

Statutory Instrument No. 156 of 2024

PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT
(Cap. 54:01)

**PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT (NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND)
ORDER, 2024**

(Published on 22nd November, 2024)

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IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred on the Minister of Finance by section 38 (1) of the Public Finance Management Act, the following Order is hereby made —

1. This Order may be cited as the Public Finance Management (National Research Fund) Order, 2024. Citation

2. In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires — Interpretation
“Accounting Officer” means the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for research appointed as such under paragraph 5;
“Committee” means the Management Committee established under paragraph 6; and
“Fund” means the Public Finance Management (National Research) Fund established under paragraph 3.

3. There is hereby established a Special Fund to be known as the Public Finance Management (National Research Fund). Establishment of Fund

4. The purpose of the Fund is to — Purpose of Fund
(a) enhance the country’s research capacity by providing cash grants to fund —

- (i) quality research which is of relevance to any development goals,
- (ii) development of products and services in priority areas as guided by the national research agenda,
- (iii) the scientific and technological community by building and strengthening collaborative researches locally and internationally, and
- (iv) advanced research in novel scientific and technological areas for the generation of new knowledge; and

- (b) strengthen and build requisite research capacity and infrastructure through support for —
 - (i) human capital and capacity building development for research,
 - (ii) institutional research management and capacity building including intellectual property and data management,
 - (iii) enhanced public engagement, including industry and publicity of research, and
 - (iv) policy advocacy of research.

Administration
of Fund

5. (1) The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for research shall be the Accounting Officer and he or she shall be responsible for the administration of the Fund in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

(2) The Accounting Officer may exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be required to be exercised or performed for the proper discharge of his or her functions under this Order.

(3) The Accounting Officer may, in writing, authorise any other public officer to exercise or perform the duties and functions required of the Accounting Officer under this Order.

Management
of Fund

6. (1) The Minister responsible for research shall in consultation with the Accounting Officer, appoint a Management committee for the Fund.

(2) The Committee appointed under subparagraph (1) shall consist of —

- (a) the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for research who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee;
- (b) a representative at director level from the natural resources sector;
- (c) a representative at director level from the education sector;
- (d) a representative at director level from the health sector;
- (e) a representative at director level from energy sector;
- (f) a representative at director level from the research sector;
- (g) a representative at director level from the technology sector;
- (h) a representative at director level from the intellectual property protection sector;
- (i) a representative at director level from Business Botswana;
- (j) a representative at director level from the Botswana Academy of Science;
- (k) a representative at director level from a non-governmental organisation; and
- (l) a representative at director level from the National Planning Commission.

(3) The department responsible for research and business shall provide secretarial services to the Committee.

(4) The Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the management of the Fund by —

- (a) preparing strategic plans for the Fund;
- (b) approving the annual work plans and budgets;
- (c) approving the annual report and accounts; and
- (d) selecting and deciding prestigious, complex and large grants using *ad-hoc* review mechanisms.

(5) The members of the Committee shall be appointed for a period of three years, and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further term not exceeding three years.

Receipts
into Fund

7. (1) There shall be paid into the Fund —

- (a) such monies as may be appropriated from time to time by National Assembly for purposes of the Fund;

- (b) funds from line Ministries to organise dedicated research activities;
- (c) revenues from the interest on capital;
- (d) donations from legacies;
- (e) subsidies granted by private benefactors;
- (f) proceeds and subsidies from fund-raising activities;
- (g) proceeds from services provided;
- (h) income from sale on publications;
- (i) grants from donors; and
- (j) any other income that does not conflict with the objectives and priorities of the Fund.

8. There shall be paid from the Fund ---

Disbursement
from Fund

- (a) funds approved by the Botswana National Research Fund Committee for —
 - (i) research in all fields of science, mathematics and computer science, natural sciences;
 - (ii) technological and engineering sciences, life sciences and medicine, and research in social sciences (including economics) and humanities, to the extent that it supports scientific research;
 - (iii) both basic research and more applied scientific and technological research in fields such as energy, agriculture, communication, environment;
 - (iv) human resource capacity building to strengthen the national capacity for research;
 - (v) institutional strengthening guided by the approved Operational Manual to the Fund; and
 - (vi) acquisition of research infrastructure and platforms aligned to emerging technologies.
- (b) expenses incurred in the administration and management of the Fund and for the evaluation of research projects.

9. If the Fund is in surplus at the end of a financial year, such surplus shall remain as part of the Fund balance, and shall be carried forward to the next financial year.

Surplus in
Fund

10. Any monies accruing to the Fund which is not required for immediate use shall be invested in Botswana in accordance with the objects of the Fund as the Accountant-General may direct and interest from such investment shall accrue to the Fund.

Investment of
Fund monies

11. The Accounting Officer shall —

- (a) keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, proper books of accounts and records of all financial transactions, assets and liabilities of the Fund in respect of each financial year;
- (b) maintain an account into which all receipts into the Fund and all disbursements from the Fund shall be recorded and the monthly reconciliation for the Fund accounts shall be carried out; and
- (c) prepare, sign and transmit to the Accountant-General and Auditor-General a statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet of the Fund in respect of the financial year, containing such information in the manner that the Minister, in consultation with the Accountant-General may direct, within a period of two months after the close of each financial year.

Accounts of
Fund

MADE this 29th day of October, 2024.

PEGGY O. SERAME,
Minister of Finance.