System will help the Government in identifying poverty stricken areas which would be targeted. The GIS will produce a computer generated model that will provide a simulation of the situation that prevails in each area (Inkhundla) in relation to specifically the education and health sectors will be developed. This would be a very effective planning tool that can be used in the monitoring of poverty, and the impact of the proposed programmes under the PRSAP in these areas.

8.7.3 Undertake Regular surveys and Poverty Participatory Assessments (PPA)

Effective monitoring and evaluation requires regular and up to date information without which the planning process is meaningless. The Central Statistics Office will undertake regular surveys and poverty participatory assessments in order to produce data on poverty trends and livelihoods. The CSO will also work very closely with the Surveyor General's Office to produce poverty maps which will enhance the information necessary for planning, targeting and the monitoring of poverty programmes.

8.7.4 Establishment of Database systems at Tinkhundla Centres

Surveys conducted by the Central Statistical Office have not been detailed enough to cover information at Tinkhundla level. This has made planning for the people at this level difficult. In order to effectively decentralize planning and budgeting to the level of Tinkhundla, detailed data on poverty indicators and the list of beneficiaries will be critical. In this regard the Ministry of Regional Development and Youth Affairs working closely with the Central Statistical office and the Poverty Reduction & Monitoring Section will establish and manage databases on poverty and other social and economic development issues in all Tinkhundla Centres.

8.7.5 Evaluate the impact and review the management of the Regional Development Fund and the Poverty Fund

Since its establishment, the Regional Development Fund has been marred by a lot of irregularities, inefficient management and in some cases corruption. The Poverty Fund on the other hand has failed to see the light of day. In order to ensure that these Funds serve their purpose, the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Deputy Prime Minister's Office will monitor the use and evaluate the impact of these Funds and propose a more efficient and effective management structure for them. The possibility of merging all these Funds to form a Poverty Fund established under competent management will also be considered.

8.7.6 Poverty Reduction Forum

As a means of involving the public and ensuring complete understanding and participation in the poverty reduction programme, the Ministry of Economic Planning & Development will on an annual basis convene a Poverty Reduction Forum. During the Forum the developments and trends in growth and poverty will be discussed and measures to improve implementation strategies and priorities agreed with civil society, development partners, government ministries and all key players in the poverty reduction drive.

8.7.7 Review of the PRSAP

There will be a review of the PRSAP after every five years of implementation. This will facilitate the change of focus where necessary in order to ensure relevance and effectiveness of the Programme. The Ministry of Economic Planning & Development will initiate the review process.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS AND TARGETS FOR PILLAR 6

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ Status -year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
PILLAR 6: IMPROVING GOVERNANCE AND STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS						
To ensure legal protection, security, human and constitutional rights	Outdated laws, no awareness and protection of legal, human and constitutional rights and poor law enforcement	Repeal and review all laws in line with the Constitution		All laws reviewed or repealed in line with the provisions of the Constitutions by 2008	Number of reviewed or updated laws	MOJ, All line ministries with outdated legal instruments
		Operationalise human rights and other commissions provided for in the constitution		All commissions necessary for the effective implementation of the Constitution established by 2008	Number of commissions set up and operating	MOJ, Prime Minister's Office
		Disseminate information on the marriage and inheritance rights of women and children		All communities fully informed of their rights and IEC material readily available to all by 2008	IEC materials and number of people fully aware of their rights	MOJ, MHA, MOHSW, Master's of the High Court, WLSA
		Discourage and prosecute against the practice of property grabbing by opportunists		The practice of property grabbing from widows and orphans completely eliminated by 2009	Reduced cases of property grabbing	MOJ, police, Master of the High Court, Law Society
		Strengthen all criminal laws associated with domestic violence		All laws on domestic violence and abuse reviewed, strengthened and enforced by 2008	Reviewed laws	MJO, MHA, SWAAGA police, Courts
		Prosecute and enforce the law against domestic violence		100% prosecution of perpetrators of domestic violence by 2008	Number of cases prosecuted for domestic violence	MOJ, MHA, SWAAGA, police
		Encourage more people to come forward and report cases of domestic violence		100% cases of domestic violence and abuse reported and prosecuted by 2008	Number of reported cases	Police, Communities, SWAAGA, WLSA
		Strengthen and enforce maintenance laws		Maintenance laws updated and enforced in line with the provisions of the Constitution by 2008	Number of people adhering to the maintenance laws	MOJ, MOHSW, MHA, WLSA
		Establish a Human Rights and Constitutional Court.		A Human rights and Constitutional Court established by 2009	Court established	MOJ

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ Status - year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To ensure legal protection, security, human and constitution-al rights	Outdated laws, no awareness and protection of legal, human and constitutional rights and poor law enforcement	Ratify and domesticate all international human rights instruments		All international human rights instruments and declarations ratified and domesticated by 2008	Number of ratified and domesticated laws	MOJ, relevant ministries
		Finalise the codification of Swazi Law and Custom		The Swazi Law and Custom fully codified and harmonized with modern laws by 2008	Codified Swazi Law and Custom	MOJ
		Finalize the Fair Trading & competition legislation		Fair trading and Competition legislation finalized by 2007	Fair trading and Competition Laws	MEE, AG
		Develop and enforce industrial pollution and enforce laws		Industrial pollution laws develop and enforced by 2008	Enforcing industrial pollution Laws	SEA, MEE, AG
		Ratify Stockholm Convention on phasing out Incinerators	Stockholm convention ratified in 2006	Enforcement of the Stockholm Convention by 2007	Enforcing the Stockholm Convention	SEA, Cabinet
To reform Policy	Non approval of the Land policy and inability to utilize land for commercial purposes	Approve the Land Policy and implement the 99 year lease proposal	Land Policy awaiting approval (2006)	Land policy approved and the 99 year lease option available to all Swazis by 2008	Land policy in place with 99 year lease provision	MNRE, MOAC, MHUD, SNC, Cabinet, Land management commission
	Poor land use and allocation of water rights	Develop a Land Use Plan and Water Policy and Act and ensure no discrimination in the allocation of water rights		Efficient use of land and allocation of water rights by 2008	Proper land use and access to water rights	MNRE, MOAC, Water Authority
	Lack of an industrial and investment policy	Develop and implement the industrial and investment policy		Fully developed and operational investment and industrial policies by 2007	Policy in place and increased investment and industrial development	MEE
	Limited involvement of local contractors in infrastructure projects	Develop and implement a policy that ensures the involvement of local contractors in the construction of big infrastructure projects		All infrastructure projects particularly roads involving local contractors by 2008	Construction policy in place	MPWT

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ Status - year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To build capacity and strengthen institutions	Lack of institutional capacity for service delivery	Build the capacity of all institutions and implementing agencies		All implementing agencies and institutions fully trained, equipped and capacitated to efficiently carry out their functions by 2009	Number of implementing agencies operating efficiently	MOPSI, All government ministries, NGOs, parastatals etc
		Build the capacity and computerize Regional offices and Tinkhundla to provide basic services and implement the decentralization policy		All tinkhundla and regional offices capacitated and staffed to provide basic services such as passport, revenue services, tax offices etc to their constituencies by 2008	Number of services provided at tinkhundla and regional offices	MRDYA, MPOSI, MPWT, Income Tax, immigration and other service offices
		Train and equip Royal Swazi Police to enable it detect and prevent crime		The Royal Swaziland Police Department fully capacitated (staffing and equipment) to deal with all crime cases effectively by 2010	Number of trained and equipped police officers	Police, MOF, MEPD
		Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Regional Development and Youth Affairs to coordinate the decentralization policy		The MRDYA fully capacitated to coordinate the decentralization policy by 2007	Efficient coordination of the decentralization policy	MOPSI, MRDYA
		Build the capacity of the CSO in data collection and analysis		Training, equipment and restructuring of the CSO to efficiently produce data undertaken by 2008	Up to date and relevant data collected and disseminated	CSO, MOPSI, Cabinet
		Build the capacity of law enforcement agencies and strengthen the enforcement of law and order		All law enforcement agencies (i.e. police, correctional, courts, DPP, AG) fully capacitated and functioning well by 2008	Number of prosecuted cases and law enforcement agencies operating efficiently	DPP, Police, Correctional, MOJ, Courts, AG, MOPSI
		Build the capacity of all vocational institutions		All vocational institutions able to provide quality education at full capacity by 2010	Expansion and increased number of well equipped vocational institutions	MOE, MPOSI

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ Status - year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To build capacity and strengthen institutions	Lack of capacity for and understanding of the key elements of good governance	Build the capacity of the public and institutions in order to ensure good governance		Every Swazi aware and afforded an opportunity to participate and contribute to the good governance of the country by 2008	All elements of good governance visible in every aspect	Prime Minister, MOJ, traditional authorities, civil society
To improve efficiency in management and coordination in the Government and implementing agencies	Huge personnel budget and unsustainable civil service	Right size the Civil Service	43% of total budget on personnel in 2005/06	30% expenditure on personnel in 2010 A manageable, efficient and sustainable civil service in place by 2010	Size of the personnel budget and efficiency in Govt operations	MOPSI, PSMP, Ministries and departments
	Poor management and misappropriation of Regional Development Funds	Develop and implement an efficient mechanism for administering the Regional Development Funds		All Regional Development funds properly managed and utilized efficiently by 2007	Number of successful programmes funded through Regional Funds	MRDYA, MOF
	Wastage of Govt resources, misuse of Govt property and funds, and lack of transparency and accountability	Improve accountability and transparency		Effective systems of accountability and monitoring in place by 2008	Proper use of Govt resources	MOF, MEPD, Accountant General, Auditor General, PAC, Parliament, Cabinet
	Increased corruption	Implement effective measures of reducing corruption		Effective measures for dealing with corruption and the implementation of the Anti corruption Act. Elimination of corruption by 2010	Number of disciplined and prosecuted corrupt officials	MOJ, police Anti corruption unit, all ministries, auditor general, Cabinet
	Unclear chieftaincy boundaries	Map and delineate Chieftaincy boundaries	Nine (9) delineated chiefdoms in Komati and 7 in the LUSIP	All chiefdom boundaries clearly delineated and maps widely publicized by 2008	Clear chiefdom maps	MNRE, SNC, Surveyor general, traditional authorities
	Idle and underutilized arable land	Identify idle or underutilized farms and lease them for commercial use or for improving the lives of displaced communities		All idle and underutilized farms fully utilized by 2008	Number of fully utilized land and increased production	MOAC, MNRE, Land Management Commission

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ Status - year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve efficiency in management and coordination in the Government and implementing agencies	Poor coordination of human settlements and utility services	Improve the coordination between all agencies responsible for human settlements and provision of utility services		Proper planning and allocation of human settlements and provision of services	Number of properly settled and serviced communities	MHUD, MNRE, Municipalities, traditional authorities, SEB, Water, SPTC
	Increased importation of toxic materials	Control importation of toxic material	A Chemical Management Framework is being developed	The importation of toxic materials completely regulated by 2007	Reduction in amount of toxic materials	SEA, MEE, Customs
	Increased emission of toxic gases and air pollution	Establish and enforce gas emission standards	Air Pollution Control Regulations to be submitted to Parliament in 2007	International gas emission standards adopted in the country by 2008	Reduced pollution and enforcement of standards	SEA
	Poor solid waste management	Undertake research on effective solid waste management methods and enforce solid waste management regulations	Solid waste management regulations being developed	Well researched and effective waste management methods adopted and monitored by 2008	Proper waste management	SEA, MEE, municipal authorities, industry
		Increase public awareness on solid waste management	IEC materials produced in 2006	IEC materials and information on proper solid waste management methods disseminated to all communities by 2007	Increased access to information on solid waste management	Municipal authorities, MOHSW, SEA, Media
	Increased invasion of alien plant and destruction of flora and fauna	Research and implement effective ways of eliminating invasive alien species	Clearing of invasive species already started in 2006	More effective ways of destroying invasive alien species implemented and all particularly Sandanezwe completely destroyed by 2007	Reduction in alien species	SEA, MOAC, research institutions
	Lack of disaster preparedness and poor management of disaster relief	Implement the Disaster Management Policy and Plan		The Disaster management policy and plan being fully implemented by 2008	Implementation of the disaster policy and plan	MRDYA, MOAC

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ Status - year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve efficiency in management and coordination in the Government and implementing agencies	Poor and effective early warning systems	Improve the capacity of early warning systems		Effective early warning mechanisms in place by 2008	Early warning	MOAC, Meteorology
	Poor environmental management in rural areas	Implement the environmental management plan and encourage sustainable grazing management on SNL		Environmental management plan and sustainable grazing being effectively implemented by 2008	Implementation of the environmental management plan	SEA, industries, communities
	Poor forest management	Develop and implement an effective forest management plan		Reforestation and proper forest management being widely practised by 2008	Number of properly managed forests	MOAC, SEA
To mobilize financial and human resources	Limited financial and human resources	Convene a donor's conference to mobilize resources	4.3% grant financing in 2005	A successful donor's conference held by 2007 and external aid increased to at least 10% of Govt revenue by 2008	Donors conference and increased financial support and technical assistance	MEPD, MOF
		Regularly hold partnership discussions with donors		Regular discussions with donors on Govt priorities and policies by 2008	Regular partnership discussion	
		Properly manage existing Government resources		Increased efficiency in the use of Government financial, physical and human resources by 2010	Increased productivity and efficiency	MOF, MEPD, all Govt Ministries
To ensure proper planning and implementation of policies and programmes	Poor planning and inefficient implementation of development programmes and policies and lack of ownership of these programmes by communities	Review the planning, implementation and management framework of the Government		An efficient and effective planning framework in place for the achievement of PRSAP goals in place by 2007	An effective planning, budgeting and monitoring framework	MEPD, MOF
		Develop an implementation strategy for the PRSAP		A PRSAP implementation and monitoring strategy developed and implemented by 2007	PRSAP implementation strategy	MEPD
		Implement the MTEF		The MTEF fully and efficiently implemented and managed	Effective implementation of the MTEF	MOF, MEPD, line ministries

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ Status - year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To ensure proper planning and implementation of policies and programmes	Poor planning and inefficient implementation of development programmes and policies and lack of ownership of these programmes by communities	Implement the Decentralization Policy and ensure planning, budgeting and service delivery at regional and Tinkhundla level		All essential services decentralized to regional and Tinkhundla levels in line with the decentralization plan by 2010	Number of decentralized services	MRDYA, MOF, MEPD all ministries
		Encourage the participation of communities in the planning and coordination of projects		All communities participating in the planning and implementation of their priority programmes by 2010	Number of communities involved in the planning and implementation of projects	MRDYA, MEPD, MOF, line ministries, NGOs
		Empower women on community participation and income generating activities		All women trained on income generating activities and encouraged to participate	Number of women involved in income generation	MRDYA, MHA, MEE
		Review Traditions that inhibit the development of women		All women free to partake in those traditions they voluntarily wish to engage in by 2008	Increased independence of women to decide	Communities, MHA, WLSA
		Implement the Disaster Management Policy and Plan and build capacity for disaster preparedness		An effective disaster management plan in place by 2008	Increased preparedness for disasters	MRDYA, MOAC, Meteorology
		Design mechanisms of enforcing the Flora Protection Act		The Flora Protection Act fully enforced by 2007	Increased protection of flora and other natural resources	SEA, MOAC, MNRE
To improve the monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives	Poor monitoring and evaluation of the impact of development programmes	Develop a monitoring strategy and improve and efficiently manage the poverty monitoring system	Poverty monitoring system in place but needs to be strengthened	An effective poverty monitoring system in place by 2007	A poverty monitoring system in place	MEPD, DPM
		Develop a geographical information system		A Geographical Information System developed and effectively utilised by 2008	GIS	CSO, Surveyor general, MEPD

Strategic Objective	Poverty Problem	Policy action	Baseline/ Status - year	Target	Verifiable indicators	Responsible Agency
To improve the monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives	Poor monitoring and evaluation of the impact of development programmes	Develop poverty maps and use them for planning & monitoring purposes		Poverty maps developed and used for monitoring and planning purposes by 2008	Poverty maps developed	Surveyor General
		Regularly undertake poverty participatory analysis and surveys		PPA undertaken every three years to inform planning processes	Regular PPA	CSO, MEPD
		Establish database systems in all Tinkhundla		Database systems established in all Tinkhundla by 2008	Number of data base system established	MRDYA, CSO
		Convene a Poverty Reduction Forum annually		A Poverty Reduction Forum convened every year from 2007	The annual Forum	MEPD
		Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of programmes, regional and Poverty Funds		The tracking of expenditure and the impact of all poverty programmes and regional funds evaluated every year	Evaluation Reports	MEPD
		Review the PRSAP		The review of the PRSAP undertaken in 2010	Review Report and amendments to the PRSAP	MEPD

CHAPTER 9: COMPLETION OF ONGOING PRO-POOR PROJECTS

The projects listed below are pro-poor by the nature of their definition and intended target group. However, while noting their inclusion in the budget and the need to complete their implementation, it will be important for the Government to ensure that indeed these projects benefit the poor. In this regard, expenditure tracking will be critical and if not achieving the intended goals, these projects will need to be reviewed and the resources channelled appropriately.

9.1 Completion of Poor Projects in the Budget

The PRSAP recognises that there are projects in the Budget that are pro-poor and financing is ongoing. These shall be continued and completed. The list of these projects is as follows:

9.1.1 Ongoing Pro-poor projects

1. Upgrading of Mlawula nature reserve
2. National environment fund
3. Biodiversity conservation and participatory development plant
4. Construction of Tinkhundla centres V
5. Disaster management
6. Construction of Tinkhundla IV
7. Security fencing for WID centres
8. Security at Tinkhundla centres
9. Komati river basin project II
10. Rural water supply XI
11. Komati basin project down stream development
12. Lower Usuthu project – upstream development
13. Lower Usuthu – down stream development
14. Water resources management institutional reforms
15. Rural water supply XII
16. Rural electrification
17. Farming for energy study
18. Mini micro hydro power study and pilot programme
19. Feasibility study on the strategic fuel depot
20. National livestock identification
21. Lavumisa irrigation development
22. Lavumisa irrigation expansion – 170 ha
23. Rural resettlement
24. Development of mushroom production
25. Control of alien invasive species
26. Earth dam construction II
27. Purchase of heavy plant equipment
28. Rehabilitation of irrigation systems for Big Bend and Malkerns research stations
29. Promotion of community based food processing technology
30. Poverty and gender mainstreaming
31. Micro projects – administration IV
32. Micro-projects – small scale V
33. Population census
34. Demographic and health survey

35. Design of affordable accommodation project
36. Mankayane water supply
37. Nhlambeni water supply
38. Lomahasha and Siteki water supply
39. Labour force survey
40. Teachers' house V
41. Water supply to schools VI
42. Schools toilets VI
43. Rehabilitation of storm damaged schools III
44. Supply of agricultural tools and equipment in primary schools
45. Schools furniture VII
46. Purchase of equipment for home economics laboratories
47. Secondary schools agriculture II
48. Purchase of equipment for schools with technical subjects
49. Secondary schools classrooms V
50. Construction of schools science laboratories
51. Construction of schools computer laboratories
52. Construction of technical workshops in schools
53. Purchase of furniture for schools science laboratories
54. Construction of a high school for the deaf at Siteki
55. Digitalization of studio facilities – SBIS
56. Water and sanitation project
57. Strengthening of security at health facilities II
58. Lubombo regional hospital
59. Expansion of the central medical stores
60. Rehabilitation of health facilities
61. Construction of a TB hospital
62. Rehabilitation of Mbabane government hospital
63. Rehabilitation of Pigg's Peak hospital II
64. Replacement of medical equipment
65. Medical equipment and furniture for TB hospital and newly built health facilities
66. Provision of equipment for hospitals, clinics and health centres
67. Assistance for the disabled II
68. Orphans and vulnerable children

9.1.2 Planned pro-poor projects

1. Construction of Tinkhundla centres VI
2. Tinkhundla computerisation
3. Rural electrification IV
4. National livestock identification II
5. Promotion of small scale production
6. Sustainable seed production of grain legume crops
7. Fish hatchery development
8. Control of alien invasive species II
9. Development of water management infrastructure in pilot areas
10. Income and expenditure survey
11. Nhlanguano water supply and sewage treatment works
12. Siphofaneni water supply
13. Rehabilitation of storm damaged schools IV
14. Primary schools classrooms
15. Purchase of equipment for technical subjects II
16. Purchase of equipment for home economics laboratories
17. Extension of workshops at Gwamile Voctim
18. Construction of adult education centres
19. Equipment for pre-vocational centre II
20. Water and sanitation and medical waste management project

21. Rehabilitation of health facilities
22. National referral hospital
23. Staff housing for Sidwashini production centre for the disabled
24. Nhlangano vocational rehabilitation centre



