

About this Report

The Central Bank of Eswatini (the CBE or the Bank) is pleased to present its Annual Integrated Report (Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Report forms part of the CBE's public accountability, transparency and responsibility to a broad range of stakeholders.

The structure of this Report is informed by the Bank's primary mandate and responsibilities. In addition, it is informed by the CBE's governance structures and enabling functions which underpin its ability to sustainably execute its role in the overall economy and society.

Scope and Report Boundary

The Report covers the operations of the Bank which are governed by the Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) Order of 1974 (as amended). The Bank's existence, mandate and independence are embedded in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The Report reflects a holistic account of relevant and material information (both financial and non-financial) to enable stakeholders evaluate the performance and impact of the CBE's operations when implementing its mandate. The determination of material matters for inclusion in this Report is undertaken at Executive level. It is underpinned by the CBE's mandate with due consideration of stakeholders' expectations as well as the overseeing role of the Board.

Reporting Philosophy and Frameworks

This Report is prepared in accordance with the International Integrated Reporting Council's (IIRC) Integrated Reporting (<IR>) Framework. We are continuing with our <IR> journey which started six years ago and have substantially adopted the framework with annual continuous improvements. We have customised the Report to reflect our adoption of integrated thinking in creating and sustaining value for all our stakeholders.

The adoption of the IIRC's <IR> Framework reflects our intention to:

- » Develop over time a more cohesive and efficient approach to reporting.
- » Enhance accountability and stewardship.
- » Promote strategic integrated thinking.
- » Instil transparency, accountability and trust with stakeholders.
- » Allow for monitoring and evaluation against stakeholder expectations and concerns.
- » Demonstrate the usefulness of using past performance to compile future plans or outlook.
- » Promote good governance.



The Bank's corporate strategy (2023-28) was coined **Bek'e-Langa** to represent the vision (sun), agility (sunflower faces the sun) and sustainability of the Central Bank of Eswatini

STRATEGY 2023-2028

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) except where IFRS conflicts with the provisions of the CBS Order of 1974 (as amended). In such instances, the CBS Order takes precedence.

Reporting Suite

The table below describes the suite of reports that are produced by the Bank for the reporting period. Upon publishing, these reports are made available on our website www.centralbank.org.sz or by contacting the Head of Strategy & Communication.

Suite of Reports produced by the Bank

Annual Integrated Report

The present document which is also our primary Report.

Annual Economic Review Report

Our Economic Report which provides a detailed review of international, regional and domestic economic developments.

Financial Stability Report

Our Financial Stability Report which provides a detailed analysis on the stability of the financial sector in Eswatini.

Governor's Annual Monetary Policy Statement

The Governor's Annual Monetary Policy Statement which provides a review of the Bank's monetary stance over the year and the reasons thereof.

Annual Financial Statements

Our Financial Statements which provide a detailed account of the Bank's financial position and performance.

Note: The reader is advised to read the Report in conjunction with the other reports listed in the suite outlined in this table.

Feedback and Suggestions

The Bank welcomes feedback on this Report to inform the continuous improvement of its communication to stakeholders. Your feedback, comments and/or questions can be sent to Mr. Mandla Luphondvo; Email mandlalu@centralbank.org.sz; Head of Strategy & Communication.

Assurance

We have established an <IR> Project team, which has developed work plans with appropriate controls and oversight to prepare the Report. The Project team is led by the General Manager Economic Policy Research & Statistics Department which reports to the Executive Committee. Information is provided and approved by the GMs and Heads of

Departments within the CBE. The Executive Committee ensures that the Report is factually correct and contains relevant and material information. Iterations of the Report are processed through the structures of the Bank. The ultimate production of the Report is overseen, reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Annual Financial Statements have been independently audited by Bank's external auditors – SNG Grant Thornton. The CBE's Internal Audit Department provides objective and independent assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's governance, risk management and control processes.

Approval

The Board is ultimately responsible for overseeing the preparation, presentation, reporting and integrity of the Report. The Report was considered by the Board Audit Committee prior to approval by the Board. The Board confirms that they have collectively reviewed the output of the reporting process and the content of the Report. In the Board's opinion, the Report provides a fair and balanced account of the CBE's performance, material matters and strategic direction. They also believe that the Report is a fair presentation of the integrated performance of CBE in accordance with the IIRC's <IR> Framework and therefore approve this Report for release.



Dr. Phil Mnisi

Governor and Chairman of the Board

Date: 20-09-2023

Forward Looking Statements

This Report may contain forward-looking statements with respect to CBE's future performance. While these statements represent the Bank's judgements and future expectations, several risks, uncertainties and other important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from expectations. These include factors that could adversely affect the CBE and the economy of Eswatini.