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good cause

Newsday

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23 August - 29 August, 2024

www.newsdayonline.co.ls

Vol 06 No 29

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Inheritance law challenged

... *Parliament accused of trading customary laws for foreign donations*

Staff Reporter

The Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act, 2024, recently enacted by the Parliament, is now under legal scrutiny in the High Court.

Lawyers challenging the law accuse parliament of sacrificing the country's customary laws in exchange for foreign donations.

Napo Mokitimi is challenging Section 69 of the Act, arguing that it nullifies the application of customary law on inheritance and the allocation of property to heirs for a deceased person's estate.

Mokitimi further contends that the law mandates the estate be shared equally among the deceased's children. He informed the court in his papers that he is the customary heir to his parents' estate, which now faces potential extinction due to his sister's intention to liquidate and sell the estate for her share.

"The Applicant seeks an interdict against the anticipated sale of the estate pending the final determination of the constitutionality of the impugned section," the court papers filed in July state.

Section 69 of the Act stipulates that "the customary law on inheritance, and allocation of property to an heir shall not be applicable to an estate of a deceased person."

It further specifies that, subject to the aforementioned paragraph, all children of the deceased—whether under civil or customary marriage, male or female, regardless of age—shall be beneficiaries in equal shares to their parents' estate, except where a will or written instructions exist.

In cases of polygamous marriages, the Act mandates that all children from each household, irrespective of gender or age, shall inherit equally in the absence of a will or written instructions.

If a parent dies leaving behind a minor beneficiary, the appointed guardian and estate administrator must maintain a written record of the estate's administration, which must be accessible for inspection by the Master's office and the relatives.

Additionally, a surviving parent, guardian, closest relative, or any community member must obtain permission from the Master before alienating, disposing of, or selling a minor's property.

Violating this section constitutes an offense, with penalties upon conviction.

The Act also clarifies that "notwithstanding a provision of the Land Act 2010, in matters of inheritance, siblings shall have co-ownership of land, and the inherited arable land shall not be subjected to subdivision."

Mokitimi implored the court to examine and determine whether Section 69 is a justifiable limitation on the rights of customary heirs. He questioned: "Whether this section, to the extent of its broad letter and effect of abolishing the entire customary law of inheritance system, remains necessary, given the legitimate rationale that underpins the maintenance of the customary heir to an extent of preserving families' stead and legacies that have to stay intact under the watchful eye of the heir."

Mokitimi further stated that the he seeks the intervention of the court to determine "whether or not the impugned section undermines the basic structure of the Basotho customary law of inheritance and the reasons that underpin such law."

He added: "Given the implications of Section 18 (4)(c) of the Constitution, which protects and permits differential treatment based on customary law, Section 69 deserves to be declared unconstitutional to the extent of its distortion and abolition of customary law that is protected by the Constitution."

Mokitimi also argued that the case is urgent, as his sister has already approached the office of the Master of the High Court to appoint an executor to realise, sell, and terminate the estate of the late 'Manapo Mokitimi.

He noted that the Master has already issued a notice to implement this procedure, and once it begins, he will not be afforded substantial redress in due course. He emphasised the urgency, pointing out that if the court vindicates him after the estate has been sold, the estate in question cannot be recovered.

Mokitimi seeks a court declaration affirming him as the lawful and rightful customary heir to the estate of his late parents, both at Matelile in the district of Mafeteng and Lithabaneng in the district of Maseru.

He is also requesting "an order striking down Section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act, 2024, to the extent of its inconsistency with Sections 43 and 44 of the Land Regulations



of 2011."

Section 37 states that where a person - (a) has died without having, by valid will, nominated a person to be his executor; and (b) duly nominated to be the executor of any deceased person has predeceased him or refuses or resigns or becomes incapacitated to act as an executor or within such reasonable time as the Master may consider sufficient or refusal to act, fails to obtain letters of administration, the Master shall cause to be published in the Gazette, and in such other manner as he thinks fit, a notice calling upon the surviving spouse, the heirs, legatees, and creditors of the deceased to attend before him, at a time and place to be specified in the notice, for the purpose of proposing a person to be appointed by the Master as an executor dative.

It further states that the Master shall appoint a person as he considers fit and proper to be an executor dative of the estate of the deceased person, and shall grant letters of administration accordingly, unless it appears to him necessary or expedient to postpone the appointment and to publish another notice under subsection (1), where a person - (a) has died without having by any valid will nominated any person to be his executor; and (b) duly nominated to be the executor of any deceased person has predeceased him or refuses or becomes incapacitated to act as executor or within such reasonable time as the Master may consider sufficient, fails to obtain letters of administration.

In the certificate of urgency, Mokitimi's lawyer, Kelebone Monate, certified that he had carefully considered the matter and believed it warranted the court's urgent intervention.

Monate then listed the grounds for seeking urgent relief.

He explained that the National Assembly recently passed the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act, 2024, which, through Section 69, distorts and effectively abolishes the customary law

governing inheritance.

He argued that the laws of Lerotholi form the bedrock upon which Lesotho derives its character as a State, as fully set out in Section 1(1) of the Constitution.

"Section 45 of the Constitution provides that the College of Chiefs, established in terms of Section 104, shall have the power to designate the successor to the throne in accordance with the customary law of Lesotho," he stated.

Monate further argued: "The customary law of Lesotho, as referred to in the Constitution, is the same law that Section 69 of the Act seeks to wash away, to the detriment of the Applicant in this case. I highlight this point to submit that there is no rational and justifiable basis for the promulgation of Section 69 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act, 2024. If any rationale exists, it is too broad in its scope, attempting to abolish the entire system of customary law inheritance."

He asserted that, as reflected in Section 69 of the Act, Mokitimi's rights under customary law are likely to be eroded if this matter is not urgently addressed.

"Now that the Members of Parliament have traded off the rights of customary heirs in Lesotho in exchange for donations when they passed this controversial law, it is in the public interest, and it will benefit the broader public, to achieve legal certainty regarding what the National Assembly sought to gain by passing this law," he added.

Monate further argued that Sections 1(1), 44, 45, 104, and 154 of the Constitution are entrenched by the provisions of Section 85 and require a referendum before any amendment.

He said the legality of parliament's decision to pass a law that disrupts the basic structure of customary law is highly controversial and infringes upon the Mokitimi's constitutional rights, making recourse to the court under Section 22(1) of the Constitution necessary.

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A short pause for a good cause

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project tunnel system and 'Muela Hydro-power Station will be shut down **FROM OCTOBER 2024, TO MARCH 2025** for essential maintenance operations. During this time, water transfer in the tunnels will stop, and the station will not generate electricity.

NUL asserts innocence in face of corruption allegations



Staff Reporter

The National University of Lesotho (NUL)'s registrar, Liteboho Maqalika-Lerotholi, has affirmed that the NUL Innovation Hub has fully accounted for all the funds used for the benefit of the hub.

This statement was made in response to an article published by *Newsday* last Friday, which reported that the NUL Innovation Hub was under investigation by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) for possible mismanagement of funds.

The DCEO has confirmed that it is indeed investigating the hub.

The investigation reportedly centers on the possible mismanagement of M1.9 million in funding, which the hub received in 2023 from the Lesotho Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) project.

These funds were intended to incubate entrepreneurs or business startups.

Along with several other Enterprise Support Organisations (ESOs) in the country, the hub received US\$100,000 (approximately M1.9 million) under CAFI's initiative to improve the quality and breadth of integrated startup business support services and provide better early-stage financing opportunities.

A significant portion—70 percent—of the allocated funds was designated for the direct benefit of startups.

"It is imperative to state at the onset that NUL Management is not aware of any investigation that is reported to be ongoing and being carried out by the DCEO on the NUL Innovation Hub," Maqalika-Lerotholi stated.

"However, as a public institution, NUL welcomes any investigation by the law enforcement agencies, and we will do our best to support all such processes. The University awaits confirmation of the reported investigation from the DCEO."

The registrar further explained that CAFI funds were disbursed into the university account in two parts: 30 percent for management by the NUL as an ESO, and the re-

maining funds were to be spent on each of the entrepreneurs supported.

She emphasised that NUL adhered strictly to the agreed budgets for all expenses, and no funds were diverted for purposes outside those agreed upon between the NUL Innovation Hub and CAFI, as well as those between CAFI and individual projects.

"No money was spent outside of the agreed deliverables! None whatsoever!" Maqalika-Lerotholi asserted.

She also addressed allegations that those at the helm of the hub were using the incubation process for personal gain, explaining that the NUL Innovation Hub operates under the Senate and Council-approved NUL Intellectual Property Policy (IPP), which is benchmarked globally.

She noted that *Newsday* is in possession of this policy, which is also accessible to the public.

"This policy outlines the revenue-sharing model similar to that adopted by universities that have IPP worldwide. It is this revenue-sharing part of the policy which the newspaper or its informants, perhaps due to a misunderstanding of how university IP works, prefer to call a 'personal gain' process," she said.

Maqalika-Lerotholi further clarified the process of selecting incubatees, stating that a call is made for prospective incubatees to apply for each incubation cycle, followed by a transparent selection process.

The same process was applied to the incubatees under CAFI.

"This allegation is therefore null and void," she said.

She also highlighted that the NUL Innovation Hub was one of the first five ESOs selected by CAFI's criteria out of the ten institutions that competed for the funding.

A rigorous budgeting process was followed by the NUL Innovation Hub and CAFI, with the budget framework being adopted for the 30 percent allocated to support the general operations of the ESO.

This included funding for human resources and administrative costs.

At CAFI's advice, NUL Innovation Hub engaged 'coaches' to support each of the individual enterprises, with due diligence ensuring some coaches were NUL staff while others were from outside.

"A lot of local institutions, including the government and some international organisations, look to NUL whenever consultancy work is available. It would therefore make no sense for NUL expertise to be overlooked in favour of outsiders when NUL requires services that such staff can render," she explained.

She added that the Innovation Hub was created specifically to allow incubatees to receive support from NUL staff in refining products and processes during the initial stages of incubation.

The funding from CAFI was intended to provide the financial injection necessary to boost that support, with all processes of engagement being sanctioned by CAFI in weekly and monthly meetings held between CAFI and NUL Innovation Hub.

"We further want to remind the public that the CAFI project came to an end on 7th May 2024 but was extended by a month to accommodate procurement processes delayed by the late disbursement of funds, which were only disbursed in April 2024, while incubation began on November 1st, 2023."

Currently, according to the registrar, the accounting of the funds allocated to individual companies is still ongoing. Some companies procured items from supermarkets and hardware stores, others ordered specialised products from local artisans such as carpenters and welders, and some ordered specialised equipment from outside Lesotho.

She said given the volume of work carried out in a short time, the process of reconciliation between individual projects and CAFI through the NUL Innovation Hub is still not complete, but it is being carried out under the supervision of CAFI staff who regularly update NUL Innovation Hub on the status of the reporting.

"According to CAFI's updated state-

ment, "The ESO has reported 96.51 percent spending by the enterprises; so far, 80 percent has been accepted following the verification of the supporting documents submitted to GAF." Four enterprises have fully accounted for their funds."

She noted that the remaining enterprises were working to provide all relevant documents to complete the accounting for the used funds. A few enterprises received funds deposited into their accounts as per CAFI's advice to cover perishables and transport costs, and these enterprises have been given until the end of August to fully utilise the funds.

"NUL management will continue to engage with CAFI until the process is finalised. We further reiterate our commitment to preserving the good name of NUL, particularly in managing funds, especially donor funds, as we host numerous internationally funded projects," Maqalika-Lerotholi concluded.

"NUL treats any allegations of mismanagement and misappropriation of donor funds very seriously to protect our image as a premium institution in the country."

On Tuesday this week, Maqalika-Lerotholi wrote to *Newsday* requesting the newspaper to share the details of the case that was reported to be under investigation by the DCEO, including the substance of the case and the issues being investigated.

The letter asked for this information to reach the University by 12 noon on Thursday, August 22, 2024.

However, the letter only arrived at *Newsday* on Thursday morning. Despite being on a tight deadline for a Friday publication, the editorial team prioritised responding to the letter.

"We understand the University's concern regarding the reported investigation," *Newsday* stated in its response.

"However, as a responsible news organisation, we must adhere to journalistic ethics and legal principles, including the protection of our sources and the confidentiality of information obtained during the course of our reporting. Consequently, we are unable to disclose the details of our sources or the substance of the ongoing investigation by the DCEO."

The publication assured Maqalika-Lerotholi that the article was based on information from credible sources and that they had verified the details to the best of their ability before publication.

It reiterated that the DCEO had confirmed the existence of the investigation into the NUL Innovation Hub, although specific details remain confidential as the investigation is ongoing.

"We advise that the University may wish to directly contact the DCEO for any further clarification or information concerning the investigation," *Newsday* added.

"We remain committed to providing accurate and fair reporting, and should there be any developments or official statements from the DCEO or NUL, we will continue to report on them with the same level of professionalism."



Creating a Lasting Impact with CSI

Strategic social investments are catalysts for social progress. Over the years, Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) has leveraged its capabilities to contribute to economic growth through its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) program. RSL has used this program to invest in various areas, including education, the environment, entrepreneurship, sports, arts and culture, health, and support for orphanages and vulnerable populations. The main objective of the RSL CSI program is to make meaningful contributions to the communities in which the Service operates. Below are some of the recent successful projects and initiatives RSL has supported through its CSI program.



Environment

As an environmentally conscious organization, RSL has made significant contributions to society and played an instrumental role in preserving the environment. It has adopted premises around the Government Office Complex and the Maseru Bridge Taxi Rank area, extending to the Lesotho Tractors Traffic lights. The organization has installed garbage bins in these areas to promote a clean environment. These garbage bins have benefited groups such as street vendors operating around the Government Office Complex, Maseru Bridge Taxi Rank, and Ha Hlooho residents.



RSL Tree Planting Initiative

Following a successful campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, where RSL planted twenty thousand (20,000) trees to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2023, the organization will continue this drive by planting 21,000 trees in 2024. RSL kicked off this initiative through a partnership with Mantsopa Rotary Club to plant 5,000 trees at Liphookoaneng, Berea, on 16th August 2024. Plans are underway to partner with different sectors to achieve the goal of planting 21,000 trees.



Bacha Entrepreneurship Project

Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) is pleased to announce significant progress on the Bacha Entrepreneurship Project (BEP) following the closure of the call for proposals on 28th June 2024. We are excited to report that a total of 344 submissions were received from aspiring entrepreneurs across the country in various industries. Of these submissions, 155 proposals met the established criteria for adjudication. This marks a crucial milestone in the BEP initiative, which aims to foster entrepreneurial spirit and support young business minds in Lesotho. The proposals that met the criteria have been forwarded to the adjudication panel, composed of esteemed experts and industry leaders. The panel is tasked with the challenging job of evaluating and selecting the top 50 proposals, which will then advance to a two-week intensive training program designed to equip the entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and knowledge to successfully launch and manage their businesses.



LDF Youth Summit

Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) supported the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Youth Summit held at Makoanyane Barracks. The summit aimed to provide participants with courses that promote skills development and realization. The orientation session, part of the LDF Youth Development Program, was also organized to instill leadership traits, independence, patriotism, humanity, spiritual empowerment, and growth among young and aspiring individuals.



Hlokomela Banana Campaign

Since 2018, RSL, in partnership with Hlokomela Banana, has been donating sanitary towels annually to 788 high school girls. These donations support Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso's campaign to provide free sanitary towels to underprivileged girls in high schools. RSL supports 14 high schools, including Mona Government School, Bokoro, Tšepe, Montši, Sebelekoane, Bethesda, St. Gabriel, Mpapa, Miliikane, Hermitage, Linakaneng, Malubalube, Mokotjana, and Motsoanakaba. This initiative advocates for menstrual hygiene and enhances girls' access to education, while also restoring their dignity and confidence, helping them grow into strong young women and leaders.



Partnership with Miss Lesotho Beauty Pageant

RSL is pleased to announce its continued support for the Miss Lesotho Beauty Pageant. This collaboration provides RSL with an opportunity to contribute to youth empowerment and attract the younger generation to tax awareness through peer-led initiatives. The Miss Lesotho Beauty Pageant will take place on 7th September 2024 at Victory Hall.

BUSINESS

Unpacking the intricacies of shareholding

Seabata Mahao



Managing Director of E-Legal Solutions Inc. Thapelo Donald Ntsiki

In a bid to educate the public about the intricacies of shareholding, the E-Legal Solutions Inc in collaboration with CGT and Associates Chartered Accountants recently held a one-day workshop.

Dubbed “Shares 101”, the workshop, held at the American Corner in the State Library, was designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of shares, their valuation, and the impact of these factors on company valuation, investment attraction, and the sale of shares.

This initiative is part of E-Legal Solutions Inc’s ongoing efforts, which began in 2017, to provide legal education to small businesses in Lesotho. The workshop marked the first event of 2024 focused on demystifying the concept of shares within a company.

Thapelo Donald Ntsiki, Managing Director of E-Legal Solutions Inc, explained the workshop’s objectives in an exclusive interview.

“We aimed to shed light on issues surrounding shares, including their implications within a company, the valuation of both companies and shares, and how these valuations affect returns on investment for shareholders,” Ntsiki said.

The workshop featured a presentation by renowned Chartered Accountant Sesinyi Rakubutu, who addressed the financial aspects of shares, while Ntsiki focused on the regulatory and legal aspects.

Ntsiki highlighted the positive feedback received from participants, particularly business owners who acknowledged their limited knowledge of shareholding prior to the workshop.

“Participants realised they had made mistakes when registering their companies, especially when allocating shares without understanding their value or the legal implications,” Ntsiki noted.

ny,” Ntsiki added.

The workshop also addressed the topic of dividends, with Ntsiki clarifying that earning dividends is not an automatic right but depends on the company’s profitability and the

directors’ discretion.

“We educated our participants on the importance of a dividends policy, which guides investors on when and how they will receive their dividends,” he said.

E-Legal Solutions Inc’s “Molao le Khoebo” initiative, which means “Law and Business,” was also discussed. This social initiative was created to bridge the knowledge gap between legal matters and business stakeholders, offering free legal education to the public.

“I started this initiative after realizing that many business owners lacked legal knowledge, which is crucial for their success,” Ntsiki explained.

Ntsiki expressed hope that these workshops would not only educate the public but also influence policy changes and legal developments in Lesotho.

“Even though our laws are outdated, we hope our efforts will contribute to the development of our legal framework and improve how we conduct business in Lesotho,” Ntsiki added.

The “Shares 101” workshop was supported by several partners, including the United States Embassy, Divine Range Products, Thizo Sounds, and Blue Print Ink among others.



ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 37 of the Administration of estate and Inheritance Act

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estate and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon all heirs, legates and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court in THABA TSEKA on the 3rd September 2024 at 11:00 am for the purpose of:

Proposing some person/persons to be appointed by the MASTER as executor dative dated at Thaba Tseka this 30th day of July 2024
Master of the High Court office
TIM office buildings



Upcoming Six-Month Shutdown for LHWP Phase I Tunnels: A Short Pause for a Good Cause

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) reminds the public of the **upcoming maintenance exercise on the Phase I Water Transfer and Delivery Tunnels**. This planned shutdown, scheduled **from October 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025**, will **temporarily halt** water transfers from **Katse to 'Muela** and hydroelectric power generation at the 'Muela Hydropower Station. During this period, there will also be **no water deliveries from Lesotho to South Africa**.

This planned maintenance is a result of the findings from routine inspections carried out between **September and November 2019**. During these inspections, it was discovered that the paint on the steel-lined sections of the tunnels was deteriorating and would need refurbishment within five years. This is critical to maintain the safety and durability of the entire system. Given the priority that the LHDA places on safety, it has prioritized this maintenance to ensure the continued integrity and reliability of the water delivery system.

The upcoming maintenance of the **Transfer Tunnel (45 km from Katse to 'Muela)** and the **Delivery Tunnel (37 km from 'Muela to the Ash River Outfall in South Africa)** is crucial to sustaining the key functions of the system of water delivery, and the generation of electricity for Lesotho.

LHDA's **Chief Executive, Mr. Tente Tente**, emphasized the importance of this maintenance during a press conference held in Maseru earlier this year. He reiterated that the inspections from 2019 highlighted the urgency of the situation and assured stakeholders that the maintenance would ensure the continued safe operation of the tunnels for years to come.

The contractor responsible for this significant task, **Corocoat**, is already in the final stages of preparation. Recruitment for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers is currently underway. The LHDA, in collaboration with its HR consultant, is actively distributing advertisements and public notices within the catchment area and other platforms to ensure all relevant stakeholders and interested applicants are informed.

This planned shutdown is a vital step in safeguarding the infrastructure that supports both water delivery and the generation of electricity for Lesotho. LHDA is committed to keeping all stakeholders informed throughout this process and will provide regular updates as the maintenance progresses. The Authority has kicked off a **media campaign across all channels, including radio, print, TV, social media and outdoor media**, to ensure that all Basotho and key stakeholders are informed of this upcoming maintenance work.

HO CHECHA HOA RAMO, HA SE HO BALEHA!

For more information and updates, stakeholders are encouraged to monitor public notices and LHDA's official communication channels.

Gudos to NUL: Keeping it classy and dodging a showdown

In an era where many organisations resort to aggressive legal posturing in response to media scrutiny, the National University of Lesotho (NUL) has distinguished itself with a different approach.

Faced with allegations of corruption and an ongoing investigation by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO), NUL chose not to unleash its legal hounds but instead issued a thoughtful statement addressing the situation.

This is a refreshing change from the all-too-common knee-jerk reactions where institutions, upon reading something unfavourable about themselves in the media, immediately instruct their lawyers to fire off threatening letters.

These letters often come with demands for retractions and veiled threats of million-maloti lawsuits, all intended to intimidate the media into silence. Such tactics undermine the vital role of the press in holding power to account and often serve only to erode public trust.

NUL's decision to take the high road by engaging in open dialogue rather than resorting to legal threats deserves commendation. It reflects the values expected from an institution dedicated to producing the next generation of journalists and public relations professionals.

By choosing transparency over intimidation, NUL has shown that it understands the importance of fostering a healthy relationship with the media and the public.

However, we must point out that NUL's request for information from Newsday, despite the DCEO confirming an ongoing investigation, was perhaps not the wisest move. While the university's desire for clarification is understandable, such a request could be misconstrued as an attempt to interfere with or undermine the investigation.

The university must be careful to avoid actions that could be interpreted as an effort to stifle press freedom—a path well-trodden by other organisations that have attempted to silence critical reporting.

Let's be clear, though: even if NUL had chosen to go down the legal route, we at Newsday are more than ready for the challenge. After all, some of our employees are proud graduates of NUL, and they learned a thing or two while they were there.

If it came down to it, we would have shown the university that its graduates are more than capable of defending principles such as ethics, integrity, and a fierce commitment to the truth.

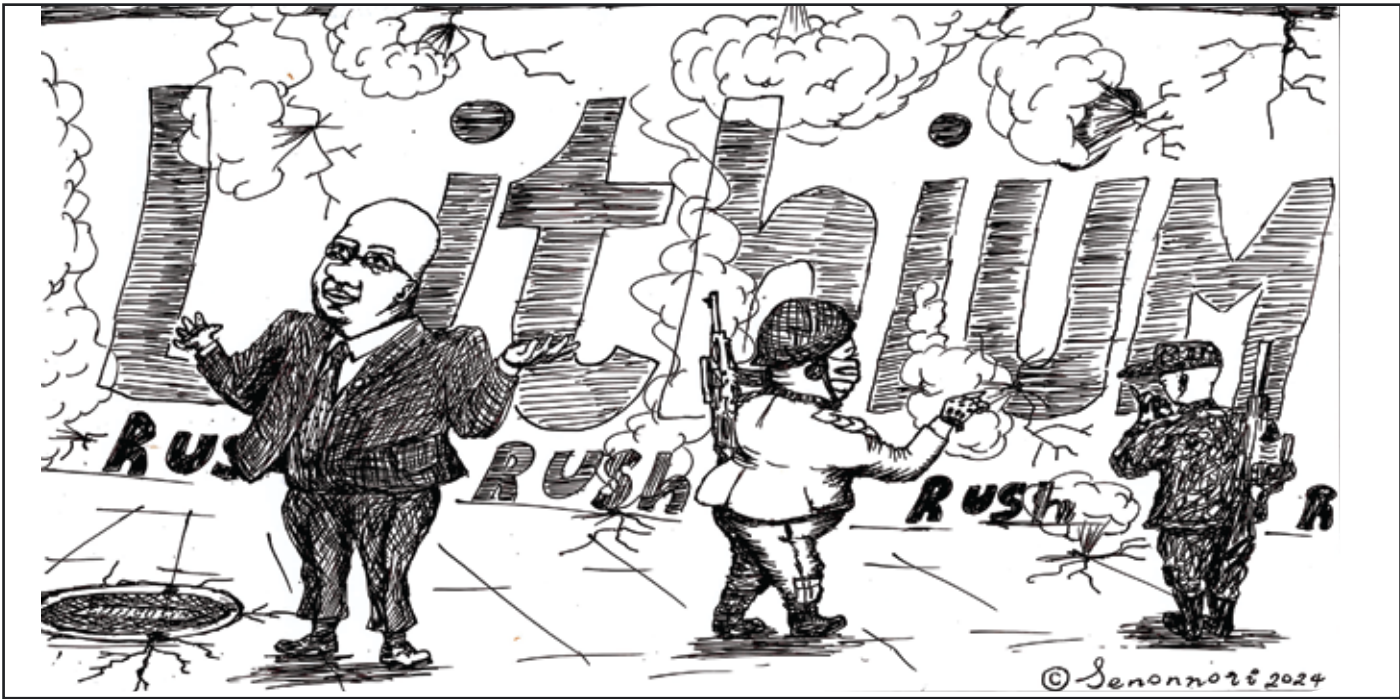
In other words, and on a lighter note, if NUL had brought a legal fight, Newsday would have kicked its ass with the very skills imparted by NUL itself. We are not just playing in the same sandbox; we built it!

That said, we believe NUL's decision to clarify its position and welcome the investigation is the right one. It sends a strong message that the university is serious about addressing any allegations of corruption and is not afraid of scrutiny.

We trust that this stance is more than just lip service and that NUL will continue to uphold the high standards it espouses.

In conclusion, we commend NUL for its openness and its stated commitment to transparency. We hope that this approach continues in the future and that the university remains a model of integrity and accountability.

After all, it would be a shame if NUL, an institution dedicated to educating the next generation of professionals, found itself lumped together with those who seek to stifle press freedom rather than defend it.



Theko Tlebere

COMMON CONCERN

Vote of Confidence: SADC Endorsed Setipa for Commonwealth Secretary-General

The 44th Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) took place on August 17, 2024, in Harare, Zimbabwe. It was a significant moment for both the region and the broader international community. One of the summit's key outcomes was the collective endorsement of Joshua Phoho Setipa from Lesotho as SADC's candidate for the position of Commonwealth Secretary-General. This endorsement represents more than just confidence in an individual; it is proof of Setipa's distinguished career, his vision for the future, and the unity of the SADC region in championing leadership that fosters cooperation, development, and progress on the global stage.

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Joshua Phoho Setipa's path to becoming a candidate for one of the most prestigious roles in international diplomacy is marked by decades of experience in both national and international arenas. Setipa has held numerous high-profile roles, including Chief Executive Officer of the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) and Minister of Trade and Industry in Lesotho. He brings a wealth of knowledge in trade, development, and governance to the table. Setipa's strategic approach to development prioritises sustainability, inclusivity, and long-term growth.

As Minister of Trade and Industry, he demonstrated his ability to navigate complex international trade negotiations, advocate for fair trade practices, and contribute to the economic advancement of not only Lesotho but also the entire SADC region. His experience with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) provided valuable insights into global trade dynamics, international diplomacy, and multilateral cooperation. Setipa's understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by the Commonwealth's member states, particularly those from the Global South, makes him a highly qualified candidate. Setipa intends to undertake a thorough

assessment of the Secretariat's administrative procedures to enhance communication with stakeholders, optimise program development and delivery, and improve overall efficiency. Setipa is fully dedicated to implementing effective assessment tools, enhancing financial management, and developing a comprehensive strategy for resource mobilisation.

SADC's endorsement of Setipa as the candidate for Commonwealth Secretary-General is a strategic move that reflects the region's unity and vision for the future. This endorsement sends a strong message of regional solidarity, emphasising the importance of

"If bestowed with this immense honour, I pledge to work diligently with members to uphold and advance the Commonwealth's values, effectively represent the organisation on the global stage, and provide visionary leadership to the Commonwealth Secretariat."
Joshua Setipa

of African leadership in global governance. It underscores SADC's commitment to ensuring that the voices of smaller, developing nations are heard on the international stage. The endorsement also aligns with the broader African Union (AU) agenda of promoting African leadership in international organisations. Setipa's potential appointment as Commonwealth Secretary-General would further enhance Africa's role in shaping global governance.

Joshua Phoho Setipa's vision for the Commonwealth aligns with its core values of democracy, development, and diversity. His candidacy is centered on revitalising the Commonwealth, making it more responsive to the needs of its member states, and ensuring its relevance and

dynamism in the 21st century. He aims to strengthen the Commonwealth's role in promoting sustainable development, economic resilience, and inclusive growth. Setipa envisions an inclusive Commonwealth that values the voices of all member states, regardless of size or economic power. He is committed to advancing the Commonwealth's work in democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Setipa's potential leadership would reinforce these principles and uphold the Commonwealth's reputation as a defender of human rights.

The endorsement of Joshua Phoho Setipa by SADC is epoch-making for Lesotho, the region, and the Commonwealth as a whole. It represents confidence in Setipa's ability to lead the organisation into a new era of cooperation, development, and inclusivity. With his extensive experience, visionary leadership, and commitment to the Commonwealth's values, Setipa is an ideal candidate to address the challenges of the 21st century. His candidacy offers an opportunity to renew the Commonwealth's relevance and impact with fresh perspectives, innovative solutions, and a steadfast commitment to unity. SADC's endorsement reflects their confidence in Setipa's leadership and their commitment to a more united, prosperous, and equitable global community.

In closing today's chapter, it is essential to reiterate that, Joshua Phoho Setipa's endorsement by Heads of state and Governments' as the candidate for Commonwealth Secretary-General is a testament to his exceptional leadership qualities and the unity of the SADC region in championing effective and inclusive global governance. Setipa's potential to bring about meaningful change within the Commonwealth, combined with his dedication to democracy, development, and diversity, makes him the ideal leader to guide the organisation into a new chapter of progress and cooperation. The Future is NOW!

OPINION

Open Letter to Deputy Prime Minister Majara

Subject: Your “Cordial Discussion with the DPP” to Drop Charges against Hon Metsing.

I am not so sure that you still deserve to be addressed as honourable and Justice on account of the preposterous role you are playing regarding the subject where, by your own admission, you are aiding and abetting the accused suspect, Hon. Mothetjoa Metsing, to escape the very justice you are responsible to oversee its administration without reservation.

However, your supposed “cordial discussion” with the DPP to consider withdrawing the criminal charges against him is not in my name. / voted you in office to uphold the rule of law and not sabotage it by “withdrawing” these or any other charges unlawfully and unilaterally.

I am shocked and dismayed to learn that you, of all people, have been, all along, behind the gratuitously slow-moving wheels of justice in this matter.

Ms Majara, until the last poll, I had been one of the multitudes who had lost faith and hope in the country’s elections outcomes to an extent that I would have skipped this last poll if you did not burst onto the political scene. On the voting day I was not very well (if need be, I have the proof of my ill-health), but I had to summon enough of my energy reserve to drive all the way from South Africa to come and vote specifically for you at LDF with the following two objectives:

1. To block out of power Mokhothu and his alliance block of the illiterate rogues masquerading as leaders who would promise everything

- only to fulfil nothing, instead would continue with their corruption, maladministration and madly looting spree.
2. As my last hope that you would fulfil the promises you made in your Moruo Mohoo - to which I had contributed in the form of written proposals:
 - (a) Bring about economic development and your so-called moruo.
 - (b) Reduce unemployment.
 - (c) Ameliorate the dire food insecurity.
 - (d) Restore trust and respect in the justice system and the rule of law by combating crime — a phenomenon that is spiralling out of control since you assumed office.
 - (e) Improve delivery of the public services.
 - (f) Stop livestock theft and the rampant corruption.
 - (g) Reform the dysfunctional social sector: Education and health systems are dead.
 - (h) Reform the dysfunctional LNBS. No media house, save this one that you, Moorosi, Matekane, and PS Ramashamole are heading will report: A Boeing 737 plane skids the runway in Senegal and burst a tyre in Turkey (your May 9th 2024 bulletin). Only Matekane and you or Nthathi were flying in that plane nowhere.You won those elections on the basis of lies, so it would appear because, almost two years in office, you have fulfilled none of

these promises; instead, you are busy making these illconceived “cordial suggestions” for criminals to escape justice — an act that you intend to miscarry the very justice and rule of law you pledged before Their Majesties to uphold.

Hon. Majara, Hon. Metsing is an illiterate leader of no-party who is falsely claiming a graduate degree, yet worth no value to be seeking to be ransomed or salvaged with such an invaluable price. He can only be a leader in a pathetic Lesotho where mediocrity is measured in units of gold.

Rather than making your irrational and wrongful “cordial discussions” to free him from justice, you should be asking him to justify his sudden overwhelming wealth in the midst of a sea of abject poverty, or else make amendments to his charge sheet. He comes from a very poor background, and until he became the minister of Communications, and later Deputy Prime Minister of Local Government, where I assume he must have abused his powers by, among other things, deploying his concubines, and for what strategic reasons, he was still not rich, unless he can contradict me in my capacity as his taxpayer and voter.

He must have identified a golden opportunity there.

Ms Majara, your understanding and inference that political stability is inversely related to justice and the rule of law is either spurious or ridiculous to say the least. The apparent political instability you claim in favour of Metsing is not real but only an artificial mirage, a smokescreen designed to mislead you into a miscalculation. Your

belief in it will only buttress the point of your unfitness for purpose. Suppose the Mahaos, and of course others, also threaten to stir up instability, what will you do, or have you sought and secured their consent and assurance? Not when you have demonstrated this degree of selfishness.

I hold no brief for the former Premier Thomase Thabane, yet cannot but conclude that the only rational reshuffle he ever did as the Premier was to get rid of you; you were unfit. I would, therefore, “cordially” advise you in my capacity as someone who voted you in power to do justice to yourself, myself, and the electorate and resign, leaving Adv. Motinyane to do her job unfettered.

But before you go, please, come clean and make a full disclosure regarding the role played by Premier Samuele Matekane in your “cordial suggestion” fiasco.

As for Metsing, he belongs where Kamoli belongs and is. Since you know very well that he is a flight risk, you must hold him in custody before it is too late! I will offer to deliver his lunch meals personally (ha, ha)!

Yours faithfully,
Lefu Lechesa

The views and opinions expressed in this open letter are those of the author, Lefu Lechesa, and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Newsday or its affiliates. Newsday publishes this letter in the interest of public discourse and does not endorse any of the statements made. Readers are advised that the content herein represents the author’s personal views and should be interpreted as such.


Online Reputation Management: Preserving Brand Integrity in the era of cancel culture and social media scrutiny

Tanki Kotelo

In today’s digital age, where social media wields unparalleled authority as judge, jury, and executioner, traditional public relations (PR) statements simply don’t carry the same weight anymore. At a time where the court of public opinion now holds the power to decide the fate of an individual or brand, more proactive measures need to be adopted in order to protect the integrity of brands.

Although intangible, your reputation as a brand is significant for the growth and longevity of your business success and can create unimaginable havoc if poorly maintained. Especially with the now predominant phenomenon of cancel culture.

Although the use of social media has grown exponentially through the years, many brands are still in the dark—worryingly oblivious to the radical power and impact of social media, thus failing to invest seriously in developing their online presence and recruiting social media managers who are equipped with the necessary skills to cultivate a positive image. Some of the pitfalls of the poor management of online reputation or a lack of such mechanisms in place are that it can result in the breakdown of trust and loyalty between customers and stakeholders. In the case of employees, it can also affect their morale and turnover.



Bloom
Communications

So what exactly is online reputation management (ORM), and how can social media managers and brands alike navigate this very shaky ground and the daunting task of protecting brands? Simply put, ORM is a double-barrelled exercise that involves attentively keeping track of your brand’s online reputation as well as deploying tactical and proactive measures taken to influence and shape people’s perceptions of your brand. This can be done through monitoring reviews of your business and encouraging customers to leave reviews, tracking news and mentions of your brand, responding timeously to comments, as well as crafting brand recognition and trust through social media and other online forums.

Another challenge to online reputation management is the emergence of cancel culture. In

a ‘woke’ era where brands and social media managers are automatically obligated to be socially aware and are faced with the weighted expectation of not offending particular societal factions, managing online reputation has never been more complex. Cancel culture is a form of online activism fueled by public outcry from individuals or groups who publicly criticise a person, brand, or organisation in retaliation to a perceived offence or unpopular stance. This is usually then followed by widespread public condemnation of brands through the means of hashtags and viral posts, which eventually leave PR and social media managers with the insurmountable task of rescuing the brands.

While the proliferation of modern technologies such as AI and other machine learning software might be lessening the burden by doing all the hard work of the traditional press agency model of PR by employing advanced tactics such as data mining and social listening, they often lack the urgency and adaptability needed to manage online reputation. Therefore, social media managers should be vigilant in their approach to managing brand integrity. The goal is to focus on personalisation and addressing the pain points of consumers. For instance, writing clients and stakeholders personal emails assuring them that they have nothing to worry about in times of crisis.

To protect your brand’s reputation, consider these strategies:

- Create a crisis communication plan and step-by-step protocols to be followed in

the face of backlash or controversy. Thus ensuring a planned, consistent, and impactful response.

- Engage influencers and key opinion leaders within your industry, with the goal of building relationships and driving positive mentions of your brand in their content.
- Keep communication lines open by promptly and transparently addressing any allegation and controversies, regardless of their magnitude, and without getting defensive.
- Partner with local NGOs, community groups, and other organisations to showcase your brand’s social responsibility and support for community development.

Today, maintaining a positive online reputation is as critical as breathing for brands. One bad interaction can tarnish your brand forever. With so many competitors and platforms available, the task of mitigating misinformation and negative reviews can be overwhelming. Brands that prioritise their reputation must invest in proactive mechanisms and hire skilled reputation management professionals. The days of naively operating without online reputation managers are long past.

Bloom Communications is a Lesotho-based consultancy, specialising in best-in-class media-driven communications, professional writing, public relations, social media management, and marketing for individuals, corporates, and micro, small, and medium-sized brands. For feedback contact: info@bloomcommunications.co.ls



Lesotho

RE:INVITATION TO TENDER

LGCHAP 03/2024/2025

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHIEFTAINSHIP, HOME AFFAIRS & POLICE

Invites tenders from legally registered and suitably qualified manufacturers or suppliers for supply and delivery of PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHIEFTAINSHIP, HOME AFFAIRS & POLICE 2024/2025.

1. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1.1 Bidders are expected to use bid forms provided by the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police for uniformity. Bidders who do not use the form will be **disqualified**.
- 1.2 Prices should include all relevant costs, e.g. Transport costs, VAT included. The acceptance of any tender will not necessarily be based on the lowest price.
- 1.3 Bidders are advised to stick to specification; no extra points will be awarded for bonus specification.
- 1.4 Tender documents must be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission.
- 1.5 Bidders must quote for all items in a category. Bidders who do not quote for all items in a category shall be **disqualified**.
- 1.6 Bidders must attach the certificate of bona fide tendering, stamped and signed.
- 1.7 Bidders should attach original copy for prove of payment receipt.
- 1.8 Bidders are free to quote for one or more categories.

2. THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

- 2.1 Samples and Bureau of Standard certificate must be presented to the Procurement Unit during the opening of tenders for evaluation.
- 2.2 Bidders must reflect competence in the supply of protective clothing or similar apparel. (Bidders should attach a reference letter of previous supply of protective clothing or similar apparel.)

3. INSPECTION OF MATERIAL.

- 3.1 Goods must bear marking of the International Bureau of Standards.
- 3.2 The Ministry reserves the right to verify compliance of the with the International Bureau of Standards.

4. SCOPE OF WORK
CAT-1 DIVERS PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (SOU)

5. PROPOSED TENDER SCHEDULE

The tender process will be guided by the following indicative dates:

| ACTIVITY | DATES |
|---|---------------------|
| Invitation to Tender Issued | 23rd August 2024 |
| Deadline for clarifications | 06th September 2024 |
| Invitation To Tender Close | 01st October 2024 |
| Selection Notification of preferred Bidder (Evaluation) | 04th October 2024 |
| Contract negotiations complete (Contract award) | 15th October 2024 |

6. Invitation to Tender Process

Tender will be evaluated according to Lesotho Public Procurement act 2023.

The evaluation will be based on:

- Terms and conditions
- Submission of Mandatory Requirements
- Margin of preference
- Technical Proposal 60%
- Financial Proposal 40%

7. EVALUATION OF TECHNICAL SOLUTION:

| Criteria | Score | Weighting | Weighted Score |
|----------|-------|-----------|----------------|
|----------|-------|-----------|----------------|

| | | | |
|---|--------|---|------------|
| Company Profile | 0 – 10 | 1 | 10 |
| Technical Compliance | 0 – 10 | 3 | 30 |
| Approach to project deliver | 0 – 10 | 3 | 30 |
| Client References | 0 – 10 | 2 | 20 |
| Audited Financial Statement for the past two years to date. | 0 – 10 | 1 | 10 |
| Total | | | 100 |

7.1 FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The cost evaluation will be carried out by applying the following formula:

- The bidder with lowest complete price (L), will be awarded 100%.
- Bidders with price P, will be awarded a financial score = (L/P)*100%.

8. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1 Original bid document with signed covering letter or quotation.
- 8.2 Certificate of bona fide tendering.
- 8.3 Copy of Traders License certified at the source.
- 8.4 Bidders must attach recent bank statement (3 months before date of publication of tender). May, June and July 2024.)

Detailed tender documents are available at Procurement Unit, from 23rd August 2024 at Maseru (Police Head Quarters) on Monday to Friday from 0800hrs to 1530hrs at a non-refundable fee of M2,000.00 per Category payable at Police Headquarters Revenue Office, 1st floor.

SUBMISSION

All Tenderers should deposit their original tenders with five copies in Tender Box situated at
Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police
Moposo Building, Fifth Floor, Procurement Office Room
P.O. Box 113

Maseru 100, not later than 01st October 2024 on or before 1000hrs. Please note that LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Bids will be opened on the submission day at 10:30 in the presence of bidders or their representatives at The Procurement Unit of the Ministry as addressed above. Tender bearing no identification of bidder must be in sealed envelope and marked Supply and Delivery of Cat-1 Divers Protective Clothing (Sou) for the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police The Government of Lesotho – Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tenders, which does not comply with terms and conditions. All prospective bidders are expected to be in compliance with their tax obligations.

For clarifications on this tender, please contact the procurement Unit in writing on the address and contacts below;



Lesotho

RE:INVITATION TO TENDER

LGCHAP 01/2024/2025

Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police

Invites tenders from legally registered and suitably qualified suppliers for supply and delivery of LESOTHO MOUNTED POLICE SERVICES FLEET WORKSHOP TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT.

1. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1.1 Bidders are expected to use bid forms provided by the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police for uniformity. Bidders who do not use the bid form will be **disqualified**.
- 1.2 Prices should include all relevant costs, e.g. Transport costs, VAT included. The acceptance of any tender will not necessarily be based on the lowest price.
- 1.3 Bidders are advised to stick to specification; no extra points will be awarded for bonus specification.
- 1.4 Tender documents must be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission.
- 1.5 Bidders must quote for all items in a bid form. Bidders who do not quote for all items in a bid form shall be **disqualified**.
- 1.6 Bidders must attach the certificate of bona fide tendering, stamped and signed.
- 1.7 Bidders must attach original copy for prove of payment receipt.

2. THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

- 2.1 Bidders must reflect competence in the supply of workshop tools and equipment (Bidders must attach a reference letter of previous supply of workshop tools, equipment or similar goods and services.
- The Ministry of Police reserves the right to reject the supplied materials if they vary with the specification during delivery.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

CAT: 1 FLEET WORKSHOP TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

4. PROPOSED TENDER SCHEDULE

The tender process will be guided by the following indicative dates:

| ACTIVITY | DATES |
|---|---------------------|
| Invitation to Tender Issued | 23rd August 2024 |
| Deadline for clarifications | 06th September 2024 |
| Invitation To Tender Close | 01st October 2024 |
| Selection Notification of preferred Bidder (Evaluation) | 04th October 2024 |
| Contract negotiations complete (Contract award) | 15th October 2024 |
| Invitation to Tender Issued | 22nd October 2024 |

5. Invitation to Tender Process

Tenders will be evaluated according to:

- Terms and conditions
- Submission of Mandatory Requirements
- Margin of preference
- Technical Proposal 60%
- Financial Proposal 40%

TECHNICAL SOLUTION

| CRITERIA | MARKS | WEIGHT-INGS | TOTAL SCORE |
|--|-------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Audited Financial Statements | 15 | 1 | 15 |
| 2. Location, and Physical Address | 15 | 1 | 15 |
| 3. Display of Stock, Tools, Equipment etc | 10 | 1 | 10 |
| 3. Work Contracts & Delivery Notes Of Similar Nature Done For The Past 2 Years | 10 | 1 | 10 |

| | | | |
|---|----|---|----|
| 4. Reference Letters/Invoices Of Previous Supply Of Workshop tools and equipment. | 20 | 1 | 20 |
| 11. Magnitude Of Work/Services Carried Out: | | | |
| • M100,000.00 To M200,000.00 | 10 | 1 | 10 |
| • M200,001.00 And Above | 10 | 1 | 20 |
| TOTAL | | | |

FINANCIAL SOLUTION

The price evaluation will be carried out by applying the following formula:

NB: ALL THE QUOTES MUST BE IN MALOTI.

- The Bidder with lowest complete price (L), will be awarded 100%
- Bidders with price P, will be awarded a financial score = (L/P) X 100%

Financial Score = Technical solution + Financial solution

6. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1 Original bid document with signed covering letter or quotation.
- 6.2 Copy of Tax Clearance Certificate certified at source.
- 6.3 Copy of Traders License certified at the source.
- 6.4 Bidders must attach recent bank statement (3 months before date of publication of tender). May, June and July 2024.)
- 6.5 Audited financial statements for the past two years to date by the registered accountant (accountant should supply a verification letter and be stamped) Alternative, submission of stamped Revenue Services Lesotho financial statements. A refundable bid security of M10, 000.00 in a form of Bank Guarantee or a letter from accredited financial institution.

Detailed tender documents are available at Procurement Unit, from 23rd August 2024 at Maseru (Police Head Quarters) on Monday to Friday from 0800hrs to 1530hrs at a non-refundable fee of M2,000.00 per Category payable at Police Headquarters Revenue Office, 1st floor.

SUBMISSION

All Tenderers should deposit their original tenders with five copies in Tender Box situated at
Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police
Moposo Building, Fifth Floor, Procurement Office Room
P.O. Box 113

Maseru 100, not later than 01st October 2024 on or before 1000hrs. Please note that LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Tenders will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at 1030hrs on the same day at the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police Board Room, Fifth Floor, Moposo House, Maseru 100. Tenders bearing no identification of the bidder (if found bearing marks of the bidder will be automatically disqualified) must be in sealed form and clearly marked (Supply and Delivery of Lesotho Mounted Police Service Fleet Workshop Tools and Equipment the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police). The Government of Lesotho – Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tenders, which does not comply with terms and conditions. All prospective bidders are expected to be in compliance with their tax obligations.

For clarifications on this tender, please contact the procurement Unit in writing on the address and contacts below;



Implemented by



CALL FOR PROPOSALS:83471268

Title: Appointment of a Consultant for the Private Sector Engagement in GBV Prevention

Brief background: The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) provides services in the field of international development cooperation and international education work. We are working with partners in national governments, actors from the private sector, civil society and research institutions. Our goal is to deliver effective solutions that offer people better prospects and sustainably improve their living conditions.

GIZ has been supporting international cooperation between Germany and the Kingdom of Lesotho since 1976. The German and selected Southern African Regional Governments including Lesotho have agreed on a joint initiative: The Partnerships for Prevention of Gender-based Violence in Southern Africa (PfP-II). This is the follow-on module of the previous project (PfP-I), implemented in four countries (South Africa, Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe) from December 2017 until November 2021. In the new phase, the programme will build on the experiences and successes of the first programme phase. While PfP-I was focused on improving the coordination amongst relevant stakeholders to establish multi-sectoral networks for primary GBV prevention, the new phase will focus on implementation of innovative and context-specific flagships for primary GBV prevention to alter social norms and practices that instigate GBV. The

overall objective of the programme is to strengthen the joint implementation of evidence informed GBV prevention flagships by regional, national and sub-national stakeholders across sectors in Southern Africa.

Call for proposals: Against this background, the programme is looking to engage a **consultant to support realization of engaging with the private sector for GBV prevention in the workplace**. This hinges on the notion that various forms of violence against women such as sexual harassment, stalking and domestic violence can have serious impact on work performance, absenteeism, and the general well-being of staff, therefore, in return affecting company output/productivity.

GIZ invites eligible and professional **companies with local presence in Lesotho** to participate in this tender.

Tender documents are available for downloading at the following link <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/155390.html>

Your proposal must be submitted to **ZA_Quotation@giz.de** by **15.09.2024**. Please quote reference **83471268** when submitting the documentation. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**



Vacancy

Finance Assistant x 2

Maseru District, Lesotho

Talent Acquisition Specialist at mothers2mothers

To provide technical financial and operational support to the Country Office Finance operations in line with m2m financial policies and procedures and acceptable International Financial Accounting Standards, in close liaison with the Finance Officer.

Key Performance Areas:

Implementation of finance and administrative processes

- Maintain the established finance processes
- Review financial transactions for completeness and adherence to m2m policies & guidelines.
- Maintain the filing and archiving system for finance and supporting documentation in compliance with set standards
- Provide support to audit processes, through retrieval of required documentation
- Provide confirmation to service providers to render services and/or goods upon approved requests
- Manage Petty cash per petty cash policies and process.
- Assist with the month-end and year end close activities

Purchasing

- Enter invoices into the accounting system and allocate them against purchase orders
- Work with the Finance Officer to address supplier queries regarding payments
- Provide clerical support in maintaining and updating supplier information and do relevant background checks and terrorist/debarment checks
- Setup payments onto the banking system for submission
- Perform regular vendor account reconciliations
- Ensure all Purchase Orders are closed at the end of every month, within set timelines

Payment Processing

- Process Payment Requisitions and related staff advances
- Compile staff liquidations for review by Finance Officer
- Enter all expenses into the accounting system (Reimbursements and/or advance liquidations)
- Review all payment requests to ensure all conditions for payment are met.

Revenue/Income, Debtors and cash book management

- Manage the petty cash per petty cash policy and process and balance petty cash monthly
- Review of all Mobile Money transactions to ensure they meet all conditions for payment and pass them for approval

- Perform Mobile Money reconciliations before replenishment

Assets

- In collaboration with the Administrative Office, regularly update the asset register,
- In collaboration with the Administrative Officer, conduct bi-annual asset verification to ascertain asset condition

Qualifications and Experience:

A minimum of a Diploma in Finance and Accounting, Business Administration, Commerce or related field from an accredited University
At least 2 years' work experience in a related role preferably in an International NGO or Audit firm
Previous experience from working in complex and dynamic contexts
Computer skills including the ability to operate computerized accounting, spreadsheets and word processing programs at a highly proficient level


Competencies:

- Excellent interpersonal skills; ability to work on own and within various teams.
- High level of integrity
 - Excellent written and spoken communication skills
 - Meticulous, with a high degree of attention to detail
 - Able to follow through results to the end
 - Able to work in and deliver results in a high-pressure environment
 - Committed to continuous learning and development

mothers2mothers is an equal opportunity employer. We particularly encourage applications from people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA), people with disabilities, women and previously disadvantaged people. Competitive salary packages will be negotiable in accordance with m2m's remuneration policies.

- Seniority level
Not Applicable
- Employment type
Contract
- Job function
Finance
- Industries
Non-profit Organizations

Referrals increase your chances of interviewing at mothers2mothers by 2x



Lesotho

RE:INVITATION TO TENDER

LGCHAP 04 /2024/2025

The Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police

Invites tenders from legally registered and suitably qualified companies for supply and delivery of **FOOD COMMODITIES AND VARIETY OF GOODS AND SERVICES** for the year 2024/2025.

1. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1.1 Bidders are expected to use bid forms provided by the Ministry of Police for uniformity. Bidders who do not use the form will be **disqualified**.
1.2 Prices should include all relevant costs, e.g. Transport costs, VAT included. The acceptance of any tender will not necessarily be based on the lowest price.
1.3 Bidders are advised to stick to specification; no extra points will be awarded for bonus specification.
1.4 Tender documents must be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission.
1.5 Bidders must quote for **all** items in a category. Bidders who do not quote for all items will be **disqualified**.
1.6 Bidders must attach the certificate of bonafide tendering, stamped and signed.
1.7 Bidders should attach original copy for prove of payment receipt.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

- LOT 1: FOOD COMMODITIES

CAT 8: BAKERY

3. PROPOSED TENDER SCHEDULE

The tender process will be guided by the following indicative dates:

| ACTIVITY | DATES |
|---|---------------------|
| Invitation to Tender Issued | 23rd August 2024 |
| Deadline for clarifications | 06th September 2024 |
| Invitation To Tender Close | 01st October 2024 |
| Selection Notification of preferred Bidder (Evaluation) | 04th October 2024 |
| Contract negotiations complete (Contract award) | 15th October 2024 |
| Contract signing | 22nd October 2024 |

4.1 Invitation to Tender Process

Tender will be evaluated according to Public Procurement Act No. 23 of 2023. The evaluation will be based on:

- Terms and conditions
- Submission of Mandatory Requirements
- Margin of preference
- Technical solution (60%)
- Financial Proposal (40%)

4.2 EVALUATION OF TECHNICAL SOLUTION:

| Criteria | Score | Weighting | Weighted Score |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------|----------------|
| Company Profile | 0 – 10 | 1 | 10 |
| Technical Compliance | 0 – 10 | 3 | 30 |
| Approach to project deliver | 0 – 10 | 3 | 30 |

Client Refer-ences

0 – 10

2

20

Audited Finan-cial Statement for the past two years to date. Total

0 – 10

1

10

Total

100

4.3 FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The cost evaluation will be carried out by applying the following formula:

- The bidder with lowest complete price (L), will be awarded 100%.
- Bidders with price P, will be awarded a financial score = (L/P)*100%.

4.4 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Original bid document.
Certificate of bona fide tendering
Copy of Tax Clearance Certificate Certified at source.
Copy of Traders License Certified at the source.
Bidders must attach recent bank statement (3 months before date of publi-cation of tender). May, June and July 2024.)
NB bidders who fail to submit all mandatory requirements will be dis-qualified.

Detailed tender documents are available at Procurement Unit, from 23rd Au-gust 2024 at Maseru (*Police Head Quarters*) on Monday to Friday from 0800hrs to 1530hrs at a non-refundable fee of M2,000.00 per Category payable at Police Headquarters Revenue Office, 1st floor.


SUBMISSION

All Tenderers should deposit their original tenders with five copies in Tender Box situated at
Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police
Moposo Building, Fifth Floor, Procurement Office Room
P.O. Box 113

Maseru 100, not later than 01st October 2024 on or before 1000hrs. Please note that **LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**.

Tenders will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at 1030hrs on the same day at the **Ministry of Local Gov-ernment, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police Moposo Building, Fifth Floor, Boardroom**. Tenders bearing no identification of the bidder must be in sealed form and clearly marked **“SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF (Describe LOT and category-e.g “(LOT 1: CAT 8 BAKERY) the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police**

The Government of Lesotho – Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tenders, which does not comply with terms and conditions. All prospective bidders are expected to be in compli-ance with their tax obligations.
For clarifications on this tender, please contact the procurement Unit in writing on the address and contacts below;



Ministry of Gender, Youth & Social Development

TENDER NOTICE

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SUPPORTIVE WHEELCHAIRS FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

1. The Ministry of Gender youth and Social Development has received funding from the Government of Lesotho as a counter-part contribution towards the support of the disability services and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply and delivery of every-day and supportive wheelchairs.

2. The Ministry of Social Development now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply and delivery of wheelchairs for Dis-ability Department located at headquarters of the Ministry Gender Youth and Social Development 2nd floor room 201, 1010 Building opposite Pitso Ground playground.

3. Bidding will be conducted through national competitive procurement approach using a Procurement Act , 2023 of the Kingdom of Lesotho and is open to all eligible Bid-ders registered with the Ministry of Finance (IFMIS) and in good standing in taxes with the Lesotho Revenue Authority and license from Ministry of Trade and Industry.

4. All bidders shall provide valid certified cop-ies of relevant Trader's License and Tax Clearance Certificates issued by relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Lesotho. All copies shall be certified at source. Failure to submit these documents will form grounds for disqualification of the bid.

5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain fur-ther information from Ministry of Social Development, Procurement Section during office hours from Monday to Friday.

6. The bidding documents will be available from 19TH AUGUST 2024 from 0800 – 1600 hrs and may be purchased by in-terested Bidders upon payment of nonre-fundable fee of M2000.00 to the Ministry of Gender Youth and Social Development, Ac-

counts Section, 2nd floor room 201 near Pitso ground playground.


7. The government of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and is not bound to accept a tender with the low-est tender price. What is considered is the tender which provide value for money.

8. The bid security of 2% of the tendered amount must be in the form of a bank guarantee from an accredited financial in-stitute and should accompany the tender submission.

9. Bids must be hand delivered to the ad-dress below and deposited in the tender box situated on the 2nd floor **BOARD-ROOM**,1010 building the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development on or before 30h September 2024 at 12:30hrs in one original and three copies clearly marked “COPY” and “ORIGION-AL” respectively in one sealed envelope clearly marked **“Supply and delivery of supportive wheelchairs for disability services in the ministry of social de-velopment”** bearing no identification of the bidder. Bids submitted after the dead-line will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend on the 30th Sep-tember 2024 day at 14:30hrs.

10. All bids shall be addressed to:

Procurement Office
Attention: Principal Secretary
Ministry of Gender Youth and Social Development
Private bag A222
Maseru 100
Lesotho



Invitation for Bids

Maseru, Lesotho
August 16, 2024

Re: Supply and Delivery of Tools and Materials for School Gardening- Ref No: IFAD/ROLL/0062G/2024-2025

The *Government of Lesotho* has received financing from the International Fund for Ag-ricultural Development (IFAD), Global Environment Facility(GEF) ,Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO) and OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and intends to apply a part of the proceeds of the financing to this purchase. The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD’s approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD’s rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods.

1. The **Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods** includes rehabilitation of six-teen identified landscapes in Lesotho and improvement of the livelihoods of the people in the rural areas, within a period of eight years.

2. This invitation for bids (IFB) follows the general procurement notice that appeared in Lesotho times and Public eye newspapers on 30 May 2024 and 31 May 2024 respectively and mail &guardian on the 07 June 2024

3. The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities (bidders) for the pro-vision of Supply and Delivery of Tools and Materials for School Gardening More details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of re-quirements in this bidding document.

4. This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully carry out the procurement.

5. Bidding will be conducted using the **national competitive bidding (NCB)** method, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in ac-cordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook which is provided at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The NCB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.

6. Please note that a pre-bid conference **will not be** held as described in the bid data

sheet (BDS), Section III of the bidding document.

7. Bidding documents can be obtained by sending an e-mail or letter, giving full con-tact details of the bidder, to the following point of contact. This will ensure that the bidders receive updates regarding this bidding document.

Attn: Procurement Manager

ROLL Project

Ministry of Environment & Forestry

Industrial Area, Thaba Bosiu Building

Maseru 100

Lesotho

Tel: (+266) 6273 0763/ (+266) 6201 4410

E-mail: procurement.roll@gov.ls

Bids must be delivered to the address and in the manner specified in the bid data sheet – instructions to bidders 23.2, no later than **10:00** local time on the **19 Septem-ber 2024**

8. Bidders shall be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstance and will be returned unopened at the written request and cost of the bidder. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security or bid-securing declaration (as re-quired) in the manner and amount specified in the bid data sheet.

9. Please note that electronic bids **shall not** be accepted.

Yours sincerely,

Procurement Manager

Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods Project


Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Industrial Area, Thaba Bosiu Building

Maseru 100

Lesotho

Tel: (+266) 6273 0763/ (+266) 6201 4410 EMAIL: procurement.roll@gov.ls







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ARTS

& ENTERTAINMENT



Art exhibition showcases 98-year-old Meshu Mokitimi's surrealist mastery

Staff Reporter

The PR and Brand Network, in partnership with The Market Restaurant, is set to unveil "Portraits of a Nation," an art exhibition celebrating the extraordinary legacy of Meshu Mokitimi, Lesotho's most revered surrealist artist.

Often hailed as "Lesotho's Picasso," Mokitimi has spent over seven decades shaping the cultural and political landscape of Lesotho through his evocative and timeless works. The landmark event will take place on September 28 at The Market Restaurant in Maseru.

At 98 years old, Mokitimi continues to be a vibrant force in the art world, creating masterpieces that encapsulate the essence of Lesotho's rich heritage. His artistic journey, deeply intertwined with the country's fight for independence in the 1960s, makes this exhibition not just a display of art, but a tribute to a life dedicated to creativity and national pride.

"Portraits of a Nation" promises to be a unique blend of art and history, offering a rare opportunity to witness the evolution of a national treasure.

Mokitimi's work has played a crucial role in elevating Lesotho's cultural profile on

the international stage. This exhibition aims to inspire future generations while fostering a sense of national pride and cultural unity.

Libe Mohale, founder of the PR and Brand Network, highlighted the importance of honoring national icons during their lifetime.

"We often wait until it's too late to celebrate our legends. This exhibition is our way of shifting that narrative and propelling Lesotho's art scene forward. By looking back at Meshu Mokitimi's extraordinary contributions, we aim to inspire progress and pride for the next five to ten years," Mohale stated.



Reflecting on his remarkable career, Meshu Mokitimi shared his vision for the arts in Lesotho.

"Over my seven-decade journey as an artist, it has been my wish to see the arts in Lesotho not only celebrated but also recognized for their immense cultural and economic value. Art is a powerful medium for preserving the heritage and diversity of the Basotho people, and through this exhibition, I hope to challenge the misconception that art is not a sustainable career. My aim is to show that art can indeed be a vital contributor to our nation's growth and identity."

The PR and Brand Network, along with



The Market, are therefore calling individual and corporate partners to join this significant cultural event, ensuring its success and celebrating the legacy of one of Lesotho's greatest artists.

Limited tickets are available to offer an exclusive chance to engage with this historic celebration, including a photo opportunity and meet-and-greet with Mokitimi himself. Tickets are priced at M999 per person. Twenty (20) percent of the proceeds will be donated to a charity of Mokitimi's choice.



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‘Neheng Phakoa: Crafting timeless elegance

‘Neheng Phakoa, the creative force behind LADY SKY, has embarked on a journey to celebrate the art of being a woman through her luxury clothing brand. Founded in 2021, LADY SKY is more than just a fashion label; it’s a tribute to the classic beauty and enduring grace that defines true luxury.

In this exclusive interview, Phakoa takes us through her inspiring journey, from her humble beginnings as a student to her rise as a leading designer in Lesotho’s fashion scene. Discover the challenges, triumphs, and unwavering passion that drive her to create garments that are destined to become treasured pieces in every woman’s wardrobe.

Newsday: What inspired you to start a clothing company focused on celebrating the art of being a woman?

‘Neheng Phakoa: Being a woman has always felt like being a living work of art, and that deep appreciation for femininity ignited a passion in me to create clothing that complements and enhances that beauty. During my internship, I was recommended by one of my mentors to design for the Face of Lesotho Fashion Week, which gave my brand, LADY SKY, the boost it needed. We’ve since showcased at Bajinity Edition fashion shows, Sothokids Unscripted shows, and Lesotho Fashion Week.

Newsday: Could you share the journey of your company since its founding in 2021? What have been the key milestones?

‘Neheng Phakoa: I was in my third year at Limkokwing University Lesotho, trying to figure out what I was truly passionate about. I knew I wanted to establish LADY SKY before graduating, so I started to break into the market while still managing my schoolwork. I had two mentors, Mrs. Liname Malepa and Mrs. Sekhoahla Tjantji Limpho, both of whom were my lecturers. I approached

them with the idea of LUXURY SLEEPWEAR, including sleeping eye masks, bonnets, and pillowcases, and they encouraged me to give it a try. Initially, it didn’t take off, so I paused to do more



research. By 2022, I started receiving a few garment orders, and they turned out well. However, it was challenging because I didn’t have an overlocker machine, which slowed down pro-

duction. I took on a junior position as an intern, but after three months, I quit because I needed a paying job. A month later, I found a job that allowed me to save up for the machines I needed to become independent. It took a lot of sacrifice, but in six months, I was able to achieve that goal.

Newsday: What distinguishes your brand from other female clothing companies in the market?

‘Neheng Phakoa: LADY SKY is all about Classic Luxury. Our garments are designed to be timeless, so you’ll love them for years, unlike fast fashion, which you might outgrow by the next season. We also prioritise quality over quantity. From the moment we select fabrics, we pour our hearts into every detail because we understand how critical it is to turn a piece of cloth into a garment that people will cherish.

Newsday: What are some of the challenges you face in striving towards your vision of becoming the most influential luxury group in fashion and lifestyle?

‘Neheng Phakoa: Not everyone appreciates the value of quality, and it’s not something that comes cheap. Our market is slowly warming up to the idea of tailored everyday wear, but it’s going to take time for that shift to fully take hold.

Newsday: How do you plan to expand or evolve your brand to achieve the ultimate ambition stated in your vision?

‘Neheng Phakoa: We’re committed to consistently working authentically towards our goals. We believe that if we stay true to our vision, our work will eventually reach the right market.

Newsday: What advice would you give to aspiring entrepreneurs looking to make their mark in the fashion industry?

‘Neheng Phakoa: Start right now with what you have, right where you are. There’s an audience out there waiting for you to take that first step.





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SPORTS

Seabata Mahao

In honour of Women’s Month, the City Eagles Netball Club is set to host the inaugural Women’s Month Commemoration Netball Tournament at the Lehakoe Recreational Center in Maseru from August 25 to 26.

This two-day event will bring together netball clubs from Lesotho and South Africa, fostering a spirit of empowerment, sportsmanship, and community.

The tournament aims to celebrate the achievements of women and inspire continued excellence across various fields. It will highlight not only athletic talent but also leadership, teamwork, and the importance of mutual support. This event is a tribute to the strength, resilience, and potential of women everywhere.

City Eagles Netball Club, a Maseru-based, registered member of the Lesotho Netball Association (LNA), is dedicated to advancing the sport of netball in Lesotho. The club, which consists of women and girls from the Maseru district, competes in the LNA Elite League.

The tournament is expected to feature over 20 clubs, including high school teams, with more than 10 teams already confirming their participation.

In an exclusive interview with Newsday

Netball tournament celebrates women’s excellence



City Eagles Netball Club squad

Sports, City Eagles Netball Club’s Team Manager, ‘Matsepo Mohau, discussed the club’s commitment to enhancing the standards of netball in Lesotho.

“This tournament is an opportunity to showcase high-level event organization and set a new standard for future events. We aim to motivate young girls by demonstrating that greatness can be achieved through

sports,” Mohau said.

Mohau also emphasized the club’s goal of building lasting partnerships with the corporate sector. “We hope to engage businesses and gain their support for netball, creating a sustainable future for the sport. Corporate involvement is crucial for netball’s growth, and we hope this tournament will be the start of many fruitful collaborations.”

The tournament is open to netball enthusiasts, the corporate sector, media, and the public.

“We urge everyone to join us for a weekend of exciting netball action, empowerment, and community building. Let’s come together to celebrate Women’s Month and support the growth of netball in Lesotho,” Mohau added.

Supported by the LNA, which will provide officials for the matches, the tournament is sponsored by Naledi Funeral Planners, LNIG Hollard, Bee Online, Fafatsah Café, Ket Transport, and Seutloali Transport.

Below are the tournament prizes:

- **Senior Categories:**
 - **Winners:** M1,200, gold medals, and a trophy
 - **Runners-Up:** M800 and silver medals
 - **Third Place:** M500 and bronze medals
- **Youth Categories:**
 - **Winners:** M500, gold medals, and a trophy
 - **Runners-Up:** M300 and silver medals
 - **Third Place:** M200 and bronze medals

Registration Fees:

- **Senior Categories:** M500
- **Youth Categories:** M200

Chess sensation shines in Rustenburg

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho’s emerging chess star, Naleli McPherson, has secured the title of top female player in the prestige section at the recent Bojanala FIDE in the Sparkling Waters 2024 Chess Tournament in Rustenburg, South Africa.

McPherson’s impressive performance earned her a prestigious trophy, a gold medal, and a cash prize of M3 000 in the tournament held from August 16-18.

The tournament, which drew 30 chess enthusiasts competing in both the prestige and junior categories, featured intense competition. The games followed a standard time control of 90 minutes with a 30-second increment from move one. McPherson triumphed in the Women’s section, achieving 3.5 points to claim the top female player title.

Notable guests at the event included Chess Master, Thuso Mosutha, from Botswana and Ntando Zwakala from South Africa, adding to the tournament’s prestige.

In an exclusive interview with Newsday Sports, McPherson expressed her excitement over the victory, especially after taking a break from chess. She noted the significance of participating in the prestige category, which is reserved for highly rated players.

“This is a significant milestone for me. I played in a section that includes both men and women. It is believed that women should compete alongside men to gain experience and exposure,” McPherson said.

She further highlighted the importance of the Bojanala FIDE tournament, noting that it is one of the largest events hosted by the region.

“This tournament is one of the biggest after the Bojanala Chess Closed Championships, which is a more exclusive event for

active Bojanala players. The open nature of this tournament allows for greater partici-

pation,” she explained.

Reflecting on her experience, McPherson

recounted the challenges she faced.

“I lost my first game to a player from Botswana, which was unexpected. This made me question if returning to chess was the right decision. However, I drew my second game with a player from Bojanala FIDE and lost to a chess coach in the third round. I managed to win all my remaining games,” she said.

McPherson also acknowledged the competitive nature of the tournament.

“This year, there were four women in the category, including two from Bojanala and one from Botswana, who were higher rated than me. Despite this, I emerged as the top player from Lesotho.”

She also praised the Bojanala FIDE region for their commitment to their players. “The Bojanala FIDE tournament is a significant event that raises funds for their players. I joined their region because they prioritize their players’ development,” McPherson noted.

Although McPherson has joined the Bojanala FIDE, she remains affiliated with the Lesotho Chess Federation (LCF).

“I’m still part of the LCF and will participate in all tournaments I can. I took a break to improve my game and am now focused on participating in future events, including the 2026 Chess Olympiads, depending on my responsibilities at that time,” she added.

According to the International Chess Federation (ICF), McPherson holds the title of Arena FIDE Master (AFM) and ranks 32nd in Lesotho, 4983rd in Africa, and 129044th globally, with ratings of 1610 in standard chess and 1539 in blitz.

The tournament was also attended by FIDE Masters and Chess Masters from the Southern Region, further highlighting the event’s significance in the chess community.



Lesotho’s chess rising star, Naleli McPherson at Bojanala FIDE



Likuena snubs Lioli players

Seabata Mahao

Leslie Notši, the head coach of the senior national football team, Likuena, has made a surprising decision by leaving out all players from premier league champions, Lioli FC, in his provisional squad for the upcoming Total Energies 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers.

The exclusion of Lioli players, despite their club's successful premier league season, has raised eyebrows in the football fraternity.

Likuena is set to play against the Central African Republic (CAR) on September 5 and Morocco on September 9.

In his squad, Notši has retained many of the players who featured in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers against Zimbabwe and Rwanda in March. The team will convene for a non-residential camp of locally based players starting from August 26, at the Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena.

The provisional squad includes goalkeepers, Sekhoane Moerane from Orbit College FC, Tankiso Chaba (LCS FC), Ntsane Molise

(Linare FC), and Motlatsi Seapala from Bantu FC.

The defenders are Thabang Malane (African Stars FC, Namibia), Thabo Makhele (Chippa United FC South Africa), Fusi Matlabe (Mpheni Defenders FC), Katleho Koeana (LMPS FC), Thabo Matšoele (Linare FC), Rethabile Rasethuntša (Linare FC), Rethabile Mokokoane (Matlama FC), Mokhele Molise (LDF FC), Motete Mohai (Matlama FC), Letlotlo Molomo (LCS FC), and Thato Sefuli from Upington City FC.

In the middle of the park, the players are Lisema Lebokollane (Matlama FC), Lehlohonolo Fothoane (Bantu FC), Lehlohonolo Matsau (LDF FC), Katiso Thamae (Matlama FC), Tšepo Toloane (LDF FC), Paseka Maile (Kick4Life FC), Tšepang Sefali (Linare FC), Tšepo Mokhanya (Linare FC), Mosoeu Mosoeu (Mangau United FC, South Africa), Tlotliso Phatsisi, Teboho Letsema from Sekhukhune (United FC), and Neo Mokhachane from Jwaneng Galaxy FC.

The frontline includes Thabiso Brown (Jiangxi Lushan FC, China), Katleho Makateng (LDF FC), Jane Thabantšo (Matlama FC), Tšeliso Botsane (Bantu FC), Motebang Sera (Royal AM FC, South Africa), and Leruo Lethunya from LDF FC.

Horse-racing spectacle returns to embrace the King, bicentenary

Seabata Mahao

The Royal Cup, a premier horse racing event, is set to return for its second edition on October 12 at the Mohale's Hoek race course.

Hosted by Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) in collaboration with Bienvenue (BNV), this year's event promises to be a spectacular celebration, highlighting pride in the monarch, King Letsie III as he celebrates his 61st birthday, equestrian excellence as well as Lesotho's 200th bicentennial.

The 2024 Royal Cup will feature six thrilling flat races, offering a prize pool of M100 000. This year's races will be particularly meaningful, aligning with the nation's bicentennial celebrations and honoring Lesotho's rich equestrian heritage.

ETL has committed M500 000 to the event, underscoring its dedication to preserving and promoting Lesotho's cultural traditions.

Speaking at the launch of this year's edition, ETL's Acting General Manager of Marketing Communications and

Customer Experience, Puleng 'Mathabo Masoabi, emphasised the significance of their sponsorship.

"We are proud to support the Royal Cup once again. This event embodies the values of community, heritage, and excellence that we hold dear. It's more than just a race; it's a celebration of what makes us uniquely Basotho," Masoabi said.

ETL's commitment extends beyond the event itself. Masoabi highlighted the company's focus on empowering youth and encouraging them to celebrate and pass on their cultural heritage.

"We urge all Basotho to come together and celebrate our pride as we approach 200 years of nationhood. Let us mark His Majesty's birthday with the pride and unity we have always cherished."

In addition to the races, the Royal Cup will include a fashion segment, showcasing style and elegance. BNV's Motlatsi Russell expressed enthusiasm for the event's dual focus on racing and fashion.

"We are honored to have ETL's support



Motlatsi Russell from BNV

in bringing this event to life. The addition of a fashion segment will enhance the experience and promote tourism in Mohale's Hoek."

Phatšoane Tšuhlane from the Lesotho Jockey Club (LJC) also shared his excitement about the upcoming event.

"We are grateful for the continued support and thrilled to be part of an event that celebrates our King and showcases



Phatšoane Tšuhlane from the Lesotho Jockey Club (LJC)

the dedication of our jockeys and horse trainers."

The Royal Cup was originally co-founded by His Majesty, the late King Moshoe-shoe II, along with British settlers in the early 1960s.

This year's event continues to honor the legacy of Basotho culture and tradition while celebrating a significant milestone in the nation's history.

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