

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

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- *80% retail sector jobs generated by foreign-owned firms*
- *Only 18% locally-owned businesses in reserved category*

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Staff Reporter

A recent inspection by the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Business Development has uncovered the overwhelming dominance of foreign-owned businesses in the capital city, Maseru, as lawmakers push for the full implementation of business indigenisation laws.

The preliminary inspection, conducted in Maseru's central business district, revealed that 80 percent of jobs in the retail sector are generated by foreign-owned enterprises, reflecting a potential risk for job losses if foreign-owned firms closed down.

In contrast, only 18 percent of locally-owned businesses are operating in sectors reserved for Basotho, highlighting a significant gap in the country's efforts to indigenise business operations.

The inspection was carried out by a task force from the Ministry, alongside representatives from the Lesotho Mounted Police Service, National Security Service, Revenue Services Lesotho, and the departments of labour, health, and immigration.

The effort is in anticipation of enforcing Section 34 of the Business Licensing and Registration Act, 2019, which reserves 47 business sectors exclusively for indigenous Basotho.

In a recent address to the National Assembly, Minister of Trade and Industry Mokhehi Shelile updated lawmakers on the progress towards fully implementing the Act. He mentioned that further inspections would be conducted in Leribe and Mafeteng before presenting a comprehensive report.

In Maseru, businesses in key areas such as the Bus Stop, Seputana, the Industrial Area, Cathedral Area, and Borokhoaneng were inspected.

"The key findings of these inspections are consistent with the hypothesis that Lesotho's commercial space is dominated by foreign owned businesses," Shelile said.

Of the 106 retail businesses inspected, 80 were foreign-owned. "Foreign-owned businesses account for 90 percent of jobs in the retail sector, and they employ the majority of migrant labourers in this industry.

"Our audit also found that 61 percent of the businesses in the reserved category were owned by foreign nationals, leaving only 18.46 percent for Basotho-owned businesses," he told the House.

Shelile also noted that 13 businesses were owned by naturalised citizens, with the possibility that more could be added as some claimed to be in the process of producing their documentation.

However, the Minister highlighted the potential negative impact of fully implementing Section 34, which has sparked debate since the law came into effect in August 2022.

Confusion over the delayed enforcement of Section 34 led the National Assembly in March to direct the Ministry to expedite its enforcement within 30 days.

In response, Shelile told the Assembly that

Foreign business dominance shocker!

- **80% retail sector jobs generated by foreign-owned firms**
- **Only 18% locally-owned businesses in reserved category**

the Ministry needed time to assess the possible consequences of abruptly enforcing the section.

"The task team concluded that the sudden implementation of the reservation list, commonly referred to as Section 34, could disrupt market conditions, affect employment, and impact the supply of goods and services," he explained.

"It was necessary to investigate the proportion of foreign-owned businesses in the reserved category, their contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) and employment, and to develop mitigation measures and a transition plan."

The private sector, however, expressed disappointment over the inspection process. Members of the indigenous business community see the inspection as an attempt to shield foreign businesses from legal consequences.

Teboho Motšephe, of the Meat Traders Association of Lesotho, voiced his concerns: "We were part of the task team, but after realising that no genuine measures were being taken against non-compliant foreign businesses, we withdrew from the inspection. The Ministry seems more inclined to protect foreign businesses than enforce the law."

Motšephe also called for the suspension of the entire legislation if Section 34 is not enforced.

"The government should not selectively enforce parts of the Act that

benefit them in terms of

revenue collection while neglecting sections that protect local businesses. If they cannot implement Section 34, they should suspend the entire law," he stated.

The business activities reserved for Basotho by the Act are International road freight transport and logistics, Road transport and logistics, Motor dealer, Real estate agency, Clearing agent, Warehousing activities, Retail sale of household fuel, bottled gas, and coal, Fast food activities without full restaurant services, Hairdressing and beauty treatment, Repairs and maintenance of motor vehicles and motorcycles, Activities of households as employers of domestic personnel, Cleaning of motor vehicles, Raising of horses, Raising of sheep and goats, Raising of swine and pigs, Raising of poultry, Sale of livestock and livestock products, Tour operator activities, Landscaping and maintenance service activities,

Retail sale via stalls and market of food, beverages, and tobacco products, Retail sale via stalls and market of textiles, clothing,

ing, and footwear, Retail sale of cultural and recreational goods in specialised stores, Activities of business agents and brokers in specialised stores including wholesale and retail sale of health-related articles or products, Retail sale of animal feeds, including animal medicines and chemicals, Retail sale of bread and confectionery products, Retail sale of motor vehicle parts and accessories, Repairs of motor vehicle parts including vehicles, and motorcycles, Retail sale, maintenance, and repair of motorcycles and related parts and accessories, Hire of vehicles and motorcycles, whether or not accompanied by a driver, Sale of alcoholic beverages in bars (off-sale, shebeen, and public bar), Retail sale of unprocessed meat and meat products including seafood, Retail sale of fruits and vegetables, Growing of fruits and vegetables, Retail sale of prepared meat and meat dishes (Chesa Nyama) without full restaurant services, Supply of liquefied petroleum gas and petroleum fuel in specialised stores, Retail sale of hardware, paints, and glass in specialised stores, Retail sale of second-hand goods, Retail sale in stalls or markets of beverages, foods, cosmetics, and textiles, Retail sale of cosmetics, hair care products, and beauty supplies in specialised stores including wholesale trade, Mobile food services and other food services without full restaurant support services, Photocopying and document preparation services, General plumbing and other construction activities, Laundry services, Repairs of footwear and clothing, Repair of watches, and Retail sale of metal waste or scraps.



Minister of Trade and Industry Mokhehi Shelile

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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.

UN pledges \$2 million to fight food insecurity in Lesotho



Reena Ghelani - The Assistant General Secretary and Climate Crisis Coordinator for EL Nino visiting the communities to assess the impact of drought

Lehlohonolo Motsoari

As Lesotho confronts a severe drought and escalating food insecurity, the United Nations (UN) has pledged \$2 million in emergency aid.

The funds, drawn from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), were announced by Reena Ghelani, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Climate Crisis Coordinator for El Niño and La Niña, during a four-day mission into the country.

This aid comes at a critical time, with nearly a third of Lesotho's population—about 700,000 people—facing hunger in the coming months.

Ghelani, accompanied by Andrea Noyes, Head of the Regional Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and UN Resident Coordinator Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, met with government officials, civil society leaders, and affected communities to assess the severity of the drought's impact.

The drought, worsened by El Niño, has resulted in the lowest crop yields since

the 2018/19 agricultural season. Rural areas are particularly hard-hit, with over 400,000 people expected to face crisis-level hunger until March 2025. Urban regions are also struggling, with approximately 296,000 people expected to fall into food insecurity.

"We spoke to farmers and mothers in Qacha's Nek and Mafeteng who are struggling to feed their families. This \$2 million allocation will help provide essential food and services, but we must also work towards building long-term resilience to prevent future crises," said Ghelani.

The UN's emergency funds will address immediate needs, such as food shortages and water scarcity, but Ghelani emphasised the importance of focusing on long-term strategies to strengthen Lesotho's resilience against future climate shocks.

At a press conference, Noyes underscored the importance of humanitarian coordination, stating, "The UN is working closely with the Government of Lesotho to

strengthen its response. This emergency allocation is timely, but the country needs additional support to close the funding gap in its National El Niño Response Plan, which requires \$212.9 million."

The UN's involvement follows the government's declaration of a national food emergency on July 12, 2024. However, Lesotho still faces a significant funding shortfall of \$112.8 million to fully implement its response plan.

Noyes further noted: "The situation is dire. We met farmers who reported widespread crop failures, and distressed mothers who shared that they don't have enough food for their children. This funding will be critical in helping families access sufficient food and essential services. The time for action is now. OCHA is supporting the UN and partners in Lesotho to strengthen humanitarian coordination and scale up the response to complement government efforts."

UN Resident Coordinator Amanda Khozi Mukwashi praised the government's proactive response to the crisis, highlighting that over half of the required funding has already been secured.

"We stand with the people of Lesotho in this time of need. The UN is committed to working closely with the government and all partners to ensure a coordinated and effective response," Mukwashi said.

Mukwashi also commended Lesotho for taking the lead in addressing the crisis.

"It's encouraging to see that Lesotho isn't waiting for international aid but is taking charge in tackling this emergency," she added.

The UN continues to rally international donors to help close the funding gap and support the government's comprehensive response plan, which includes immediate lifesaving assistance, medium-term resilience projects, and long-term sustainable development.



Reena Ghelani - The Assistant General Secretary and Climate Crisis Coordinator for EL Nino and La Nina alongside Andrea Noyes, the Head of the Regional Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Jealous Leribe man murders wife

Relebohile Makhetha

A 20-year-old man, Kopano Makate, from Mathokoane Ha Tumahole, appeared before the Leribe Magistrate's Court on August 29, charged with the murder of his 20-year-old wife.

According to information provided by the Lesotho Mounted Police Service, on August 25 the accused locked his wife inside their house at 7:00 PM and left with the key. He returned home at 12:30 AM and knocked on the window for his wife to open the door. She informed him that the key was with him. During their conversation, the lights went out, prompting the accused to break in and assault her with a stick.

The following morning, she was taken to Sebothoane Hospital, where she was admitted. However, she was later transferred to Motebang Hospital on August 28, where she succumbed to her injuries. The man claims he suspected the power outage was caused by someone else being in the house with his wife. The deceased was found with multiple injuries and bruises all over

her body. The accused remains in custody awaiting his next court appearance on September 10.

Botha-Bothe minors charged with sexual assault

In a separate case, a 17-year-old boy from Botha-Bothe appeared before the Botha-Bothe Magistrate's Court on August 29, charged with sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl. The court granted him free bail, and he is scheduled to appear again on September 10, with the case to be heard on September 25.

Another 17-year-old boy from Botha-Bothe appeared in the same court on August 29, charged with sexually assaulting two girls aged 11 and 13. He is currently in juvenile detention awaiting trial, with his next court appearance set for September 12, when the case will be heard.

Mafeteng men charged with cattle theft

Four men appeared before the Mafeteng Magistrate's Court on August 30, charged with cattle theft. The accused are Thabo Lebamang (47) from Mabothisile, Botha-Bothe, a member of the Lesotho Police

Service; Seabata Makhetha (32) from Thaba-Tšoeu Ha Thamahane; Katleho Ralenkoane (30) from Boleka Manyareleng; and Mohapi Mokhethi (35) from Ha Matala. The court granted each of them bail of M1,000.00, which they successfully paid. They are scheduled to appear in court again on September 12.

Reports indicate that on August 25, the men arrived at the home of a 24-year-old man from Thabaneng, having learned that he had returned from RSA with M180,000.00 in cash. They arrived at 11:00 PM, claiming to be police officers searching for a firearm. They ransacked the house and took the money. The police officer involved had his service pistol with him, which he had brought from Lithabane, where he works.

Of the stolen M180,000.00, the police recovered M32,180 from the suspects. One suspect had purchased a plot for M10,000.00. Additionally, a bed and wardrobe bought with the stolen money were seized. Most of the stolen money seems to have been spent on alcohol and clothing.

Mafeteng police investigating fatal

shooting in Tajane

The Mafeteng police are investigating a shooting incident that occurred on August 31, in Tajane Phomolong, where three men and one woman were killed, and two other men were injured.

Reports indicate that the victims were returning from a party at Ha Rakhoboso. While driving through the fields in Phomolong, they noticed a man shooting at their vehicle. When the vehicle stopped, a group of about 30 men opened fire on it. After the incident, the attackers fled towards Hatsolang.

The deceased and injured were traveling in a Chevrolet Utility van. Police recovered 9mm shell casings at the scene. In a similar incident at Ha Ramatšelisio, two men traveling in a Honda Fit were attacked and shot while returning from the same party.

They managed to escape to a nearby home, where soldiers found them and rushed them to the hospital. Police also found 9mm shell casings at this scene. In the Phomolong incident, one man survived unharmed. The total number of victims is four dead and four hospitalised.

OPINION

Homecoming to hunger: Reality of land ownership in Lesotho



Kananelo Boloetse

As I sit down to write this opinion, my cousin whom I have not seen in more than a decade has returned to his family home in Ha Ramasabata, Mafeteng. My cousin, who has been living in Bloemfontein, South Africa, since he was a teenager, has found his way back to Lesotho after years of being in and out of prison in the foreign land.

His arrival, however, is far from a joyous homecoming.

The house he returned to, abandoned for over ten years, was likely overrun by spiders, rats, and other pests. His parents' once vibrant home is now a dilapidated shell, a sad reflection of the lives they left behind.

His youngest brother is still serving time in a Bloemfontein prison, with hopes of release soon, while their eldest brother tragically passed away in 2007 at the tender age of 27.

Their father, my father's younger brother, died in the late 1980s while working in the South African mines, and their mother followed in 1996, while trying to make ends meet in Johannesburg's Eldorado Park.

Orphaned at a young age, my cousins had to fend for themselves. None of them completed primary school, a fact that left them with few opportunities in life.

The cousin who has now returned, left home in the early 2000s for Bloemfontein, where he managed to improve his circumstances, even if marginally, bringing groceries home during his visits. But his return now suggests a life of hardship, possibly deportation, and an uncertain future in a place that no longer feels like home.

The eldest also tried his luck in Bloemfontein but soon returned to

Mafeteng, where he hustled daily to provide for himself and the youngest sibling until when he tragically passed away in 2007.

After his death, the youngest dropped out of school and followed the path to Bloemfontein. Though he visited home regularly, he eventually got involved in criminal activities, leading to his arrest and conviction.

In Lesotho, we often mock South Africans, particularly their first democratically elected President Nelson Mandela, as a sell-out who left his people with nothing but motivational quotes while the land and wealth remained in the hands of a few white elites.

We often pride ourselves on the fact that, unlike many South Africans, we own our land. According to Section 107 of our Constitution, all land in Lesotho is vested in the Basotho Nation, and Section 108(1) further stipulates that the power to allocate this land is vested in the King in trust for the Basotho Nation.

The Land Act of 2010 reinforces this, declaring that land in Lesotho is vested in the Basotho Nation and held in trust by the King. No one, apart from the Head of State, can hold title to land except as provided under this Act.

This legal framework underscores a significant distinction between us and our neighbours, South Africans—we own our land, and with it, the rich mineral reserves that lie beneath.

Yet, despite this ownership, the reality for many Basotho is grim.

The World Food Program's Lesotho Annual Country Report 2023, published on April 2, 2024, reveals that Lesotho remains one of the most unequal countries globally.

Nearly half of the population, 49.7 percent, lives below the food poverty line, with over 80 percent of the poor residing in rural areas. Children are particularly affected, with 65 percent classified as multi-dimensionally poor and over a quarter being orphans.

On July 12, 2024, Prime Minister Ntsoakoane Samuel Matekane declared a national state of disaster due to severe food insecurity, brought on by the most severe El Niño-induced drought in a century.

This disaster has left 700,000 Basotho—nearly one-third of the population—facing severe food insecurity, a staggering increase from 582,000 just a year prior.

My cousin's unexpected return to Lesotho means he wasn't initially included in the alarming statistics of those facing food insecurity. However, if he chooses to stay, he will soon become part of those numbers.

I can't help but wonder if he even has a birth certificate, national identity card, or passport—essential documents to prove his citizenship in Lesotho.

He's likely never bothered to obtain these documents, possibly because he never saw their value. For him, life has always been about hustling in South Africa, where paperwork seemed irrelevant to his daily survival.

He, like many others, chose to leave the land he was born on for a life in Bloemfontein, a city in a country we often mock for its lack of land ownership. For him, the prospects of a better life in a foreign land outweighed the struggles of eking out an existence in Mafeteng.

This story of my cousin is not unique.

It reflects a broader truth about the state of our nation. The laws that ensure Basotho own their land are a source of national pride, but they do little to alleviate the suffering of the people.

Vast tracts of land are meaningless if the political and economic conditions render them barren or inhospitable. When the land fails to provide, when governance fails to uplift, people will leave—seeking better opportunities, even in places where they must live as illegal migrant labourers.

Land ownership is vital, but it is not enough. Without sound governance, economic opportunities, and the political will to uplift the people, the land becomes a burden rather than a blessing.

My cousin's return to a desolate home in Mafeteng is a poignant reminder that ownership without empowerment is a hollow victory. In the end, the land may belong to us, but what good is land

when those who own it are forced to leave it behind?

It is a heartbreaking reality that underscores a deeper issue: the gap between possessing land and having the means to thrive on it.

Anyway, writing this opinion has brought into sharp focus the fact that nearly two months have passed since Prime Minister Matekane declared a national state of food insecurity disaster in response to the unprecedented El Niño-induced drought that has ravaged our country.

Yet, the nation still awaits a clear, coherent plan from the government on how it intends to address this disaster.

The silence and inaction are not only troubling but also a grave abdication of responsibility.

For obvious reasons—my intimate understanding of poverty, my lived experience—I am among those who have consistently advocated for the immediate implementation of food subsidies to provide relief to the most affected.

But our calls have been met with indifference, forcing us to confront the uncomfortable truth that the government has failed to prioritize the welfare of its people during one of the most critical periods in our nation's history.

A declaration, no matter how solemn, does not feed a hungry child, nor does it comfort a family uncertain of where their next meal will come from. What our people need is action—swift, strategic, and substantial.

The government has a constitutional duty to protect and provide for its citizens, particularly in times of crisis. The failure to do so not only undermines the trust between the government and the governed but also endangers the lives of those it is sworn to serve.

The gravity of this situation cannot be overstated. As an individual whose cousin has just arrived from South Africa, I once again urge the government to implement immediate and effective measures to mitigate this disaster. The most vulnerable among us cannot afford further delays, nor can they persist on promises.

It is time for the government to step forward with a comprehensive and transparent plan to address this crisis. I call on the Prime Minister and his administration to demonstrate true leadership by taking decisive action that prioritises the well-being of the people of Lesotho. The future of our nation depends on it.

In these times, we must remember that the legitimacy of any government is measured not by its words, but by its deeds. The people of Lesotho deserve nothing less.

BUSINESS

LHDA welcomes tunnel-boring machines

Seabata Mahao

Clocking a significant milestone in the implementation of the second phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP II), the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) this week celebrated the arrival of the first of two double-shielded tunnel boring machines (TBMs) at the Caledonspoort Bridge in Botha-Bothe.

The TBM, which will be used to excavate the 38-kilometer Polihali Transfer Tunnel, is a crucial component of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project II (LHWP II).

Manufactured by CCCC Tianhe of China and designed by the U.S.-based company Robbins, the TBM embarked on its journey from Shanghai Port in China on July 20, 2024. It reached Maydon Wharf in Durban, South Africa, on August 26, before being transported to Lesotho by truck.

At the welcoming ceremony, LHDA Chief Executive, Tente Tente highlighted the ma-

chine's impressive specifications. Weighing over 900 tons and measuring 423 meters in length, the TBM will be assembled over the next 60 days before commencing excavation.

"Today, we are welcoming one of the largest machines ever used to bore a tunnel be-

tween Polihali and Katse Dams," Tente said.

The TBM is expected to significantly speed up the excavation process, advancing at a rate of 20 meters per day compared to 7.3 meters using traditional drill-and-blast methods. A second TBM is anticipated to arrive in Lesotho early next year to complete the tunnel.



In a nod to local tradition, the TBM will be given a Sesotho name, becoming part of the project's legacy. The LHDA has launched a naming competition, which started on August 28, 2024, and is being promoted through various platforms, including social media and local radio stations.

Minister of Natural Resources Mhloni Moleko lauded the arrival of the TBM as a significant milestone for LHWP II.

"Our Ministry is committed to fostering economic growth, and such initiatives are key to achieving this goal. This project must contribute to improving lives, promoting peace, and ensuring stability. We believe LHDA is ensuring that the project benefits the Basotho people," he said.

On his part, South African High Commissioner to Lesotho, Constance Seoposengwe, also emphasised the importance of the TBM's arrival. Despite previous delays, Seoposengwe expressed optimism that the TBM's presence would accelerate progress.

"The TBM's efficiency surpasses that of the traditional drill-and-blast method. Every minute counts from now on. Today's event signals a call to action for all involved to work with urgency and complete the project by 2028, within budget," Seoposengwe noted.

Econet empowers informal traders with M500k gazebos



Staff Reporter

Telecommunications giant, Econet Telecom Lesotho has taken a bold step to support informal traders and hawkers across the Mountain Kingdom by donating 55 gazebos valued at approximately M500 000 to create more accommodating and convenient working spaces for them, many of whom face daily challenges posed by harsh weather conditions.

Commenting about this benevolent gesture, Econet's Acting GM – Marketing Communications and Customer Experience Puleng Mathabo Masoabi noted: "this donation is a clear reflection of Econet's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and supporting the growth of small businesses in Lesotho."

"The gazebos, which are currently being distributed across various districts, will provide much-needed shelter to the vendors who sell food, fruits, and other necessities. For years, these entrepreneurs have braved scalding heat, heavy rains, and strong winds, all of which have had a detrimental impact on their businesses," Masoabi added.

She went on to emphasise that with this gesture, Econet hopes to not only improve their working conditions but also enhance their ability to serve their customers more efficiently.

"We understand the crucial role that street

vendors and hawkers play in our economy. They are the heartbeat of many communities, providing essential goods and services."

She concluded by underscoring that they are also encouraging the hawkers to use EcoCash Spache-Fono for transactions so that they can safely secure their daily earnings and offer greater convenience to their customers.

One of the beneficiaries, 'Maphole Thakaso who has been selling food in the bustling streets of Maseru since 2015, near the Ministry of Health Headquarters expressed her gratitude to Econet for the support.

"This gazebo is a blessing for to me and my business. The weather has always been a challenge, but now, I can work comfortably, knowing that my stuff and I are protected from the elements of weather. It will make a big difference in attracting more customers."

"The support from Econet to help us use EcoCash as part of this initiative is something I have needed for a very long time. It makes our transactions more convenient and safer," Thakaso noted.

As the roll-out of these gazebos continues, ETL reaffirms its commitment to the community by ensuring that the backbone of the local economy—the street vendors—have the support they need to grow and succeed in their businesses.



Puleng Mathabo Masoabi

IN THE HIGH COURT OF LESOTHO
HELD AT MASERU

In the matter between:-

NKO JOHN NALANE

AND

PUSELETSO LESETLA

CIV/APN/ /24
CIV/T/329/18

APPLICANT

RESPONDENT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

In the matter of Application for an order of variation of access and visitation rights.

TO: THE REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT
MASERU

AND TO: PUSELETSO LESETLA
HA THETSANE (MASOWE)
MASERU 100

SIRS,

KINDLY TAKE NOTICE that an application will be made to the above Honourable Court on the 18th day of September 2024 at 09:00 am or so soon thereafter as the matter may conveniently be heard for an order in the following terms:

1. An order varying prayer 3 of the decree of divorce to read as thus; the plaintiff be and is hereby awarded the custody of the minor child of the marriage, Khotso, while the defendant be and is hereby awarded custody of the minor child, Puleng. Each party be given access during school holidays as well as visitation rights every last weekend of the month.

2. The respondent be ordered to pay costs of this application in the event of opposition hereof.

3. Granting applicant any other alternative relief.

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT the affidavit of applicant will be used in support of this application.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT if the Respondents intend to oppose this application, they must notify the applicant's Attorneys within seven (7) days of receipt of this application

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT Applicant has appointed the below-mentioned offices as the address at which service of notices and process in this matter shall be served.

DATED AT MASERU ON THIS 05TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.

PER
MAIEANE & CO
APPLICANT'S ATTORNEYS
LD NTOERENG CHAMBERS
CARLTON CENTRE
3RD FLOOR, ROOM 302
MASERU 100

HEALTH



The monthly struggles of visually impaired women

Ntsoaki Motaung

Menstruation is an uncomfortable time for many women, whether due to a lack of access to sanitary pads or menstrual pain.

For women with disabilities, particularly those who are visually impaired, this period can be particularly challenging and distressing because they cannot see what is happening.

Julia Qaphai, a 45-year-old woman from Tšitsong in Mphaki, Quthing district, is one such individual who faces monthly challenges during her period. With visual impairment that has persisted for over 20 years, Qaphai navigates menstruation without being able to visually confirm it.

“When my period starts, I am alerted only by the excessive wetness that I feel,” Qaphai explained

“To confirm if I am really on my period, I have to visit the neighbour, where upon arrival, I undress and bend over so she can check from behind to see if there is blood. If there is, I know I need to take a bath.”

In cases where she cannot find someone to assist, Qaphai resorts to another method.

“If no one is available to help, I insert a finger to check for a blood smell. If I detect it, I know my period has started; if not, I assume it is just a discharge,” she recounted.

Since losing her sight in her early 20s, Qaphai has been living independently following her parents’ death. She revealed her experiences in an interview after the Menstrual Hygiene Day commemoration, held last week in Quthing Mphaki by the Ministry of Health, with support from the United Na-

tions Population Fund (UNFPA). Menstrual Hygiene Day is celebrated globally on May 28 each year, and this year’s theme was: “Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld.”

Qaphai’s struggles are not limited to menstruation; she faces daily challenges as well. She manages some tasks independently but requires assistance for activities such as moving from home to other locations, including supermarkets and clinics. She also receives help when brewing traditional beer, a primary source of income for her.

“Apart from brewing beer, I receive support from the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development through their disability grant program,” she notes.

Qaphai emphasises the importance of educational campaigns on menstrual hygiene, particularly for people with disabilities, as she feels they are often overlooked. “To other visually impaired people, remember that visual impairment is not the end of the world. It doesn’t mean you must depend on others for everything. Everyone has their talents and should strive to live up to them. Believe in yourselves and pursue whatever you can,” she urges.

Nosenot Makolomane, a Village Health Worker from Tšitsong and a close acquaintance of Julia, describes her as incredibly resilient.

“Julia is one of the strongest women I know. She actively works to make a living without waiting for others to provide for her,” Makolomane said.

Makolomane further explains: “Even with her disabilities, Julia manages tasks that I find difficult. I sometimes seek her assis-



Menstrual health day celebration Quthing Mphaki

tance, and she excels at various household chores. We only help prepare fire for brewing beer; she handles everything else herself.”

UNFPA Representative Innocent Modisaotsile emphasises that International Menstrual Day, celebrated on May 28, was established to address global inadequacies in menstrual health and hygiene.

“The theme underscores that no one should be held back or disadvantaged due to menstruation. It also aims to combat stigma,” Modisaotsile stated.

UNFPA reports that poor menstrual health and hygiene undermine fundamental rights and exacerbate social and economic inequalities. Limited resources, exclusion, and shame impact human dignity, while gender inequality, extreme poverty, and harmful traditions can further intensify these issues.

Among its initiatives, UNFPA supports menstrual health and hygiene through educational programs, safe sanitation facilities, and dignity kits containing essential items such as soap, supplies, and underwear, especially in displacement camps.

Tracking the mpox

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) this week announced the arrival of the first shipment of 99,100 doses of JYNNEOS mpox vaccine to the stricken Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The shipment is expected to launch a critical vaccination campaign aimed at curbing the rising epidemic in the DRC. The introduction of the JYNNEOS vaccine is a decisive action to mitigate further spread and protect the most at-risk populations.

Africa CDC has reported that since the start of 2024, DRC has reported over 4,901 confirmed mpox cases, with more than 629 associated deaths, representing a sharp escalation in both infections and fatalities compared to previous years.

Following the declaration of Mpox as a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS) by Africa CDC on 13 August 2024, an urgent appeal was made to the international community to secure vaccines for African nations.

“We are pleased to receive the first shipment of close to 100,000 doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine in the DRC, with an additional 100,900 doses arriving this Saturday, 7 September 2024. By the end of the week, a total of 200,000 doses will be available in the country, said Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General of Africa CDC.

“These vaccines are vital in safeguarding our health workers and vulnerable populations, and in curbing the spread of mpox. This milestone is a statement to the strong partnership between Africa CDC, the European Union through the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), and Bavarian Nordic. We are fully committed to leaving no one behind in our mission to protect our people and control this outbreak.”

Meanwhile, Dr Jean Kaseya, will today (September 6) host the media to provide updates on the mpox outbreak situation in DRC and other affected Member States. He will share the latest insights and urgent actions being taken to combat the outbreak in the weekly engagement with the media.

He will be joined in the media engagement session Laurent Muschel, Director General, Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), European Union. The media engagement session can be live streamed on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hg9SqVMv2S0>

The virtual session can also be joined by registering on Zoom on the following link:

<https://africacdc-org.zoom.us/j/983361234567890>

Child pregnancy haunts Mokhotlong school

Ntsoaki Motaung

Early and unintended pregnancies remain a significant concern at Mapholaneng High School, according to the school Principal, Mahooana Tšilo.

During a recent visit by journalists, Tšilo reported that this year alone, the school has recorded at least eight cases of early pregnancy, nearly double the number seen in previous years.

“Historically, we have recorded about five cases per year. However, this year’s figures have already reached eight by mid-year, and if the trend continues, we might see up to 16 cases by the end of the year,” Tšilo said.

The principal attributes these high numbers to several factors, including an influx of people migrating to Mapholaneng in Mokhotlong District in search of job opportunities, as well as pervasive poverty. Some girls engage in risky relationships to meet their financial needs.

Tšilo noted that pregnancies among students at Mapholaneng High School often occur as early as age 14, typically among those in grades eight and nine.

To address this issue, the school has sought assistance from various stakeholders, including the police, local clinics, and nearby community projects. Tšilo men-

tioned that the school, with the support of funders, has constructed a fence around the school to ensure that female boarders remain within the compound.

“Despite these efforts, we face challenges such as limited access to water. Students must leave the compound to fetch water from the community, which exposes them to situations that can lead to early and unintended pregnancies,” he explained.

The principal added that while early pregnancies often contribute to school dropouts, the school has made efforts to retain pregnant students. The school supports these students throughout their pregnancy and ensures they remain integrated with their peers.

According to the 2024 State of World Population report, Lesotho’s adolescent birth rate is 49 per 1,000 girls aged 15–19, higher than the global average of 41 per 1,000. In East and Southern Africa, the rate stands at 92 per 1,000. The Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey 2023-2024 reveals that nearly 14 percent of girls aged 15 to 19 have given birth to their first child.

In Mokhotlong District, the teenage pregnancy rate for girls aged 15 to 19 is 15.3 percent for those who have ever had a live birth and 21.3 percent for those who have ever been pregnant.



Mapholaneng High School Principal Mahooana Tšilo

A June 2024 journalists’ workshop organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported that, according to the Ministry of Health’s DHIS 2 Routine Data, 26 girls under the age of 15 gave birth in the first quarter of 2024 (January to March). Additionally, 1,300 adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 also gave birth during this period.



Congratulations to the 200 New Capernaum Scholarship Recipients

Econet Telecom Lesotho, through its social investment arm, Higherlife Foundation Lesotho, is thrilled to announce 200 Grade 8 to 10 students from across various high schools in Lesotho who have been selected for the prestigious Capernaum Scholarship. This scholarship will provide crucial support for their academic journey from now until they attain their first post high school certificate.

In the coming weeks, a delegation from Higherlife Foundation Lesotho will visit the recipients' schools to celebrate these achievements and offer further guidance. For any questions, parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact their respective school Principals' offices. Congratulations to all the recipients! Lesotho’s future is brighter with you.

HLF Lesotho Approved Capernaum Applicants 2024:

| # | Full Name | Gender | Institution | District |
|-----|------------------------------|--------|--|---------------|
| 1 | Tente Mpho Hycenta | Female | Assumption High School | Berea |
| 2 | Mphongoa Reitumetse | Female | Dahon High School | Berea |
| 3 | Nkeane Ticho | Male | Mantoetse High School | Berea |
| 4 | Maseloa Itumeleng | Male | Malithuso High School | Berea |
| 5 | Sekara Tlhokomelo | Male | Zenon High School | Berea |
| 6 | Leputla Matela | Male | St Denis High School | Leribe |
| 7 | Letebele Bonolo | Female | Khetlisa High School | Leribe |
| 8 | Nkhasi Mabela | Female | Maputsoe Community High School | Leribe |
| 9 | Sello Itumeleng | Female | Leribe English Medium High School | Leribe |
| 10 | Makhetha Lerato Nathnael | Male | Molapo High School | Leribe |
| 11 | Lesoetsa Lineo | Female | Pitseng High School | Leribe |
| 12 | Tumo Nako | Male | Fobane High School | Leribe |
| 13 | Khit'sane Kamohelo Mavis | Female | Leribe English Medium High School | Leribe |
| 14 | Molomo Kamohelo | Male | Leribe English Medium High School | Leribe |
| 15 | Moso Reabetsoe | Female | St Boniface High School | Leribe |
| 16 | Moketa Kabelo | Male | Sacred Heart High School | Leribe |
| 17 | Serobanyane Thapelo | Male | Leribe High School | Leribe |
| 18 | Nkate Tseko Joseph | Male | Maboei High School | Leribe |
| 19 | Mokhubi Seimetsa Daniel | Male | Makhethisa High School | Leribe |
| 20 | Chaka Reitumetse | Female | Hlotse High School | Leribe |
| 21 | Rapoea Refiloe | Female | Mamohau High School | Leribe |
| 22 | Khali Lerato | Female | Tsikoane High School | Leribe |
| 23 | Leotatle Rorisang | Male | Pitseng High School | Leribe |
| 24 | Falatsi Kabelo | Male | Khetlisa High School | Leribe |
| 25 | Chaka Boitumelo | Male | Hlotse High School | Leribe |
| 26 | Moseunyane Nthabiseng | Female | Pitseng High School | Leribe |
| 27 | Lebelo Ntefeleng | Female | Mahobong High School | Leribe |
| 28 | Ratsoene Itumeleng | Female | Hleoeng High School | Leribe |
| 29 | Nyamane Bontle | Female | Boribeng High School | Leribe |
| 30 | Rasebakoa Hlahlethi | Male | Linareng High School | Leribe |
| 31 | Lefereferone Bonolo | Female | Likhakeng High School | Leribe |
| 32 | Maphuroane Nthabiseng | Female | Mamohau High School | Leribe |
| 33 | Nkopane Nkopane | Male | Likhakeng High School | Leribe |
| 34 | Liphapang T'sepiso | Male | Linokong High School | Botha Bothe |
| 35 | Subbiah Hajira | Female | Qalo High School | Botha Bothe |
| 36 | Khoru Mamello | Female | Likila High School | Botha Bothe |
| 37 | Tjemo Ntsoakeleng | Female | Qalo High School | Botha Bothe |
| 38 | Lerata Seithati | Female | Botha-Bothe Community High School | Botha Bothe |
| 39 | Sebophe Palesa | Female | St Paul High School | Botha Bothe |
| 40 | Leotla Liabo | Male | Botha-Bothe Community High School | Botha Bothe |
| 41 | Daemane Thabisi | Male | Botha Bothe High school | Botha Bothe |
| 42 | Daemane Thabang Alfred | Male | Botha-Bothe High School | Botha Bothe |
| 43 | Fish Maserame | Female | St Charles High School | Botha Bothe |
| 44 | Lekhema Mamphaka | Female | St Paul High School | Botha Bothe |
| 45 | Seitlheko Lintle | Female | Soofia International School | Botha Bothe |
| 46 | Molapo Malefane | Male | Qalo High School | Botha Bothe |
| 47 | Khama Lebohlang | Male | Botha-Bothe Community High School | Botha Bothe |
| 48 | Lehloka Leponesa | Male | Soofia International School | Botha Bothe |
| 49 | Maqoaelane Reitumetse | Male | Rehauhetsoe High School | Botha Bothe |
| 50 | Nenesi Moleboheng | Female | St Paul High School | Botha Bothe |
| 51 | Nkhabu Ketseletso | Female | Khotsang High School | Mokhotlong |
| 52 | Rapita Selloane | Female | Mapholaneng High School | Mokhotlong |
| 53 | Khutlang Moleboheng | Female | Seiso High School | Mokhotlong |
| 54 | Mokoena Thoriso | Male | Mokhotlong High School | Mokhotlong |
| 55 | Kabi Lehohonolo | Male | Seiso High School | Mokhotlong |
| 56 | Mohapi Kananelo | Female | St. James High School Mokhotlong | Mokhotlong |
| 57 | Ntsiki Tlhohonolofatso | Female | St. James High School Mokhotlong | Mokhotlong |
| 58 | Maphalla Rethabile Francina | Female | Phahameng Community High School | Mokhotlong |
| 59 | Sekhae Lipolelo | Female | Malefiloane High Scool | Mokhotlong |
| 60 | Koatsa Fumane | Female | St. James High School Mokhotlong | Mokhotlong |
| 61 | Ralebitso Moeketsi | Male | St. James High School Mokhotlong | Mokhotlong |
| 62 | Motuba Karabo | Female | Sekonyela High School | Mokhotlong |
| 63 | Majara Repholositsoe Grace | Female | Seiso High School | Mokhotlong |
| 64 | Ramateshoane Motlatsi | Male | Matlakeng High School | Mokhotlong |
| 65 | Rateleki Pabatso | Female | Masaleng High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 66 | Mothebesane Rephelele | Female | Paray High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 67 | Sekhamane Nthaiseng | Female | Masaleng High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 68 | Makhebesela Liabo | Female | Thaba Tseka High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 69 | Mphalla Leseli Lawrence | Male | Mohlanaeng High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 70 | Lehoee Relebohile | Male | Ramolielehi High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 71 | Malapane Tlali | Male | Ramolielehi High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 72 | Lehlela Botsanang | Male | Paray High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 73 | Mothibeli Moshati Daniel | Male | Auray High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 74 | Sesheme Mabafokeng | Female | Takalatsa High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 75 | Maboei Nkeletseng | Female | Takalatsa High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 76 | Motolo Katleho Samson | Male | St. Stephen's High school | Mohale's hoek |
| 77 | Moloi Boitumelo | Female | Dahon High School | Berea |
| 78 | Tjamela Katleho | Male | Holy Cross High School | Quthing |
| 79 | Reboloke Jonas Hlalele | Male | Holy Trinity High School | Quthing |
| 80 | Faso Letuka | Male | Qacha's Nek High School | Qacha's Nek |
| 81 | Matotetoe Malaki Fekile | Female | Qacha's Nek High School | Qacha's Nek |
| 82 | Mokotla Itumeleng | Female | Ramats'illiso High School | Qacha's Nek |
| 83 | Mphuthi Teboho Sameer | Male | Phuthiatsana High School | Maseru |
| 84 | Malhamba Siyamthemba | Male | Makhaola High school | Qacha's Nek |
| 85 | Molapo Mokhesi | Male | St James ACL High School | Maseru |
| 86 | Timpame Karabelo David | Male | Qacha's Nek High School | Qacha's Nek |
| 87 | Khoarati Lerato Emmanuel | Male | Lesotho High School | Maseru |
| 88 | Lebea Hlompho | Male | Lesotho High School | Maseru |
| 89 | Mokoma Thabelo Meshack | Male | Mohale's English Medium High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 90 | Tiping Tebelo | Male | Botha Bothe High School | Botha Bothe |
| 91 | Morokole Kopano | Male | Molapo High School | Leribe |
| 92 | Mohlabane Ts'epang | Male | Ts'ekelo LECSA High School | Berea |
| 93 | Ntsoane Mosito | Male | Molapo High School | Leribe |
| 94 | Ramone Reabetsoe | Male | Ntaote High School | Thaba Tseka |
| 95 | Mankoe Neo | Male | Tsepo Christian High School | Berea |
| 96 | Tlhaba Thabelang | Male | Bocheletsana high school | Thaba Tseka |
| 97 | Mokete Mokhothong | Male | Phomolong High School | Berea |
| 98 | Tenei Mantse | Male | Mokoallong High School | Berea |
| 99 | Lekhotla Sebuse | Male | Qalo High School | Botha Bothe |
| 100 | Likotsi Rorisang | Male | St. Agnes High School | Berea |
| 101 | Makolokane Karabo | Female | Amohelang High School | Maseru |
| 102 | Ntebele Palesa | Female | Qhomane High School | Maseru |
| 103 | Teetsa Mpho | Male | Moruthane High School | Maseru |
| 104 | Lepolesa Boitumelo | Female | Abia High School | Maseru |
| 105 | Kheleli Rethabile | Female | Methodist High School | Maseru |
| 106 | Sello Likano | Female | Qoaling High School | Maseru |
| 107 | Thoahlane Kefuoe | Male | Itsekeng High School | Maseru |
| 108 | Molooa Ntsiuoa | Female | Lesotho High School | Maseru |
| 109 | Soro Northandazo | Female | Phomolong High School | Maseru |
| 110 | Lethaha Tanki | Female | St.Mary's High School | Maseru |
| 111 | Makhoane Realeboha Blessing | Male | Lesotho High School | Maseru |
| 112 | Lesupi Boitumelo | Female | Abia High School | Maseru |
| 113 | Sebatane Manakore Nelly | Female | St Mary's High School | Maseru |
| 114 | Rakuoanek Abia John | Male | Abia High School | Maseru |
| 115 | Joala Thabiso | Male | Lithabaneng High School | Maseru |
| 116 | Ntsoeu Kamohelo Andreas | Male | Leqeale High School | Maseru |
| 117 | Ncheke Kelibone Ann | Female | Lesia High School | Maseru |
| 118 | Kumi Liteboho Canisia | Female | Leqeale High School | Maseru |
| 119 | Thokoa Boitumelo | Male | Lesia High School | Maseru |
| 120 | Moima Maletsoai | Female | Raboletsi Government High school | Maseru |
| 121 | Qhoai Karabo Ernestina | Female | Masowe High School | Maseru |
| 122 | Molimolle Mamorolong | Female | Masowe High School | Maseru |
| 123 | Mosoeu Thabile | Male | Lesotho High School | Maseru |
| 124 | Raboshabane Limakatso | Female | John Maund High School | Maseru |
| 125 | Oakatha Khaueho | Female | St. Mary's High School | Maseru |
| 126 | Masasa Hlompho Paul | Male | Mazenod High School | Maseru |
| 127 | Majoro Mathakane Rosa | Female | Makintane High School | Mafeteng |
| 128 | Tliale Puseletso | Female | Matsepe High School | Mafeteng |
| 129 | Morabaki Malintja | Female | Makintane High School | Mafeteng |
| 130 | Seleso Nthabiseng Justina | Female | Makena High School | Mafeteng |
| 131 | Moroka Tlhabeli | Male | Khoro High School | Mafeteng |
| 132 | Lesenyehlo Rethabile | Male | Kolo High School | Mafeteng |
| 133 | Basholo Nwagaze | Male | Matsepe High School | Mafeteng |
| 134 | Hlomisi Amohelang | Female | Tsakholo High School | Mafeteng |
| 135 | Makhotla Teboho Sylvester | Male | Makena High School | Mafeteng |
| 136 | Letsie Tsepo Edward | Male | Tsakholo High School | Mafeteng |
| 137 | Tseleli Lisebo Blantina | Female | Tsakholo High School | Mafeteng |
| 138 | Molibeli Lisebo | Female | Masentle High School | Mafeteng |
| 139 | Mothobi Makhala | Female | Kingsgate High School | Mafeteng |
| 140 | Molebeleli Tseliso Elliot | Male | Kolo High School | Mafeteng |
| 141 | Raleting Tebello | Female | Khasapane High School | Mafeteng |
| 142 | Mpela Katleho | Female | ST Johns High School | Mafeteng |
| 143 | Sehlho Nthati | Female | Mafeteng High School | Mafeteng |
| 144 | Matsoo Nteboheling Magareth | Female | Holy Cross High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 145 | Mohoshela Rapelang | Male | St. Patrick High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 146 | Moqakaza Thandiwe | Female | Qhalasi High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 147 | Monyane Thokaona Benjamin | Male | Mohale's Hoek English Medium High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 148 | Mohale Rets'epile | Female | Qhalasi High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 149 | Mabae Tlhohonolofatso | Female | Qhalasi High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 150 | Mohapi Relebohile | Male | Qhalasi High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 151 | Mahlela Khotsang | Male | Qhalasi High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 152 | Ts'ehlana Palesa | Female | Qhalasi High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 153 | Tseki Rets'elitsioe | Male | Qhalasi High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 154 | Mphale Mpho | Female | Qhalasi High Schoo | Mohale's hoek |
| 155 | Motalingoane Letlotlo | Male | Qhalasi High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 156 | Ramaleka Thabelang | Male | Qhalasi High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 157 | Letsie Retsepile Jeremia | Male | Bonhomme High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 158 | Selebeli Lintle Caroline | Female | St Stephen's Anglican High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 159 | Setlai Thabang Robert | Male | St Patrick's High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 160 | Sethabathaba Rorisang | Male | Likuena high school | Mohale's hoek |
| 161 | Tikoe Limpho | Male | Mohale's Hoek High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 162 | Zwane Bohlokoa Angelina | Female | St Stephen's Anglican High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 163 | Thantsi Thabisang Justice | Male | St Stephen's Anglican High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 164 | Seetha Letlotlo Jeremia | Male | St Stephen's Anglican High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 165 | Mohlaki Tseliso | Male | St Patrick's High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 166 | Ramalefane Nteboheling Lina | Female | St Patrick's High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 167 | Thibeli Nthabeleng | Female | Mohale's Hoek High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 168 | Ntaba Keneuoe Mary | Female | Mohale's Hoek High School | Mohale's hoek |
| 169 | Putsoa Reitumetse Clementina | Female | Makhakhe Primary School | Mohale's hoek |
| 170 | Ntho Tankiso Marianna | Female | Mopeli High School | Quthing |
| 171 | Taeli Itumeleng | Female | Maseribane High School | Quthing |
| 172 | Letsie Moipone Mariam | Female | Moorosi High School | Quthing |
| 173 | Mohale Letlotlo | Male | Mopholosi High School | Quthing |
| 174 | Lepule Rapeleng | Male | Mopholosi High School | Quthing |
| 175 | Bolese Bongenkosi | Male | Maseribane High School | Quthing |
| 176 | Kuke Tlotliso Edward | Male | Holy Trinity High School | Quthing |
| 177 | Reitumetse Kamohi | Female | Moorosi High School | Quthing |
| 178 | Mokautu Keneuoe | Female | Masitise High School | Quthing |
| 179 | Mofoka Peete | Male | Masitise High School | Quthing |
| 180 | Phole Rethabile Julius | Male | St Francis High School | Qacha's Nek |
| 181 | Mosala Mamorero | Female | Makhalong High School | Qacha's Nek |
| 182 | Mabusetsa Thabang | Male | Rankakala High School | Qacha's Nek |
| 183 | Mosuhli Lechesa | Male | Qacha's Nek High School | Qacha's Nek |
| 184 | Mahabe Reaoboka | Male | Hermitage High School | Qacha's Nek |
| 185 | Mokotso Tselisehang Lydia | Female | Tebellong High School | Qacha's Nek |
| 186 | Pheku Mapono Alina | Female | Makhaola High School | Qacha's Nek |
| 187 | Motsoaboli Kamohelo | Male | Lancers Gap High School | Berea |
| 188 | Mathaba Tsepo Naphtali | Male | Holy Names High School | Berea |
| 189 | Mohale Mamalebanye | Female | Holy Names high school | Berea |
| 190 | Tlali Nthabeleng Gracia | Female | Berea High School | Berea |
| 191 | Ralepoma Mahlomola | Male | Sefikeng High School | Berea |
| 192 | Mosololi Mats'eliso Gertrude | Female | 'Mantoetse High School | Berea |
| 193 | Lesoma Kutlo | Female | Tsepo Christian School | Berea |
| 194 | Makhaketso Reatile | Male | Lancers Gap High School | Berea |
| 195 | Mota Mabela | Female | St.Lawrence High School | Berea |
| 196 | Shale Thabiso | Male | Methodist High School | Berea |
| 197 | Lephena Tiisetso Alina | Female | Malithuso High School | Berea |
| 198 | Molefi Lineo Patricia | Female | Gregg memorial AME High school | Berea |
| 199 | Pali Molelle | Male | Mantoetse High School | Berea |
| 200 | Cotho Siyabonga Thomas | Male | Makhalong High School | Qacha's Nek |



Vacancy

The European Union Delegation to the Kingdom of Lesotho is looking for a Programme Officer in the Cooperation Section

We are

The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union of 27 European countries. It plays an important role in international affairs through diplomacy, trade, cooperation and working with global organisations. Abroad, the EU is represented through more than 140 diplomatic representations, also known as EU Delegations, which have a similar function to those of an embassy.

The EU Delegation to the Kingdom of Lesotho works in close coordination with the Embassies and Consulates of the 27 EU Member States. We are a fully-fledged diplomatic mission and represent the European Union in dealings with the Government of Lesotho in areas that are part of the EU's remit.

We offer

The post of Programme Officer (Local Agent Group 1) in the Delegation's Cooperation Section. The team consists of 11 people and there are occasional atypical working hours.

The successful candidate will occupy a specific job function as Programme Officer in the Cooperation section, contributing to policy dialogue, policy formulation, and project management in the fields of **private sector development, trade, economic governance, and public financial management**. This job function may be changed in accordance with the needs of the Delegation. Under this job function, the successful candidate will serve under the supervision and responsibility of the Head of Cooperation.

The following main tasks and duties are currently required:

- Jointly with Cooperation Section colleagues, lead on the thematic areas of private sector development, trade, economic governance, and public financial management;
- Prepare sound fact-based sector analyses, sector strategies, briefings and position papers;
- Contribute to the preparation of cooperation programmes and projects in the priority sectors defined by the Lesotho-EU cooperation framework, by providing analysis, proposals, reports and appraisals, elaborated in close co-ordination with the authorities, development partners, civil society, private sector, academia, and other international and national stakeholders and actors involved;
- Contribute to all aspects of the Project Cycle Management (PCM): project identification, formulation, implementation, assessment – mainly in the field specified above, while additional files in the field of governance and societal issues may be added to the portfolio according to the section's workload;
- Contribute to contracting processes in indirect management and direct management;
- Ensure the pro-active supervision of the project implementation process and accurate project performance follow-up with stakeholders and implementing partners;
- Monitor contractual obligations (via periodic reviews, reporting as well as evaluations, third party monitoring, results oriented monitoring, audits, expenditure verifications et al.), gather and handle external expertise;
- Attend project management and monitoring meetings, elaborate progress and evaluation reports on projects and project achievements and propose action if and when needed;
- Participate in technical meetings with counterparts and technical level co-ordination structures such as relevant sector platforms, sector donor coordination fora et al;
- Prepare comprehensive briefings and succinct speaking points for the Head of Cooperation / Head of Delegation for high-level meetings;
- Comply with the instructions of – and maintain close contacts with – the European Commission Services in Brussels, notably DG INTPA. Provide contributions to briefings, reports, etc.;
- Participate in and provide support as required to in country missions of the Cooperation Section as well as incoming missions and visits by members of the European Commission and/or other EU Institutions;
- Support the Cooperation Section colleagues by providing back-up of portfolio during colleagues' absences and/or as instructed due to workload;

- Contribute to the communication and visibility activities about Lesotho EU cooperation;
 - Contribute to EU Delegation reporting activities;
 - Extract and disseminate best practices and facilitate exchange of experiences.
- NB: the above list is indicative, not exhaustive.

The base salary will depend on relevant and verified employment experience, typically starting from LSL 38,282.00. There is a competitive benefits package, subject to certain conditions, including personal leave days and public holidays, health insurances and a provident savings plan.

The expected start date will be 1 November 2024.

Minimum requirements / eligibility criteria (necessary for the application to be considered)

- A university qualification or degree in the areas of economics, law, political science, international studies, social science or equivalent;
- A minimum of 3 years of relevant experience in the support to private sector development, trade, economic governance, and public financial management;
- Excellent knowledge of English (written and spoken);
- Communication skills and the ability to communicate clearly and concisely, orally and in writing;
- Full computer literacy (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, MS Outlook).

Assets / selection criteria (basis for awarding points to select the best applicant)

- Additional relevant qualifications in the area of experience would be an advantage;
- Experience of working in an international environment would be an advantage;
- Experience of project management would be an advantage;
- Experience with financial support mechanisms (results-based grants, blending, guarantees, etc.) would be an advantage;
- Accuracy and attention to details;
- Knowledge of specific EU IT platforms will be considered an advantage.

How to apply

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/26ebee50-9fcc-3693-0a17-280ab6762ccf>

Please submit your application via this secure online form, **no later than 16 September 2024 at 12:00**. Only complete applications received on time via the below form will be considered.

The successful candidate will be subject to a medical examination.

The process

After the deadline for applications, the eligible applications will be admitted to the selection by the Committee set up for this purpose.

Depending on the number of applications received, successive phases of selection may include shortlisting of candidates based on the assessment of the information provided in the application form, practical testing, and interviews. At least 3 candidates will be invited to the final interview.

Only candidates admitted to each successive selection phase will be contacted individually. The Delegation will use the same means of publication as for this job advertisement to inform the remaining candidates once the recruitment procedure has been completed and that a candidate has (or has not) been recruited.

The Delegation will not supply additional information or discuss the selection procedure. During the selection process, please do not contact the members of the Selection Committee, but address your questions and comments to the Delegation's Administration.



GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO
DISTRICT COUNCIL PROCUREMENT UNIT – THABA-TSEKA

ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
TENDER NO: TTDC/MoLGCPHA/4/2024-25

Thaba-Tseka District Council hereby invites proposals from locally interested registered Insurance Companies to provide the insurance cover for trucks and yellow plant for the District Council.

To bid for the proposed contracts, companies must be registered and hold relevant valid Traders' licenses and must be in compliance with tax obligations with valid Tax Clearance certificate.

The issue date for this tender is 06 September 2024, and the closing date is 18 October 2024. An (1) original and four (4) hard copies of the tender responses are to be deposited in the councils tender box situated at THABA-TSEKA DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICE opposite EDUCATION OFFICE, NOT LATER THAN 10:00a.m. All tenders will be opened on 18

October 2024 at 10:30a.m. Sealed envelope bearing no identification of bidder must be clearly marked **PROPOSAL FOR INSURANCE COVER OF YELLOW PLANT AND TRUCKS FOR THABA-TSEKA DISTRICT COUNCIL**. Tender documents are available at the THABA-TSEKA DISTRICT COUNCIL (PROCUREMENT UNIT) at a non-refundable fee of M2, 500.00 (Two Thousand Five Hunderd Maloti only) payable at Urban Council Accounts Office.

Thaba-Tseka District Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Any queries or concerns in relation to this document should be sent to (matse-iso@moshe@hotmail.com) contact 62870120 not later than 03/10/2024.



Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Section 1. Letter of Invitation

Maseru 100
Lesotho
1st August,2024

- 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)
- 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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 Lepogo Road and Corner Moshoeshoe Road, Opposite Browns Cash & Carry.

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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
makubutu.rakubutu@gov.ls





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ARTS

& ENTERTAINMENT



Ntate Stunna aims for the stars

Pheello Mosesi

Rapper Thaabe “Ntate Stunna” Letsie is setting his sights on new heights with his upcoming Sesotho Fashioneng event, scheduled to take place at Vodacom Park on December 28.

The event, with the slogan #HaReEngMaseru (Let’s Go to Maseru) promises to be a one-of-a-kind cultural experience.

“It’s been a decade since I released Mookho, the song that catapulted me into the spotlight. I’ve said before, and I’ll say it again—this event will be the best performance I’ve ever delivered,” said Ntate Stunna during a media briefing this week.

The event aims to showcase the diverse cultural heritage of Lesotho.

“For too long, local events have been headlined by international artists, while local talent often takes a back seat. The truth is, we as Basotho artists are the real crowd pullers. The marketing for local talent has never been given the same effort, but now it’s our time to shine,” he added.

The Sesotho Fashioneng event is named after Ntate Stunna’s 2020 album, which sparked a movement among his fans, his Penya Play team, and the broader creative community.

“It’s crucial to show our pride in Lesotho and the Sesotho language. While we may not always realize it at home, whenever we travel abroad, we’re constantly complimented on how beautiful our language sounds. This event will prove that, like other thriving cultures, Basotho are making their mark on the world,” he said.

He emphasised that the event would showcase a modern approach to traditional Basotho attire.

“We don’t have to wear heavy Basotho blankets in hot weather to show our pride. We can preserve the essence of the blanket by incorporating its designs into lighter, more practical clothing.”

Unlike any other event he has performed at, Ntate Stunna says fans will get a glimpse of his artistic vision and involvement in all aspects of the event, from stage design to choreography. He has partnered with dancer Mavele Infinity to fine-tune the performance in the lead-up to the event.

Sesotho Fashioneng will also provide a platform for artists of all kinds to display their work. The official press announcement was held at Avani Lesotho Hotels and Casino on Thursday, attended by local celebrities and corporate representatives.



Speaking at the event, comedian Bofihla “Lilaphalapha” Neko praised Ntate Stunna’s work ethic and the strong brand he has built.

The event will feature a comprehensive look at Ntate Stunna’s musical catalogue, including collaborations with artists who have contributed to his success over the years. He also expressed gratitude to sponsors like Kentucky Fried Chicken and called on other

private businesses and the government to help make the event a success. However, he reassured everyone that, with or without additional support, the event will go ahead “aggressively” and succeed.

The Sesotho Fashioneng event is expected to become an annual celebration of Basotho culture, a place where national pride takes center stage.



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Spectacular entertainment rocks Afriski winter festival

Arts



Staff Reporters

The past weekend witnessed Afriski Mountain Resort literally catching fire from an unforgettable blend of live music and entertainment as Winterfest 2024 took centre.

Supported by sponsors Econet Lesotho and Maluti Premium Lager, the event delivered a weekend full of high-energy performances and vibrant cultural displays that left attendees with memories to last a lifetime.

“The festival’s lineup was nothing short of spectacular. Our headliners, including NtateStunna, OmaliThemba, SelimoThabane, Maleh, Sannere, and Naledi, took the stage by storm, captivating the crowd with their powerful performances. The beats kept rolling with an impressive roster of DJs: Ebonics, TedozJasdsRecords, Da-Starr, Tea-spunn, Donny B, Mosh, and Goldhearted, who kept the energy high throughout the event,” said Afriski management.

The Afriski’s resident DJs, Deemock, SuperMax, Moska Saeed Mositi, and Dean, also brought their A-game, ensuring that the dancefloor stayed packed and the vibe remained electric.

“A massive thank you to all the artists and performers who made Winterfest 2024 an unforgettable experience, and to our sponsors, Econet and Maluti Premium Lager, for their invaluable support. We couldn’t have done it without you! To all who attended,

we invite you to relive the magic by sharing your photos and videos from the weekend. Let’s keep the Winterfest spirit alive!”

Save the Date for Winterfest 2025!

With the success of this year’s festival, Afriski is already gearing up for Winterfest 2025, scheduled to take place from August 19th to 31st. The upcoming event promises to be even bigger and better, with more surprises and enhancements to ensure an experience of a lifetime.

LESCOSSA spotlights copyright infringement

Pheello Mosesi

The Lesotho Copyright Society of Authors and Artists (LESCOSSA) this week hosted an event meant to educate media personnel and artists about safeguarding intellectual property in the rapidly growing arts and entertainment industry in Lesotho.

At the event, Makhukhumala Kama LESCOSSA’s CEO highlighted ongoing challenges,

particularly the widespread issues of copyright infringement and music piracy.

These problems result in artists receiving inadequate compensation for their work. Despite the global reach provided by the digital age, Kama pointed out that the lack of legal protections in Lesotho hampers local investment in the arts industry.

Since its establishment, LESCOSSA has

been dedicated to managing and protecting artists’ intellectual property, including collecting and distributing royalties. The organization invited industry experts from various fields, including music and filmmaking, to share their insights

Efforts to combat piracy, including public awareness campaigns and enforcement, remain a significant burden for LESCOSSA. Kama stressed that there is a general lack of understanding about the legal boundaries separating legitimate from illegal use of intellectual property.

Further complications include delays in passing legislation to protect artistic copyrights, attributed to ongoing changes in government and the lack of expertise among law enforcement and judiciary officials.

Kama noted: “Logistical challenges persist, particularly due to the lack of expertise in handling intellectual property matters.”

In response, LESCOSSA has been actively encouraging local artists to register and ben-

efit from royalties. This initiative is crucial in ensuring fair compensation for artists, especially in an era where digital piracy is prevalent.

Thulo “T-Mech” Monyake, an industry expert and LESCOSSA board member, shared his experience, noting that despite 23 years in the music industry, he has not received any royalties.

“In Lesotho, there is a culture of neglect regarding important aspects of the industry. Many talented artists do not take the time to understand the legal protections available to them,” Monyake said.

Monyake expressed his vision of seeing Lesotho’s music industry reach global standards in sound engineering, mixing, and mastering.

“I am proud of our progress in improving the quality of Lesotho’s music. My next goal is to ensure that Basotho artists receive the royalties they deserve through proper protection of their work,” he said.

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SPORTS

Lehlohonolo Motšoari

In preparation for the much-anticipated Mountain Marathon21 on October 26, the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the event organisers, recently led the press on an exclusive tour of the marathon route.

The tour offered a glimpse into the rich history and stunning tourist attractions that participants will encounter in Qacha's Nek.

The half marathon, scheduled for October 26th, is expected to attract runners from across the globe. The course not only challenges participants but also celebrates the cultural heritage and natural beauty of the Mountain Kingdom. This year's event is particularly significant as it marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Basotho Nation by King Moshoeshoe I.

The press tour began at the iconic starting point at Ha Noosi, where fossil remains measuring 6.5 meters in length and 1.5 meters in height were discovered, indicating the presence of dinosaurs in Lesotho.

"We wanted to give the press a firsthand experience of what makes this marathon truly unique," said 'Mamolise Falatsa, the Ministry's Public Relations Manager.

"The combination of challenging terrain and rich history makes this event more than just a race; it's a journey through time, and our aim is to celebrate the bicentennial with

A glimpse into the scenic Mountain Marathon21 route



a milestone."

"From here in Qacha's Nek, you can see two additional districts—Mohale's Hoek and Thaba Tseka," said Mosiuoa Nthako, one of the race organizers, during the tour at Ha

Seforo. The mountains of these districts displayed a beautiful scenery along the Senqu River; its waters visibly green due to an

abundance of algae.

The tour also explored Sehlabathebe National Park, located in the southeastern corner of Lesotho. This stunning natural sanctuary is renowned for its unique biodiversity and striking landscapes. The park is characterized by high-altitude grasslands, dramatic sandstone cliffs, and a rich array of flora and fauna, including several endemic species. Its cultural significance is equally remarkable, as it features ancient rock art that provides valuable insights into the region's heritage.

Additionally, the event's main sponsor, Manti Sehloho Construction and Projects, in collaboration with Ramela Associates, rewarded Qacha's Nek marathon sensation Tebello Ramakongoana with M50,000 for his impressive performance in the Paris Olympics, where he secured 7th place.

Tebello expressed his gratitude for the support he has received, saying, "I'm aware of the support given by Basotho at large; I won't rest until I bring home a medal from either the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, or World Championships."

Kick4Life female star breaks into national squad

Seabata Mahao

Mosa Makhanya, a standout player for Kick4Life's Senior Women's team, Kick4Life Ladies FC, has recently earned her first call-up to the senior national team, Mehalalitoe.

Makhanya was selected as part of the provisional squad of 26 players by coach, Shalane Lehohla in preparation for the COSAFA Women's Championship, scheduled for October in Gqeberha, South Africa.

Makhanya's inclusion in the national team follows a weekend of competitive action, where the Senior Women's national team, Mehalalitoe, played two friendly matches against Mozambique in Maputo. The first match ended in a 1-1 draw, while the second concluded in a goalless stalemate.

Her exceptional performances in the previous season of the Lesotho Women's Super League (WSL) have not gone unnoticed. Makhanya was instrumental in Kick4Life's impressive run, helping the team secure a second-place finish in the WSL, behind Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Ladies FC.

Beyond her on-field achievements, Makhanya is also making strides off the pitch. Through Kick4Life's Fit4WorkAndPlay Programme, which supports players in developing broader employability skills, she is training as a chef at No 7 Restaurant, a social enterprise in Maseru.

In a recent interview, Makhanya shared how Kick4Life has significantly impacted her life.

"Programs like Girls United have helped me become an active community member and a role model, earning respect from my peers

and younger people in my community," she said.

"Although I initially lacked qualifications and job experience, Kick4Life provided me with opportunities to take online courses, enhancing my CV. Through these programs, I gained self-respect, self-awareness, and learned how to present myself professionally," she added.

Makhanya reflected on her early days with Kick4Life: "When I first joined, I was very young and already the primary breadwinner for my family. The Fit4WorkAndPlay programme allowed me to gain valuable experience in the hospitality industry, both front-of-house and back-of-house. The stipends I received helped improve my family's situation by providing food and support."

Kick4Life's co-founder Steve Fleming highlighted the dual impact of Makhanya's opportunities.

"With her passion for both football and culinary arts, these opportunities are helping Mosa develop new skills that will enable her to reach her full potential in all areas of life. We look forward to seeing her continued success and development both on and off the pitch," Fleming said.



Mosa Makhanya from Kick4Life Ladies FC

Likuena beaten in Morocco

Seabata Mahao

The senior national team, Likuena, last night went down 3-1 to the Central African Republic (CAR) in their 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Group B opener at the Stade El Abdu in El Jadida, Morocco.

Likuena started the match in the worst possible way against the Wild Beasts by conceding the first goal in the first minute of the match.

CAR went on to double the scoreline in the 24th minute to go into the half-time break with a healthy lead. But Likuena's spirit fight back in the second half saw them pulling a goal back through Motebang Sera.

They could not, however, level the scores, and instead, it was the Wild Beasts who found a third goal to seal the win.

Following this early setback, Lesotho will now shift their focus to their second Group B match against the hosts, Morocco, at the Agadir Stadium on September 9.

Ahead of their match against CAR, Likuena's Head Coach, Leslie Notši, called for consistency from his players and respect for their opponents. He expressed confidence in his team's ability to challenge the continent's football powerhouses.



"We have shown in recent months that we can compete with top teams, having frustrated sides like Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria. We need to dig deep and work harder against the giants in our group: Morocco, Gabon, and CAR," he said.

"Playing at this level is a great opportunity for us. We believe we can make an impact, but we must respect all our opponents. They have some of Africa's best players competing at the

highest level," Notši added.

He acknowledged that Morocco, with their strong performances in the 2022 World Cup and recent Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), will be a particularly challenging opponent.

"No team in this group can be considered an easy opponent. Morocco is going to be the toughest, given their recent success in the AFCON, World Cup, and Olympics. Gabon and

CAR are also competitive teams," Notši noted.

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 Rasethuntsa (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.

Shot in the arm for LDF

Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho National Insurance Group (LNIG) Hollard announced a substantial M900, 000 sponsorship to the Lesotho Defense Force (LDF) Football Club (FC), marking a significant milestone for the premier league club.

Under the sponsorship agreement, LNIG Hollard will provide LDF with M300, 000 annually for the next three years. The partnership aims to bolster the club's financial stability and support its ongoing development, including the LDF's ladies' team.

Mpho Vumbukani, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of LNIG Hollard, expressed satisfaction with the formalisation of the long-term agreement. He highlighted that LNIG Hollard had previously supported various events and tournaments hosted by LDF.

"We are pleased to officially launch this sponsorship, which has been in discussion for some time. Even before this agreement, we were collaborating with LDF FC," Vumbukani said.

"In the past, the LDF Commander would reach out for assistance with matches, and we were happy to help. This long-term agreement will enhance the visibility of our partnership through the club's kits."

Liepollo Tsekoa, Head of the Brand and Marketing Department at LNIG Hollard, also expressed enthusiasm about the partnership.

"LNIG Hollard is excited to support LDF FC and to back teams that are making a significant impact. This sponsorship reflects our commitment to football clubs and aligns with our strategic goals," Tsekoa said.

She also emphasised that the sponsorship marks the beginning of a three-year commitment, aimed at fostering growth and success for LDF.

On his part, Brigadier Khomo Mohobo, the president of LDF FC, commended LNIG Hollard for ensuring equity and expressed gratitude for the sponsorship. Mohobo noted the long-standing relationship between LDF and LNIG Hollard, describing the event as a testament to



their enduring friendship. He also highlighted that all LDF members are affiliated with LNIG Hollard, underscoring their close ties.

"The club's prominent male and female players continue to represent Lesotho with distinction. Recent performances, including a notable match against a team from Bethlehem, demonstrate that LDF FC remains a powerful and influential force in Lesotho football," Mohobo stated.

Lieutenant General Mojalefa Letsoela, Commander of LDF, praised the clubs and expressed gratitude to LNIG Hollard for their support.

"We are here to sign this important agreement for sports. LNIG Hollard's commitment to these two football teams is invaluable. I commend the efforts to secure private sponsorship and am glad to see their success," Letsoela said.

With this robust support from LNIG Hollard, LDF FC's potential for growth and success becomes increasingly evident. The partnership is set to enhance the teams' competitive edge, improve performance, and contribute to a stronger football infrastructure in Lesotho.

Ultimately, the sponsorship is expected to leave a lasting legacy, reinforcing the role of football in uniting communities, fostering talent, and driving positive change across the nation.

LDF FC has a storied history in Lesotho football, with league championships in 1983, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, and 2004. The club also won the Independence Cup in 1983 and subsequently in 1984, 1987, 1990, 1994, and 1997. In addition, LDF FC has triumphed in the Top 8 competition in 1985, 1995, 1997, and 1998, with their most notable victory being the LNIG Top 8 title in 2019.

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