

# Newsday

...pacing standards

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## SERVICE DELIVERY COLLAPSES, BRIBERY ON THE RISE

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# Service delivery collapses, bribery on the rise

Lehlohonolo Motšoare



The most recent Afrobarometer study has revealed alarming levels of difficulty and corruption faced by Basotho when attempting to obtain essential government identity documents and other services.

The study, conducted by Advision Lesotho, paints a grim picture of the systemic issues plaguing public service delivery in the country.

Advision Lesotho interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Basotho in March 2024. This sample size provides country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.

Previous surveys were conducted in Lesotho in 2000, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2020, and 2022.

According to the latest survey results published yesterday, nearly three in ten Basotho attempted to secure crucial documents such as birth certificates, driver's licenses, passports, voter's cards, or permits from the government in the past year.

Shockingly, a staggering 64 percent of these individuals reported that obtaining these documents was an arduous task, with half of them describing the process as "very difficult".

The most distressing revelation from the survey is the prevalence of bribery. Approximately 22 percent of respondents admitted to paying bribes to facilitate the issuance of required documents, a drastic increase from six percent in 2017.

This alarming trend underscores a deep-seated issue of corruption within government service delivery, where citizens are compelled to resort to unlawful means simply to access their rightful documents.

Furthermore, the report highlights an alarming statistic regarding police assistance. Of the 21 percent who sought help from the police in the past year, a troubling 12 percent disclosed that they had to grease palms with bribes to obtain the necessary assistance.

In the healthcare sector, although to a lesser extent, four percent of respondents disclosed paying bribes to health workers or hospital staff to access medical care or services.

While comparatively lower, this still reflects a troubling trend of corruption impacting critical sectors that are vital for the well-being of the citizens.

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life.

Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys are currently underway. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

## Widespread lived poverty among Basotho

Earlier this week, on Tuesday this week, Advision Lesotho released a sobering report detailing the stark realities of lived poverty among Basotho, alongside their priorities for government action.

The findings, based on a comprehensive survey, highlight significant challenges faced by the population, especially in rural areas and among women.

According to the report, a staggering 85 percent of Basotho indicated that they or a house-

hold member went without a cash income at least once in the past year.

Sixty percent experienced shortages of food, while half endured periods without access to necessary medical care and water.

The survey also revealed that 59 percent of Basotho experienced moderate or high levels of lived poverty in the previous year, marking a notable 11-percentage-point decrease compared to 2020.

Despite this improvement, disparities persist, with rural areas and women disproportionately affected. Specifically, 67 percent of rural residents and 62 percent of women reported moderate or high-lived poverty, compared to 49 percent and 54 percent respectively in urban areas and among men.

Education also emerged as a significant factor influencing poverty levels, with 76 percent of respondents with no formal education and 66 percent with only primary schooling experiencing moderate or high-lived poverty.

In contrast, this figure drops to 33 percent among those with post-secondary qualifications, highlighting the role of education in economic resilience.

Furthermore, age played a role, as older citizens reported higher levels of moderate or high-lived poverty compared to younger respondents. Sixty-four percent of older adults experienced such poverty, compared to 50 percent among those aged 18-25 years.

Unsurprisingly, unemployment emerged as the most pressing concern for citizens, cited by 63 percent of respondents as one of their top three priorities for government action.

Infrastructure and roads followed closely, mentioned by 47 percent, while issues of water

supply (23 percent), electricity (20 percent), and poverty alleviation (18 percent) also featured prominently.

The survey reflected deep dissatisfaction with government performance in addressing these priorities.

A significant majority of Basotho rated the government poorly in creating employment opportunities (87 percent), improving the living standards of the poor (68 percent), providing water and sanitation services (65 percent), ensuring reliable electricity supply (58 percent), and maintaining infrastructure like roads and bridges (58 percent).

## Historical context of poverty in Lesotho

The Lesotho Poverty Assessment: Progress and Challenges in Reducing Poverty, produced jointly by the World Bank and the Lesotho's Bureau of Statistics in 2019, found that the poverty rate in Lesotho fell from 56.6 percent to 49.7 percent between 2002 and 2017, driven by a reduction in inequality as a result of the expansion of the country's social protection programs and an increase in wage incomes among the poor.

However, the assessment found that poverty was still widespread and economic vulnerability persisted with more than 75 percent of the population either poor or vulnerable to poverty.

Urban areas experienced a 13-percentage point reduction in poverty from 41.5 percent to 28.5 percent, while in rural areas, poverty decreased marginally from 61.3 percent to 60.7 percent.

Poverty increased in the rural highlands to 67.8 percent in 2017, an increase of 10.9 percentage points from 56.9 percent in 2002. It also increased in the Rural Senqu River Valley.

This assessment showed that between 2002 to 2017, urban areas experienced greater poverty reduction following improvements in education and increases in incomes from well-paying jobs largely in the services sector.

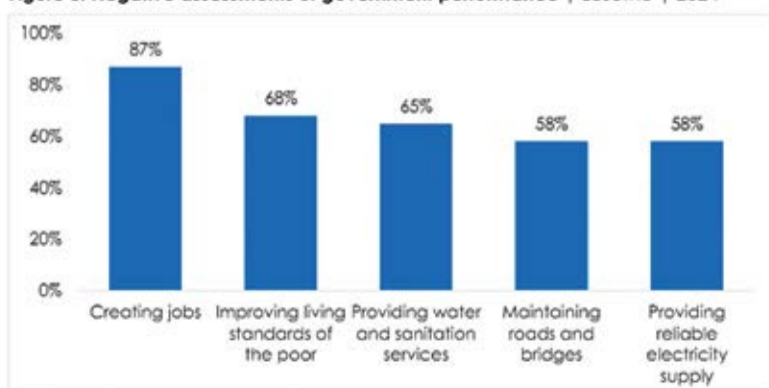
During the same period, poverty in rural areas stagnated due to slow growth in agricultural incomes, a fall in remittances, which serve as a buffer when weather shocks occur, and the vulnerability of the rural population to such shocks.

Poverty remained highly concentrated in rural areas where four out five of poor citizens live and where agriculture plays a major role in livelihoods. Key challenges in the agriculture sector include climate change and environmental shocks.

The report also showed that despite the growing urban-rural poverty divide, inequality fell as a result of expansion of Lesotho's social protection programs and an increase in wage incomes among the poor.

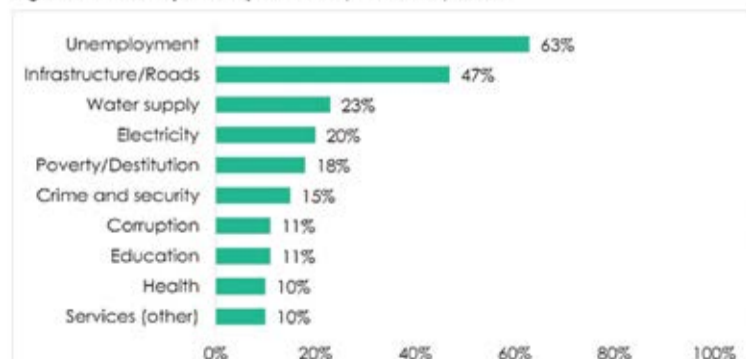
"Lesotho is now more equal than its neighbors, but with a Gini coefficient\* of 44.6, it remains one of the 20 percent most unequal countries in the world," the report read.

Figure 5: Negative assessments of government performance | Lesotho | 2024



Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Creating jobs? Improving living standards of the poor? Providing water and sanitation services? Maintaining roads and bridges? Providing reliable electricity supply? (% who say "fairly badly" or "very badly")

Figure 4: Most important problems | Lesotho | 2024



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per person; figure shows percentage of respondents who cite each problem as one of up to three priorities.)

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# Education PS dodges jail time

Staff Reporter

The Principal Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Education and Training, Ratšiu Majara, this week dodged a six-month imprisonment over his Ministry's failure to execute a Labour Court's directive.

Majara appeared before the Court on Monday after being tracked down by the police following the issuance of a warrant for his arrest for contempt of court.

The Labour Court had last week ordered his arrest following his and the ministry's repeated failure to obey different judiciary bodies' directives to pay several teachers for different Quthing and Mohale's Hoek schools, who had been underpaid.

He undertook before the court to ensure that the eight teachers who are owed by the government, will be fully paid by December 10 this year.

Prior to the Labour Court's arrest order, Majara and the Ministry representatives had failed to appear before two hearings by the Directorate of Dispute Prevention and Resolution (DDPR) and also failed to execute their two corresponding default judgments.

According to the court documents, Majara failed to pay varying amounts to eight school teachers for underpayment, unpaid wages, hardship and acting allowances after the DDPR had ruled in their favour.

Trouble started when applicants, Nthabiseng Hesman, 'Matholang Ntjana, 'Mamotiki Khutlang, Ntšepeng Tlali and 'Mathapelo Rankibitle brought a pay dispute against their employers before DDPR for arbitration.

The teachers were represented by the Construction, Mining, Quarrying and Allied Workers (CMQ) union in the dispute before the DDPR.

The Teaching Service Commission, Teaching Service Department, Education Ministry's Principal Secretary Ratšiu Majara and the Attorney General were the first to fourth respondents in the case heard in September 2023.



Principal Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Education and Training, Ratšiu Majara

Ntjana testified before the DDPR that the government owed her M95 457.04 plus M2 475.00 in salary underpayment and hardship allowance underpayment accrued from 2018 to 2020. Hesman said she was owed M21 000.00 plus M27 375.00 for salary underpayment and hardship allowance underpayment. Khutlang said she was owed M123 210.00 for salary underpayment.

Tlali said she was owed M186 440.00 and M40 754.40 for salary underpayment and acting allowance underpayment, while Rankibitle was owed M71 697.00 for salary underpayment, according to the documents before the DDPR.

The court records showed that on the day of the hearing of the matter, all the respondents did not show up before the DDPR despite hav-

ing been notified. Leading up to the judgement, the DDPR indicated that in the absence of any evidence to rebutt that of the applicants, their version would be assumed as the correct one.

"The Labour Court in the Mokoaleli vs Standard Bank and another LC/REV/21/2007 held that a right to be heard can only be given to a party who is willing to utilise it. The Tribunal subscribes to the view that the conduct of the respondent on this instance is tantamount to waiver and unwillingness to utilize this right.

"This is premised on the fact that on the 11th August 2023, 'Mathabo/Matsebo Theoha who is a personal secretary of the third respondent signed the notice of set down. On the same date, the notice was served to Dathney Lebese, who was the acting director of the second respondent. On the very same day, the set down

was served upon one Reitumetse Motopi of the fourth respondent.

"That notice of set down reflects the 14th September 2023 at 9am at Quthing as the date, time and place of hearing this case. That is proof that respondents were aware of the date and time of hearing but failed to show up for reasons not known to the Tribunal.

"There is no reason why the provisions of section 227 (8) (c) of the Labour Code Amendment Act of 2000 cannot be implemented in this case. In the Metropolitan Lesotho vs Thabo Daniel Thoso LC/REV/251/06, the Labour Court held that default judgments are machinery by which courts fight the delay in the administration of justice, and they are not intended to be the denial of the audi alterom partem precept," the DDPR said.

The DDPR then delivered a default judgment in favour of the applicants in December 2023, and directed for the respondents to pay the teachers within 30 days of receipt of the arbitration award.

A similar case involving Atang Simon Makoetlane (owed M72 960.00 plus 25 800.00), Thabang Lechesa (owed M84 512.00 ) and Nteea Nkhahle from Mohale's Hoek against the same respondents about the same issues was handed down by the DDPR in December 2023 in favour of the applicants, with the exception of Nkhahle's claim, which was dismissed.

The respondents failed to head the two directives of the two cases, and after 30 days the teachers approached the Labour Court seeking enforcement of the DDPR awards.

In response, the Labour Court on April 30 this year, ordered for the Ministry of Education to pay the aggrieved teachers within 31 days in accordance with the DDPR awards.

But the 31 days passed without the Ministry of Education taking any action, and the Labour Court on June 6 then issued a warrant of arrest for Majara. He is scheduled to re-appear before the court on July 1.

# Maseru District Hospital inaugurated

Ntsoaki Motaung



Deputy Prime Minister Nthomeng Majara

... Marking major milestone in Lesotho's healthcare

The state-of-the-art Maseru District Hospital, a gift from the Chinese government to Lesotho, was officially inaugurated yesterday, marking a significant advancement in healthcare provision for the nation.

Speaking at the launch yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Nthomeng Majara highlighted the hospital's innovative approach, combining

traditional and Western medicine practices.

Majara recalled her recent visit with Health Minister Selibe Mochoboroane to Wuhan Hospital in China, where they observed first-hand the integration of these approaches to patient care.

"I was privileged to visit Wuhan Hospital with the Minister of Health and witness how they

combine traditional and Western medicine. We expect Maseru District Hospital to adopt a similar approach as we establish this partnership," Majara said.

She stated that Maseru District Hospital would collaborate with Wuhan Hospital, utilising telemedicine to enhance healthcare delivery.

Dr. Mary Stephen, acting WHO Representative to Lesotho, hailed the hospital's inauguration, noting its role in improving local healthcare services. Stephen described the facility as specialised, equipped with advanced medical technology aimed at providing high-quality care locally.

"This development will reduce the need for Basotho to seek treatment abroad, ensuring that specialized healthcare is accessible at home," Stephen affirmed.

She highlighted the strategic impact on Lesotho's healthcare system, anticipating a decrease in patient transfers to Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital (QMMH), which will enable QMMH to specialise in complex cases and enhance service delivery.

"It is anticipated to reduce the costs associated with transporting patients to the Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital referral hospital. This, in turn, will allow QMMH to specialise as a tertiary facility, focusing on handling only the most complex cases and alleviating the overcrowding that has sometimes compromised service delivery," she said.

Representing the People's Republic of China Government, LYU Liangzhong announced that the 18th Chinese Medical Team, currently at Motebang Hospital in Leribe, will transition to Maseru District Hospital to bolster operations.

He indicated that over 200 Basotho medical officials and workers have attended short-term training courses and seminars in China since

last year as part of human resource and capacity building efforts.

"In the future, China will support Lesotho's health policies, helping to strengthen the prevention and control system for communicable diseases, improve medical research, develop traditional medicine, and enhance medicine accessibility and affordability," he said.

"We also seek opportunities to support Lesotho in reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other communicable diseases," he added.

The Minister of Health, Selibe Mochoboroane, promised the nation that he would do everything in his power to ensure Basotho received quality healthcare services through the hospital. Mochoboroane emphasised that the state-of-the-art equipment at Maseru District Hospital positions the country to minimise the transfer of patients to South Africa.

"The equipment in the hospital necessitates that we have the required human capital in all departments. We need specialists and super-specialists to provide Basotho with the treatment they need in their home country," he said.

"I am pleased to inform everyone that there is consent from the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance to hire medical doctors, specialists, and nurses. Starting next week, job advertisements will be made available for eligible candidates to apply," he added.

Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane stated that Maseru District Hospital would alleviate the burden on QMMH, allowing it to function properly as the National Referral Hospital.

Matekane noted that services at Maseru District Hospital would include quality eye testing, treatment for diseases previously requiring expensive treatment in South Africa, dialysis, dermatology, intensive care, and more.

# Turning the tide: LHDA’s bold plan to secure sustainable future



**Kananelo Boloetse**

In March this year, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) unveiled an ambitious Ten-Year Strategy that promises to redefine the organization’s position from a fiscus-dependent entity to a self-sustaining State-Owned Enterprise (SoE).

This strategy marks a pivotal shift, addressing the inherent risks that have previously threatened the LHDA’s ability to effectively deliver its mandate and its existence.

Central to this transformation is the strategic goal of conserving and restoring Lesotho’s ecosystems, an effort that could significantly alter the environmental landscape of the nation.

This strategic move came at a crucial time. About three months after the LHDA unveiled this strategy, the world celebrated World Environment Day on June 5.

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and held annually since 1973, World Environment Day is the largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people across the world.

This year, the focus was on land restoration, halting desertification, and building drought resilience under the slogan “Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration.”

By aligning its goals with global environmental priorities, the LHDA is positioning itself as a leader in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation in Lesotho.

Historically, the LHDA has relied heavily on subvention funding, which has created financial bottlenecks, according to LHDA’s Chief Executive, Tente Tente.

Recognising the urgent need to realign with its foundational purpose, the LHDA’s new strategy seeks to enhance inclusive access to water and electricity, improve livelihoods, maximize economic opportunities, and uphold good corporate governance.

The goal of ecosystem conservation and

restoration stands out as a critical pillar in the LHDA’s comprehensive plan.

Under this strategic goal, the LHDA has outlined a detailed programme to tackle environmental degradation. This includes “integrated catchment management”, “climate change adaptation”, and “wetlands rehabilitation”.

It has committed to protecting 70 percent of critical wetlands by 2034, with a target of 1,225 hectares of wetlands undergoing ecological rehabilitation.

Moreover, 43,496 hectares of land are set to be brought under formal protection, with an additional 1,225 hectares earmarked for ecological restoration.

“The integrated catchment management (ICM) programme of the LHDA is aligned with the national ReNOKA initiative, which focuses on stakeholder engagement and participation,” explained Palesa Monongoaha, LHDA’s Environment Branch Manager.

“This ensures that stakeholders at all levels are involved in the planning and implementation of all initiatives within the ICM. These initiatives include climate adaptation and mitigation, as well as the conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of wetlands and rangelands,” Monongoaha added.

She further noted that LHDA was diversifying the livelihoods of communities within the LHWP catchments to reduce their dependency on natural resources and alleviate pressure on degraded rangelands and catchments.

Discussing the role local communities will play in implementing these environmental initiatives, Monongoaha emphasised that local labour was employed directly from the communities during rehabilitation measures.

“Upon completion, the same communities, who are the resource users, participate in assessing the rangelands and in the preparation and implementation of grazing plans based on the rangelands’ carrying capacities,” she explained.

She also highlighted that local structures

were empowered to manage natural resources in their respective areas, with LHDA facilitating the formation and registration of Grazing Associations.

“The LHDA has always worked with communities to execute environmental initiatives. We believe that shared accountability and ownership is the right model when dealing with shared resources between communities and the Project and this working formula will not change,” she said.

The expected outcomes from this strategic goal of ecosystem conservation and restoration are substantial.

Improved ecosystem health will enhance land cover, flood attenuation, water quantity and quality, and biodiversity. Additionally, reduced sedimentation loads will benefit water resources, essential for both human consumption and agriculture.

Despite its ambitious plans, the LHDA acknowledges several strategic risks that could impede progress, which it has made, areas of priority to enable the achievement of the strategy.

These include prioritisation of stakeholder engagement, and building organisational culture that is aligned with the ambitions of the new strategy. An ineffective policy and legislation environment, as well as vulnerabilities to climate change, are also key risks to the strategy.

The LHDA’s strategic plan aligns with existing projects aimed at improving land use, promoting sustainability, and building a greener, more prosperous future for the nation.

Lesotho, a small, high-altitude kingdom, faces significant environmental challenges. Unsustainable land management and the pressures of a growing rural population have strained the limited arable land.

More than three-quarters of Lesotho’s approximately 2 million people live in rural areas, with 70 percent of households depending on agriculture for their livelihoods. This heavy reliance has led to overgrazing,

over-cultivation, and damaging practices like rangeland burning.

Climate change exacerbates these issues, accelerating soil erosion, reducing water retention capacity, and increasing pest problems. Wetlands, crucial for water management, have been lost, further straining the landscape.

To combat these challenges, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in 2021 announced financing for a new government initiative: the Lesotho Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods (ROLL) project.

Supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OPEC Fund), this project aims to address unsustainable agricultural practices and climate change impacts at both community and landscape levels.

The ROLL project promotes an integrated landscape approach, focusing on sustainable land management and large-scale restoration of natural resources. By tackling rural poverty and environmental degradation together, the project aims to halt the downward spiral these issues create.

The initiative will also support the sustainable management of natural and productive lands, employing tools and methods to improve monitoring and measurement of biophysical and socioeconomic changes.

Additionally, it will encourage the sharing of lessons and successes among communities.

Stanley Damane, Lesotho’s Operational Focal Point to the GEF, said in 2021 that he expected the ROLL project would make a meaningful long-term difference in the country, where wool and mohair are important exports that are primarily produced by small-holder farmers.

“The ROLL project importantly builds on lessons learnt in natural resources management and restoration activities. Its focus on capacitating local communities and ensuring a shift in mindset for appreciation of the value of natural resources and integrated planning are key factors for success,” Damane said.

“The implementation approaches will be crucial to demonstrating multiple benefits for the different actors so communities will be able to continue with the regeneration activities after the project ends,” he added.

Monongoaha yesterday said that the LHDA collaborates with initiatives such as ROLL by sharing expertise and success stories.

To this end, the LHDA has participated in several meetings organised by ROLL, where experiences in implementing catchment rehabilitation measures were shared.

“The LHDA recognises the value of collaboration not only for sustainability but also for the opportunity to learn from others in the same space. We continue to engage and collaborate with like-minded organisations, government departments, and international partners in the execution of projects where we have similar interests,” she said.

“We welcome collaborations and the opportunities that emerge from synergies with experts, communities and stakeholders,” she added.

# BUSINESS

## The burden of public sector corruption on private business

**Bereng Mpaki**

Businesses in Lesotho face a significant corruption challenge at the hands of some unscrupulous public officials, a World Bank survey has revealed.

Among its findings, the Enterprise Survey (ES) revealed that 20 percent of interviewed business owners said they had been requested to pay bribes to obtain a construction permit, while four percent said they experienced the same thing while seeking to pay taxes.

Seven percent of the interviewees claimed they had experienced “at least one request from public officials across six different transactions including paying taxes, obtaining permits or licenses, and obtaining utility connections.”

A total of 150 Lesotho business owners and top managers were interviewed between May 2023 and December 2023 during the survey, which focuses on many aspects of the business environment.

By tracking changes in the business environment, the survey results allow policy-makers and researchers to see the effects of policy and regulatory reforms on firm performance.

The questions asked during the survey covered a wide range of topics including in-



agement practices, and informality, access to finance, innovation, labor, and perceptions about obstacles to doing business.

These factors are seen as either accommodating or constraining for business enterprises, and play an important role in whether an economy’s private sector will thrive or not.

An accommodating business environment is one that encourages firms to operate efficiently. Such conditions strengthen incentives for firms to innovate and to increase productivity — key factors for sustainable development.

A more productive private sector, in turn, expands employment and contributes taxes necessary for public investment in health, education, and other services. The ES is repeated every three years for a particular economy.

The survey noted that corruption places a heavy burden on businesses by increasing operating costs and creating a new layer of bureaucratic red tape that stifles business development.

“The corruption by public officials can be a major administrative and financial burden on firms. It creates an unfavorable business

environment by undermining operational efficiency and raising the costs and risks associated with running a private firm,” the survey said.

It added, however, that corruption by the officials may be fueled by bad business regulations.

“Inefficient regulations constrain firms’ operations as they present opportunities for soliciting bribes, where firms are required to make ‘unofficial’ payments to public officials to get things done. In many economies, bribes are common and quite high and they add to the bureaucratic costs in obtaining required permits and licenses.”

Apart from corruption, the survey also revealed the nine most common business environment constraints. According to the survey, 36 percent of interviewed business operators said access to finance was their major challenge, while 12 percent said political instability and tax rates were their business challenges.

Electricity connection (nine percent), inadequately educated workforce (six percent), crime theft and disorder (six percent), practices of the informal sector (five percent), customs and trade regulations (four percent), and access to land (three percent) are the other top doing business obstacles, according to the survey.

## Nedbank’s new campaign targets domestic tourism development

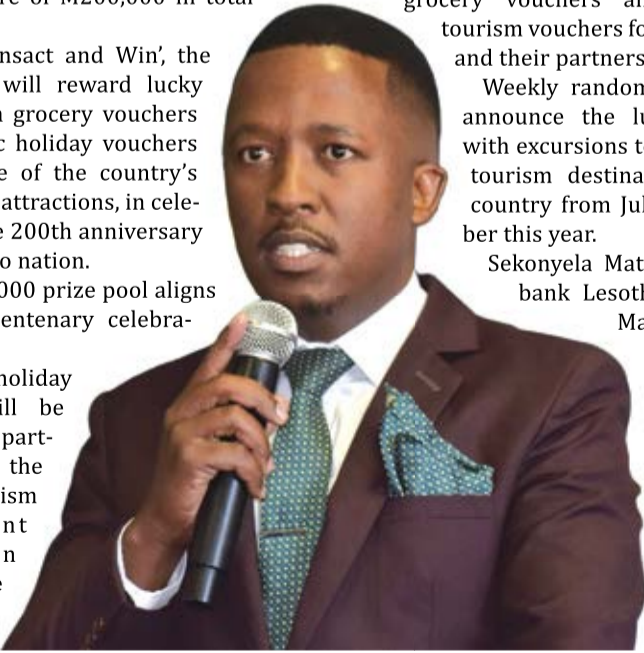
**Seabata Mahao**

Nedbank Lesotho has launched an exciting new campaign offering clients the chance to win a share of M200,000 in total prize money.

Titled ‘Transact and Win’, the competition will reward lucky winners with grocery vouchers and domestic holiday vouchers to visit some of the country’s finest tourist attractions, in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Basotho nation.

The M200,000 prize pool aligns with the bicentenary celebrations.

The holiday vouchers will be provided in partnership with the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC), the custodian of the



Nedbank Lesotho’s Head of Marketing and Communications, Sekonyela Matamane

tourism sector.

By swiping their bank cards to purchase various products and services, Nedbank clients will have the opportunity to win grocery vouchers and domestic tourism vouchers for themselves and their partners.

Weekly random draws will announce the lucky clients, with excursions touring iconic tourism destinations in the country from July to November this year.

Sekonyela Matamane, Nedbank Lesotho’s Head of Marketing and Communication, highlighted that this year’s campaign leverages partnerships with like-minded institutions.

“This year, we have initiated several new partnerships that are not typically on our records. We have enjoyed new forms of collaboration and are excited to have found common ground with another key stakeholder in the country’s economy,” Matamane said.

He stressed the significance of partnering with the LTDC, stating: “The LTDC is a key guardian and principal leader in shaping, growing, protecting, and ensuring the sustainability of Lesotho as a premier tourist destination.”

Matamane explained that Nedbank Lesotho aimed to make the 200th anniversary of the Basotho nation memorable for members of society, and tourism emerged as the ideal focus.

“We are delighted to launch a campaign that seeks to support the LTDC’s mandate in promoting domestic tourism,” he said.

He stressed the importance of Basotho appreciating and experiencing their coun-

try’s tourism treasures to better safeguard them for future development.

“We believe that a nation that knows her home is better placed to protect and promote it as a visitors’ paradise. Allowing Basotho to visit Lesotho will help them appreciate the gems this country has protected and developed over many years. Our campaign will feature prizes ranging from grocery vouchers to cash prizes, as we are, of course, a financial institution,” Matamane explained.

Tebello Thoola, the Head of Strategic Marketing for the LTDC, expressed optimism about the competition from Nedbank Lesotho, highlighting its potential to boost domestic tourism.

“This initiative will help our local people learn more about their country, enabling them to showcase it to other nations. This way, our own people will become well-informed about their country and serve as pillars of tourism,” Thoola said.

NOTICE OF GOING PUBLIC

Notice is hereby made that Mabee Financial Services PTY LTD is migrating from a private to a public company. All persons having an objection to this change are requested to lodge them with the Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Trade and Industries, Cooperatives and Marketing, PO Box 747, Maseru 100, Lesotho.

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



## Media challenged to advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

**Ntsoaki Motaung**

The Chairman of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA Lesotho) Kananelo Boloetse challenged the media of Lesotho to take action in making sure that Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) are also given attention as the process of National Reforms continues.

He said as the constitutional reforms process continues he had hoped that reporters and journalists directly reporting about SRHR issues would be on the forefront to say these rights are fundamental human rights and they should be included in the constitution of the country and be justiciable like any other rights such as right to life, freedom of expression and others.

Boloetse said SRHR are also fundamental human rights and they need to be included in the bill of rights.

“The journey of reforms has not been completed and media personnel still have that opportunity to lead the initiative to ensure that these rights are protected in the Bill of Rights. In that regard it is a challenge to journalists reporting about SRHR issues to take a step and advocate for these rights to be

included in the Bill of Rights,” he said.

Meanwhile, the UNFPA Representative to Lesotho Innocent Modisaotsile said the media is critical in amplifying the voices of the marginalised because many people suffer in many ways but they are unable to articulate issues that confront them.

He said young girls face challenges including giving birth at a young age, sexual violation, they end up living with HIV because of being violated as well as being forced into marriages.

Modisaotsile said these are the issues that UNFPA expect the media to help in amplifying them by being the voices of the marginalised as well as those who suffer daily but are not part of the broader media discussion.

He said governments make commitments at nationally, regionally, continentally and globally and it is really up to the media to ensure that the government account as well as other stakeholders who also make commitments.

“The two-day workshop is meant to reflect on the journey of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). These are the commitments made 30 years ago where over 179 countries came together to re-



UNFPA Representative to Lesotho Innocent Modisaotsile



Chairman of MISA Lesotho Kananelo Boloetse

flect on issues around population and development,” he said.

On behalf of the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology Dyke Sehloho indicated that over the past three decades, the ICPD has championed a bold transformative agenda placing human rights and dignity at the forefront of sustainable development.

ICPD agenda according to Sehloho has been instrumental in highlighting a critical role between population dy-

namics, human rights and sustainable development.

“It was underscored that empowering women and ensuring their rights and dignity are not ethical but also essential drivers for the progress of the societies,” he said.

He said the media as a cornerstone of society plays an indivisible role and has the power to shape narratives, influence public opinions and hold those in power accountable.

## Plight of children: Severe food poverty revealed



**Ntsoaki Motaung**

UNICEF has revealed that 1 in 4 children — 181 million children globally — are living in severe child food poverty.

This dire situation stems from a trifecta of injustice: inequity, conflict, and the merciless grip of the climate crisis. These children are up to 50 percent more likely

to endure the torment of life-threatening malnutrition and wasting.

Within the pages of UNICEF’s report, “Child Food Poverty: Nutrition Deprivation in Early Childhood,” Lesotho emerges as a grim example of this global tragedy.

Here, at least 28 percent of children are engulfed by severe child food poverty, while a staggering 55 percent teeter on the

edge of moderate deprivation.

Peering into the stark reality of diet disparity among Lesotho’s vulnerable children, the report revealed a heart-wrenching truth: only around 10 percent receive the sole nourishment of breast milk.

Approximately 5 percent rely solely on dairy, with a staggering 40 percent subsisting on starchy staples. For many, the richness of nutrient-dense foods remains an elusive dream, with 35 percent lacking essential dietary variety and 10 percent forced to endure the void of any recommended food group.

UNICEF issued a resounding call to action, urging national governments, development and humanitarian partners, donors, civil society, media, and academic and research organisations to prioritise child food poverty reduction.

This, they stressed, is imperative for achieving both global and national nutrition and development goals, as well as fulfilling children’s fundamental right to food and nutrition.

Additionally, UNICEF emphasised the critical need for stakeholders to revamp food systems to ensure that nutritious, diverse, and healthy foods are not only accessible and affordable but also the preferred option for feeding young children.

They underscored the importance of enforcing policies within the food and beverage industry to safeguard children from exposure to unhealthy foods and beverages.

The report highlighted that progress in ending severe child food poverty is disappointingly slow, although some regions and countries demonstrate that meaningful progress is indeed achievable.

However, a stark reality emerges: severe child food poverty afflicts children across both poor and non-poor households, revealing that household income alone is not the sole driver of this dire situation.

Moreover, the report underscored the alarming trend of children in severe child food poverty missing out on essential nutrient-rich foods, while unhealthy dietary choices become increasingly ingrained in their diets.

“The global food and nutrition crisis, compounded by localised conflicts and climatic shocks, is exacerbating severe child food poverty, particularly in fragile countries,” the report revealed.

It emphasises that severe child food poverty serves as a catalyst for child undernutrition, with the prevalence of this deprivation three times higher in countries with a high incidence of child stunting.

# Upholding the rule of law must start with public officials

The recent evasion of a six-month imprisonment by Ratšiu Majara, Principal Secretary (PS) of Lesotho's Ministry of Education and Training, is not just a legal matter—it is a glaring indictment of the state of governance and accountability within our public institutions.

Majara's dodging of court orders regarding the payment of owed salaries to teachers, as mandated by both the Directorate of Dispute Prevention and Resolution (DDPR) and subsequently reinforced by the Labour Court, raises serious concerns about the rule of law in our country.

Despite clear directives to settle outstanding dues to educators who have diligently served the nation, the Ministry of Education has failed to comply, leading to a warrant for Majara's arrest for contempt of court.

Public officials like Majara are entrusted with upholding the law, yet his actions—or rather, inactions—reflect a cavalier disregard for judicial decisions and a lack of respect for the institutions meant to ensure justice. This not only undermines the integrity of our legal system but also erodes public trust in the ability of the government to fulfill its responsibilities.

The implications extend beyond this specific case. They touch upon broader issues of governance, transparency, and accountability that are foundational to a functioning democracy. When public officials fail to abide by court orders, they set a dangerous precedent that can erode the fabric of justice and embolden others to similarly flout the law.

It is imperative that the Ministry of Education and Training, under Majara's leadership, immediately rectifies this situation by fulfilling the court-mandated payments to the affected teachers. Anything short of this undermines the very principles of fairness and justice that form the bedrock of our society.

Moreover, this incident underscores the urgent need for systemic reforms to strengthen compliance with court orders and enhance accountability across all levels of government. Leaders must lead by example, demonstrating unwavering commitment to the rule of law and the protection of citizens' rights.

As the judiciary prepares to revisit this case on July 1, it is our collective hope that justice will prevail. The resolution of this matter must send a clear message that in Lesotho, no one—especially those in positions of authority—is above the law.

Only through steadfast adherence to legal principles and the enforcement of court decisions can we ensure a society where justice is not just a concept, but a lived reality for all Basotho.

On a different note, the recent Afrobarometer study conducted by Advision Lesotho has unveiled deeply concerning realities about the state of public service delivery and poverty in Lesotho. The findings paint a grim picture of systemic challenges that continue to plague Basotho, particularly in accessing essential government services and combating widespread poverty.

According to the study, a significant proportion of Basotho face daunting obstacles when attempting to obtain crucial documents such as birth certificates, driver's licenses, and passports. Shockingly, 64 percent of respondents described the process as very difficult, with bribery emerging as distressingly common.

This pervasive corruption within government service delivery not only obstructs citizens' access to their rights but also undermines public trust in institutions meant to serve them.

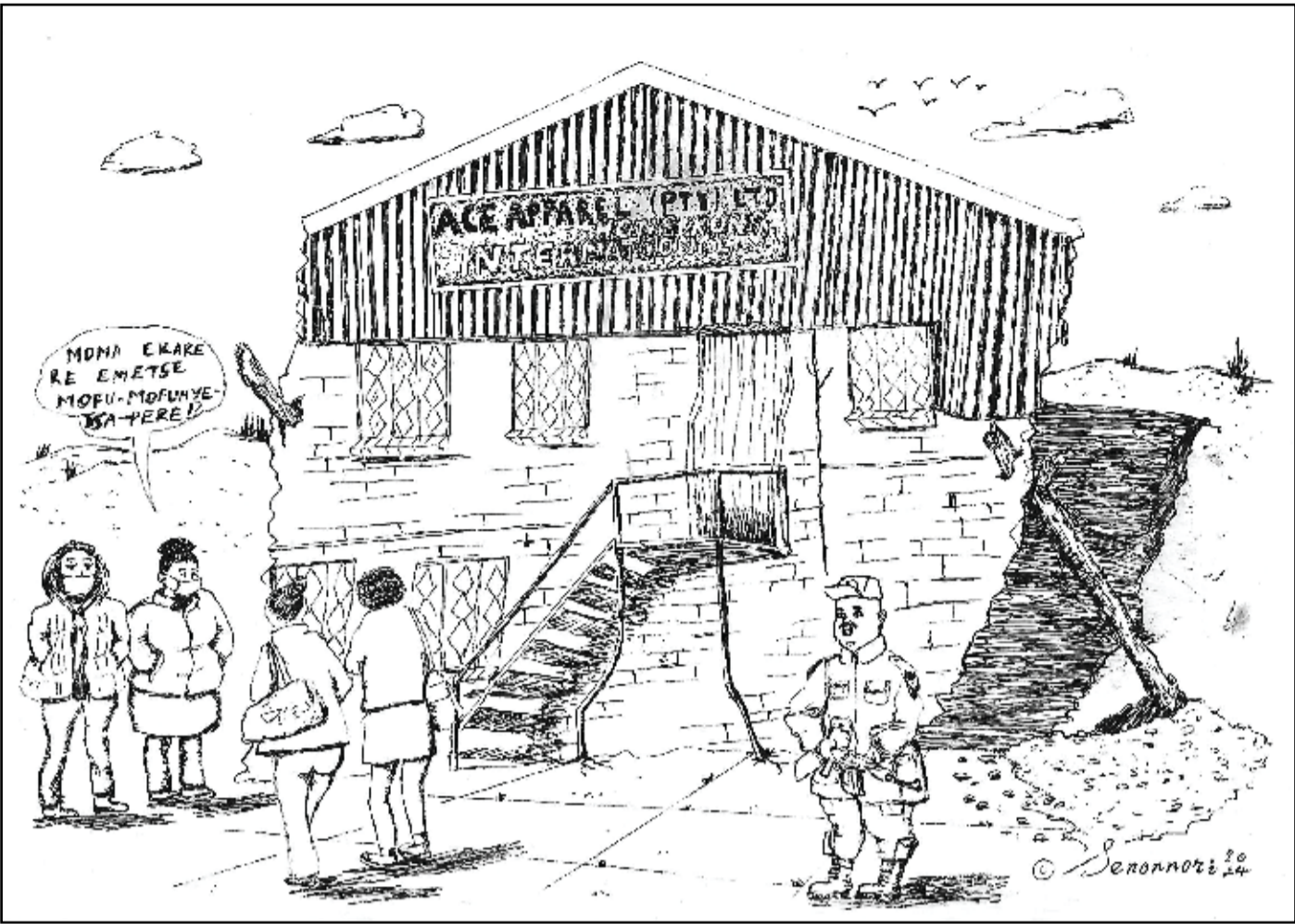
Equally distressing is the revelation that bribery extends beyond bureaucratic procedures. The study reports that a troubling 22 percent of respondents admitted to paying bribes to expedite document issuance, a stark increase from previous years.

Furthermore, corruption has infiltrated sectors vital to citizens' well-being, including healthcare and law enforcement, where bribery has become a barrier to accessing essential services.

In tandem with these findings, Advision Lesotho's report on lived poverty among Basotho underscores the urgent need for comprehensive government action.

Despite some progress since 2020, significant portions of the population—especially in rural areas and among women—continue to endure severe economic hardships. A staggering 85 percent reported periods without cash income, while essentials like food and medical care remain unaffordable or inaccessible to many.

These realities demand a robust and immediate response from the government. Efforts must be intensified to root out corruption within public institutions, strengthen accountability mechanisms, and ensure equitable access to essential services for all Basotho.





## COMMON CONCERN

Likhapha Ntlo-Ea-Lefu

# Motsoahae Thomas Thabane: The man who abhors corruption

The once shining political career of nate Motsoahae Thomas Thabane did not conclude in a favourably splendour note one could have envisaged. It finished with a disgraceful push-off as a Prime Minister by his party, the All Basotho Convention (ABC)'s Members of Parliament (MPs), and being succeeded by Dr Moeketsi Majoro.

As if that was not enough, the octogenarian found himself in a predicament with courts as he was charged with the suspicion of being mixed up in the plot that brutally murdered his wife 'm'e Lipolelo Thabane. Lesotho Times has since profiled the dropping of charges due to the death of a witness in this case.

Before being Prime Minister of Lesotho, Ntate Thabane worked in the government as a Principal Secretary (PS) for Health during Chief Leabua Jonathan's reign. He also served during General Metsing Lekhanya's led military junta. After the return of the democratic epoch in the country, he became Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle's Political Advisor, a post in his career that earned him a "tsotsi ea matarapane" description from my father. Later on, he took on Foreign Affairs again, Home Affairs, and Public Safety as well as Communications, Science and Technology ministries under the leadership of Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili.

In October 2006, Ntate Thabane announced the formation of ABC and contested the February 2007 elections. The election outcome granted ABC eighteen National Assembly seats. In the 2012 elections, ABC garnered twenty-six parliamentary seats and joined forces with the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) and the Basotho National Party (BNP) to establish Lesotho's first coalition government, to be known as "letsema". And Ntate Thabane became the Prime Minister. Nonetheless, "Letsema" was short-lived due to the fallout between Ntate Thabane and LCD leader Ntate Mothejoa Metsing. He also faced an alleged coup d'état from the currently imprisoned Lieutenant General Tlali Kamoli and fled the country. He returned under the heavy security provided by the South African government.

Despite mediation attempts by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the South African government through the then Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and the Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL), Ntate Thabane and Ntate Metsing could not reach a compromise and reconcile. Therefore, Lesotho was forced into abrupt elections which birthed "Khokanyana-Phiri" coalition government in 2015. Under "Khokanyana-Phiri", terror amplified and Ntate Thabane was forced into exile to South Africa for two years of its existence. And like the first coalition government, "Khokanyana-Phiri" did breathe for two years.

Again, Lesotho went to the National Assembly elections in 2017, thrice in six years. And yet again, it became apparent that the era of coalition politics was not over. Four by four coalition government was begeted. Similarly, Ntate Thabane returned to the Prime Minister's office. In these elections, ABC displayed astounding growth, accumulated fifty-four National Assembly seats, and came short of six seats to structure government alone. He formed a coalition government with the BNP, the Alliance of Democrats (AD), as well as the Reformed Congress of Lesotho (RCL).

As he turned eighty-five years old last month, on May 28, 2024, and observing on social media that he celebrated it with Ntate Mosisili and other political party leaders, I profoundly asked myself who was Ntate Thabane? And what can he be remembered for?

Basotho experienced completely two different Ntate Thabanes as a Prime Minister. In his last tenure, a lot occurred but a bedroom coup. His wife interfered and became the driver of 4 by 4. It was crystal clear that he and Ntate Mokhehle now had something in common. The exile took a toll on them and returned home as a shadow of former themselves thus, susceptible to exploitation.

Often it is viewed as if the blame is planted on his wife for a plethora of his shortcomings. And that is not the case. History has proven that the downfall of a man is a woman and or power and equally a woman's, is in a man and power.

Certainly, Ntate Thabane's tragic demise was architected by his wife. Comparably, in his first tenure, his heart and energy were in the right place for this country. For his staunch supporters like my mother, he kept his promises.

He battled the country's spread corruption. For that concise moment, he agitated the comfort of civil servants in plundering and lack of service delivery.

When he has long transitioned, God forbid, history will remember him in its own way. As for me, I will remember him as the man who abhors corruption.

He is the man who gave me a sense of a competent, intelligent, and visionary Prime Minister. He fervently championed for every Mosotho to have a slice of the economy. He made me believe there is hope for a better Lesotho to strive for. And there is! Hence, his second term was a deep-seated setback. Otherwise, long live Ntate Thabane! Long live!

# OP-ED

## Celebrating two decades of deepening EU-UNDP partnership, for people and planet

The vibrant partnership between the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the past two decades continues to yield positive results towards sustainable human development.

The multiplier benefits of this partnership transcend geographical boundaries to bring hope and strengthen good governance and peacebuilding efforts, the empowerment of youth and women, and the leveraging of innovative solutions, contributing to the attainment of global goals.

In Lesotho, the positive impact of the EU-UNDP collaboration and commitment as key development allies is particularly evident in deepening democratic aspirations, promoting inclusive governance and the rule of law, and enhancing civic participation and renewable energy access while reinforcing national ownership of the development agenda.

The EU and UNDP have joined hands to promote access to clean energy in Lesotho by supporting the company One-Power to develop solar mini-grids in non-electrified areas across the country. Renewable energy based on mini-grids will create viable pathways to affordable and sustainable energy for the people of Lesotho, especially those in the most rural and mountainous areas and away from the national grid.

Through funding from the Electrification Financing Initiative (ElectriFI), the EU mobilised € 4.5 million in equity and debt, leveraging on the grant funding of approximately US\$ 1 million provided by

UNDP through the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The USA and UK also contributed to the initiative.

As a result of this joint initiative, it is estimated that 20,000 people will have access to clean electricity. The access also includes productive sectors, including four public schools, one police station, 13 small businesses, and three health clinics. The project also contributes to the country's climate action ambitions and socio-economic progress centred on renewables and energy efficiency, crucial for a climate-resilient future while prioritising human welfare outcomes.

The EU and UNDP have also partnered to implement Renewable Lesotho, a joint initiative to increase clean energy generation and energy efficiency in the Mountain Kingdom and promote access to reliable and equitable access to energy while improving energy sector leadership and capacity.

Launched in 2023, Renewable Lesotho is part of the Global Gateway, Europe's strategy to boost smart, clean, and secure connections in digital, energy, and transport sectors, and to strengthen health, education, and research systems across the world. Through this joint initiative, the EU and UNDP are establishing a results-based grant facility for renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

The results-based grant facility plans to support 5,000 household connections to off-grid electricity, install 4,500 solar home systems and 4,000 improved cooking stoves. It also incorporates produc-

tive energy use for 25 schools and clinics, 120 Solar Water pumps, 200 kWp for commercial and industrial use, and 200 mixed uses.

At the request of Lesotho's authorities, the EU and UNDP have also supported the National Reforms process from the consultations leading to the Multi-Stakeholder National Dialogue Plenary II Report, to the work of the National Reforms Authority. The profundity of this phase was to ensure that all the segments of the nation were satisfactorily covered, and their views were well captured, around the vision of "The Lesotho We Want".

As part of the National Reforms Programme, government sectors such as the justice sector are undergoing reforms to duly and effectively discharge their mandate and enhance service delivery. With a view to enhancing access to justice as the primary service that maintains equality for all, the EU-UNDP support focused on ingraining an inclusive and accountable justice system aligned to the ambition of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to reduce inequalities and strengthen peace, and justice and strong institutions.

Lesotho Data for Sustainable Development also stands out as one of the initiatives successfully undertaken with the overarching aim of assisting the Government of Lesotho (GoL) in collating, analysing, and disseminating data and building capacities for evidence-based planning, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation.

The optimal value that the GoL derives

from this project is generating clean and reliable data that can effectively inform the country's development agenda, including policy formulation and implementation. This initiative significantly contributes to tracking the progress made by Lesotho towards Agenda 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063.

The decentralisation process in Lesotho is another area with immense promise of leaving no one behind. The diagnostic study conducted in 2014 through the support of the EU, UNDP, and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) proved to be highly valuable in identifying barriers to effective decentralisation but also underscored the importance of developing a Decentralisation Policy that strongly advocates for the adoption of an appropriate model that is responsive to Lesotho's context and needs.

The adoption of the National Policy in 2014 became one of the highlights of the unrelenting commitment to making government and services more accessible. The EU-UNDP partnership on the current national reforms aims to strengthen the decentralisation legal framework, approach, and processes to ensure that the country reaps the benefits fully.

While the EU-UNDP partnership with Lesotho demonstrates transformative change, more remains to be done. Continuation of the EU-UNDP partnership in support of the government and the people of Lesotho remains critical in enabling and scaling up efforts towards attaining global goals for all.

## Cuba and Lesotho celebrate 45 years of bilateral relations

Enrique Orta González

Cuba and Lesotho have maintained a friendly and fraternal connection, that have resulted in 45 years of a fruitful relationship. Since the formalization of diplomatic ties in 1979, bilateral relations have been permanently strengthened.

We have successfully cooperated on several fields, including health, education and sports, on the basis of friendship, cooperation and solidarity. Cuba has also contributed and continues to contribute to the academic training of young Basotho students, through the granting of annual scholarships, in a wide variety of fields such as medicine, physical education and sport, agronomy, veterinary medicine, mining, economics, engineering and computer science, among others. Thanks to this program, dozens of young people from the Mountain Kingdom have graduated from Cuban institutions, which has had a great social impact on the country.

We remember with particular affection the visit to Cuba by His Majesty King Letsie III, at the invitation of Cu-

ban President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, where a strong bilateral program was fulfilled and both heads of State emphasized their commitment to continue deepening and diversifying the bilateral ties that unite our countries and peoples.

We deeply appreciate the traditional and continued support of the government and people of Lesotho, in rejection of the illegal economic blockade by the United States against our country and its endorsement of the Cuban resolution presented every year before the United Nations General Assembly to demand an end to this criminal policy.

We're also grateful to the Prime Minister and Head of Government of the kingdom, Honorable Ntsokoane Samuel Matekane, for having condemned the blockade and the sanctions against Cuba in his speech at last year's General Debate of the UN General Assembly. We will never forget the kingdom has stood by the side of Cuba in this, our hardest fight.


Today, Cuba and Lesotho enjoy cordial bilateral relations and we are keen



Lesoto-Cuba

to continue promoting the development of cooperation projects between our countries. We will continue to advance to higher levels, based on the solid com-

mon values that unite us, in the pursuit of peace, well-being and prosperity for our peoples and the rest of the peoples of the world.



Lesotho National Development Corporation

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

### Invitation to Tender

#### 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 **21<sup>st</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.**

Tenders must be deposited in the **tender box** situated at 1<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

#### Tender Timetable

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](mailto:makhabanel@lec.co.ls) Cc [mokuoane@lec.co.ls](mailto:mokuoane@lec.co.ls)** and inspect the bidding document during office hours 08H00 to 1700 hours at the address given below.

5. 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 LSL 1,000.00 (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**

6. 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**.

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration using the relevant form provided in the bidding document

8. 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](mailto:makhabanel@lec.co.ls) Cc. [mokuoane@lec.co.ls](mailto:mokuoane@lec.co.ls)



Request for Bids

**Employer: Lesotho Electricity Company (Pty) Ltd**  
**Project: Lesotho Renewable Energy and Energy Access Project (LREEAP)**  
**Contract title: Electrification of villages at Hololo in the Butha-Butha District**  
**Country: Lesotho**  
**Credit No.: 6532-LS**  
**RFB No: LS-LEC-429443-CW-RFB**  
**Issued on: 7th June, 2024**

1. 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 Hololo.**

The Lesotho Electricity Company (Pty) Ltd now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following works at Hololo:

- *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.*

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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*

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **8th July, 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 **8th July, 2024 at 10H30**. Bidders are notified that there will be a pre-bid meeting on **18th 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; **18th June, 2024 at 11H30 and the point of assembly is Moroeroe Guest House.**

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration using the relevant form provided in the bidding document

8. 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](mailto:makhabanel@lec.co.ls) Cc. [mokuoane@lec.co.ls](mailto:mokuoane@lec.co.ls)



Kingdom of Lesotho  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY  
SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)  
LOAN NO : P164486  
CREDIT NO : IDA -63580 -LS  
ASSIGNMENT TITLE : ENGAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT TO UNDERTAKE EXTERNAL PROCESS AUDIT OF THE SADP GRANTS PROGRAM FOR SADP II 2022  
REFERENCE NO : LS-MAFS-431775-CS-INDIV  
DURATION : FIVE (5) WEEKS  
REPORTING TO : PROJECT DIRECTOR

**BACKGROUND**  
**EXTERNAL PROCESS AUDIT OF THE SADP GRANTS PROGRAM**  
The Government of Lesotho is currently implementing the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project (SADP) with funding from the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project includes a program of grants provided on a competitive basis to farmers and rural businesses to grow their business introducing technological innovations and improved business practices. The project enters into an agreement with the beneficiaries. The Recipient shall open and maintain an account or subaccount (the Grant Account), and may withdraw from there for expenditures in respect of the reasonable cost of goods, works and services required for the Activities and financed out of the proceeds of the Grant in accordance to Annex II of this Agreement (Project Budget). Expenditure of grant funds must adhere to the terms and items defined the grant recipient’s approved grant agreement. When transfers among the items of the approved budget become necessary and the estimated change is more than 20% of the value approved in the agreement’s budget, the grant recipient should request the approval of the Project Management Unit (PMU) in coordination with the Matching Grants Committee (MGC). When the grant recipient wishes to establish a new line item that affects the technology or business initiative, he/she/it shall promptly request in writing authorization from the PMU/MGC and all such records are to be kept at the PMU in a file folder maintained for each grant beneficiary.  
The Grants program is regulated by a Grant Manual which identifies the various actors in the process of grant approval and implementation. The Matching Grants Committee (MGC) holds right to terminate grants that do not follow the principles lined out in the grant manual.  
In the external audit of SADP 2 of 2022, the Accountant General has identified grants for which the measures defined in grant manual and the grant agreement were not systematically followed.  
**OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**  
The objective of this assignment is to get a better handle of the application of the processes defined in the grant manual and the formulation of the grant agreements with each beneficiary and the extent to which the principles and clauses in the agreement are not followed and the documentation contained in the file folders of each beneficiary. The project would like to get a better sense of the frequency with which there is misapplication of the grant agreement and the grant manual and measures that would need to be taken to correct such occurrences. As such, the assignment will verify whether expenditures funded over the project implementation period are eligible as outlined in the grant agreements; whether funds have been used for the purpose intended with due regard for economy and efficiency; and whether the grants processes and controls sufficiently address the risk of fraud and corruption in the administration and payment of grants.  
SADP 2 is looking for a consultant to look into this issue, prepare a detailed report that will be submitted to the Government of Lesotho, World Bank and IFAD management to make an informed decision. The consultant will report to the Project Manager in the PMU but will also communicate directly with the World Bank team should the latter have any questions on the engagement. The World Bank team should be copied on communications from the consultant to the PMU.

**TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN:**  
The assignment consists of reviewing the processes leading to the grants for beneficiaries under SADP starting on June 30, 2020. Utilising a combination of document analysis, stakeholder interviews, workflow observations, and applying unbiased assessment practices to ensure the integrity and transparency of the audit process; the following activities that need to be performed:  
i. review the progress reports of a sample of grant beneficiaries no less than 20 percent of the total number of grants(310 grants) selected on a risk basis, including amount received and amount of money spent and goods and works installed as part of grant financing.  
ii. accompanied by the project accountant dedicated to grants, he/she will review all the invoices attached and reconcile them with the budget items in the grant agreement.  
iii. independently interview beneficiaries about the process and determine any deviations from the grant manual and grant agreement focusing on processes and documentation and determine the level of irregular expenditures and the reasons for their occurrences.  
iv. propose measures such as the review of the grant manual, update of the grant agreement format or any training or modification of processes to improve transparency and record keeping of the grant program.  
v. Finally, prepare a report with the necessary attachments illustrating findings with recommendations to mitigate future occurrences and reduce irregularities or issues to be raised in future audits that will be shared with the Bank for review.  
vi. Where suspected cases of fraud, corruption and other sanctionable practices are identified, these should be reported to the World Bank for deciding the proper course of action, having each case being detailed in the addendum to the final report...

Working papers and supporting documentation should be prepared by the consultant and retained to properly document and evidence the audit procedures performed and the findings.  
Should the consultant encounter challenge in obtaining the required records and information during the performance of the assignment, they will immediately advise

the World Bank’s lead for the project.

**REPORTING**  
i. The consultant will prepare a comprehensive report in English that describes the results of the above analysis.  
ii. The report will be shared with the World Bank, the Project Director, the grant manager as well as with the financial Manager who will get a chance to comment on the report.  
iii. The report should include details and supporting documents for any potentially ineligible expenditures identified by the review.  
**QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONSULTANT**  
i) Master’s in financial management or CPA with experience in auditing processes and evaluating effectiveness of grant programs.  
ii) The consultant must possess the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders including beneficiaries and farmers, staff of implementation agencies of donor-funded projects, and local and central government officials.  
iii) An International Consultant with Previous experience with World Bank and or IFAD-funded projects and an understanding of their projects and processes would be preferred.  
**DELIVERABLES & TIMELINE**  
The work is expected to start at the end of July, 2024 and will encompass a total of around 5 weeks of work

Activity	Deliverable	Time Frame
Review available data and present and inception report	Inception Report	10 working days
Verify by going to the districts and visit selected beneficiaries to verify processes on the ground	Report on findings	10 working days
Preparation of combined findings on both field and desk review	Report	5 working days
Review of the Draft report by PMU and preparation of final report.	Final Report	5 working days

- Location (geographical coverages) of the assignment:** Maseru, Lesotho however the beneficiaries are based in the 10 districts of Lesotho.
- Client Assignment Performance Management and governance arrangement information** The Individual consultant will be reporting directly to the Project Director; inline with the timelines and deliverables stipulated in the table above.
- Data, Services, and facilities to be provided by the Client and quality assurance information.**
  - SADP II will provide the individual consultant with relevant supporting documentation, system-based information and information about stakeholder location and contact information to facilitate interviews
  - Office space, Computer, printer, and internet will be the responsibility of the individual consultant.
- Contract type:** Lump-sum

**CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION**  
• Contract duration is Five (5) weeks.  
**FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT**  
The client shall render the consultant with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the consultant to discharge his/her duties that is office space laptop/ computer, internet, and transport project-related duties.

The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their abilities. A pre-employment screening and background check will be done on all short-listed candidates. The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the project’s portfolio.  
The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III paragraph 3.14 to 3.17 of THE WORLD BANK’S Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, Fourth Edition, November 2020, setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in Procurement Regulations.

**SUBMISSION**  
Expressions of interest accompanied by detailed CV must be delivered in a written form to the address below by 16:00hrs local time on **2nd July 2024** clearly marked “**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ENGAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT TO UNDERTAKE EXTERNAL PROCESS AUDIT OF THE SADP GRANTS PROGRAM FOR SADP II 2022**”  
To: Project Director SADP  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security  
Department of Livestock Services -Moshohoeshoe 11  
P.O. Box 24  
Maseru 100 Lesotho.  
**Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.**



**INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT  
DRM / CALL-CENTRE AGENT**

**Location:** Blue Ribbon t/a Lesotho Bakery  
**Reporting to:** Manager: Sales Operations  
**Purpose of the job:** To ensure that the DRM/CALL-CENTRE system performs optimally by playing a vital role of being a strategic link to our customers' communication processes, committed to exceeding their expectations by managing customer information and processing of orders received from various sources.

**Responsibilities:**

- To ensure that Drivers and Vehicles are allocated correctly to enable daily route monitoring, driver debriefing and reporting on the planned vs. actual route adherence
- To analyse & report on operational and customer service trends
- Excellent customer: Always maintain relations and have a professional attitude. Ensure excellent and professional customer service - first call resolution including effective soft skills, telephone and e-mail etiquette but not limited to business writing.
- Communication & stakeholders Engagement: Assist other departments as needed on order specifications, additional needs, or special requirements.
- Operating guidelines: Obtain 100% call adherence to operating guidelines and standard procedure (quality, accuracy & behaviour)

**Qualifications and Experience:**

- COSC/Matric
- Min of 3 years Logistics Planning
- Sales & Marketing experience, with a strong emphasis on Customer Service Execution in an FMCG environment
- Geographic Information Systems

**Essential:**

1-2 years of previous work experience dealing with customers.  
 1-2 years of work experience in an FMCG/RETAIL environment

**Desirable:**

1-2 years exposure to the Call Centre/Telesales.  
 1-2 years of previous experience working on excel.

- Competencies (knowledge, skills and attributes): Pressurised environment (Accuracy and time pressures)
- 24/7 operation, might be required to work weekends and Public Holiday's

If you're a dedicated Agile Scrum Master ready to shape the future of an FMCG, we invite you to apply. Kindly send your application to: [hr.lesotho@premierfmcg.com](mailto:hr.lesotho@premierfmcg.com). Documents should be send together or on one email (School certificates and a CV), alternatively, you can hand-deliver at Blue Ribbon Offices, Thetsane Industrial Estates, Matamong.

**Closing Date: 22 June 2024**

**PS: Should you not receive a reply within a month from your application, please treat as unsuccessful**



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# Mo-Nitta eyes global market for music success

**Pheello Mosesi**

Local rapper Mo-Nitta believes that cracking and penetrating the global market is the best route artists can take to pave their way to a successful musical career.

Born Letlotlo Elliot Ntšo Leluma, the Maseru-based Mafeteng rapper carries 19 years of experience in the music industry.

“I am a singer, songwriter, and hip-hop recording artist who fuses hard-core and mainstream rap bars with R&B and G-funk-oriented hooks,” he introduces himself.

Unlike many local artists who rely heavily on gig bookings as their primary source of income, Mo-Nitta has managed to establish a steady and prosperous income stream through his company, Mo-Nitta International Pty Ltd.

“Mo-Nitta International is a music business consultancy that offers full record label services, pending ongoing seed funding negotiations. We currently offer music distribution and publishing administration through The Orchard (Sony) and have delivered online distribution to numerous local artists, including Omali Themba and Yemba Shungu. Our artists’ music catalog is registered with collection management organizations globally and made available for consumption through distribution,” Mo-Nitta explains.

Mo-Nitta’s interest in penetrating the global market and involving other artists was sparked nearly a decade ago in 2015. “My profile was discovered online in late 2015 by the International Songwriting Competition in Nashville, Tennessee, USA. That peek into a whole new world opened my eyes to what was missing for our country to build a sustainable industry,” he says.

He emphasises the lack of artists registering their music on promotional platforms, which he argues hinders their ability to gain global exposure.

“Technology has broken the barriers of lan-



*Letlotlo Elliot Ntšo Leluma*

guage, and cultures are interconnecting. The global distribution and promotion of music are responsible for this shift. The reception of local music is global, but the difference lies in the marketing budget and geographical targeting of

each release. You could achieve greater success by geo-targeting a single country rather than the entire world,” he says.

Mo-Nitta decided to venture into music business consulting, leveraging the network he built

over the years. However, he acknowledges that it took years of learning through trial and error to reach a point of confidence in running a business.

“It has not been easy, but the possibilities are endless if you take the time to understand the ins and outs of the industry,” he adds.

“All it takes is a pitch to sell our business model and vision for the future. We have been fortunate to have a roster of artists who share our vision and have entrusted us with the exclusive administration of their artistic works. This pitch has been consistent with every artist we’ve distributed, which now numbers over 50,” says Mo-Nitta.

The company currently hosts artists from Lesotho, South Africa, Botswana, and Nigeria.

Despite his deep involvement in the business, Mo-Nitta’s passion for music creation remains strong. He fondly recalls the days when his music played on LTV, which he admits helped create significant traction for his work.

“Oh my, the Urban Jamz days were pivotal in showing us how far we could go. I am grateful to LTV for that program,” he says with excitement.

Mo-Nitta is set to release a five-track EP entitled ‘The Re-Up’, a collaboration between Mo-Nitta International and Musik and Film Records in the United States.

The release is scheduled for July 4, this year, coinciding with Independence Day in the United States. However, contingency plans are in place should there be any delays.

“If there is a postponement of the entire project, we plan to release at least a radio record during Independence week,” he indicates.

This EP, his first, follows his previous project, an album released in 2017 and redistributed via Sony in 2022. The new EP features solo acts from Mo-Nitta, with only one song, ‘Ha Re Ts’oane,’ featuring Moddaj and produced by Nejah, as a collaborative project.

# Hip Hop OGs team up for new single ‘Pay-Day’

**Staff Reporter**

2024 is shaping up to be a productive year for Free State hip hop veteran Kulax Nthoethata.

The seasoned artist has recently collaborated with fellow Sesotho rap pioneer, Msolomba, from the iconic group Baleloko, on a new track titled ‘Pay-Day’.

‘Pay-Day’ addresses the universal dread of payday, capturing the stresses of debit orders, bills, and the chest-pain-inducing payments that the working class faces at the end of each month.

This comical portrayal of payday woes is delivered with a smooth Lo-Fi beat, making it a relatable anthem for many.

“‘Pay-day’ is a comical portrayal of these stresses and the ever eloquent Kulax Nthoethata and the veteran Msolomba drop a very relatable, everyday-people song with a smooth ‘Lo-Fi type beat,’” Khaile, artist manager said in a statement.

Kulax and Msolomba, both esteemed figures in the Sesotho rap scene, bring their years of experience and lyrical prowess to this project. Their chemistry is evident, not only in their individual performances but also in the maturity of their writing, delivery, and production techniques.

This is not their first collaboration; the duo previously worked together on the track ‘Mmamane’ from Kulax’s 2016 album, ‘Stru Waar 8 LP’.


The anticipation for ‘Pay-Day’ is high, and fans won’t have to wait long.



The single will be available on all digital streaming platforms starting June 25, 2024.

This release promises to be a significant addition to the discographies of both artists and a treat for

their loyal audiences who have grown with them over the years.



**KULAX NTHOETHATA**  
HIP HOP ARTIST - PRODUCER - VOICE ACTOR  
+27 65 944 1465  
siphokhaile@gmail.com  
ZA

**Releases**

- 1. Kritikal Mass 2002
- 2. HipHopocracy 2004
- 3. Subliminal Mixtape Vol1 2005
- 4. Subliminal Mixtape vol2 2007
- 5. Subliminal Mixtape vol3 2008
- 6. Stru Waar 8 LP 2016
- 7. BoomBapTism Beat tape vol: 1 2017
- 8. BoomBapTism vol Beat tape: 2 2017
- 9. Confessions of Purist: 2018
- 10. The Lost Tape Tape EP: 2021
- 11. BoomBapTism album 2024

**Produced for:**

- 1. Slikour
- 2. Jimmy Wic
- 3. Miss. P
- 4. Ben Sharpe (Rip)
- 5. Shogasmakx
- 6. Rub-e Dub
- 7. Kommande Obbs
- 8. Baleloko
- 9. Audery Mili
- 10. B.G.Y Wender

**Skills & Expertise**

- Music Production
- Composition
- Writing
- Voice Over Artist
- Mixing and Mastering
- Radio Production
- Audio Editing
- Music Business Consultancy

**Education**

- N.Dip Sound Engineering (Janet 2007)
- N.Dip Public Relations Management (UNISA 2021)

**Awards**

- Best Male Artist 2010 FS Mokote Music Awards
- Best Hip Hop Artist 2010 FS Mokote Music Awards
- Best Hip Hop Show presenter 2011 MTN/Hype Magazine Awards
- Best Hip Hop Artist 2013 Golden Bean Music Awards
- SAHHA nominee - King of Free State 2013 2014 2015

**Social Media**

- FACEBOOK PAGE @kulaxnthoethata
- X @realkulax
- INSTAGRAM @kulaxnthoethata
- YOUTUBE @kulaxchannel

# Law Society launches legal aid unit to support the vulnerable

NEWS



President of Law Society of Lesotho Advocate Lintle Tuke

## Lehlohonolo Motsoari

The Law Society of Lesotho (LSL) has unveiled plans this week for a new in-house Legal Aid Unit dedicated to providing essential legal assistance and representation to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups across the country.

According to LSL President Advocate Lintle Tuke, the initiative aims to bridge existing gaps in access to justice, advocate for human rights, and provide critical support to victims of gender-based violence among other crucial services.

"This unit underscores the Law Society's commitment to upholding the rule of law, fulfilling our constitutional mandate, and promoting justice and equity within society," said Tuke.

He clarified that the initiative was designed to complement existing efforts by the government's legal aid services, the

Legal Clinic of the Faculty of Law at the National University of Lesotho (NUL), and various NGOs.

Tuke highlighted the significant barriers many Basotho face in accessing legal representation due to financial constraints, lack of awareness, and geographic isolation, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as women, children, and victims of discrimination.

"While existing initiatives provide some relief, there remains a critical need for a dedicated unit with the authority to appear in court and provide comprehensive legal services," Tuke stated. "The Legal Aid Unit under the Law Society of Lesotho will fill this gap by offering direct representation and advocacy."

Detailing the unit's objectives, Tuke outlined its role in improving access to justice through free or low-cost legal representa-

tion for economically disadvantaged individuals and facilitating legal advice and court representation for marginalised groups.

Additionally, the unit will actively advocate for human rights, engage in public interest litigation, and offer specialized legal assistance to victims of gender-based violence.

"To bolster legal education and awareness, the unit will conduct literacy programs, collaborate with educational institutions, and provide consultations in underserved areas," Tuke explained. "It will also drive legal reforms and forge partnerships with law schools to support internships and pro bono services."

The Legal Aid Unit will offer services spanning civil cases including family law, property disputes, consumer rights, and employment issues, as well as criminal cas-

es and human rights advocacy.

"The establishment of this unit marks a pivotal step towards ensuring justice for all, particularly for disadvantaged and vulnerable populations," remarked Tuke. "With robust structure, funding, and partnerships, the Law Society is poised to significantly impact Lesotho's legal landscape and achieve its objectives."

He further explained that according to the law, only four categories of lawyers were authorised to represent clients in court: "attorneys (from attorney law firms), advocates from their chambers, law officers (government lawyers) representing the government, and lawyers from parastatals."

"The company can seek legal advice from their internal legal team, but for representation in court, they must engage an attorney who will appoint an advocate to present their case," he asserted.

He clarified that this provision also applies to NGOs: "Even if an NGO employs a lawyer within its organisation, that lawyer can only provide legal advice and cannot represent the organisation in court."

He commended the Transformation Resource Center (TRC) for adhering to these legal constraints: "Despite TRC frequently filing cases in court, I have not seen any lawyer from TRC representing the organisation in court."

Tuke emphasized that these restrictions were mandated by the Law Society Act of 1983.

"We have discovered that some NGOs are operating as disguised law firms or chambers, thereby exploiting Basotho," he stated. "It is disappointing to learn that despite their role in assisting less privileged Basotho who may struggle to afford legal representation, they charge fees comparable to those of law firms and chambers."

"We have evidence indicating that they claim to represent disadvantaged Basotho while representing managers of companies who can afford to pay," Tuke stressed.

# Communities to be empowered through economic inclusion program

## Seabata Mahao

In a proactive step towards implementation of the Pathways to Sustainable Livelihoods Program (PSLP), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in collaboration with Doorways, this week conducted a comprehensive five-day training of trainers in Berea.

This training session was designed for CRS trainers, community development officers from the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development (MoGYSD), auxiliary social workers, and key stakeholders from Caritas Lesotho.

The focus of the training was the Personal Initiative Training, intended to equip participants from the five community councils with the skills needed to cascade livelihood promotion activities to approximately 2500 households.

PSLP, an initiative funded by the World Bank and implemented by MoGYSD, aims to bolster the efficacy and equity of social assistance programs while fortifying the livelihoods of impoverished and vulnerable households across the country.

Aligned with the National Strategic De-

velopment Plan II (2021-2031) and the National Social Protection Strategy II (2021-2031), PSLP marks a pivotal effort by the government to uplift communities and foster economic resilience.

Speaking at the workshop's opening ceremony, Kanono Thabane, the EIP Program Manager, mentioned that CRS, contracted by MoGYSD, was taking the lead on component 1A of PSLP – the Economic Inclusion Program (EIP).

Thabane said collaborating with Caritas Lesotho, Dunamus Agri Advisory, and Doorways, CRS was set to implement the EIP across five Community Councils: Tosing in Quthing, Thaba Mokhele in Mophale's Hoek, Metsi Maholo in Mafeteng, Phuthiatsana in Berea, and Bolahlala in Hlotse.

"The EIP aims to reach 5,000 households through entrepreneurial training, financial education via savings and lending groups, agribusiness support, and productive grants to foster sustainable livelihoods," he explained.

Thabane stated that prospective participants from selected areas should apply to join the program starting July 1, 2024,

using applications distributed by trainers, either online or in person.

"Each trainer will mentor and assist 50 households. Subsequently, participants will

progress to proposal development, culminating in the selection of beneficiaries who will receive monetary support totaling approximately M7,000," he said.



SPORTS

Likuena suffer setback

Seabata Mahao

The senior national team, Likuena, suffered a minor setback in their aspirations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification with a 1-0 loss to Rwanda in Group C.

The match, which was held at Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, South Africa, saw Likuena's three-game unbeaten streak coming to an end.

The decisive goal was conceded just before half-time due to a lapse in concentration from Likuena's defense, and it proved enough to hand the Wasps a crucial win.

Despite absorbing initial pressure from Rwanda in the first 15 minutes, Likuena struggled to capitalise on several scoring opportunities they created as poor finishing let them down in the offensive phase.

Lesley Notši, Likuena's Head Coach acknowledged the team's efforts to absorb pressure and improve their offensive play in the second half, despite not being able to find the back of the net.

"We were very unfortunate to concede a goal a few minutes before halftime at the same time we knew that the second half was going to be tough which indeed



Likuena squad

was tough as they leveled up their performance," he said.

Notši emphasised the positive aspects of the team's performance and described them as a work in progress.

"We made some changes which gave us

more options on offensive play, our transition was much better and we did try to create goal-scoring opportunities but we could not score. There are a lot of good positives that came out of this match on our side," Notsi explained.

On his part, Advocate Salemane Phafane (KC), President of the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA), commended Likuena's players and supporters for their commitment and praised their performance, particularly their recent victory over Zimbabwe.

He said the loss to Rwanda was a wake-up call and urged the team to focus on the next assignment while appreciating the support from fans, media, and the football fraternity.

"It is a disappointment we quickly have to put behind us and shift our focus to the next assignment. My hat goes off to all the members of the football fraternity, who travelled to Johannesburg and Durban respectively to rally behind the team in the two assignments and the prayers from Basotho at large. The support from our media colleagues for always being on the ground to give the nation the latest developments within the Likuena camp," Phafane stated.

Despite the disappointment of the loss, Likuena's recent 2-0 victory over Zimbabwe showcased their potential, instilling hope for future success as they continue their journey in the FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

Sello wins gold in Comrades Marathon



Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's veteran marathon runner, Teboho Sello, claimed the sole gold medal for locals at the recent Comrades Marathon, finishing eighth in the grueling 88-kilometre ultra-marathon.

Known as the Ultimate Human Race, this year's edition was dominated by Piet Wiersma from the Netherlands, who crossed the finish line in 5:25:00 hours.

Sello stood out among the challengers in this uphill battle from Durban to Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal Province, completing the course in 5:36:11 hours and securing his place in the top 10 bracket eligible for gold medals.

This achievement marks not the first

time Sello has finished within the top 10 of this prestigious event, having secured seventh place with a time of 5:24:23 hours in 2023.

Also, he is the only Mosotho marathoner who came out in the top 10 and the only marathoner who completed the marathon. His fellow countryman, Jobo Khatoane, who led in the early stages of the race, dropped out after suffering a suspected injury.

While Wiersma may have conquered the race, South African runner, Dan Mosalakwe followed him in hot pursuit in second place with a running time of 5:25:45 hours. Mosalkwe was then followed by Ethiopian, Degafe Lefebwe with a finishing time of 5:27:48 hours.

Rugby receives timely equipment boost

Seabata Mahao

The Federation of Rugby Lesotho (FRL) received a significant boost from Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) with the donation of essential rugby equipment valued at over M20,000.

The donation, including corner flags, marker wedges, and post protectors, will greatly enhance the safety and efficiency of rugby matches in the country. This gesture underscores ETL's ongoing commitment to nurturing and advancing the sport within Lesotho.

Litšitso Motšeremeli, the Secretary General of FRL, expressed gratitude towards ETL for their steadfast support over the years, emphasizing the importance of the donated equipment in facilitating the smooth conduct of rugby games.

ETL's contributions to Lesotho's rugby community extend beyond equipment donations. Since 2013, they have provided substantial sponsorship totaling over

M1.5 million, including a contribution of M170,000 towards the Econet Rugby League this season.

Mapusetso Ntšekhe, the General Manager of Marketing Communications and Customer Experience at ETL, highlighted the company's enthusiasm for supporting FRL and fostering the growth of rugby in Lesotho.

Recognising rugby as a unifying force that promotes teamwork and physical fitness, ETL aims to inspire more young people to engage in the sport while ensuring player safety through the provision of proper equipment.

The handover ceremony, attended by representatives from ETL, FRL, and the Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission (LSRC), served as a testament to the strong partnership between ETL and FRL and showcased the positive impact of ETL's support on the development of rugby in Lesotho.



Econet Telecom Lesotho handing over key equipment to Federation of Rugby Lesotho

# Liphakoe lose appeal case



Liphakoe FC players in action

## Seabata Mahao

Liphakoe Football Club (FC) has lost its appeal case to overturn a previous ruling that docked them three points and three goals for fielding an ineligible player.

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA)'s Appeal Board dismissed Liphakoe's appeal, finding it lacked sufficient grounds.

LeFA's Disciplinary and Disputes Committee (DISPROCO) had earlier ruled that Liphakoe was at fault for playing Thabang Mofihli in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL)

match against Manonyane FC during the 2023/24 season, as he was not eligible.

This ruling initially granted Manonyane FC a temporary reprieve from relegation, now confirmed by the Appeal Board's decision. Consequently, CCX FC will be relegated to the A Division League instead of Manonyane.

Bokang Phasumane, Public Relations Officer of the Premier League Management Committee (PLMC), confirmed the dismissal of Liphakoe's appeal. Phasumane added

that they were awaiting Liphakoe's decision on whether they plan to pursue the matter further.

"Liphakoe FC has seven working days to decide whether to re-appeal or not. The appeal case to the (FIFA's) Arbitration Court is going to be financially and time costly.

"This has already affected the PLMC's calendar as we had to postpone the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) season awards and payment of monetary prizes to the football clubs as well as releasing the official and fi-

nal log standings of 2023/24," he said.

Tsietsoi Portas, the Communications and Marketing Manager of Liphakoe, stated that the club has yet to decide on their next steps. Liphakoe has the option to lodge an appeal in the Arbitration Court in Zurich, Switzerland.

Liphakoe's issues began when Manonyane FC approached DISPROCO, claiming a breach of premier league rules by the Quthing side. Manonyane argued that Thabang Mofihli was ineligible to play for Liphakoe FC as he was initially registered with Roma Boys from the A-Division League at the start of the season.

As evidence, Manonyane presented a letter from Limkokwing University FC, indicating that Mofihli was loaned to Liphakoe FC for the first half of the season, ending on December 31, 2023. They argued that since there was no loan extension beyond December 2023, Mofihli should have returned to Limkokwing University FC, making his participation in the disputed match illegitimate.

In their defense, Liphakoe asserted that they had followed the proper transfer procedures to acquire Mofihli from Limkokwing University and expressed surprise at Manonyane's claim that Mofihli was also registered with Roma Boys FC.

The tribunal ultimately found Liphakoe in the wrong for fielding Mofihli, and therefore awarded Manonyane three points and three goals from the match in question.

# COSAFA tournament deferred

## Lehlohonolo Motsoari

The 2024 COSAFA Cup has been postponed, with new dates yet to be announced soon, the Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) has confirmed.

The tournament, which was originally slated for June 14 to 23, this year, has been pushed back in consideration of the challenges faced by participating member associations (PMA), COSAFA said in a recent statement.

The initial dates were too close to the recently concluded series of 2026 World Cup qualifier games, which were wrapped up on Tuesday this week.

"After discussions with various stakeholders, we are exploring a new set of dates for the 2024 COSAFA Cup and will provide an update in due course. The Southern

African championship is crucial for the development of teams, players, and coaches, and we want to make sure they are able to derive maximum benefit from it," COSAFA said.

The regional football body further assured stakeholders that the new dates for the tournament would prioritise the best possible exposure for all parties involved.

"We are aware of the various challenges our different Participating Member Associations are facing and PMAs can be rest assured that the new dates will be based on the best possible exposure for all



stakeholders involved to ensure a world-class competition," COSAFA said.

Meanwhile, the Lesotho Football Association's (LeFA) Secretary General, Mokhosi Mohapi wrote on his social media account seemingly divulging new dates for the tournament.

Mohapi said the tournament is set to begin on June 26, although he did not disclose the source of his information.

Despite these challenges, Likuena has shown promise with recent performances, including a notable win over Zimbabwe and a competitive showing in the FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

Although they suffered a loss to Rwanda, their overall performance has brought hope to the nation, especially considering their exemption from the preliminary stages of AFCON due to recent form. Despite past disappointments in COSAFA tournaments, there's optimism for the team's future performances.



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