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## IDM governing bodies convene in Lesotho

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**Regional institution, Institute of Development Management (IDM) is meeting in Lesotho early Monday to discuss matters pertaining to training, research and consultancy. The Institute's Academic Council, Executive Committee and Student Leadership will be in the Mountain Kingdom throughout the week as part of their triannual meetings.**

"Lesotho is an important market for us at IDM. We have been there for over four decades now and our presence has had a positive impact on the country's socio-economic and political development. We remain committed and close to the government and the people of Lesotho in order for us to understand and appreciate the needs on the ground. IDM believes in consultation so as to develop the right solutions for the market. We pride in many of our alumni who are absorbed in leadership positions in Lesotho, making a positive contribution to the development of the country," said Richard Malikongwa, Regional Director at IDM.

He says the Academic Council, which primarily comprises academics representing the academic diversity of the Institute from Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, is the principal policy-making and advisory body on all academic matters that affect IDM's teaching, research and educational programmes.

Academic Council convener, Ntaeboso Phenduka who is also the Assistant Director, Quality Assurance Management emphasized that the Council advises the leadership of IDM on several academic issues and help the Institute to align to the national goals of the three countries. He mentioned that programmes that are developed by IDM in the three countries are informed by national policies to ensure alignment as well as relevance.

"Academic Council supports IDM as an ISO certified institution to conform to academically credible regulatory standards in our three markets and beyond. We respond to the human resource needs by developing relevant programmes. At the Academic Council, we discuss curriculum content, assessments and policies that guide student support among others. Our previous meeting was held in Botswana in November 2017 while Swaziland will host in November this year," explained Phenduka.

He revealed that IDM, as other tertiary institutions is guided by regulatory bodies to ensure that high quality academic standards are met, adding "We work with Botswana Qualification Authority (BQA), Lesotho Council on Higher Education (CHE) and Swaziland Higher Education Council (SHEC) who all provide oversight to ensure compliance is met."

As an institution with strong local and regional presence, IDM, through its events and activities that rotate around the three countries helps to boost their economic activities. Sectors such as the hospitality and tourism, transport industry, SMEs and entertainment find themselves busy during this time. In 2017, scores of visitors from Lesotho and Swaziland met in Botswana to witness the 11th Joint Graduation ceremony of the Institute. This year, the same event will be convened in Swaziland.

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