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# Newsday

*...pacing standards*

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## News

**A pity of pit latrines: Human rights crisis for students**

**Page 4**

## Feature

**Silent Scars: The hidden toll of corporal punishment**

**Page 9**

# WAITING IN THE COLD: A CRISIS OF IDENTITY IN LESOTHO



**...Unpaid staff demotivated**

**Page 2**



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### Lerato Matheka

As temperatures plummet across Lesotho, the chilling reality is not just the cold but the struggle for basic identification.

72-year-old 'Mateboho Letšosa sits resolutely on a steel stool inside the Upper Moyeni National Identity and Civil Registration (NICR) office, her heart filled with hope yet burdened by despair.

Arriving at 4 AM on Monday, September 9, she and 108 others camped outside, anxiously waiting for their chance to renew their National Identity Documents and access other services. It is 8 PM and having spent the whole day without accessing services, she is going to brave through the night that promises to be harsh.

For many Basotho, the National ID is not merely a card; it is a lifeline, granting access to essential services like healthcare, banking, and social welfare. However, the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police failures have left countless citizens without this critical document, transforming what should be a straightforward process into a monumental struggle.

#### A Cold Night of Hope

'Mateboho Letšosa's journey to the NICR office began with confidence that her life would normalise with a renewed National ID. Yet her optimism quickly turned to dismay upon learning that the daily quota for processing applications had already been met well before 4 am.

Services begin at 7 am at the Upper Moyeni office.

"I was told the office only helps 60 people," she said, her voice tinged with fatigue.

"By 12:30, they were done helping those 60 people, and I and some who came after me were left with no choice but to spend the whole day here."

A smallholder farmer, Letšosa relies on her ID to receive her pension and sell livestock, however, her expired documents have hindered her income since June 2024.

"Without my ID, I struggle to access my pension or sell my animals," she explained. As the day wore on, she was forced to ask for a blanket from a nearby village, determined not to leave without her renewed ID.

"I came here unprepared, but I won't leave until I get my ID renewed," she vowed.

Her story represents the broader struggle faced by many Basotho, who are subjected to sleeping outside NICR offices across the coun-

try just to register for services the following day.

#### The Bureaucratic Nightmare

The inefficiencies in the NICR offices due to many reasons, including staff not being paid on time, have become a source of widespread frustration.

Long waits, limited quotas, and staff shortages illustrate a ministry overwhelmed by demand.

NICR is responsible for registering births, deaths, and marriages, and issuing National Identity Cards (IDs), yet IDs have not been adequately issued due to a lack of resources.

Nkeletseng\*, who just arrived from Cape Town, is another applicant facing challenges.

"I arrived this morning at 6 AM but was told they weren't taking anymore people for the day," she said.

With only three days off work to renew her ID and passport, she felt trapped.

"I can't afford to spend another M2000 on transport. All I need is my ID to apply for my passport and return to work."

Her story is echoed by many, including Nkotseng Hlanyane, who traveled from Phamong in Mhale's Hoek to urgently renew her documents.

"My mother is being buried on Saturday, and I need an ID and passport urgently. I feel helpless because the officers told us they can't exceed the quota regardless of how much we begged and tried to make them see reason," she lamented.

The emotional toll is significant, with applicants feeling powerless against a bureaucratic system that seems indifferent to their needs. Nonkululeko, a nursing mother, described her own frustration:

"If I choose to stay so I can register for tomorrow, this would be my fourth attempt. I was here on Friday, and I was turned back again."

#### Rights Denied

The delays in issuing National IDs raise serious human rights concerns.

Article 6 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to a legal identity, and Section 7(1) of Lesotho's Constitution asserts the right to freedom of movement. Yet, as more Basotho find themselves without valid identification, these rights remain unfulfilled.

"We are being treated like we don't exist," said Letšosa, echoing the sentiments of many frustrated citizens. The emotional impact of

# Waiting in the cold: A crisis of identity in Lesotho

## ...Unpaid staff demotivated

being denied a fundamental aspect of identity cannot be overstated, especially when it directly affects access to essential services.

As of April 2024, over 170,000 Basotho failed to access daily services due to expired IDs. The situation worsened in May when another 179,515 ID cardholders joined their ranks, unable to renew due to a lack of cards.

#### Voices of the Vulnerable

Among those most affected are marginalised groups—women, the elderly, and individuals with urgent needs. The desperation is palpable as they share their stories.

"All I need is the ID and then I can bury my mother," Nkotseng said, her voice breaking under the weight of her grief. "We just want to fulfill our family obligations."

Litšoane Keketsi, another applicant, explained the immense pressure she faces. "I traveled from Mount Moorosi. I need to work and support my family, but I'm left waiting." Her story underscores the emotional burden many carry as they seek basic recognition and rights.

These voices highlight the urgent need for systemic change. "We just want to live our lives with dignity," said Letšosa, reflecting the collective frustration of those waiting for services.

#### Growing Desperation and Lawlessness

The growing desperation among applicants has led to chaotic scenes outside NICR offices with the applicants' registration at the centre of it. Some individuals have resorted to desperate measures, such as paying for a spot on the registration list.

"To secure your spot, you have to pay M20," a self-appointed list controller in Maseru admitted, showcasing the lawlessness that has emerged in the face of bureaucratic failings.

As tensions rise, the emotional strain is evident. "Every time I come here, I see others turned away like me simply because we didn't secure a spot, and I feel like I am stuck in limbo," Nonkululeko expressed.

The uncertainty of whether they will receive the services they need exacerbates feelings of hopelessness and frustration.

"I was told to keep the list with a set quota but these people at times demand to see owners of the registered names in person," Rethabile Molise, a security in Quthing said.

Like Upper Moyeni, Mafeteng and Botha-Bothe lists are manned by security guards which minimises chaos unlike in Maseru where anything can happen.

"The fought over the registration list because some people had turned queuing for

other a business and the fight was so bad that we and police had to intervene, that's when the mall management chased out of the property," the mall security recounted

The chaos reflects a broader societal issue, where individuals are forced to compete for basic rights in an increasingly desperate environment.

#### Systemic Failures and Accountability

Government responses have been inadequate, with Minister Lebona Lephema facing criticism for failing to resolve the ongoing crisis surrounding ID and passport issuance.

During parliamentary sessions, he reiterated the financial constraints of his ministry, yet citizens see little change on the ground.

Of the estimated 179,515 IDs expiring in 2024, many have already passed their renewal dates and his team acknowledged the severity of the situation in parliament.

They further informed that the budget allocation for the 2024-2025 fiscal year only allows for the procurement of 60,000 passports from a national need of approximately 150,000, with nothing allocated for IDs.

The frustrations of NICR staff also deserve attention.

"We do what we can, but we are not motivated without pay," one officer confessed saying delayed salaries have created a demoralising environment, affecting service delivery.

"We will surely not go out of our way because we are definitely not motivated," another officer echoed.

This disconnect between government promises and the reality on the ground leaves citizens feeling betrayed. "It's as if they are turning a blind eye to our suffering," Letšosa added, encapsulating the sentiments of many applicants who feel unheard and unseen.

The stories of individuals like 'Mateboho Letšosa, Nkotseng Hlanyane, and Nkeletseng highlight a broader crisis that demands urgent attention. Access to basic services is a human right, yet for countless Basotho, this right remains out of reach.

As citizens continue to camp outside NICR offices, the pressing question remains: How long must they endure this struggle? The government must act swiftly to restore faith in the system and ensure that no Basotho is left behind.

Advocacy for change is essential and citizens must unite to demand accountability and transparency of the ministry just as the advocacy boding, Section 2, a local advocacy group, has condemned the violation of human rights.



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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.



# A pity of pit latrines: Human rights crisis for students



## Ntsoaki Motaung

For many women, privacy is a fundamental concern during their menstruation period, a time when dignity, cleanliness, and comfort are essential.

However, for the girls at Mohlanapeng High School in Thaba Tseka, privacy is a luxury they simply do not have. With inadequate facilities and a serious lack of proper sanitation, the school's female students face daily challenges, particularly during their menstrual cycles.

The situation at Mohlanapeng High School is alarming.

The school only has five toilets for all the female students, and they are far from suitable. The toilets lack doors, offering no privacy as they are placed in plain view of

anyone passing by.

Boys, on the other hand, have no toilets at all and are forced to walk to the nearest valley to relieve themselves when nature calls.

"Maneo Chobokoane, a teacher who has been at the school for nearly 15 years, said this issue has persisted since she first arrived in 2010.

"The lack of doors on the girls' toilets has been a constant problem. This is not just about privacy, it is about their health too," Chobokoane explained.

"Since I have been here, I have never seen those toilets being washed. There is no water at the school, and that makes it impossible to maintain basic hygiene," she added.

For girls, menstruation is a particularly sensitive time, requiring proper hygiene practices that are impossible to maintain

without water. Without the ability to wash their hands or properly clean themselves, these young women are left in a vulnerable and uncomfortable position.

"We all know that the menstruation period is the sensitive time where every woman has to practice good hygiene, but learners here are compelled not to wash their hands because there is no water," Chobokoane emphasised.

But the situation for the boys is even direr.

Leluma Nkuebe, another teacher at Mohlanapeng, explained that the boys do not even have access to a single toilet.

"They have to go to the nearest bush or valley when they need to relieve themselves. Sometimes they are gone for more than 15 minutes, and that disrupts their learning because the class continues without them," Nkuebe said.

Molikuo Sekhonyana, the Chief Information Officer for the Ministry of Education and Training, told Newsday this week that it is the responsibility of schools, especially high schools where students pay fees, to maintain and repair pit latrines.

However, Sekhonyana added that the ministry sometimes steps in to assist when schools face significant challenges, taking factors such as student enrollment into account.

The conditions at Mohlanapeng High School fly in the face of Lesotho's National Guidelines for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools.

According to these guidelines, all learners have the right to quality education, which includes access to clean drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services while at school.

Yet, the reality is that more than 50 percent of schools in Lesotho still lack access to basic WASH services.

The guidelines further stress that "safe sanitation, drinking water, and hand hygiene practices are among the most powerful ways to protect learners' health."

Proper toilet facilities, with separate cubicles for boys and girls, doors for privacy, and a clean environment, are critical to ensuring the safety and comfort of students, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted the importance of hygiene in disease prevention.

The situation at Mohlanapeng High School not only violates these guidelines but also places the students, particularly

the girls, in compromising positions daily.

The conditions at the school also breach several international human rights conventions, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

According to the CRC, every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, and social development, which includes access to basic sanitation and hygiene.

The CRC emphasises the importance of providing children with an environment that allows them to thrive, and inadequate sanitation directly undermines this right.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), under Article 25, guarantees everyone the right to an adequate standard of living, including health and well-being, which encompasses access to clean water and sanitation. Failing to provide these services violates the girls' rights to health, dignity, and safety.

The CEDAW, to which Lesotho is a party, calls for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls, including the provision of adequate sanitation facilities to ensure their right to privacy and health.

Lack of proper toilet facilities and the inability to maintain menstrual hygiene is a form of systemic discrimination that directly affects the girls' ability to participate in education on an equal footing with boys.

Without urgent intervention to improve the school's WASH system, the privacy, health, and dignity of these learners will continue to be undermined.

According to the UNICEF-WASH guidelines, proper sanitation facilities are essential for ensuring that students, particularly girls, remain in school during their menstruation periods.

Without safe, clean, and private toilets, girls are often forced to stay home during their periods, which impacts their academic performance and, in the long term, their future opportunities.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 6, call for clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. Lesotho, as a signatory to these global goals, must prioritise the improvement of WASH services in schools to meet its commitments and safeguard the fundamental rights of its children.

# Govt intervenes as poverty pushes students out of school

## Ntsoaki Motaung

In a country where the struggle against poverty impacts nearly every facet of life, education remains a critical battleground.

Despite ongoing support from the government, many students continue to drop out of school due to financial hardships.

The Ministry of Gender, Youth, and Social Development has long been dedicated to supporting vulnerable families, particularly orphaned and vulnerable children, with school fees.

However, recent observations reveal that this assistance, while crucial, is not always sufficient to keep students in school through to graduation.

In response to these challenges, the Ministry conducted a study to uncover the reasons behind the high dropout rates.

According to Ithabeleng Mosenene,

Bursary Administrator for the Ministry, one significant finding was that poverty often prevented students from acquiring essential school uniforms.

"Because uniform is something that makes students feel as part of other learners, some drop out when they do not have it or have a proper one," Mosenene explained.

"It is, for this reason, the ministry sourced funding for the Basic Education Strengthening Project (BESP) to assist learners in Grades 8 and 9 with school uniforms. These are children who are already receiving Social Assistance grants from the ministry."

Despite the initiative's intent to reach 15,000 students, the ministry fell short of this target. Consequently, they have expanded their focus to include learners who receive other forms of ministry support but lack additional assistance.

"This is why we have embarked on the

journey of sensitising the parents and guardians of those learners that they will be receiving M1500 strictly for uniform, as well as the implications of not using the money for the intended purpose," Mosenene added.

Sebapala High School's acting principal, Lineo Maqala, praised the government's initiative, recognising its potential to improve student retention rates.

"The government has done a handful by paying for these children's school fees, but that was not enough. Paying for fees only retained children in school but not all of them because their other challenges were not addressed," Maqala noted.

"Most of our students are poverty-stricken, and it is difficult for them to get uniforms or even have something to eat. With the provision of uniforms, at least more students will be retained, although there will still be those who drop out because they have no food."

The impact of this assistance is already being felt in local communities.

Tholoana Nkholise, a guardian from Ha Potsane in the Quthing district, expressed gratitude for the support.

"Now that we are assisted with uniforms, I will now focus on other school needs including stationery and making sure that my niece has transport to school," Nkholise said. "I did not find balance in trying to buy a uniform and attending to other needs."

The broader implications of school dropouts due to poverty are profound.

When students leave school, they are often trapped in a cycle of poverty that becomes increasingly difficult to escape. Without the education and skills necessary for economic opportunities, their future prospects are significantly diminished.

This lack of opportunity extends to their own families, as they may struggle to provide the same level of support for their own children, perpetuating the cycle of poverty for future generations.

# Former LCA boss Matela's case to be finalised

**Relebohile Makhetha**

The High Court is set to deliver its judgment next month in a case involving former Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) CEO, 'Mamarama Matela, who is accused of failing to return her former employer's property at the end of her tenure.

Matela is alleged to have withheld several items belonging to the LCA, including a laptop, a 12-inch iPad, an audio recording device, LCA office keys, and an LCA credit card.

The dispute arose after her departure from the LCA in March 2022, when she reportedly did not return the equipment.

The hearing of the main application by the LCA continued in court this week, with lawyers from both parties presenting their arguments.

Notably, Matela has already faced a setback in her attempt to have the case handled by the Directorate of Dispute Prevention and Resolution (DDPR) as a labour dispute. She lost an interlocutory application in August 2022.

In April 2022, the LCA filed an urgent application in the High Court to recover the missing assets. Despite court orders and a sheriff's visit to Matela's residence, the items were not retrieved.

Matela's legal team argued that the matter should be addressed by the DDPR as it concerns an employment-related dispute. They cited the Labour Code Amendment Act, which mandates arbitration in disputes related to employ-

ment contracts.

However, the LCA's legal team countered that the case was not about employment rights but rather the recovery of company property, making it a civil matter within the High Court's jurisdiction. Presiding Judge, Justice Tšeliso Mokoko, ruled in favor of the LCA, stating that the case did not fall under labour laws but concerned the recovery of LCA assets.

During the hearing of the main application this week, Matela's defense asserted that the audio recording device was not in her possession. The defense argued that if the device had been in Matela's possession, the deputy sheriff would have found it during the search of her home.

Challenging a witness's testimony, who claimed to have seen Matela leaving with a laptop bag, the defense pointed out that this did not necessarily mean there was a laptop inside, as the bag could have contained other items.

LCA's lawyer, Advocate Qhalehang Letsika, argued that the recording device contained critical minutes from an LCA board meeting, during which corruption-related issues were discussed.

He claimed Matela was aware of the contents of the recorder, as it was in her possession. Letsika also stated that Matela was responsible for the safekeeping of the company property entrusted to her.

The court is scheduled to hand down its judgment on October 31.



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# BUSINESS

## Market diversification rescues struggling textile factory



Advocate Molise Ramaili Chief Executive Officer of the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC)

### Lehlohonolo Motsoari

The interim Chief Executive Officer of the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), Advocate Molise Ramaili, has revealed that job losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic forced

Lesotho's textile industry to seek alternative markets to sustain employment for Basotho.

Traditionally, most of Lesotho's textile factories rely on the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to export products to the United States. How-

ever, the pandemic posed significant challenges as American buyers began sourcing from nearby countries to reduce shipping costs.

Speaking at the recent re-opening of the CGM factory in Thetsane Industrial Area, Ramaili explained the hurdles the industry faced, particularly the increase in cargo tariffs post-pandemic.

"Buyers opted to purchase from nearby countries due to high tariffs and the need for faster supply," he said.

To address these challenges, the LNDC sought new market opportunities in neighboring South Africa, ensuring that textile manufacturers could still access a viable market.

"Together with CGM and Presetex management, we approached The Foshini Group (TFG) and committed to delivering on time, which is crucial for maintaining credibility with buyers," Ramaili added.

He also commended the partnership with key stakeholders, such as the Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL), for supporting efforts to revive the textile industry.

"We are collaborating with RSL to tackle tax-related challenges and attract foreign direct investment, aiming to create enterprises that will generate

jobs for Basotho."

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Mokhethi Shelile, who also attended the event, highlighted the government's commitment to creating jobs through the "#Re Bula Lifeme" campaign in collaboration with the LNDC.

"We hope that reopening these factories will reduce the mistreatment of Basotho workers in foreign factories, such as those in Newcastle, South Africa, by bringing these opportunities back home," Shelile said.

He announced that CGM factory will initially employ 300 workers, with plans to increase that number to 1,000 over the next six months. "Our goal is to open more factories each month over the next three months," he added.

Eugenia Chang, CGM shareholder and director, emphasised the complexity of their production, which includes manufacturing heavy-duty jeans.

"We now have a production line making four different styles at once, which is a significant shift from how we operated before," Chang said.

As CGM aims to establish itself as a fashion hub in Africa, this initiative marks a crucial step in mitigating Lesotho's high unemployment rate and revitalising the country's textile industry.

## Econet awards educational scholarships to 10 learners



### Seabata Mahao

Ten (10) recipients of the Moshoeshoe I Scholarship were awarded certificates by His Majesty King Letsie III at the Royal Palace in Maseru, courtesy of Econet Telecom Lesotho's (ETL) social investment arm, Higherlife Foundation Lesotho (HLF).

The ceremony, rich in historical significance, saw His Majesty preside over the handover to the third cohort of distinguished scholars selected for the prestigious scholarship.

These scholars are set to pursue their studies in Science, Technology, Engineer-

ing, and Mathematics (STEM) at various esteemed institutions of higher learning.

The Moshoeshoe I Scholarship, offered by ETL through its social investment arm, Higherlife Foundation Lesotho (HLF), pays homage to the founder of the Basotho nation, Morena Moshoeshoe I.

The scholarship symbolises reverence for his leadership and the unifying role he played in forming the Basotho nation.

In his keynote address, His Majesty King Letsie III congratulated the scholars for being honored with this prestigious scholar-

ship by ETL and HFL.

"We remain forever grateful to the founders of Higherlife Foundation, Strive and Tsitsi Masiyiwa, for their unwavering support and commitment to the education of our children," King Letsie III emphasised.

He highlighted the importance of this milestone, noting that as the nation commemorates 200 years of its existence, it is vital to honor the legacy of Morena Moshoeshoe I by investing in the future leaders of Lesotho.

The Minister of Education and Training, Professor Ntoi Rapapa, also spoke at the event, stressing the pivotal role education plays in the country's development.

"This scholarship is more than just financial support; it is a beacon of hope for our youth, particularly in the fields of STEM, which are crucial for the advancement of Lesotho," Rapapa explained.

Since the inception of the Moshoeshoe I Scholarship in 2022, ETL, through its social investment arm, HFL, has invested nearly M2 million to support these scholars. The funds cover tuition fees, stipends, learning materials, and travel expenses.

The success of the scholarship is evident in the achievements of the previous 20 recipients, who continue to excel in their studies at institutions across Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and South Africa.

ETL Chief Executive Officer Dennis Plaatzies praised the scholarship as a true reflection of ETL's commitment to Lesotho's future.

"By investing in education, we are not only honoring our past but also securing a prosperous future for generations to come. These scholars embody that vision, and we are immensely proud of their achievements," Plaatzies said.

### 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 Maseru on Tuesday 17th SEPTEMBER 2024 at 10:00 am for the purpose of:

Proposing some person/persons to be appointed by the master as Executor dative.

Dated at Maseru on this 1st day of August 2024

Master of the High Court

Magistrate Court

Old Prosecutors Office Maseru



# HEALTH



## Global anaesthesiologists call for access to lifesaving device for all

**Marcia Moyana**

An advocacy campaign calling for patient safety during surgical operations was officially launched in Johannesburg, South Africa on Tuesday.

The coalition led by Lifebox, Smile Train, the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) and the South African Society of Anaesthesiologists (SASA) says that access to capnography in low-resourced health facilities will minimise the risk patients face during surgery.

The capnography device has been used by anaesthesiologists from the Global North for decades to ensure that the patient is still breathing by monitoring and measuring carbon dioxide levels in the blood during surgical operations.

As health professionals who look after patients during surgical operations, critical care and pain management, the body representing around 500 000 anaesthesiologists, WFSA told Newsday Lesotho that getting the support from high-level organisations like the World Health Organisation (WHO) to endorse their advocacy is a priority for the coalition.

"We need to be working at that high level, that WHO level, to provide some of the technical advice about the need for capnography. But we also need the people working at the forefront providing anaesthesia care for patients in operating rooms around the world to

be saying we need this monitor," said the Past and Immediate President of the WFSA, Wayne Morris.

Also in the call for action for the acceleration of access to capnography is to have the WHO to highly recommend the device in the WHO-WFSA International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia (ISSPA), include capnography alongside pulse oximetry in the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist as required equipment for safe surgery and incorporate capnography as essential in national anaesthesia guidelines by health ministries.

President of SASA, Professor Sean Chetty added that the disparities in the access to quality healthcare and resources in countries like South Africa where up to 90 percent of the population relies on sometimes under-resourced public-health facilities makes the advocacy an urgent priority for the coalition.

The call is also an important one for the rest of the African continent as many health systems remain underfunded and under-resourced.

"It is not only our professional duties but it is our ethical responsibility to ensure that when we fight for patient safety, we are not doing it just in South Africa, we are doing it for patients across the continent," said Chetty.

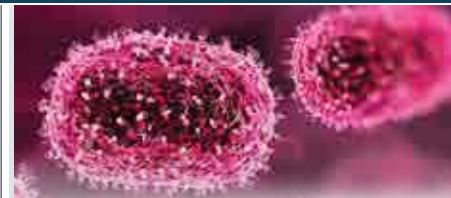
This is particularly critical for the continent which is expected to have a shortage of up to 6.1 million health professionals by 2030.

"To provide good health care we need the people as well as the equipment and the hospital spaces. We need the people to really drive this change to ensure that whenever they are anaesthetising patients and they are providing care that has this minimum safe level of monitoring to ensure that we provide the safest possible care," Morris added.

On the other hand, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which are responsible for over 41 million deaths each year globally and up to 77 percent of these being in low-and-middle-income countries, Chetty added that the role of anaesthesiologists was critical and therefore needed to be prioritised and well-resourced to be able to provide safety for patients who required surgery as a result of the NCDs.

Chetty further emphasised that with reports that breast cancer is overtaking cervical cancer in Africa with more women that are going to need surgery, anaesthetics was going to play a vital component of any National Department of Health's priorities in planning health care services.

Smile Train and Lifebox also launched and will be distributing 350 capnographs to Benin, Ethiopia, the Philippines, and Uganda before the end of this year. The high-quality, user-friendly, affordable capnograph is suited for low-resource settings because of its long battery life to mitigate the challenge of poor access to electricity.



## Mpox Cases in Africa: as of September 19, 2024.

Since the beginning of this year a total of 29,152 cases of which **6,105 were confirmed** and 738 deaths have been reported from 15 African Union Member States

- **Central Africa:** 26063 cases of which 5,928 were confirmed; 734 deaths
- **Eastern Africa:** 1,694 cases; of which 20 were confirmed; 0 deaths
- **Southern Africa:** 25 confirmed cases and 3 deaths
- **Western Africa:** 1,392 cases of which 131 were confirmed; 1 death
- **Northern Africa:** 3 cases of which 1 was confirmed; no deaths

There has been an upward trend in the number of mpox cases reported since week 18 (May 2024)

**New cases reported in epi week (36)**

2912 new cases (vs Week 35)  
374 new confirmed cases  
14 new deaths

**Overall cumulatively:**

**Males** (among confirmed cases): **63%**  
Children <15 yrs: **41%**  
Testing rate: **52%**  
Test positivity rate: **40%**

Number of countries affected: 15 from 5 regions

**Risk factors:** cross border movement, malnutrition, unsafe sexual practices



### LESOTHO BANK REPO VEHICLE TIMED ONLINE AUCTION

Online Bidding Starts: 25 Sep @ 14:00

Online Bidding Closes: 27 Sep from 14:00

#### Commercial Assets & Runners

'22 Faw 15.180 FL 8 Ton Truck F/C C/C  
'20 Tata LPT 1518 F/C C/C  
2x '19 - '18 Powerstars V3 2646S 6x4  
'16 Iveco 50C15V15 F/C P/V  
'14 Paramount Trailer Flatdeck Superlink  
'07 Volare Marcopolo M/B  
'22 Toyota Hilux 2.4 GD-6 Raider 4x4 D/C

'21 Toyota Prado VX 4.0 V6  
6x '21 Toyota Landcruisers 78 4.2D S/W  
'19 Toyota Corolla Quest 1.6  
2x '18 - '12 Nissan Hardbody NP300 2.4i 4x4 D/C  
'18 Kia Rio 1.4 Tec  
'15 Toyota Rav4 2.0 GX  
2x '14 Toyota Landcruisers 76 4.5D

'14 Ford Ecosport 1.0 Ecoboost Titanium  
'12 Nissan Patrol 4.8 GL  
'12 VW Golf Cabriolet 1.4 TSi  
'10 Mitsubishi Pajero 3.2 Di  
'03 Nissan Hardbody 2400i SE 4x4 D/Cab  
'08 Lexus IS 250  
'01 Mercedes-Benz C180 Elegance

#### Non Runners & Scrap

'17 Renault Captur 1.5 DCi Dynamique  
'12 Toyota Hilux 2.5 D-4D S/Cab  
2x '01 Mazda B2500TD4x4 Drifter S/Cabs  
'00 Nissan Hardbody 3.2D 4x4 SE G85 D/Cab  
Toyota Hilux 3.0 D-E 4x4 D/Cab  
Toyota Hilux 2700 4x4

3x Gwm Steed 5's  
Nissan Hardbody S/Cab  
3x Tata Xenon DL 4x4  
Land Rover Discovery 2  
Land Rover Freelander 2  
Mercedes-Benz SE300

Tata Telcoline 4x4 TDi  
2x Mitsubishi Colts 2800 TD  
Mercedes-Benz E190 2.0  
Mercedes-Benz E280  
Mercedes-Benz E220

### HOMELY HAVEN FURNITURE TIMED ONLINE AUCTION

Online Bidding Starts: 24 Sep @ 14:00

Online Bidding Closes: 28 Sep from 14:00

#### Furniture & Household Appliances

4x Dining Room Sets, 16x Dining Chairs, Dining Table, 8x Bed Sets, 2x Kitchen Schemes, 3x Brown Rattan Chairs, 2x Breakfast Stands, Kitchen Cabinet, Wardrobe, Bedroom Suite, Dressing Table, Brewing Equipment, 3x Round Coffee Tables, Dessert Bowls, Stainless Steel Drawers, 2x Washing Machines, 3x Microwaves, Chest Freezer, Rotary Oven, Ice Machine, Aluminium Induction Pot, 4x LED TV's, 2x Hisense Hi Fi's, TEC Fan, 4x Oil Heaters & 4x Vacuums, 9x Dell Optiplex 7020 Core i5 CPU's, 5x Dell Intel Core VPros, 13x Dell Monitors, 20x Desktops, 3x HP Printers, 11x Printers, 3x Xerox WorkCentres Printers, Projector, 2x UPS's, 20x Laptops, 5x Dell Keyboards, 3x Satellite Dishes, 3x Mercury Elite 600 Pros, Paper Cutter, 4x Computer Stands, 3x Desks, 4x Office Chairs, 3x Cabinets, Filing Cabinet & 4x Wooden Bookshelves

Viewing: 23 Sep until 27 Sep from 09:00 - 16:00 | Assets located at: Plot Nr. 12281-319 Florida Industrial Ha Hooхло Maseru

Register & Bid Online: [live.lescorauctions.com](http://live.lescorauctions.com)

Enquiries: +266 627 83610

**Conditions:** Each buyer has to be registered in order to bid. A refundable registration deposit of **M5 000 (furniture) & M10 000 (vehicle)** is payable via debit or credit card or EFT. No Cash! Duty is payable at border. All offers exclude VAT & Commission. All assets will be sold subject to confirmation. T's & C's apply. This auction is held subject to reserve prices. Vendor bidding is permissible. **SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION.**

# COMMON CONCERN

## Hell on earth: Soldiers unleash satanic torture

Illegal firearms are killing innocent people in Lesotho like flies. Every sane citizen in the country is worried and threatened by the skyrocketing cases of Basotho murdering one another.

The streets are stained with blood, and the fear of death hangs heavy over communities. The government, through its law enforcement agencies, must do everything within its power and the scope of the Constitution to get rid of these senseless killings, arrest the perpetrators, and ensure they are locked away for life. Cleaning our communities of illegal firearms is a national priority, one that should be executed with urgency and precision.

However, this noble cause to rid Lesotho of its gun-fueled violence should never be used as an excuse for satanic deeds by the very soldiers tasked with maintaining law and order. Recent reports reveal that members of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), in their search for illegal firearms, have committed acts so horrific that they can only be described as the work of the devil.

In an appalling display of sadistic cruelty, soldiers allegedly tortured suspects in a manner that shocks the conscience. One soldier, according to reports, attempted to cut a suspect's dreadlocks using a stone, a crude and violent act in itself.

But when the method proved too slow, the soldiers escalated their brutality to unimaginable levels. Gathering firewood and lighting a fire,

they forced the suspect to kneel close to the flames.

Then, in a scene that could have been torn from the pages of hell itself, they pushed his head toward the fire until his dreadlocks caught fire. The burning hair filled the air with the stench of cruelty, while the suspect screamed in agony. His cries for mercy fell on deaf ears.

Another suspect was subjected to similar torture, his hair set ablaze, leaving his scalp blistered and wounded and his dignity shattered. In this unimaginable act of torment, these soldiers, who are meant to protect the people, have turned into torturers, mimicking Satan himself, the biblical figure who burns and destroys. How else can one describe such unthinkable evil, where a man's hair is set alight, not by accident, but by deliberate, cold-hearted intent?

The Bible paints Satan as the figure who burns people in the fires of hell, but these soldiers have brought hell to the living. Their actions do not just violate human rights, they rip apart the very fabric of humanity.

Torture of this nature, burning a person alive, even just by their hair, belongs in the darkest pages of history, not in our villages.

This incident raises alarming questions about the culture within the LDF and the unchecked power these soldiers wield over defenceless citizens. How could men trained to serve and protect become instruments of terror? How could they fall so low as to degrade and torment people as if they were soulless beings, devoid of any trace of mercy?

The international community and human

rights organisations should not only be alarmed but outraged. No human being should be subjected to this level of cruelty, let alone by those meant to shield them from harm.

This satanic display of torture by the Lesotho Defence Force must be stopped, and those responsible must be brought to justice swiftly, before more innocent lives are destroyed by the flames of brutality.

We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to this devilish behaviour.

The people demand accountability, and the world must take note: there are soldiers in Lesotho who have become wolves in sheep's clothing, serving not their country, but their most satanic instincts.

While the scourge of illegal firearms and the rising murders in our country demands swift and decisive action, there is no justification for such barbarism displayed by soldiers.

The Constitution of Lesotho, along with international human rights standards, forbids torture in any form. The LDF, instead of upholding the rule of law, has descended into a lawless and satanic force, terrorising civilians under the guise of national security.

As the nation grapples with its gun crisis, it must remember that no victory over violence can be achieved through further violence. Torture, degradation, and satanic cruelty cannot be allowed to define Lesotho's path to peace.

The world is watching, and Basotho deserve better than to live in a country where the flames of hell are stoked by their own soldiers. The LDF and government authorities must not forget the powerful lessons from Nigeria's End

SARS movement. In 2020, the Nigerian people rose up in protest against the brutal acts of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), whose unchecked violence, torture, and inhumane treatment sparked a nationwide outcry.

The atrocities committed by SARS were met with a unified voice of defiance as ordinary citizens refused to accept torture and death at the hands of those sworn to protect them. The people stood up and demanded change, forcing a global spotlight on Nigeria's human rights violations and leading to the eventual disbandment of SARS.

Similarly, the All Lives Matter movement in the United States, which emerged in response to police brutality, spread across the globe. It reminded governments everywhere that the abuse of power and the dehumanisation of citizens would not be tolerated.

The world watched as millions rallied to proclaim that every life is valuable and that justice must be served for all—regardless of status or location.

Lesotho must heed these warnings.

The same fury that sparked the End SARS protests and fueled the All Lives Matter movement can erupt here if the government and military fail to respect the rights and dignity of Basotho. Basotho will not stand by while the LDF turns into an instrument of terror. The government must act swiftly to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for these satanic acts of torture, lest the flames of public outrage grow uncontrollable.

Peace and justice must prevail—without resorting to the fires of hell.

## Sustainable Development Week: How can we ensure that the youth is not left behind in the conversation from today and beyond?

Tanki Kotelo

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are ambitious targets, but according to recent reports, and with just six years in the final stretch, the world is not on track to meet them all by 2030. While an alarming measly 17 percent are on track, close to half are making only moderate progress, and a disheartening 36 percent are stagnant. This sobering reality serves as a wake-up call to governments, organisations, and individuals that time is running out. As leaders converge for urgent action, it is critical that we do not leave our future leaders—young people—out of the conversation. This is because young people are most likely to suffer the consequences of the decisions we make today.

So, what is Sustainable Development Week, or Global Goals Week as it is notoriously known, and why is it essential to commemorate it? Beginning on 18 September–18 October every year, this week attempts to promote awareness and mobilise engagement with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development along with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The agenda, adopted in 2015, explores and encourages the implementation of transformative and sustainable solutions to the global challenges navigated by people and the planet as a whole. From climate change,

poverty, and hunger to economic inequality, these challenges are intertwined and require unconventional thinking if SDG's progress is to be accelerated.

As we commemorate Global Goals Week, we raise strategies for how young people can collectively play a part in shaping our shared future. Why youth? Currently, young people account for almost half of the global population and are projected to reach 1.29 billion by 2030, rightfully making them the future leaders of tomorrow.

The recent advancements and strides in quality education also mean that there is a vast, untapped reservoir of innovation, knowledge,

and ideas in youth that can drive the world forward. Furthermore, with improvements in technology access, young people have a chance to connect, create, and vocally advocate for a more sustainable future. Whether through capacity-building initiatives, entrepreneurship, mentorship programs, knowledge-sharing, and collaborations, today's youth have the power to become change agents and active citizens who create a more habitable world.

**Here are some ways young people can make a difference:**

- Stay informed: Young people can educate themselves on the SDGs and issues that matter to them through online resources or by joining youth-led organizations.
- Take action: They can raise awareness, organize campaigns, and advocate for change through social media or by participating in marches and protests.
- Embrace entrepreneurship: Young people can start sustainable businesses or initiatives that create jobs and address environmental or social issues.
- Innovate: By developing solutions using emerging technologies, such as AI or blockchain, young people can drive progress in areas like healthcare, education, and energy.

- Work with decision-makers: Young people can bring their voices and ideas to policymakers by engaging in advocacy, serving on advisory boards, or running for office.
- Build intergenerational partnerships: Collaborating with older generations can lead to more holistic solutions, as each generation brings a unique set of experiences and expertise to the table.
- Invest in education: Education empowers young people with knowledge and skills to become leaders and change-makers. Governments, civil society, and the private sector can support initiatives that expand access to quality education.

In light of Sustainable Development Week, may the youth of Lesotho be inspired and realise that it is time to take the reins and shape our shared destiny. With nearly half of the population in Lesotho under 35, we have a chance to reimagine a better world and country. But to unleash our full potential, we must band together and speak with a united voice. This means getting informed, getting engaged, and getting involved in the issues that matter to us—from climate change to economic growth, from health care to education. Your voice matters; power to the youth!





# FEATURE

## Silent Scars: The hidden toll of corporal punishment in Lesotho



Nicole Tau

A stick from a peach tree, a cable, a hose pipe, a sjambok, or worse, a stick inside a pipe for a sharper sting. These are the tools used to "discipline" children in schools across Lesotho.

Strikes across the face, legs, or back; blows to the palms; or even a foot pressed on a child's chest while they lie helpless on the floor. For many Basotho children, this is not just discipline, it is a daily reality.

\*Mamello, a bright, gentle 10-year-old girl, was born with partial hearing loss. She can hear only certain sounds; thunder, for instance, but much of the world remains silent to her.

When she began attending a school for children with hearing impairments her mother believed that this would be the nurturing environment her daughter deserved. But those hopes were shattered in her very first year.

In November 2022, driven by a mother's intuition, Mamello's mother rushed to the school. She had no concrete reason to believe anything was wrong, just a gnawing sensation deep in her gut. What she found when she arrived would haunt her:

Mamello, a girl whose skin was once smooth and glowing, now had dark purple lash marks crisscrossing her face, ears, and neck. These marks told the story that her daughter could not fully express. She stood there, silent, surrounded by other students who had gathered around her.

"I will never forget that moment," her mother recalls. "A crowd of children brought her to me, and I saw those marks, across her face, her ears. I was about to go crazy. I just asked, 'What happened to my daughter?' The children pointed at the principal."

Mamello's mother's voice trembles as she continues. "They told me she was beaten along with others. Beaten for drawing on her arms. The principal said she had whipped Mamello on the ears that were not listening."

It had been days after the beating, yet no one had bothered to inform Mamello's mother, who would not have known anything if she had not followed her instincts that day.

Despite her heartbreak, she left the school that day without her daughter, unable to take her home immediately.



But when she returned to collect Mamello later, she found that her daughter had been whipped again, this time by a man who worked in the school garden. His reason? Punishing her for playing on the veranda.

The repeated cruelty left Mamello's mother no choice but to take action. For two years now, she's been fighting in court, seeking justice for her daughter. But the process has been slow, painful and costly.

The long delays, lack of communication, and scarce resources have made her feel sidelined, lost in a system that moves far too slowly for those who suffer.

**Thupa e otolloa e sa le metsi - a stick is straightened while still wet.**

"Learners need discipline, and corporal punishment is an essential corrective tool," insists Letsatsi Ntsibolane, the Secretary General of the Lesotho Association of Teachers (LAT).

With over two decades of experience in teaching, Ntsibolane believes corporal punishment is embedded in both the Basotho's way of life and the Bible, quoting Proverbs 23:13: "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die..."

The LAT has long supported corporal punishment, openly opposing the provision under the Education Act of 2010, which prohibits the practice.

A survey conducted among 11 teachers in Lesotho reveals that nearly half (45.5 percent) of the respondents admitted to using corporal punishment either occasionally, frequently, or almost daily.

However, 45.5 percent of these teachers also acknowledged the harmful long-term psychological effects on students, such as aggression and anxiety.

Despite recognising the negative impact, many continue to rely on corporal punishment due to cultural pressure and a lack of training in alternative disciplinary methods.

On the other side of the debate, the Ministry of Education and Training claims a "zero tolerance" stance on corporal punishment, backed by the very same Education Act.

"We regard it as assault," the Ministry's Principal Secretary, Ratsiu Majara asserts, empha-

sising that physical punishment causes harm rather than teaching. "If a student performs poorly, we need to ask why, engage them, do not beat them."

Yet the Ministry appears blind to the reality. While they profess strict consequences for teachers who practice corporal punishment, the widespread use of it in schools suggests a different story.

Majara himself admits: "I think the manner in which it is done where it is done, it is done covertly."

And the laws surrounding corporal punishment in Lesotho further present a confusing and troubling landscape, where one hand seems to offer protection, while the other quietly permits harm.

The Education Act of 2010 stands as a beacon of hope for children, clearly stating under Section 4(4) that "a learner shall not be subjected to cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment."

However, the very next law that governs child welfare, the Child Protection and Welfare Act (CPWA) of 2011, tells a different story. Under Section 16 of this Act, children are supposedly protected from torture and other cruel treatment, yet the same section permits "chastisement", discipline, corporal punishment, as long as it is "in accordance with the child's age, physical, psychological, emotional, and mental condition."

This vague language creates a loophole that effectively allows corporal punishment to continue under the guise of discipline. How do we ensure it doesn't cross the line into abuse?

**Thupa ke mosesetso, mmele ke koae oa hlomela - A stick is a medicine and the body is a crop that will grow again.**

Belly, 16, dreams of becoming an accountant, but her schooling has been marred by corporal punishment.

She recalls being whipped for speaking in her native language, Sesotho, even though she was not.

"Sometimes, I can handle the beating, but other times it fills me with anger," she says, still tearful about the incident a year later.

Despite the daily normalisation of corporal punishment at her government school, this particular event left a lasting scar.

Molly, 17, shares a similar story. She was beaten so hard by a teacher for scoring less than 70 percent that her hand swelled, leaving her unable to write for a week.

"I hated him and the subject he taught," she confesses. Although her aunt intervened, the teacher soon returned to his harsh methods.

"In class, he would hurl insults at us, saying he did not care about our feelings, that he was just there to do his job," Molly adds. Despite the brief reprieve, the teacher's severe punishments continued unabated, leaving Molly with a deep-seated resentment.

Corporal punishment in Lesotho is more prevalent and severe in government and lower-middle-income schools. Children from upper-middle-class families attending private schools are largely spared from this cultural practice.

The few private schools have eliminated corporal punishment, taking reported incidents seriously and following formal procedures.

In contrast, government schools lack guidelines or policies to regulate corporal punish-

ment, even though it is technically prohibited under the Education Act.

Even in one of the oldest government schools in Lesotho, corporal punishment remains unchecked.

According to its principal who preferred to remain anonymous, incidents of corporal punishment that cross the line and end in serious injuries are often settled out of court, with teachers facing no serious consequences beyond covering medical costs.

**Ha u sa utloe ha u joetsoa, u tla utloa ka letlalo - if you cannot respond when being told, you will respond well with pain.**

A 2020 study titled The Influence of the Basotho Culture on the Use of Corporal Punishment in Secondary Schools in Lesotho, by researchers Retšelisitsoe Mantoa Matheolane and Alfred Henry Makura, draws on the Bio-ecological theory of psychologist Urie Bronfenbrenner.

This theory explains that a child's development is shaped by the environments they interact with, like schools and homes.

Over time, cultural practices like corporal punishment become normalised, passed down from generation to generation, reinforcing beliefs that punishment is essential for maintaining order.

However, the study highlights that these interactions, especially when violent, often have negative effects, leading to issues like aggression, fear, and emotional instability.

In the long run, this harms both the child's emotional well-being and their understanding of authority and discipline.

LAT Secretary General, Ntsibolane, while supporting corporal punishment, acknowledges the dangers of unregulated practices.

"We need policies to set limits," he says, "so teachers can discipline without resorting to torture."

He suggests that the country should abide by these conventions but allow some cultural exceptions with proper regulations in place.

This disconnect between the government and the teachers' association highlights a concerning divide, **reflecting a broader lack of legal implementation and coherence in the country.**

This dance between the Ministry of Education and Training and LAT, particularly Teachers, is as old as time.

PS of Education, Majara, admits that resource constraints limit inspector oversight. There are plans for liaison inspections to improve school leadership monitoring, but implementation remains unclear.

Lesotho's inability to align its laws with cultural realities creates a dangerous environment where discipline too easily crosses into abuse.

With Lesotho ranked first globally in suicide rates and over 86 percent of women experiencing gender-based violence, early exposure to violence may be fueling cycles of harm.

Ending corporal punishment could, as international research suggests, reduce domestic violence, mental health disorders, and overall societal aggression.

**\*Names have been changed to protect the identity of children involved.**

**This story is published with the support of Media Monitoring Africa and UNICEF as part of the Isu Ehlile Awards Initiative.**





## Advertisement

### VACANCY: MANAGER INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) is the regulatory body for the communications sector in Lesotho. Following the adoption of the Lesotho Telecommunications Policy of 1999, the Authority was established by an Act of Parliament in 2000. Presently, the Authority operates under the Communications Act of 2012 for the regulation of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), Broadcasting and Postal Services.

LCA invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the position of **Manager: Information & Communications Technologies (ICT)** reporting to the **Chief Technology Officer**.

#### Job Summary

The ICT Manager is responsible for leading and managing the Information Technology (IT) functions within the Authority, ensuring that all IT initiatives are aligned with the organizational strategy. The role includes overseeing enterprise IT services, ensuring robust IT governance, and managing national internet critical infrastructure, including the Country Code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD) registry and the Lesotho Internet Exchange Point (LIXP).

#### Key Responsibilities

1. **Business Process Development**
  - Collaborate with senior management to contribute to the development and enhancement of the Authority's business processes, ensuring integration of ICT capabilities to support business objectives.
  - Provide input on how emerging technologies can be integrated into business processes to improve efficiency and service delivery.
2. **Enterprise IT Planning and Management**
  - Develop and implement IT strategies, policies, and procedures to support organizational goals.
  - Ensure the effective planning, provisioning, and management of Enterprise IT resources, including hardware, software, network infrastructure, and cloud services.
  - Oversee the delivery of IT support across the organization, ensuring minimal downtime and rapid resolution of issues.
  - Manage vendor relationships, negotiate contracts, and ensure the timely acquisition and maintenance of IT systems.
  - Define the enterprise information architecture.
3. **IT Governance and Risk Management**
  - Coordinate IT governance activities, ensuring that IT policies, procedures, and standards are aligned with best practices and regulatory requirements.
  - Lead enterprise IT risk management by identifying potential risks and implementing controls to mitigate those risks.
  - Ensure compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and standards in the management of IT assets and operations.
  - Regularly review IT performance metrics and provide reports to senior management on the state of the IT infrastructure.
4. **National Internet Critical Infrastructure Management**
  - Oversee the operations of critical national internet infrastructure, including the ccTLD (.ls) Registry and the Lesotho Internet Exchange Point (LIXP), ensuring high availability and security.
  - Plan, organize, and implement strategies for the continuous improvement of national internet infrastructure to support growing national demands.
  - Develop mechanisms and technical solutions to enhance the performance and visibility of the LIXP and ccTLD registry.
  - Ensure effective collaboration with internet exchange point peers and support registrars to ensure optimal technical operations.
5. **Stakeholder Engagement and Representation**
  - Engage with national, regional, and international stakeholders to promote the development and use of the LIXP and .ls domain registry.
  - Ensure the registry is involved in global internet governance activities, participating in regional and international forums related to domain names, numbering resources, and protocol assignments.
  - Act as the primary representative of the Registry and LIXP at local and international events, including technical forums, policy-making bodies, and industry conferences.
6. **Policy Development and Advocacy**
  - Coordinate the design and implementation of policies and methodologies to ensure active participation by the Lesotho internet community in global internet governance processes.
  - Advocate for the adoption of best practices in internet governance within Lesotho, promoting the interests of the local internet

community.

- Provide expert advice to government agencies and other stakeholders on matters related to ICT, internet governance, and infrastructure development.
7. **Technical Leadership and Support**
    - Lead the IT team in providing high-quality technical support for internal users and external stakeholders, ensuring a customer-focused approach.
    - Manage system upgrades, patch management, and backup strategies to ensure the reliability and security of IT systems.
    - Ensure that all national internet critical infrastructure systems are secure, reliable, and perform optimally, adhering to global standards for resilience and redundancy.
  8. **Managerial Roles & Responsibilities (In-House)**
    - Supervises the work of the section;
    - Mentors the staff of the section;
    - Participates in the preparation of sectional annual operational plans,
    - Prepares quarterly work plans, and budget and performance reports for the section;
    - Provides input in the process of developing skills and capacities to optimize performance;
    - Carries-out performance reviews and identifies any gaps that may be addressed through training and other capacity enhancement activities;
    - Participates in the formulation and implementation of the performance targets that relate to the section within the framework of the Performance Management System (PMS) of the Authority.
    - Participates in the timely preparation and production of sectional reports of all activities including budget and expenditure.
    - Performs any other relevant duties that may be assigned from time to time.

#### Qualifications

Bachelor's degree in Information Technology, Computer Science, or a related field. A Master's degree would be an added advantage.

#### Experience

- Minimum of 5-7 years of experience in IT management, preferably within the telecommunications or internet infrastructure sector.
- Experience in managing national internet infrastructure, including ccTLD and IXPs.
- Proven experience in IT governance, IT service management (ITIL), and risk management frameworks.
- Experience in managing large-scale ICT projects, including infrastructure upgrades, cybersecurity, and cloud services.
- Familiarity with global internet governance frameworks, including ICANN policies, IETF protocols, and best practices in domain name and numbering resource management.

#### Key Skills

- **Leadership and Management:** Strong leadership and team management skills, with the ability to inspire and guide IT teams in a fast-paced environment.
- **Strategic Thinking:** Ability to develop long-term IT strategies that align with organizational goals.
- **Technical Proficiency:** Deep understanding of IT systems, internet infrastructure, and emerging technologies relevant to national critical infrastructure.
- **Communication:** Excellent written and verbal communication skills to engage with both technical and non-technical stakeholders at all levels.
- **Problem-Solving:** Strong analytical skills with the ability to assess complex technical problems and develop effective solutions.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Ability to build and maintain relationships with local and international stakeholders in the ICT and internet governance fields.

#### Tenure

The position is permanent and pensionable.

#### Remuneration

The LCA offers an attractive and competitive package for the position.

#### How to Apply

Application letters accompanied by certified copies of relevant certificates, Curriculum Vitae and names and addresses of three referees should be emailed to: [hr@lca.org.ls](mailto:hr@lca.org.ls) on or before **11 October, 2024. At 12 noon.**



## Help us celebrate Lesotho Red Cross Day on 09th November 2024.

**Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) is for everyone. Join LRCS today. Volunteer your services, skill, and time with us in bringing change in your communities or wherever you are. Wear our cooperate colours (Red, Black and White) on that day and help someone on that day.**

**LRCS has been over 67 years maximizing existing capacity in alleviating human suffering by promoting and building resilience of the most vulnerable communities in Lesotho as well as inspiring, attracting and retaining skills and partners.**

**Learn First Aid with us and save lives. Anything can happen to anyone anywhere. Will you be able to save someone's life?**


**Come train with us and be a champion in saving lives.**



**LRCS volunteers offering First Aid demonstration at the Market.**

For more information contact: [redcross@redcross.org.ls](mailto:redcross@redcross.org.ls) Phone: **22323911**



				NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANIZATION			
GENERAL DOCUMENT							
DOCUMENT TITLE				Invitation Letter			
DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER		L4-GEN-PD-50		REVISION NUMBER		01	
EFFECTIVE DATE				25 January 2024			
NEXT REVIEW DATE				26 January 2026			

**INVITATION FOR THE BIDS (IFB)**  
**IFB No.: [NDSO/SOLAR-PANELS/2024/09]**

**Engagement of the Consulting Engineer(s) for the NDSO Solar Panels Project.**

- The National Drug Service Organization (NDSO) is the Central Medical Store for the Ministry of Health. It is mandated to **procure, store, and distribute** Medicines, Medical Supplies, and Laboratory Consumables for the Health Institutions in Lesotho. NDSO is legally gazetted through the Legal Notice Supplement No.4 to Gazette No.19 of the 2nd March 2007. NDSO has set aside funds for the engagement of both the Consulting Engineer(s) and the Contractor for the NDSO Solar Panel Project.
- NDSO now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the engagement of the Consulting Engineer(s) for the NDSO Solar Panels Project, the details are in the **Technical Specifications** of this Bidding Document.
- The margin of preference for the local Bidders shall be applied under the requirements of Clause 78 of the Government of Lesotho Public Procurement Act, 2023 during the evaluation. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- All interest bidders are expected to make a site visit at NDSO on Friday the 25th October 2024.
- The Bidding shall be conducted through National Competitive tendering procedures based on the Public Procurement Act, of 2023.
- It is expected that Bidders shall be notified about the outcome of the tender on or before [ 27th November 2024].
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at:  
National Drug Service Organization  
Main South One Road  
Mafeteng 900  
Lesotho  
Email address: [tenders@ndso.org.ls](mailto:tenders@ndso.org.ls)  
Telephone: +266 222 15 300
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LSL1000.00 (One Thousand Maloti only which is equivalent to South African Rand) on or before Thursday 31st October 2024 at the address below for Bidders who prefer the hard copy of the bidding document. The bidding document will be provided for free when shared electronically with the interested Bidders.
- Account details for payment for bidding documents:  
Account number: 9080001845574  
Account name: National Drug Service Organization  
Bank name: Standard Lesotho Bank  
Branch name: Mafeteng Branch  
Branch code: 060667  
Swift Code: SBICLSMX
- It is mandatory for the bidders to submit: (a) the bid form, (b) a bonafide certificate for bidding (c) bid security (these documents must be filled according to the Forms Provided In section V-The Forms), (d) tax clearance certificates (a certified copy of the Original document from the Lesotho Revenue Authority) and (e) Trader's license from Ministry of Trade and Industry ( A certified copy of the Original document issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and/ or any other relevant regulatory or statutory body). Non-compliance with this requirement **shall invalidate** their bids.
- The Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **1400 hours on [ 31st October 2024]**. All the bids must be accompanied by the Bid Security of **[Fifty Thousand Maloti (LSL50,000.00)]**. The Bid Security must be in the form of a Bank Guarantee issued by a reputable bank agreeable to NDSO. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend at the address below at **1430 hours on [31st October 2024]** at the address given below:  
The NDSO Procurement Committee  
National Drug Service Organization  
Main South One Road  
Mafeteng 900  
Lesotho  
M.G. Sefali (Mr)  
**Chairperson**  
The NDSO Procurement Committee



# Road Fund

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT SYSTEMS SUPPORT OFFICER

The Road Fund Secretariat requires the services of a suitably qualified Lesotho National to fill the position of **Systems Support Officer**.

**Job Purpose:**

To provide Information and Communication Technology (ICT) technical support services to the Road Fund Secretariat. The incumbent will ensure that all Systems Faults/Incidents are correctly prioritised for resolution in order to minimise downtime and meet the Service Level Agreement (SLA). This shall include appropriate escalation of issues through the ICT Manager as may be necessary.

**Qualifications, Working Experience and Knowledge:**

- Degree in Computer Science, Information Technology / Systems or related field, with at least four (4) years experience in the following Areas: IT Infrastructure, Systems Administration and Applications Support Systems;
- Network administration experience, with a CCNA or equivalent qualification and extensive knowledge of network security.

The successful candidate must be a holder of a valid driver's license with at least two (2) years driving experience in the highlands and be willing to travel to the districts as required.

**Remuneration:**

Salary will be in accordance with the Road Fund scales of remuneration, which are competitive and market related.

**Closing Date for applications: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 at 12:00 noon.**

Interested candidates may send their applications, complete with Curriculum Vitae, Certified Copies of Certificates of Academic Achievement, certified copy of driver's license, certified copies of National Identity Document and letters of reference from two referees to: The Head of Human Resources and Administration, Road Fund, P. O. Box 14644, Maseru 100 **OR** hand deliver at the Ground Floor Reception Office of the Road Fund Secretariat, situated at the former Department of Rural Roads, corner Senate and Moshoeshoe Roads Industrial Area, Maseru **OR** email to [recruitment@roadfund.org.ls](mailto:recruitment@roadfund.org.ls)

**Disclaimer:**

- Only applications received on or before the closing date and time will be considered;
- Correspondence will only be conducted with short-listed candidates;
- Road Fund reserves the right not to appoint if no suitable candidate is found.

For further details on the Systems Support Officer's job profile, please visit the Road Fund website: [www.roadfund.org.ls](http://www.roadfund.org.ls).

# The National University Of Lesotho



## OPPORTUNITY

The National University of Lesotho invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the following posts:

POST NO.	POSITION	DEPARTMENT / FACULTY	DEADLINE
2290	Lecturer/Senior Lecturer	Geography and Environmental Science / Science and Technology	13th October, 2024

For full job description please refer to NUL Website: [www.nul.ls](http://www.nul.ls) or visit our HR Office at Roma for a hard copy. Please **quote** the **post number** you are applying for. For further clarifications call +266 22340247 or +266 22340601 ext 3842/3844.

In your application letter, include the names and contact details of your **three (3) referees**

Please combine covering letter, CV, certificates and email them as one **PDF document**. All applications should be emailed to [dhr@nul.ls](mailto:dhr@nul.ls) and addressed to:

Director - Human Resources  
National University of Lesotho  
Roma 180 - Lesotho



## Advertisement

**VACANCY: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-CEAO**

Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) is the regulatory body for the communications sector in Lesotho. Following the adoption of the Lesotho Telecommunications Policy of 1999, the Authority was established by an Act of Parliament in 2000. Presently, the Authority operates under the Communications Act of 2012 for the regulation of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), Broadcasting and Postal Services.

LCA invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the position of **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-CEAO** reporting to the **Research Manager**.

**Job summary**

The incumbent shall report to the Chief Economic Affairs Officer and is responsible for performing administrative and other supportive duties to ensure smooth running of the Economics Sector Division to create a conducive and habitable working environment.

In this role, the incumbent will be responsible for scheduling meetings, taking notes, and handling correspondence on behalf of Chief Economic Affairs Officer and Sector Development Division managers. You may also be required to make travel arrangements and assist with other duties when required.

**Roles and responsibilities**

- Prepares, types, formats, edits Memos, documents, and presentations and other documents within Economics Sector Division
- Maintains and updates a systematic and accessible filing of all office documents of the Economics Sector Division.
- Receives, registers and uploads tariff related correspondence in the tariff database and any other correspondence
- Coordinate, schedule and manage CEOA's appointments, meetings, and prepares facilities and refreshments for scheduled events
- Prepares events, meetings and other appointments documentation for the CEOA and arranges refreshments, if required.
- Manages CEOA diary, scheduled appointments, maintains ESD events calendar, and sends reminders for CEOA.
- Manage internal and external correspondence on behalf of CEOA and the division
- Liaise with internal divisions, answers call, as well as taking notes and makes travel arrangements and accommodation bookings for the CEOA
- Initiate procurement process for ESD
- Receives and welcomes visitors for the office of the CEOA
- Ordering office supplies and replacements, refreshments

of the CEOA

- Manages mail and courier services.
- Performs any other relevant duties that may be assigned from time to time

**Advisory and Support Role**

The incumbent shall contribute and provide input in the development, institutionalization of policies, procedures and processes for the Authority with a view to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and improvement of general operations and service delivery.

**Qualifications**

Diploma in Office Administration and Management

**Experience**

The incumbent must have a minimum of 2 years working experience with basic knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures, computers and relevant software applications and customer service principles and practices.

**Required Skills and Competencies**

At the core of the skills, the AA shall maintain confidentiality with regard to LCA information. The AA shall be proactive and anticipate needs of the Division, have flexibility, be reliable and discreet and be able to get along with a wide variety of individuals.

**Desired skills and competencies include:**

- Fluent in written & spoken English and Sesotho;
- Extensive experience in creating documents and spreadsheets, using office software such as MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Effective communication, both written and oral,
- Tech-savviness and computer literate
- Proficiency in appointment scheduling software such as MS Outlook, as well as call forwarding.
- MS Office and English proficiency
- Ability to multitask and prioritize daily workload
- Working knowledge of printers, copiers, scanners, and fax machines.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills.
- Advanced typing, note-taking, recordkeeping, and organizational skills.

**Tenure**

The position is permanent and pensionable

**Remuneration**

The LCA offers an attractive and competitive package for the position

**How to Apply**

Application letters accompanied by certified copies of relevant certificates, Curriculum Vitae and names and addresses of three referees should be emailed to: [hr@lca.org.ls](mailto:hr@lca.org.ls) on or before **11 October, 2024. At 12 noon.**





Fees	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



# Lesotho entrepreneur to showcase work in Paris

A local entrepreneur from Lesotho, alongside peers from South Africa and Malawi, showcased their creative industry businesses to potential investors at the prestigious Création Africa Days event held at the French Residence in Pretoria, South Africa, on September 17, 2024.

The 12 finalists, selected from over 700 applicants, represented various creative sectors including fashion, video games, and audiovisual production.

They presented their innovative work to key figures in the cultural and creative industries, to secure international investment and scale their businesses globally.

SourceCode Motion Pictures, hailing from Maseru in Lesotho, was among the featured participants. Founder Katleho Monyako said they specialise in innovative visual storytelling through 3D animation, VFX, and cutting-edge technologies like Unreal Engine.

"Lesotho's creative industry is still in its infancy. We have stories that have never been told - we can preserve our culture and stories for future generations through 3D animation and VFX," said Monyako.

The event was the culmination of the

Création Africa programme, a M24 million initiative funded by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

The programme, designed to foster creative entrepreneurship, provides African talent with mentorship, business development skills, and access to seed funding.

"These entrepreneurs represent the future of Africa's creative industries," said French Ambassador David Martinon, who hosted the event at his residence.

"By equipping them with the tools to succeed, we are promoting not only innovation but also economic growth in South Africa, Malawi, Lesotho, and beyond."

In addition to the showcase at the French Residence, the finalists participated in networking sessions in Johannesburg, where they strengthened ties with key players in the local cultural and creative industry (CCI) and French economic partners.

In October, they will travel to Paris to take part in BIG 2024, Europe's largest business and investment forum. This prestigious event offers the finalists an opportunity to expand their global networks, forge new partnerships, and further their



Création Africa Days Katleho Monyako Ambassador Martinon

impact on the creative industries.

The twelve finalists include SourceCode Motion Pictures from Lesotho, Ananta Design Studio, Giya, LSJ Clothing and Merchandising/Butan, Moodswing, Pineap-

ple on Pizza Studios, Renaissance Design, SpaceSalad Studios, Tendalo Trading, and Thebe Magugu from South Africa; and Kwacha Creative Studios and Terry Made Designs from Malawi.



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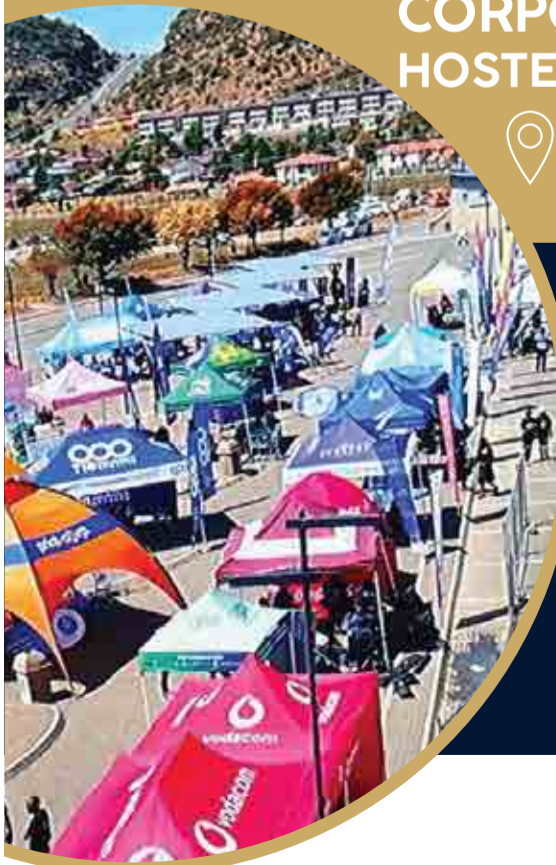
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## SPORTS

# Elite runner, Khatoane, becomes instant millionaire

**Seabata Mahao**

Lesotho's seasoned marathoner, Jobo Khatoane, has secured a historic victory by winning M1 million after conquering the recent 42.2 kilometer Mpumalanga Standard Marathon.

Dubbed the One Million Race, the event saw Khatoane cross the finish line in 2:18:03 hours, and marked a significant milestone as the first marathon on the continent where the winner becomes a millionaire.

Khatoane fended off stiff competition from the likes of the two-time Cape Town Marathon winner, Asefa Mengstu Negewo of Ethiopia, the 2022 Two Oceans Marathon runner-up, Nkosikhona Mhlakwana, and a host of other elite athletes who tackled the challenging 42.2km route through Nelspruit, from Dayizenza to Riverside Mall in Mbombela.

But in the end it was Khatoane who prevailed and secured the record-setting M1 million prize. Following his sensational victory, Khatoane expressed gratitude and shared his initial apprehension about the race.

"With the big prize money on offer and all the top runners present, I was nervous at the start and ran the first 10 km quite conservatively," he said.

"But then I caught up with Bong'musa Mthembu at the 10 km mark. He shouted at me to stop jogging and start running, telling

me not to wait for the East Africans because they would outspurt me at the end. I took his advice, and Lucky Mohale kept up with me until I dropped him on a hill around the 13 km mark," Khatoane recounted.

He credited his coach, Martin Ngwenya, for crafting a robust strategy and an intense training regimen.

"I feel so happy because this is my first major win since I started working with Ngwenya. Although I initially struggled with his program two years ago, my body has now adapted well. I was confident after leading the Comrades Marathon to the halfway point earlier this year."

"I knew that a 42km race is shorter than reaching the halfway mark at the Comrades, and the Comrades course is much tougher. I also love hilly courses. Tough races are where my muscles thrive. I am thrilled to be the first African to win a million," he explained.

After securing such a significant prize, most athletes would rest for the remainder of the year. But Khatoane has more ambitions for 2024. The African Bank Soweto Marathon, traditionally dominated by Leso-

tho runners, holds a special place in his heart. Having finished seventh in 2022 and fifth last year, Khatoane feels he has unfinished business with the race.

Despite his newfound millionaire status, Khatoane remains determined to compete in more races in 2024.

Meanwhile, in the same marathon, Khatoane's compatriot, Lekhotla Pulinyana, also achieved an impressive fourth-place finish, clocking in at 2:21:16 and earning M50, 000 in the process.



# Mzamane relishes top-flight challenge

**Seabata Mahao**

Mokhotlong-based Mzamane Football Club (FC) is set for a challenging debut in the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) with an opening day encounter against Bantu FC to kick-start the 2024/25 season this weekend.

Mzamane will travel to Mohale's Hoek District Football Association Ground for their maiden VPL appearance against the 2022/23 champions.

In an exclusive interview with Newsday Sports, Mzamane's head coach, Liteboho Ramantsoe, expressed confidence that his team is prepared to compete at the highest level.

"I am proud of my players for making it this far in what has been a tough journey," Ramantsoe said.

"We are ready to give these premier league clubs serious competition, and we expect the same from them. We've earned our place among the elite, and we're determined to perform like a premier club."

This will mark Mzamane FC's first-ever match against the former VPL champions, Bantu. While Ramantsoe expressed respect for their opponents, he emphasised Mzamane's determination to make their own mark in the league.

"We hold Bantu FC in high regard and admire their success in the premier league. But we are here to establish our own legacy, and we're ready to compete. One of our key objectives this season is to secure our place in the VPL and continue building a stronger team," he added.

Mzamane has made significant changes to its squad in preparation for the upcoming

season.

"We've released three of our goalkeepers from the A-Division team and signed five key players from top premier league clubs. We are confident these additions will strengthen our team and make us competitive this season," Ramantsoe said.

However, the club faces challenges in attracting new talent due to financial constraints. Ramantsoe acknowledged that without the ability to offer salaries, it has been difficult to compete for players.

As for their home ground in Mokhotlong, Ramantsoe mentioned that the club is awaiting inspection by officials from the Lesotho Football Association (LEFA) club licensing committee. The inspection of Mokhotlong Pitso Ground is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2024.

"We have a good playing surface here in Mokhotlong, where we've hosted A-Division matches. Although the ground doesn't have fitted turf or grass, it is well-marked and has proper facilities for teams and spectators," he said.

"If approved, playing at our home ground would significantly boost our revenue through gate-takings, which is crucial since we don't have official sponsors."

Ramantsoe also highlighted the club's long-standing partnerships with two Mokhotlong-based companies, Ntja-Mokoatle and Siea-O-Butse, which have provided support throughout their journey.

Earlier this month, the Premier League Management Committee (PLMC) declared Mokhotlong Pitso Ground unsuitable for



hosting top-flight matches. If the upcoming inspection is unsuccessful, Mzamane will be forced to play their home matches in Maputsoe, Leribe, over 200 kilometers away.

This would be a major setback for the club, as it would not only deprive them of home

support, which is crucial for smaller teams, but also increase their operational costs.

Mzamane is the first club from Mokhotlong to reach the premier league in recent years, following Balefe FC's near-promotion many years ago.







20 September - 26 September 2024

## Venue headache for 'homeless' LCS



### Seabata Mahao

LCS Football Club (FC) is set to start their 2024/25 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) campaign away from their usual home ground, the LCS Ground, after the Premier League suspended the facility due to sponsorship conflicts.

The issue arose because the LCS Ground is currently branded with promotional content from Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL), a direct competitor of Vodacom Lesotho, the league's primary sponsor.

This publication understands that

Vodacom has demanded the removal of ETL branding and threatened to suspend the ground from hosting games if the issue is not resolved.

In response, the Premier League Management Committee (PLMC) has temporarily suspended the LCS Ground from hosting Premier League games.

"Please note that the LCS Ground has been suspended from hosting Premier League games until further notice. As stated in the memo issued on the 5th of August 2024, there are unresolved issues with the league sponsor. The situation remains unchanged," the PLMC said

in a notice to all clubs.

LCS Football Club has clarified that it is not responsible for the ground's branding, as the facility is owned by the Lesotho Correctional Service (LCS) management, which has a branding agreement with ETL.

LCS Public Relations Officer, Pheko Ntobane, speaking on behalf of both LCS and LCS FC, stated that the LCS management signed a one-year branding deal with ETL, and the football club has no authority over this partnership.

"We do not own LCS Ground; we simply use it to host our home matches. If

necessary, we will hire another ground, like other clubs do," Ntobane explained.

"We are hopeful that all stakeholders will reach an understanding that benefits everyone. We hope they agree to cover the branding during Premier League matches so that the games can proceed as scheduled."

In the latest Premier League fixture list, LCS is set to host ACE Maseru FC at Ratjomose ground for their league opener. Masheshena as LCS is affectionately known, will use the venue as its home ground for the remainder of the season, according to the fixture list.



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