

RFP YOUTH DEMAND OUSTER OF PS, MABESA

- *Accuse her of nepotism*

- *decry negligence over unpaid staff*

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RFP youth demand ouster of PS, Mabesa

- **Accuse her of nepotism**
- **decry negligence over unpaid staff**

Lerato Matheka

The Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) Youth League has called for the immediate dismissal of Principal Secretary (PS) of Home Affairs, 'Mamphaka Mabesa, citing failure in addressing unpaid staff salaries and accusations of nepotism.

In an explosive letter addressed to the RFP executive committee on September 16, the youth league detailed complaints against Mabesa, highlighting her failure to fulfill a promise to resolve salary arrears for Home Affairs staff.

The letter also accused her of favouritism in recruitment and neglect in responding to communications regarding urgent ministry challenges.

"Staff have not been paid for months despite her promises, and she continues to ignore our attempts to engage. This crisis has severely impacted the ministry's service delivery and tarnished the image of our party," the letter read.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has been under scrutiny for its failure to provide essential services, leaving many Basotho without critical identification documents. Vulnerable groups, including the elderly, pregnant women, and individuals with disabilities, have been forced to

endure lengthy queues outside Ministry offices.

Limited quotas at district offices—serving 40 to 60 people daily—have resulted in many citizens being unable to access basic services such as ID and passport issuance.

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

The letter, which was ruled out as fake on Facebook by the Secretary General of the Youth League, was reportedly submitted to the party's Secretary General's office but was rejected.

"Those kids do not have emotional intelligence; they treat matters with emotions. The letter was delivered but they were reprimanded on how they handled the issue. They know procedure," a source from within the RFP executive committee told Newsday citing the recipient ensured it never reached its destination.

They added, "There is a stipulated way of lodg-

ing complaints, and how they went about it is not it. Also their leader is also a member of the executive committee; they have an open communication line."

An anonymous employee from the ministry spoke about the challenges caused by delayed salary payments.

"Some of us have received partial payments, but many are still waiting for their full salaries. We've had to turn people away from the office as we can no longer work under these conditions without being paid."

The employee also mentioned concerns over job security, stating that many staff members, who hold politically-appointed positions, fear retaliation if they speak out.

"This situation is unbearable. It's not just about the money; it's about being treated with respect and dignity. We find ourselves taking out our frustration on the poor underserving Basotho because we know, our retaliation will be known through public outcry," they added.

Human rights activist, advocate Lepeli Moeketsi condemned the poor conditions at Home Affairs.

"Every person has the right to legal identity, and it is the state's responsibility to ensure easy access to identification documents. The current situation undermines this right, particularly for vulnerable groups who are forced to endure harsh conditions while waiting for services," he said.

He further stressed that without proper identification documents, many Basotho are denied access to essential services, employment, and education, compounding the country's social and economic problems.

The Lesotho Public Employees Union (formerly LEPPSA) also expressed frustration over the inability to intervene effectively due to the political nature of the appointments.

Secretary-General Motebang Leboela said: "These employees were hired through political ap-

pointments, bypassing the Public Service Procedures. As a union, we represent public servants, but the lack of transparency regarding their terms of employment makes it difficult for us to intervene. Nonetheless, their issues are evident, and we've been working on a strategy to engage with them because only when they are united can their grievances be solved speedily."

RFP's spokesperson Mokhethi Shelile, when contacted, stated that the executive committee had not yet received the letter from the youth league.

"I saw the letter on social media, but we have not received it officially, and have not met to discuss the matter," he said.

Attempts to reach PS Mabesa for comment were unsuccessful, as her phone went unanswered for a week before this article went to print.



EU addresses national reforms allegations

Staff Reporters

The European Union (EU) Delegation in Lesotho has dismissed claims that it is threatening to withdraw financial support from civil society organisations (CSOs) that oppose the government's incremental approach to the national reforms.

The EU has, however, expressed support for the government's piecemeal approach to constitutional reforms, despite recent calls for a more comprehensive overhaul of the constitution.

Since 2017, the EU has financially backed Lesotho's ambitious reform agenda, including supporting consultation processes led by the National Dialogue Planning Committee (NDPC).

In 2020, the EU, in partnership with the UNDP, funded the National Reforms Authority (NRA) with EUR 2,500,000 to aid in fulfilling its mandate through the "Support to Implementation of Lesotho National Reforms Programme"—culminating in the development of the Omnibus Bill, which follows the incremental approach.

The EU's comments follow a series of allegations by some Members of Parliament (MPs), government officials, and civil society groups, accusing the EU of threatening to withdraw funding from organisations that support a full constitutional overhaul.

Proponents of rewriting the constitution argue that proposed amendments represent significant changes, which cannot simply be incorporated into the current framework without fundamentally altering it. Critics further contend that only a complete overhaul would truly capture

the intended scope of change and warn that the current incremental approach might face legal challenges, potentially leading courts to nullify the reforms.

Other allegations have suggested that civil society groups are being coerced into silence, effectively discouraging them from challenging the government's gradual approach to amendments.

However, in a statement to Newsday this week, the EU denied withholding funds due to differing views on the reforms.

"EU funding for civil society has by no means been reduced or withdrawn because of the national reforms process or alleged differences of opinion. On the contrary, we continue to make resources available for civil society in Lesotho, ensuring that this funding is used for the intended purposes, in full accountability, with respect for fundamental values, and in compliance with the highest ethical standards," the EU said.

The EU emphasised its belief in the importance of an empowered civil society as an essential element of a democratic system, noting its ongoing support for CSOs through various programmes.

"In recent years, the EU Delegation has launched, on average, one call per year for funding CSOs. The most recent call, launched in July, aims to empower civil society as an advocate for gender equality, women's economic empowerment, and climate justice, including access to safe water, sanitation, and clean energy.

"The five ongoing projects with civil society—



EU Delegation 's Ambassador in Lesotho Paola Amadei - copyright Del Lesotho

totaling EUR 5.5 million (LSL 105 million)—support youth grassroots organizations, social accountability initiatives, human rights protection (especially for women and children), and efforts to combat gender-based violence," the EU added.

The EU also rejected accusations that it was interfering in the country's internal reform processes.

"The EU supports Lesotho's government and society in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, including creating fair and sustainable access to energy, water, and sanitation, contributing to social protection programmes, mitigating the impact of natural disasters, and promoting democracy and human rights," the statement read.

"At the request of our partners, the EU has supported Lesotho's ambitious reform agenda from its inception in 2017, providing financial support to consultation processes led by the NDPC. These extensive consultations resulted in the report titled 'The Lesotho We Want,' which included all agreed reform proposals."

However, the EU did confirm that funding was suspended due to the previous government's failure to adopt the Omnibus Bill.

"When the Omnibus Bill was not adopted

by the previous legislature, in consultation and agreement with our partners, we decided to safeguard the remaining resources to support citizen awareness if circumstances allowed in the future. The programme has been suspended since 2022, pending a democratic resolution on the reforms process. As always, the EU is not interfering in this process, respecting Lesotho's sovereignty."

Despite recent criticism, the EU reaffirmed its support for the Omnibus Bill, which follows the incremental approach to reform questioned by some groups.

"The Omnibus Bill stems from a long process involving society as a whole and could bring about significant transformation in Lesotho. The people of Lesotho have waited a long time to see these new rules come into force and to see the spirit of the reforms advocated during multi-stakeholder dialogue preserved. We hope that all political and societal forces will respect this spirit and the commitments made in the past, in the best interest of the nation."

The EU also praised the Parliament of Lesotho—both the National Assembly and the Senate—for their ongoing efforts to complete the reform process, describing them as key forums for political debate and law-making.

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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.

Letsoela bemoans coordination gaps among security agencies

Ntsoaki Motaung

Lieutenant General Mojalefa Letsoela, Commander of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), has voiced his concerns regarding the coordination between the country's national security agencies.

Speaking recently before the parliamentary Committee on the Prime Minister's Cluster, Letsoela emphasised the need for an audit of the LDF, Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), and National Security Services (NSS) to address existing issues.

"Our institutions need a serious audit by our authorities to determine if we are effective and efficient. If we are not, the gaps must be identified -

fied and addressed," Letsoela stated.

He stressed that without such an audit, trust issues among the agencies would persist.

The discussion followed a question from Committee Chairman

Kobile Letlailana about the relationship between the LDF and the police regarding joint operations.

Letlailana also sought clarification on

when and why the LDF gets involved in police operations.

Letsoela explained that the police, LDF, and NSS each have constitutionally defined duties and laws governing their operations. However, certain circumstances necessitate collaboration among the three agencies.

He cited Section 190 of the Defence Force Act, which allows for the police commissioner to invite the LDF for assistance in maintaining constitutional order, particularly in cases such as civil unrest.

"In a democratic government, civil authority can determine the employment of both agencies, as was the case during Operation Fiela," Letsoela said.

He added that LDF law under Section

5 permits independent operations, such as Operation Hard Fist, allowing the military to suppress terrorism, maintain order, and prevent crime, especially in situations of high crime prevalence.

Letsoela acknowledged strategic operational gaps between the security agencies, noting that these gaps have led to coordination challenges.

"We requested a long time ago that these issues be addressed to prevent the lack of direction we're facing now," he said.

He mentioned that operational coordination between the LDF commander and the police commissioner was intended but often hindered by historical issues and gaps in strategy.

"Stability has been evident among us since 2018, but there are still challenges to effective coordination. For instance, we may arrest someone today only to see them released the next day, which creates a significant gap," Letsoela remarked, adding that these coordination failures should not be viewed as personal disputes but as institutional problems.

"If we fail, we fail this nation. That is the operational gap we must address."

Murder-accused Matela seeks downgrade to culpable homicide



Relebohile Makhetha

Qamo Matela's lawyer, Advocate Lepeli Molapo, has submitted before the High Court that if Matela is found guilty, it should be for culpable homicide rather than the murder and assault charges he currently faces.

Matela, from Khubetsoana, Maseru, is accused of murdering his wife, 'Mahlompho Matela born Rethabile Mofolo in an apparent domestic violence incident in September 2021.

Advocate Molapo admitted this week in court that while Qamo did assault his wife, he had no intention of killing her. He pointed out that she was still conscious when she arrived at the hospital, and that Qamo himself took her

there.

Molapo added that, although disputes are common in relationships, resorting to violence is wrong. He requested that Matela be found guilty of culpable homicide rather than murder.

He further submitted that the case is a clear instance of domestic violence as husband and wife can be.

The defense also claimed that pathologist Dr Phakoane's investigation was not thorough because he was directed by the family rather than the police, which compromised the postmortem results. Molapo also argued that the prosecution did not call for testimonies of two doctors to testify, as their testimonies would have contradicted those from one of the doctors in Lesotho.

The defense also emphasised that it was unnecessary for Qamo to provide expert testimony on what could have caused his wife's death, as he is not a medical expert. The first doctor found only superficial injuries, indicating that the deceased was not brutally assaulted.

The court, however, noted that since the prosecution now admits that the accused assaulted the deceased, it remains unclear how to proceed, as the accused did not provide a detailed account of the assault.

The prosecutor, Advocate Peleha Jola argued that the testimonies of two doctors from Bloemfontein should not be considered, as they had caused confusion in the case. Neither doctor could

definitively determine what led to 'Mahlompho's death, as they did not conduct the postmortem.

In contrast, the testimonies of three doctors from Lesotho were consistent, leading the prosecution to argue that Qamo should be found guilty as charged. Dr. Mosese from Bloemfontein testified that the assaults did not directly cause the death, which is part of the defense's argument for a culpable homicide verdict rather than murder.

Dr. Phakoane admitted that certain areas were not examined, as he was instructed to focus on specific body parts.

The matter was heard before Justice Tšelisio Mokoko.

Critical LHWP tunnel maintenance gets underway

Water delivery to South Africa under the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) has been temporarily suspended from October 1, 2024, until the end of March 2025. This interruption is to allow for critical maintenance of the steel linings in the transfer and delivery tunnels, aimed at preventing corrosion. In an exclusive interview with Lesotho Highlands Development Authority's (LHDA) Divisional Manager for Development and Operations, Reentseng Molapo, we explore the intricacies of this major undertaking and its significant implications for water and power supply in both Lesotho and South Africa over the next six months.

NEWSDAY: Why is this maintenance necessary?

RM: The effort is part of routine maintenance that is carried out according to a routine inspection schedule as recommended by the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) manuals of the tunnels. In September to November 2019, during the inspections of the Transfer and Deliver Tunnels, it was established that the (corrosion protection) painting on all sections of the tunnels that are steel lined was near its end of service life and if left for too long, there was a risk that the steel linings will corrode. The inspection team advised that the tunnel could safely be operated for five (5) years (October 2019 to October 2024). Safe operation of the system significantly beyond the five years is not guaranteed. Therefore, it is crucial to carry out the work now, in order to ensure the integrity and sustainability of the tunnel system long term.

NEWSDAY: Why was this specific six-month period selected?

RM: The six months is based on the calculated time it will take to complete the work, considering the steel lining areas that need working on, the lengths of those segments, and the extent of refurbishment required. The first month of the work is mainly for dewatering the tunnels by pumping water out so that maintenance crews can have safe access to the work areas. It takes about one month to do so, because this has to be done in a slow and steady fashion and ensure that there aren't any drastic changes in pressure that may compromise the infrastructure. Similarly, the last (one) month of the period will be used primarily for getting water back into the tunnel, in a slow and controlled manner for the same safety considerations. The four months in between is where the main work of maintaining and refurbishing the parts of the tunnel that need attention, will be done.

NEWSDAY: When was the last large-scale maintenance work conducted on the tunnel?

RM: As mentioned, 2019 was the last time a major inspection was carried out which is what ultimately informed this leg of maintenance. The last major maintenance of the tunnels was conducted in 2012.

NEWSDAY: What preparations are needed to, in effect, take the tunnel offline, and how long do these preparations take?

RM: Preparations to take the system offline are numerous and long. As soon as reports of the 2019 indicated that this maintenance work will be necessary, we began to engage all the key role players to ensure sufficient preparation and lead times for all parties. One of the purposes of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is to enhance the use of Senqu River by storing, diverting, and controlling the flow of Senqu River



LHDA's Divisional Manager for Development and Operations, Reentseng Molapo

and its affluents to effect delivery of specified quantities of water to the Republic of South Africa (RSA) and by utilising such delivery system to generate hydro-electricity power in the Kingdom of Lesotho. Therefore, the richest economy in Africa of Gauteng, depends a lot on the water delivered by the LHWP system. Lesotho's energy supply depends a lot on the system, as the 'Muela Hydropower Station, supplies roughly 50 percent of Lesotho's energy demands. Therefore, on both sides of the border, alternative measures had to be put in place to ensure continued and reliable supply of water in Gauteng during the closer, and continued and reliable supply of electricity to Basotho during this time. Both the Department of Water and Sanitation in South Africa and the Lesotho Electricity Company were notified early and began making plans early for alternative supply and other mitigation.

Further, it is important to ensure that project communities that live near the areas where works will be done are engaged early, both for them to be aware of the work that will be carried out, and more importantly, for the opportunities that the work will bring to their areas, including job opportunities, increased economic activity and other infrastructure improvements that may need to be developed or refurbished.

Finally, preparations to identify qualified and proven experts in the works required is of paramount importance, and to do so in clear and transparent fashion, with enough lead time. The procurement processes to identify and appoint the contractor for the works were a key part of the preparation, and sensitizing this contractor to the requisite LHDA guidelines for recruitment of local communities in the works and other beneficiation priorities of the LHDA.

NEWSDAY: Once ready, what is the process of closing the tunnel, and how long does this take before commencement of actual maintenance programme?

RM: As mentioned earlier, the tunnels need to be de-watered, and this will entail a careful process of first, closing off the Intake Gates and Tunnel Isolation gate at Katse Intake Tower. Where water from Katse Dam enters into the Transfer Tunnel so that water flowing from Katse Dam to the Muela Station is stopped. There are points in the delivery tunnel designed for dewatering pumps to be connected and

these will be used to conduct the dewatering exercise mentioned earlier. This process is expected to last about one month to completely dewater the tunnel for safe access of maintenance crews to begin the works.

NEWSDAY: What are the challenges that come with closing the tunnel?

RM: Safety is the highest priority of any exercise like this, and therefore, considerations of the water pressure within and outside the tunnels require calculated and controlled dewatering process, emergency preparedness, ventilation and evacuation procedures are all things that have to be considered before closing the tunnels.

NEWSDAY: What does the maintenance work entail? Would you provide a timeline of the processes involved?

RM: Some of the critical steps of the maintenance have already been referred to above: Detailed Inspection and condition assessment; tunnel dewatering and ensuring ventilation and access. Once the maintenance crew is inside the tunnel, the next critical step is surface preparation, cleaning the surface to ensure removal of any sediment, debris and old coating, which can be done using methods such as sandblasting or water jetting, followed by corrosion removal where necessary.

Next would be a process of repairs and refurbishment – with installing of new steel plates or patches where necessary depending on the extent of damage, or full sections of steel lining where the damage is extensive enough to require replacement. A process of applying recoating corrosion protection layers then follow. Testing and quality control to ensure the refurbished surfaces are to the standard required and can withstand water flows without damage. The last stage is a full detailed inspection before the recommissioning of the tunnels and allowing water back into the system. All of these are conducted in a meticulous and highly detailed fashion.

NEWSDAY: What are unique challenges that need to be overcome in this initiative? If so, what plans are in place to mitigate them?

RM: The tunnels are on average about five meters wide in diameter and they require special equipment to reach above head areas. The other tunnels section are vertically oriented and therefore require special teams trained in abseiling to reach the areas to perform the repair work.

NEWSDAY: Do you require any special/unique equipment to complete the maintenance?

RM: The application of corrosion protection require special equipment, special paints that withstand the corrosive content of the delivered water, erosion that may be caused by any debris contained in the water.

NEWSDAY: What is the process of re-opening the tunnel and how long is the process expected to take?

RM: The process of allowing water back into the tunnel needs to be done in a slow, calculated and controlled manner, as mentioned for the purposes of ensuring safety, and controlled pressure back into the tunnel. This process is expected to last one month. The team has to put in place a pressure equalization plan, and from that allow controlled reintroduction of water back into the tunnel through the tunnel filling system at Katse Intake and 'Muela Intake. This is also done in sections, first is the transfer tunnel from Katse to 'Muela, filling of the 'Muela dam to allow sections of the delivery tunnel to filled last. There are level sensors used to monitor the water level build up and ensure adherence to the pressure equalization plan.

An important part of the process also involves release of air from the tunnel, and tunnel vents are kept open to allow air to escape as the tunnel fills with water. If ventilation and air release are not done properly, pockets of air may develop and cause uneven pressure distribution.

NEWSDAY: Would you be able to provide an estimated cost of this maintenance programme?

RM: The maintenance work is expected to cost roughly R300 million from start to finish.

NEWSDAY: Would you be able to provide a ballpark figure of how many people will be working on the maintenance?

RM: Roughly 300 people will gain employment during this maintenance period, and many of them from the immediate communities where the work will be taking place.

NEWSDAY: What specialist skills are required for the successful completion of programme?

RM: There are requirements for deep expertise in a host of skills both technical and otherwise. This type of maintenance needs experts in Geotechnical Engineering, Grouting Engineering, Corrosion Protection engineering, Welding and Metal Work, Surface Preparation and Coating Application, Mechanical and Pump System Maintenance, Inspection and Non-Destructive Testing (NDT), Confined Space Entry and Safety, Health, Safety, and Environmental Compliance, as well as Project Management

NEWSDAY: In South Africa, the impact of this temporary closure is a significant reduction in the volume of water reaching Gauteng. How will this programme impact Lesotho?

RM: Lesotho depends on 'Muela Hydropower Stations to supply a large part (50%) of its electricity requirements. The closure of the tunnels, and subsequently the station, means that the country has to import this additional energy to meet local demand, and that is a huge burden on the government's purse.

NEWSDAY: Is there anything else you want to add as you wrap up?

RM: It is worth repeating and to emphasise that the closure and maintenance of the steel linings is meant to ensure continued safe and reliable operation of the LHWP, the eventual benefit for the two countries in water supply and electricity generation.

BUSINESS

Econet expo spotlights the future of digital solutions

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's telecommunications giant, Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL), will host a four-day digital expo from October 22 to 25 in Maseru, showcasing the latest digital innovations and solutions for businesses, homes, and large corporations.

This second edition of the ETL Digital Expo aims to mark ETL's transformation into a full-fledged Digital Service Provider (DSP), as it rolls out cutting-edge technologies to position Lesotho as a leader in the digital age.

In a recent interview, ETL's Chief Executive Officer, Dennis Platjies, highlighted that the expo comes at a pivotal time in the company's journey, as it leads several transformative projects across the nation. Among these projects is the much-anticipated expansion of ETL's 5G network coverage, which will be a key

feature of the exhibition.

"We are extremely excited by the ongoing expansion of ETL's 5G network coverage, which now spans metropolitan areas across all ten districts of Lesotho. We all know that 5G brings ultra-fast internet speeds and low-latency connectivity, which will revolutionize industries across the board—offering new opportunities for businesses, government, education, and healthcare sectors to thrive in this digital era," Platjies said.

He also noted that the expo will feature ETL's latest innovations, including eSIM, VoLTE services, enhanced Mpoi, a gaming zone, smart home technologies, and more. These groundbreaking services cater to the growing demands of tech-savvy customers seeking seamless connectivity, superior call quality, and flexibility in managing their devices.

"Visitors to the expo will get a first-hand look at how these services work



and the benefits they bring to both individuals and corporate clients," Platjies said.

"As part of our commitment to delivering world-class telecommunications services, we have embarked on extensive network upgrades that promise faster, more reliable, and secure connections across the country. The goal of these upgrades is to enhance customer experience and future-proof our infrastructure in an ever-evolving digital landscape," he explained.

In addition to highlighting ETL's digital advancements, the expo will also focus on its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives through the Higherlife Foundation Lesotho.

"Over the years, ETL, through the Higherlife Foundation Lesotho, has played a pivotal role in supporting education and youth development in Lesotho, particularly through scholarships, mentorship opportunities, and by providing dignity packs to deserving young

Basotho," Platjies stated.

"Higherlife Foundation will showcase its wide-ranging opportunities for young Basotho and demonstrate how it empowers them through educational programs and leadership development, making a lasting impact on Lesotho's socio-economic landscape."

As ETL positions itself as an industry-leading, forward-thinking DSP, the expo is expected to draw attention from all segments of society—from business leaders and government officials to tech enthusiasts and the general public. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of services and solutions tailored to meet the diverse needs of businesses, homes, and industries in a rapidly evolving digital world.

"The ETL Digital Expo comes at an opportune moment as we unveil some of the most advanced technologies Lesotho has ever seen, underscoring our commitment to driving digital transformation in the country," Platjies added.



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.

NOTICE OF LOST LEASE

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply for a certified copy of a registered Title Deed/Lease to immovable property registered Under No 19223-913 on the 1/06/2016 in Favour of MAKOTILO JULIA NKOKO in respect of Every right or interest on and to the building(s) and other developments express or implied in certain Plot No. 19223-913 situated at HAMOTJOKA TEYATEYANENG URBAN AREA on Plan No 19223. As held by the Chief surveyor.

All persons having objection to the issue of the said copy are requested to lodge such in writing to the Land Registrar within three weeks from the last publication of the notice.

ADDRESS:
Land Registrar
Land Administration Authority
Lerotholi Road
P.O Box 11856
Maseru 100

APPLICANT'S NAMES AND ADDRESS
THABO NKOKO
P.O BOX 12626
MASERU 100

CONTACT NUMBERS: 57419666

HEALTH



Sustainable agriculture key to achieving Africa's SDGs - G7

Lerato Matheka

In the face of escalating global challenges—ranging from food insecurity to climate change—Africa stands at a crucial moment in its agricultural evolution and the recent G7 Agriculture Ministers' Communiqué, released on September 28, 2024, in Syracuse, stressed the urgent need for sustainable and resilient agricultural systems to address these challenges head-on.

The communiqué emphasised that agriculture must drive economic growth, contribute to sustainable development, enhance food security, and promote climate action, with a special focus on Africa, where hunger remains alarmingly widespread.

Africa's Role in Global Agriculture and the SDGs

As global food insecurity continues to rise, the G7 Ministers underscored that agriculture and food systems are central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the communiqué, agriculture plays a crucial role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ending hunger and malnutrition, and generating income throughout the agricultural value chain.

"With 298.4 million people in Africa experiencing hunger in 2023, these goals have become more urgent than ever," the ministers said.

The communiqué stressed the interconnectedness of agricultural issues globally, stating that "sustainable agriculture and food systems can help address climate change, reverse biodiversity losses, contribute to economic prosperity, and revitalise rural and fishing communities."

Climate Change and Resilience: A Call for Action

The communiqué highlighted the need for immediate adaptation of agricultural practices in response to climate change.

"Conflicts, climate variability, weather extremes, and economic setbacks are the main drivers of hunger and malnutrition, and they often reinforce each other," the G7 minister said, citing the impact of these factors on agricultural production in Africa.

Recognising farmers' role in mitigating climate change, the G7 Ministers committed to "strengthening farmers' resilience, addressing inequalities, and promoting reliable and sustainable supply chains that decouple agricultural production from deforestation and land degradation." Additionally, they emphasised "scaling up climate adaptation and mitigation activities to reduce farmers' and fishers' vulnerability."

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: A Food Security Lifeline

Africa's extensive coastal and inland waters offer great potential for fisheries and aquaculture to boost food security.

The communiqué noted that "over 40 per cent of the global population relies on aquatic food," underscoring the importance of these resources, especially for coastal and rural communities. However, unsustainable practices threaten these fisheries.

The G7 Ministers stressed the need for "sustainable and transparent man-

agement of fishery resources to protect marine biodiversity." They also called for developing aquaculture in line with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Empowering African Farmers: The Backbone of Resilient Food Systems

Building resilient and sustainable food systems requires empowering smallhold-

er farmers, particularly women and youth, to adopt innovative and climate-smart agricultural practices.

The Ministers stated, "We commit to scaling up efforts to redress imbalances, especially those affecting women and girls, in access to services, land, resources, technology, and finance."

Promoting youth engagement in agricul-

ture, fisheries, and aquaculture is crucial for boosting innovation and accelerating the achievement of SDGs. The communiqué highlighted initiatives like the G7 Apulia Food Systems Initiative (AFSI) and the G7 initiative on Strengthening Seed Certification Capacity in Africa, which aim to improve seed quality, increase productivity, and ensure food security.



Happy Independence Day

**As we celebrate 200 years as a nation,
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made it possible, Rea leboha Basotho!**



INVITATION TO BID

Letter of Invitation (Readvertisement)

PROJECT NAME: Consultancy Services to Review and Develop the Research and Industry Development Centre Curriculum for Contractors and Supervisors for the Roads Directorate (RD)

BID REF NO: RD/RID/CS – 01/2024

- The Roads Directorate has funds available towards the cost of consultancy services for the **Review of the RD Research and Industry Development Centre Curriculum for Contractors and Supervisors for the Roads Directorate (RD)**. The RD intends to apply a portion of these funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which this RFP is issued.
- The Roads Directorate now invites proposals from **Eligible International Individual Consultants and/or Consultancy Firms with extensive professional experience in overseeing the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges using both labour based and equipment based technologies** to assist the Roads Directorate in reviewing and developing the RD Research and Industry Development Centre curriculum for Contractors and Supervisors to be trained there.
- The details of the assignment are set out in the Terms of Reference.
A firm will be selected under "Quality and Cost" based selection and procedures described in this RFP. The Method of Payment for the assignment will be on a Lump-Sum Basis (Type of Contract – Lump Sum Contract).
- The RFP includes the following documents:
Section 1 – Letter of Invitation
Section 2 – Information to Consultants
Section 3 – Technical Proposal – Standard Forms
Section 4 – Financial Proposal – Standard Forms
Section 5 – Terms of Reference
Section 6 – Standard Form of Contract
- There will be an online pre-bid conference on Tuesday, 29th October 2024 at 11:30

a.m. For further details contact the email addresses shown at the end of the letter of Invitation.

- Completed Bid documents, comprising the Technical Proposals (1 original, 2 copies and a soft copy in a memory stick of the Technical proposal) and Financial Proposals (1 original and 2 copies of the Financial proposal), in two separate inner envelopes are to be enclosed in one large plain sealed envelope bearing no identification of the Bidder and marked as follows: **"Request for Proposals for Consulting Services for Review and Development of the RD Research and Industry Development Centre Curriculum for Contractors and Supervisors for the Roads Directorate (RD)"** must be deposited in the Tender Box at **Roads Directorate, Ground Floor, Room G11, Near the Procurement Section, Corner Senate and Lepoqo Roads, Industrial Area** and addressed to Roads Directorate at the above address, to be received on or before **12:00 Noon, Thursday, 14th November 2024**. Late Bids will be rejected.

Bids will be opened on the same day at **14:30hrs** by the Roads Directorate's Tender Board, in the presence of the Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.

Postal Address: -

Roads Directorate
Procurement Section
P.O. Box 194
Maseru 100
Lesotho

Street Address: -

Roads Directorate
Corner Senate and Lepoqo Roads
Opposite Browns Cash and Carry
Moshoeshoe Road
Industrial Area

Telephone: +266 22229000/52229000

Email: ntlhakanam@rd.org.ls; mahirintonaf@rd.org.ls; marek@rd.org.ls

The Roads Directorate reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders for reasons that may be advanced.



Roads Directorate



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Road Directorate Lesotho



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1964 - 2024



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58



Happy **58TH**
INDEPENDENCE BASOTHO

Khotso. Pula. Nala

The Management & Staff of **Memp Holdings (Pty) Ltd** would like to wish the Basotho people and the nation a happy independence day.



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SPORTS

Corporate Challenge ready to thrill

Seabata Mahao

The organisers of the Corporate Challenge, Lesotho's largest team-building event, have promised an even more exciting experience in this year's edition, which takes place today.

As is the standard, the event which is scheduled to take place at the Maseru Mall shopping centre, is expected to bring together hundreds of participants from various corporates for a day of fitness, camaraderie, and friendly competition.



2023 Corporate Challenge action



Organised by Liopelo Events, the Corporate Challenge has grown significantly since its inception in 2013, expanding from 300 participants to nearly 800. This year's edition is set to feature approximately 19 obstacles designed to test both mental and physical skills, catering to various fitness levels. Participants can look forward to activities ranging from brain-teasing puzzles to adrenaline-fueled physical challenges, with a 2.97-kilometre course that includes the popular "oceans of mud."

The event's focus remains on fostering teamwork and promoting a healthy lifestyle. "This year, we're expecting over 700 participants, allowing us to prioritise quality over quantity," Liopelo Events stated. The entry fee is M3200 per team of five, with tickets available since June. Liopelo Events emphasised the benefits of participating, noting, "The Corporate Challenge offers organisations a platform to showcase team spirit, culture, and commitment to employee well-being."

Makoanyane XI booted out of U-20 AFCON qualifiers

Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho Under-20 team, Makoanyane XI, has been eliminated from the 2025 CAF U-20 Africa Cup of Nations/COSAFA qualifier tournament, currently ongoing in Mozambique. Makoanyane XI had a rough start in the qualifying tournament, suffering a 1-0 loss to Comoros in their opening match, followed by a 6-0 defeat to South Africa. However, they managed to conclude their campaign on a positive note, securing a 3-2 victory over Malawi in their final match. Despite their early exit from the competition, the team had reason to celebrate as forward Paseka Maile was named Player of the Match in their win against Malawi. Maile netted two goals, putting Makoanyane XI in a commanding position before Malawi narrowed the scoreline.



Makoanyane XI and Kick4Life's striker, Paseka Maile

Maile, who plays for Kick4Life Juventude FC in Lesotho's A Division League, showcased his skills throughout the tournament. In the match against Malawi, he broke the deadlock in the 4th minute, giving his side an early lead. Chewane Ntakra extended the advantage to 2-0 just before halftime in the 43rd minute. Maile then scored his second goal of the match in the 57th minute, making it 3-0 for Makoanyane XI. However, Malawi mounted a late response, with Masinja scoring in the 63rd minute, followed by Mhango's goal in the 84th minute, which made the scoreline more competitive. Although Makoanyane XI's journey in the qualifiers ended earlier than hoped, the young squad showed moments of promise, with Maile being a standout performer throughout the tournament.

Bantu breeze past newcomers Mzamane

Seabata Mahao

Mafeteng giants Bantu Football Club (FC) continued their perfect start to the 2024/25 premier league season by cruising to a 3-0 victory over newcomers Mzamane FC in their during a match held at the Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena in Maseru.

The match was among the catch-up fixtures following postponements due to bad weather conditions during the league's opening weekend.

Bantu got on the scoresheet early, with Le-hlohonolo Fothoane netting in the 10th minute. Tšeliso Botsane extended the lead in the 49th minute, followed by a third goal from Kalake in the 55th minute.

In a post-match interview, Bantu's Head Coach James Madidilane expressed his satisfaction with the performance, noting missed opportunities but emphasizing the strong showing in the second half.

"I am happy as this is our second match of the premier league. If we can maintain the performance we displayed during the second half, then we are good," said Madidilane.

Despite dealing with several injuries, Madidilane is confident his team will be prepared



for their next match against LMPS FC on Saturday.

In their opening match of the season, Bantu brushed aside another newly promoted side, Majantja FC by a 2-0 score line.

Liteboho Ramantsoe, Mzamane FC's Head Coach noted the difficulty his team faced in adapting to the warmer conditions in Maseru compared to their colder base in Mokhotlong. Ramantsoe highlighted that Bantu did not press aggressively when Mzamane held the ball, which allowed his team to create opportunities, especially in the first half. However, Mzamane was unlucky to capitalise on these chances.

Ramantsoe also emphasised the challenges his newly promoted side faces, including unfamiliarity with other premier league teams and financial constraints that force them to rely on local players from villages. He promised an improved performance as the team gains more experience in the league.

In other league results, Linare FC claimed a 2-1 win over Limkokwing University (LU) FC, while Lesotho Correctional Services (LCS) FC played to a 1-1 draw against ACE Maseru FC at Ratjomose Ground in Maseru.

The Premier League will this weekend pause for the Maluti Mountain Cement Charity Cup, scheduled for October 5 in Mafeteng. This will be followed by the FIFA international break, during which Lesotho's national team, Likuena, will continue its Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers from October 7 to 15.

Lioli stars return to Likuena squad

Seabata Mahao

Players from Lioli Football Club, the defending Premier League champions, are among the new additions to Likuena's provisional squad for the upcoming back-to-back matches against Gabon.

Head Coach Leslie Notsi announced the squad earlier this week.

The new faces include Siyabonga Monyaka from Majantja FC, Mpho Hlephole and Mphale Mphalaole from Lioli FC, Tšepo Mokhanya from Linare FC, Leruo Lethunya from Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), as well as the return of Mohlomi Makhetha and Katiso Makhetha.

Additionally, 19-year-old Paseka Maile will continue to shuttle between Makoanyane XI and Likuena after making his senior team debut at the COSAFA Cup earlier this year.

Despite the new blood, the squad retains a mix of young talent and experienced players as they prepare to face Gabon, hoping to make an impact on the international stage.

The provisional squad include; goalkeeper-



Likuena squad

ers: Sekhoane Moerane from Orbit College FC, Ntsane Molise from Linare FC, and Tanksion Chaba from Lesotho Correctional Services (LCS) FC.

Defenders: Thabo Mokhele from Chipa United FC, Thabang Malane from African Stars FC, Thato Sefoli from Upington City FC, Rethabile Rasethuntša from Linare FC, Reth-

abile Mokokoane from Matlama FC, Mokhele Molise from LDF FC, Thabo Matšoele from Linare FC, Fusi Matlabe from Mpheni Defenders FC, Siyabonga Monyaka from Majantja FC, Mpho Hlephole from Lioli FC, Mphale Mphalaole from Lioli FC, Katleho Koaeane from Lesotho Mounted Police Services (LMPS) FC, and Mohlomi Makhetha from LCS FC.

Midfielders: Tlotliso Phatsisi from Black Leopards, Tswarelo Bereng from Orbit College FC, Teboho Letsema from Sekhukhune United FC, Neo Mokhachane from Jwaneng Galaxy FC, Lisema Lebokollane from Matlama FC, Lehlohonolo Fothoane from Bantu FC, Tšepo Toloane from LDF FC, Katiso Thamae from Matlama FC, Paseka Maile from Kick4Life Ju-ventude FC, Tšepo Mokhanya from Linare FC, and Lehlohonolo Ntsau from LDF FC.

Strikers: Katleho Makateng from LDF FC, Leruo Lethunya from LDF FC, Jane Thabantšo from Matlama FC, and Motebang Sera from Royal AM FC.



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Today, we honour our shared journey, the progress we've made, and the bright future ahead. Here's to 58 years of freedom and 200 years of a strong, proud nation!

