

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

Newsday

...pacing standards

11 October - 17 October, 2024

www.newsdayonline.co.ls

Vol 06 No 36

News

Mofomobe's quickie arrest: Blink and you miss it

Page 4

News

Mofomobe's quickie arrest: Blink and you miss it

Page 13

7 INDIANS BUSTED IN MARIJUANA POSSESSION



• They also face charges for staying in the country illegally

Page 4



Elevate your farming game with Lesotho's ONLY Agriculture publication "SEAHLOLO"

Catch Us



Bokamoso FM

On Thursdays at 7:30 PM



Quo vadis, Lesotho?

• A nation at a crossroads in the pursuit of reform

Ntsoaki Motaung

His Majesty King Letsie III delivered a sobering message during the Bicentenary and 58th Independence Day celebrations at Setsoto Stadium in Maseru, asserting that the beauty of Lesotho's laws means nothing if the country's leaders remain mired in outdated, harmful practices.

In his address, the King reiterated sentiments he expressed years ago, stressing that the ongoing comprehensive national reforms, which have stalled multiple times, are not sufficient to address the country's challenges.

"It is crucial to repeat these words, especially now as we embark on implementing the public's views. The people do not want to be disappointed," he stated.

Drawing inspiration from the nation's founding father, Morena Moshoeshoe I, the King urged the Basotho to cultivate selflessness and prioritise the public's interests for the sake of harmony.

He indicated that Morena Moshoeshoe I was selfless, which allowed him to unite people from various tribes to form the nation of Basotho in 1824.

The King identified pressing challenges such as hunger, poverty, unemployment, gender-based violence, and killings, asserting that these could be overcome if the nation is guided by truth

and justice.

He expressed pride in the progress of national reforms, which have been shaped by public input, stating: "Parliament has begun the journey of implementing the public's views. Everyone hopes that our representatives will complete this important work."

The reforms, meant to usher in a new era of stability in the country, are the result of years of discussions among political parties, civil society, and other role players, mediated by the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The backdrop of political turmoil adds weight to the King's remarks.

In 2022, after the previous parliament failed to pass the 10th Amendment to the Constitution Bill 2022, commonly known as the Omnibus Bill, the Council of State advised then-Prime Minister Dr. Moeketsi Majoro to declare a state of emergency due to pressure from various stakeholders.

This state of emergency was one of two conditions that allowed a dissolved parliament to be recalled.

The Omnibus Bill aimed to amend crucial provisions regarding political parties, floor-crossing in parliament, the appointment of senior officials, and the role of the prime minister.

In declaring the state of emergency, Majoro highlighted that the failure to pass the bill would lead to unchecked politicisation of the public service, including security agencies, and create loopholes in the constitution.

He warned that these issues were undermining political stability, justice, and peace in the country.

"Unless the stated undesirable condition is addressed, it is likely to escalate beyond control, further threatening the peace, safety, and stability of the Basotho nation," Majoro stated.

Following the declaration, His Majesty King Letsie III recalled parliament to pass the Omnibus Bill and the National Assembly Electoral Act Amendment Bill 2022.

Both bills, along with several others, were subsequently passed. However, on September 12, 2022, the High Court, sitting as the Constitutional Court, ruled that the state of emergency and the reconvening of parliament were null and void, rendering all laws passed by the recalled parliament also null and void.

Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane, along with Justices Tšeliso Monapathi and Mafelile Ralebese, presided over the case.

Majoro and Attorney General Advocate Rapelang Motsieloa appealed the ruling, but the Court of Appeal dismissed their appeal on September 19, 2022, with costs.

As the national assembly elections approached on October 7, 2022, political parties vowed to ensure that the reform process would continue if they were elected.

During his inauguration on October 28, 2022, Matekane emphasised the urgency of expediting ongoing national reforms, thanking South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa and Justice Dikgang Moseneke for their efforts in leading the national dialogue and reform agenda.

"I promise to expedite the successful completion of the national agenda on our journey towards the Lesotho we want," he affirmed.

In August 2023, when the government attempted to revive the Omnibus Bill to its previous stage before parliament's dissolution in 2022, local activists quickly challenged this in the High Court, arguing that resuscitating bills to the stage they had reached was unconstitutional.

Ultimately, the High Court ruled in favour of parliament's authority to regulate its procedures.

However, this decision was appealed, and the Appeal Court sided with the activists, stating that parliament could not resurrect dead bills.

As a result, the Omnibus Bill was divided into three separate bills: the 10th Amendment to the Constitution Bill, which requires a simple majority to pass; the 11th Amendment

to the Constitution Bill, which requires a two-thirds majority; and the 12th Amendment to the Constitution Bill, which will require a referendum to pass and is yet to be tabled in parliament.

Also speaking at the Setsoto Stadium during the celebrations, Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane reaffirmed the government's commitment to pursuing the reform agenda, believing it is the only path to provide Basotho with the Lesotho they desire.

"We have made significant progress on the reforms. The first part of the three components of the constitutional amendment, the 10th amendment regarding the simple majority amendments—has been passed by the National Assembly. Given our history, this is a huge milestone," Matekane declared.

The Prime Minister indicated that once Parliament resumes, the Senate will address the 10th amendment, while the National Assembly will deliberate on the 11th and 12th amendments with a collective leadership approach.

Despite claims of significant progress on the reform agenda, the reality on the ground tells a different story.

Matekane's assurance that the first part of the constitutional amendment has been passed by the National Assembly is overshadowed by the bitter truth that the country is still mired in crisis.

The Prime Minister's optimism contrasts sharply with the frustration felt by ordinary Basotho, who are left grappling with the repercussions of politicians more focused on political maneuvering than tangible solutions.

Calls for a complete overhaul of Lesotho's constitution are growing louder as disillusioned citizens demand meaningful reforms to address their pressing needs.

However, the government remains stubbornly attached to a piecemeal approach, seemingly prioritising political convenience over the urgent cries for change.

This half-hearted strategy is not only inadequate but is also likely to face legal challenges in court, which could ultimately render a ny progress meaningless.



Newsday (+266) 2231 4267 / 5945 8983

Carlton Centre
3rd Floor
Room 302
Kingsway
Maseru

PUBLISHER
Newsday Media (Pty) (Ltd)
Maseru

MANAGING EDITOR
Lerato Matheka
managingeditor@newsdayonline.co.ls

NEWS EDITOR
Kananelo Boloetse
editor@newsdayonline.co.ls

SUB EDITOR
Bereng Mpaki

NEWS ROOM
Ntsoaki Motaung
Seabata Mahao
Relebohile Makhetha
Libuseng Molato
Lehlohonolo Motšoar

CONTRIBUTORS
Theko Tlebere
Motsamai Mokofo

PRODUCTION
Bolokang Mahlo
Bataung Monaheng

VIDEOGRAPHER
Pheello Mosesi

DISTRIBUTION
Mahlo Bolokang

MARKETING
Tefah Sello
Mosa Lekhooa
Tumelo Ramotsoane
marketing@newsdayonline.co.ls

WEBSITE
www.newsdayonline.co.ls

FACEBOOK
Newsday Newspaper LS
X
@LsNewsday

INSTAGRAM
Newsday Lesotho

PRINTER
Thabure Media Group
Maseru, Lesotho

**RAM
PLAN**
Ho checha hoo ramo hase
ho baleha



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.

7 Indians busted in marijuana possession

• *They also face charges for staying in the country illegally*



Relebohile Makhetha

The escalating substance abuse problem in the country reached a new chapter this week when seven Indian nationals appeared before Chief Magistrate 'Matankiso Nthunya at the Maseru Magistrate's Court.

The accused – Vinod Makashi (35), Tejinder Singh (25), Brajesh Yadav, Anuj Sharma (20), Banty (28), Mohit (23), and Ramandeep Singh (34) – who all reside at Katlehong in Maseru, were released on M500 bail each after being charged with unlawful and intentional possession of dagga.

The group was apprehended with a total of 21 packets ("bankies") of dagga, one sachet, and four dagga joints, prompting serious charges under section 91(2) read with section 109 of the Penal Code Act No. 6 of 2010.

As the country struggles with an emerging drug crisis that threatens the health and future of its younger population, this case highlights the urgent need for effective measures to combat substance abuse.

In addition to the drug-related charges, some of the accused face allegations regarding their immigration status.

Makashi, Tejinder Singh, Yadav, Sharma, Banty, and Mohit were also charged under section 7(5) read with section 33(2) of the Aliens Control Act for unlawfully remaining in Lesotho with expired residential documents.

They were granted free bail for these charges.

Ramandeep Singh faces separate charges for allegedly residing in Lesotho without a valid passport, also granted free bail under section 5(2)(c) and (3) of the Aliens Control Act.

The follow-up court hearing is scheduled for October 22, when the legal repercussions will be examined further.

Meanwhile, Lefela Maroi (46) from Thoteng, Mohale's Hoek, and Tšepo Makama (46) from Mapeseleng Ha Abia, both employees of ML Trading in Ha Hoohlo, Maseru, were granted M2,000 bail each by the

Maseru Magistrate's Court on October 3.

They are facing charges of theft and perjury.

According to police reports, the two men allegedly staged a robbery, with Maroi, the driver, falsely claiming he had been hijacked at gunpoint by three men, who reportedly stole over M55,000 in cash, along with a phone and a laptop.

However, further investigation led police to Makama's residence, where the stolen money and phone were found buried in the yard.

The accused are scheduled to reappear in court on October 16.

In Berea district Tlotliso Mtoa (31) from Ha Poqa, Berea; Sechaba Mokone (25) from Ha 'Mathata, Leribe; and Bokang Makepi (32) from Ha Telukhunoana, appeared before the Berea Magistrate Court on September 30.

They were charged with the murder of a 27-year-old man. Police reports indicate that on September 28, the deceased and the accused were at a local tavern and later left together.

Near Ha Telukhunoana, an altercation arose when the accused attempted to take the deceased to an initiation school, which he resisted. It is alleged that they assaulted the deceased with sticks, leaving him unconscious. He was later found by the police and rushed to the hospital but died on the way.

In another case, four men from Berea district were found guilty of illegal firearm possession after appearing in court following a police operation at Lefikeng Ha 'Mamathe on October 2.

Masia Ramakhula (47) from Ha Rapalo was found with a .38 Special revolver and sentenced to two years in prison or a fine of M2000.

Makeka Motšoane (36) from Ha Rapalo was found with an SP1 9mm firearm and sentenced to four years or a fine of M4000. Lesiamo Mphasa (33) from Ha

Rapalo was found with a Noringo 9mm firearm and sentenced to three years or a fine of M3000. Kutoane Koloba (49) from Ha Phalatsane was found with a .38 Special revolver and sentenced to two years or a fine of M2000. All the four men were able to pay the fines.

They are believed to be linked to a local gang known as "Liala Mabatha," with Masia allegedly being their leader.

Moreover, Phinithi Lebetla (64) from Maseru East has been sentenced to two years in jail or a fine of M2000 after being found guilty of illegal possession of a firearm, which he paid.

Senoko Marou (26) from Ketane Ha Rasephokoane, residing in Semonkong, was sentenced to a suspended five-year term in prison or a fine of M5,000, after being found guilty of possessing a firearm and ammunition.

In Thaba-Tseka district, Tholang Nape (23) from Ha Tšiu appeared before the Thaba-Tseka Magistrate Court. He was convicted of assault with intent to cause grievous harm and theft.

He was sentenced to eight years in prison or a fine of M10000 for the assault and one year or M5000 for the theft, both of which he failed to pay. According to police reports, on October 1, Nape attacked a fellow villager with a stick, and after the victim fell, Nape stole his car keys and fled.

The community apprehended him and handed him over to the police. It is suspected that Nape may be involved in drug dealing.

In another incident in Thaba-Tseka, the police received reports of break-ins at a local business and a primary school. Clothing, shoes, groceries, pickaxes, an axe, and cash were stolen.

The police arrested Tšelisio Tjokofa (20) from Mhlanapeng in connection with the break-ins, who was found guilty by the court and sentenced to 30 years in prison or a fine of M30000, which he was unable to pay.

Mofomobe's quickie arrest: Blink and you miss it

Staff Reporter



A warrant of arrest was issued yesterday by the Maseru Magistrate Court for the leader of the opposition Basotho National Party (BNP), Machesetsa Mofomobe, in connection with charges of defeating the ends of justice.

The warrant, reportedly sought by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO), though its spokesperson, 'Matlhokomelo Senoko, claimed to be unaware of such developments when questioned, has sparked a wave of controversy as Mofomobe last night criticised the handling of his arrest.

Mofomobe confirmed his arrest.

"Yes, I was arrested by the DCEO, but there was no need for a warrant. They could have called me, talked to me, and I would have cooperated with them," he said.

He further defended his track record

of cooperating with law enforcement, emphasising that politicians, like all Basotho citizens, must comply with the law when properly requested by authorities.

"Every politician, when wanted by police in accordance with the law, should assist the police in doing their job. Every Mosotho, when wanted by police and this being done in accordance with the law, should also assist the police," he said.

Mofomobe's arrest is allegedly linked to accusations that he leaked a confidential DCEO report that was later published by the Lesotho Times.

The report exposed a massive M109 million corruption scandal involving fraudulent tenders for agricultural inputs at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition.

Senior officials are accused of bypassing competitive bidding procedures to steer lucrative contracts to fa-

voured companies, inflating payments, and pocketing kickbacks.

The leaked report implicates top officials in the Ministry of Agriculture in orchestrating the multi-million malfeasance, which occurred between 2021 and 2022.

The scheme is alleged to have involved illicit transfers continuing into 2023.

While the DCEO remains tight-lipped on the arrest, Mofomobe, however, was defiant yesterday.

"If members of the NSS [National Security Service] can arrive at my home and demand my cellphones without complying with the law, I will refuse, then go to court to challenge them and win against them," he said.

The BNP leader insisted that the arrest was a needless show of force, reaffirming his willingness to comply with the law but only when due process is followed.

It's high time to turn the "Right to Foods" for a healthy, nutritious and affordable diet into reality

By Dr QU Dongyu,

Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

This year the theme for World Food Day is "Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future." It's a timely reminder that all people have the right to adequate foods.

But how do we get from a right to a reality? And why is it so important to think about not just having sufficient food, but also the diversity of diets? That's why I speak of "Foods" in the plural, emphasizing this diversity, as well as food availability, food accessibility and food affordability for all.

Right now, the world's farmers produce more than enough food to feed the global population in terms of calories. Yet around 730 million people are facing hunger due to man-made and natural disasters, including conflict, recurrent weather shocks, inequalities and economic downturns.

Billions lack healthy diets

Another harsh reality is that over 2.8 billion people in the world are unable to afford a healthy diet, which is a leading cause of all forms of malnutrition.

Simply put, almost one third the global population today is not getting the nutrients and micronutrients they need to thrive and, in some cases, survive. This means that the quality of life for roughly half the world is more urgently in need of improvement.

We need a greater diversity of nutritious and affordable foods to be available in our fields, fishing nets, markets and on our tables, for the benefit of all. This is not just about populations' nutritional requirements, but also about ensuring that our agrifood systems are efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, so that they can be respectful of traditional food cultures and healthy diets based on science and in line with personal preferences.

Another crucial consideration is the long-term health and sustainability of the environment on which we rely to produce these foods and which needs biodiversity to thrive.

The right to foods will not in itself fill stomachs or put more diverse diets on plates. But it does help frame our collective aspirations for the kind of just and equitable world we want to



FAO Director General Qu Dongyu portrait

live in. It creates concrete obligations for governments and key partners to fulfil, and it should encourage all of us to do our part to ensure it is realized.

This is the reason for action. Now.

FAO's role

At the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) we are working hard to turn this right into a reality, even in the face of a range of challenges. In conflict zones, access to foods is being disrupted, leading to malnutrition and hunger. In these and other hunger hotspots, FAO's efforts are focused on rebuilding agricultural infrastructure to ensure food availability and accessibility for long-term food security, with all tools and channels.

Aside from such emergency interventions, key FAO programmes such as the Hand in Hand initiative, One Country One Priority Product, Blue Economy and Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs) also target medium to long term food security and nutrition across a wide range of countries.

In many places, dietary changes and market concentration driven by globalization have led to increased

health issues, including obesity and diabetes. School feeding programmes supported by FAO play an important role in helping address these challenges, as they source food from local farmers and ensure children receive nutritious meals.

In many countries, across all regions, FAO is working with fishing communities and local governments to expand social protection and economic inclusion of the most vulnerable by helping them diversify their production, build alternative income sources and connect to new markets.

Inflation, particularly during periods of economic instability, can make food unaffordable. In some African countries for example FAO's initiatives include cash transfers to the poorest households, helping them afford food during hyperinflation.

The climate crisis poses a significant threat to global food security. Erratic weather patterns and natural disasters can devastate crops and livestock. For example, in some countries in Asia FAO has introduced climate-smart agriculture techniques to help farmers adapt to changing climatic conditions, ensuring consistent

food production.

Furthermore, by working closely with governments, FAO helps develop legal frameworks and has assisted in drafting national policies towards ensuring food security and nutrition for all.

Collective action needed

But it's not just governments which we call upon to engage in this battle. Collective action can drive substantial change, with global collaboration from all sectors, and all partners - governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, and individuals.

And especially the youth - because a food secure future is their right.

They design and decide the future. All calls from the UN Summit of the Future are determined by their actions.

Farmers can make a difference by practising sustainable agriculture that enhances biodiversity and manages natural resources responsibly. Businesses can make nutritious and diverse foods available more affordably. Academia and civil society can hold governments accountable by collecting data, identifying areas for improvement, implementing sci-entech solutions and measuring progress towards targets.

Science and innovation including IT, Biotechnology, AI and Digital Agriculture, and others, will be a decisive force for agrifood systems transformation.

Finally, all of us as consumers can and should play our role in reducing the "foodprint", practicing healthy lifestyles, raising our voices to influence decision-making, reducing food waste, and promoting food diversity.

This World Food Day let us renew our commitment to build more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable agrifood systems that honour everyone's right to varied and nutritious foods.

Together, we can get back on track to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - our collective pledge to take action for people, planet, and prosperity. We can accomplish this by transforming global agrifood systems to ensure the Four Betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life - leaving no one behind.

Our Actions are our Future.



BUSINESS

Young lioness Molapo aces regional business competition

Thikhoi Constance Molapo, a HigherLife Foundation Lesotho fellow and student at Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of Southern Africa, has emerged victorious at the Allan Gray Business Pitch Competition, clinching first position in a contest bustling with over 200 young entrepreneurs from the southern Africa region. Molapo secured first place during the grand event held in Sandton, Johannesburg, from October 4-6. Her success, achieved through hard work, mentorship, and a strong entrepreneurial vision, has made waves across Lesotho and beyond. In this heart-to-heart interview, Thikhoi opens up about her journey, the lessons learned, and what the future holds for her as a young entrepreneur.

Who is Thikhoi Constance Molapo?

I am an 18-year-old from Leribe. I was raised in a family of four, where my parents instilled in me the values of hard work and education. I have a sister who is currently studying medicine, which motivates me to strive for excellence. I attended St. Monica's Primary School, where I excelled in my studies, achieving advanced levels in all subjects. I then moved on to Holy Family High School, graduating among the top ten students. My journey continued with the Higher Life Foundation Merit Scholarship, which allowed me to study in Zimbabwe for a year at Star Leadership Academy. Currently, I am pursuing the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Waterford Kamhlaba Eswatini United World Colleges.

You have just recently clinched the Allan Gray Business Pitch Competition. How did you know about this prestigious competition?

I learned about the Allan Gray Business

Pitch Competition through my school, Waterford Kamhlaba, where we are constantly introduced to various opportunities for personal and professional development. The school's commitment to fostering an entrepreneurial spirit made it easy for me to discover and participate in this prestigious competition.

What inspired you to participate in the competition?

My passion for entrepreneurship and innovation inspired me to participate. I wanted to challenge myself, gain valuable experience, and network with like-minded individuals. The opportunity to secure funding for my business idea was also a significant motivating factor.

How did you prepare for this challenging competition?

Preparation for the competition involved extensive research on my business idea, creating a solid pitch, and practising my presentation skills. I sought feedback from mentors and peers, which helped refine my approach. Additionally, I participated in workshops and coaching sessions, including invaluable guidance from Meliswa Mthethwa.

What was your experience rubbing shoulders with some of the talented students from the countries that participated?

Rubbing shoulders with talented students from Eswatini, Botswana, South Africa, and Namibia was both inspiring and humbling. It was incredible to see the diversity of ideas and the passion that each participant brought to the competition. The collaborative environment fostered creativity and encouraged us to learn from one another.

After making it through to the top 10, take

us through what went through your mind; were you optimistic that you had what it takes to make it to the grand prize? Reaching the top 10 was an exhilarating moment. I felt a mix of excitement and nervousness, but I was optimistic. The coaching and preparation I received gave me confidence in my ability to perform well. I believed that my hard work and dedication would pay off.

And after being announced as the grand prize winner, how did you feel?

When my name was announced as the grand prize winner, I felt an overwhelming sense of joy and disbelief. It was a culmination of months of hard work and perseverance. I was grateful for the recognition and excited about the opportunities that lay ahead.

After having taken a moment to reflect on this accomplishment as a Higher Life Foundation Fellow, what would you like your win to mean for the entire Econet & Higher Life Foundation family?

I hope my win serves as an inspiration to fellow Higher Life Foundation Fellows and the broader Econet community. It reflects the support and guidance we receive and demonstrates that with hard work and determination, we can achieve our goals. I want this to encourage others to pursue their dreams fearlessly.

Can you share the idea that you pitched and where to with it now that you walked away with the ultimate prize?

I pitched a business idea centered around an innovative cyclic electro-culture process that uses electricity to grow plants, designed to enhance agricultural productivity and improve food security in Lesotho. This approach



Thikhoi Constance Molapo

not only optimises resource use but also has the potential to create jobs in both the agricultural and technology sectors. With the additional capital of 45,000 from the STEAM Competition, I plan to develop a prototype that can be scaled up for commercialisation. My vision includes establishing a Key Performance Area (KPA) focused on sustainable growth and efficiency, which will facilitate an import-export-driven economy. By fostering local production and export capabilities, this initiative aims to drive economic growth and create job opportunities, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and prosperous community.

What is your advice to your fellow young Basotho regarding opportunities of this nature?

I urge fellow young Basotho to seize every opportunity that comes their way. Engage in competitions and programs that challenge you, and do not hesitate to seek mentorship. Believe in your ideas, stay resilient in the face of challenges, and always be open to learning and growth. Your potential is limitless.

Celebrating 5 years of E-Legal Solutions

... and the success of the Molao le Khoebo initiative



This year, E-Legal Solutions Inc. proudly marks five years of providing dynamic and innovative

legal services to businesses and individuals across the country.

As we reflect on this milestone, we are inspired by the progress we've made and the strides we continue to achieve, particularly through our flagship initiative, Molao le Khoebo.

E-Legal Solutions was founded with a vision to bridge the gap between legal services and business growth, and over the past five years, we have stayed true to this mission. Our services have empowered entrepreneurs, SMMEs, and corporate entities to navigate the complex legal landscape of Lesotho, ensuring compliance and fostering sustainable growth.

One of the key elements of our success has been the Molao le Khoebo initiative, which translates to Law and Business. This initiative was launched to demystify legal concepts and educate business owners on their rights, responsibilities, and the legal frameworks that impact their enterprises. Through workshops, seminars, and the recently launched Molao le Khoebo Weekly Bulletin, we have reached hundreds of business owners, equipping them with the knowledge to make informed decisions.

In line with this initiative, we are excited to announce our next workshop on the 31st of October 2024. The workshop will focus on Corporate Governance and the Role of Shareholders, a critical topic for business owners and aspiring investors alike. As Lesotho's business landscape evolves, we believe that equipping entrepreneurs with the right legal tools is key to fostering long-term success and sustainability.

The journey so far has been incredibly rewarding, and we remain committed to advancing access to legal education and services. We invite everyone interested in learning more about corporate governance, shares, and how these concepts affect businesses to join us on the 31st.

As we celebrate this important milestone for E-Legal Solutions, we are deeply grateful to our clients, partners, and the community that has supported us throughout these five years. We look forward to many more years of serving Lesotho and advancing legal awareness under the Molao le Khoebo banner.

For more information about our services and upcoming workshops, visit www.e-legal.solutions.

NOTICE OF COMPANY DEREGISTRATION

Notice is hereby given an awareness of company deregistration for company named MODERN MAKOTI (PTY) LTD, No 87429. All persons posing an objection to the above mentioned de-registration are hereby requested to lodge such objections in writing with the registrar of deeds within three(3) weeks from the last publication of this notice. Notice by Makhetha Thaele

NOTICE

Notice is hereby made to the public, by the family of Tseleng Kheleli, that regarding a plot of land Plot No 12304/2157 at Qoaling Ha-Besele, MASOWE I, under MASOWE High School, to take note that such a plot is not available to any party that may deem it of interest, as the family has written a letter to LAA Legal, seeking assistance that such a plot is not to be leased to anyone, and the family has therefore, filled forms and received approval to prohibit usage of such a plot without the consent of the family as Tseleng Kheleli is the rightful heir.

HEALTH



King Letsie III urges action on nutrition

Ntsoaki Motaung

At the celebration of Lesotho's Bicentenary and 58th Independence last Friday, His Majesty King Letsie III, who has served as the African Union (AU) Nutrition Champion since 2014, highlighted the ongoing challenges the country faces regarding nutrition.

In his role, King Letsie III has raised awareness about the severe levels of malnutrition across Africa.

The King addressed the pressing issues of hunger, poverty, disease, and climate change, noting how these crises threaten to undo the progress made over the past century.

"In Lesotho, climate change exacerbates environmental degradation, impacting agriculture, water resources, and energy supplies, leading to food shortages that have forced the government to declare a state of emergency in



food security," he said.

He reaffirmed his commitment to address-

ing these challenges, stating that he and the government are dedicated to seizing every opportunity to promote greater self-sufficiency in Lesotho.

As the country marks its Bicentenary, the King emphasised that every Mosotho with

access to farming land has a responsibility to actively participate in initiatives that promote

food security and agriculture, aiming for national independence in this area.

He acknowledged the government's readiness, through the Ministry of Agriculture, to support and guide the public in these efforts.

King Letsie III also praised the ministry for its outstanding work in promoting food security, particularly through community nutrition clubs that produce agricultural products essential for good nutrition.

"Nutrition clubs support my work as the United Nations Nutrition Champion," King Letsie III said, highlighting the critical role nutrition plays in disease prevention.

He urged all Basotho to take immediate action to improve nutrition across the country.

Meanwhile, the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment findings revealed that approximately 700,000 people, a third of the population, are currently food insecure, with over 400,000 in rural areas and more than 290,000 in urban areas.

World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director and Representative Aurore Rusiga noted that all ten districts of Lesotho are expected to be in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Crisis Level 3 or worse from October 2024 to March 2025.

In response, the Government declared a national food insecurity disaster, effective from July 12, 2024, to March 31, 2025, and has called on multi-sectoral partners and stakeholders to support efforts to combat the crisis.

Mochoboroane praises BonoloMeds programme



Honourable Minister of Health and USAID Representative, Ntate Ian Membe at one of BonoloMeds e-Lockers in Maseru appreciating the fast, easy and convenient way of accessing medicines.

Ntsoaki Motaung

The Ministry of Health officially sensitised Basotho about the BonoloMeds initiative.

BonoloMeds program is a Decentralized Drug Distribution (DDD) model, implemented by Right to Care Lesotho (RTCL), aimed at supporting the Ministry of Health in providing Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), and medicines for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

The program is funded by the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a U.S. government initiative to combat the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, and by USAID, an independent U.S. agency responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance.

BonoloMeds is operational in three districts: Maseru, Mafeteng, and Mohale's Hoek.

Its objectives are to decongest health facilities, improve access to medicines, enhance patient adherence, and boost overall healthcare

outcomes for individuals on chronic medication.

BonoloMeds leverages technological advancements to improve access to medications through innovations such as automated drug dispensing machines (eLockers) and partnerships with private pharmacies.

These solutions enable people living with chronic conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, and those requiring HIV treatment or prevention (PrEP) to conveniently obtain their medications.

Speaking at the launch event, Minister of Health Selibe Mochoboroane highlighted how BonoloMeds simplifies the ministry's work, particularly in drug distribution.

Mochoboroane said: "The program's aim is to attain and maintain epidemic control by decentralising drug delivery through the implementation of BonoloMeds."

Mochoboroane also described the initiative as a long-awaited milestone, marking significant progress toward improving access to essential medicines. He emphasised that BonoloMeds not only enhances healthcare outcomes but also contributes to epidemic control by incorporating innovative technology in Lesotho.

"The importance of the program is that it alleviates congestion at health facilities, which are often overwhelmed by patients seeking long-term medication. It also helps the Ministry and its partners meet the targets set in the fight against HIV and other opportunistic diseases by ensuring easy access to medication," he added.

Mochoboroane highlighted that the BonoloMeds program will also benefit Basotho working in other countries, as they will be able to receive six months' worth of medication at once, eliminating the need for monthly refills.

He added that patients will only need to visit health facilities for scheduled check-ups.

Tšelishehang Motuba from Right to Care noted that BonoloMeds is a free service for chronically stable patients who qualify and can be enrolled at participating health facilities in the three operational districts.

Motuba explained that the program's primary goal is to reduce overcrowding and ease the burden on health facilities, which often face

challenges when patients come to collect their lifetime medication.

She encouraged patients with chronic illnesses, especially those in Maseru, Mafeteng, and Mohale's Hoek, to take advantage of the program.

She urged Basotho to use BonoloMeds to conveniently and easily access their medications, without the need to travel to health facilities and wait in long queues.



PRESS RELEASE

What you need to do before buying land and avoid costly disputes

The Land Administration Authority (LAA) has noted with greatest concern the increasing number of disputes to land that could otherwise have been avoided. The mediation records in the Authority indicate this trend. Many people regardless of status, age, educational background, sex, or financial muscle have all fallen victim to a land scam in one way or another. Land is a very important economic asset and therefore one must always tread with care when trying to acquire the rights to land especially through buying.

Before buying a land always try to check the following:

- Ensure the person selling the land to you has legal/legitimate documents proving that he/she is the rightful holder of rights to such land (titleholder).
- Ensure that whatever you agree on is in writing with at least three witnesses to the agreement. Have the agreement authorized or certified by legal authority such as a lawyer or police.
- Visit the LAA offices to ascertain whether the land parcel/plot has a lease number (legally registered in the Deeds Registry) and that the lease is registered in the names of the titleholder. At LAA you will be able to check on the map whether the number indeed belongs to the physical plot you know or see on the map. You can also request to check the file for further details for that plot in question.
- Try to ask around (perhaps neighbours) to find out whether they know of any dispute over the land or anything at all about the land.
- Always check with the Council having jurisdiction in the area if they have any record of that plot and somebody in the names of the person trying to sell you the plot.

The LAA is hard at work in automating its processes and the records particularly those historical records that precede the establishment of the LAA. The LAA further implores upon the members of the public and lease-holders to utilize the cost-free process of mediation offered at LAA offices in order to avoid the high costs of litigation.

The LAA was established among others to ensure transparent, efficient and less costly transactions that occur on land in an effort to stimulate the economy of the country through vibrant land markets. The LAA is forever committed to this mandate.

For further information Please contact Public Outreach Office on: +266 22214100

Social media: Land Administration Authority - [f](#) [in](#) [X](#) [ig](#)

Mental Health Day- A call to action for Lesotho's youth

As the world observed Mental Health Day yesterday, it is time for Lesotho to confront a pressing and often overlooked crisis: the mental health of our youth.

A recent World Bank report, 'A Survey of Young Basotho's Aspirations and Challenges', painted an alarming picture of the state of mental health among Basotho youth, unveiling statistics that demand immediate and urgent action.

According to the report, 45 percent of youth aged 15 to 24 are not engaged in education or employment. This figure represents not only lost potential but a ticking time bomb for Lesotho's future.

These young people, who should be shaping and driving the country's growth and development, are instead adrift, left without hope, and burdened with anxiety and uncertainty. Even more distressing is the fact that 67 percent of these youth exhibit signs of moderate to severe anxiety, with 27 percent reporting disrupted sleep patterns, a clear sign of mental distress.

For young women, the picture is even grimmer.

They bear a disproportionate share of the mental health challenges, grappling with higher levels of worry and anxiety. This underscores the deep gender inequalities that persist in our society, where women and girls are often more vulnerable to economic hardships, social pressures, and violence, all of which have a profound impact on mental well-being.

The effects of this mental health crisis are not only individual but societal, affecting families, communities, and ultimately the very fabric of our nation.

The COVID-19 pandemic, though a global catastrophe, struck Lesotho's youth with a particular cruelty. Already living under precarious conditions, many found themselves cut off from educational opportunities, economic activities, and social support systems.

The pandemic exacerbated their mental health struggles, amplifying anxiety, depression, and a sense of hopelessness. The quality of life plummeted for many, and the economic disruption caused by lockdowns, job losses, and a declining economy left little room for optimism. What emerged from the pandemic was not just a health crisis, but an escalating mental health emergency.

The importance of mental health cannot be overstated. It is not simply a health issue; it is a development issue, a human rights issue, and a moral imperative. The mental well-being of our youth is the cornerstone of our nation's future.

If Lesotho is to prosper and thrive, we must ensure that our young people are mentally resilient and supported. This is not an issue that can be relegated to the back burner any longer. It must become a national priority.

Yet, mental health remains stigmatised in Lesotho. The shame and silence surrounding mental illness prevent young people from seeking help, leaving many to suffer in isolation. The lack of accessible mental health services further compounds this issue, particularly in rural areas where resources are limited, and traditional beliefs often hold sway over modern medical interventions.

Young people are often told to "toughen up" or "pray harder," dismissing the very real and debilitating nature of mental health issues.

The time for indifference has long passed. The government, civil society, and the private sector must join forces to address this crisis. The government, in particular, must lead the charge by integrating mental health services into the broader healthcare system.

It should ensure that mental health care is affordable, accessible, and widely available, especially in schools, universities, and community health centers. By investing in mental health now, we can avoid the long-term social and economic costs that come with an untreated mental health crisis.

While the government must lead the way, mental health is a shared responsibility. The private sector can play a crucial role by investing in mental health initiatives, creating supportive work environments, and offering mental health services to employees.

Civil society organisations must continue their advocacy to ensure that mental health remains a priority on the national agenda. Faith-based organisations, which hold significant influence in Lesotho, must also join the conversation and offer spiritual support alongside professional mental health care.

We all have a part to play. Families must learn to recognise the signs of mental health issues and offer support instead of judgment. Communities must become spaces of inclusion and understanding, where those struggling with mental illness can find solace and assistance.

As we reflect on this Mental Health Day, let it serve as a wake-up call to address the urgent needs of Lesotho's youth. Mental health is not a luxury, it is a necessity for the survival and progress of our society. The consequences of inaction are too great to ignore.



NO COMMENT



Theko Tlebere

COMMON CONCERN

Strong Leader for Strong Commonwealth; Rallying Behind Lesotho's Joshua Setipa

As the Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit approaches, we are reminded of the vital role that visionary leadership plays in guiding this esteemed organisation into a future that is more inclusive, equitable, and resilient. At this pivotal moment, Joshua Setipa, Lesotho's candidate for the position of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, embodies the transformative leadership qualities essential for this organisation.

His candidacy represents not just an opportunity for Lesotho, but a chance to enhance the collective strength of the Commonwealth itself. Today I would like to remind Basotho and the world why we are all so invested in making Setipa the next Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

It is important to recognise that the role of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth is not merely an individual achievement but a position that holds significant influence across 56 member countries. This role provides a platform to advocate for the interests of small and developing nations, including Lesotho. Although many of us young people may question the immediate impact on unemployment, we must understand that international influence can lead to long-term, systemic changes that benefit the entire continent and ultimately Lesotho.

What should motivate young lads from Lesotho and the entire African continent is that with a Mosotho leader in this position, that could work towards fostering partnerships, attracting investments, and influencing policies that support economic growth and job creation for all the Commonwealth nations. The visibility and prestige associated with such a role could enhance Lesotho's global standing, making it more

appealing to investors and development partners. By securing this prominent position, Setipa could champion causes that uplift not only Lesotho but also other nations facing similar challenges, demonstrating the significance of collective action in the Commonwealth.

In light of this, I urge all Basotho to rally behind Joshua Setipa with their prayers, moral support, and physical assistance if needed. Your collective backing is crucial in demonstrating our unity and commitment to a leader dedicated to our continent's advancement on the international stage. Supporting Setipa is a vital step towards ensuring that small nations' voices are heard in global discussions, advocating for policies that reflect the needs of our people and contribute to a sustainable future.

The extensive experience of Setipa in international trade, diplomacy, and development reflects a steadfast commitment to sustainable economic growth and the empowerment of developing nations. Setipa's proven track record, including his tenure as the former CEO of the Lesotho National Development Corporation and his role as Managing Director at the UN's Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, underscores his capacity to devise innovative solutions to pressing global challenges. His visionary leadership holds the promise of enhancing cooperation among the 56 member states, ensuring that no nation is left behind in the relentless pursuit of progress. With Setipa at the helm, the Commonwealth could navigate the complexities of the modern world more effectively, fostering an environment where mutual respect, collaboration, and shared prosperity thrive.

For Lesotho, Setipa's candidacy tran-

scends mere national aspiration; it represents a significant opportunity for the Commonwealth to embrace a leader from a small, developing country. His election would amplify the voices and concerns of marginalised nations, paving the way for a more inclusive Commonwealth where all member states, regardless of size or economic standing, can benefit equally from shared prosperity and growth. To the countries that have already pledged their support for Lesotho's candidacy, your choice serves as a testament to your commitment to reinforcing the core values of the Commonwealth.

By backing Joshua Setipa, you endorse a leader who is dedicated to fostering collaboration, ensuring accountability, and driving innovation forward. Your support will not only elevate a remarkable candidate but will also fortify the bonds between our nations, guaranteeing that the voices of all members are heard and valued in our collective progress.

Now is the time for Commonwealth nations to unite in their support for Joshua Setipa. His candidacy offers an invigorating perspective grounded in the principles of equality, collaboration, and sustainable development—values that are vital to constructing a stronger Commonwealth for everyone involved. Let us seize this opportunity and stand united in our endorsement of a leader who will ardently advocate for the needs of every member state. In the words of Joshua Setipa himself, "As Secretary-General, I pledge to empower our youth, harness their potential, and ensure that the Commonwealth becomes a beacon of hope, opportunity, and inclusivity for generations to come." Let us embrace this vision together. The future is Now!

OPINION

It's time the Monarch had a dance with power

Likhapha Ntlo-Ea-Lefu

Having His Majesty King Letsie III continue serving as a constitutional monarch today reinforces the selfish interests of political leaders, enriches them, and leaves a vacuum for critics of traditional leadership to be heard.

Born on July 17, 1963, King Letsie III first temporarily ascended to the throne in 1990 after his father, King Moshoeshoe II, was forced into exile by the military regime.

In 1994, King Letsie III dissolved the democratically elected government of Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle, prompting the return of his father. This was not the first time King Moshoeshoe II had been exiled; he had also been sent away during Prime Minister Jonathan Leabua's era, both times in a struggle for executive powers that he was ultimately denied.

After King Moshoeshoe II's death in 1996, King Letsie III permanently took the throne.

For two full decades, His Majesty King Letsie III has celebrated his birthday by alternating the festivities among Lesotho's ten districts each year. This tradition began in 2004, with Mokhotlong district serving as the first host, and in 2024, the celebrations took place in Botha-Bothe district.

Next year, the celebrations will move to another district.

Over the years, the government has spent millions on these birthday festivities. Last year, when the event was held in the Mase-

ru district, Newsday and Lesotho Times reported that the Government Secretary (GS) estimated M5.6 million would be spent on the celebrations.

It was prior the D-Day and post the birthday, these newspapers revealed that a total of M20 million was exhausted for the ceremony held at the Setsoto Stadium, which is banned from hosting international games.

Lately, this event has become substantially infamous amongst Basotho. The scores of Basotho, which I share their sentiments, favour the exercise of these millions for impactful developmental projects.

Again, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has since discovered how the King Letsie III's birthday funds are often embezzled and plundered. Tender processes are mired in corruption, and expenses are often inflated.

In the past decade, the government has not made sufficient efforts to transform Lesotho into a developmental state.

Instead, we find ourselves caught in self-destructive politics that misuse the country's financial resources.

As a result, we have neglected the "big five" areas identified by Wangari Maathai in her book *The Challenge for Africa*: agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, and energy.

These sectors represent critical investments in development that could effectively eradicate poverty, as Wangari aptly points out.

Billions have been spent on elections, often misappropriated in the process.

King Letsie III, constrained by the Constitution, finds himself unable to address these issues directly. His role is limited to making speeches in Parliament every two to five years, depending on the government's term, traveling the globe from London to Nordic countries seeking investors, serving as the Chancellor of the National University of Lesotho, promoting nutrition in a country where hundreds of families face severe famine, and making public appearances for his annual birthday celebrations.

When it comes to decisions that could change the nation, the King must act on the advice of the Prime Minister.

With King Letsie III's status as a ceremonial monarch, constitutional law expert Professor Hoolo 'Nyane correctly points out that this arrangement is counter-intuitive and costly.

The government spends substantial amounts to maintain the monarchy, even though it plays no role in holding politicians accountable. As a result of the growing unemployment and poverty, social media users have increasingly expressed their frustration and criticism toward the Royal Family.

Princess Senate Mohato Bereng Seeiso has faced trolling for her alleged inability to speak her native language, Sesotho, and for her graduation from the Faculty of Social Sciences in Canada, which has sparked

mixed reactions among the public.

Despite the criticisms, the monarchy still holds legitimacy among Basotho.

In the absence of benevolent, decisive, and enlightened political leadership to guide the economy and politics in the right direction, an Afrobarometer survey indicated that many Basotho believe His Majesty should be granted absolute powers. While King Mswati III has highlighted the dangers associated with absolute monarchy, some argue that it may be time for King Letsie III to have a dance with power.

As Professor Hoolo 'Nyane argues, King Letsie III should be granted some powers to construct checks and balances between the monarch and liberal politicians.

Again, it is insensible to have the complete participation of this institution tied and contained in this era. It benefited colonisers to have ceremonial monarchs in the past.

Today, it profits self-centered politicians.

Further, King Letsie III, in comparison to King Mswati III, has not flaunted and misused his hereditary position to bring the Royal Family and this country into disrepute. His respected and charismatic contact has been outstanding win representative moments for this country.

Give the monarch power but not absolute power.

Mental health in the workplace

Reatile Polaki

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, capitalism requires us to work to survive. Just like at school, we spend six to eight hours each week-day at our jobs, which adds up to a third of our day spent with bosses and co-workers.

But it's not all roses and sunshine in the workplace. While some people find fulfillment in their jobs, others do not. One thing is certain: whether you enjoy your work or not, it's often stressful.

The mix of different personalities in close quarters for eight hours a day is bound to lead to problems.

Just as we can expect snow in Lesotho during winter, we should also recognize the importance of mental health in the workplace. It's crucial for both productivity and harmony.

Often, people find themselves in a difficult position when it comes to their mental well-being. They must choose between prioritising their mental health, risking the perception of being lazy or unproductive, or pushing through and risking burnout and breakdown.

With the stigma surrounding self-care and mental health, it's no wonder many of us end up dealing with hostile service providers or, in turn, become hostile towards those we live with.

The issue of prioritising mental well-being in the workplace falls on both employers and employees.

First and foremost, employers have a responsibility to establish policies that address

mental health. These policies should protect employees' mental well-being and prevent additional stressors, such as harassment and bullying.

Creating a healthy work environment is crucial, and there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach to achieving it. Each organisation has unique needs, but there are common principles to consider.

At a minimum, the workplace should be free from harassment and discrimination of any kind, and it should provide reasonable leave days and sick leave policies.

Human resource officers play a vital role in ensuring that these policies are implemented effectively.

Employers should recognise that happy staff lead to a more productive and fulfilled workforce.

On the flip side, employees must also take responsibility for prioritising their own well-being. Unfortunately, many of us realise that if something were to happen and we could no longer work, a replacement would be found within a month.

This reality should highlight the importance of prioritizing mental health. If not for ourselves, then at least to become better service providers and more productive team members. Neglecting our well-being serves no one.

As we commemorate World Mental Health Day, with this year's theme focused on "Mental Health at Work," let's reflect on the fact that silence surrounding workplace mental health has not benefited us. Instead, our reluctance



Co-founder of Greenminds, Reatile Polaki

to discuss the pressures and stressors of work has resulted in anxiety, depression, unhealthy coping mechanisms, and consistent burnout.

Don't fall into the trap of trying to be a hero by toughing it out, remember that you are only human. You can perform at your best only when you take care of your mental health. Let's stop viewing ourselves as mere cogs in a machine. Prioritize your mental well-being; it will lead to greater focus, happiness, fulfillment, and a healthier version of success.

By Editor: Note on Mental Health Day What is Mental Health Day?

Mental Health Day, officially known as World Mental Health Day, is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about mental health issues, promoting mental well-being, and advocating for the rights of individuals with mental health conditions. It serves as a platform to educate the public about mental health, reduce stigma, and encourage open discussions regarding mental well-being.

When is it Commemorated?

World Mental Health Day is observed on **October 10** each year.

How Did It Come About?

World Mental Health Day was first celebrated in **1992**, initiated by the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH). The purpose was to raise awareness and promote mental health education globally. Each year, the day focuses on a specific theme to highlight different aspects of mental health. The day serves as an opportunity for various organizations, communities, and individuals to engage in activities that foster mental health awareness, encourage discussions, and offer support to those struggling with mental health issues.

In recent years, the day has gained increased recognition, prompting governments, NGOs, and mental health organisations worldwide to come together to promote initiatives that address mental health challenges and enhance mental well-being.

The observance of World Mental Health Day has become essential in highlighting the importance of mental health and encouraging everyone to prioritize their mental well-being.

Tsebiso!

Ntlafatso ea Marang-rang a EcoCash Spache-fono



EcoCash
Spache - Fono

Sasai Econet Financial Services (SEFS) e motlotlo ho phatlalatsa hore ka Moqebelo oa la 12 Mphalane 2024 ho tloha ka hora ea borobeli bosiu (8pm) ho isa horeng ea borobeli hoseng (8am) letsatsing le hlahlamang, litšebeliso tsa EcoCash li tla fallisetsoa ho marang-rang a macha. Litšebeliso tsa EcoCash ha li tlo fumaneha nakong ena eo tšebetso e tla beng e ntse e tsoela-pele.

Marang-rang ana a macha a totobatsa boikitlaetso ba rona eleng ho fetola bophelo ba Basotho ka mahlale a morao-rao. A boetse a supa hore re ikemiselitse ho bona hore tema e ba teng phanong ea litšebeliso tsa lichelete ho likhoebo le batho ka bo mong ka hara naha.

Melemo e tlišoang ke marang-rang ana a macha a EcoCash Spache-fono:

- Litšebeliso tse ntlafatseng hoo likarabo li hlahang hang ntle le ho bilika pele hore basebelisi ba nolofalloe le ho natefelo a ke ho sebelisa Spache-fono.
- Mekhoa e tsoetseng pele ea tšireletso ho netefatsa polokeho ea chelete.
- Mokhoa o potlakileng oa ho fumana Karabo ka mor'a ho penya le ho sebelisa lihlahisoa tsa rona ke baji ba tsona.
- Sesi se eketsehileng hore litšebeliso tsohle tseo mosebelisi a kileng a li etsa li bolokehe ka makhetha
- Mokhoa o mocha o fanang ka litokelo tsohle holim'a taolo ea Spache-fono ho mosebelisi ka bo mong nako-le-nako.

Re na le tšepo e sa thekeseleng hore liphetho tse na li tla ba le khahlamelo e kholo ho thusa basebelisi ba EcoCash Spache-fono ho natefelo a haholo ke tšebeliso ea eona.

Tsebiso ka bookameli ba Sasai Econet Financial Services

Notice!

EcoCash System Migration



Sasai Econet Financial Services (SEFS), a subsidiary of Econet Telecom Lesotho, is thrilled to announce that this coming Saturday, October 12 from 8pm to 8am, EcoCash services will be migrated to a new system after undergoing a significant upgrade. During this time, our services will be temporarily unavailable.

This migration to a new system is part of our commitment to transform lives through innovative technological solutions across Lesotho. It also reflects our dedication to drive financial inclusion and provide solutions that make life easier for individuals and businesses. SEFS, through its product EcoCash Spache-Fono, has, over a decade, been at the forefront of delivering essential financial services in Lesotho.

The migration to a new system will bring with it a host of benefits designed to serve you better:

- Customers can expect a faster, more responsive system that will significantly improve their overall user experience when they transact.
- Advanced security measures to ensure your transactions and money are more safer in your wallet than ever before.
- Streamlined operations, allowing for quicker and more seamless transactions, reducing wait times between option selection and results thus improving service delivery.
- More storage capabilities that can store and manage more of your financial data safely, securely, and conveniently.
- A new capability to define specific privileges, ensuring that you have the full control of your accounts with the customization you need.

We are confident that these changes will not only enhance your experience but also empower you to do more with your EcoCash account. Together, we are building a future where financial solutions are accessible to all, making life simpler and more rewarding.

Notice by the Management of Sasai Econet Financial Services



RE-ADVERTISEMENT

TORS for developing a tool kit for integrating health services for Adolescent in Lesotho.

A community training guide on the integration of Adolescent sexual reproductive health ASRHR, HIV Services, immunization and child protection in Lesotho.

Project title: Integrating health responses for adolescents in Lesotho

Activity: Development of the integrated SRHR, vaccination, HIV services and child protection referral pathways information kit, An SBCC toolkit to guide peer education.

Introduction:

Skillshare Lesotho and UNICEF have a long history of partnership of promoting adolescent and young people health in the areas of ASRHR, HIV & AIDs, COVID-19, Immunization community mobilization and community education, and child protection through the approach of social accountability.

Recently initiatives revolved around building capacity of adolescents and young people in engaging with services providers to enhance services delivery that meet their needs. Skillshare has strengthened peer to peer education approach, and citizen participation approaches that promote community education and positive engagement. With the integration of COVID-19 immunization, and following WHO guidelines supporting the integration of vaccination as part of the adolescent health response among the state parties.

Skillshare using the two models (peer to peer and social accountability) has been able to establish strong community structures that identify all groups of people, who are left behind for services. Such groups of people include young mothers, young sex workers, people living with disability, adolescents and young people and herd boys to mention but a few. With the emergency of COVID-19 in the year 2021, Skillshare integrated COVID-19 guidelines into their implementation models, including conducting of research, and community feedback mechanism to understand community perception towards the disease, and be able to educate the community on prevention, control, and treatment of COVID-19 including Vaccination.

The proposed information kit to be developed will be aligned with the Lesotho National AH-HAI Guidelines which highlights a set of strategic guidelines designed to address critical health issues in Lesotho, particularly focusing on Adolescent Health, HIV/AIDS, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The aim of the information kit will aim to provide a comprehensive framework for improving health outcomes, especially among adolescents and young people, by integrating HIV/AIDS services with broader health access and promoting sexual and reproductive health rights including vaccination as integral service to complete adolescent health response in Lesotho.

As part of the 2024-2025 partnership, a coordinated approach for community education will be strengthened, Skillshare Lesotho will take lead in the development of the information tool kit that is intended to provide a central resource tool for peer educators and community workers. The kit is meant to consolidate community health education in response to adolescent health in the areas of ASRHR, immunization, HIV services and child protection.

The program/partnership will be guided by the following project outputs

- i. Promote vaccination, access to HIV services, and child protection referral pathways for high risk groups, including adolescents living with HIV, as well as adolescents and young mothers.
- ii. Promote integration into existing programmes and platforms, vaccination services, HIV services, and access to child protection referral pathways.
- iii. Promoting gender integration and mainstreaming in HIV/ASRHR and immunization, access to HIV services, and access to child protection referral pathways
- iv. Promote community feedback mechanisms to enhance vaccination awareness, access to HIV services, and access to child protection referral pathways including uptake of all health services (SRHR, HIV services, vaccination and child protection).

Purpose and objective

To develop the information toolkit which can be used by all actors in the adolescent health response in the country. The information kit would be tested as a national guide for scale up and support Ministry of Health (Adolescent Health and Health Promotions) and other actors in the response to the adolescent health- supplementing AH-HAI Framework. The tool kit should provide a standardized materials for self-awareness of the target beneficiaries to Champions for community and support group awareness and advocacy.

Objectives:

- i. To develop a user friendly and context-specific information kit that aligns with National health policies and guidelines
- ii. To ensure the information kit provides clear guidelines on the integration of ASRHR, HIV services, immunization, and child protection referral pathways.
- iii. To include practical tools, checklists, and protocols that health workers, volunteers, and others can use in their data today activities in the delivery of the adolescent health services.
- iv. To provide training modules that can be used to enhance the capacity of community health workers, volunteers/peer educators in delivering integrated services

General scope of the work; in this assignment, the consultant will be responsible for the following tasks;

- i. Conduct a situational analysis- review existing policies, guidelines and training materials related to ASRHR, HIV services, immunization and child protection. Identify gaps and challenges in the current delivery of integrated services both at national and community level
- ii. Stakeholder engagement; Engage with key stakeholders including MOH, and other health agencies, NGOs, community leaders, health services providers, to gather insights, and also validate information kit content. An opportunity for wider consultation Development of the information kit, the consultant is required to draft the information kit, ensuring it is practical, accessible, and easy to use for health workers. Include modules

on the integration of ASRHR, HIV services, immunization, and child protection, referral pathways with specific focus on:

- Service delivery protocols
- Referral systems
- Communication strategies for adolescents
- Monitoring and evaluation tools
- Incorporate visual aids, flowcharts, and case studies to facilitate understanding and application.

iv. Field Testing and Validation; Pilot the information kit in selected health facilities to test its usability and effectiveness, gather feedback from health workers and other stakeholders to refine the content.

v. Finalization of the Information Kit; Revise the information kit based on feedback from the field testing and validation process. Prepare the final version of the information kit, including any necessary translations or adaptations for different regions.

vi. Training of Trainers (ToT) Develop a training module and conduct a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop to ensure effective dissemination and use of the information kit at the national and community levels. The TOT participants will not exceed 20 selected from the District of Berea, Mafeteng, Mofale's Hoek and Thaba Tseka.

Anticipated Deliverables

The consultant/firm will be expected to deliver the following:

- A comprehensive situational analysis report.
- A draft version of the information kit for review and feedback
- A field-tested and validated information kit.
- A final version of the information kit, ready for dissemination.
- Training modules and materials for the ToT workshop
- A final report detailing the process, findings, and recommendations.

Timeline

The assignment is expected to be completed within 30 working days with the following key milestones

Required Expertise

The consultant/firm should possess the following qualifications:

1. Proven experience in public health, specifically in ASRHR, HIV, immunization, and child protection.
2. Experience in developing training materials and information kits for health workers.
3. Strong understanding of the national health system and policy environment.
4. Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills.
5. Experience in conducting field tests and validation processes.

Reporting and Supervision

Supervision: The consultant will report to Skillshare Program Manager/Executive Director and closely work with other members and key stakeholders (MoH/UNICEF etc.) Skillshare District focal persons, DHMTs, peer educators, Health facilities managers, and selected beneficiaries

Budget

A detailed budget proposal should be submitted, outlining the costs associated with each phase of the assignment, including stakeholder engagement, development, field testing, finalization, and training.

Submission of Proposals

Interested and qualified consultants are invited to submit a technical and financial proposal that includes the following:

A technical proposal alongside the financial bid outlining their understanding of the assignment, methodology and approaches for the assignment as well as financial bid in Lesotho currency (not more than 4 pages, single space, font size 12).

- A brief description of the proposed approach and methodology.
- CVs of the key team members.
- A detailed work plan and timeline.
- A financial proposal, including a breakdown of costs.

Please hand deliver your application to Skillshare Lesotho Offices located at 42b Old Europa, UN Road, and Opposite Maseru Golf Club. Submission should include application letter, financial proposal, CVs of the individual/team of consultants. Ensure submission in separate envelopes for the financial and technical proposals- clearly marked.

Address the Applications to: **Executive Director, Skillshare Lesotho**, clearly indicate the title on the envelope: *"expression of interest for the developing of the community information tool kit"*

Skillshare will only contact an entity/person that qualified. If not contacted, consider your application unsuccessful. Skillshare reserves the right to call off the offer and/or the advert.

Applications should be hand delivered at the address below:

Skillshare Lesotho
Opposite Maseru Golf Club
42b Old Europa, United Nations Road
Maseru 100, Lesotho
P.O. Box: 269, Maseru, Lesotho
Office: +266 2231 4202

Deadline for submission – on or before 25th October 2024 at 12:00 Pm Maseru time

For inquiries contact: nyana.dickson@skillsharlesotho.org



PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS/SERVICE PROVIDERS 2024-2026
PROC. REF: SKL/PREQ/2024-2026/0004.

Skillshare Lesotho is a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to promoting sustainable development, capacity-building, and human rights in Lesotho. Skillshare Lesotho works closely with local communities, government bodies, and other stakeholders to implement programs that improve the lives of vulnerable populations, with a strong emphasis on equity, social justice, and empowerment. Skillshare Lesotho is inviting qualified and interested Suppliers and Service Providers to submit sealed applications for prequalification to supply goods, works, and services in the categories listed below for the period 2024 to 2026. The specific categories are as follows:

Category Number	Category description
SKL 001/2024-2026	Supply of health and safety materials / equipment
SKL 002/2024-2026	Provision of branded promotional items, uniforms and corporate wear
SKL 003/2024-2026	Supply, installation, repair and maintenance of physical security systems (CCTV, access control, intruder alarms)
SKL 004/2024-2026	Supply, installation and maintenance of electrical equipment and appliances / backup systems
SKL 005/2024-2026	Supply, installation and maintenance of air conditioning systems
SKL 006/2024-2026	Supply of electronic and non-electronic asset tags
SKL 007/2024-2026	Supply and maintenance of fire extinguishers and fire systems
SKL 008/2024-2026	Supply and maintenance of office door locks
SKL 009/2024-2026	Supply of communication gadgets (phones, tabs) and accessories
SKL 010/2024-2026	Supply and maintenance of IT computer equipment and hardware
SKL 011/2024-2026	Supply and installation of branded office furniture, furnishings and fittings
SKL 012/2024-2026	Supply of assorted printed office stationery and other printed items
SKL 013/2024-2026	Supply of assorted general office stationery
SKL 014/2024-2026	Provision of professional cleaning, waste management, pest control and other sanitary related services
SKL 015/2024-2026	Provision of handyman services i.e plumbing, painting and carpentry
SKL 016/2024-2026	Provision of civil/building construction/office fit out services
SKL 017 /2024-2026	Provision of digital branding, marketing and advertising services
SKL 018/2024-2026	Provision of event management services (PA sound systems, guest Tents, Gazebos)
SKL 019/2024-2026	Provision of motor vehicle repair and maintenance services
SKL 020/2024-2026	Provision of vehicle, truck hire and cab services
SKL 021 /2024-2026	Provision of distribution of fuel services
SKL 022/2024-2026	Provision of records management services
SKL 023/2024-2026	Provision of records destruction services
SKL 024/2024-2026	Physical branding/signage services
SKL 025 /2024-2026	Project quality assurance consultancy services (Consulting firms, individuals)
SKL 026/2024-2026	Legal services
SKL 027/2024-2026	Mystery and project beneficiary experience surveys (Consulting firms, individuals)

SKL 028/2024-2026	Capacity Building Training and content development/ learning management services (Consulting firms, individuals)
SKL 029/2024-2026	Provision of evaluation surveying consultancy services
SKL 030/2024-2026	Provision of Human Rights training services
SKL 031 /2024-2026	Provision of IT software services (system software, communication software, internet access software, application development)
SKL 033/2024-2026	Provision of vehicle and asset tracking services
SKL 034 /2024-2026	Provision of courier and logistical services
SKL 035 /2024-2026	Provision of human recruitment and background check services
SKL 036/2024-2026	Provision of photography/ video services
SKL 037/2024-2026	Provision of printing & photocopying services (e.g booklets, manuals,)
SKL 038/2024-2026	Provision of insurance and brokerage services
SKL 039/2024-2026	Provision of catering services.
SKL 040/2024-2026	Provision of emergency relief services (food and non-food items)
SKL 041 /2024-2026	Supply of drinking water.
SKL 042/2024-2026	Provision of evidence-based research and survey services (baselines, endlines, needs assessment, midlines, bench-marks)
SKL 043/2024-2026	Personal computers (PCS), printers, accessories, support and maintenance services
SKL 044/2024-2026	-Security /Armed guarding and intrusion detection alarm system services
SKL 045/2024-2026	Provision of assorted office groceries (supermarkets, hypermarkets and whole sellers)
SKL 046/2024-2026	Provision of auctioneering services
SKL 047/2024-2026	Provision of audit services (accounting firms)
SKL 048/2024-2026	Newspaper advertising services
SKL 050/2024-2026	Provision of cloud-based storage solution (digital storage platforms and back-ups)
SKL 051/2024-2026	Provision of hotel services (accommodation and meetings/workshop services in the 10 districts of Lesotho)
SKL 052/2024-2026	Supply of Mobile Money services e.g. Mpesa, Eco cash
SKL 053/2024-2026	Provision of farm inputs and agricultural inputs (seeds, light farm equipment)
SKL 054/2024-2026	Provision of small livestock and feeds (rabbits, chicken)

The prequalification process will begin on Tuesday, 25th October 2024, at 12:00 PM. All bids must be clearly labeled and sealed, marked "Application for Provision of (Indicate Category)," and hand-delivered to the Skillshare Lesotho Offices for registration. Submissions should include quotations for your services or items, a company profile, a valid tax clearance certificate, a trading license, and at least two (2) recommendation letters from previous or current clients.

Note: Suppliers from all districts are encouraged to apply. In your application, please specify the districts where you are able to provide services.

All applications should be hand delivered at the address below:

Skillshare Lesotho
Opposite Maseru Golf Club
42b Old Europa, United Nations Road
Maseru 100, Lesotho
P.O. Box: 269, Maseru, Lesotho
Office: +266 2231 4202



THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

INVITATION TO TENDER NO:7 of 2024/2025

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) SOFTWARE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) EQUIPMENT FOR B.O.S

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), through the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) has been allocated funds by the Government of Lesotho (GoL) for the preparation and implementation of 2026 Population and Housing Census project. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Tendering The ITT has three lots and bidders are free to bid for **one lot or more**.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be available to the interested bidders upon payment of a **non-refundable fee of LSL 5000.00 (Five thousand Maloti only)**. The method of payment shall be in cash and the bidding documents must be collected in person at Development Planning - Procurement Unit office number 124. While payment shall be made at 1st floor office number 262 – Accounts Office. Clarification requests on bidding documents will be allowed up to the day before submission date line, during office hours between 9:30 am until 3:30 pm. A **tender security of 2% of bid price** shall accompany all bids.

Bids must be deposited on or before **29th October, 2024 at 12: 00, hrs.** in the tender box situated at Government Complex Phase II at Development Planning 2nd floor. Bids arriving after the closing date time shall be rejected. Tenders will be opened in the presence of bidders or representatives at **14: 30** hours on the same day.

The address for procurement of bidding documents, clarification requests and bid submission is:

Development Planning
Procurement Unit
P.O. Box 630
Maseru 100.
Tel no. 22 317433 / 266 22 328187

Tender Timetable

Activity	Dates
ITT Issued	17 September 2024
Clarification dates	17-28 October 2024
Deadline for obtaining Tender Document	28th October 2024
ITT Close	29th October 2024 at 12:00 noon
Tender opening	29th October, 2024 at 14: 30 hours
Evaluation and tender award	11th November 2024

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning is not bound to accept the lowest at any bid also reserves the right to reject or cancel the contract in any legal or corrupt practices have been connected with one award.



Lesotho National Development Corporation
Invitation to Tender

PRIVATE BAC A96
MASERU 100
TEL: 22312012
FAX: 22310038

Website: www.lndc.org.ls

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Printing & Photocopying Services

ITT#: **LND-2024152**

The Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) invites sealed tenders from suitably qualified local suppliers for supply and installation of Managed Print Services.

Interested and eligible bidders may obtain the tender document by paying a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Maloti (M1,500.00)** in the Finance Office at LNDC Development House, Block A level 6.

Tenders must be deposited in the **tender box** situated at 1st floor LNDC Development House Block A, Reception Area.

The deadline for submissions is on or before **Thursday 31st of October 2024 at 10:00am**. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. Bids will be opened publicly immediately thereafter.

All bids must be accompanied by valid copies of traders' license, tax clearance, and proof of authorized signatory.

The LNDC reserves the right to cancel the tender, reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The corporation is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.





Fees	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
------	----------	----------	-----------

Subscription	M 72.00	M 156.00	M 312.00
---------------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Delivery	M 60.00
-----------------	----------------

Names:..... **Email:**..... **No. Of Copies:**.....
Address:..... **Start date:**...../...../..... **Expiry:**...../...../
Tel:..... **Cell:**..... **Signature:**.....

Payment Method	Newsday Media PTY LTD
----------------	-----------------------

Cash	Bank Deposit	Merchant
	Standard Lesotho Bank Acc#: 9080001310220	EcoCash 92669 m-pesa 3551

More to share
with our tasty treats

Select something delicious with our iconic Champion Toffees, Manhattan, Mister Sweet, Super C Sweets, and Candy Tops Eclairs. Packed full of flavour and perfect value for money.



THE ORIGINAL
CHAMPION
The BIG taste that lasts

Candy Tops Making life sweeter
ECLAIRS



mister sweet
MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE



MANHATTAN
The taste of Fun



SuperC
The original energy sweet.



CBL cracks down on businesses rejecting bronze coins

NEWS

Staff Reporter

The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) has condemned businesses for refusing to accept bronze coins, reminding them that rejecting such currency is illegal.

This follows reports of a rising trend where businesses, including retailers, are turning away 10 and 20 lisente coins, forcing the CBL to issue a firm warning.

CBL warned that by refusing to accept bronze coins, businesses were disrupting the lawful circulation of currency and emphasised that this practice was not only unlawful but also undermined the nation's monetary system.

The bank urged the public to report any service providers refusing these coins to their nearest police station.

In addition, it was reported at the same meeting that several government ministries have stopped accepting payments in South African Rands, citing concerns over counterfeit notes and illegal money.

The meeting aimed to discuss risks affecting currency circulation, with the CBL taking the opportunity to enhance knowledge about currency security features and overall currency integrity.

The CBL warned that such practices could have serious repercussions for Lesotho's economy and international trade relations.

During the meeting, ministries were trained on how to differentiate between real and counterfeit money. The CBL emphasised that rejecting legal tender, such as coins or South African banknotes, is not only unlawful but also harmful to the country's economic growth.

Many government officials, however, voiced concerns over the lack of equipment, such as Ultra Violet (UV) light detectors, which would allow them to verify the authenticity of the money.

CBL's Head of Legal, Thato Ramosena, explained that this issue arose following a series of ATM bombings in South Africa, where dye-stained money began circulating in Lesotho. Ramosena advised institutions like supermarkets and retailers to use detection machines to identify stained notes rather than rejecting all currency outright.

"Vendors, shops, supermarkets, and retailers must stop rejecting bronze coins, as doing so disrupts the circulation of currency," Ramosena said.

"The Maloti and Rand hold equal value and circulate together in Lesotho. Refusing to accept the Rand can negatively impact our economy, as both currencies are integral to its operation," he added.

He further noted that rejecting the Rand violates the Multilateral Monetary Agreement, which allows the free flow of capital between

Lesotho, South Africa, Eswatini, and Namibia. Such actions, Ramosena warned, could result in sanctions or penalties against Lesotho in international markets.

CBL's Statistics and Forecasting Officer, Palesa Manosa, added that counterfeit currency undermines public confidence in the monetary system, ultimately harming the economy. She advised that counterfeiters tend to target high-value notes like the M100 and M200 denominations.

The Acting Director of Operations at CBL, Mamokhali Shale, reiterated that it is illegal for ministries to deny services to Basotho when they present legal tender.

"You cannot refuse service without evidence that the money is counterfeit. We receive numerous complaints from citizens denied services despite having legitimate money."

Shale urged ministry officials to report to their man-



CBL's Head of Legal, Thato Ramosena

agers and request the necessary equipment, such as detection machines, to help them properly verify banknotes. She also stressed that Basotho have the right to take legal action against ministries that refuse to accept legitimate currency and that the CBL itself may take legal steps in response to such violations.

During the meeting, Nthupi Marathane from the Department of Crops in the Ministry of Agriculture expressed frustration over their lack of equipment. She explained that they receive large amounts of South African banknotes from farmers purchasing fertilizers and seeds.

Textile worker wins brand new car in Tobetsa campaign



Seabata Mahao

Matšoloane Qhomane, a textile worker, became the proud owner of a brand-new Nissan NP200 bakkie this week after winning a major prize in a mobile money competition run by Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) subsidiary, SasaiEconet Financial Services (SEFS).

The EcoCash campaign, dubbed 'Tobetsa,' has been running for the past three months, during which a total of three vehicles were given away as grand prizes to subscribers among other lucrative prizes.

The campaign aimed to celebrate and pro-

mote the use of EcoCash as a viable mobile money solution.

In her acceptance speech, Qhomane, who resides in Thaba Bosiu, Maseru, expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the competition. Qhomane shared how she works in the textile industry and decided to try her luck, never expecting that her participation would result in such a life-changing win.

"I am truly humbled to drive away with a prize of this magnitude that will certainly change my life for the better. No one would



have thought that by simply collecting EcoCash Tobetsa points through transacting with EcoCash, paying my bills, sending money, and buying Tobetsa entry points, I would bring so much joy to my family," Qhomane said.

At the handover ceremony, the Acting General Manager of SEFS, Lehlohonolo Matee, expressed excitement about ending the campaign with a winner from a place of deep cultural significance, especially as the nation celebrates its 200th bicentennial year.

"This innovative campaign, branded EcoCash Tobetsa, not only seeks to celebrate each

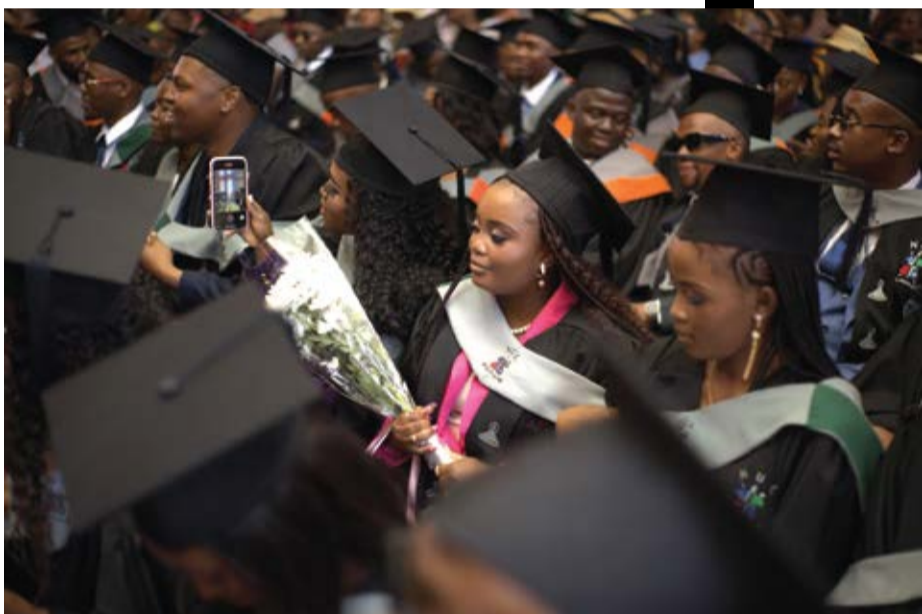
customer's loyalty but also underscores our commitment to convenience. It aims to positively transform the livelihoods of our valued customers across Lesotho," Matee stated.

He also highlighted how EcoCash, with its wide reach through ETL, continues to revolutionise financial management, making transactions easier, faster, and more secure for customers.

Previous winners of the Tobetsa campaign's grand prize include T'Soanelo Mongali from Qacha's Nek district and 'Malineo Motšephe from Morija, Maseru.

IN PICTURES:

The 49th Convocation for the awarding of certificates, diplomas, and the conferring of degrees at the National University of Lesotho (NUL)



SPORTS

Mehalalitoe bullish ahead of COSAFA tournament

Thabo Rakhomo



Mehalalitoe coach Shalane Lehohla stated that this tournament will serve as a test of the team's progress. He expressed confidence in his players, noting that they are ready to give their best in the competition.

"There are no set targets from management or the Lesotho Football Association for this tournament, but my players and I, along with the technical team, have agreed that our goal is to reach the final.

However, even if we don't make it that far, every opponent will certainly feel our presence. I want to assure Basotho that we are not going to COSAFA just to add numbers—we want to perform better than ever before," Lehohla explained.

Lehohla also urged Basotho, particularly adults, to support the players both on and off the field, as external factors in their personal lives can impact their performance. He emphasized that his squad consists of young girls who need strong guidance to grow both as athletes and individuals.

When asked about his squad selection, Lehohla expressed his openness to include players based outside of Lesotho, provided they are made available before the final list is announced.

The opponents of Lesotho's senior women's football team, Mehalalitoe, for the upcoming COSAFA Tournament in Gqeberha, were revealed during a draw held on Tuesday.

The tournament is set to begin on October 22, 2024, and will run until November 2, 2024, featuring 14 nations—a significant increase from previous COSAFA tournaments.

According to various regional coaches, this growth reflects the rising prominence of women's football, signifying that the standard of continental competition will improve, and more talent will be uncovered to compete on the world stage.

The tournament will kick off with Eswatini facing debutants Seychelles, while hosts South Africa will take on Namibia in Group A.

Mehalalitoe will play their first match against

Zimbabwe on October 27, 2024, at 3 PM, followed by their final group-stage game against Mozambique on October 29, 2024, also at 3 PM. Venues for the matches are yet to be announced.

This year's tournament is expected to feature several big stars, as the timing coincides with a global break in many top leagues, making more players available. The COSAFA Women's Championship has been a launchpad for global talent, producing stars such as Temwa Chawinga, who now excels in the National Women's Soccer League in the United States with Kansas City, and Barbra Banda, as well as Racheal Kundananji, the world's most expensive women's footballer. Lesotho's finest players have also shone in this tournament.

South Africa has won seven of the previous 11 COSAFA Women's Championships, with Zimbabwe (2011), Tanzania, Zambia, and Malawi also lifting the trophy. Lesotho is aiming to progress beyond the group stage for the first time.

Likuena take on Gabon



Likuena final squad to face Gabon in the AFCON qualifiers

Seabata Mahao

The senior national team, Likuena, today takes on Gabon in a crucial African Cup of Nations (AFCON) Group B qualifier as they pursue their first-ever qualification for the prestigious tournament.

The match will kick off at 20:00 Central African Time (CAT) at Stade de Franceville, Gabon. The return leg is scheduled for October 15 at Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, South Africa.

Likuena, under coach Leslie Notši, are determined to turn their campaign around after a difficult start. They lost their first two matches—3-1 to the Central African Republic (CAR) and 1-0 to Morocco—leaving them at the bottom of the group with no points. Morocco currently tops the group with six points.

Coach Notši remains hopeful despite the setbacks. He noted that they had studied Gabon's recent match against Morocco and are prepared for the challenge.

"We had the opportunity to watch Gabon play Morocco, and we've crafted our game plan based on our observations and strengths," Notši said.

"We know Gabon has strong players, but we believe we can compete."

Likuena's top striker, Motebang Sera, who plays for Royal AM in the South African Premier League, will miss the match due to a suspension after accumulating two yellow cards in the previous games against Morocco and CAR. The team will rely on other key players to step up as they seek to secure their first points in the qualifiers.

The AFCON 2025 tournament will be held in Morocco from December 21, 2025, to January 18, 2026.

The final squad for Gabon is as follows:

The goalkeepers are SekhoaneMorane, TankisoChaba and Ntsane Molise. The defenders are ThabangMalane, Thabo Makhele, FusiMatlabe, Thabo Matšoele, RethabileRasethuntsa, RethabileMokokoane, Mokhele Molise, Mohlomi Makhetha and Thato Sefuli.

The midfielders are LisemaLebokollane, LehlohonoloMatsau, TšepoToloane, TlotlisoPhatsisi, Teboho Letsema, Neo Mokhachane, Ts'oarelo Bereng and Thabo Mafatle. The forwards are KatlehoMakateng and Jane Thabantšo.

Lioli revels in retaining MMC charity cup crown

Seabata Mahao

Lioli Football Club (FC) has successfully retained the Maluti Mountain Cement (MMC) Charity Cup by edging Bantu FC 1-0 in a thrilling final at Leshoboro Stadium in Mafeteng.

The win marks a significant achievement for Lioli, as it is their fifth triumph over Bantu under the leadership of their current coach, Motheo Mohapi.

Lioli's journey to the final was marked by an impressive 2-1 victory over Matlama FC, with goals from Sihle Maso and Teboho Maumane, while Relebohile Matsepe scored a consolation goal for Matlama.

Meanwhile, Bantu FC secured their spot in the final with a commanding 3-0 win over LMPS FC, thanks to goals from Tšoanelo Koetle and Tšeliso Botsane, alongside an own goal by veteran defender Nkau Lerotholi.

In the final, Teboho Masuoane netted the decisive goal in the first half, assisted by Halifele Moqokola. This victory adds to Coach Mohapi's remarkable record, having won four out of five major competitions he has managed, including two MMC Cups, a league title, and the 2024 Maseru Community Cup. However, Lioli's journey in the Alliance Challenge Cup fell short earlier in the season.

In a post-match interview, Coach Mohapi expressed pride in his team's growth and discipline.

"Our strength has improved significantly, and we have gained momentum," he said, highlighting the importance of maintaining



The champions of MMC Charity Cup, Lioli FC

defensive discipline.

Mohapi further noted that Lioli's strategy of forcing Bantu to play within their own half limited their scoring chances.

"Winning competitions builds confidence, and I am proud of how we played our brand of meaningful football. I see no reason to make changes in the team with the way we're playing now," Mohapi added.

In the one-day tournament, several players and staff members were recognized for their exceptional performances throughout the tournament. Lioli's head coach, Motheo Mohapi, was named Coach of the Tournament, while Halifele Moqokola earned the Player of the Tournament award.

Teboho Masuoane claimed the Golden Boot

for his two goals, and goalkeeper William Huni was honored as the Goalkeeper of the Tournament for his outstanding displays.

On the other side, Bantu's coach, James Madidilane, admitted that his team's performance fell short of expectations.

"Our decision to rotate players in search of the right chemistry affected our midfield cohesion, making us less threatening," he explained.

Despite the setback, Madidilane remained optimistic, stressing that the team's consistency and momentum will remain intact as they shift their focus to the league.

Though Bantu missed out on the cup, Madidilane was confident that the loss would not derail their overall goals for the season.



11 Oct - 17 Oct 2024

Against all odds: Young boxers gear up for global tournament

Seabata Mahao

Despite a debilitating shortage of financial resources, the Lesotho Boxing Association (LeBA) is enthusiastic about the selected team to take part in the upcoming International Boxing Association's (IBA) World Youth Boxing Championships.

A team of eight talented young boxers to represent the nation at the upcoming global showpiece set to take place from October 22 to November 3 in Budva, Montenegro has been announced.

Taole Letšasa, LeBA's Public Relations Officer said the national team consists of four women and four men, all of whom have worked tirelessly to earn their places on this prestigious platform.

The women's team includes 'Masentle Tjamela, Reaboha Seqoete, 'Matšepo Mohato, and Reitumetse Mokoma, while the men's team features Keketso Maepe, Reabetsoe Mokhitli, Tefelo Khoarahla, and Leshoboro Lerotholi.

Three coaches—Tieho Ntulo, Diamond Lengola, and Velaphy Snyman—will be in charge of Lesotho's boxers, playing a crucial role in ensuring that the athletes are mentally and physically prepared for the tournament.

But the preparations have not gone smoothly, despite the enthusiasm surrounding their involvement.

"A lack of funds prevented us from going for sparring sessions against other teams outside the country," Letšasa stated.

He further mentioned that the boxers would have gained invaluable experience sparring with international teams, allowing them to assess their abilities against various styles and hone their techniques in a competitive setting.

In an effort to prepare despite these setbacks, the fighters are currently sparring at Maseru's Setsoto Stadium. Although these sessions are helpful, Letšasa emphasised that competing in tournaments or participating in international sparring sessions would significantly enhance the boxers' chances of success in Montenegro.

"Our boxers need tournaments or sparring sessions outside the country for better preparation, even though they are busy with sparring sessions at the stadium," he stated.

The team hopes to participate in a tournament in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, to gain some international exposure prior to the championships. However, as Letšasa noted, this will also depend on funding availability.

"Another invitation to a tournament in the Eastern Cape has been sent out, and we hope to participate to prepare for the IBA Youth World Championships; however, once again, it will rely on funding availability," he said.

Despite these financial difficulties, the team remains hopeful. Letšasa indicated that the

boxers are

scheduled to leave Montenegro October 18, their par-hinges on

issuance of the required visas. "As we are awaiting visas, we have not yet confirmed the exact departure date of the team



for t-e-n-b-e-r but d-e-t-u-r-e t-h-e

for the championships; however, we intend to depart on October 18 to ensure a timely arrival."

Positively, the IBA has stepped in to offer participating teams substantial support by covering the lodging expenses for all athletes and three coaches from each national federation.

The IBA Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chris Roberts, emphasized the importance of this support in fostering

the growth of young athletes.

"This further demonstrates our dedication to providing our athletes with the best possible environment. To nurture these superstars on their path to becoming elite boxers, we must offer the best conditions for our young athletes," Letšasa added.

WSL kicks off with exciting matches

Thabo Rakhomo

The Lesotho Women's Super League (WSL) began with a thrilling start on Sunday, with matches taking place at the Police Training College (PTC) grounds and Maputsoe Difa Stadium.

The highly anticipated season returned to action, bringing relief to women's football fans. The opening day featured the debut of two newly promoted teams to the elite league: Bokamoso Ladies and FC Stoko Ladies.

At Maputsoe, Bokamoso Ladies stunned Berea Ladies with a 2-1 victory, thanks to two quick goals in the first half. Bokamoso took an early lead just 20 seconds into the game through striker 'Mapusetso Khachane, scoring the fastest goal in the league's history. This was followed by a Selloane Monokoane strike, giv-

ing them a 2-0 advantage at half-time.

Berea Ladies' struggles worsened when key player Liteboho Tjobe was forced off due to injury, and Nthabeleng Mathosi received a red card after accumulating two yellow cards. Down to 10 players, Berea Ladies showed resilience in the second half, eventually pulling one back with a well-executed goal from 'Makhotso Moalosi to make it 2-1.

Berea Ladies dominated the latter stages of the game but were unable to capitalize on several clear chances. Bokamoso Ladies, though balanced and determined, appeared fatigued in the final 30 minutes but held on for the win.

"We are happy to have won our first league game, but there are challenges we need to address before our next match. We struggled in the second half, but our pre-season experience

in the Diski Challenge, where Berea Ladies beat us on penalties, gave us insights into their weaknesses, and it worked for us today," said Bokamoso Ladies coach, Rorisang Makoetlane.

Makoetlane noted that many of his players are high school students currently in exam season, which has affected their training schedule. Some players are also based outside of Maseru, leading to fatigue and difficulties maintaining structure during the match.

In the final match at Maputsoe, FC Stoko faced Kick4Life Women. Despite FC Stoko's strong performance in earning promotion, Kick4Life dominated the game, winning 6-0 by half-time. Nyakallo Taole scored a hat-trick for Kick4Life, with additional goals from Lerato Tsoinyana, Reitumetse Namane, and Puseletso Jobo.

FC Stoko's defense struggled to contain the pace and skill of Kick4Life's attackers, while their midfield failed to retain possession and build meaningful plays. Though FC Stoko improved slightly in the second half, they could not break down Kick4Life's defense for a consolation goal.

Meanwhile, in Maseru, PTC hosted a goalless draw between Lijabatho Ladies and Mphaki High School Ladies. The day's action also saw defending champions LDF Ladies demolish Thaba-Tseka Ladies 15-0, while LMPS Ladies comfortably defeated Bantu Ladies 4-0.

WSL fixtures have now been suspended until further notice to allow time for Mehalalitoe, Lesotho's national women's team, to participate in the COSAFA Tournament, scheduled to take place from October 22 to November 2, 2024.

94.7fm bokamoso

COME GET THE BEST RADIO ADVERTISING OF ALL TIME

FOLLOW US NOW

WWW.BOKAMOSO947.CO.ZA
TEL: +266 6616 0009 / 5193 4769 / 6317 2559