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Mystery shrouds LTDC CEO's appointment



Molupe Pheko - LTDC's Chief Executive Officer

Staff Reporter

On this day, a year past – November 15, 2023 – the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC) heralded, with apparent optimism, the appointment of Molupe Pheko as its Chief Executive Officer, following what was billed as a successful recruitment process.

“Following a successful recruitment process and appointment of Mr Molupe Pheko as LTDC CEO, by the LTDC Board of Directors, we welcome him, and wish him well in this paramount undertaking,” LTDC announced with seeming confidence in the new leadership.

One year on, however, Newsday has unearthed startling revelations that cast a shadow over the board's decision.

Despite Pheko's designation as the organisation's head, sources privy to the process disclosed that he had been ranked second by the recruitment agency responsible for selecting the new CEO.

Yet, the board bypassed the candidate who had scored highest, Sehlabaka Ramafikeng, a seasoned contender who had already served in the role on an interim basis.

Insiders have intimated to Newsday that Pheko's appointment was not without its own share of trepidation. One of his referees had allegedly raised reservations about his preparedness for the demanding role of CEO, a sentiment that apparently did not deter the board in its ultimate selection.

However, Mamolemo Maleke, the board's secretary, refuted these claims with unwavering conviction, asserting to Newsday yesterday that the appointment process itself extended beyond the board's remit.

“Someone had already approached the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) even before the process had concluded, alleging irregularities,” Maleke stated.

According to her, the DCEO initiated an investigation, scrutinising the process, and subsequently found no fault, thereby

granting the board clearance to proceed.

Maleke further emphasised that reports suggesting Ramafikeng had been ranked first, with Pheko second, were categorically unfounded.

“That is utterly false,” she declared. “I can assure you, with my head held high, that such rankings are incorrect. It is equally untrue that any referee questioned Mr. Pheko's readiness for the CEO position. I personally reviewed the final report from the recruitment consultancy, and there was no such assertion.”

Maleke's testimonial stands in stark contrast to that of Moshe Mosaase, the former Principal Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Tourism, who presided over the LTDC board when the recruitment process commenced.

Mosaase confirmed to Newsday: “Mr. Sehlabaka Ramafikeng was indeed ranked first, with Mr. Pheko coming in second.” He added that he could not recall the names of the third candidate, though he noted that the individual currently serves as the acting CEO of the Basotho Enterprise Development Corporation (BEDCO).

Mosaase further elaborated that he was a member of the Human Resource and Operations sub-committee – responsible for overseeing the recruitment – though he was not its chair.

He clarified that by the time the board reached its final decision and appointed Pheko, he had already been reassigned to another ministry and was no longer board chair.

Explaining the process, he noted that nine candidates met the qualifications based on their CVs, with the sub-committee originally aiming to shortlist five for interviews. However, since two candidates were tied at fifth place, a total of six were interviewed.

“This demonstrates the transparency of the process,” he remarked. “Out of the six candidates, three were eliminated, and the remaining three progressed to the psychometric assessment, after which the consultancy's final ranking placed Mr. Ramafikeng at the top.”

... Second place wins first place after baffling board decision

Mosaase emphasised that while the consultancy's recommendation carried weight, it was advisory rather than prescriptive. “The sub-committee considered the consultancy's professional advice before referring the matter to the full board for a conclusive decision. By that point, I was no longer part of the process,” he said.

Although he acknowledged his absence from the board when the final decision was made, he knew the rationale behind selecting Pheko over Ramafikeng.

“The board was looking for a fresh perspective, a leader unencumbered by previous associations with LTDC. Someone who could inject new ideas,” he explained, adding: “Had I been responsible for the ultimate choice, I would likely have selected Mr. Pheko myself.”

Newsday had reached out to Mosaase with inquiries, seeking clarity on his relationship with Pheko and whether they shared any personal connections, such as school ties, which might have influenced the appointment decision.

Other questions Newsday posed to Mosaase delved deeper into the selection process for Pheko's appointment.

The inquiries included:

- Can you walk us through the appointment process for Mr. Pheko? Specifically, who was involved in the decision-making, and what criteria were prioritised?
- We understand that Mr. Pheko was allegedly ranked third and did not perform well in both oral and psychometric tests. What were the specific reasons for selecting him over candidates who reportedly scored higher?
- It has also been alleged that one of Mr. Pheko's referees expressed doubts about his readiness for the CEO role. Were you aware of this feedback? If so, how was it factored into the final decision?
- Given these concerns, can you assure the public that the appointment process was transparent and free from favouritism?
- How do you respond to concerns of possible nepotism?

In response, Mosaase dismissed these allegations as unfounded. Addressing questions about his personal connection to Pheko, he acknowledged: “Yes, we both attended Lesotho High School. Lesotho is

a small country, and it is natural for us to know each other. However, I did not influence the decision to appoint Mr. Pheko.”

Consultant Limpho Nchepe-Motanyane remained guarded in her interview with Newsday yesterday, citing a non-disclosure agreement she had signed with her client, LTDC. She emphasised that the consultancy only provides recommendations, which are not binding on the client.

“We compiled a report with recommendations and submitted it to the client. What they choose to do with it is entirely their decision,” she explained.

Newsday wants to access this report. As a publicly funded institution, LTDC's CEO appointment should be open to public scrutiny in the interest of transparency. Also, Lesotho, as a democratic kingdom, should uphold these principles in all its state institutions.

If the LTDC board had valid reasons for departing from the consultancy's recommendation, those reasons have not been disclosed.

Transparency demands that public institutions justify decisions when they deviate from established selection processes, especially when it appears that a more qualified candidate was overlooked.

Nchepe-Motanyane added, “What I can assure you is that Mr. Mosaase and our consultancy were not involved in the final decision. We, too, only learned of the client's chosen appointee through the media, like everyone else.”

Mosaase redirected Newsday to Pokello Mahlomola, the current Principal Secretary (PS) and chairperson of the LTDC board.

However, Newsday found that Mahlomola only assumed the role on April 1, 2024, well after Pheko's appointment. Attempts to reach Mahlomola for comment were unsuccessful, as he was not available by phone.

Once reached, Newsday plans to formally request a copy of the report.

Sources privy to LTDC's inner workings, meanwhile, anonymously decried Pheko's performance in his initial year, characterising his leadership as a conspicuous dereliction of governance.

Portrayed as narcissistic and hypersensitive, these insiders claimed Pheko sowed internal discord. Efforts to obtain his comment also proved unavailing, as his phone went unanswered yesterday.

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Scandals in the health sector

... Nurses accused of misconduct and unethical care

Ntsoaki Motaung

Lesotho Nursing Council (LNC) has released a three-year report revealing multiple cases of unprofessional conduct in the country's healthcare system, including a tragic case where a child was deprived of a normal life due to inadequate nursing care during labour.

Between 2021 and 2024, the report states, at least seven incidents of poor care in maternity wards were documented, implicating more than eight nurses, midwives, and nursing assistants.

In a press briefing on Wednesday this week, LNC Chairperson, Rejakile Fosa, spoke about the severity of these cases, emphasising one incident that left a lasting impact on an innocent child.

"In one case, a pregnant woman did not receive the needed care on time, which resulted in complications during labour," Fosa said. "As a result of delayed care, the child was born with brain abnormalities. This has affected their development, meaning the child will require assistance for the rest of their life."

This revelation reflects an alarming trend in negligent obstetric care across the country, which not only compromises maternal health but, in some cases, leads to tragic and irreversible outcomes for newborns.

One of the high-profile cases tied to this issue is that of Mamotšoane Tšephe, whose son, born eight years ago, has cerebral palsy, a neurological disorder affecting movement, posture, and balance.

Tšephe shared her heart-wrenching story during the Rare Disease Day event hosted by Botho University in Maseru last year.

"I was told my baby might delay in developing or might not walk or talk at all," she recounted. "They said my child's brain did not get enough oxygen during birth. I was supposed to be taken to the theatre, but that never happened. Today, my child still acts like a new-born."

She continued: "Seven years later, my child cannot walk, talk, sit, or even hold his head up. He still wears nappies and requires specific types of food. This is the life my son has, all because those responsible for his birth did

not act when they should have."

The LNC report listed facilities where poor nursing practices were reported, including Little Flower Health Care, Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital (QMMH), Motebang Hospital, 'Mamohau Hospital, Molika-liko Health Center, and Makoanyane Military Hospital.

Individuals implicated in these cases include Neo Rameno, Mamalibeng Ralenkoane, Tanki Masakale, Tebatso Ntšoane, Seipati Rametsi, Khosana Ranthako, Montšeng Makolojane, Nothekanthi May, and Masehloho Sehloho, as well as unnamed individuals involved in ongoing cases.

Alongside negligence in maternity care, the report highlighted cases of sexual misconduct. At Mabote Filter Clinic in 2021/2022, Tlali Kolobe was found guilty and permanently removed from the nursing register.

According to the case details, Kolobe assaulted a pregnant patient during an examination in an enclosed area, which prevented other staff from recognising the act immediately.

The case came to light only after the patient reported the incident, leading to an investigation and disciplinary action.

In another case at Dilli-Dilli Health Centre in 2022/2023, Pholo Churchill Lepheana was found to have violated professional boundaries. Investigations revealed that Lepheana was in a romantic relationship with an individual prior to her becoming his patient.

However, he later found himself in a professional position, caring for her as she became his patient. The victim, who was pregnant at the time, was residing at a maternity waiting home in anticipation of her due date when the incident occurred.

Additional reports submitted to LNC include cases involving behaviour detrimental to the nursing profession, such as the use of vulgar language, breaches of confidentiality, patient privacy violations, criminal offences (fraud), unethical conduct, medical errors, practising outside the scope of practice, and forgery of educational certificates.

LNC registrar, Flavia Moetsana, expressed concern that these may not be the only cases in the country, as many incidents go unreported due to limited public awareness of patient rights and reporting channels.

Moetsana further reported that inspections of private clinics revealed several operating illegally. Among these were Rapha Clinic at Ha Tsolo, Bophelo Private Clinic at Ha Thetsane, Machache Pharmaceuticals at Ha Tsolo, and Total Care Medical Pharmacy at Ha Thetsane.

These facilities were often managed by Nursing Assistants practising outside their professional scope. For example, Bophelo Private Clinic's license expired on March 9, 2022, and the owner lacked qualifications in medicine or nursing.

Additionally, Machache Pharmaceuticals was supervised by a second-year student on the inspection day, and Total Care Medical Pharmacy was managed by an unregistered Nursing Assistant.



Flavia Moetsana Registrar LNC



Rejakile Fosa the Chairperson of LNC

Portfolio committee urges review of LHDA compensation policy

Staff Reporters

The National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism, and Land Cluster has recommended disciplinary action for all Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) officers involved in the alleged mishandling of funds for the Ha Mokhathi community to prevent future issues.

The committee also called for LHDA to review and amend its compensation policy.

The recommendations follow the committee's scrutiny of petitions from the villages of Ha Makhalanyane, Ha Mokhathi, Ha Nchela, and Ha Thafeng.

As part of its mandate, the committee examined the LHDA's administration, legislation, budget, and policies, as allowed under standing orders that empower it to investigate departments responsible for natural resources, water, mining, energy, and other sectors.

During the review, the committee acknowledged that the inception of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) recognised the environmental and social impacts on local communities.

The LHWP Treaty mandates that communities affected by dam projects receive compensation for presumed losses. A Compensation and Resettlement Task Team (CRTT) was created to guide affected families on compensation options and entitlements.

The Ha Nchela community expressed frustration to the portfolio with alleged repeated requirements from LHDA to resubmit development plans.

Initially requesting a hall to generate rental income, the community shifted its focus to water access after LHDA reportedly raised concerns over potential conflicts.

According to LHDA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tente Tente, Ha Nchela has a remaining fund balance of M608,491.50 earmarked for water infrastructure.

Ha Makhalanyane community voiced concerns about delays in electricity supply and the construction of a chief's office. Tente reported that the community's account holds M8,911,704.59 but cited misunderstandings with the Lesotho Electricity Corporation (LEC) over installation as the cause of the delay.

Similarly, Ha Thafeng community requested an access road and a chief's office.

Tente noted that M1,230,619.84 remains

in their fund and mentioned that LHDA had maintained positive relations with this community.

Ha Mokhathi community, however, expressed dissatisfaction with a recent M10,000 disbursement and alleged mishandling of funds by their Legal Local Entities (LLEs). Community members reported that some LHDA officers openly favored specific committees, hindering oversight.

Tente confirmed that the community's initial M1,300,000 fund had been depleted but denied LHDA's involvement in any unauthorised transactions.

The committee highlighted LHDA's obligation to support host communities with development benefits, as outlined in the 1997 Compensation Procedures, including improved infrastructure, water, health facilities, and resource management programs.

The committee's report stated that LHDA's prolonged inaction contravened the LHWP Treaty, which requires the Authority to sustain the standard of living and income levels of displaced persons.

The committee's recommendations include:

1. Completion of community projects by October 2024:

- Ha Nchela: Construction of a community hall.
 - Ha Thafeng: Provision of a chief's office and an access road.
 - Ha Makhalanyane: Support for electricity supply and construction of a chief's office.
2. Full accountability for Ha Mokhathi funds: LHDA should assume responsibility for Ha Mokhathi's community funds, following its refusal to suspend transactions pending the committee's investigation.
 3. Disciplinary measures for LHDA officers: Action should be taken against LHDA officers involved in the alleged mismanagement of Ha Mokhathi's funds to prevent further missteps.
 4. Amendment of LHDA's compensation policy: The LHDA should update its compensation policy to better meet the needs of affected communities.

The report called for these measures to be implemented promptly to address the longstanding grievances of the affected communities and ensure equitable treatment under the LHWP's mandates.

Posholi sentenced to 18 years for the murder of Ramonyatsi



Relebohile Makhetha

Nyola Posholi was sentenced to 18 years in prison on Wednesday this week for the murder of Berente Ramonyatsi on November 1, 2019.

The tragic events that led to Ramonyatsi's death have now culminated in a conviction under the watchful eye of Judge Tšelisio Mokoko.

The case, which has gripped the local community in ketane, Mohale's Hoek, unfolded on a fateful night when Posholi and Ramonyatsi became embroiled in a confrontation while walking from a traditional initiation ceremony.

After a heated exchange about a torn bag and a disrespectful remark, Ramonyatsi struck Posholi with a stick. In a fit of anger, Posholi retaliated by drawing a knife, fatally stabbing Ramonyatsi twice, once in the shoulder and again in the chest.

Posholi fled the scene after the attack but was soon apprehended by the community, who had been alerted to the incident.

Despite his claims that the stabbing was an act of self-defence, the evidence presented in court suggested otherwise.

The testimony from witnesses, including Tsietsi Mosebetsi, painted a different picture: Posholi, enraged by the earlier physical confrontation, pursued the attack with clear intent, even as Ramonyatsi, gravely injured, attempted to hold himself up with Mosebetsi's help.

Testimony of Tsietsi Mosebetsi

"The incident occurred on November 2, 2019, around 2 a.m. I, along with Moeti Rangojane, Retšelisitsoe Khesa, Berente Ramonyatsi, and Nyola Posholi, were in the village of Ha Matekane. The previous evening, November 1, 2019, the four

young men, including myself, had gathered at Mr. Ntsane Lebona's residence (moo bashemane baneng ba kena). Nyola and I was walking in front and was drunk by local brew, mothamahane. As we were walking, we overheard Mr. Berente saying, 'Wait here, gentlemen.' He was carrying two two-litre bottles of alcohol.

"When he approached, Mr. Berente asked Mr. Nyola for his bag to put his bottles inside. Nyola handed it over, and Mr. Berente noticed the bag was torn and would not open properly. He then remarked, 'Nyola, how does this bag of yours even open?' He handed it back, telling him to open it himself. Mr. Berente eventually opened the bag, and as he was about to put in a bottle, Nyola objected, questioning 'hee monna' how are you handling his bag.

"Mr. Berente then asked, 'Nyola, who are you calling me monna?' to which Nyola responded, 'I am talking to you, monna.' Mr. Berente warned him, saying: 'Do not disrespect me, you little troublemaker. People say you kill others, and you think you can intimidate me?'

"Sensing the tension, I intervened, moving Nyola aside to avoid an escalation. However, Mr. Berente then approached and struck Nyola on the head with a stick. Nyola, furious, pulled free from my grip, drew a knife, and returned to stab Mr. Berente in the shoulder. I was caught between them and only noticed the gravity of the situation when I saw Mr. Berente holding his injured shoulder in pain. At this point, Nyola came closer and stabbed him again, this time in the chest. It was then I realised that Nyola was armed with a knife.

"I asked Nyola why he had stabbed Mr. Berente. He responded defiantly, saying; 'I will stab him again. Who does he think he is?' Mr. Berente, gravely injured, leaned against me to prevent himself from falling. Nyola then left the scene, and I requested that Moeti, who was with us, follow Nyola to ensure he did not hide.

"Mr. Retšelisitsoe sounded the alarm, and other villagers arrived, asking where

Nyola had gone. They accompanied Moeti to pursue and apprehend Nyola. They returned with him to Ha Matekane and brought him before the Chief. The Chief ordered that Nyola be restrained. When Nyola was brought back, he had a wound on his forehead, likely from when he fell while being pursued by Moeti. The Chief, seeing the anger among the villagers, instructed them not to harm Nyola and called the police, stating that a man had been killed by a stabbing.

"The deceased was then taken on horseback to Ha Rantoetsi. It was around 10 p.m. when the police arrived at the scene."

In his defence, Posholi admitted to the stabbing but argued that it was in self-defence following an unprovoked attack.

However, Judge Mokoko, in delivering the sentence, concluded that Posholi's actions were disproportionate to the threat posed by Ramonyatsi, who had already been restrained by Mosebetsi during the altercation. The court found that Posholi's actions were deliberate and calculated, evidenced by his multiple stabbings of the deceased.

Despite the nature of the crime, the court considered several mitigating factors when handing down the sentence. Posholi, a first-time offender, showed genuine remorse and had cooperated fully with the legal process over the past five years.

Additionally, the community's retaliation against Posholi – who was beaten in the aftermath of the incident – was taken into account as a form of punishment in itself.

Judge Mokoko emphasised the growing concern over rising murder cases and expressed hope that this sentence would serve as a deterrent to others, reinforcing that acts of violence must be met with consequences.

The court also acknowledged the need for second chances for individuals who are not habitual criminals, yet reminded the public that respect for life must be upheld at all costs.

Lesotho Post Bank fraud trial unfolds amidst legal disputes

Relebohile Makhetha

The high-stakes trial involving allegations of fraud, corruption, and money laundering at the LesothoPost Bank continued in the Maseru Magistrate Court yesterday but was postponed to Thursday next week.

The prosecution, led by advocates Peleha Joala and Pone Tšeisa from the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO), faces a formidable defence team comprising Advocates Phafane Salemane, Rethabile Setlojane, and Lintle Tuke.

This trial has already been marred by procedural disputes and accusations of undue delays, with significant implications for the integrity of the case.

At the outset of proceedings yesterday, Advocate Setlojane raised an objection, revealing that a letter had been sent to the DCEO on September 30, requesting access to the docket.

Setlojane indicated that despite receiving an acknowledgement of the request on October 1, the DCEO failed to provide the necessary documentation or offer an explanation for its non-disclosure.

He stressed that the accused have a constitutional right to access the docket, but he consented to the trial proceeding under protest.

As the trial unfolded, the prosecution's witness, Detective Sergeant Pita, took the stand.

However, the defence quickly launched a forceful objection, with Advocate Phafane questioning the DCEO's competence in managing the case. Phafane raised concerns that the manner in which the prosecution was presenting evidence amounted to a "trial within a trial" – a situation he said could severely undermine the strength of the case.

He warned that, if this approach continued, the trial could drag on for years, given that each of the 15 accused individuals might require separate hearings.

Phafane further indicated that the defence would be compelled to present its own evidence, including a medical report detailing the alleged mistreatment of the accused during their detention.

Setlojane formally requested that the court compel the DCEO to provide witness

statements and confessions within five working days.

The court adjourned the proceedings, now set to resume on Thursday, November 21. This trial has already captured significant attention.

The accused are charged with orchestrating a massive scheme that allegedly defrauded the government and the Lesotho Post Bank to the tune of M10,582,995 and M3,235,500, respectively.

The accused, 'Mathabo Tshehlo, Molefi Leqhae, 'Mamohau Mapota, 'Malerato Tlalinyana, 'Maletsabisa Seboka, 'Mamorena Matsoso, Thabo Tshehlo, 'Mampho Molefi, Jota Hlaabana, Ntsebo Thamae, Khethang Makhetha, Keneuoe Mochekeoane, Sekhonyana Mapota, Tjoetsane Seoka, and Folojeng Folojeng, are accused of a scheme that allowed them to bypass eligibility requirements for government fleet service contracts, enriching themselves and their families at the expense of public funds.

The scandal allegedly began in 2021, with the accused conspiring with officials from the Ministry of Finance and Develop-

ment Planning to secure government contracts for their relatives.

This alleged corruption, involving the provision of vehicle loans under the Basotho Fleet Scheme, violated Lesotho Post Bank's policy prohibiting such loans for employees or their families. The loans approved for relatives of the accused ranged from M432,000 to M580,000, all in clear contravention of established rules.

Further allegations suggest that the accused worked in concert with Ministry of Finance official Folojeng Folojeng, facilitating the approval of these alleged corrupt contracts.

Folojeng and co-conspirator Tjoetsane Seoka are also implicated in a scheme where vehicles owned by associates of bank executives were leased to the government, with the state paying between M19,702 and M21,623 per vehicle each month.

This arrangement reportedly caused a financial loss of over M10 million until the arrests of Folojeng and Seoka.

Despite the gravity of these charges, all of the accused are currently out on bail.

Boys forced to choose livestock over learning

Ntsoaki Motaung

Every child deserves access to a quality, safe, and inclusive education.

However, in Lesotho, children in remote areas face significant obstacles that hinder their ability to access education. In the hard-to-reach areas of Qacha's Nek, many children drop out of school to tend to their parents' livestock, a tradition that continues to impact education in the region.

In the Thamathu community, in Sehlabathebe, located nearly 100 kilometers from Qacha's Nek town, 18-year-old Mamelane Rafoza is one of many children who have had to abandon their education.

Rafoza dropped out of Thamathu High School, believing it was his responsibility to care for his parents' livestock.

Speaking during a recent visit by Ministry of Gender, Youth, and Social Development offi-

cial and journalists to the parents of children identified for the Basic Education Strengthening Project (BESP), Rafoza explained that he had no choice but to leave school.

"No one would look after the animals," he said.

The principal of Thamathu High School explained that it was common practice in the Thamathu community for boys to inherit part of their parents' livestock once they reach a certain age.

This often leads to children dropping out of school to take on the responsibility of caring for the animals.

"By the time some of the animals are registered in their name, they drop out of school, claiming they now have the legacy they need to look after. The community's livelihood relies on animal production, not education," the principal stated.

For many families in the area, income is de-

rived from the sale of animals or the production of wool and mohair. Consequently, education is often not seen as a priority, and this belief is passed down through generations.

Rafoza shared that after his parents passed on five sheep to him, he felt it was his duty to care for them, as he was the eldest. He attended the parents' meeting on behalf of his mother, who was unable to attend due to errands in town.

"I realised I was old enough to look after the animals because no one else could," he said.

When asked if he would return to school if the ministry helped him re-enroll, Rafoza was resolute. "I will not go back to school. I have animals to take care of, and I need them to grow so they can bring me money in the future," he said.

Lesotho has ratified international treaties, including the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Convention on the Worst Forms

of Child Labour (1999, No. 182), which defines child labour as work that deprives children of their childhood, potential, and dignity. It also highlights how such labour can interfere with schooling, either by forcing children to leave school prematurely or by demanding they juggle education with long and hazardous work.

In 2023, Lesotho made minimal progress in efforts to combat the worst forms of child labour, including the drafting of a National Action Plan for its elimination.

However, the country continues to struggle with issues like child commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes linked to human trafficking, and children performing hazardous tasks, such as dangerous work in animal herding.

The 2023 report on child labour underscores the persistent challenges in protecting children's rights to education and safety.

'Toxic food threat looms over Lesotho'

Staff Reporter

A leading advocacy group, SECTION 2, yesterday issued an urgent warning about the risk of toxic and counterfeit foods entering the country following reports of contaminated snacks causing the deaths of over 20 children in South Africa.

With Lesotho heavily dependent on South African imports for snacks and other goods, the group cautioned that stricter regulations in South Africa could result in these dangerous items being "dumped" in Lesotho.

"Basotho are at serious risk if these products slip through our borders, especially given that compliance levels here are low, and retailers have been reported to sell expired and rotten food with little or no repercussions," SECTION 2 stated.

The warning follows the South African government's recent intensified actions against toxic foods.

According to South African news outlet SABC, President Cyril Ramaphosa is expected to address the nation on his government's plan to combat the escalating food poisoning incidents that have led to hospitalisations and fatalities, particularly affecting schoolchildren.

South Africa's Department of Health has mobilized the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) to trace and examine the contamination sources.

In light of the situation, SECTION 2 called for immediate action from Lesotho's Ministry of Health to prevent a potential crisis.

"We urge the Ministry of Health to assure Basotho that effective measures are in place to protect them from hazardous foods, particu-



larly given unverified reports that such items may already have entered Lesotho," the group declared.

The statement from SECTION 2 included specific recommendations for the Ministry and relevant authorities, urging: "Inform the public about specific products suspected of contamination in South Africa."

SECTION 2 noted that similar brands were likely available in Lesotho.

"Address and penalise businesses selling expired or unsafe items," the group stated, emphasising the need for rigorous action against retailers flouting food safety regulations.

It also called for the establishment of easy-to-access reporting channels for the public to report suspected hazardous products.

"Protecting the nation's health must be a proactive priority, with transparent, decisive actions that keep the public informed and safe," SECTION 2 stressed.

Concerns about food safety in Lesotho are

not new.

Low enforcement and compliance with food safety standards have long been a challenge, with several reports of unsafe items being sold on store shelves. SECTION 2's call comes amid heightened concern and demand for government intervention to secure the country's food supply.

Ministry of Health has not yet issued a statement regarding SECTION 2's warning or outlined specific actions to address the potential threat.

SECTION 2 urged swift action, stressing that Basotho need assurances that the government is taking every measure to keep potentially deadly foods off the shelves.



Kingdom of Lesotho

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Nutrition

Invitation for Bids

Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Machinery & Implements.

- The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho intends to improve agricultural service delivery. Therefore, part of the proceeds will be utilized on eligible payments resulting from the procurement of the above.
 - The Principal Secretary now invites sealed bids from interested bidders for the **Supply & Delivery of Agricultural Machinery and Implements**.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the following address:
- Procurement Unit
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
Corner Constitution and Linare Roads
Maseru 100, Lesotho
Tel: (+266) 22322741
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **(M5,000.00) Five Thousand Maloti only**. The method of payment must be payable at Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. Bidding document will be available from **29th October 2024**.
 - Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **28th November 2024 at 12:00 noon**. Late bids will be rejected. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **M20,000.00** in the form of a bank guarantee or irrevocable/assurance letter of credit valid for thirty (30) days beyond the validity of the bid. As appears in the bid data sheet.
 - It is mandatory for bidders to submit the following
- valid documents: (a) Tax Clearance Certificates; (b) Trader's License, (c) Certificate of Bona Fide Bidding, (d) Bid Security and (e) a completed bid form. These documents [especially (a) and (b)] shall either be originals or certified copies from the source. **Non-compliance with this requirement may invalidate a bid.**
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **14:30hrs on Thursday, 28th November, 2024** at the address given below:
- Board Room**
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
Corner Constitution & Linare Roads,
Maseru 100, Lesotho.
- Bidders shall ensure that the envelopes containing their bids are properly addressed as indicated under ITB above and are clearly marked **"Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Machinery & Implements" GOL/G006/2024/25**
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security also reserves the right to cancel the tender before submission or opening of the tenders, postpone the tender submission or opening date and accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.**
- Procurement Manager

OFFICE FURNITURE CLEARANCE AUCTION

LESCAR
WE ARE LESOTHO'S LEADING AUCTION AUTHORITY

Standard Lesotho Bank

CLOSING NOVEMBER 22 FRIDAY FROM: 2 PM

TIMED ONLINE AUCTION BIDDING STARTS: 20 NOV AT 2 PM

Home Appliances, Equipment & Scrap

3x Fridges, Microwave, Printer, 2x Monitors, 2x OptiPlexes, 6x Mobile White Boards With Pinboards, 14x Mobile Pedestals, 15x Car Door Scrap, 11x Car Bumpers Scrap & 5x Truck Tyres

Office Furniture

Wood Kitchen Unit, Wooden Display Unit, 2x Wall Cabinet Units, 2x Heavy Duty Doors, 6x Steel Square Covers, 5x Floating Oak Wood Drawers, 6x Oak Wood Cabinets, 3x Cabinets, Pinewood Trunk, 3x Desks, Steel Worktable, 2x Top Tables, 3x Office Tables, Reception Table, Patio Table, 3x Wooden Tabletops, 7x Ottomans, 4x Cushions, 61x Swivel Chairs, 12x Visitors Chairs, 5x Bar Stools, 4x Dining Chairs, 4x Steel Chairs & Patio Chair

Viewing: Tuesday, 19 November 2024 from 9:00 to 16:00

Assets located at: Plot Nr. 12281-319 Florida Industrial Ha Hootho Maseru

Register & Bid Online: live.lescorauctions.com Enquiries: +266 627 83610

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

BUSINESS

Standard Bank hosts supplier symposium

Seabata Mahao



Standard Lesotho Bank's inaugural symposium

In a bid to enhance communication and collaboration with its suppliers, Standard Lesotho Bank (SLB) this week held a supplier symposium in

Maseru, bringing together suppliers, clients and other stakeholders.

The one-day event marked a significant mile-

stone towards fostering collaboration, partnership, and sustainable growth with the bank's various suppliers, clients and other stakeholders.

Held under the theme 'Driving Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth in Partnership with Our Suppliers, Clients, and Stakeholders,' the symposium aimed to foster meaningful dialogue, share insights, and encourage collaboration to shape the future of collective supply chains.

The focus was on sustainable practices, innovative supply chain models, and the importance of collective growth within the industry.

This year's symposium follows the success of previous one, which led to improved understanding of the bank's operations, policies, and values among suppliers. It also resulted in better compliance with regulatory requirements such as tax and anti-money laundering laws.

During his address at the dialogue, SLB's Chief Executive Anton Nicolaisen emphasised the bank's commitment to innovative solutions and fostering partnerships that empower clients and communities to achieve financial success.

He commended key customers and suppliers, both in person and online, for their vital role in the bank's mission.

"Our role goes beyond traditional transactions; we play a significant part in advancing the country's economic growth and facilitating development," Nicolaisen said.

"It is the bank's responsibility to support the economy through robust supply chain development. We want to be a trusted partner, and one

of our key goals as a corporate leader is to create strong, lasting partnerships."

The bank's Head of Procurement, Ntsane Lesenyehlo, highlighted that the primary purpose of the symposium was to enhance communication and collaboration between SLB and its suppliers.

"The symposium provides a platform for networking, sharing best practices, and fostering innovation, ultimately improving supply chain efficiency and building stronger partnerships. It allows suppliers and procurement teams to collaborate more effectively, strengthening relationships and improving communication," Lesenyehlo explained.

He also noted that the event assists the bank in meeting regulatory requirements and provides training to vendors on laws related to third-party engagements.

Additionally, suppliers had the opportunity to share advancements and industry trends, ensuring the bank and its stakeholders remain informed and competitive.

Mokhejane 'Moleli, the Chief of Finance and Value Management, stressed the importance of a purpose-driven approach to business.

"To run a sustainable business, you need a purpose that goes beyond just making a profit. Lesotho is our home, and our growth efforts are closely tied to our social responsibilities here," Moleli said, adding that SLB is committed to driving growth within Africa, with a special focus on Lesotho.

Thusong Financial Services endears clients

Seabata Mahao

Thusong Financial Services (TFS), a prominent micro-lender, has kicked-off a summer campaign in which clients stand a chance to win great prizes from a total pool of M150 000.

Under the three-month campaign, clients will stand a chance to win prizes ranging from M5 000 to M30 000 when they take loans from November to the end of January, 2025.

Dubbed 'Show Me the Money', the campaign focuses on improving lives through financial literacy to encourage responsible spending during the festive season—a time when impulsive spending

is common.

Weekly prizes include M5 000 in cash prizes, trolley dashes and hampers. The grand prize of M30 000 will be awarded to the ultimate winner at the end of the campaign. Additionally, the grand prize winner will receive an extra M10 000, which will be donated to an orphanage of their choice, as part of TFS's corporate social investment (CSI).

Seeng Nchai, the TFS's Head of Sales explained at the campaign launch that the initiative is part of the company's broader efforts to promote financial inclusion and literacy.

Nchai said the campaign aims to support clients during the holiday season and the back-to-

school period, while also promoting responsible financial behavior, educating the public on financial literacy, and encouraging loan consolidation.

"We are a credit-only financial institution, founded in 2011. As we celebrate our 13th anniversary, we remain committed to improving the socio-economic lives of our clients by offering convenient, affordable, and hassle-free loans, paired with exceptional customer service," Nchai said.

"The campaign seeks to educate the public on the importance of financial management, emphasizing that loans should be used responsibly," she added.

Nchai further highlighted that TFS's goal is to improve the lives of Basotho.

"We are a trusted local partner, fully owned by Basotho. We are committed to helping you improve your lives. We lend to civil servants from M500 up to M350 000, which supports our vision



Head of Sales of Thusong Financial Services, Seeng Nchai

of financial inclusion. We also offer loan consolidation services," Nchai explained.

The campaign will reward clients in Maseru, Hlotse, Mafeteng, Qacha's Nek, and Thaba-Tseka—the areas where the company operates.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Closure of Pheko Technologies Pty Ltd
Pheko Technologies Pty Ltd hereby informs the public that the company is officially closing. The company was registered but had never commenced operations.
For any inquiries related to the closure, please contact us at lipholpheko@gmail.com
Pheko Technologies Pty Ltd

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE LATE CHERE MICHAEL MPOKA-EC75/2024

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 61(b) of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No. 2 of 2024; calling upon all creditors of the deceased to lodge their claims with the Administrator of the said estate within thirty five (35) days of this publication.

The addresses at which the said claims can be lodged is mentioned hereunder;

Ha-Motlokoa, Peka

Pela lebaleng la bolo

LERIBE

MANTEBALENG ANACLETTA MPOKA

(ADMINISTRATOR)

+266 59502223

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024;

ESTATE LATE MAJORO MOHAPI E297/2024

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon surviving spouse, the heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court at the office of the Master of the High Court, in Maseru on THURSDAY, 12th DECEMBER at 10:00 am for the purpose of:

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

Dated at Maseru this 29th October 2024

Master of the High Court Office
Magistrate Court Building
Maseru

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 61(b) of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024;

ESTATE LATE SEIPATI MATILDA MAPETLA E264/2024

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 61(b) of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon all creditors of the deceased to lodge their claims with the administrator of the deceased's estate within thirty (30) days of this publication.

The address at which the said claims can be lodged is mentioned hereunder;

MASIANOKENG

MASERU

(+266) 56979077

NTSOAKI MAPETLA

(THE ADMINISTRATOR)

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. 11294-952 on the 24/NOV/2009 in Favour of SHOAHAPHANE MOLISE in respect of Every right or interest on and to the building(s) and other developments express or implied in certain Plot No.

11294-952 situated at THETSANE MASERU URBAN AREA on Plan No. 11294. 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

LEBOHANG MOSES MIKA

MATALA PHASE II

MASERU 100

66031818

CONTACT NUMBERS:

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 61(b) of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024;

ESTATE LATE MATSEPISE SESIZIWE 'MOTE E257/2024

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 61(b) of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon all creditors of the deceased to lodge their claims with the administrator of the deceased's estate within thirty (30) days of this publication.

The address at which the said claims can be lodged is mentioned hereunder;

HA-TIKOE

MASERU

(+266) 58008836

PONTSO 'MOTE

(THE ADMINISTRATOR)

HEALTH

The hidden pain: Real postpartum struggles

Ntsoaki Motaung

For many women, the journey of motherhood is celebrated, yet the painful truths of postpartum struggles are rarely shared.

'Mathabo*', a mother of three, reveals the brutal realities she faced after her third child was born, a story of unexpected challenges that forever changed her life.

"When I gave birth to my first two children, it was a smooth experience," she told Newsday. "But with my third, everything was different."

The surprises began when 'Mathabo discovered she was seven months pregnant – a shock, as she had been using contraceptive implants.

"I was still on my implants (lithutsoana), and I did not think pregnancy was possible. I only realised when the pain and nausea became unbearable. I was tested at the hospital and found out I was seven months pregnant."

When her due date arrived, the complications mounted. Her baby was unusually large, making a natural birth impossible.

"Hearing that I would need a Caesarean Section terrified me," 'Mathabo admitted. "I am afraid of being cut or stitched, but I had no choice."

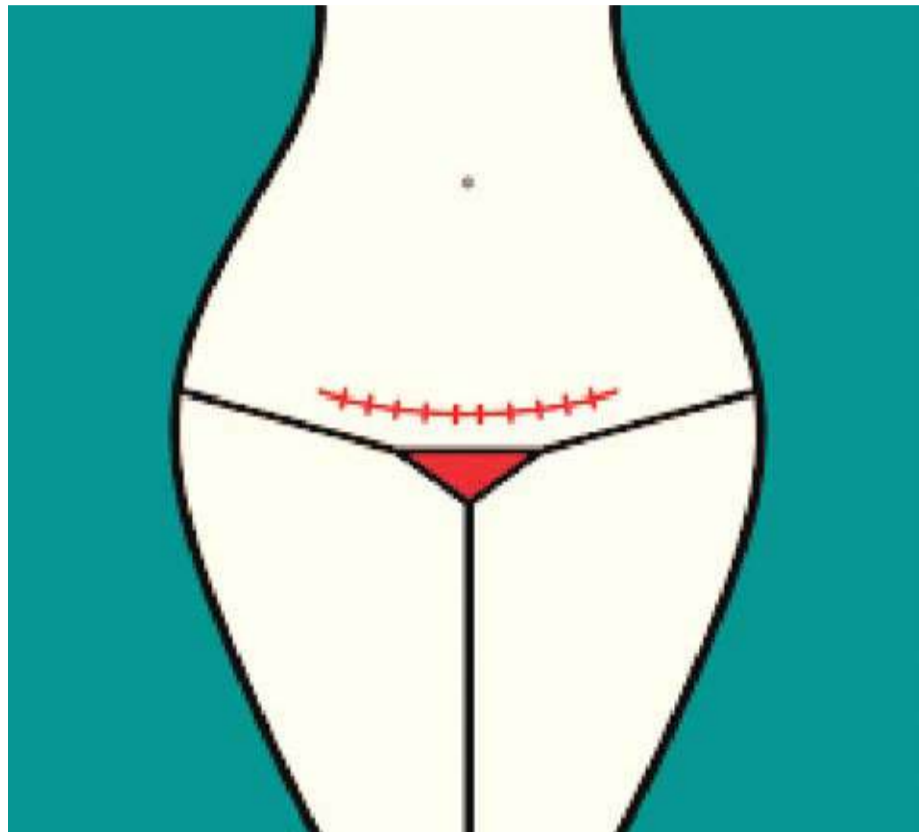
What followed was a painful and challenging recovery. Shortly after her discharge from the hospital, her C-section wound became infected, requiring readmission.

"That was the hardest time of my life," she recalled. "The pain was unbearable, worse than childbirth itself. I would cry for an hour before my wound was cleaned because I knew what was coming."

For 'Mathabo, the aftermath has been life-changing. Standing for even five minutes triggers intense back pain, and simple chores have become impossible.

"I now have to sit in a chair that lets me lean back. I cannot lift anything heavy, and I cannot even do the laundry," she explained.

Her sister has since moved in to help care



for her children and handle household responsibilities. "I rely on my sister, my kids, and my husband, who takes on the heavy-duty chores. All I can do is lie down, and even at work, I am fortunate that I am allowed to work sitting."

'Mathabo is not alone in her struggles.

Khothatso*, another mother, shared a sim-

ilar story. "After my firstborn, I always felt different," she said. "I am in pain constantly, and it is worse in chilly weather."

Recently, she was hospitalised for abdominal pain, but tests found nothing unusual, leaving her with lingering discomfort and no answers.

The postpartum journey is often marked

by conditions that persist long after birth.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), each year, at least 40 million women are likely to experience long-term health problems due to childbirth.

A February study titled: "The Neglected Medium- and Long-term Consequences of Labour and Childbirth: A Systematic Analysis of the Burden, Recommended Practices, and a Way Forward" highlighted the significant postnatal health burden many women face, with conditions that can persist months or even years after giving birth.

The study listed several prevalent issues, including pain during sexual intercourse (dyspareunia), affecting over a third (35 percent) of postpartum women, low back pain (32 percent), anal incontinence (19 percent), urinary incontinence (8-31 percent), anxiety (9-24 percent), depression (11-17 percent), perineal pain (11 percent), fear of childbirth (tokophobia) (6-15 percent), and secondary infertility (11 percent).

Public Health Specialist and Midwife, Lepeleli Molumaela, explained that many conditions can arise during and after pregnancy, varying widely from one woman to another.

"Postpartum haemorrhage, for instance, can lead to anaemia due to excessive bleeding after childbirth," Molumaela said. "Some women may also experience abdominal distention, where the abdomen does not return to its original shape after delivery, which can be a cosmetic challenge for some."

Disclaimer: Names marked with an asterisk (*) have been changed to protect the privacy of the individuals involved.

Alarming health risks of vaping



Nthatuoa Qhomane

Despite being marketed as a safer alternative to traditional smoking, mounting evidence suggests that vaping brings its own set of significant health risks, especially for youth.

Known as e-cigarettes or vapes, these devices heat a flavoured liquid, often containing nicotine, and are inhaled like cigarettes. However, unlike conventional cigarettes, they come in a range of shapes, including USB-like sticks and pen shapes, allowing for discreet use in places where smoking is banned.

Sejojo Phaaroo, a Principal Medical Scientist and neuroscientist with the Ministry of

Health, warned that e-cigarettes may be even more hazardous than traditional cigarettes.

"These e-cigarettes contain over a thousand chemicals, including formaldehyde—a substance used to preserve dead bodies. When someone vapes, they are inhaling this preservative, which prevents decay. That is just one example of what users are putting into their bodies," Phaaroo explained.

Phaaroo noted that Lesotho currently lacks any regulation governing e-cigarette use, making it challenging for the ministry to dissuade people from vaping.

"The absence of control laws limits our ability to curb use, but we are actively run-

ning awareness campaigns in high schools and institutions of higher learning to educate youth about the dangers of e-cigarettes," he said.

He also highlighted the particular risks of nicotine exposure among young people. "Nicotine consumption in children and adolescents negatively impacts brain development, which can lead to learning and anxiety disorders," he added.

Phaaroo stressed the health risks that accompany vaping, noting: "70 percent of e-cigarette users suffer from lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, or hypertension. Additionally, without a rehabilitation center in

Lesotho, nicotine addicts face even greater challenges when it comes to quitting."

A significant worry is the growing popularity of vaping among young people.

Social media, influencers, and marketing campaigns have glamorised vaping, often using sleek designs, colourful packaging, and child-friendly flavours to target youth.

Second-hand exposure from vaping is another major issue, particularly in environments such as homes, malls, and restaurants where traditional smoking is banned but vaping is not.

Despite the clear health risks, e-cigarettes have flooded the market under relaxed regulations, with limited public knowledge of the long-term consequences.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "evidence reveals that these products are harmful to health and are not safe". However, WHO said, it was too early to provide a clear answer on the long-term impact of using them or being exposed to them.

"Whilst long-term health effects are not fully known, we do know that they generate toxic substances, some of which are known to cause cancer and some that increase the risk of heart and lung disorders," WHO said.

"Electronic delivery systems have also been linked to a number of physical injuries, including burns from explosions or malfunctions, when the products are not of the expected standard or are tampered with by users," it added.

Call for Transparency and Accountability in Public Appointments

The recent revelations surrounding the appointment of Molupe Pheko as Chief Executive Officer of the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC) have raised serious concerns about transparency, accountability, and the proper functioning of public institutions in Lesotho.

As details emerge, the story is shedding light not only on the LTDC's recruitment process but also on broader issues that have persisted in the management of public offices and taxpayer-funded entities.

At the heart of the matter lies a question of trust—trust that the government and its agencies will uphold principles of fairness, equity, and public service above all else.

When Pheko's appointment was announced a year ago, it was presented as the outcome of a "successful recruitment process." Yet, a closer examination now reveals a host of irregularities and contradictions that call the integrity of that process into question.

Among the most troubling aspects is the assertion that Pheko was not, in fact, the top candidate recommended by the independent consultancy overseeing the hiring. Sources report that Sehlabaka Ramafikeng, an experienced professional with a background in tourism, was ranked first but was overlooked.

Instead, Pheko—a candidate who reportedly scored lower in both oral and psychometric evaluations—was ultimately selected by the board.

If the LTDC board had valid reasons for departing from the consultancy's recommendation, those reasons have not been disclosed. Transparency demands that public institutions justify decisions when they deviate from established selection processes, especially when it appears that a more qualified candidate was overlooked.

If, as former board member Moshe Mosaase contends, the board's preference was for an "outsider" to bring fresh perspectives, that rationale should have been openly communicated. However, this justification is overshadowed by lingering questions about potential personal connections and undisclosed conflicts of interest.

Mosaase's admission that he attended the same school as Pheko, though not necessarily disqualifying, nonetheless demands scrutiny in a context where transparency is already in doubt.

In response to the controversy, LTDC board secretary Mamolemo Maleke has steadfastly defended the process, citing an investigation by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) that supposedly cleared the board of any wrongdoing.

However, Maleke's assurances do little to address the core issue: the apparent disregard for the consultancy's recommendations and the public's right to a transparent explanation.

If the consultancy's role was merely advisory, why was its input solicited in the first place? Such inconsistencies reflect poorly on the LTDC and cast a shadow over its decision-making processes, risking a loss of public confidence.

In a democratic society, the stewardship of public funds and institutions should be transparent and open to scrutiny. Taxpayer-funded entities like the LTDC are accountable to the public, and their decisions should withstand the highest standards of integrity.

Public accountability is especially crucial for an institution like the LTDC, which plays a vital role in promoting Lesotho as a tourist destination and supporting the local economy. Missteps in leadership selection not only impact organizational performance but can also damage the reputation of the tourism sector as a whole.

To restore confidence, the LTDC should release the consultancy's report and clarify the reasons for its departure from the recommended rankings. Moreover, the Ministry of Tourism and government oversight bodies must ensure that clear, transparent criteria are followed in future appointments to prevent similar controversies.

Our government should also consider implementing a more robust framework for vetting and appointing individuals to key public positions, with an emphasis on transparency and the involvement of independent oversight.

As citizens, we must insist on transparency, fairness, and accountability in the management of our public institutions. These values are not mere formalities; they are the foundations upon which public trust is built.

The LTDC story serves as a powerful reminder of the need for ongoing vigilance, both from the media and the public, to ensure that public offices serve the common good.

It is time for Lesotho to strengthen its commitment to transparent governance and prove that, in our country, public service is a responsibility and not an entitlement.



NO COMMENT



Theko Tlebere

COMMON CONCERN

From Promise to Power: How Matekane Can Manage Party Politics to Secure Lesotho's Future

Lesotho's political landscape is entering a pivotal era under the leadership of Prime Minister Sam Matekane. Elected with great optimism, Matekane, representing the Revolution for Prosperity (RFP), pledged to combat corruption, strengthen governance, and improve the livelihoods of Basotho. However, like many coalition democracies, his government faces the dual challenge of effective governance amid complex party politics. To secure a legacy of progress and a second term, Matekane must navigate the delicate balance between governmental responsibilities and political dynamics. Failing to manage this interplay could jeopardise his political future and the essential reforms his administration has initiated. This week we will highlight the importance of managing party politics to secure the bigger picture of Lesotho's future.

A quick reminder that we should begin with is that Lesotho operates under a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system. The King serves as the ceremonial Head of State, while the Prime Minister wields executive power, supported by a multi-party parliament. Ntate Matekane's RFP came to power in 2022, breaking the political dominance of established parties like the Democratic Congress (DC) and the All Basotho Convention (ABC). This victory, however, has brought political challenges that cannot be ignored. As a relatively new party, the RFP must establish a solid organisational base and cultivate a loyal following. Governing in a coalition also requires balancing diverse interests, which can sometimes hinder decisive action and decision making.

In parliamentary democracies, party politics can often constrain leaders. Legislators and party members may prioritise their interests over national priorities as Lesotho has experienced in previous parliaments. Internal divisions or dissatisfaction within the party can lead to a loss of confidence in the leader a fate that has befallen many of Lesotho's Prime Ministers, as evidenced by the regular votes of no confidence recorded throughout Lesotho's political history. Although Matekane's administration is currently stable after the 'kotopu' law was nullified by the Appeal court, the PM must remain vigilant against these risks. If he does not strengthen the internal cohesion and strategic direction of the RFP, he could become **vulnerable to factional interests that undermine national objectives**.

Building a strong and disciplined RFP should be the main focus for nstate Matekane, in order to succeed. It is imperative to understand that the thinking mentality of any leader should

encompass the following strategies; the first strategy is that of institutionalising the Party, what this means is that the RFP leadership should invest in developing **robust structures that promote transparency, accountability, and internal democracy** that will be crucial for sustaining public trust and fostering a culture of ethical governance within the party.

Secondly, cultivating grassroots support is essential. This means that strengthening connections with the electorate by addressing immediate concerns and ensuring that the RFP remains relevant to all citizens, not just urban elites, is essential for solidifying a broad base of support.

Third, promoting unity and vision among the party stalwarts. This can be achieved by reducing factionalism by aligning party members around a collective vision for Lesotho's development which will help create a more cohesive and focused political entity capable of effectively pursuing common goals.

Lastly, training and empowerment, and investing in capacity-building programs for party members to enhance their governance and leadership skills will not only improve the overall effectiveness of the party but also empower its representatives to operate with confidence and integrity in their roles.

The recent elections in Botswana and the United States offer contrasting lessons for Prime Minister Matekane, particularly in managing party dynamics and preparing for future electoral contests. In the 2019 elections, the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) maintained its hold on power under President Mokgweetsi Masisi. However, the recent 2024 elections signal a significant shift, highlighted by opposition leader Duma Boko of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) making a strong comeback. Boko's resurgence underscores the effectiveness of grassroots mobilisation and the ability to harness public dissatisfaction with the ruling party. His success serves as a **warning against underestimating opposition strength**, especially when the ruling party neglects its base or fails to address key grievances.

For Matekane, this emphasises the importance of maintaining a strong connection with the electorate and **proactively addressing emerging opposition narratives**. The dynamics observed in Botswana illustrate that a ruling party's failure to engage its community can lead to significant electoral consequences, inspiring opposition movements that capitalise on public sentiment.

In the U.S., Donald Trump's resurgence as the frontrunner for the Republican Party in the 2024 elections, following his defeat in 2020, illustrates **the lasting impact of charismatic leadership and party loyalty**. Trump's return demonstrates how a leader can leverage dissatisfaction with the current administration to rally support, even amid controversy. This pattern showcases the ability of political figures to re-energise their base by articulating grievances that resonate with voters, thus serving as a crucial lesson for Matekane. He can learn from Trump's strategy of maintaining a clear and compelling message for his base, which has proven effective in consolidating support. However, he must also remain vigilant against potential challengers who could similarly mobilise disillusioned voters and challenge his leadership. The ability of opposition candidates to connect with the electorate is an ever-present threat that underscores the necessity for continual engagement and innovation in political strategies.

These examples highlight the necessity of vigilance in managing party dynamics and electoral strategies. **Boko's victory serves as a caution against complacency, while Trump's resurgence illustrates how opponents can become more formidable if given the chance**. For Matekane, this means proactively addressing internal challenges within the RFP and delivering tangible results to avoid empowering opposition forces. The lessons drawn from these political developments provide critical insights that Matekane can leverage to strengthen his leadership and ensure that his vision for Lesotho prevails amid an evolving political landscape.

Prime Minister Matekane has a unique opportunity to reshape Lesotho's future. His success hinges on balancing governance demands with party politics to foster unity and purpose within the RFP. By building a robust RFP and fulfilling his commitments to Basotho, he can establish himself as a leader who not only wins elections but also transforms Lesotho into a model of effective governance. The experiences of Botswana and the U.S. illustrate that **political survival and effectiveness arise from party cohesion, a strategic vision, and a results-oriented approach**. Ntate Matekane must heed these lessons as he works to secure his place in Lesotho's political history. With determination and a clear strategy, he can ensure that his administration serves as a beacon of progress and stability for Lesotho, promoting prosperity and unity in challenging times. The Future is NOW!

FEATURE

Punishing Poverty: The Cruel Misguided Crackdown on South Africa's Illegal Miners - Zamazamas

Chris Mokolatsie

Thousands of illegal miners —known as zamazamas— many believed to be from Lesotho, are facing risk of death by starvation, as law enforcement authorities adopted cruel ill-conceived measures in a desperate attempt to curb illegal mining in what they call “surrender or starve” strategy dubbed operation Vala Umgodi. As many as about 4000 people are believed to be trapped in the dark, treacherous tunnels of abandoned mine near the North West town of Stilfontein as police block their food and water. Drawn by desperation, and unemployment, these miners risk their lives in decommissioned mines left unsecured by large mining companies for scraps of minuscule gold deposits.

The crackdown on these miners by police while doing nothing to crack down and arrest the real criminals behind the demand for illegally mined gold and gold smugglers buying and selling illegal gold smacks of collusion with smugglers and criminals. This attack on vulnerable people by police has nothing to do with fighting the criminality of illegal mining but is a performative public relations and gesture politics diverting the attention of the public from the real criminals and the failure of the state to regulate mining companies properly.

Equally uncaring are the governments such as that of Lesotho from where these miners come especially who appear not to care to find lasting solutions to the conditions that compel these people to take these desperate and risky to eke out a living in unsafe and abandoned mines in the first place.

Mining Corporations and the Failure of Mine Decommissioning

Illegal mining or zamazamas has been a pervasive issue in South Africa for many years now. These miners, have of late become soft targets of a brutal crackdown by the police, including the barbaric measures law enforcement has adopted of using starvation as a “crime prevention” tactic, a practice that is not only inhumane but verges on a war crime. If this is not the proverbial “ho tsaba lehala le ho mathela moratheng” I don't know what is. The real criminals and culprits in this whole saga are firstly the large mining corporations that have abandoned their mines without clear decommissioning plans, and yet they remain relatively unscathed, shielded from responsibility.

Mining corporations in South Africa have long contributed to the economic landscape, but with their operations come significant responsibilities. The environmental impact of mining requires strict adherence to decommissioning regulations to ensure that once a mine has ceased operations, it does not become a hazard to local communities or a tempting ground for illegal activities. However, these decommissioning responsibilities are often ignored or inadequately enforced, and here the South African government is to blame. Mines are abandoned without proper rehabilitation, leaving behind derelict structures, and vast networks of tunnels that become havens for desperate artisanal miners.

Instead of holding these companies accountable for failing to adhere to proper decommissioning requirements, the gov-



ernment has shifted its punitive focus onto the vulnerable zamazamas. This misplaced punishment exacerbates the issue by targeting the symptom rather than the root cause. Mining companies should be legally obligated to close down and secure decommissioned sites responsibly. Failure to do so leaves open access to these sites, which many impoverished people turn to as a last resort for survival.

The Misguided Police Response and the Human Rights Violations

South African police's failure to use intelligence policing to crack on illegal mining has led them to ill-conceived stunt actions against illegal miners including draconian measures including the most disturbing tactic of using starvation to “fight crime.” By cutting off food supplies and using starvation as a deterrent, law enforcement disregards basic human rights and endangers lives. Under international law, starving civilians as a tactic is illegal and constitutes a potential war crime. Readers will recall that the South African government has itself prosecuted successfully the case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and one of the key pillars of its argument was the use of starvation of Palestinians by Israel as a violation of the Genocide Convention in respect of Israel's actions taken in Gaza. And yet here it is condoning a similar action against Zamas zamazamas by its own police force, although not to the same scale as what is happening in Gaza. Such measures are not only unconscionable but ineffective. These are morally wrong because they criminalise poverty and vulnerability while protecting capital and wealth and avoid addressing systemic failures as a result of the relationship of government and capital, and how since 1994 the government has turned a blind eye to the mining companies for fear to scare capital.

South Africa prides itself as a society that aspires to uphold human rights, yet in recent weeks, it has condoned using hunger as a policing tool. This is both barbaric and a stain on South Africa's democratic principles. The South African Human Rights Commission should urgently investigate any possible wrongdoing should any of the

thousands of trapped miners die as a result of this cruel policing strategy. This kind of cruelty cannot be tolerated in any civilised society committed to justice, fairness, and respect for human dignity, which South Africa prides itself on globally.

The Elephant in the Room - Overlooked Gold Smuggling Network

Adding to the injustice and immoral nature of this recent police action is the fact that law enforcement appears to have no interest whatsoever in the gold smugglers at the center of illegal mining and driving this trade. They have simply it would appear turned a blind eye to the powerful criminal networks that benefit from illicit trade. These networks buy illegally mined gold from Zamazamas and profit massively, operating without fear of repercussion. By choosing to arrest artisanal miners rather than dismantle the smuggling operations, authorities avoid confronting the larger and more powerful actors who truly perpetuate illegal mining. This failure reflects a lack of willpower, strategic oversight, or possibly even corruption and or collusion within policing ranks, as the economic and political influence of gold smugglers often enables them to evade justice.

A Call for a Sustainable and Legal Solution to Artisanal Mining

The solution to illegal mining is neither to starve people to death, which is a crime itself, nor to criminalise small-scale vulnerable people who seek only to survive. Instead, the government should implement clear provisions within mining regulations that would allow for the legalisation and regulation of artisanal mining. One potential approach is to repurpose decommissioned mines as community-regulated artisanal mining zones. By granting communities legal access to these resources, regulated and overseen by local authorities, individuals can engage in safe, lawful, and sustainable mining practices. This approach would help lift impoverished communities out of poverty, mitigate the risks associated with abandoned mines, and shift economic benefits from illegal networks to local populations. Government-backed initiatives could further assist these communities by providing

training and equipment to ensure safe practices, while environmental standards would protect against degradation.

In the short term, mining companies must be held accountable for every mine they decommission, with strict oversight to ensure compliance with environmental and safety regulations. Police forces need to be reformed, and their tactics scrutinised to prevent future human rights abuses. The South African Human Rights Commission must launch an independent investigation into the use of starvation as a policing tool and ensure that the ICJ is involved if necessary.

The true criminality lies in the systemic neglect and exploitation by mining companies, unregulated abandonment of mines, and heavy-handed policing practices that treat poverty as a crime. To foster a more just, prosperous, and lawful mining sector, South Africa must recognise the potential of artisanal mining, regulate it responsibly, and defend the rights of vulnerable citizens instead of punishing them for surviving.

Lessons for Lesotho Mining Sector

For countries like Lesotho, whose mining sector is still in its infancy, this plight of illegal miners in South Africa offers crucial lessons in sustainable and responsible mining practices. The South African experience underscores the importance of stringent regulations on mine closures, thorough decommissioning processes, and responsible corporate accountability from the outset. As Lesotho develops its mining industry, it has the opportunity to establish policies that prioritise long-term community welfare, environmental protection, and economic inclusivity. By implementing clear regulations on decommissioning, creating transparent community engagement programs, and considering frameworks for legal, small-scale artisanal mining, Lesotho can avoid the pitfalls South Africa faces today. Learning from these challenges, Lesotho has a unique chance to build a mining sector that not only generates wealth but also protects local communities and prevents the emergence of illegal mining networks that thrive in abandoned, unregulated spaces.

Ends... (@ntatechris.bsky.social)


**LAND
ADMINISTRATION
AUTHORITY**

Insurance Services Tender Advert

The Land Administration Authority (LAA) hereby invites qualified and registered insurance companies / brokers to bid for provision of assets insurance services for a period of 2 years effective from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2026.

Interested bidders MUST purchase a tender document valued at M200.00 non-refundable and send POP to procurement@laa.org.ls.

Bank Name: Standard Lesotho Bank

Account Name: Land Administration Authority

Account Number: 9080003568748

Branch code: 060667

For clarification, please contact this number (+266) 2221 4100 / 128 / 164.

Submission requirements:

Detailed proposal together with Traders License and Tax Clearance Certificates certified at source should be enclosed in an envelope labelled "Insurance Services"

The proposal must highlight the following:-

- Minimum experience of not less than five (5) years doing similar work with similar organization such as LAA.
- Indication if price will be fixed or escalates.
- One original document (proposal) should be submitted.
- Recent audit report by an independent auditor.

Submission address:

The Land Administration Authority Lerotholi Road

PO BOX 11856

Maseru 100 Lesotho

Deadline: 29th November 2024, at 12:00hrs.

Opening at 12:30hrs.

The LAA reserves the right to retender if bids do not meet LAA requirements


QUEEN 'MAMOHATO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

 Private bag A114, Maseru 100 Tel:+266 2222 0000
 Bots'abelo , Maseru , Lesotho

INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MEAT

BID REF: QMMH/ITT 2 OF 2024/2025

PROJECT NAME: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MEAT

Bids are invited from suitably qualified companies for the supply and delivery of meat to Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. Bid documents are obtainable from Procurement Department of the Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital, Botsabelo , Maseru, Lesotho from **31st October 2024 to 29th November 2024** at a non-refundable fee of M2,000.00(Two Thousand Maloti).

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

All prospective bidders must attach to their bids the following documents:

- FORM 2A certified at source;
- Valid Trader's licence (strictly butchery or processing and preserving of meat)
- Valid Tax Clearance certified at source;
- Refundable bid security of 1% of the bid price; and
- Power of Attorney for the authorized signatory.

Sealed bids, clearly marked "Supply and Delivery of Meat" bearing no identification of the bidder should be deposited at the tender box

situated at the Main Reception, Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital on or before 29th November 2024 at 14:00hrs.

Activity	Dates
IIT ISSUED	31st October 2024
DEADLINE FOR CLARIFICATIONS	29th November 2024 – 16:00hrs
TENDER SUBMISSION DATE & TIME	10th December 2024- 14:00hrs
TENDER OPENING DATE AND TIME	10th December 2024– 14:15hrs
EVALUATION AND CONTRACT AWARD	11th – 18th December 2024

Disclaimer:

The hospital Procurement Committee also reserves the right to cancel the tenders before the submission or opening of tenders, postpone the tender submission/opening date and to accept or reject any or all tenders. The hospital is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid. For more information contact Procurement Department at the following number: +266 2222 0000. Email:- Masekoati.motsetsero@gov.ls or chakalato99@gmail.com

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT
Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital
Botsabelo
MASERU 100
LESOTHO


QUEEN 'MAMOHATO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

 Private bag A114, Maseru 100 Tel:+266 2222 0000
 Bots'abelo , Maseru , Lesotho

INVITATION FOR BIDS

31st October 2024

BID No.: QMMH/ITT 4 OF 2024/2025

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF STORES CONSUMABLES TO QUEEN MAMOHATO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

1. Bids are invited from suitably qualified companies for the supply and delivery of meat to Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital for the Financial Year 2024/2025.
2. Bid documents are obtainable from Procurement Department of the Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital, Botsabelo , Maseru, Lesotho from 31st October 2024 to 10th December 2024 at a non-refundable fee of M2,000.00(Two Thousand Maloti). More details on the items required are provided in the Invitation to Tender (ITT) referred to under 5 below.
3. The technical proposal shall clearly demonstrate your understanding of the expected outputs, your proposed approach to the services involved, necessary equipment, your comments on the Scope of Work, your relevant experience, and you will also be expected to provide detailed and up-to-date curricula vitae for the proposed key personnel for carrying out the assignment.
4. A Service Provider will be selected in accordance with the current Government of Lesotho Public Procurement Act 2023. A firm will be selected under based on the following criteria
5. Detailed Invitation to Tender doc-

ument is available at the address indicated under 6 below at a non-refundable fee of M2000.00 payable at QMMH Main Cashier:

6. Your sealed tender documents should be submitted at the following address by **14:00 hrs on the 10th Decemeber 2024**

**Procurement Unit,
Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital
Bot'sabelo, Ha Leqele
Private Bag A114,
Maseru 100, Lesotho
Tel: +266 2222 0000
Attention: Procurement Manager**

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **14:15 hrs. on the 10th December , 2024** at the address given below:

**Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital,
Bot'sabelo, Ha Leqele
Maseru 100**

8. The submissions should be clearly marked: "**Supply and delivery of Stores consumables**". It is the service provider's responsibility to ensure that their proposals are received on or before the closing date whether posted or hand-delivered.
9. Interested bidders may submit as associations, partnerships or joint ventures provided they submit a letter of intent signed by all parties with a clear indication of the representative of such association, partnership or joint venture.


QUEEN 'MAMOHATO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

 Private bag A114, Maseru 100 Tel:+266 2222 0000
 Bots'abelo , Maseru , Lesotho

INVITATION FOR BIDS

30th October 2024

BID No.: QMMH/ITT 3 OF 2024/2025

Ministry of Health

PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

1. The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho through Ministry of Health from its recurrent budget intends to improve the service delivery provided by Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital and part of its budget shall be utilized to cater for payments entered into for such services.

Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital now invites "**Technical and Financial Proposals in SEPARATE envelopes**" to provide the following services: **PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM**. More details on the services are provided in the Invitation to Tender document.
2. A Service Provider will be selected in accordance with the current Government of Lesotho Public Procurement Act 2023, and the evaluation criteria described in the Invitation to tender document.
3. Detailed Invitation to Tender document which comprises the following documents is available at the address indicated under 6 below at a non-refundable fee of **M2000.00** payable at Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital Main Cashier from **31st October 2024**:

Section 1- Letter of Invitation

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

4. Sealed bids, original and five copies clearly marked "Provision of Comprehensive Hospital Management Information System" bearing no identification of the bidder should be deposited at the tender box situated at ground floor, Ministry of Health Headquarters, Procurement Unit on or before **10th December 2024 at 14:00hrs**.
5. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **14:15 hrs. on Friday 10th December, 2024** at the address given below:

**Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital
Botsabelo, Lithabaneng
Maseru
Lesotho**

6. The submissions should be clearly marked: "**PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM**". It is the service provider's responsibility to ensure that their proposals are received on or before the closing.
7. Interested service providers from different firms may submit as associations, partnerships or joint ventures provided they submit a letter of intent signed by all parties with a clear indication of the representative of such association, partnership or joint venture.


MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
INVITATION TO BID
“SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF OFFICE FURNITURE FOR THE MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT”
TENDER NUMBER: MTI/001/2024/2025

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development invites tenders from competent and registered companies to supply and deliver office furniture for the Ministry. More details will be provided on the Terms of Reference in the tender document. For further clarifications, please contact the Procurement office on 22312802 or visit us at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development old LNDC Shoprite Building, 2nd floor.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- Valid Tax Clearance certificate
- Certified (at source) copy of Trader's licence
- Audited financial statements for the last two years (2022/2023 & 2023/2024).
- Include VAT in tender price.
- VAT Certificate

The tender shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following financial and technical requirements:

1. Technical capacity and Experience

- The Tenderer should have executed similar contracts in the last three (3) years which exceeded M150 000 with appropriate reference from the clients.
- Business experience of not less than three (3) years in operation or supplying similar type of goods for which invitation to tender was issued.

2. Financial Capacity

- Audited financial statements for the last two years (2022/2023 & 2023/2024).
- Credit line of M150, 000.00 from a financial institution (strictly from the bank).

Tender documents must be accompanied by a Bid Security of Twenty Thousand Maloti only (M20 000.00) in the form of bank guaranteed confirmation letter from the bank addressed to The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development which must be attached.

SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE

Applicants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Public Procurement Act, 2023. Bidding documents will be obtainable from **11th**

November 2024 at Procurement Office during working hours from 09:00hrs to 16:00hrs at the Ministry of Trade, old LNDC, Shoprite Building, 2nd floor, Kingsway Road, Maseru. Bidders must purchase a tender document at a non-refundable fee of M2,000.00. Payment of the tender document must be made in Accounts office, in the form of cash at 1st floor, old LNDC Shoprite building. The proof of payment/receipt issued must be taken to the office of Procurement where tender document will be collected. All details and explanations concerning payments, will be made by Accounts office.

Technical and financial proposals shall be separately delivered in the Tender Box.

Sealed tenders enclosed in envelopes; **original (1) and four (4) copies**, bearing no identification of the Bidder and marked as follows; **“Supply and Delivery of office furniture for the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development”** must be hand delivered to the Ministry of Trade situated at old LNDC Shoprite Building, 2nd floor, Kingsway Road, Maseru.

Tender box closes at 1200hrs on 05th December 2024. The tenders will be opened on the same day, 05th November 2024 at 14:30pm. Late TENDERS will be rejected. No electronic copies will be permitted. Proposals will be opened physically in the presence of the Bidders or their Representatives who chose to attend in person.

Interested Bidders can hand deliver their tenders to the following address:

Procurement Manager
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development

P.O Box 747

Maseru 100 Lesotho

NB. The Government of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders for reasons that may be advanced.

The Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender price.



Kingdom of Lesotho

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY
INVITATION TO TENDER – Ref MEF/ENV/4/5/6/2024 - 25
Invitation to tender MEF/ENV/4/5/6/2024 - 25

Tenders are invited from interested and suitably qualified companies and suppliers for Provision of computers and their accessories at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Tender documents will be obtained from Procurement Office at Post Office Building, 6TH Floor, Procurement Office during office hours from **18th November, 2024**. Submission of tender should be on or before **9:00am** on the **9th January, 2025** on the 7th Floor, Ministry of Environment Board Room entrance. **SEALED BIDS SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED; “Provision of computers and their accessories at Ministry of Environment and Forestry”**

- One Original copy and associated 4 copies should be submitted for each LOT

The opening of the tender shall be at 9: 30 am on the 9th January, 2025 at the Ministry's boardroom in the presence of the bidders or their representatives. All bidders are expected to comply with all the requirements.

Ministry of Environment and Forestry does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender nor assign reasons for acceptance or rejection of any tender.

For any enquiries call: 22315491

Or

Email: dqhobela@gmail.com or semakalengmabitle@gmail.com



Investing in rural people


Kingdom of Lesotho
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: SADPII
REOI - Individual Consultants
(consultancy firm to develop the 4Ps approach)

1st Edition
December 2020
Foreword

This REOI is based on the 1st edition of the IFAD-issued standard procurement document for REOI advertisement – individual consultants to be used in projects financed by IFAD, available at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. IFAD does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy or translation, if applicable, or any other aspect in connection with the content of this document.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(Individual Consultants)

Kingdom of Lesotho
GAFSP

Assignment title: Engagement of Individual Consultant to Design the Public Private Producer Partnership (4-P)s
Reference no. LSO-2000002563-0022-CS-ICS

The Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Nutrition SADPII has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the recruitment of consulting services provided by an individual consultant as part of the post of GAFSP Project.

The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with GAFSP.

The consulting services (“the services”) include the Engagement of Individual Consultant to Design the Public Private Producer Partnership (4-P)s, 60 days.

This request for expressions of interest (REOI) follows the general procurement notice that appeared on the IFAD website on 30th October 2024, on UNDB on 30th October 2024 and on Public eye, Focus Group, News day and The Reporter newspaper on 31st October 2024.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to IFAD's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy and the Revised IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Activities and Operations. The latter sets forth IFAD's provisions on prohibited practices. IFAD further strives to ensure a safe working environment free of harassment, including sexual harassment, and free of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in its activities and operations as detailed in its IFAD Policy to Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. By entering in this document, you certify to have read, understood, and agreed to be bound by the Privacy Policy

- The policy is accessible at <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/41942012>.
- The policy is accessible at www.ifad.org/anticorruption_policy.
- The policy is accessible at <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/40738506>.
- The policy is accessible at <https://www.ifad.org/en/privacy>.

of IFAD.

Interested consultants shall not have any actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest. Consultants with an actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest shall be disqualified unless otherwise explicitly approved by the Fund. Consultants are considered to have a conflict of interest if they a) have a relationship that provides them with undue or undisclosed information about or influence over the selection process and the execution of the contract, or b) have a business or family relationship with a member of the client's board of directors or its personnel, the Fund or its personnel, or any other individual that was, has been or might reasonably be directly or indirectly involved in any part of (i) the preparation of the REOI, (ii) the selection process for this procurement, or (iii) execution of the contract. Consultants have an ongoing obligation to disclose any situation of actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest during preparation of the EOI, the selection process or the contract execution. Failure to properly disclose any of said situations may lead to appropriate actions, including the disqualification of the consultant, the termination of the contract and any other as appropriate under the IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Projects and Operations.

The following conflict of interest rules shall apply with respect to recruitment of government/client staff within the consultant's proposed team:

- No member of the client's board of directors or current employees of the client (whether part time, or full time, paid or unpaid, in leave status, etc.) shall be proposed or work as, or on behalf of, any consultant.
- Except as provided in sub-clause 8.6(d), no current employees of the government shall work as consultants or as personnel under their own ministries, departments or agencies.
- Recruiting former client or government employees to perform services for their former ministries, departments or agencies is acceptable provided no conflict of interest exists.
- If a consultant proposes any government employee as personnel in their technical proposal, such personnel must have written certification from the government confirming that: (i) they will be on leave without pay from the time of their official proposal submission and will remain on leave without pay until the end of their assignment with the consultant and they are allowed to work full-time outside of their previous official position; or (ii) they will resign or retire from government employment on or prior to the contract award date. Under no circumstances shall any individuals described in (i) and (ii) be responsible for approving the implementation of this contract. Such certification shall be provided to the client by the consultant as part of its technical proposal.

- In the case where a consultant seeks to engage the services of any person falling under ITC sub-clauses 8.6(a) – 8.6(d), who may have left the client within a period of less than twelve (12) months of the date of this RFP, it must obtain a written “no-objection” from the client for the inclusion of such a person, prior to the consultant's submission of its proposal.

The Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Nutrition : SADPII Project now invites eligible Individual consultants (“consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services in the form of a curriculum vitae (CV). A consultant will be selected in accordance with the individual consultant selection (ICS) method set out in IFAD' Project Procurement Handbook that can be accessed via the IFAD website at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. Interviews will not be conducted as part of the selection process.

The shortlisting criteria are: The qualifications and experience of the Individual consultant as follows :

- Degree in Agriculture, Agribusiness development and or rural finance
- Proven experience in developing and implementing agricultural value chain strategies. Preferably 10 years of professional experience in the agricultural and rural development sector, 5 of these years should be at managerial level
 - 3 years' experience in the 4-Ps Approach and private sector engagement and linking farmers to markets.
 - Experience working with smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.
 - Knowledge of the agricultural sector in Lesotho or similar contexts.
 - Strong analytical and report-writing skills.

Any request for clarification on this REOI should be sent via e-mail to the address below procurement@sadpii.org.ls Cc:rkhathibe@sadpii.org.ls no later than **16:00hrs, 7th November 2024** and Harare Pretoria time zone. The client will provide responses to all clarification requests by **16:00 , 11th November 2024** and Harare Pretoria time zone.

Expressions of interest in the form of curriculum vitae (CV) must be submitted, in electronic format (pdf), with each page signed, no later than **15th November 2024**. EOIs shall be submitted to the address below no later than **12:00 Mid-day, 15th November 2024**, and Harare Pretoria time zone

Attn: Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Nutrition SADPII Project
Livestock Offices, Moshoeshoe II
P.O. Box 24, Maseru and Lesotho
Tel: +266 22322578
E-mail: procurement@sadpii.org.ls



Fees	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
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Subscription	M 72.00	M 156.00	M 312.00
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Delivery	M 60.00
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Tel:..... **Cell:**..... **Signature:**.....

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Minister Spokes set for spectacular one-man gospel show

Staff Reporter



reer, Minister Spokes has shared the stage with notable gospel artists including Ntokozo Mbambo, Neyi Zimu, Lebo Sekgobela, and Dr. Tumi. He was recently inducted into the prestigious Joyous Celebration gospel ensemble, a significant milestone in his career.

Addressing a press briefing this week, Minister Spokes expressed his excitement about the show, saying; "This is a dream come true for me. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my music and faith with the people who have been following and supporting my journey."

"I am excited to worship alongside some of the most talented gospel artists. Since when I began this journey with Yadah Praise Family to launching my solo career in 2018, I had always dreamed of one day being able to deliver such a show."

Minister Spokes' albums, *I Am Grateful* and *Lifela Tsa Chache*, have resonated deeply with audiences across Southern Africa, establishing him as one of the leading figures in Lesotho's gospel music scene.

His distinctive voice and heartfelt lyrics continue to inspire listeners, and the upcoming concert is expected to be a testament to his talent and dedication.

Rising gospel sensation, Minister Spokes, is set to captivate his devoted fan base with an unforgettable one-man show at the prestigious 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre in March 2025.

Born Poloko Mohlapiso, in the scenic town of Semonkong, just outside Maseru, Minister Spokes launched his solo music career in 2018, and since then his rise within the gospel music scene has been nothing short of meteoric.

Known for his deep faith and passion for spreading the gospel through song, Minister Spokes has performed alongside some of the biggest names in the gospel industry in both Lesotho and South Africa.

Having graced major events like the Lesotho Gospel Explosion, Gospel Alive, and the 200 Years Basotho Mega Music Festival, Minister Spokes' career trajectory is a testament to his growing influence.

His upcoming show is set to be a celebration of his musical journey and unwavering faith, offering gospel lovers an evening of powerful

and uplifting music.

The event promises a memorable experience with a stellar lineup of guest performers from both

Lesotho and South Africa—many of whom have collaborated with Minister Spokes over the years.

Since embarking on his solo ca-



Face of Lesotho in bicentenary inspired theme

Arts

Chris Theko

The organisers of The Face of Lesotho recently hosted an elegant sash-awarding ceremony to officially introduce the 2024 finalists for the highly anticipated beauty pageant.

Held at Lancer's Inn, the event celebrated Lesotho's talent and beauty, showcasing the finalists who have worked tirelessly to reach this prestigious stage.

The ceremony was attended by pageant enthusiasts, family members, and local media representatives, all eager to witness the unveiling of this year's contenders and to learn more about the new program planned for the Face of Lesotho competition.

The evening kicked off with a speech emphasising the mission of Face of Lesotho to empower Basotho youth and uplift local communities from the organisers. They outlined how this year's theme will guide the finalists through a program designed not only to showcase their beauty and talent but also to focus on social impact initiatives and community engagement.

The 2024 coronation theme, "Africanicity", encourages contestants to champion causes that align with the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Basotho nation.

In her address at the event, Face of Lesotho Director Lintle Setho clarified that the theme was not a call for attendees to wear African-themed attire. Instead, it is the contestants who will showcase what it means to



be African, highlighting the cultural richness of the Basotho people and other African cultures during the event.

"We are crowning the participants in Seshoeshoe, not the attendees," Setho explained. "We encourage our guests to dress in a demure and elegant manner, as the theme is about the contestants, who will showcase 'Africanicity' on stage. For our attendees, this will be a very elegant red carpet affair."

This theme serves as a reminder that beauty queens are not only ambassadors of grace and elegance but also representatives

of their country and culture.

The 2024 Face of Lesotho pageant program has been re-imagined to include workshops and outreach activities centered on sustainable skills development, entrepreneurship, and self-confidence. The organisers are setting a new standard by incorporating training sessions led by experts in public speaking, community activism, and environmental awareness.

"As young people, we know that Lesotho struggles with a high unemployment rate after graduation, so we are rethinking the

program for our queens after coronation. We want to introduce empowerment through skills development and education," Setho said. "We are also looking to raise awareness on community health and wellness through our impact initiative program."

These new additions reflect Face of Lesotho's broader objectives to uplift and equip young Basotho women with skills that will benefit them beyond the pageant. Organisers are hopeful that this year's focus on empowerment and sustainable change will not only help the finalists grow individually but also create a lasting impact in their communities.

The finalists took center stage, each receiving their sash as the crowd cheered them on. The ceremony was filled with moments of pride and inspiration as these young women prepare to represent Lesotho on both national and international stages.

The Face of Lesotho competition has a longstanding history of recognizing and nurturing talent within Lesotho, and this year's program reflects an evolution that aligns with the modern pageant industry's emphasis on purpose and impact.

"We are incredibly proud of our finalists and the direction that Face of Lesotho is taking this year. By the time we reach the coronation, these young women will have grown immensely—not just as individuals, but as leaders who are passionate about making a difference," said Setho.

Night of thrills as 'Endurance' movie launches

Keiso Mohloboli

The glamorous AVANI Maseru Hotel came alive last weekend as local and regional stars, fans, and key figures from the entertainment industry gathered to celebrate the much-anticipated launch of *Endurance*, a film that promises to elevate the local cinema.

The event was a resounding success, blending star power with cultural pride, leaving an indelible mark on all who attended.

Among the prominent figures at the launch was Thabo Maretlane, a distinguished Member of Parliament and the Founder and Managing Director of the Thaba Bosiu Cultural Village, an institution dedicated to preserving and promoting Lesotho's cultural heritage.

Maretlane, a key figure in the country's cultural landscape, emphasised the importance of resilience and dedication in pursuing one's passion, particularly within the arts and culture sector.

In his address to the host, Matšelisio Mohale, Maretlane shared insights into the power of passion and perseverance, stating that success in the arts can often transcend formal education. He highlighted that hard work, commitment, and resilience are the true drivers of success.

His remarks were a poignant reminder of the value of creativity and dedication, and he took a moment to acknowledge Mohale's

significant contributions to the arts and culture in Lesotho, framing her recent work as a major milestone in her career.

Maretlane's words were more than just encouragement; they were a powerful call to others in the community to pursue their artistic dreams with vigor, reminding everyone that talent and relentless effort often shine brighter than credentials.

His support for individual initiatives like *Endurance* contributes to a wider narrative about the role of arts and culture in national development, as well as the vital importance of fostering creativity in Lesotho.

The event itself was graced by a constellation of South African luminaries, including the talented Lillian Dube, Humbulani Tsharani, and Kingsley Ramabulana, who mingled with fans and shared in the excitement of the evening. Their presence was not only a testament to the importance of the film but also an inspiration to aspiring artists across the region.

In a special gesture of appreciation, Lillian, Humbulani, and Kingsley were presented with exquisite Basotho blankets, a gift symbolising warmth, respect, and cultural pride. Aranda, a leading local brand known for its commitment to preserving Lesotho's heritage, presented the blankets.

Palo Mokoailane, representing Aranda, explained the significance of the gesture, "It has always been our wish to support Malome Vector's stage appearances, particularly as he was known for proudly wearing Aranda



Matseliso Mohale

blankets. Sadly, he passed away before we could connect with him, but in honoring his memory, we chose to extend a blanket to his wife as a mark of respect."

Malome Vector, a beloved figure in Lesotho's entertainment scene, was remembered throughout the evening. His wife graciously accepted the blanket on his behalf, serving as a poignant reminder of his legacy. This tribute tied together the themes of the evening: a celebration of life, memory, and the power of cultural expression.

The launch also saw electrifying performances by local talents, including DJ Saucy, Sannere, Sentšo, Juvy oa Lephimpara, and Mavele the Entertainer, whose performances brought the crowd to life. Each artist's unique style resonated with the audience, adding an extra layer of energy to the evening's festivities.

The success of the event was also supported by a number of esteemed businesses, both local and from South Africa. Partners included Jeepers Inmates, My Zaca, Thaba Bosiu Cultural Village, LNBS, The Market

Restaurant, The Splitz Marketing & Services, AVANI Hotels, Tshoane Graphix, JNJ Network, 24 Rise, and Bella's Bridal Boutique. Their collective support reinforced the community's commitment to promoting local artistry and culture.

As the credits rolled on *Endurance*, it became clear that the film's success was not just a reflection of cinematic achievement but also a celebration of Basotho culture, identity, and resilience. The night was an affirmation of the enduring power of storytelling and the cultural pride that continues to inspire future generations. The event ended with dancing, laughter, and a deep sense of unity, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

The launch of *Endurance* was a beautiful reminder of the role the arts play in shaping a community's identity and the bright future ahead for local cinema. As local talents continue to rise and gain recognition, events like these ensure that the spirit of creativity and perseverance will endure for generations to come.

SPORTS

Mzamane's winless run continues

STANDINGS AS PER THE 2024/2025 SEASON

P	TEAMS	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	MATLAMA FC	6	5	0	1	12	4	8	15
2	BANTU FC	5	4	1	0	14	6	8	13
3	LIOLI FC	5	4	1	0	7	1	6	13
4	LMPS FC	6	3	3	0	6	2	4	12
5	LIJABATHO FC	7	3	2	2	15	7	8	11
6	LDF FC	4	3	1	0	13	2	11	10
7	LU FC	7	2	2	3	12	9	3	8
8	LIFOFANE FC	5	2	2	1	6	4	2	8
9	LINARE FC	5	2	1	2	6	5	1	7
10	MANONYANE FC	5	2	1	2	6	7	-1	7
11	LCS FC	5	2	1	2	8	7	1	7
12	MACHOKHA FC	7	1	4	2	5	7	-2	7
13	MAJANTJA FC	7	1	3	3	4	8	-4	6
14	LIPHAKOE FC	7	1	0	6	4	16	-12	3
15	ACE MASERU FC	6	0	2	4	4	13	-9	2
16	MZAMANE FC	7	0	0	7	3	26	-23	0

Seabata Mahao

Mzamane Football Club's (FC) elusive search for their first win in the top flight stretched to seven games after they were defeated 4-2 by

Linare FC during their Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash in Maputsoe over the weekend.

The Mokhotlong side, which has been forced to host its home games away from the remote district due to delays in the assessment of its playing

ground, has had a difficult start to life in the elite league.

Mzamane are still without a single point after losing all of their opening seven games of the 2024/25 season, following their historic promotion at the end of last season. As a result, they are firmly rooted at the bottom of the league standings with zero points and a negative 23-goal difference.

Despite their difficult start, Mzamane's coach, Liteboho Ramantsoe, remains optimistic, insisting that they have what it takes to fight their way out of the current situation.

As newcomers in the league, the team is hoping to use their experiences from the opening games to develop a strategy for turning their season around in the later stages, in order to avoid relegation.

In a post-match interview after their victory over Mzamane,

Linare's coach, Bob Mafoso, expressed satisfaction with how his players performed, despite a few concerns.

"I am not entirely satisfied with our second-half performance. The fact that we scored early shows that we were not fully focused on the game," Mafoso said.

He continued by praising Linare's player, Norman Kumatse, for his stand-out performance in the match.

"We are very grateful for this victory. It is important for us to collect points in the league, but we also need to go back, review our performance, and identify where we can improve," Mafoso added.

Other weekend results are as follows:

Saturday, November 9, 2024

- Majantja FC 1 – 0 LU FC
- Ace Maseru FC 1 – 2 LMPS FC
- Matlama FC 3 – 1 Liphakoe FC
- Mzamane FC 2 – 4 Linare FC

Sunday, November 10, 2024

- Lioli FC 0 – 0 Machokaha FC
- Bantu FC 4 – 2 Lijabatho FC

Rugby titans Beavers defeat Lihomane



Federation of Lesotho Rugby admitted to be a member of World Rugby

Seabata Mahao

The Econet Rugby League (ERL) giants, Lihomane, were defeated 17-10 by Mabote Beavers at Ha-Mabote Ground on Saturday, bringing an end to their winning streak.

This match marked the resumption of the league following the international break, which allowed for the national team's test matches to take place.

Lihomane entered the game after securing a win against Maseru Warriors, while Mabote Beavers had defeated Lesotho Rugby Academy. Both teams were eager to reclaim their top spots and push toward the ERL championship.

In the highly anticipated match, it was Mabote Beavers who emerged victorious over the visitors, Lihomane.

Mabote Beavers' head coach, Mhloimi Motlatsi, described the match as intense, with Lihomane showcasing great skill and team spirit.

He noted that their victory was largely due to the mistakes made by Lihomane, although the match itself was fiercely contested, with both teams fighting for the win.

"We are where we are because of the dedication and hard work of our team. We've managed to collect satisfactory points, and we are now in the top position in the league," said Motlatsi.

Motlatsi also acknowledged that Lihomane remains one of the strongest teams competing for the top spot. Despite Lihomane's earlier dominance, Mabote Beavers were able to pull ahead and claim the win.

In a post-match interview, Lihomane's head coach, Maruping Mosoeu, stated that

the game was open, with Lihomane leading the first half. However, Mosoeu attributed the loss to several key mistakes made by his team in the second half.

"We were strong and had the potential to win the game, as we controlled the first half," Mosoeu said.

"We took the lead by scoring first, but Mabote Beavers caught up with us, took the lead, and ultimately won. We failed to defend our points."

Mosoeu also emphasised that the international break had a negative impact on his team's preparations, as some of the players had been called up to the national team, which affected their training sessions.

Weekend Results:

- Mabote Beavers 17 – 10 Lihomane
- Mabote Beavers 38 – 0 Lihomane





15 Nov - 21 Nov 2024



Likuena Beat CAR

Seabata Mahao

The national senior football team, Likuena, kept their slim hopes of qualifying for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) alive with a hard-fought victory over the Central African Republic (CAR) in a Group B match played in Bloemfontein, South Africa, yesterday.

The 1-0 win propelled Likuena to third place in the group, with four points, moving them above CAR, which now sits at the bot-

tom of the table. However, Likuena's path to qualification remains narrow.

To have a chance at reaching AFCON, they must defeat Group B leaders Morocco in a must-win clash on November 18. Furthermore, they will need CAR and Morocco to beat Gabon in other crucial matches for the qualification hopes to materialise.

Likuena's qualifying campaign has been a tough one, with three losses, one draw, and one win after five matches. Despite the chal-

lenges, the team's performance against CAR has kept their qualification dream alive—albeit by the slimmest of margins.

The match was played under challenging conditions, behind closed doors, with no spectators present. This decision was made by the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) to maintain a controlled and secure environment, minimizing external distractions and ensuring that the players' focus remained entirely on the game.

Head coach Leslie Notši had announced his official 23-player squad ahead of the match, a team that blends experienced internationals with promising young talent. The squad selection reflects Notši's strategy of building a competitive and balanced team for both the present and future.

With key figures like captain Sekhoane Moerane and star forward Tšepo Toloane, Likuena's squad is anchored by seasoned internationals who have played in high-stakes competitions. These players will be crucial in mentoring the younger players, guiding them through the challenges of international football.

Notši has also integrated emerging talents, such as young defender Mpho Hlephole and midfielder Hlompho Kalake, into the squad. Their inclusion highlights Notši's forward-thinking approach, giving younger players valuable international experience that will benefit the team in the long term.

A statement issued by the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) explained that playing behind closed doors saved the association over M100 000 in security and stadium fees. This decision follows the challenges of hosting Likuena's matches in South Africa after the suspension of Setsoto Stadium from hosting international fixtures. Attendance at Likuena's matches has been low since the move, further justifying the decision to hold the match without spectators.

Looking ahead, LeFA has announced that spectators will be allowed for the next match, which will be the African Nations Championship (CHAN) second-round, first leg against Angola. The stakes will be higher for this match, and LeFA hopes the weekend timing will encourage a larger crowd from Lesotho to travel and support the team.

Below is Likuena squad which has been selected for their CAR and Morocco matches during the current FIFA international break:

Goalkeepers; Sekhoane Moerane (Orbit College), Ntsane Molise (Linare), and Tankiso Chaba (LCS).

Defenders; Thabo Makhele (Chippa United), Rethabile Mokokoane (Matlama), Fusi-Matlabe (Mpheni Defenders), Thabo Malane (African Stars), Thabo Matšoele (Linare), Thabo Mafatle (Bantu), Mpho Hlephole (Lio-li), Thabo Sefoli (Upington City), and Rethabile Rasethuntša (Linare).

Midfielders; Hlompho Kalake (Bantu), Tlotliso Phatsisi (Black Leopards), Teboho Letsema (Sekhukhune United), Paseka Maile (Kick4Life Juventude), Neo Mokhachane (Jwaneng Galaxy), Lehlohonolo Fothoane (Bantu), Tšepo Toloane (LDF), Lehlohonolo Matsau (LDF), and Lisema Lebokollane (Matlama).

Strikers; Lemohang Lintša (LU FC), and Motebang Sera (Royal AM).



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