

**HO CHECHA HOA
RAMO HASE HO BALEHA** Powering down to power up

Newsday

...pacing standards

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Staff Reporter

By the time the Ha Belo industrial estate in Botha Bothe district opens in early 2025, four years will have passed since the completion of the M900 million infrastructure development project—a delay that has held up the creation of over 14,000 jobs critical to alleviating poverty.

With Lesotho currently grappling with a severe unemployment crisis, exacerbated by recent job cuts of over 16,000 in the manufacturing sector following the COVID-19 pandemic, the opening of the Ha Belo industrial estate cannot come soon enough.

Although the construction of 16 factory shells and associated infrastructure was largely completed on schedule in 2021, the industrial park has remained a “white elephant” due to the failure of authorities to secure bulk water and power supply components necessary to service the site.

In 2020, during a high-level tour of the park, the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC)—the agency overseeing the project—reported that government approval for financing these utility services had been delayed. At that time, then-Finance Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro promised swift action to resolve the matter to expedite job creation.

Once fully operational, the industrial estate will require an estimated 7.5 megavolt amps (MVA) of power and about four million litres of water daily to meet the needs of the estate and its surrounding services.

The 16-shell factory project is just the first phase of the development. Subsequent phases are expected to add 51 more factory shells and create an additional 41,000 jobs once completed.

In an interview with *Newsday* this week, the LNDC confirmed that the estate’s opening is anticipated for January 2025, as both the water and power supply projects are nearing completion and are expected to be finished by the end of 2024.

M900 million “white elephant” opening in 2025



“Both projects are at an advanced stage and should be complete by the end of this calendar year. Both projects are funded by the government of Lesotho,” the LNDC said in a statement to *Newsday*.

The delay in creating 14,000 jobs is not the only consequence of the estate’s prolonged non-operation. There are concerns about how long potential tenants will wait for the park to become operational, with some likely already having moved on to other, better-prepared regions.

“We have a healthy project pipeline, but no commitments have been made so far pending completion of the estate,” the LNDC stated.

In her 2024/25 budget speech, Finance Minister Dr. Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane expressed optimism about the estate’s tenancy prospects.

“The Lesotho National Development Corporation has this year received firm indications for new investments amounting to M696 million to utilise this infrastructure. Interest spans several sectors, including textiles, clothing, stainless steel bars, electrical wiring accessories, leather seat covers, laundry services, fabric dyeing, and garment manufacturing.

“This makes investment prospects over the medium term very bright. We are positive

that these investments will materialise and create substantial employment opportunities. Specifically, these investments are poised to generate over 5 500 jobs,” Matlanyane stated.

The costs of the project are expected to have increased significantly due to inflationary pressures. The LNDC has indicated it will disclose the final project cost upon the completion of the remaining components.

Additionally, the delayed opening has led to vandalism and theft at the estate, causing damage estimated at over M700,000. In response, the LNDC has hired security personnel to enhance protection of the site.

Five police officers dismissed for misconduct

Relebohile Makhetha

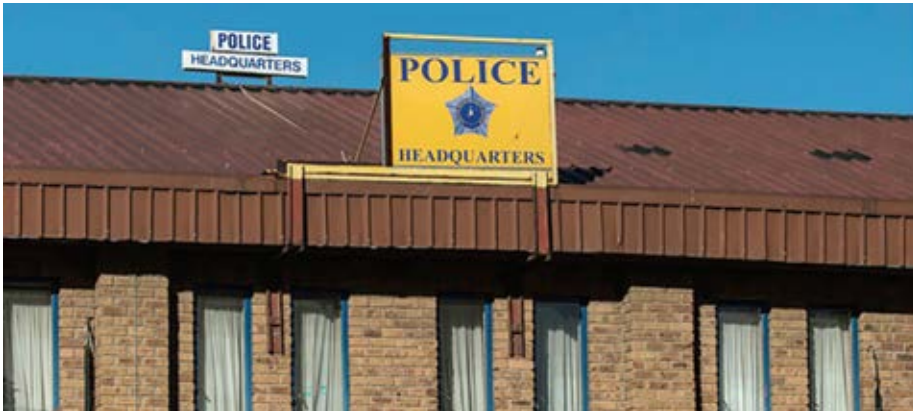
In a bold move to weed out wayward officers, the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) has dismissed five police officers from service following internal disciplinary proceedings that found them guilty of various types of misconduct.

The fired officers are Sergeant ‘Mankata Mananabela aged 35; Police Constable Katiso Tsukulu (35); Sergeant Chemane Pheko (42); Police Constable Mokepi Rasemetse (39); and Police Constable Tšeliso Monkhe (36).

According to the police’s assistant spokesperson, Inspector ‘Mareabetsoe Mofoka, Sgt Pheko from Mazenod Ha Paki, who was stationed in Leribe, was dismissed on August 16 this year.

He was dismissed after being issued a police firearm for duty use but instead sold it to another man. The firearm was later recovered by members of the Lesotho Defense Force (LDF) during an operation. The man in possession of the firearm revealed that he had purchased it from someone who had originally bought it from Sgt Pheko.

Sgt Monanabela from Qoaling Ha Monyane, who was stationed at the Police Headquarters in Maseru, was dismissed on August 14 this year after being found in possession of



stolen goods from a business in Ha Seoli on March 14.

Additionally, on April 14 of the same year, a man involved in a robbery incident was shot and killed. A companion of the deceased requested Sgt Monanabela’s assistance after the shooting. Sgt Monanabela moved the victim from the scene, washed his clothes, and hired a vehicle to take him to the hospital. However, the victim was declared dead on arrival. Sgt Monanabela failed to report the incident to the police.

P/C Tšukulu from Bolometsa, Maseru, who was stationed in Leribe, was dismissed on August 16 this year. It was reported that on March 27, 2020, men traveling in a Toyota

Fortuna attacked and shot at police officers in Peka. One of the police officers recognised Tšukulu, but after the incident, he did not report it to his superiors.

P/C Rasemetse from Maputsoe Ha Nyenye, who was stationed in Berea, was dismissed after he got into an altercation with IEC officers, where during the confrontation he drew his firearm and fired several shots into the air, causing panic and fear among those present.

P/C Monkhe from Pitseng Ha Raphoka, who was stationed in Leribe, was dismissed for releasing a female detainee from custody, allegedly to allow her to rest. However, the detainee reported that P/C Monkhe at-

tempted to undress her. When she refused, he returned her to the police holding cell. The following day, the detainee reported the incident to other officers.

Meanwhile, in other criminal incidents reported by the police this week, ‘Mantsane Moeketsi (54), from Mahobong, Leribe district appeared in court on August 23 charged with murdering her husband.

Reports from the police indicated that on July 26, a 54-year-old man experienced severe stomach pain and was rushed to Motebang Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. A doctor suspected poisoning, prompting an investigation that led to Moeketsi’s arrest. She allegedly poisoned her husband’s food over fears that he planned to marry a second wife.

In Thaba-Tseka district, Sehlooho Lehana (46) was sentenced to six years in prison or a fine of M6 000 after being found guilty of unlawful possession of a 9mm firearm and ammunition.

In Maseru Urban, a 36-year-old man from Sehlabeng sa Thuoathe is in custody for allegedly murdering a 26-year-old man suspected of having an affair with his wife. On August 26th, the suspect attacked the man with knives, accidentally stabbing his friend in the process. Both the suspect and his friend are awaiting court appearances.

Police are investigating a murder incident in Mohale’s Hoek, where a 65-year-old woman was found dead with signs of assault on her way to work. Her body was discovered by her son and his friends after she failed to arrive at her workplace.

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HO CHECHA HOA RAMO HASE TO BALEHA

Powering down to power up

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project tunnel system and 'Muela Hydropower 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.

Parliament discusses media reforms

Lehlohonolo Motšoare

To tighten regulations over the media landscape, the National Assembly is advancing amendments to the country's constitution through the 10th Omnibus Bill.

On Wednesday, Minister of Justice Richard Ramoetsi introduced a pivotal clause within the bill, focusing on the role of the media, drawing immediate attention from media professionals.

The proposed amendment, encapsulated in the 19th clause of the bill, introduces a new chapter into the constitution, delineating the principles that will govern the media in Lesotho. The clause is divided into several parts, each targeting different aspects of media regulation and the establishment of a new oversight framework.

One of the cornerstones of the proposed amendment is the affirmation of the media's role in Lesotho's democratisation process. According to Ramoetsi, Clause 1.9 (a) explicitly states that "the media in Lesotho shall play a pivotal part in the development democratisation process in the country."

This provision underscores the government's intent to formalise the media's role as a key player in shaping the nation's



democratic landscape.

The amendment also introduces the establishment of several regulatory bodies tasked with overseeing the media sector.

Media Council of Lesotho: This body is envisioned as an independent regulator of the entire media industry, "its responsibilities would include settling disputes within the sector, ensuring that the media operates within the confines of the law, and safeguarding journalistic standards," Ramoetsi said.

Independent Communications Authority and Lesotho Public Broadcasting Cor-

poration: Both entities are outlined in the amendment but their specific governance and operational details are proposed to be governed by separate acts of Parliament, rather than being enshrined in the constitution.

Minister Ramoetsi emphasised the necessity of these changes, particularly in addressing the spread of malicious information through various media channels, "most of the information transmitted over our radio stations is malicious and poses significant confusion amongst the public. If we have proper guiding principles that

emanate from the constitution, our media institutions will be enabled to serve the public with justice," Ramoetsi asserted during the reading of the bill.

Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) leader, Mothejoa Metsing, who seconded the motion in the National Assembly, acknowledged the concerns raised by media stakeholders.

Metsing advocated for the relevant committee to engage in thorough consultations with affected parties to ensure that the amendments do not inadvertently stifle press freedom. "It is advisable that the relevant committee consults with the concerned stakeholders when making these amendments to sensitize them that nothing is omitted," Metsing noted.

He also reassured that while certain details are not included in the constitutional amendment, they would be addressed in subsequent acts of Parliament to ensure transparency and inclusiveness.

As the bill progresses through the legislative process, it faces intense scrutiny from both supporters and critics. The media fraternity, which has long demanded the autonomy to regulate itself, remains watchful, concerned that the proposed changes could curb its independence.

LHWP II's tunnel boring machines incoming



Staff Reporter

In a significant development for the second phase of Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP II), critical components of the first of the tunnel boring machines (TBM) this week reached the Durban harbour in South Africa en route to Lesotho.

The components, including the crucial cutter head, mark a major milestone for the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) as it advances the ambitious water and hydropower project.

"The arrival of the TBM components is a crucial step in the construction of the Polihali Transfer Tunnel, which will be excavated from both the Katse and Polihali sides," the LHDA said this week.

"This 38-kilometer tunnel will play a key role in augmenting the water transfer capacity between Lesotho and South Africa, ensuring a more reliable water supply to the Gauteng region while also enhancing the hydropower generation capacity for Lesotho. The second TBM that will excavate from the Polihali side will arrive at the beginning of 2025."

A convoy of ten trucks, including vehicles designed for abnormal loads have been lined-up to transport the components from Durban to the TBM adit at Katse Dam in Lesotho. The convoy will traverse South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal and Free State provinces before entering Lesotho via the Caledonspoort border post in Botha-Bothe, until they reach the project site in Leribe.

The safe and efficient transportation of these massive components will require close coordination between South African and Lesotho authorities, ensuring the convoy's smooth passage along the designated route, the LHDA said.

"The successful transportation of these massive components will require careful coordination between South African and Lesotho authorities, ensuring that the convoy moves safely and efficiently along the designated route.

"This milestone brings the LHDA one step closer to fulfilling its mission of contributing to the sustainable development of Lesotho's water resources while also reinforcing the strategic partnership be-



tween Lesotho and South Africa. The successful completion of the Polihali Transfer Tunnel will be a testament to the hard work, expertise, and dedication of all stakeholders involved in this project."

Coinciding with the arrival of the TBM components, the LHDA has launched a public Naming Competition for the TBM. The competition invites the public to suggest a name for the machine, with exciting prizes promised for the winner, who will also be honored at the naming ceremony when the TBM enters Lesotho.

"The LHDA invites the public to submit their suggestions for names of the TBM through, sending direct messages to the inboxes of LHDA pages on Facebook and LinkedIn, in person at any of the LHDA offices in Maseru, Maseru, Katse, Muela and Polihali, as well as through calling into LHDA Radio shows that are hosted across various radio stations. The LHDA will further conduct outreaches to schools, communities and urban centers where the public can submit their suggestions for the TBM name.

"Competition participants should con-

sider one or more of the following criteria when choosing their names:

- A legend from the Leribe district, the area of the tunnel excavation.
- A leader who demonstrated strength, resilience, and dedication to her community.
- A leader who fostered relationships between their community and others.
- A Mosotho scientist or pioneer in science and mathematics who encouraged youth to pursue science-related fields.
- A leader who has advocated for peace between Lesotho and South Africa.
- An individual who has made significant contributions to Leribe's infrastructure, education, or business sectors.
- Alternatively, a name that embodies strength, power and tenacity, that has relevance to Lesotho, and Leribe as the area where the first TBM is going to work."

INTERVIEW

Fulbright specialist explores link between alcohol use and mental health

Natalie Johnson, a Fulbright Specialist based in Butha Buthe, is conducting groundbreaking research on the intersection of alcohol use and mental health in the country’s remote districts. With a focus on Butha Buthe and Mokhotlong, Johnson’s work is part of a larger initiative to address mental health issues in underrepresented regions of the world. Her research is linked to the VITAL study, which examines differentiated HIV care and its outcomes in Lesotho. Her interest in alcohol use stems from alarming patterns observed during the VITAL study, where high rates of alcohol consumption were reported among participants.

In this interview with Newsday, she shares details about her research, driven by both professional and deeply personal motivations. Johnson discusses how her background in global mental health and extensive experience in low- and middle-income countries informs her approach to the unique challenges of designing effective interventions that resonate with the local context. Her work in Lesotho aims to uncover the social dynamics that influence alcohol use, with the goal of informing interventions that could reduce alcohol-related harm not only in Lesotho but in similar contexts worldwide.

Newsday: Could you elaborate on why you chose Lesotho, specifically the Butha Buthe and Mokhotlong districts, as the focus of your research on alcohol use and mental health?

Natalie Johnson (NJ): Lesotho is under-represented in global mental health research. Much of the existing research focuses on high-income countries, and within Africa, most studies are concentrated in South Africa and Kenya. Additionally, the director of the division where I am enrolled as a PhD student, Prof. Dr. Niklaus Labhardt, has been working in Lesotho for over 10 years, addressing infectious diseases such as HIV and TB. His work, in collaboration with SolidarMed—a Swiss non-profit organisation—and the Ministry of Health, has primarily concentrated on the remote districts of Mokhotlong and Butha Buthe, which face significant challenges in HIV and TB care. As SolidarMed’s mission is to strengthen health systems, they work very closely with health facilities, which is where my research takes place. My research is part of a larger study called Viral Load Triggered ART care in Lesotho (VITAL), a trial that examines



whether differentiated, technology-assisted HIV care based on HIV viral load improves treatment outcomes. The study followed people with HIV who were receiving care at clinics in Butha Buthe and Mokhotlong. Participants in this study reported high rates of alcohol consumption. Additionally, specific conditions in these districts contribute to the prevalence of alcohol use and its associated problems. In Butha Buthe, economic challenges, limited employment opportunities, and the availability of low-cost alcoholic beverages due to cross-border trade have led to widespread alcohol consumption. In Mokhotlong, gender dynamics contribute to high alcohol consumption among men, leading to serious social issues, including gender-based violence. Across both districts, and much of the country, there is a lack of services for individuals seeking help with alcohol use, compounded by stigma, social normalisation, and a lack of awareness of alcohol-related problems.

Newsday: How did you engage with local communities and stakeholders during your research? How important is community involvement in ensuring the success of your study?

NJ: The idea for this study emerged from frequent reports of alcohol consumption among participants in the VITAL study. Recognising this pattern, we conducted a qualitative study to gain a deeper understanding of alcohol use among these participants. We discovered that social drinking and peer pressure were significant factors influencing their habits. This insight led to the current research, which aims to determine whether social network drinking and social support impact alcohol use problems. We engaged closely with local health facilities and community members, successfully recruiting 255 participants for the study. Hospital staff assisted with blood draws and participant recruitment, while clinics and hospitals provided space for us to meet with participants. We also approached individuals in waiting rooms to gauge their interest in the study. Over time, enrolled participants began referring others they knew to be eligible, based on criteria such as regular drinking or significant issues related to alcohol use. To date, we have connected around 20 percent of

participants with one another. Community engagement is central to my research approach, a value shaped by my service in the Peace Corps. During my Fulbright fellowship in Lesotho, I consulted 32 community leaders, youth, and experts to gather advice on future research focused on youth mental health. Their input has shaped research to develop a mental health intervention through a two-phased approach. In the first phase, youth across the country will participate in citizen science by submitting photos and explanations via WhatsApp in response to prompts. In the second phase, Basotho youth with lived experience of mental health challenges will take part in workshops to design an intervention, incorporating elements identified by the youth in the first phase.

Newsday: What inspired you to pursue this line of research, particularly focusing on alcohol use and mental health in LMICs like Lesotho?

NJ: My interest in addressing alcohol use problems is deeply personal, as it stems from my family’s experiences. Both my father and sister were profoundly affected by the harmful consequences of alcohol. In 2018, I lost my sister due to alcohol use. My father, who has been sober for over 30 years, credits Alcoholics Anonymous for his recovery. However, I believe there are multiple paths to leading a happy and functional life, even for those who continue to drink. The Global Mental Health group I work with emphasises a harm-reduction approach rather than advocating for total abstinence. Since I began working in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in 2010, I have observed that many people are unaware of the dangers associated with heavy alcohol consumption. My commitment to this issue solidified in 2011 during my Peace Corps service in Mongolia, where I collaborated with local stakeholders—including the Ministries of Health and Education and World Vision—to launch alcohol awareness campaigns. In LMICs, mental health care often involves the introduction of interventions developed in high-income settings, which may not be fully applicable or effective in these different contexts. It is crucial to design interventions that are locally relevant and take into account the specific realities and preferences of the popu-

lations they are intended to serve.

Newsday: Beyond the scope of this study, how do you see your findings contributing to the broader field of mental health and alcohol use interventions in LMICs?

NJ: If our study concludes that alcohol use is significantly influenced by social networks, it will provide valuable evidence in support of socially driven interventions in Lesotho and similar settings. This could pave the way for targeted interventions focused on peer groups, families, and couples, which are designed to address and mitigate the social factors that contribute to alcohol use.

Newsday: What impact do you hope your research will have on the development of interventions for reducing alcohol use in Lesotho and other similar contexts?

NJ: Research in other settings has shown that alcohol use is closely linked to social networks, and our preliminary work suggests the same may be true in Lesotho. If my study confirms that social networks significantly influence drinking behavior, I hope to see the development of interventions that target not just individuals but also their social circles. By focusing on companions and peer groups, these interventions could be more effective in reducing alcohol use in Lesotho and similar contexts.

Newsday: You mentioned your hypothesis that social networks might offer both supportive factors and pressures related to alcohol use. Can you share more about how you identified and measured these factors in the context of your study?

NJ: To assess social support, I utilized the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS). Participants were interviewed by a research assistant and self-reported their levels of social support through 12 questions. An example of one such question is, “I have a special person who is a real source of comfort to me.” The MSPSS has demonstrated strong measurement properties in similar settings and allows for the separate examination of support from friends, family, and significant others. To measure social pressures related to drinking, I used a self-report tool called the Important People Instrument. This measure includes report of the drinking habits of three important people in their lives as well as how many days per month they drink with each person.



BUSINESS

Maputsoe-based manufacturing firm re-opens

Staff Reporter

After stopping operations due to poor market performance, Maputsoe-based textile factory, Ever Unison Garments is set to resume operations in September, with more factory openings to follow soon after.

The re-opening is a result of concerted efforts involving the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development, the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) and the factory management.

The firm's official opening is scheduled for today (Friday) in Maputsoe along with the government's #Re Bula Lifeme Campaign launch.

Ever Unison Garments (EUG) is a textile and garments manufacturing company established in 2002 in Maputsoe through LNDC's investment promotion efforts.

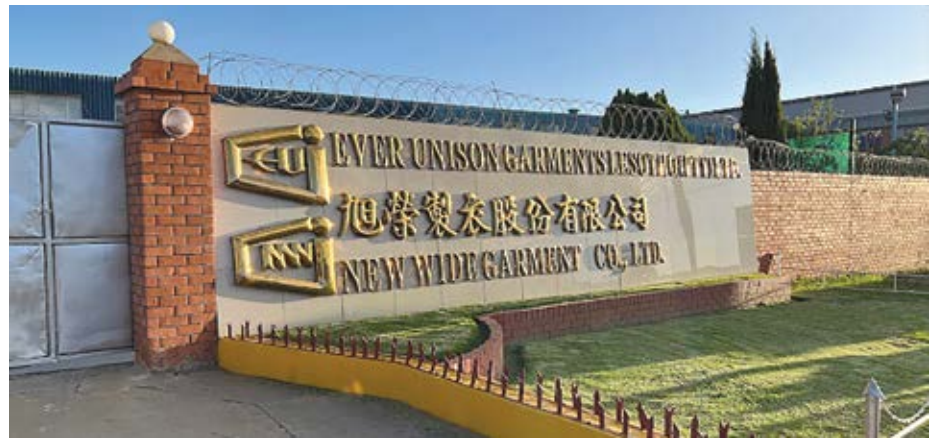
In March 2023, EUG, similarly to other textile and garments manufacturers, was hit by

a significant decrease in orders which led to the closure of the factory which affected 1300 workers who were laid off.

"Commencement of operations will initially generate 200 jobs, with a total of 500-600 jobs being generated by the end of this year.

This company serves the U.S. through the American Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the EU export markets respectively," the LNDC said.

It said at full capacity, the company employed approximately 2000 workers, but was met by challenges that threatened the textile and garments industry due to Covid-19 and geopolitical issues which adversely affected



the global economy.

"EUG re-opening signals the resuscitation of manufacturing operations that were halted by the decrease in orders which crippled the textile and garments industry in several countries due to adverse conditions that are not unique to Lesotho and will not discourage the Government of Lesotho's efforts and that of LNDC in the pursuit of positioning Lesotho as an investment and sourcing destination of choice."

The LNDC further indicated that through the support of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development it is working tirelessly to open more factories from September this year.

"This is the first in a series of exciting announcements that are yet to be made about regenerating jobs that were lost for Basotho towards continuous growth of the economy and of the country.

"The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development through its implementing agency LNDC, will not relent in the face of adversity and endure in its purpose to make a positive and sustainable impact on our economy, community and environment for the creation of intergenerational value."

WASCO introduces innovative meter reading system



Meter reading gadget 'ARMOR X'

Seabata Mahao

To enhance the accuracy of meter reading, the Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) has launched an advanced meter-reading system powered by RouteMaster Cloud technology.

The company's customers have for a long time complained about their water bills which do not seem to correspond with their water consumption, fuelling suggestions that WASCO's metering system was flawed.

But, the new initiative is part of WASCO's broader effort to modernise its operations and provide more efficient, user-friendly services to its customers.

Under the new system, users can now simply take a photo of their water meter and upload it, along with the reading, directly

through the 'My Municipal Meter/My Meter' app downloaded onto their smartphones. The app is accessible from all major app stores.

By empowering consumers to submit their own readings, WASCO not only hopes to streamline the process but also encourages greater engagement and responsibility among its customers.

The upgraded system also enhances the capabilities of WASCO's meter-reader agents. The agents are now equipped with ultra-rugged handheld devices that enable them to take high-quality photos of meters, accurately capture readings, and record the GPS locations of each meter.

Kamohelo Hlomisi, WASCO's ICT Manager, pointed out that the old devices had several limitations, such as the inability to take pictures due to insufficient storage capacity. In contrast, the new device can save pictures directly to WASCO's cloud storage.

"The introduction of this gadget is part of WASCO's broader strategy to incorporate modern technologies into our services, enhancing our ability to serve the Basotho people more effectively. By adopting this new gadget, we are not only improving our internal processes but also setting a new standard for service delivery in Lesotho's utility sector," Hlomisi said.

"This device will enable us to gather real-time data, reduce inaccuracies in billing, and ensure that our customers have easier access to their meter readings. It captures and transmits water usage data in real-time, allowing WASCO to monitor consumption



Kamohelo Hlomisi, WASCO's Information and Computer Technology (ICT) Manager

patterns and detect anomalies quickly," he added.

Hlomisi further stated that by reducing reliance on manual readings, the new gadget minimises errors in data collection, resulting in more accurate billing for customers. The device also streamlines the meter reading process, freeing up WASCO personnel to focus on other critical areas of service delivery.

"As we move forward, our goal is to continue integrating advanced technologies into our operations. We believe that by doing so, we can better meet the needs of our customers and contribute to the overall development of Lesotho," Hlomisi stated.

"WASCO plans to roll out the new meter reading gadget across the country, ensuring that all regions benefit from this technological advancement. We are also exploring the possibility of integrating additional features into the gadget, such as automated leak detection and usage forecasting, to further enhance its utility," he explained.



NO. 39

28.08.2024

K'hamphani ea Metsi le Likhoerekhoere (WASCO) e ipiletsa ho sechaba se khaoletoeng lits'ebeletso tsa metsi le likhoerekhoere ho itlaleha liofising tsohle tsa WASCO ho lokisetsa lipuisano tsa ho khutlisetsa lits'ebeletso.

WASCO e boetse e etsa tlhokomeliso ho sechaba se khaoletoeng lits'ebeletso tsa metsi empa se ntse se sebelisa mecha ea tsamaiso ea likhoerekhoere ho lefella lits'ebeletso tse joalo. Sechaba se hlokomelisoa hore ebang se sa lefelle lits'ebeletso tsa likhoerekhoere, le tsona li tla khaoloe.

Ho batho ba sebelisang metsi a hoketsoeng malapeng empa ba a sebelisa molemong oa likhoebotse bona WASCO e ipiletsa ho bona ho fetolela lits'ebeletso tsa metsi le likhoerekhoere ho tsa khoebotse hang.

Sena WASCO e se etsa e le ho boloka likamano bosebetsing ba eona le sechaba.

WASCO e ikopela ts'ebeliso 'moho litabeng tse. Tlohong re lokise litaba.

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ESTATE NOTICE

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

ESTATE LATE MAMOTEBANG LEKHOOANA E/L 15/2024

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

HEALTH



Lesotho plans for sustainable HIV response beyond 2030

Ntsoaki Motaung

Lesotho through its coordinating body, the National AIDS Commission (NAC) is getting ready and preparing for a sustainable HIV response beyond 2030.

According to the Executive Director of NAC, Lebohang Mothae, Lesotho is committed to the goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

She said the country is therefore committed to sustaining the gains that have been made in the HIV response, including increasing domestic financial investments, improving efficiencies, and making the necessary programmatic transformations necessary to sustain the HIV response to 2030 and beyond.

Mothae said it is in this background that NAC working together with the Ministry of Health held a briefing on Tuesday for Journalists on the Sustainability Planning process and together agreed on opportunities for the media sector's contribution to technical assessments and identify opportunities for the media and areas of collaboration with various HIV and TB stakeholders and leverages available for overall sustainability plan development.

She indicated that the HIV response funding has been decreasing and the country also needs to be prepared to respond to HIV even when funding has been immensely affected.

"In this aspect, the country has started to get prepared at least in the procurement of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) by providing at least 70 percent funding to the purchase

of ART." "The costs for providing ART to PLHIV on ART is estimated at M233,000,000.00 for the current fiscal year 2024/2025," she said.

She said the HIV response sustainability is needed now because the global and financial circumstances have changed significantly leaving HIV financing at risk.

"Strategies and delivery modalities set to change and there is a need to scale up prevention and treatment programmes to reach the 2030 target will differ from those needed to sustain gains beyond 2030 as well as the requirement of a transformational reconfiguration of the HIV response," she said.

Meanwhile, Maema Ramaema, Strategic Information Manager NAC, provided Lesotho's HIV status as of 2023 and said there is an estimated number of 271,396 people living with HIV prevalence of 18.5 percent, 4810 new infections and 4056 AIDS-related deaths.

He said overall, the national AIDS response is pointing in the right direction and Lesotho is on track to meeting the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 95, 95, 95 targets in 2025.

Ramaema said however, there is a need to accelerate and invest in combination prevention and close gaps for men, children and vulnerable populations such as young people and key populations.

"Lesotho must achieve elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and therefore launch intentionally a movement towards attaining zero vertical transmission from mother to child," he said.



Lebohang Mothae NAC Chief Executive Officer

Mphaki men vow to support girls and women through menstrual health

Ntsoaki Motaung

Following a two-day community dialogue organized by the Ministry of Health, with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), men in Mphaki, Quthing district, committed to supporting adolescent girls and young women in managing their menstrual health and hygiene.

The Ministry of Health selected Mphaki for this dialogue due to the significant challenges facing the community, aiming to provide essential health education and foster open discussions on critical issues.

According to the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Mentor Quthing Hospital Keneuoe Thinyane, the Mphaki community is faced with many challenges including early and unintended pregnancy, gender-based violence and new HIV infections.

Thinyane said for the last quarter of April, May and June Mphaki recorded at least five cases of GBV, 20 cases of teenage pregnancy, five new HIV infections as well a lack of infor-

mation about menstrual hygiene.

She indicated that menstrual hygiene education is necessary for every woman to avoid health implications which are associated with poor menstrual hygiene.

"Not knowing the proper way or time to use menstrual pads can result in some vaginal diseases or usage of inappropriate materials during menstruation can also result in some diseases," she said.

On behalf of men who attended the dialogue and the commemoration of the Menstrual Hygiene Day Sthandek Kofane said for most of his life he has regarded the menstrual hygiene topic to be only discussed between a mother and a daughter.

He said raising a girl child like men is challenging but what challenges most is when the girl child begins their periods and someone has to talk to them about that.

"I have always believed that menstrual health is between a mother and her daughter and I had nothing to contribute to that.

However, the dialogue has opened my eyes and I feel I can talk to my daughters about their menstrual health without any shame," he said.

Kofane therefore pledged that, he would support every girl and child during their menstruations as well as raise awareness amongst community members especially men that there is no shame in menstruation and no girl has to be stigmatized because they are on their period.

Moeketsi Thaele one of the adolescent boys who took part in the dialogue said he pledges to raise awareness amongst his peers.

"I will support girls during their menstruation by also buying them sanitary pads if they need them without mocking them or making them feel like menstruation is a shame," he said.

Meanwhile, 'Maseretse Ratia the National Program Analyst in Adolescent and Youth indicated that the reason men think it is difficult for them to talk about menstrual hygiene

with their daughters is because there is a gap in terms of warm relationships between girls and fathers.

UNFPA Representative Innocent Modisaotile said all stakeholders have to ensure that no one is held back because of menstruation and no individual should be disadvantaged in whatever form because of menstruation.

He said there is a need for increased awareness of issues to do with menstrual health as well as fighting issues of stigma.

"So part of the reason why we are here is part of our mandate to ensure that we provide the necessary sensitization of communities to ensure that their sexual well-being is taken care of and also their reproductive health interests are taken care of, including ensuring that when young people experience dimensions, we don't take them as women, we still appreciate that they are children, that they must be allowed to grow and once they have grown, that's when they will decide when to have children," he said.





Theko Tlebere

COMMON CONCERN

Unlocking opportunities: How Setipa’s candidacy can benefit Lesotho and its people

I recently read an article written by a fellow Mosotho expressing concerns about the government’s substantial investment in Joshua Phoho Setipa’s candidacy for the position of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. The article questioned the rationale behind allocating millions of maloti to support one individual’s pursuit of an international role, particularly in a nation grappling with high unemployment and poverty. While the author’s concerns are appreciated and well noted, it is important to consider the implications and potential benefits of this investment. In this response, I aim to highlight the bigger picture - how the government’s strategic move, even if Setipa’s candidacy is unsuccessful, can still bring significant long-term advantages for the country. By examining the potential outcomes and the value of having a Basotho leader in such a prominent international position, I hope to provide a more comprehensive perspective that underscores the importance of this initiative for Lesotho’s future on the global stage.

In this response, I will address four key points: the value of high-profile international roles, addressing concerns about resource allocation, learning from past experiences, and the potential benefits for the Basotho people. By examining these aspects, I hope to offer a more comprehensive perspective that highlights the importance of this initiative for Lesotho’s future on the global stage, regardless of the outcome of Setipa’s candidacy.

The Value of High-Profile International Roles

Firstly, it is essential to recognise that the role of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth is not merely an individual achievement but a position that holds significant influence across 56 member countries. This role provides a platform to advocate for the interests of small and developing nations, including Lesotho. Although the article questions the immediate impact on unemployment, it is crucial to understand that international influence can result in long-term, systemic changes that benefit the entire country. For example, a Mosotho leader in such a position could work towards fostering partnerships, attracting investments, and influencing policies that support economic growth and job creation in Lesotho. The visibility and prestige associated with such a role could enhance Lesotho’s global standing, making it more appealing to investors and development partners.

Addressing Concerns about Resource Allocation

The article accurately points out that Lesotho is a least developed country with limited resources, and therefore, the allocation of resources should be carefully considered. However, the investment in Setipa’s candidacy should not be viewed simply as securing employment for one individual. Instead, it should be seen as a strategic move to position Lesotho favorably on the global stage. While the concern about opportunity costs is valid — resources spent on the campaign could have potentially been used for other initiatives such as entrepreneurship programs or infrastructure projects — it is important to note that these investments are not mutually exclusive. The government can and should continue to address domestic challenges while also pursuing opportunities that can yield long-term benefits for the nation. Securing a leadership position in an influential international organisation could open doors that lead to increased funding, technical assistance, and trade opportunities for Lesotho.

Learning from Past Experiences

Acknowledging and objectively evaluating past experiences is crucial for understanding their

true impact. The article raises doubts about the tangible benefits of Ntate Setipa’s previous roles, especially his tenure as Managing Director of the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries. However, it is important to set the record straight. Firstly, during his time as Managing Director, Setipa played a vital role in launching the Lesotho Academy of Science, which is now fully operational at the National University of Lesotho (NUL). This achievement filled a significant gap as Lesotho was previously one of the few countries without an academy of sciences.

Secondly, thanks to Setipa’s efforts at the Tech Bank, many Basotho students are now studying industrial design in China. He secured over 45 scholarships for students from least developed countries, providing previously unavailable opportunities and contributing to the education and skill development of young Basotho. Additionally, under Setipa’s guidance, the Tech Bank conducted extensive research in Lesotho to identify barriers to innovation. This research is essential for understanding the country’s challenges and forms the foundation for current strategies aimed at fostering innovation and economic growth.

Lastly, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Setipa, as Managing Director, made a direct and tangible contribution by donating over 100,000 pieces of PPE to support the government’s efforts in combating the virus. These examples demonstrate that Setipa’s previous roles have indeed brought significant benefits to Lesotho. His leadership and initiatives have had lasting impacts, countering the suggestion that his past positions have been unbeneficial to the country. It is crucial to consider these achievements when evaluating his potential to bring even greater benefits to Lesotho as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

However, it is equally important to recognise that different roles have different scopes and mandates. The position of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth offers a broader platform with more significant potential for impact. Moreover, the effectiveness of any international role in benefiting a home country depends on how well the individual in that role can leverage the position to secure resources, partnerships, and favorable policies. If Setipa succeeds in his candidacy, clear strategies will be in place to ensure that his role brings tangible benefits to Lesotho, such as advocating for initiatives that directly address unemployment, poverty, and inequality.

The Potential Benefits for the Basotho People

The article raises a critical question: “What do we stand to gain?” The answer lies in the potential indirect effects of having a Mosotho leader in such a prominent role, which could bring significant benefits to the nation. Let’s delve deeper into how these benefits might manifest:

1. Enhanced International Cooperation:

As Secretary-General, Setipa would have the opportunity to strengthen Lesotho’s relationships with other Commonwealth nations. With 56 member countries, the Commonwealth is a diverse group where the Secretary-General plays a vital role in facilitating cooperation. Setipa could use his position to advocate for and negotiate bilateral agreements that benefit Lesotho, leading to increased trade, investment, and technical assistance. For example, improved trade agreements could open up new markets for Lesotho’s products, stimulat-

ing the economy. Additionally, closer ties could attract more investment from Commonwealth nations into key sectors of Lesotho’s economy, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism, fostering sustainable economic growth.

2. Advocacy for Developmental Issues:

As Secretary-General, Setipa could prioritise critical issues for Lesotho, such as poverty alleviation, education, and health. His advocacy could ensure that these topics receive consistent attention in Commonwealth programs and initiatives. For instance, he could push for increased funding and resources to support educational programs in Lesotho, or advocate for health initiatives addressing issues like HIV/AIDS and maternal health. By placing Lesotho’s developmental needs on the Commonwealth’s agenda, Setipa could attract international attention and resources, helping to address pressing challenges faced by Basotho.

3. National Pride and Inspiration:

Having a Mosotho leader in such a high-profile international position can foster a strong sense of national pride and unity. This achievement can serve as a powerful symbol of what is possible for the people of Lesotho, particularly for the youth. It can inspire young Basotho to aspire to leadership roles, both locally and internationally, and to believe in their capacity to effect change globally. This inspiration can lead to a more motivated and ambitious generation eager to contribute to the nation’s progress. Moreover, the pride and recognition that come from this achievement can enhance Lesotho’s international image, further attracting interest and investment.

4. Long-term Economic Benefits:

The visibility and connections gained from Setipa’s role could lead to long-term economic opportunities directly benefiting the Basotho people. For example, his influence could attract international conferences, forums, and events to Lesotho, boosting the local economy through increased tourism and hospitality revenues. Furthermore, Setipa’s network within the Commonwealth could facilitate partnerships that result in infrastructure projects or the establishment of new industries in Lesotho, creating jobs and reducing unemployment. Over time, these economic benefits could help alleviate poverty and improve the standard of living for many Basotho, demonstrating the tangible impact of having a leader in such a significant international role.

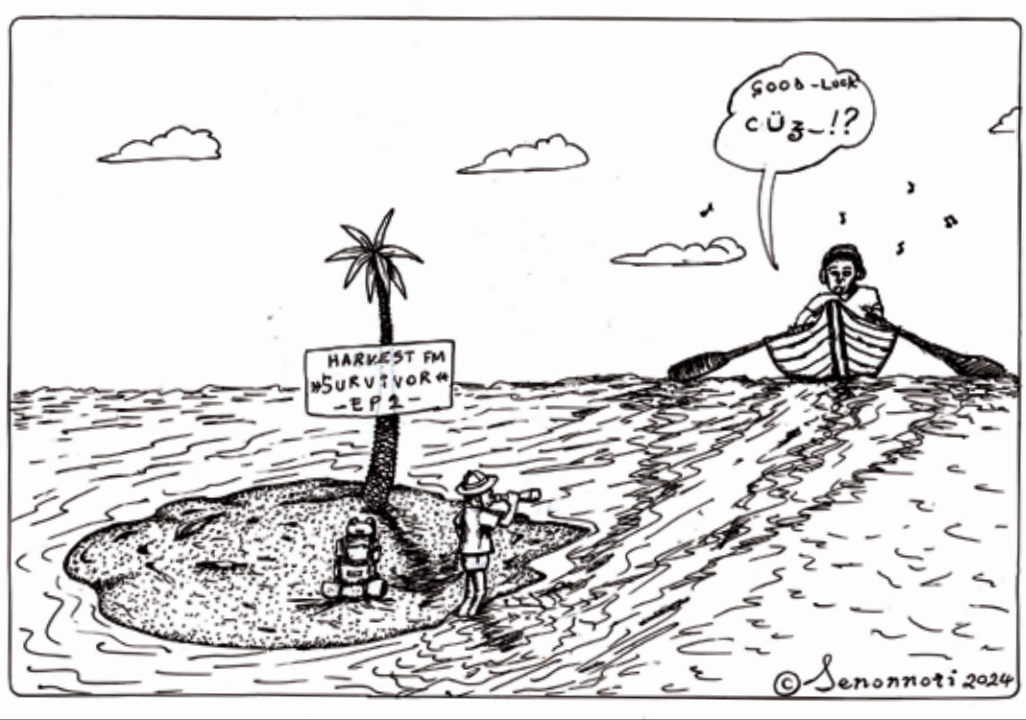
Under Setipa’s leadership as Secretary-General, Lesotho stands to benefit from the priorit-

sation of Commonwealth programs. This would result in direct attention being given to Lesotho’s developmental needs, increasing the likelihood of receiving financial aid, technical support, and capacity-building initiatives. Additionally, it would elevate Lesotho’s status within the Commonwealth, transforming it from an ordinary member to a significant force in shaping the organisation’s future. This heightened visibility would enhance Lesotho’s cultural diplomacy, paving the way for scholarship opportunities, exchange programs, and deeper cultural exchanges that would enrich the country’s global engagement.

While the direct benefits of Setipa’s potential appointment may not be immediately visible, the indirect effects could have a far-reaching and positive impact on Lesotho and its people. From enhanced international cooperation to economic growth and national pride, the potential gains underscore the strategic value of supporting Setipa’s bid, even if the candidacy were not to succeed. The long-term benefits could well justify the government’s decision, offering the Basotho people opportunities and advancements that extend far beyond the immediate future.

The concerns highlighted in the article by my fellow Mosotho are legitimate if they were to be looked at a narrowly effective way. Their reflection on the significant challenges faced by Lesotho, particularly in terms of unemployment and resource allocation should not blind my fellow mosotho and the rest of the nation about the longterm benefits that the Mountain Kingdom will reap from this candidacy. Nonetheless, it is extremely vital to consider the potential long-term benefits of supporting Setipa’s candidacy. While this may not immediately address the pressing issues of unemployment, it has the potential to position Lesotho for increased international influence, partnerships, and resources that can contribute to sustainable development. The government’s investment in this campaign should be viewed as part of a broader strategy to uplift the nation on multiple fronts. To maximise the benefits, it will be crucial for the government to ensure that if Setipa succeeds, his role is leveraged to bring tangible benefits to Lesotho, particularly for the unemployed and disadvantaged.

I want to close it off by reminding my fellow Mosotho man that many of the challenges Lesotho is currently facing were created during the tenure of his party, which was in government until 2022. These longstanding issues cannot be addressed overnight, and it is crucial to consider the broader context when evaluating the efforts and contributions of individuals like Ntate Setipa. The current government is working to address these challenges, and supporting Setipa’s candidacy is part of a larger strategy to elevate Lesotho’s position on the global stage, which could ultimately help in tackling the country’s pressing issues more effectively. Therefore, while immediate domestic issues should remain a priority, pursuing opportunities that can enhance Lesotho’s international standing and influence is also a worthwhile investment. The key is to balance these efforts and ensure that any international success translates into real, lasting benefits for all Basotho. The Future is NOW!



FEATURE

Getting more women into science crucial to meeting developmental goals



Marcia Moyana

Efforts have been made to create opportunities for women to participate in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) industry.

And while most women have taken these opportunities by enrolling for the courses at university, few of them are working in the field.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) reports that only 35 percent of STEM graduates are women. In South Africa, only 13 percent of women are working in the STEM field and eight percent are in the engineering sector.

The lack of early exposure to STEM subjects, lack of resources, “unwelcoming” working environments, lack of career progression, beliefs and stereotypes that women cannot study and work in the field and the lack of financial support are some of the stumbling blocks that prevent women from participating or remaining in the field.

Speaking at the L’Oreal for Women in Science discussion that was held in Johannesburg on Wednesday, Education Programme Specialist at the UNESCO, Rovani Sigamoney said that more needed to be done to not only attract but to also retain women into the STEM industry.

She further highlighted that despite the challenges women faced, progress had been made to enhance support and celebrate upcoming and established scientists.

“The picture looks eerie but South Africa stands out and has made lots of progress

on the continent and in terms of our projections, that is where we are heading all thanks to the Women in Science national programme which other countries on the continent do not have,” said Sigamoney.

She further highlighted some of the achievements that have been made under the UNESCO-L’Oreal for Women in Science programmes which supports 250 women researchers every year during their thesis or post-doctoral studies. More than 4 400 women scientists from 140 countries have been supported.

An enabling environment

“The programme has been phenomenal and we have had seven UNESCO-L’Oreal Laureates who have gone on to get their Nobel Laureates, with one of them went on to become the President of Mauritius,” Sigamoney added.

Supporting girls from a young age and creating an environment that allows them to see scientists as relatable and “ordinary” people.

For physicist and the Head of Biophotonics at the Photonics Centre within the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dr Patience Mthunzi-Kufa, this starts with not telling girls that physics is a difficult subject and closing the language barrier that learners from townships and rural communities struggle with when they get to university.

“One of the other barriers I faced at the then Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) was being told by a lecturer during my second year that black could not see in three dimensions so I was wasting my time and my mother’s money by studying physics. That



barrier could have broken me down because as a young second year student, we are very impressionable but years later, I have a PhD in physics from an international institution,” said Mthunzi-Kufa.

The first Sub-Saharan African dermatologist for L’Oréal Paris, Dr Ayanda Motau struggled with having to prove herself to patients who doubted her expertise as a Black female dermatologist. She also added that there were fewer job opportunities in the public sector where she struggled to find a job after qualifying to be a dermatologist and ended up going into private practice.

South Africa has about 250 dermatologists in the country, with a 50/50 representation of both men and women. Up to 50 percent of all dermatologists are White, followed by 25 percent Blacks, 18 percent Asians, only three percent are Coloured and the race of the remaining four percent is unknown.

Motau added that it was demotivating for qualified dermatologists to face unemployment when the rates of those who were working in both the public and private sector remained so low when compared to the number of patients who need their services.

“As female dermatologists, we always have to work twice as hard to be taken seriously but once you are in the industry and have grown in it, people start to trust you because they recognise your name,” said Motau.

Opportunities for women in science

“I think the younger generation of women who are scientists, including myself, are

privileged to grow up seeing scientists who look like them and have similar stories. We grew up thinking scientists were old White men in white lab coats,” she added.

Women and girls have been encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities that are available for them in the STEM field and to continue expanding their skills by not confining themselves within the field of their study.

With fewer women who remain in the field after completing their university studies or within a few years of working in the STEM field, women are further encouraged to collaborate and build innovative projects that are sustainable.

“Business has supported women in science but more needs to be done and that is why we constantly partner with business to support research and development. Through the National Equipment Programmes (NEP), we have ensured that women get equipment for their labs,” added the Chief Director for Multilateral and Africa Engagements at the Department of Science

and Innovation (DSI), Mmampei Chaba.

The DSI aims to support the science community through partnership with the private sector which has supported the training camps for girls who are in high school with laptops that have enabled the girls to access learning through technology.

The gender-focused approach is further applied to empower women and influence the research agenda which has mostly been driven and focused on the male perspective, leaving out voices of 50 percent of the population of women and girls.



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 Agricultural 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 sixteen 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 provision 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 requirements 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 accordance 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 contact 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 September 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 required) 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



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECT FOR DEBT AND EXPEDINTURE
MANAGEMENT
(ISPDEM)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
CONSULTING SERVICES-INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT(IC) SELECTION

Country	Lesotho
Project Name	Institutional Support Project for Debt and Expenditure Management
Financing Agreement Ref	21000150043244
Project ID No	P-LS-KFO-005
Assignment Tittle	Asset Management Strategy Development Consultant
Reference No	ISPDEM/LES-C23/0010

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning has received financing from the African Development Fund towards the cost of the Institutional Support Project for Debt and Expenditure Management (ISPDEM) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the position of **Asset Management Strategy Development Consultant**.

This assignment aims to develop a comprehensive asset management strategy that optimizes the performance, efficiency, and sustainability of the Government assets. The consultant will evaluate the current asset management practices, identify gaps and opportunities for improvement and provide actionable recommendations. The strategy should align with the National Strategic Development Plan and Asset Management Policy and Operational Guidelines, ensuring effective utilization, maintenance and replacement of assets to maximize value and minimize risk.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment can be obtained at the address given below.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning now invites eligible individuals to indicate interest in providing these services. Interested individual consultant by submitting their applications for this position must provide information

indicating that they are qualified and experienced to perform the services. The selection criteria include qualifications and experience as stipulated in the ToR. Interested candidates are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) Curriculum Vitae together with Educational Certificates to the address below.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s “Rules and Procedures for the use of Consultants,” 2015, which is available on the Bank’s website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested candidates may obtain further information (including detailed Terms of Reference) at the address below during office hours (8.00 am to 4.30 pm Local time).

Expression of Interest together with CV’s must be delivered in a written form, in sealed envelope labelled “**Asset Management Strategy Development Consultant**” to the address below in person or by email not later than 20th September 2024.

Attn: Procurement Manager
Institutional Support Project for Debt and Expenditure Management (ISPDEM)
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Government Complex, Finance House, 2nd Floor, Office number 2010
Corner Kingsway and High Court Road,
P.O. Box 395
Maseru, Lesotho
Tel: +266 22310622
E-mail: mantsana.takalimane@gov.ls and
cc makubutu.rakubutu@gov.ls



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 Disability 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 Bidders 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 copies 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 further 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 interested Bidders upon payment of non-refundable 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 lowest 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 institute and should accompany the tender submission.

9. Bids must be hand delivered to the address 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 "ORIGIONAL" respectively in one sealed envelope clearly marked "**Supply and delivery of supportive wheelchairs for disability services in the ministry of social development**" bearing no identification of the bidder. Bids submitted after the deadline 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 September 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



Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Section 1. Letter of Invitation

Maseru 100
Lesotho
1st August,2024

1. The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho (GOL) through the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and its Department of Traffic and Transport (DTT) is in the process of developing a Public Transport Predictive Pricing Model (PTPPM)

2. The Ministry invites "Technical and Financial Proposals in separate envelopes" from consultancy firms to provide the following services: Development of Public Transport Predictive Pricing Model. More details on the services are provided in the Request for Proposals (RFP) referred to under 5 below.

3. The technical proposal shall clearly demonstrate your understanding of the expected outputs, your proposed approach to the services involved, necessary equipment, your comments on the Scope of Work, your relevant experience, and you will be expected to provide detailed and updated curriculum vitae for the proposed key personnel for carrying out the assignment. The financial proposal should clearly reflect the breakdown of your fees and all other associated costs for carrying out the assignment.

4. A Service Provider will be selected in accordance with the current Procurement Act,2023. A firm will be selected under the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method as stipulated in this Request for Proposals (RFP).

5. It is mandatory for the consultancy firm to submit the following: (a) Tax Clearance Certificates, (b) Trader's License.
- 5.Detailed RFP which comprises the following documents is available at the address indicated under 6 below on request:
Section 1 - Letter of Invitation

Section 2 - Information to Consultants
Section 3 - Technical Proposal - Standard Forms
Section 4 - Financial Proposal - Standard Forms
Section 5 - Terms of Reference
Section 6 - Form of Contract.

5.Your sealed proposals should be submitted at the following address by **12:00 noon on October 8, 2024**

Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Roads Directorate Building,1st Floor Lepoqo Road and Corner Mosheshoe Road, Opposite Browns Cash & Carry.

Technical proposals will be opened on the same day at 12:30

6. The submissions should be clearly marked: "**Development of Public Transport Predictive Pricing Model (PTPPM)**". It is the Service Providers' responsibility to ensure that their proposals are received on or before the closing date whether posted or hand delivered.
7. The selection criteria shall take both technical quality and costs into consideration to determine the overall preferred Service Provider. Therefore, it should be noted that technical proposals will be opened first and evaluated and only those companies attaining the technical scores above the minimum pass mark will qualify for financial proposals opening and evaluation.
8. Interested Service Providers from different firms may submit as an association or partnerships or joint ventures provided, they submit a letter of intent signed by all parties with a clear indication of the representative of such association or partnership or joint venture.

9. **BID DOCUMENT IS M2000.00 MALOTI NON-REFUNDABLE, SHOULD BE PAID AT THE MINISTRY ACCOUNTS SECTION TRASPORT DEPARTMENT**



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECT FOR DEBT AND EXPEDINTURE
MANAGEMENT
(ISPDEM)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
CONSULTING SERVICES-INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT(IC) SELECTION

Country	Lesotho
Project Name	Institutional Support Project for Debt and Expenditure Management
Financing Agreement Ref	21000150043244
Project ID No	P-LS-KFO-005
Assignment Tittle	Domestic Markets Development and Innovative Financing Instruments Consultant
Reference No	ISPDEM/LES-C23/0003

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning has received financing from the African Development Fund towards the cost of the Institutional Support Project for Debt and Expenditure Management (ISPDEM) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the position of **Domestic Markets Development and Innovative Financing Instruments Consultant**.

This assignment aims to evaluate: (i) the current legal and institutional arrangements in the domestic financial markets, (ii) the absorption capacity of domestic market, and (iv) the potential opportunities for longer-dated securities. It should also provide a possibility of functionality within the framework of a consolidated debt management department while assessing and resolving the staff capacity gaps.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment can be obtained at the address given below.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning now invites eligible individuals to indicate interest in providing these services. Interested individual consultant by submitting their applications for this position must provide information indicating that they are qualified and experienced to perform the services. The

selection criteria include qualifications and experience as stipulated in the ToR. Interested candidates are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) Curriculum Vitae together with Educational Certificates to the address below. Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Rules and Procedures for the use of Consultants," 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested candidates may obtain further information (including detailed Terms of Reference) at the address below during office hours (8.00 am to 4.30 pm Local time).

Expression of Interest together with CV's must be delivered in a written form, in sealed envelope labelled "**Domestic Markets Development and Innovative Financing Instruments**

Consultant" to the address below in person or by email not later than 20th September 2024.

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Spring Music
Conference beckons

Pheello Mosesi

The Lesotho Spring Music Conference (LSMC) is set to light up Maseru from September 20-21 at the State Library in Maseru.

Conceived to propel the Lesotho music industry onto the global stage, this event promises to be a pivotal moment for Basotho artistes seeking to break into the international market.

The LSMC was born from the vision of Sechaba 'SirSchaba' Mokoqo, the former president of the Lesotho Music Rights Association (LMRA). In a recent interview, SirSchaba shared his insights and aspirations for the two-day conference.

"The goal of the conference is to bridge the gap between the Lesotho music industry and the larger Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, and ultimately, the global market," said SirSchaba.

He highlighted that the music scene in Lesotho is largely informal and stressed the need for a more professional approach.

"Through this initiative, we aim to bring professionals and experts from various fields to share their skills with local artists," he added.

The conference will feature in-depth discussions about the music industry, from local perspectives to global trends. The focus will be on finding effective strategies for Basotho

artistes to navigate the global market while ensuring that the Lesotho music industry remains a sustainable enterprise.

Reflecting on the conference's journey over the past eight years, SirSchaba expressed pride in its achievements.

"One of our biggest successes is becoming part of the SADC Music Markets and Conferences circuit. This recognition means we are acknowledged as an official music market in the region, granting us more access and support from larger conferences," he noted.

This recognition opens doors for local music creators to showcase their talents in other countries, providing a significant opportunity for Basotho artistes to gain international exposure.

In alignment with the 200-year celebration of the Basotho nation, this year's conference will include a special showcase of traditional music.

"We have invited five Limpopo Traditional Music Groups, supported by the Limpopo government, to participate in this momentous event. We will also feature performances by Basotho traditional groups," said SirSchaba.

He further explained that the collaboration with Limpopo presents a cultural exchange opportunity. "The Limpopo government sees this as a chance for cross-country cultural exchange, and we hope to invite Basotho ar-

tistes to Limpopo next year," he added.

The LSMC aims to be a catalyst for change and growth in the promising Lesotho music industry. It offers a unique platform for all stakeholders in the music sector to benefit from new opportunities and insights.

Since its inception in 2017, the LSMC has hosted numerous familiar faces and voices in the music industry. This year's event will also include the lively and entertaining Lesotho

Spring Music Conference Street Festival Unplugged, featuring performances from local talents like King Moses and Maru Gang.

With its focus on growth, collaboration, and cultural exchange, the Lesotho Spring Music Conference is poised to be a transformative force in the Lesotho music industry, helping local artists to navigate the challenges of the global market while celebrating their rich cultural heritage.



SirSchaba Founder of Lesotho Spring Music Conference



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All set for Mathe Maloli Food Festival

Arts

Pheello Mosesi

Foodies and those with a sweet tooth, rejoice! The annual Mathe Maloli Food Festival is back and will take place on September 1st at The Caff, formerly known as Setsoalle Park.

The event, described by organiser Motebang Senaoana as “a family-friendly, food-centered celebration of the best music and cuisine from Lesotho,” offers a vibrant space where local cooks and chefs can showcase their talents, sell their creations, and collaborate, all while fostering a culture of culinary appreciation.

“If not for the setbacks caused by COVID-19, this would have been the festival’s seventh edition since its inception in 2018 by Osmium Lesotho,” Senaoana said.

“Instead, we are thrilled to be hosting our fourth festival, following our return in 2022.”

Senaoana emphasised that this event is a must-attend for Basotho and culinary arts enthusiasts alike. Attendees can expect “loads of fun and entertainment, delicious food from various vendors, and a thrilling kota eating competition,” he added.

Sponsored by Jay’s Restaurant, Coca-Cola,

and featuring a Braai and Burger Cook-Off, the Mathe Maloli Food Festival promises more than just delectable food and music. The event will also offer family-friendly fun, including board games with prizes.

For music lovers, a line-up of DJs, including Camping and Sonics, Msl Relo, Oa Nko-pane, Tommy D, and Kheleke, will keep the beats thumping throughout the day.

Beneficiaries of the festival include vendors such as Lecholi, Gin N Trout, Lotus Grills, and Let’s Party. This year, however, the event aims to be even more inclusive.

“We are paying special attention to MSME chefs this year, balancing the needs of our customers while ensuring everyone has tons of fun,” Senaoana noted.

The choice of venue was carefully considered for its attributes.

“When selecting a location, we consider factors such as accessibility, space for fun activities, great food, seating areas, and excellent views,” Senaoana explained, adding that The Caff meets all these criteria and more.

“Our event is centered on food as the main attraction. We are placing MSME cooks at the heart of our event, celebrating and appreciating their contributions.”





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SPORTS

Seabata Mahao

Corporate Champions League set to make history as they host the first of its kind, a grand-opening of the annual league in spectacular way with performances of local artists and kids’ activities.

16 corporate football clubs will begin their Corporate Champions League journey in style with fun activities include ng performances by local performing artists and disk jockeys including Omali Themba, and Juvy oa Lepimpara.

For kids, there will be jumping castles, clowns, horse riding play station, face painting, quad riding, and many more.

Mpho Pashe of the CCL highlighted that they are planning on going bigger and better this season with the inclusion of everyone in the community regardless of their social status.

“We have invited Maseru City Council (MCC) officials and prominent people to show and support our initiative through sports. we have also created jobs for the youths where-by they work as ushers, and the participating artists,”

“We want to see our youth living better through this initiative. The kids will have their own section to have fun while the adults are enjoying football matches along with good music performances,” Pashe explained.

Additionally, the first matches’ fixture will

Corporate Champions League 2024/25 grand opening



see Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) against Sentebale Gap Funeral, Queen ‘Mamohato Memorial Hospital (QMMH) against North Envy, Team Friends against Kings, Sotho-kids against Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), and Camera Man Lesotho against Mateneng.

All matches are scheduled for Moshoeshoe II Football Ground from 10:00 hours on September 1, 2024.

The grand opening will be graced by the presence of the Maseru Mayor, Motlalepula

Sepipi, Member of Parliament, Mokherane ‘MCT’ Tsatsanyane, and other guests of honour.

Participating clubs include Econet Telecom Lesotho, FNB Lesotho, Maluti Mountain Brewery, KFC, Alliance Insurance Lesotho, Lesotho Flour Mills, Sentebale Gap Funeral, Sotho Kids, Econo Foods, Team Friends, North Envy, FPL Superstars, Camera Man Lesotho, Mateneng Social Club, Kings, and Four in One Trading Company.

SA netball club conquers Lesotho



Seabata Mahao

South African netball side, Puma SA Netball Club recently clinched gold in the Women’s Month Commemoration Netball Tournament, defeating LDF Netball Club with a 20-9 score in the finals.

The tournament was hosted by the City Eagles Netball Club at the Lehakoe Recreational Center in Maseru last weekend.

The tournament attracted 31 teams from Lesotho and South Africa, competing across three categories: 13 female clubs, 6 male clubs, and 12 junior female clubs.

The two-day event saw Puma SA Netball Club taking home the ultimate prize of M1 200, along with a trophy and gold medals in the women’s category. The LMPS PTC Netball Club emerged as champions in the male category, winning M1 200, a trophy, and gold medals.

In the youth category, Leqelet First Number Netball Club secured victory, walking away with M500, a trophy, and gold medals.

LMPS Netball Club won the male category final with a narrow 20-18 victory over Leseli Tigers. In the juniors’ category, Leqelet First Number Netball Club defeated their sister team, Leqelet Development, 21-10 to claim the title.

In other results, LDF Netball Club finished as runners-up in the women’s category, earning M800 and silver medals, while LCS Netball Club claimed third place with M500 and bronze medals.

In the male category, Leseli Tigers Netball Club took second place, walking away with M800 and silver medals, while South Ocean finished third, receiving M500 and bronze medals.

In the youth category, Leqelet Development Netball Club was the runner-up, earning M300 and silver medals, and LMPS PTC Junior Netball Club finished third, winning M200 and bronze medals.

Ntsane Sehlabaka from the Lesotho Netball Association (LNA) expressed his gratitude for being part of the celebrations and commended City Eagles for organizing the tournament. Sehlabaka praised the City Eagles Netball Club for holding a sports competition to commemorate Women’s Month.

“I hope the visibility of women’s talent in netball will encourage greater support from both the government and the business community,” Sehlabaka stated.

‘Makhabo Lehloenya from Naleli Funeral Planners, the main sponsor of the tournament, spoke about the partnership between Naleli and City Eagles, which began in 2018 but was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She emphasized the importance of reigniting this partnership.

“The goal is to encourage women to participate in sports and other fields, empowering them to stand up for themselves,” Lehloenya said.

“We want the women who participated in these games to serve as role models for the younger generation. We hope everyone who took part in the tournament recognizes its importance,” Lehloenya added.

Matlama’s young stars shine in record-breaking victory

Mahlomola Letsie

On Sunday, August 25, 2024, the annual Alliance Insurance winter football showpiece, now renamed the Alliance Challenge, showcased the youngest youth ensemble in the history of Lesotho football.

Matlama Football Club (FC), fielding a squad composed mostly of players in their early 20s, edged out Linare FC in a dramatic match decided by a record nine-round penalty shootout.

The match was officiated by 19-year-old referee Mlungisi Sisishe, who skillfully managed the tense encounter, leading to Matlama’s triumphant claim of the trophy.

The youthful Matlama squad was led by long-time former Lesotho Under-23 captain, Halemakale “Doctor” Mahlaha, whose seasoned coaching skills guided the team to victory.

Among the standout players was 16-year-old goalkeeper Leluma Mofoka, who played alongside a few seasoned teammates over the age of 25, including Jane Thabants’o, Lisema Lebokollane, Lazola Jokojokwana, and Rethabile Mokokoane.

Their combined efforts delivered yet another exciting and momentous win for Tse Putsoa, as Matlama are affectionately known in football circles.

Matlama FC, who made history as the inaugural winners of the Alliance Challenge when it was introduced in 2015, have now won the tournament a record-breaking three times.

Matlama FC have successfully retained their dominance in the Alliance Challenge, remaining the reigning champions since 2023. They narrowly defeated the Leribe-based Linare FC in another nail-biting penalty shootout.

Linare, who debuted in the tournament in 2022, have yet to claim an Alliance trophy, making them the only team in the competi-

tion that has never won the coveted prize.

Under the guidance of former Bantu FC coach Atang “Bob” Mafoso, Linare FC continue to chase their first Alliance trophy, trailing behind clubs like Lioli FC, who have two Alliance Challenge titles under the leadership of former Lesotho dribbling wizard Motheo “Six To Six – Nkeke Ka E Emela” Mohapi.

Mohapi stirred controversy by lamenting that his Lioli players were being “purposely ignored by the senior national team (Likue-na).” Additionally, the Lesotho Correctional Service (LCS) FC, coached by their former player Thabile Secker, has secured a single Alliance Challenge trophy.

Despite their current lack of Alliance Challenge trophies, Linare FC were the biggest winners in terms of individual excellence on Sunday. Linare players swept all individual awards at the Bambatha Ts’ita Sports Arena, marking the first time in eight years that the final was held on its immaculate turf.

Linare’s goalkeeper, Ntsane Molise, was honoured as the Goalkeeper of the Tournament, earning M3,500. His teammate, Pheko ‘Molaoa, was crowned Player of the Tournament, also taking home M3,500.

The highly in-form Linare midfielder,

Ts’epang Sefali, who was the first to score during Sunday’s match, shared the Top Goal Scorer’s award with LCS’s Makara Ntatsane and Matlama’s Jane Thabants’o. Each received M3,500 for their achievements.

Linare FC walked away with silver medals and a M20,000 prize as runners-up to the champions, Matlama FC, who were crowned winners and awarded gold medals along with a substantial M50,000 first prize.

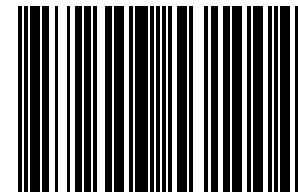
Lioli FC and LCS FC each received a consolation prize of M10,000 for their efforts.

An estimated 10,000 spectators packed the small Bambatha Ts’ita Sports Arena to its rafters, generating close to M300,000 in gate takings. The crowd was mesmerised by the nation’s musical sensation, Sannere (real name Relebohile Monaphathi), who performed alongside veteran musicians Selimo Thabane, Omali Themba, and the newly rising star, Phoka Ea Boroa.

Among the dignitaries gracing the tournament were Stephen Mputi, former first vice president of the District Football Association (DIFA) for the Leribe district and now a cabinet minister for the Public Service portfolio, and veteran judge, His Lordship Ts’eliso Monaphathi.



Siblings Lintle Chocholo of Linare FC and Lebohlang Chocholo of Matlama FC were captured in a fierce tussle for possession of the ball



30 August - 05 September 2024

Matlama revel in successive cup victory



Seabata Mahao

The head coach of Matlama Football Club (FC), Halemakale Mahlaha, has praised his players for their exceptional dedication and commitment, leading to their back-to-back wins of the recent Alliance Challenge tournament.

Mahlaha highlighted that the players' hard work and perseverance reflect their determination to succeed.

"The club's impressive performance has not only boosted morale within the squad but also reignited the passion of our supporters," Mahlaha said.

"The consistent and excellent display on the field is encouraging fans to come out in large numbers and cheer for the team at the playgrounds. Our success is creating a positive atmosphere both on and off the pitch, strengthening the bond between the players and their loyal supporters."

Speaking on behalf of the players, Mat-

lama's captain, Jane Thabantšo, reflected on the club's remarkable achievement of reaching two finals in a short period. He noted that this accomplishment is a significant milestone for any football club.

"Competing in two consecutive finals not only highlights the club's consistency and high level of performance but also proves that we are one of the dominant forces in football. This success is a source of immense pride for everyone involved, from the players to the coaching staff and the loyal supporters."

"Achieving this feat requires relentless determination, sacrifice, and teamwork. It's about more than just winning titles; it's about upholding the club's legacy and setting an example for future generations of players."

Matlama recently defeated their opponents in a one-day tournament, the Alliance Challenge 2024, walking away with the top prize of M60 000. The victory underscored

Matlama's continued dominance on the field and served as a testament to their financial success. They won their final match against Linare FC after a thrilling penalty shootout that ended 6-5 at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena Stadium.

The ninth edition of the Alliance Challenge featured Matlama FC, LCS FC, Linare FC, and Lioli FC. Matlama FC were crowned champions, winning the ultimate prize of M60 000. Linare FC came in as runners-up, taking home M20 000, while Lioli FC and LCS FC each received M10 000.

The tournament not only demonstrated the football clubs' competency but also strengthened community engagement and support for local football. It highlighted the ongoing commitment of sponsors like Alliance to promoting the sport and nurturing talent in Lesotho.

Alliance Group's Head of Marketing and

Corporate Communications, 'Makeabetsoe Mabaleha, remarked that the tournament is designed to benefit the four Alliance Insurance-sponsored football clubs. She explained that the goal is to help these clubs boost their financial resources before the sports season begins, allowing them to manage expenses such as player salaries and other critical needs.

"Alliance sponsorship is not just about the financial aspect; it aims to bring Basotho together through the sport they love. The tournament offers a platform for community engagement and unity,"

"Coaches from other premier league clubs are invited to observe the matches, providing a broader perspective on the competition and fostering collaboration and growth within the local football scene," Mabaleha said.



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