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Mahlanya slams govt's 'oppressive and unilateral' ban

Kananelo Boloetse

Renowned famo musician Lehlohonolo Maketsi, widely recognised by his stage name Mahlanya and a prominent figure within the Seakhi group, has expressed his strong disapproval of the government's recent decision to ban their collective.

Despite denouncing the ban as unilateral, oppressive, and lamentable, Maketsi acknowledged the alleged lack of viable avenues to challenge this action.

In an exclusive phone interview from South Africa, he told Newsday: "The government is a big and powerful institution that Seakhi cannot go toe-to-toe with. We will just wait to see what will eventually happen to the government's ban on our group."

The government, through a legal notice published on Friday, May 10, declared Seakhi and 11 other organisations unlawful, accusing them of being involved in or promoting subversive activities.

The notice, titled 'Internal Security (Declaration of Unlawful Organisation) Notice, 2024,' was issued by the Minister of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs, and Police, Lebona Lephema, under section 10 of the Internal Security General Act 1984.

The Act allows the minister to declare any organisation unlawful if it is believed to be involved in subversive activity.

Subversive activities, according to the statute, include supporting, propagating, or advocating any act prejudicial to public order, the security of Lesotho, or the administration of justice, as well as inciting violence or crime.

Mahlanya emphasised that the government's decision to label the groups as unlawful was inherently unjust, particularly due to the absence of a fair hearing prior to the decision.

He underscored the profound impact this unilateral action would have on their fundamental human rights.

"There is nothing we can do now, but I want to emphasise that the decision is unjust and oppressive," he asserted. "Given the government's considerable power, challenging it directly is not feasible, yet their decision remains unjust," he added.

In legal terminology, audi alteram partem, which translates to "hear the other side" or "no man should be condemned unheard," embodies a fundamental principle of fair

and just jurisprudence.

This principle, rooted in both secular and religious laws, dictates that before any order is issued against an individual, they must be afforded a reasonable opportunity to present their case and be heard.

Essentially, before any action is taken, the affected party must receive adequate notice of the proposed action and be given an opportunity to provide their explanation or defense.

This principle encompasses two crucial elements: notice and hearing.

Failure to adhere to this principle undermines the right to a fair hearing. Any order issued without giving the affected party an opportunity to be heard is typically considered contrary to the principles of natural justice and is deemed void from the outset.

This principle of fair hearing, if what Maketsi said is anything to go by, was ignored in this instance, potentially making the decision fundamentally unjust.

Maketsi acknowledged that their location in South Africa might have contributed to the lack of a hearing. "Maybe we were not afforded a hearing because we are based in South Africa; we are not there at home," he said.

When asked about the leadership of Seakhi, Maketsi stated: "In Seakhi, we are all equal. Many people have asked this question, and I

have always told them that unlike in other groups, in

Seakhi, we are all equal. Many people have asked this question, and I have always told them that unlike in other groups, in

Seakhi, we do not have a leader. We are all equal."

He added: "A person like Ntate Lekase (Bereng Majoro) and others, we respect them because they are our elders within the group, not leaders."

Famo artists are known for diss-track-type lyrics, which have been linked to hundreds of murders.

Maketsi admitted that while they used to engage in diss tracks, their lyrics have recently changed. "Our lyrics have changed a lot in recent days. There are no insults; we are just singing, and it is very unfortunate that the ban comes at a time when we say there has been a lot of improvement in our lyrics," he said.

Many Basotho men, who are predominantly fervent fans of famo music, have opted to leave Lesotho and venture into the vast network of abandoned mining tunnels scattered across the South African landscape.

Known locally as 'Zama-Zamas' in South Africa and as 'Makhomsha' in Lesotho, particularly in the Mafeteng district, these individuals engage in illegal mining activities, descending into disused and neglected mining shafts in search of precious minerals such as gold and chrome ore as a means of livelihood.

These illegal miners often spend months or even years underground, facing grave risks to their safety and well-being.

Tragically, some never resurface, falling victim to accidents or violent altercations with rival miners.

Within the famo music context, it is reported that certain illegal miners are associated with Mahlanya's

group, Seakhi, while others are linked to different famo groups.

However, Mahlanya vehemently denied any affiliation between these miners and the Seakhi group.

"I recently discussed with Khopolo this issue that there are individuals who outwardly resemble us, wearing the same attire and blankets, but engage in activities that neither I nor Seakhi endorse or condone," he explained.

"We agreed that Seakhi should distance itself from these individuals who falsely associate with us while committing crimes."

"For us, famo music is a legitimate means of earning a livelihood. Our aim is to provide for our families, not to engage in criminal activities. However, with the government's unjust declaration, our primary source of income has been obstructed," he lamented.

"Fortunately, like most Basotho men, I also have livestock, which provides an alternative source of income. I will ensure that my family has sustenance through this means. Nonetheless, I reiterate that the government's actions are unjust," he added.

Reflecting on his education at St. John's High School in Mafeteng, Mahlanya expressed regret over dropping out.

"If I had completed my studies, maybe I could have been in government by now, making informed decisions for the benefit of all citizens," he remarked.

"But we refused to go to school, and that is why we are where we are today. For those who could not complete school due to circumstances beyond their control, it is more painful seeing those in government today making these oppressive decisions," he said.

Following the government's declaration, the then Acting Police Commissioner, Dr. Mahlape Morai, announced during a press briefing on May 21 that the media was barred from publishing or broadcasting issues related to banned famo groups.

Morai warned of punitive measures against media outlets or reporters covering famo-related activities, stating that promoting these groups was illegal.

These remarks drew sharp criticism from the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Lesotho Chapter and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

MISA Lesotho urged all media houses "to resist this blatant intimidation and to continue their crucial work of providing unbiased and comprehensive news coverage," a commitment Newsday upholds.



Mahlanya

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Water royalties windfall bolsters govt coffers

Bereng Mpaki

The increased water royalties Lesotho received from South Africa during the first quarter of 2024 have significantly bolstered the country’s financial position.

In anticipation of the planned six-month outage of water transfer to South Africa, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has in recent months been increasing the monthly water quantities for transfer to the neighbouring country.

The water transfer is scheduled for a temporary shutdown from October 2024 to March 2025 to make way for major maintenance works on the delivery infrastructure.

But more water transfer means more water royalties to Lesotho, as per the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) treaty signed between Lesotho and South Africa. And as it turned out, the increased water transfer has augured well for the country’s financial standing.

Data from the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), shows that the country’s stock of foreign currency reserves increased from M15.04 billion in the last quarter of 2023 to M15.20 billion in the first quarter of 2024, boosted by the increased water royalties received during the three opening months of 2024.

Foreign reserves, often referred to as foreign exchange reserves or forex reserves, are a collection of foreign currencies and other assets held by a country’s central bank or monetary authority.

Among other uses, foreign reserves are crucial for facilitating international transactions such as purchasing goods from outside of the country.

“The external sector position improved in the first quarter of 2024 due to higher water royalties. Consequently, the level of foreign reserves increased from M15.04 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023 to M15.20 billion in the first quarter of 2024,” said the CBL Governor, Dr Maluke Letete following the bank’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting this week.



Katse Dam

“The net international reserves (NIR) outlook is also expected to remain robust bolstered by increased water royalties and SACU receipts,” he added.

Lesotho received M298.3 million, M283.6 million, and M292.2 million from January to March 2024 in water royalties from South Africa as per the data from the LHDA. This was a result of significant increases in the amounts of transferred water to South Africa.

In contrast, the water royalties Lesotho received in the last quarter of 2023 were M161.9 million, M114.6 million, and M114.9 million for October, November, and December 2023, respectively.

Despite the notable boost from the water royalties, Lesotho’s economic activity slowed down during the period under review, in comparison with the last quarter of 2023 due to a weaker consumer demand and a slowdown in the manufacturing sub-sector.

Letete indicated, however, that Lesotho’s growth outlook is expected to maintain a

moderate growth path over the medium term at an average of two percent.

“Domestic economic activity slowed down in the first quarter of 2024 from a stronger expansion in the preceding quarter. This mainly reflected weak consumer demand coupled with the slowdown in the manufacturing and production sub-sector. Although the financial sector experienced moderate growth, overall growth was dampened by a contraction in construction activity. Lesotho’s growth outlook is expected to maintain a moderate growth path over the medium term at an average of 2.0 percent,” Letete said.

He said the domestic headline inflation fell to 7.1 percent in April from 7.4 percent in March 2024, despite some price increases influenced by bad weather conditions in the region and currency depreciation during the quarter.

“This mainly reflected the winding down of the price effect of taxes on alcohol and tobacco introduced in March 2023 as well as the falling cost of building materials. None-

theless, prices of food, energy, restaurants, and hotels moderated the fall in the inflation rate. The major drivers of the increased price pressures were adverse weather conditions in Southern Africa which negatively affected food prices, weak exchange rate and strong global demand for oil.”

During its meeting, the MPC has meanwhile decided to decrease the NIR target to US\$760 million from US\$770 million. At this level, the NIR target is deemed sufficient to maintain a one-to-one exchange rate peg between the Loti and the Rand. The MPC also left the CBL rate unchanged at 7.75 percent per annum.

“In summary, global growth is expected to pick up in 2024 with risks to the outlook. The domestic economy continued to remain weak while inflationary pressures were abating. However, expected adverse weather shocks and weak exchange rates are expected to negatively affect the inflation outlook. The NIR position is expected to maintain a robust position due to the water royalties windfall,” Letete concluded.

Life expectancy in Lesotho among the lowest globally

Ntsoaki Motaung

Lesotho faces a significant health challenge, with recent data showing that its life expectancy is among the lowest in the world.

Breaking down the numbers, life expectancy for males in Lesotho is 52 years, while females can expect to live up to 58 years.

This is significantly lower than the global averages of 71 years for males and 76 years for females.

Comparatively, in the East and Southern Africa region, the average life expectancy is higher, with males living up to 62 years and females up to 67 years.

Several factors contribute to the low life expectancy in Lesotho. The country struggles with high rates of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, which have a profound impact on public health.

Additionally, access to healthcare services is limited, particularly in rural areas, exacerbating health inequalities.

Among the countries with the lowest life expectancies, Lesotho is joined by Nigeria (54 years for males and 55 years for females), the Central African Republic (54 years for males and 58 years for females), and Chad (52 years for males and 56 years for females).

This data is contained in the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)’s recently released State of World Population Report 2024.

The report further revealed that between 2000 and 2020, global maternal mortality declined by 34 percent.

UNFPA labeled this a success story that can be credited largely to better access to skilled and emergency obstetric care.

According to the report, from 1990 to 2021, the number of women using mod-

ern contraception doubled and there has been a 19 percent decline in the unintended pregnancy rate between 1990-1994 and 2015-2019.

“Births among girls aged 15 to 19 years have fallen by around one-third since 2000. HIV infection rates have dropped significantly. The number of new infections in 2021 was almost one-third fewer than in 2010. The proportion of girls subjected to female genital mutilation has decreased significantly as well, due to shifting attitudes towards the practice,” the report read.

It further stated that once promising progress in reducing preventable maternal deaths has largely stalled, between 2016 and 2020, the global annual reduction in maternal deaths was effectively zero.

“That means around 800 women still die every day while giving birth, and near-

ly every one of those deaths is preventable,” the report read.

It mentioned that maternal deaths are a telling microcosm of the inequalities that plague all aspects of sexual and reproductive health because of how blatant the disparities are – between countries and within them.

The difference between living and dying, according to the report, can depend on where a woman gives birth, as the vast majority of maternal deaths, over 70 percent, take place in sub-Saharan Africa, home to many of the world’s least developed countries and most fragile health systems.

“A woman in this region who experiences pregnancy and childbirth complications is around 130 times more likely to die from them than a woman in Europe or North America,” it read.

“Inequities within regions and countries are also wide and deep. In Madagascar, for example, the richest women are five times more likely than the poorest to have skilled assistance when giving birth; and across the Americas, people of African descent are more likely to experience obstetric mistreatment,” it added.

Lesotho pledges collaboration with Korea

Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Ntsokoane Samuel Matekane this week expressed Lesotho's commitment to collaborating with Korea and other African countries to tackle pressing global issues such as climate change, food insecurity, health challenges, and the energy crisis.

Matekane stressed the importance of sustainable interventions to navigate the uncertainties of the modern world while maintaining relevance in the global context.

"The world has increasingly become unpredictable. Our countries have to quickly navigate the scourges of the global challenges by adopting sustainable interventions that will see them staying relevant in this new global context," Matekane said.

He was speaking at the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit.

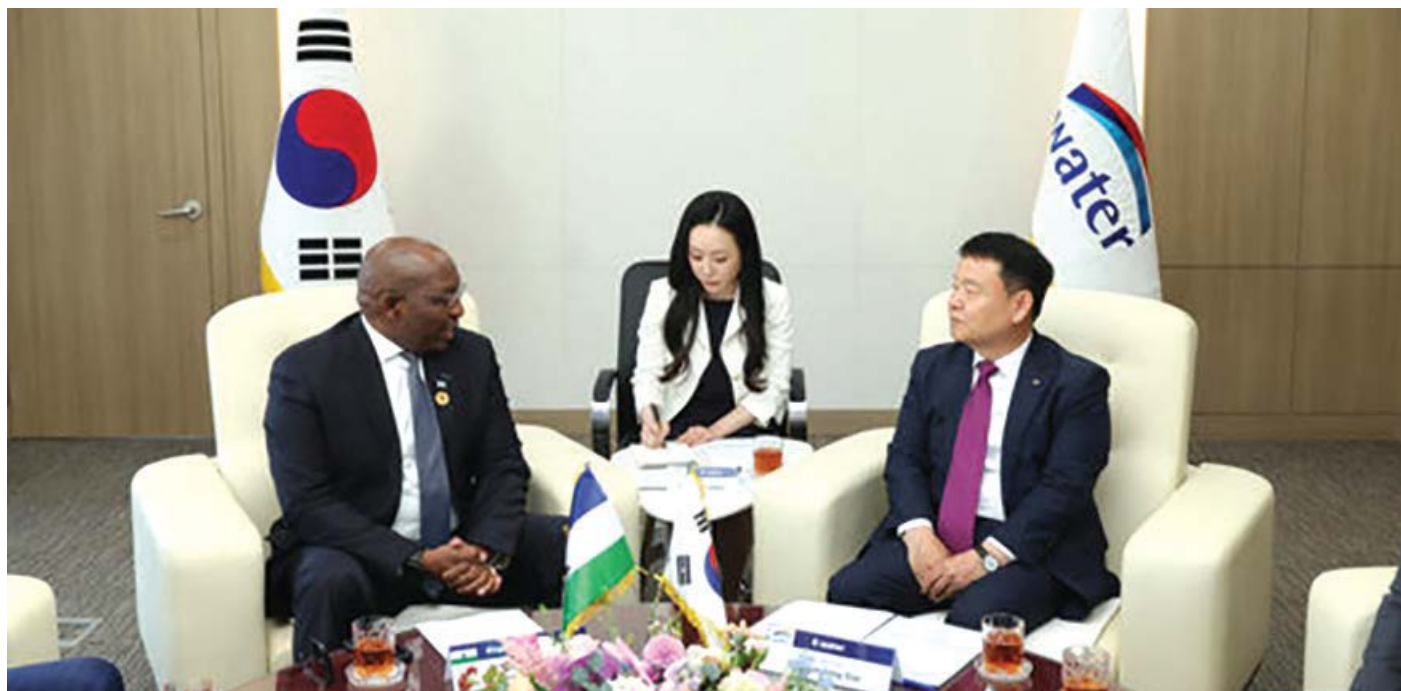
On Tuesday, the summit took place in Ilsan where African heads of delegations and heads of Africa-related international organisations participated under the theme of "The Future We Make Together: Shared Growth, Sustainability, and Solidarity."

On Wednesday, the 2024 Korea-Africa Business Summit took place in Seoul where heads of state or government and business leaders of Korea and Africa jointly participated.

In a joint declaration, the leaders stated that to facilitate cooperation discussed at the summit, Korea will continue to expand Official Development Assistance (ODA) up to 10 billion US dollars by 2030 as a catalyst for projects for cooperation with Africa, including through the expansion of EDCF Framework Arrangement(F/A) and grants.

Moreover, approximately 14 billion US dollars in export financing will be provided to Korean companies by 2030 to encourage their activities in Africa, thus stimulating trade and investment with Africa.

They emphasised the importance of regularly reviewing and supporting the imple-



mentation of the commitments made at the summit and, to this end, they stressed the need to strengthen the activities of the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAPEC) Conference and Korea-Africa Agriculture Ministers Meeting and to establish new high-level consultative bodies such as the Customs Commissioners Meeting, and Chief Statisticians Meeting.

"Recognising the importance of implementing the outcomes of this Summit, we task the Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2026 to comprehensively evaluate the outcomes of this summit and to discuss the way forward including exploring the possibility of holding the next summit," the declaration read.

Matekane said Lesotho embraces the vision of the Korea-Africa Summit, which envisions a

future where Korea and African countries collaborate to foster sustainable development, solidarity, and shared growth.

"This Summit presents an excellent opportunity to engage in a partnership grounded in mutual respect and shared values while working together to address global challenges" he said.

"Our commitment to this vision underscores our belief in a collaborative approach to development that benefits all nations and creates a lasting legacy of peace and prosperity," he added.

Matekane further stated that for Africa to free itself from the shackles of poverty, structural transformation through rapid industrialisation and diversification should be a priority as envisaged by the African Union

Agenda 2063.

He said the transformation of the Republic of Korea to an industrial powerhouse should, therefore, be an inspiration to leaders in Africa as they seek to transform their economies.

"We are therefore looking forward to exchanging policy ideas and seeking ways to accelerate cooperation on industrialization with the Republic of Korea for mutual benefit," he said.

He explained that equally important and cross-cutting is the energy sector.

"Sustainable cooperation is imperative in fully utilizing environmentally friendly sources of energy. Lesotho for instance, is richly endowed with hydro, solar and wind energy resources which makes it the potential Southern African Power Pool," he said.

Polihali tunnel boring machine construction nears completion

Staff Reporter



A team of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) senior engineers, tunnel expert consultants including contractors was recently in China to inspect the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) ahead of their arrival into the country later this year.

The 5.39-meter diameter TBMs, with 415-meter backup systems, are specifically being manufactured at a CCCC Tianhe plant in Changshu City, Jiangsu Province, China for the excavation of the 38-km transfer tunnel from Polihali to Katse.

The inspection, which took place from May



8 to 11 this year, sought to ensure that the TBMs met the specifications for the excavation of the Polihali transfer tunnel.

The massive TBMs have been specifically designed to handle the challenging basalt rock formations in the Mokhotlong and Leribe districts where the transfer tunnel is being constructed.

The Polihali to Katse Transfer Tunnel is one of the main works components of Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), and its construction is already underway by Kopano Ke Matla Joint Venture.

The inspection, which is also known as the factory acceptance test was conducted by LHDA senior engineers, representatives from Metsi a Senqu Khubelu Consultants (MSKC), the Kopano Ke Matla Joint Venture, and the TBM designer, Robbins.

MSKC designed the tunnel and provided the TBM specifications, while Robbins, a U.S. company, designed the machines.

"We verified the design of the TBMs, their functionality, and adherence to safety standards. This included examining the cutter heads, backup systems, and segment erection

mechanisms," said Neo Thinyane, the LHWP Phase II Senior Projects Engineer.

The team also assessed the functionality of the muck removal system, conveyor belts, power supply, ventilation, water supply, and dewatering systems. Safety features were a primary focus of the acceptance test.

"We checked for adequate walkways, head clearance and body width for workers, gas detection systems for hazardous gases like methane, and the functionality of alert alarms," Thinyane emphasised.

Fire detection and suppression systems were also scrutinised, given the risky nature of tunnel excavation and TBM operations, as were the crucial safe extraction procedures. The TBMs are equipped with refuge bays containing life-support systems, including first-aid kits, oxygen tanks, respirators, and air filtration systems. Additionally, there are backup power and cooling systems to ensure uninterrupted operation in case of power outages.

The Polihali Transfer Tunnel will transfer water by gravity from the Polihali Reservoir to the Katse Reservoir. The excavation will utilise both tunnel boring and drill and blast methods from both ends.

The Polihali Transfer Tunnel works include the intake works and gate shaft at the Polihali reservoir; outlet works, and gate shaft at the existing Katse reservoir with an underwater connection to the lake, and access adits to the waterway and associated construction infrastructure.

Notable progress has been made on the intake, outlet works, and access adits.

Woman faces charges of sexual assault

Relebohile Makhetha

Lerato Maretšepile Modamane, a 42-year-old resident of Ha Bua-Sono, appeared in court on Wednesday facing charges under Section 3(1) and (2), as well as Section 32, of the Sexual Offences Act No. 3 of 2003.

The alleged incident occurred on February 15 this year near Borokhoaneng, in Maseru, where Lerato is accused of committing an unlawful sexual act by inserting an object into the vagina of Puseletso Matekane without her consent.

Lerato was granted bail in the amount of M600.00 and is scheduled to reappear in court on June 18. Magistrate Rantšo presided over the case, with prosecution handled by advocate Rabale.

In a separate case, Lehlohonolo Shea, 27, and Ithabeleng Tankiso Motemekoane were charged with aggravated assault under Section 31(1) and (2)(a), read with Section 109 of the Penal Code Act No. 6 of 2010.

Shea stands accused of stabbing Thakanyane Tlapane under the chin and in the throat with a knife on June 1 near Ha-Mokhitli, Roma, with the alleged intent to cause serious bodily injury or permanent physical disability.

Due to the critical condition of the complainant, Prosecutor Sekoati Hlophe argued against granting bail, invoking the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act. Consequently, Shea was denied bail and will remain in custody until his next court appearance on June 18. Magistrate Nkethoa Molapo presided over this case, with prosecution handled by advocate Sekoati Hlophe.

Furthermore, Ithabeleng Motemekoane



was charged with assaulting Tlaleng Philela on May 18 by beating her with a bro-

ken bottle and a stick. Motemekoane was granted bail in the amount of M1000.00

and is also scheduled to appear in court on June 18.

UN and partners issue urgent call

...as severe drought threatens over 30 million across Southern Africa

Ntsoaki Motaung

More than 30 million people across Southern Africa have been affected by a severe drought.

Millions could be pushed into acute hunger unless support is urgently mobilised to scale before the next lean season, the United Nations (UN) and partners have warned.

The joint call was made on Wednesday by the UN, NGOs, regional and national authorities, and humanitarian and development partners during a briefing on the emergency in Southern Africa, held in Pretoria, South Africa, to highlight the severe impacts of El Niño and the climate-driven crisis.

This joint call follows the recent extraordinary summit by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) that saw the launch of a regional appeal in May seeking \$5.5 billion to provide urgent lifesaving assistance, to help with recovery and long-term climate resilience.

“Rural communities we have met on the ground tell us they have never seen anything like this. They are extremely worried about their future,” said Reena Ghelani, the UN Climate Crisis Coordinator for the El Niño / La Niña Response. She added that: “Urgent support is needed now, and at scale, to protect lives and livelihoods.”

The unfolding impact of this El Niño phenomenon, which started globally in July 2023, has led to a severe rainfall deficit across the Southern African region, with temperatures five degrees above average.

The region experienced its driest February in 100 years, receiving 20 percent of the usual rainfall expected for this period.

“We thought we had finally rebuilt our lives after the devastation of Cyclone Freddy, but then the floods brought on by El Niño swept away everything we had worked so



hard for,” said Roben, husband, and father to four from a World Vision operation area in Malawi.

“When the maize yields plummet, it’s like a punch to the gut. It feels like we’re constantly being pushed down, and it’s becoming harder and harder to find the strength to get back up. I can only manage to provide one meal a day. By June, we will completely run out of food.”

Rain shortfalls have taken place at a crucial time for crop growth. Widespread harvest failure and livestock death are already being felt across the region, where 70 percent of people depend on rain-fed agriculture to survive.

Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe are all grappling with the impact of the drought, while Namibia, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe

have declared states of emergency. The UN and partners are supporting national and regional response efforts.

“Assessments are underway to gauge the impact of the drought on agricultural production, and anticipatory actions have been triggered to provide immediate assistance to vulnerable communities. However, the magnitude of the challenge calls for additional resources to effectively respond to the crisis and safeguard lives and livelihoods. Support should focus on building the climate resilience of communities, otherwise, unless resilience and early recovery support are ensured, communities will not recover and farmers will not be able to plant during the next season, perpetuating humanitarian needs,” emphasized Patrice Talla, the Sub-regional Coordinator in Southern Africa for the Food and Agriculture Organization of

the UN (FAO).

Meanwhile, the Lesotho Red Cross with assistance from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through their Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) has set aside CHF 711,203, which is equivalent to about 798,288 US Dollars and about M15,036,544 to assist 12,500 individuals (2,500 households) in four districts who have been impacted by food insecurity, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) challenges, and disruptions to their livelihoods.

According to the Lesotho Red Cross, this support will be delivered through sustainable interventions, including access to clean water, crop production initiatives, and multipurpose cash transfers. The assistance program will span a duration of nine months, commencing in May 2024.

BUSINESS

Govt project eyes textile industry integration

Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) project plans to enlarge the current scope of the textile sector to include the pre-production and post-production stages.

The move aims to increase the sustainability of the textile sector, which currently limits its production scope to cut, make, and trim (CMT) and relies on imported inputs.

This was highlighted by the CAFI Project Deputy Implementation Manager, 'Makali Nathane during a recent media workshop to familiarise journalists with the project.

Nathane said they were seized with expanding the textile and apparel global value chains based on the priority needs of the country as articulated in the extended National Development Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) II.

"Our industry relies on the CMT only, which is the second stage of the production line whereby we receive materials after pre-production, then we produce and then export for post-production," she said.

"The textile workers only specialise in certain parts of the production where one specialises in knitting zips, shoulder-pads, pockets, and others but they have no special skills in terms of design from scratch."

Nathane also suggested that part of the reasons why many factories have been closing down in Lesotho is due to the unstable of the industry owing to its reliance



CAFI Implementation Deputy Manager, 'Makali Nathane

on the narrow CMT scope.

"So the government of Lesotho through



CAFI Project Manager, Chaba Mokuku

CAFI has decided to increase the global value chains so that everything relating to the textile products will be completed within Lesotho."

She said the project is targeting about 50 percent of existing firms to receive assistance through skills, vertical integrations, and production by the end of the seven-year project. Nathane further revealed this work would be done by working with the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC).

"These textile firms are going to get the enhancement support, and social compliance to restore the dignity of Lesotho's market globally. The government now embraces the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and International Trade Centre's (ITC) (sustainability, competitiveness, and responsiveness of enterprises) 'SCORE' programme," Nathane stated.

On his part, Chaba Mokuku, CAFI's Project Manager said going forward they intended to provide the media with quarterly updates on the project implementation.

"We want to take the media along on this exciting journey of implementing this project. The success of this project depends much on how its objectives, implementation, progress, and impact are communicated to the nation," Mokuku said.

The CAFI project is funded by the World Bank and the GOL. It is founded on three mutually reinforcing pillars; enhancing financial inclusion and resilience of MSMEs, scaling support for entrepreneurship and MSMEs, and project management support.

Letshego Namibia lists first social bond

Staff Reporter



In a bid to further demonstrate its social impact strategy, Letshego Holdings Namibia Ltd (Letshego Namibia) has listed the Group's first social bond in Africa on the Namibian Stock Exchange ("NSX").

By so doing, Letshego Namibia, a sister company to Letshego Financial Services Lesotho Ltd, became the first Letshego Africa Holdings Ltd (the Group) subsidiary to list asocial bonds, tapping into Africa's growing social financing opportunities.

Social bonds are fixed-income securities whose proceeds are earmarked to finance or re-finance new and existing social impact projects such as low-income groups, unemployed, or otherwise vulnerable.

A statement by the group indicated that the inaugural social listing received total bids to the value of N\$322 million (USD18 million) and successfully issued N\$260

million (USD14 million) three-year senior unsecured notes across five investors.

Dr Ester Kali, Letshego Namibia's Country Chief Executive commended the move, saying it affirms their commitment to improve lives.

"A social bond listing evidences our commercial purpose to improve lives while leveraging the opportunity to access a rapidly increasing pool of social financing, globally. Social bonds not only introduce Letshego Namibia to an expanded pool of social investors but also deepen stakeholder confidence in our credentials given industry and listing regulations' require independent evaluations and approvals of our Social Financing Framework prior to listing."

Letshego Africa Holding's Group Chief Executive, Aupa Monyatsi said: "Achieving a tangible social and sustainable impact from our pan-African inclusive financing products and solutions has been intrinsic to Letshego's 25-year legacy in Africa, having first opened our doors in Gaborone, Botswana in 1998."

"Sustainability and ESG remain integral proponents across our geographies and business divisions, and core to our inclusive culture and how we do business. Namibia's social bond leads the way for other subsidiaries to access the growing pool of social capital and financing vehicles, for the benefit of our strategy, and ultimately our customers, partners, and communities."

Since its Initial Public Offer (IPO) entitled 'EkwafoLetu' in 2017, the Namibian subsidiary has invested and leveraged the

local capital market with various medium-term note programmes, diversifying its funding sources and benefiting from local currency funding.

Letshego Namibia's social bond has been structured in alignment with the International Capital Market Association's Social Bond Principles. The proceeds of which will support Letshego Namibia's strategy to increase access, reach, and affordability of productive financial solutions for more Namibians as more specifically outlined in Letshego Namibia's Social Finance Framework ("SSF").

This includes the support of underserved individuals, micro and small entrepreneurs, and small business owners, with inclusive products like affordable housing, healthcare, and education.

RMB, a recognised leader in bringing social and green bonds to Namibia and regional stock exchanges, acted as Letshego Namibia's arranger, dealer, NSX debt sponsor, sustainability advisor, and coordinator.

Philip Chapman, Chief Executive Officer for RMB Namibia commented: "Private sector players are increasingly coming to the fore of solving development challenges. Noting Namibia's socio-economic challenges, RMB used its wealth of expertise in Sustainable Finance to have a structure and a robust SFF to ensure the utmost social impact in the deal. We navigated the various complexities coupled with our debt capital markets capabilities to introduce Letshego Namibia's first-to-market social bond."

In 2023, Letshego Namibia was recognised as the Best Locally Listed Company at the prestigious Namibia Top Company Awards organised by Cirrus Capital.

With a staff complement of over 200 employees – including both direct and indirect sales agents – and more than sixty thousand customers, Letshego Namibia is synonymous with leveraging innovation and technology to improve the lives of individuals who have limited access to traditional financial services.

ESTATE NOTICE

Estate Late Khauhelo Gladys Motseki- E60/2024

Notice is hereby given in term of section 37 of the Administration of estates and inheritance Act of No.2 of 2024 calling upon all heirs, legatees and creditors of the estate of the deceased to attend before the Master of the High Court at the Office of The Master of High Court in Maseru District, on the 11th of July 2024.

Proposing some person of persons to be appointed by the Master as the Executor Dative.

DATED AT MASERU ON THIS 5TH DAY OF JUNE, 2024

Master of the High Court Offices

Maseru

Magistrate Court Building

HEALTH



937 TB patients traced in nationwide campaign

Ntsoaki Motaung

The Ministry of Health, through its National TB Programme, has successfully traced at least 937 tuberculosis (TB) patients.

Of these, 928 have been enrolled in treatment, and the programme continues to track the remaining cases, according to its Manager, Dr. Llang Maama.

Dr. Maama explained that the campaign to find missing TB patients began on March 4 and covers all ten districts of Lesotho. She said the aim is to reduce the overall burden of TB in the country by ensuring all patients receive the necessary treatment.

“If we find all the patients, we shall ultimately reduce the overall TB prevalence. So now our efforts as a Ministry are towards finding all the missing patients,” she said.

The ministry estimates that 15,000 Basotho fell ill with TB in 2022, but only 6,601 cases were identified. Dr. Maama highlighted the ministry’s ongoing efforts to close this gap.

“According to the estimated burden of TB at 661 per 100,000 population, at least 15,000 Basotho are presumed to have TB. Those we have not found are termed ‘missing’ because we know they are there but have not yet been detected by our system,” she explained.

“Some may have sought services at our facilities, but we missed identifying



Dr Llang Maama and Minister of Health Selibe Mochoboroane

them as TB patients or failed to register them properly. This is why we are also working on improving our Monitoring and Evaluation system to avoid any data losses,” she added.

The campaign integrates TB screening with other public health concerns using improved methods. “TB screening involves checking for four symptoms and using digital x-rays,” Dr. Maama noted.

The programme targets selected sites, starting with hard-to-reach areas, according to Dr. Maama, and engages the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) to assist with transportation using helicopters.

“Seven teams have been established, three of which focus mainly on providing occupational services for ex-miners and their families. We also target other vulnerable groups, such as factory workers, public transport workers at taxi ranks, and the general public,” she said.

She further stated the challenges faced in reaching these areas.

“Hard-to-reach sites were selected precisely because they are difficult to access. People living there do not have easy access to health services due to distance and terrain. Lots of sacrifices are made, including working late, carrying equipment on horseback where vehicles cannot reach, and dealing with temporary staff getting sick or injured from accidents,” Dr. Maama explained.

Africa CDC and WHO seek \$1 billion to address health emergencies



76th World Health Assembly attendants

Ntsoaki Motaung

Leading public health institutions, the Africa CDC and the World Health Organisation (WHO), are seeking \$1 billion for their partnership to respond to public health emergencies triggered by climate change and conflict-related disasters, aiming to build health security on the African continent.

The organisations met on May 27, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland, marking a year since the launch of the Joint Emergency

Preparedness and Response Action Plan (JEAP) at the 76th World Health Assembly.

“The JEAP is looking forward to mobilizing close to \$1 billion to address critical gaps and strengthen the systems on the continent to better prepare, detect, and respond to health emergencies by 2027,” said Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General of the Africa CDC.

“We think we can make it happen if we put our hands together,” Dr. Kayesa told the partners at the meeting.

For the first time, the JEAP partnership

developed 17 multi-country and regional proposals for submission to the second round of the Pandemic Fund, compared to fewer than three in the first round.

“We are aware that the pandemic envelope is limited in meeting all needs, and that is why we are inviting you to join the JEAP movement,” Dr. Kaseya added.

JEAP is a five-year strategic collaboration aimed at boosting emergency preparedness and response efforts throughout Africa, ensuring effective responses to disease outbreaks during humanitarian

crises.

On average, 100 disease outbreaks are reported annually in Africa.

“The collaboration between the Africa CDC and WHO exemplifies the power of partnership in global health,” said Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

“JEAP will bolster our efforts to fight public health emergencies, saving lives and protecting our communities. We are proud to stand with Africa CDC and work towards a healthier and safer future for all Africans,” Dr. Moeti added.

The plan builds upon existing frameworks and initiatives, including the Africa CDC’s New Public Health Order and WHO AFRO’s Regional Strategy for Health Security and Emergencies (2022-2030).

JEAP prioritises strengthening surveillance intelligence and genomic sequencing for quicker detection, stockpiling emergency supplies at newly established sub-regional hubs to improve emergency response operations, and deploying first responders within 24-48 hours of a disease outbreak.

They also plan to overcome supply chain barriers by reducing delays in delivering lifesaving supplies from 20 days to 24-48 hours, mitigating morbidity and mortality.

The JEAP partnership welcomed UNICEF as the first partner to join this initiative, which holds great promise for transforming health security on the continent.

Preserve famo music – root out criminal elements, not the culture

The recent government decision to ban the Seakhi group, along with eleven other organisations, marks a troubling moment for Lesotho. Renowned famo musician Lehlohonolo Maketsi, known as Mahlanya, has decried this move as unilateral and oppressive. While there are legitimate concerns about criminal activities linked to some individuals within the famo music scene, the solution lies not in eradicating this unique cultural expression but in addressing the criminal elements head-on.

Famo music is a vibrant and integral part of Basotho culture. It reflects the social realities, struggles, and aspirations of the people. By categorically banning groups like Seakhi, the government risks destroying a rich cultural heritage.

Also, this drastic decision undermines the principle of “audi alteram partem” – the right to a fair hearing – a cornerstone of just and fair governance. The absence of a proper hearing before such a drastic measure is fundamentally unjust and an affront to natural justice if we are being honest.

No one is suggesting that the government should stand idly by while crime associated with certain elements in the famo music community escalates. On the contrary, it is imperative that criminal activities be addressed decisively.

However, it is equally crucial that the government’s approach is reasonable and targeted. The blanket ban on famo groups is akin to throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

The government must differentiate between those who use famo music as a means of artistic expression and livelihood and those who exploit it for criminal purposes. The focus should be on rooting out the criminal elements, not stifling the entire genre. This requires nuanced, targeted actions and collaboration with community leaders such as chief and local councillors, artists, and law enforcement.

Moreover, famo music has been a legitimate source of income for many Basotho. With the government’s unjust ban, numerous artists and their families face financial uncertainty. This sweeping action could push more individuals towards illicit activities out of sheer necessity, exacerbating the very problem it aims to solve.

The decision to ban Seakhi and other groups, and the subsequent media blackout on famo-related activities, also raises significant concerns about freedom of expression. The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Lesotho Chapter and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) have rightly criticised this move.

Media houses must resist intimidation, as this publication is doing, and continue to provide comprehensive news coverage, ensuring that the public remains informed and engaged.

The government should not undermine the cultural and economic lifelines that famo music provides. Instead, it should support and nurture this unique art form while simultaneously implementing measures to curb associated criminal activities. This balanced approach would preserve Lesotho’s cultural heritage and promote a safer, more just society.

It is time for the government to reconsider its stance and adopt a more reasonable and effective strategy. By working with famo musicians, community leaders, and law enforcement, it can address the root causes of crime without killing the spirit of famo music.

Our cultural heritage and the livelihoods of many depend on it.



NO COMMENT



Kananelo Boloetse

COMMON CONCERN

Time for Action: Our Land, Our Future

Sixteen years ago, in 2008, the Parliament of Lesotho took a significant step towards safeguarding our natural heritage and securing a sustainable future by enacting the Environment Act.

This comprehensive legislation, published in the Government Gazette on December 5, 2008, and commencing on June 16, 2009, was designed to protect and manage the environment, ensuring the conservation and sustainable utilisation of our natural resources.

Yet, despite the noble intentions and detailed provisions set out in this Act, its most crucial component—the establishment of the National Environment Council—remains unrealised.

As we mark World Environment Day, it is imperative to remind the government of Lesotho of its unfulfilled promise and urge immediate action to breathe life into this essential body.

The Environment Act of 2008 is a testament to visionary leadership, articulating a broad and ambitious framework for environmental management.

It assures every person in Lesotho the fundamental right to a clean and healthy environment, emphasizes sustainable development, and mandates the use and conservation of our natural resources for the benefit of both current and future generations.

It seeks to preserve biological diversity, reclaim lost ecosystems, and reverse the degradation of our environment. Furthermore, it stresses the importance of public participation, environmental education, and international cooperation in achieving these goals.

One of the most critical mechanisms envisioned by the Act to achieve these lofty objectives is the National Environment Council. This council is tasked with setting national goals, determining policies and priorities for environmental protection, promoting coordination among various stakeholders, and ensuring the integration of environmental considerations into socio-economic planning.

It is designed to be a central body that monitors progress, reviews the activities of line ministries, and issues directives to ensure effective

implementation of environmental policies.

However, despite the clear mandate and detailed structure outlined in the Act, the National Environment Council remains non-existent. This inaction has rendered the Act a white elephant—a symbol of unfulfilled potential and neglected duty.

Without this council, the coordination and comprehensive oversight necessary for effective environmental management are severely lacking. The absence of this crucial body undermines the very essence of the Act, leaving our environmental policies fragmented and our natural resources increasingly vulnerable.

The consequences of this neglect are stark. Lesotho, like many other countries, is facing severe environmental challenges exacerbated by climate change. The recent severe drought affecting hundreds of thousands of people across country, the extreme weather patterns driven by El Niño, and the persistent issues of soil erosion, deforestation, and water scarcity are just a few examples.

These challenges highlight the urgent need for robust, coordinated, and effective environmental governance—a role that the National Environment Council is ideally suited to fulfill.

There is little hope that the myriad of laws currently being enacted by Parliament will be enforced if critical laws such as the Environment Act are not being implemented.

This is not the only law lying idle.

There seems to be a systemic attempt to undermine Parliament by not enforcing the laws it has passed. Such neglect not only weakens the legislative framework but also erodes public trust in the government’s commitment to addressing pressing issues.

If our environmental laws, designed to protect the very fabric of our nation, are left dormant, what faith can we place in the enforcement of other critical legislation?

The establishment of the National Environment Council is not just a bureaucratic formality; it is a critical step towards sustainable development and environmental stewardship. This council would provide the necessary oversight

and coordination to ensure that our environmental policies are not only sound but also effectively implemented.

It would facilitate the harmonization of plans and policies across different sectors, promote public participation, and enhance accountability. Moreover, it would ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into all aspects of socio-economic planning, fostering a holistic approach to development that balances economic growth with environmental sustainability.

On this World Environment Day, as the global community rallies to encourage awareness and action to protect our environment, we must seize this moment to reflect on our own commitments and responsibilities. The government of Lesotho has a duty to honour the promises made in the Environment Act of 2008.

Establishing the National Environment Council is not only a legal obligation but also a moral imperative. It is a critical step towards fulfilling our commitment to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all Basotho.

Let us not allow another year to pass with this vital piece of legislation languishing in obscurity. The time for action is now. The government must move swiftly to establish the National Environment Council, empowering it to carry out its mandate and ensuring that the principles of environmental management enshrined in the Act are translated into tangible, impactful actions.

By doing so, we can honour our past commitments, address our present challenges, and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and held annually on 5 June since 1973, World Environment Day is the largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people across the world. World Environment Day 2024 focuses on land restoration, halting desertification, and building drought resilience under the slogan “Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration.”

INTERVIEW

Lessons from Lesotho



Malealea lodge, Lesotho. Image credit Di Jones via Flickr CC BY 2.0 Deed.

With a coalition government likely after South Africa’s elections in May, many are looking at the West for examples of coalition politics. South Africans, however, should look next door.

John Aerni-Flessner and Charles Fogelman

As South Africa heads to the polls on May 29, 2024, most watchers expect South Africans for the first time to force the African National Congress (ANC) out of its absolute majority atop South African politics. Many commentators and plenty of South Africans seem almost giddy about the prospect of a coalition government coming to power.

It is undoubtedly true that the ANC has plenty of corruption scandals, and the burden of load-shedding is still hurting everyday economics and citizens’ psyches in RSA. But what are some of the potential pitfalls of a national coalition government in South Africa?

Many of South Africa’s major municipalities have elected coalition governments in recent years. While these coalitions have varied from reasonably effective to complete disarray, a national coalition would involve more complexity, because it is responsible for weighty portfolios like foreign affairs, macroeconomic policy, and defense. Thus, municipal coalitions are, perhaps, not the best model for thinking through the potential risks-rewards of a national coalition.

For a cautionary example, South Africans might look to the tempestuous history of national coalition governance since 2012 in Lesotho, with which South Africa shares its second-longest land border. Lesotho is one of the only African countries with multiple electoral transfers of power over the last decade.

Much like South Africa, though, Lesotho has struggled to move beyond the aging leaders who guided the country back to multiparty democracy in the 1990s. Our brief dive into history is not to advocate for any

particular candidate, party, or choice, but rather to look at how Lesotho’s experience with coalition governance might illuminate South Africa’s future.

Lesotho’s first coalition government came to power with great fanfare in 2012. There was a long history of disputed elections in the kingdom, a legacy that included a South African–Southern African Development Community (SADC) military intervention in 1998.

The 2012 coalition marked the first peaceful democratic transition of power in Lesotho since gaining independence in 1966. This alone should give some hope for coalition governments in South Africa. However, sustained low-level political violence and minimal improvements in service delivery to the poorest and most vulnerable in Lesotho since that time should also give us pause.

Lesotho coalition governments took office in 2012, 2015, 2017, 2020, and 2022, with a total of three different political parties taking turns in the prime minister’s office. None of these coalitions survived a full five-year term, and political infighting has been a near constant. South Africans should be under no illusion that a coalition that comes to power in June 2024 will be guaranteed enough stability to make it to the 2029 general election intact.

Coalition-era political violence in Lesotho, including an attempted coup in 2014 and the assassinations of army commanders in 2015 and 2017, has been largely contained within the political and security establishment. There has been no widespread political violence. That said, the violence Lesotho faced is certainly a warning that rapidly shifting political alliances can be broadly destabilizing. This has already been seen in the rising violence against South Africa’s elected municipal officials.

Facing instability in Lesotho, South Africa and SADC have repeatedly stepped in to mediate. This has likely forestalled an escalation of violence. However, if South Africa

were to face similar dynamics it is not clear that SADC has enough muscle to stabilize a country that accounts for roughly as much total GDP as all other SADC member states combined.

The current diminished state of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), SADC’s West African counterpart, in the face of regional obstinance is a cautionary tale for those worried about what a destabilized South Africa might mean for that country and the wider region.

Another result of the coalition era in Lesotho has been a massive expansion of the Cabinet. With electoral margins so tight, the coalitions in Lesotho have involved multiple smaller parties. In one case, the coalition comprised seven parties, with each tiny party demanding a Cabinet Ministry as the price for their parliamentary votes. The Cabinet had 16 ministers in the early 2000s, which expanded to 26 in 2017.

While the Cabinet has contracted back to 19 ministers at the moment, this proliferation of expensive ministries has soured the public on governance. Many Basotho see politics as simply a game of musical chairs for the well-connected and have disengaged from governance by refusing to vote in national elections. There is also no evidence that the proliferation of ministries improved the delivery of services to the population. If anything, it seems likely to have harmed it.

So, what are Lesotho’s lessons for South Africa from its 12-year history of national coalition governance?

First: it might work out all right! With all the unforeseen plot twists in Lesotho’s political situation, it is important to remember that nothing was preordained. Democracy-era South African politics have seen some strange bedfellows: a governing majority with room for both center-right economists and the South African Communist Party is a big tent indeed, and one with limited ideological consistency on matters like land reform or social-benefit schemes. In fact, a coalition government in South Africa could be

the sign of a healthy parliamentary democracy that heralds the rise of political parties that can champion the causes of those currently unheard by the ANC. Given the already limited coherence within the three decades of ANC rule, perhaps South Africa now has the opportunity to enter an era of robust deliberative democracy via its coalitions.

Second: however, there is a high chance of political dysfunction. If voters desire steady, predictable financial or social policy and messaging, the potentially volatile mix of parties and personalities in South African politics at the moment would suggest this is unlikely.

Third, and perhaps most importantly: national coalitions in Lesotho have led to even less governance and attention paid to service delivery. With elections and government turnover an almost constant possibility, politicians spend more time jockeying within Parliament than governing. Individual members of parliament have increased leverage because of the slim margins in coalition governance.

This has led to the emergence of more political parties and more MPs switching political affiliations in an attempt to gain new party leadership positions or even ministerial appointments. With their focus diverted to political maneuvering, governance suffers, and the concerns of the people are ignored to the detriment of democracy.

So, what does post—May 29 hold for South Africa? South African voters can, and should, send messages about the governance they desire at the ballot box. Citizens should carefully vet parties and individuals based on their commitment to governance and service delivery.

If a coalition government does result, there needs to be robust and sustained civil society pressure to get MPs to maintain a focus on the needs of the public. This is especially true of the growing number of disaffected voters who feel that they have been neglected in the 30 years since the end of apartheid.

The result of Lesotho’s coalition era has been mounting disillusionment among Basotho in the idea that government can solve intractable problems; as such, it is imperative that Southern Africa’s economic and political heavyweight finds ways to keep political parties and politicians accountable to the public. The lives of many of the poorest South Africans might literally depend on this. Keeping South African democracy healthy and effective is important for many in the Southern African region and across the continent.

About the Authors

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This article was originally published on [Africa Is a Country](https://africasacountry.com/2024/03/lessons-from-lesotho). You can find the original article here: <https://africasacountry.com/2024/03/lessons-from-lesotho>.

National Lead Consultant for the Development of a HIV and TB Sustainability Roadmap at UNAIDS



Terms of Reference for a National Lead Consultant for the Development of a HIV and TB Sustainability Roadmap for the Kingdom of Lesotho

Purpose

The Government of Lesotho is leading the country in planning for sustainability of the gains made in the HIV and TB response. A Multi-Sectoral National HIV and TB Sustainability Technical Working Group (TWG) chaired by the National AIDS Commission (NAC) is providing technical leadership to this process. With financial and technical support from UNAIDS, the country seeks a suitable and qualified individual to lead in the development of Lesotho's HIV and TB Sustainability Roadmap. The purpose of this consultancy is for the individual to support the Government of Lesotho to assess aspects of the HIV and TB epidemic and response within five critical domains, and to develop an HIV and TB response sustainability roadmap. The roadmap will guide the country and partners to reach the goal of ending AIDS and TB as public health threats by 2030 and to achieve long-term sustainable results.

Background

Lesotho is among the top 13 high HIV burden countries. The country has made tremendous progress and is at HIV epidemic control. With sustained efforts, Lesotho is on track to achieve the 95-95-95 treatment targets by 2025. The Lesotho Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (LePHIA, 2020) reported a prevalence of 22.7%, which translates to 324,000 adults above 15 years living with HIV. As of 2022 according to the UNAIDS Spectrum estimates, 95% of all people living with HIV knew their status, 91% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection were on antiretroviral treatment (ART), and 98% of all people receiving ART achieved viral suppression. These achievements have been driven by strong high-level political commitment towards achieving the country's commitment to end AIDS as public health threat by 2030, coupled with partnerships with civil society organizations, communities of people living with HIV, and development partners.

The country however is grappling with much lower achievement of the 95-95-95 treatment targets in children, adolescents and young people, key populations, and men in the general population, with high levels of new infections, high HIV related mortality, high TB co-morbidity among those living with HIV, high rate of gender-based violence and other structural barriers to HIV prevention, weak health systems and geographic inequities. With an ageing population of people living with HIV, the country is already facing the overlapping prevalence of comorbidities of diseases and conditions associated with older people.

Financially, the country's HIV response is heavily dependent on external investments, estimated to be between 60 – 70%. UNAIDS has warned that global financial resources for HIV have been on the decline since 2010 and by 2023 were at the level of funding experienced in 2013. The country's HIV response is anchored in the multi-sectoral National HIV Strategic Plan (NSP) 2023-2028. The Ministry of Health has also developed an integrated HIV/TB Health Sector HIV Strategic Plan (2023-2028) focused on a more integrated approach to prevention, identification, and treatment for the two diseases. To sustain the gains made by 2030 and beyond, the NSP emphasizes on sustainability, estimating that from 2023-2028 the country will require LSL13 billion (US\$688 million), with a funding gap of LSL 1.2 billion based on current trends. The NSP prioritizes HIV response sustainability, predictable funding, and sustainability of the HIV response with expected results being diversified funding sources including increased domestic financing, and improved efficiencies. The recommended strategic actions include development of a national HIV sustainability plan that includes transition from donor funding. The country will need continued strong national leadership, governance, and programmatic transformations to sustain the HIV response.

The Government of Lesotho has embarked on the critical phase to develop a multi-sector HIV and TB response sustainability roadmap that sets out long-term sustainability vision, building on previous and ongoing activities and to align these efforts with the national strategies, policies, plans, and reform efforts. This country-led activity is aligned with the goals and targets in the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 and in the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030 and the national HIV and TB strategic plans. The Government of Lesotho is leading these efforts towards development of the **HIV and TB Sustainability Roadmap** to guide the country's long-term sustainability of the HIV and TB response to 2030 and beyond, a process that will catalyze desired political, structural, and programmatic transformations and accelerate the achievement of domestic priorities through country ownership and leadership of the HIV and TB response, leaving no one behind.

The Sustainability Roadmap development and implementation will be a phased approach, engaging multi stakeholders in the response through national and targeted dialogues and consultations. It will be guided by the global sustainability framework that outlines five components that are required across all countries to achieve the global AIDS targets for 2025 and 2030 and sustain these gains beyond 2030: : 1) Political leadership and commitment, 2) Enabling Laws and Policies, 3) Sustainable and equitable financing, 4) Services and solutions, 5) Systems that are built on strong local and institutional capacities to deliver effective, context-specific, people-centred, integrated HIV services for equitable and sustained results. To develop the Lesotho HIV and TB Sustainability Roadmap, detailed assessments will be conducted focusing on specific subthemes within each of the 5 domains to assess the state of the country's response and its sustainability. The assessment will lead into development of the roadmap which will identify a set of prioritized high-level outcomes and priority directions through which the country may most effectively and sustainably achieve the HIV response 2025 and 2030 targets. It will help identify the programme and system transformations that are required to sustain long-term impact by and beyond 2030.

Responsibilities

- Lead the development of the HIV and TB sustainability roadmap document from start to completion, including writing, which entails country engagement, the sustainability assessment, and the tailored country approach.
- Provide expert guidance to the technical working group leading development and implementation of the Sustainability roadmap.
- Provide oversight of the roadmap development process, coordinate individual technical subject matter expert(s); sequence the tasks required; plan delivery in the time available; set deadlines and manage the delivery of products and processes within these deadlines; generally, keep work on track.
- Review and synthesize findings from dialogues and the assessment into outcomes and priority actions in the HIV response sustainability roadmap, consider barriers, risks and opportunities, set out pathways of change, and sequence the identified sustainability priorities.
- Coordination and facilitation of the roadmap development process, including:
 - Gather large volumes of information through desk reviews and qualitative interviews, data analysis, and stakeholder analysis.
 - Conduct stakeholder analysis, prepare concept notes and/or plans and conduct stakeholder dialogues and consultations to validate and foster consensus, ensuring broad participation.
 - Establish systems and processes for effective sharing of information and data with subject matter consultant(s), TWG and other stakeholders as will be needed.
 - Coordinate regular meetings of the technical task teams, technical working group and core team.
- Prepare and provide progress reports and presentations to the TWG and country stakeholders as will be required.
- Support the country to develop a comprehensive picture of the status of its HIV and TB response across five domains and begin to assess its sustainability.
- The consultant will apply the detailed UNAIDS HIV Sustainability assessment tool, and other tools as may be provided or developed, to assess 2 of the 5 domains of the HIV and TB response: a) Political Leadership, b) Sustainable and equitable financing. https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/feature-stories/2024/april/20240430_sustainability

Deliverables

- Inception Report.
- HIV and TB response Sustainability Assessment Report.
- Documentation of the National Sustainability Dialogue.
- Documentation of the overall processes and approaches used.
- Progress reports as may be required.
- Sustainability Roadmap Part A – synthesis document providing the HIV and TB response sustainability vision, goals, and integrated and selective prioritized high-level outcomes, pathways for change and Key inputs for the transformation plan for HIV and TB response impact by and beyond 2030 in Lesotho.

Working arrangements

- The Consultant will report to the National TWG leading this assignment through the Chair.
- The Consultant will work closely with the Secretariat supporting implementation of this assignment and with the Chairs of the various task teams under the TWG.
- The TWG will provide the Consultant with detailed guidance, an analytical resource package, tools, and documents to facilitate successful delivery of this assignment.
- The Consultant will work closely with another consultant who will be recruited later in July and will provide technical leadership in the other three domains of a) Enabling Laws and Policies; b) Services and solutions and c) Systems.

Duration: 35 days from July to December 2024


Required Skills and Experience

- A Masters degree in Public Health, epidemiology, Social Science, Economics or another related field.
- A strong background in strategic and operational planning, with specific expertise in HIV/AIDS and TB and understanding of the Lesotho context.
- Experience managing complex projects and large volumes of information
- Excellent analytical skills in qualitative and quantitative data analysis and secondary data analysis
- Familiarity with sustainability assessments and good understanding of health and/or HIV financing landscape.
- Demonstrated track record of writing and editing of high-level documents on HIV in English and fluency in spoken English.
- Ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships and engagement with government, development partners and civil society.
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills.
- Knowledge of spoken Sesotho is key.

Application Requirements

Interested individuals should submit the following in one email to: sustainability@nac.org.ls copying MatlanyaneM@unaids.org by close of business on 20th June 2024.

- An expression of interest maximum 2 pages outlining how they will undertake the assignment and indicating a daily consultancy rate in \$USD.
- A curriculum vitae demonstrating relevant experience and skills as required in the terms of reference.
- Evidence of similar assignments completed and /or references.



Lesotho National Development Corporation

PRIVATE BAG A96
MASERU 100
TEL: 22312012
FAX: 22310038
Website: www.lndc.org.ls

Tender for Rehabilitation of Mants'ebo Ring Road Maputsoe Industrial Complex, Maputsoe

ITT#: LNDC-PDM-20240104-1

The Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) invites tenders from Category A Contractors as set out in the Tender Document, for the Rehabilitation/upgrading of Mants'ebo Ring Road in Maputsoe Industrial Estate in Leribe District (1.5km).

To be eligible for consideration, the bidder must be a locally registered and licensed Contractor with a categorization A certificate from the Roads Directorate.


Compulsory site visit and pre bid briefing session shall be held on Friday **21st of June 2024 at 10:30am** at Maputsoe Industrial Estate at 28°53'29.9"S,27 ° 54'31.4"E.


Interested and eligible bidders may obtain the tender document by paying a non-refundable fee of **Two thousand Maloti (M2,000.00)** to the finance office. **The Bidding documents will be available from Monday 24th of June 2024.**

Tenders must be deposited in the **tender box** situated at 1st floor LNDC Development House Block A reception area and a soft copy of the tender document must be submitted on flash disk enclosed in the bid submission on or before **Friday 19th of July 2024 at 12:00pm**. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. Bids will be opened publicly immediately thereafter.

All bids must be accompanied by valid traders' license, tax clearance, Roads Directorate categorization certificate, intent to form a JV where applicable, and proof of authorized signatory.

The LNDC reserves the right to cancel the tender, reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The corporation is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.





THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
INVITATION TO TENDER NO: 02 OF 2024/2025
TENDER TITLE: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LAPTOPS, DESKTOPS AND PRINTER FOR BUREAU OF STATISTICS (BOS)

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MoFDP) has received funds from Government of Lesotho (GoL) for acquisition of gadgets equipment for the achievement of its mandate to collect, process, analyze and disseminate information relating to Labour Force in Lesotho in order to facilitate formulation of relevant employment policies and programs.. The Ministry invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of computer equipment. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Tendering. The ITT has **three lots** and bidders are free to bid for **one lot or more**.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be available to the interested bidders upon payment of a **non-refundable fee of LSL 2,000.00 (two thousand Maloti only)**. The method of payment shall be in cash and the bidding documents must be collected in person at Planning Procurement Unit office number **124**. While payment must be made at 1st floor office number **262** - accounts office. Clarification requests on bidding documents will be allowed up to the day before submission date line, during office hours between 9:30 am until 3:30 pm. **A tender security of 1% of bid price** shall accompany all bids.

Bids must be deposited on or before **2nd July 2024 at 12: 00 HRS** in the tender box situated at Finance House, 3rd floor, Government Complex. Bids arriving after the closing date time shall be rejected. Tenders will be opened in the presence of bidders or representatives at **14: 30 hours** on the same day.

The address for procurement of bidding documents, clarification requests and bid submission is:
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Procurement Unit
P.O. Box 630
Maseru 100.
Tel no. 22 317433 / 266 22 328187

Activity	Dates
ITT Issued	23 May 2024
Clarification dates	23 May – 28 June 2024
Deadline for obtaining Tender Document	01 July, 2024
ITT Close	02 July 2024 at 12:00 noon
Tender opening	02 July 2024 at 14: 30 hours
Evaluation and tender award	19 July 2024

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning is not bound to accept the lowest at any bid also reserves the right to reject or cancel the contract in any legal or corrupt practices have been connected with one award.





Request for Bids

Employer: Lesotho Electricity Company (Pty) Ltd
Project: Lesotho Renewable Energy and Energy Access Project (LREEAP)
Contract title: Electrification of villages at Belo Industrial Area in Butha-Buthe
Country: Lesotho
Credit No.: 6532-LS
RFB No: LS-LEC-401832-CW-RFB
Issued on: 26th May, 2024

- The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Lesotho Renewable Energy and Energy Access Project (LREEAP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **Electrification of villages at Belo Industrial Area in Butha-Buthe**.
- The Lesotho Electricity Company (Pty) Ltd now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following works at Belo Industrial Area:
 - Extension and Construction of 11/33kV electrical distribution line.
 - Installation of 11/400 or 33/400 kV transformers.
 - Construction of 0.4kv (LV) lines.
 - Service connection to households.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers **World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" September 2023 (Fifth Edition) ("Procurement Regulations")** and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **the Lesotho Electricity Company (Pty) Ltd, Mr. Mokheseng Mokuoane, Project Manager LREEAP LEC email: makhabanel@lec.co.ls Cc mokuoane@lec.co.ls** and inspect the bidding document during office hours 08H00 to 1700 hours at the

address given below.

- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of **a nonrefundable fee of LSL1,000.00 (One Thousand Lesotho Loti)**. The method of payment will be direct deposit or bank transfer into the below banking details and sending of proof of payment (POP) into the below email address shown below. The document will be sent by email. The banking details:

Account Holder: SREP Grant (TF-1681) Lesotho Electricity Company
Bank: Nedbank
Account Number: 11990115232
Branch Code: 390161
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **27th June, 2024 at 10H00**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **27th June, 2024 at 10H30**. Bidders are notified that there will be a pre-bid meeting on **13th June, 2024 at 09H30 at Moroeroe Guest House in Butha-Buthe**. A site visit to the Project site shall be convened on the same day; **13th June, 2024 at 11H00 and the point of assembly is Moroeroe Guest House**.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration using the relevant form provided in the bidding document
- The address referred to above is:

Lesotho Renewable Energy and Energy Access Project (LREEAP) LEC
Attn: Mr. Mokheseng Mokuoane
120 Lancers Road, Opposite New State House,
Maseru West, Lesotho
Email: makhabanel@lec.co.ls Cc. mokuoane@lec.co.ls



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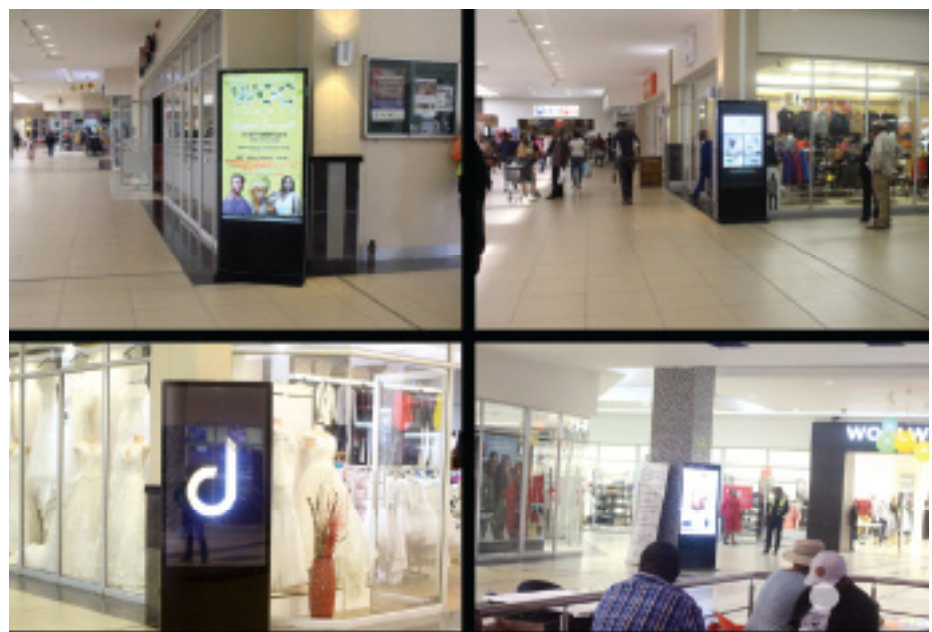
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Vinyl Escapade to light up Ba.One

Arts

Pheello Mosesi

The annual extravaganza known as Vinyl Escapade, an event for deep house heads, will illuminate Ba.One on December 14 this year as it marks its fifth consecutive year.

This unique event, founded in 2019 by Tšolo Chabeli, known by his stage name Deep Taac, and Moseli Tsoeunyane, has become a staple for music aficionados.

Vinyl Escapade is a celebration of deep house music, distinguished by its exclusive use of vinyl records by all participating artists and DJs. According to Deep Taac, this choice adds an unparalleled nostalgic charm to the event, providing attendees with an authentic and immersive musical experience.

The event is not just a gathering; it's a testament to the vibrant

deep house and underground music culture. With its fifth edition on the horizon, Vinyl Escapade promises to attract a diverse crowd of music enthusiasts, all united by their love for the genre and appreciation for vinyl's unique sound.

"The most recent event was held on February 10, 2024, at Kaycees Club in Roma," said Deep Taac.

The roots of Vinyl Escapade can be traced back to the Lesotho Deep House Movement (LesMove), a collective formed in 2013 by a trio of visionary youth.

Like Vinyl Escapade itself, LesMove was born out of a deep passion for music and a desire to create meaningful connections within the community.

As Deep Taac explains, LesMove has evolved from a grassroots movement to a driving force behind Lesotho's deep house scene.

Through collaborations with local entities and international partners like Kanzen Records Radio, LesMove has been able to showcase its talent both on the airwaves and through a series of successful local events.

"As our movement continued to grow, we recognized the importance of building a strong connection with our community, and to manifest this deep passion, we decided to create a dedicated event. In doing so, we collaborated with fellow local enthusiasts who represent various entities," said Deep Taac.

This year's Vinyl Escapade promises an unforgettable lineup, featuring performances from local legends like Montek, known for pioneering the Vinyl movement with Montek Sounds, as well as turntable virtuosos Saint Mitch and K. Mitnik.

Looking ahead, Deep Taac and the rest of the LesMove team are committed to nurturing Lesotho's deep house community and taking it to even greater heights.

"We have an active collaboration with Kanzen Records Radio, a prominent online broadcaster headquartered in South Africa. They bring forth a monthly platform where LesMove showcases reverberate. Within these broadcasts, both local and international guests find their place," hinted Deep Taac.

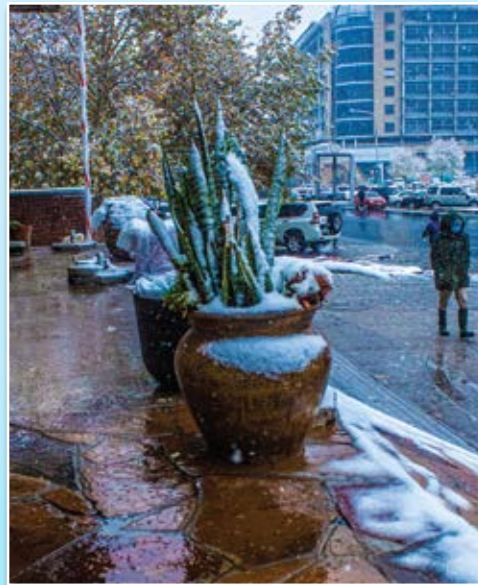
Beyond the airwaves, Deep Taac revealed that LesMove also set in motion a series of local events that unequivocally validated the viability of our concepts and the resonance of our ideas.

"This validation fuels our aspiration to nurture a fully-fledged deep house community, a vision gaining remarkable traction locally. The growing recognition emboldens us to elevate the Lesotho Deep House Movement to event loftier summits," he said.



Founder of Vinyl Escapade event T'solo Deep Taac Chabeli

SNOW IN PICTURES



SPORTS

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho’s multiple cross-country cycling star, Tumelo Makae has not made the cut for the upcoming 2024 Olympics Games’ mountain bike cross-country event.

Makae was not named among the 36 selected male riders to take part in the global competition, which kicks off from July 26 to August 11 this year.

The African continent will be represented in Paris by South Africa, which ranks 13th in the world rankings, and Namibia, which ranks second behind South Africa in the African continental championships.

The last quota place, which was a universality invitation, was awarded to Liechtenstein, a small country in Europe that has never had an athlete in the mountain bike category before.

In reaction to Makae’s misfortune, the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) issued a statement stating that Makae had consistently raised the flag of Lesotho on the African continent and around the world.

LNOC said Makae was currently in Switzerland preparing to race in a series of competitions over there.

“The NOC is very proud of his achievements and his determination to earn the quota place for Paris 2024. In the Paris 2024 Mountain Bike qualification system, the top eight ranked

Olympics heartbreak for Makae



Lesotho’s mountain bike champion, Tumelo Makae

NOCs earn two quota places and NOCs ranked nine to 19 earn one place. There are a further seven places allocated to NOCs following results in Continental Championships and World Championships. The final two places are reserved for the host country and universality invitation. Liechtenstein is ranked 83rd in the world rankings,” LNOC concluded.

On his part, the Public Relations Officer of the Federation of Cycling Lesotho, Morie Malefane said they were saddened by the misfortune of missing the Olympic quota.

“Lesotho ranked position three in Africa and 47 in the world, Makae is ranked position eight with 50 points in Africa. We had all hopes that Makae would make it to the quota through the recognition of his hard work, his rankings, and his country’s ranking globally however, it seemed his miss on points mattered more,” Malefane said.

“There are countries like Honduras which ranks position eight in Europe and position 87 in the world with their athlete who comes way after Makae but they were given the chance to make it to the quota,” Malefane stated.

Nkhasi, Makitisi impress in SA half marathon

Seabata Mahao

Long-distance runners, Namakoe Nkhasi and Mokulubete Makatise obtained second and third positions respectively at the recent Nelson Mandela Bay Half Marathon held in Eastern Cape, South Africa.

The grueling half marathon, which took place last Saturday in the wet and windy Gqeberha, attracted more than 1,000 runners to celebrate its 10th edition.

Nkhasi crossed the finish line in 1:04:04 hours in the men’s race, while her counterpart Makatise finished third in 1:13:39 hours in the women’s race.

Kamohelo Mofolo, another male Lesotho runner finished in fourth place with a running time of 1:04:05 hours. Lesotho’s Jobo Khatoane finished outside of the top ten positions in 12th in 1:05:25 hours.

The men’s race was won by Brazilian Olympian, Elroy Gelant, a decade after his first victory in the 21km race. Gelant, who won the inaugural edition of the race back in 2014, crossed the finish line in 1:03:54 hours.

In the women’s race, Makatise beat all South African runners in their own backyard to finish third behind two Ethiopian athletes Tadu Nare (1:12:01 hours) and Diniya Abaraya, who crossed the finish line in 1:12:31 hours.

Makatise remains the national record holder for the women’s half marathon with a time of 1:09:45 hours, which she set in 2023. The men’s corresponding record is held by Tebello Ramakongana of 1:00:35 hours, also set in 2023.

Also appearing in the same marathon was Lesotho’s female rising star, ‘Malineo Mahloko, who finished in eighth position with a running time of 1:16:00 hours.



Lesotho’s marathoner, Mokulubete Makatise and fellow athletes

Likuena take aim at Zimbabwe

Seabata Mahao

The senior national team, Likuena, will hope to maintain their unbeaten start to their 2026 World Cup qualifier campaign when they face Zimbabwe later today in Gauteng Province, South Africa.

The Leslie Notši-led team will have to quickly regroup as they will then lock horns with Rwanda a few days later in Durban, South Africa, where Lesotho will be the hosts due to the country's lack of FIFA-approved playing facilities.

The constantly improving Likuena last weekend drew 1-1 with Namibia in a training match ahead of the two qualifier matches.

Having opened their 2026 World Cup qualifier campaign with draws against Nigeria and Benin respectively, Likuena are in high spirits going into their next matches according to coach, Notši.

"The preparations have gone well, and what is good is that the players are focused, bubbly, and rearing to go. Everybody understands why we are here as a group and the foreign-based players are also here," Notši said.

"We all know that Zimbabwe in our region has been a dominant football country winning the Council of Southern African Football Association (COSAFA) Cups while most of their players in their squad are based outside their borders in Europe, South Africa, etc."

He said playing them was going to demand a lot, and they were looking forward to the contest. "We are still a work in progress and it's good to play such nations."

He said Rwanda should not be taken lightly as it has already beaten South Africa, and could therefore prove to be tricky for them.

Likuena's called-up squad to face Zimbabwe and Rwanda includes a healthy mix of local players and those based outside the country.

The goalkeeping department is made up of captain, Sekhoane Moerane of Orbit College, South Africa, Tankiso Chaba (LCS FC), and Ntsane Molise of Linare FC.

The defenders include Motlomelo Mkwana (BDF XI FC, Botswana), Fusi Matlabe (Home Defenders FC, South Africa), Rethabile Mokokoane (Matlama FC), Rethabile Rasethuntša (Linare FC), Thabang Malane (LCS FC), Mohai Mohai (Matlama FC), Thabo Makhele (Chippa United FC, South Africa), and Thabo Matsoele of Bantu FC.



WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS



LIKUENA SQUAD LIST FOR ZIMBABWE AND RWANDA

GK

SEKHOANE MOERANE

GK

TANKISO CHABA

GK

NTSANE MOLISE

DF

MOTLOMELO MKWANAZI

DF

FUSI MATLABE

DF

RETHABILE MOKOKOANE

DF

RETHABILE RASETHUNTŠA

DF

THABANG MALANE

DF

MOTETE MOHAI

DF

THABO MATSOELE

DF

THABO MAKHELE

MD

LISEMA LEBOKOLLANE

MD

LEHLOHONOLO MATSAU

MD

THABO LESAOANA

MD

TLOTISO PHATSISI

MD

TSWARELO BERENG

MD

TUMELO KHUTLANG

MD

TŠEPO TOLOANE

MD

LEHLOHONOLO FOTHOANE

MD

TŠEPANG SEFALI

MD

NEO MOKHACHANE

MD

TEBOHO LETSEMA

FW

JANE THABANTŠO

FW

MOTEBANG SERA

FW

LEMOHANG LINTŠA

TECHNICAL STAFF

LESLIE NOTŠI

HEAD COACH

BOB MAPISO

ASSISTANT COACH

SAM KETSEKILE

GOALKEEPER COACH

LITSEKHO MAHASE

PHYSIO COACH

DR. THAPFELD SEPHOHA

TEAM DOCTOR

TANKI PUTSOANE

SPORTS MEDICINE

LEHLOHONOLO THOTANTANA

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Likuena provisional squad for 2026 World Cup Qualifiers against Zimbabwe and Rwanda

The midfielders are Lisema Lebokollane (Linare FC), Lehlohonolo Matsau (LDF FC), Thabo Lesaoana (Bantu FC), Tlotliso Phatsisi (Sekhukhuni United FC, South Africa), Tshwarelo Bereng (Orbit College, South Africa), Tumelo Khutlang (Lioli FC), Tšepo Toloane (LDF FC), Lehlohonolo Fothoane (Bantu FC), Tšepang Sefali (Linare FC), Neo Makhachane (VTM FC, Botswana), and Teboho Letsema of Sekhukhuni United FC,

South Africa.

The front line is made up of Jane Thabantšo (Matlama FC), Motebang Sera (Royal AM FC, South Africa, and Lemohang Lintša of Limkokwing University FC.



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