



Newsday

...pacing standards

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220 corruption cases worth M203 million reported since April

Staff Reporter

During the first half of the current financial year, which began on April 1, the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) documented 220 reports of alleged corruption, money laundering, and related offences totaling M203.8 million.

This was revealed by Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, while delivering the mid-term budget speech for the 2024/2025 financial year to Parliament on Wednesday this week.

Matlanyane said that out of these reports, 162 cases were referred for further investigation, while 58 were directed to the appropriate institutions for action.

"Mr. Speaker, in our continuous efforts to combat corruption, the implementation of an in-house electronic case management system has greatly enhanced the DCEO's capacity to manage case flow," she said.

"A dedicated call center has also been established, enabling the public to report corruption incidents at any time and from any location," she added.

DCEO's spokesperson, 'Matlhokomelo Senoko, confirmed the figures yesterday saying they reflected the agency's activities during the first and second quarters of the financial year.

"The report is for the first and second quarters," Senoko said.

Despite successive governments professing a commitment to eradicating corruption, the vice remains deeply entrenched in Lesotho's public service.

DCEO, the country's key anticorruption institution, has faced sharp criticism for its perceived inability to combat this pervasive issue effectively.

Commentators argue that Lesotho's anti-corruption policies and accountability mechanisms are weak, while access to critical information remains elusive for citizens outside government circles.

In recent years, a series of scandals implicating ministers and the awarding of public contracts has further eroded public trust in the



Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane

state.

The U.S. Department of State's 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices published in April this year underscored these concerns, acknowledging that while Lesotho's laws provide for criminal penalties for corruption, their enforcement is inconsistent.

"There were numerous reports of government corruption, and some officials engaged in corrupt practices with impunity," the report stated.

Lesotho's standing in global corruption rankings paints a stark picture.

In Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), the country was ranked 93rd out of 180 nations, scoring a meager 39 out of 100.

The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories around the globe by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, scoring on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Over two-thirds of countries scored below 50 out of 100 in 2023, which strongly indicated

that they had serious corruption problems. The global average was stuck at only 43, while the vast majority of countries had made no progress or declined in the last decade.

"Corrupt acts like bribery and abuse of power are also infiltrating many courts and other justice institutions across the globe. Where corruption is the norm, vulnerable people have restricted access to justice while the rich and powerful capture whole justice systems, at the expense of the common good," Transparency International observed.

The troubling domestic trends were echoed in Afrobarometer's latest findings published on November 14.

The survey revealed that nearly half of Basotho (48 percent) believe "most" or "all" Members of Parliament (MPs) are corrupt. Additionally, 69 percent of respondents expressed little to no trust in parliamentarians.

Afrobarometer report read: "Negative evaluations of Parliament have increased sharply over the past decade, reaching their highest lev-

els in 2022 before declining somewhat in 2024. Disapproval of MPs' job performance climbed from 43 percent of Basotho in 2017 to 76 percent in 2022, then came down to 64 percent in 2024."

It added: "Similarly, distrust increased from 48 percent to 80 percent in 2022 before dropping back to 69 percent in 2024. And the share of citizens reporting perceptions of widespread corruption in Parliament tripled between 2014 (19 percent) and 2022 (57 percent) before decreasing by 9 percentage points."

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life.

Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Lesotho, led by Advision Lesotho, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Basotho in March 2024.

A sample of this size, according to the organisation, yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.

Previous surveys were conducted in Lesotho in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2020, and 2022.

In a speech during the presentation of Lesotho's 2025 Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) scorecard. U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires, Thomas Hines, acknowledged that Lesotho passed the overall scorecard but expressed concern over the country's declining performance in the control of corruption indicator.

"Noting the decline in the control of corruption indicator, we seek avenues to do more together with Lesotho to combat corruption. Not only does regression in this area put Lesotho at risk of failing the scorecard, we also know the corrosive impact of corruption in the economy and society," Hines remarked.

Polihali Dam construction creates 8,000 jobs ... drives economic growth

Staff Reporter

Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Development Project (LHWP) has employed over 8,000 Basotho, including approximately 3,000 unskilled labourers from the project's surrounding areas, Finance and Development Planning Minister Dr. Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane told parliament this week during her mid-term budget speech for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

She outlined the scope of Phase II, which includes the construction of the Polihali Dam and reservoir, water transfer tunnel and the associated access roads, bridges, accommodation, electrical transmission lines and telecommunications infrastructure.

"This esteemed house will recall that the key infrastructure initiatives for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) Phase II encompass the construction of the Polihali Dam, the Polihali to Katse transfer tunnel, and three bridges: Senqu, Khubelu, and Mabunyane," she said.

"Mr. Speaker, the nation has witnessed the arrival of the Tunnel Boring Machine, and construction is actively underway, with the Polihali Dam currently at 16 percent completion and the tunnel at 22 percent," she added.

She highlighted that the Senqu Bridge, designed to improve connectivity across challenging terrain, is 59 percent complete, employing

95 unskilled and 55 skilled workers.

"Mr. Speaker, at this point, the whole project has hired more than 8,000 Basotho, with around 3,000 of those being unskilled labourers from the surrounding project area," the minister said.

To bolster skills development, she said the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has introduced a young professional program. This initiative engages graduates from fields such as engineering, architecture, archaeology, and environmental and social sciences, providing them with practical experience to advance their careers.

Matlanyane also emphasised the project's economic significance, noting its role as a key driver of growth. "The domestic economy is projected to grow by 2.4 percent in 2024, fueled by ongoing mega-projects such as LHWP Phase II and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact II, as well as growth in the services sector," she said.

She also announced that the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) had reduced the policy rate by 25 basis points to 7.5 percent. This reduction, she explained, is expected to lead to lower domestic interest rates, including the prime lending rate, and encourage economic activity.

"The majority of central banks, both in developed and emerging market economies, have lowered policy rates in response to declining inflationary pressures," she added.

Matlanyane highlighted that LHWP-II has not only spurred economic momentum but also contributed significantly to transportation, logistics, and financial services development.

"This project is instrumental in fostering growth and has successfully generated numerous job opportunities for young professionals in Lesotho," she said.

Phase II requires acquiring approximately 5,000 hectares of land, much of which will be submerged under the Polihali Dam and its reservoir.

The inundation will affect the valleys and tributary catchments of the Senqu and Khubelu Rivers, impacting [Continues on page 3](#)

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20+ years secret revealed: father accused of raping biological daughter

Keiso Mohloboli

In a distressing revelation that has shocked the Ha Motjoka Nazareth community, a daughter has brought to light a dark family secret that was concealed for two decades.

Between 2000 and 2004, a father, who has remained unnamed because the date of the case is yet to be set on December 02, 2024, perpetrated a grievous crime against his then 13-year-old daughter, turning their home into a site of unthinkable horror.

This case has recently come into the spotlight after the daughter, now in her thirties, reported the long-suppressed ordeal to the police, prompting legal proceedings set to commence on December 2, 2024.

The father, who had been left in Lesotho by his wife working in South Africa for domestic employment, allegedly exploited the trust and vulnerability of his own child.

During these years of alleged abuse, he reportedly not only raped her on multiple occasions but also isolated her from her social circles, accompanying her to and from school at Lerotholi Secondary School in Ha Matela and forbidding her from associating with peers.

The psychological control he exerted, compounded by verbal threats of violence, including threats to kill, created an environment of terror, preventing her from seeking help.

The trauma of betrayal was not exclusive to the acts of violence; the daughter was faced with the agonizing burden of carrying a child in her early teens resulting from her father's abuse.

The child, now a 23 years old herself, serves as a permanent reminder of the prolonged suffering the victim endured. Not only did this situation rob her of her adolescence, but it also instilled a deep-seated fear that hindered her from confiding in her mother or extended family, who remain unsupportive.

In September this year, after years of silence marked by trauma and fear of retaliation, the victim finally reported her father to the police, following DNA confirmation of the family's dreadful truth, he was identified as the biological father.

Police investigations have established substantial evidence supporting her claims, yet the perpetrator is currently free on remand and is scheduled to appear in court on December 2, 2024.

The legal intricacies present a disheartening outlook on the pursuit of justice.

The court has declared this year as the final opportunity to address the case, despite the overwhelming evidence available. Advocates for victims' rights are alarmed by what they perceive as systemic failures in addressing sexual assault cases promptly.

"As advocates for justice and survivors of sexual violence, we cannot remain silent in the face of the alarming delays in setting court dates for rape cases, especially when all necessary evidence has already been meticulously gathered by law enforcement," said She-hive Association of Lesotho's managing director, Mamakhetha Phomane, echoing the senti-



She-hive Association of Lesotho's managing director, Mamakhetha Phomane

ment of many who believe that cases like this should be prioritised to prevent emotional and psychological trauma from festering.

"These unnecessary delays threaten to invalidate the courage of survivors who have bravely come forward to seek justice. With the law prescription period nearly at its end, victims face the terrifying reality that their cases might fall into a bureaucratic abyss, leaving them vulnerable and denied the justice they rightfully deserve," Phomane added.

She indicated that police have diligently gathered evidence, creating a solid foundation for prosecution and indicated that it is now the responsibility of the court system to ensure that this evidence does not go to waste.

"The integrity of our legal system hinges on its ability to process cases swiftly and fairly; delays only erode public trust and deter other victims from seeking the justice they deserve," she said.

Phomane also urged the judiciary to prioritise these cases and allocate the necessary resources to ensure that justice is not only pursued but is achieved without further delay.

"Community members, we call on you to join us in advocating for greater accountability in our legal system, promoting policies that uphold the rights of survivors and emphasise timely judicial processes.

"Let us stand together to demand justice for victims of sexual violence and ensure their voices are heard. Together, we must push for systemic reforms that guarantee timely action in all cases of abuse, for the integrity of our justice system and the dignity of every survivor."

As a local activist dealing with issues of elimination of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Phomane warned that extensive delays could enable a repeat of trauma for the victims and discourage others from coming forward with their stories.

As the legal system gears up for the trial, the implications of allowing such cases to go unattended resonate deeply within the community.

tion.

The 1986 Treaty between Lesotho and South Africa, along with the Phase II Agreement, obligates both nations to take measures to ensure that project implementation protects the environment and prioritizes the welfare of affected communities.

The LHDA has been tasked with managing resettlement risks and ensuring the restoration of affected livelihoods.

"Mr. Speaker, this phase includes housing resettlement and the relocation of 1,170 graves

Survivors may hesitate to share their experiences or seek justice, fearing that they will also face time constraints in legal recourse. The need for urgent action in the face of clear evidence cannot be overstated; every delay creates a chilling precedent that threatens to embolden abusers.

In the wake of this heart-wrenching story, Lesotho grapples with the larger societal issue of domestic violence and the barriers victims face when confronting their oppressors. Observers hope that the case's visibility may spur discussions on better support for survivors and increased accountability for perpetrators.

However, Advocate Matsaseng Ralekoala (Assistant lecturer and PhD Candidate on International Laws at the University of Limerick, Ireland) said the victim's rights remain protected as long as her case is recorded within the law's prescription period.

"While 2024 was designated as the final year for initiating proceedings due to the time elapsed since the alleged rape, the law allows for the continuation of court processes as long as the case was logged in court within the legal time frame."

"This means that the victim's case will be fully pursued in the court system regardless of how long it takes to resolve."

As the community watches closely, many are left pondering how one man could shatter the innocence of his child while continuing to evade justice.

Meanwhile, the perpetrator, now in his third marriage and residing in Qoaling, Maseru, represents a figure of ongoing menace – a stark reminder of the work still needed to safeguard vulnerable individuals from similar fates.

This tragic case has raised important questions about the intersection of familial trust, societal stigma, and the critical need for effective legal action in the face of heinous crimes.

As the court date approaches, all eyes remain trained on the pursuit of justice, previously side-lined but now impossible to ignore.

as part of the resettlement process," Matlanya explained on Wednesday.

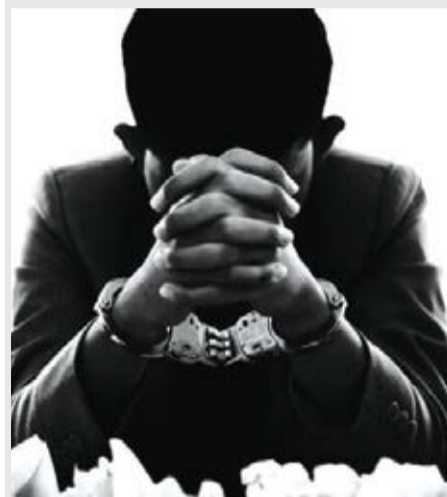
LHWP is a landmark multi-phase initiative aimed at supplying water to South Africa's Gauteng region while simultaneously generating hydroelectric power for Lesotho.

The project was formalised through the 1986 Treaty between Lesotho and South Africa, reflecting a cooperative effort to harness the Senqu/Orange River's waters in the Lesotho Highlands for the mutual benefit of both nations.

Man faces trial for 9-year-old's death

... **Granted bail amid funeral plea**

Relebohile Makhetha



In a case presided over by Magistrate Pontšo Janki yesterday, Lempe Molia of Ha Nqheku Balimong Nazareth appeared in court charged with culpable homicide and traffic violations.

The charges stem from a December 15, 2023, incident in St. Michael, where Molia allegedly struck and killed 9-year-old Bohlale Setenane with his silver Honda Fit.

Prosecutor Moetsi Tšolo stated that delays in the case were due to difficulties locating Molia, as police visits to his home proved unsuccessful.

Defence counsel Maphake Ramotsoakoane explained that Molia recently lost his father, whose burial is set for November 30, 2024. The defence argued for leniency, citing Molia's role as the family's breadwinner and primary funeral arranger.

The prosecutor noted that Molia had missed his initial court remand, reportedly due to a Sesotho concert in Quthing, which he claimed was his source of income.

Tšolo criticised Molia for wasting court time before accepting responsibility for his actions.

Acknowledging the burial circumstances, Magistrate Janki granted Molia bail, set at M500, with a surety of M5,000, payable in cash or secured by property of equivalent value.

Molia is scheduled to return to court on December 10, 2024, for trial scheduling, as the prosecution has indicated readiness to proceed.

...From Page 2

The inundation will affect the valleys and tributary catchments of the Senqu and Khubelu Rivers, impacting local livelihoods. Homesteads, cultivated fields, trees, grazing land, and natural resources will be lost, while access to facilities will be disrupted.

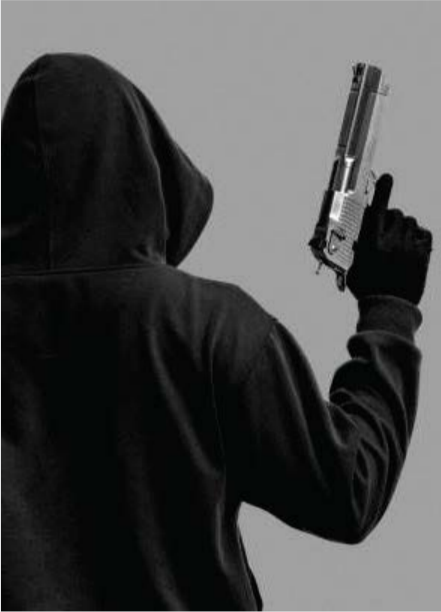
Permanent land acquisition is also necessary for infrastructure developments, including access roads, power lines, and residential and office accommodations, with some land being temporarily occupied during construc-

The LHWP involves constructing a series of dams and associated infrastructure to achieve its dual objectives. Phase I, successfully completed in 2003 and officially inaugurated in 2004, marked a significant milestone in regional water resource management and energy generation.

The project has since advanced to Phase II, which is currently in progress, further enhancing its transformative impact on water security and economic development in the region.

Shocking murders and illegal firearm busts

Relebohile Makhetha



In Mafeteng, a 41-year-old man from Ha Lekhari is in police custody for the alleged murder of an 87-year-old woman from the same village.

Reports indicate that on November 21, at approximately 11:00 AM, neighbours went to visit the elderly woman to offer prayers but discovered her house was locked with a window broken.

They alerted the village chief, and upon entry through the broken window, the grandmother was found lifeless in her bed. Preliminary investigations indicated signs of strangulation.

The suspect, who was arrested on November 23 while in hiding, is believed to have sexually assaulted the victim. When he realised she could identify him, he allegedly killed her to silence her.

In another case in the same district, a 58-year-old man, Leeto Mosala, who had been on the run since November 2023, was arrested on November 16 in connection with the brutal murder of five family members.

He appeared in court on November 20 and is now in custody, alongside a co-accused, awaiting trial.

Meanwhile, in Mapoteng, Berea District, police are investigating the murder of a 69-year-old man, found dead in his home on November 25. The victim had been hosting an unknown guest since November 20, who was last seen on the night before the victim's death.

The man was discovered with open wounds, and the guest has since disappeared. Authorities are urging anyone with information about the suspect to contact the Mapoteng or Berea police.

In a separate case, a 72-year-old man, Fofu Posholi, from Sebitia Ha Mpa, appeared before the Berea Magistrate Court on November 25, facing charges for the possession of an unlicensed 9mm pistol and two rounds of ammunition. He was sentenced to two years in prison or a fine of M5,000. Since he was unable to pay the fine, he remains incarcerated.

The ongoing "Operation Fiela" continues to uncover unlicensed firearms, particularly among older men, and increasingly, women. Last week, a 34-year-old woman, Lieketso Basile, from Sekubu Makanyaneng, appeared in the Botha-Bothe Magistrate Court for possessing an unlicensed firearm and ammunition.

She was sentenced to five years in prison or a fine of M5,000, which she paid, leading to her release.

Police are urging the public to report any knowledge of illegal firearms or suspicious activities to help ensure the safety of the community.

Shocking GBV stats: Over 700 cases reported this year alone

... Girls as young as 12 among victims as sexual violence soars



Ntsoaki Motaung

Tebello Tšepe, Assistant Commissioner of Police responsible for the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), revealed this week that a total of 454 gender-based violence (GBV) cases involving adults were reported between January and September this year.

Of these cases, 266 were sexual offences, primarily affecting women.

"Most victims of sexual offences are women or females. We also recorded 127 cases of assault, including common assault and grievous bodily harm (GBH), in which women were assaulted by their husbands, spouses, or intimate partners. Additionally, 16 cases of innocent assault were reported. These figures reflect cases affecting adults," Tšepe stated.

He noted that Maseru Rural recorded the highest number of reported sexual offences, followed by the Leribe district.

Turning to cases involving children, Tšepe disclosed that 364 cases were reported during the same period.

"Of these, 284 were sexual offences, mostly involving girls or females. However, we have seen a rise in the number of sexual offences reported involving boys. There were also 36 cases of GBH and 31 cases of violations under the Child Protection and Welfare Act," he said.

The Leribe district recorded the highest number of child-related sexual offences, with 54 cases, followed by Quthing with 38 cases.

"In most child sexual offences, victims are between the ages of 12 and 17," Tšepe added.

He shared these findings during the National Dissemination of the Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) organised by the Ministry of Health earlier this week.

The inclusion of GBV issues in the DHS was met with gratitude by GBV advocates during the meeting.

Dr. Mosiuoa Ramakoele, Gender and Social Inclusion Expert, highlighted the significance of incorporating a GBV module into the health sector.

"If Lesotho aims to achieve universal health

coverage and prioritise primary and public health, GBV, as a socio-cultural factor, must be addressed. Otherwise, no progress will be made," he said.

Dr. Ramakoele emphasised that the inclusion of the module would provide comprehensive data to address GBV challenges effectively.

"The survey shows that 41 percent of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence by any perpetrator since the age of 15, and 20 percent have experienced such violence in the last 12 months," he noted.

Among married women or those with intimate partners, 51 percent reported experiencing violence from their current partners, while 30 percent faced violence from former partners. In contrast, women who have never been married or had intimate partners experienced violence primarily from schoolmates or classmates.

"Matau Futho Letsatsi, Director of Gender at the Ministry of Gender and Social Development, presented findings from a Commonwealth study on the economic costs of violence against women and girls in Lesotho.

"Violence against women is a significant factor in divorce cases in Lesotho, costing the country approximately M15.9 million in 2017," Letsatsi stated.

United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Amanda Khozi Mukwashi shared grim statistics from UN Women, revealing that globally, a woman is killed by a partner or family member every 10 minutes.

Mukwashi highlighted how food insecurity exacerbates GBV in Lesotho.

"An estimated 86 percent of women in Lesotho are expected to experience GBV in their lifetime, placing the country among the top six or seven globally," she said.

She warned that the ongoing food insecurity crisis, with a third of the population affected, is worsening the situation.

"During visits to the districts, I have observed mothers and daughters resorting to providing sexual services in exchange for food. As the UN, we stand in solidarity with these women and girls and remain committed to supporting efforts to end this scourge in line with the UN Secretary General's Unite by 2030 to End Violence Against Women campaign," Mukwashi affirmed.

Lesotho achieves MCC scorecard success, again

Kabelo Masoabi

Lesotho has been recognised as one of 26 countries demonstrating exceptional performance on the 2024 Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) scorecard.

The MCC scorecard was celebrated during a ceremony in Maseru, where the United States chargé d'affaires, Thomas Hines, presented the scorecard to Deputy Prime Minister Justice Nthomeng Majara, representing Prime Minister Ntsoakoane Matekane.

The MCC scorecard evaluates countries based on 20 indicators in areas such as economic freedom, governance, and investment in human capital.

Lesotho improved its performance from passing 15 indicators last year to 17, meeting new benchmarks in Girls' Primary Education Completion, Natural Resource Protection, Land Rights and Access, and Fiscal Policy.

Thomas Hines, the United States Chargé d'Affaires, commended Lesotho for its commitment to advancing democratic governance and driving economic development, emphasising that such progress is crucial for ensuring a prosperous future for its citizens.

In his remarks, Hines highlighted Lesotho's improved performance, advancing from passing 15 indicators last year to 17 out of 20 this year. The newly passed indicators include Girls' Primary Education Completion, Natural Resource Protection, Land Rights and Access, and Fiscal Policy.

However, he expressed concerns about Government Effectiveness and Freedom of Information, which did not meet the passing criteria, underscoring the need to prioritise press freedom and the rule of law.

He also noted a decline in the Control of Corruption indicator, calling for collaborative efforts to combat corruption, which jeopardizes Lesotho's overall performance and adversely impacts the economy and social fabric.

Hines further stressed that maximising the compact's impact requires improving access to quality healthcare, boosting employment and business development, and investing in high-value crop production. He added that addressing corruption and strengthening governance would enhance the effectiveness of these initiatives.

In addition to the scorecard results, Hines acknowledged government achievements such as the passage of Inheritance Reforms, Labour Law, and Occupational Health and Safety Law. These reforms, he noted, amplify the compact's impact and underscore the enduring partnership between the United States and Lesotho.

He also informed the audience about the establishment of the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Lesotho, which will oversee the Compact. He highlighted the critical importance of passing the Water Resources Management Bill, which is essential to unlocking additional funding, regulating the water and irrigation sectors, and ensuring the sustainability of developed infrastructure.

MCA-Lesotho II, authorised by the Lesotho gov-

ernment, is responsible for implementing the Health and Horticulture Compact with the MCC. This \$300 million grant from the U.S. government, unlocked on March 31, 2024, aims to reduce poverty sustainably.

"With just four years, four months, and four days remaining to complete the Compact, the urgency is clear. We must sprint, not walk, to the finish line to benefit fully from the Compact. We must work even more closely and effectively to accelerate Lesotho's economic development. Next year, we hope to celebrate further improvements on the scorecard. The United States remains your steadfast partner, dedicated to helping Lesotho deliver sustainable economic growth," Hines concluded at the State House.

Deputy Prime Minister Majara expressed pride in receiving the MCC scorecard on behalf of Basotho, highlighting it as a testament to Lesotho's progress.

Majara acknowledged the need to address key shortcomings, particularly in Trade Policy, Government Effectiveness, and Freedom of Information, the latter having seen a significant decline from 83 percent to 43 percent.

She reaffirmed the government's commitment to resolving these issues and ensuring greater accountability within the public sector.

She also underscored the importance of the \$300 million Health and Horticulture Compact grant, emphasizing its potential to drive Lesotho's economic vision forward by tackling unemployment and poverty.



QUEEN 'MAMOHATO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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Bots'abelo , Maseru , Lesotho

INVITATION FOR BIDS ADDENDUM

20th November 2024

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

RE: ADDENDUM NO.1 ON PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM: QMMH/ITT 3 OF 2024/2025.

In accordance with **Instructions to Bidders, SECTION I** of the bidding document and in response to clarification requested by the prospective bidders, we wish to amend the bidding document as follows:

You are invited to submit a tender against the revised Information.

The revised site Inspection is re-set to **27th November 2024 at 09:00 A.M at Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital.**

1. Part II- Scope of Work:

Bidders who have already purchased the bidding document will obtain additional information (scope of work) from procurement office at Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital

2. Deadline for submission of bids

The tender deadline has been re-set to **18th December 2024 at 14:00 hrs afternoon** to allow sufficient time for those who wish to tender to consider the revised tender information. Your instructions for submission of your tender are as stated in our original Invitation to Tender letter. The outer envelope must show the Tender Number and the re-set date for return, both as shown above.

We hope that the above provides you with adequate information and clarifications to enable you to submit competitive bids and wish to apologise for the inconvenience that may have been caused.

Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital
Botsabelo, Lithabaneng
Maseru


Managing Director- QMMH



QUEEN 'MAMOHATO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- 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:

- 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**

- 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**

- 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.
- 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

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MEAT

BID REF: QMMH/ITT 2 OF 2024/2025

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

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

Activity	Dates
ITT 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 chakalerato99@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

30th October 2024

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

Ministry of Health

PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.**

- 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**

- 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.
- 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.

BUSINESS

Lesotho economy contracts by 1.5% in Q3



The Governor of Central Bank of Lesotho, Dr. Maluke Letete

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's economy contracted by 1.5 percent in the third quarter of 2024, following a 1.8 percent expansion in the preceding quarter, the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) reported this week.

CBL Governor, Dr Maluke Letete, attributed the decline to a sharp contraction in domestic demand alongside weaker performance in the manufacturing and construction sectors.

Despite this setback, Letete noted that medium-term growth is projected to stabilize,

albeit unevenly, at 2.4 percent in 2024 and 2.1 percent in 2025.

Addressing a media briefing on the apex bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) decisions, he further indicated that inflation eased in October 2024.

"This mainly reflected declining prices of fuel and food. The recent appreciation of the rand has also contributed to the decline in the inflation rate. However, relatively high and elevated food prices are expected to remain a risk to the inflation outlook in the near term,"

Letete explained.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, further clarified the gravity of the country's ongoing economic struggles.

"...on the other hand, the mining sector has struggled due to unfavourable prices of rough diamonds in the global markets, while the textile industry continues to grapple with reduced demand, driven largely by shifts in U.S. consumer spending patterns.

"These underperforming sectors, which

are critical to our economy, highlight the pressing need for targeted interventions to bolster their competitiveness and resilience against shocks. Their contraction underscores the fragility of our growth."

Speaking on the Mid-Term Budget performance, Matlanyane disclosed that the government has collected M13.1 billion in revenue, reaching 50 percent of the annual projected target of M24.1 billion halfway before the end of the fiscal year.

"We have reached a significant milestone in our financial journey - a journey marked by resilience, determination, and collective effort. Today, I am pleased to report that we have successfully collected M13.1 billion in total revenue.

"This figure represents 50 percent of our ambitious target of M24.1 billion for this fiscal year and is composed of M5.8 billion from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts, M4.6 billion from domestic taxes, and M2.7 billion from non-tax revenue streams."

She warned however, about the country's overreliance on the unstable SACU revenue to finance its budget.

"It is important to note that SACU revenue continues to overshadow our domestic tax revenue portraying the persisting dependence on this volatile source. This signifies our continuing vulnerability to global economic developments," Matlanyane said.

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 MATSEPIISO 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)

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

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 lipholopheko@gmail.com
Pheko Technologies Pty Ltd

IN THE HIGH COURT OF LESOTHO (COMMERCIAL DIVISION)

Held at MASERU

MAMPEO LEISANYANE

AND
ESTATE OF MANTHATI MABOKOANE

MABATA MABOKOANE

CCA/ /2023
GCT/0540/2022

APPLICANT

1st RESPONDENT

2nd RESPONDENT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Following the judgement of the above honorable court dated obtained against the Defendants on or about the 21 February 2023 in the Commercial Court of Lesotho and the Writ of execution and the Deputy Sheriff's notice of attachment served upon the same, the immovable property listed hereunder will be sold in execution on the 13th December 2024 at 10:00am in the forenoon at the front entrance of the High Court Maseru to the highest bidder in terms of the conditions of sale that may be inspected at the office of the deputy sheriff.

The immovable property is the following:

- Undeveloped site situated at HA MATALA, MASERU URBAN AREA MASERU bearing Plot Number 14303-10009.

DATED AT MASERU ON THE 11TH NOVEMBER 2024

APPLICANTS ATTORNEYS
2nd FLOOR, ROOM 26
MANONYANE CENTRE
PITSO GROUND
INSTR. ADV LEISANYANE LJ
ROOM 15B, NRH MALL, KINGSWAY RD
MASERU 100

HEALTH

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

Youth advocates call for better HIV education and support



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 similar 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.



Kingdom of Lesotho

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Nutrition

Invitation for Bids

Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Machinery & Implements.

1. 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.

2. 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

3. 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.**

4. 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.

5. 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.**

6. 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.

7. 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**

8. **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



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

OPINION

A Critical Look at the Lesotho 2024/2025 Midterm Budget: What It Means for Lesotho's Youth

On the afternoon of the 27th of November, I took my time to listen to the Honourable Minister of Finance and Development Planning Dr. Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane deliver Lesotho's midterm budget speech under the theme "Building Resilience, Fostering Growth," at a joint seating in the National Assembly. My particular interest was in hearing her stance on addressing long-standing economic challenges while promoting youth development. With youth unemployment and economic inequality persisting, the speech outlined several initiatives to empower young Basotho. However, a closer examination reveals commendable efforts and critical gaps, as I shall indulge in today's article.

Youth-focused programs were a highlight of the midterm budget. Initiatives such as the Youth Entrepreneurship Program, the Entrepreneurship Hub, and the Seed Financing Facility, which aim to nurture entrepreneurial talent and support emerging enterprises, were center stage for her speech. Notable progress she mentioned includes 38 youth start-ups currently incubated under BEDCO and 10 others under the Bacha Entrepreneurship Project. Additionally, she talked about digital transformation efforts, exemplified by the National Digital Transformation Strategy 2024, which seeks to prepare youth for a technology-driven future by enhancing ICT infrastructure and literacy.

Agriculture is another sector receiving significant attention from the current government and the government should be commended for that. The Mahobong Horticulture Incubation Center which is now fully operational equips youth with skills in commercial farming and climate-smart practices. The government's allocation of grants and access to farming machinery for young agricultural entrepreneurs reflects a commendable effort to modernise the sector while creating jobs for rural youth. Furthermore, the integration of young professionals into infrastructure projects by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, alongside the Prime Minister's Youth Empowerment Initiative (SEBABATSO) connecting innovators to global platforms like Rwanda's Youth Konnekt, showcases the government's commitment to skill development and global exposure for the nation's youth.

Despite these promising initiatives, the budget reveals several critical shortcomings. Many outlined programs lack detailed accountability measures. For instance, while the entrepreneurship and agricultural schemes are presented in aspirational terms, there is minimal data on the expected creation of sustainable businesses or long-term jobs. Additionally, the allocation of resources for youth-targeted sectors remains inadequate. The Ministry of Gender, Youth, and Social Development has utilised only 50% of its budget

mid-year, indicating underperformance in a vital area for youth empowerment.

The urban-rural divide presents another significant challenge. Youth in rural regions are less likely to benefit from technology, industrial development, or STEM training initiatives, which are primarily concentrated in urban areas like Maseru and Leribe. This disparity risks leaving rural youth behind in the pursuit of progress and should be carefully looked into by the government. Lastly, the sustainability of youth development programs is compromised by their reliance on donor funding. Programs supported by the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) and other external partners dominate the youth agenda, raising concerns about the long-term viability of these initiatives without continued external support.

What needs to change is that to fully harness the potential of Lesotho's youth, the government must urgently address these shortcomings. Expanding youth-targeted programs to include underrepresented sectors like tourism and manufacturing could provide opportunities for broader participation. For instance, promoting youth-led cultural tourism or offering innovation incentives in the textile industry could yield significant economic benefits.

Additionally, establishing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms is crucial to ensure that programs deliver tangible results. Clear metrics for success, such as the number

of youth employed or businesses sustained, would enhance accountability and enable timely adjustments. The government must also work to reduce donor dependency by fostering public-private partnerships and tapping into local revenue streams. Encouraging local investment in youth initiatives could enhance sustainability and strengthen national ownership of these programs.

Finally, there must be a concerted effort to bridge the urban-rural divide. Initiatives like mobile training units, rural entrepreneurship hubs, and tailored agricultural support could extend the benefits of youth programs throughout the country.

The 2024/2025 midterm budget reflects both the promise and the limitations of Lesotho's youth development strategy. While progress is evident in areas such as entrepreneurship, agriculture, and digital transformation, gaps in funding, regional equity, and program sustainability threaten to undermine their impact. By addressing these challenges with decisive action, the government has an opportunity to truly empower the nation's youth as drivers of economic resilience and growth. The aspirations outlined in the budget are inspiring, but for Lesotho's youth, the real question remains: will these promises result in meaningful, sustainable change? Only time and action will tell. The future is NOW!

Lesotho must step up in the global climate fight

Mpho Manesa and Matšilo Nkabane

The 2024 UN climate change conference (COP29) under the theme "In solidarity for a green world" recently came to an end in Baku, Azerbaijan. Not much was reported about the attendance of Lesotho at the conference. The shallow media coverage and attendance of delegates at the COP29 raises serious questions about Lesotho's commitment to mitigating climate change.

Lesotho is among the developing countries of the world that are deeply impacted by climate change, particularly in rural areas where food production is adversely affected by the changing weather patterns catastrophic droughts and erratic rainfalls that have led to increasing food insecurity and poverty.

The COP29 summit underscored the dire necessity for small nations like Lesotho to take a more proactive role in climate negotiations. As global temperatures rise and extreme weather events become more frequent, the voices of the most vulnerable nations grow increasingly critical in the global discourse on climate action.

However, Lesotho's lack of visible engagement in these summits reflects a missed opportunity to advocate for its national interests and assert its rightful place among countries calling for equitable solutions to the climate crisis.

COP29 presented an opportunity for Lesotho to engage in regional collaborations that will enhance solutions to the pressing issues of our environment. Furthermore, cooperation on climate change challenges is vital in

enhancing the resilience of the country and region as a whole. If Lesotho is intentional in its fight against the climate change crisis, it should collaborate with other nations facing a similar crisis by forming alliances and partnerships with countries contributing to climate resilience initiatives. Now is right the time for Lesotho to consider how climate action and poverty reduction can reinforce each other.

One of the defining moments of COP29 was the dramatic walkout of small nations during negotiations over financing for global emissions. Frustrated by the refusal of larger polluters to commit to fair compensation for the damage caused by their historical and ongoing emissions, these nations made a bold statement: **the climate crisis is not just a matter of science but of justice.**

For countries like Lesotho, which are disproportionately affected by climate change despite contributing minimally to global emissions, this stance resonates deeply. Yet, Lesotho's absence from this collective action was notable, raising questions about its strategic priorities and readiness to advocate for its people on the global stage.

The COP29 negotiations centred heavily on the issue of "loss and damage" financing—a fund designed to assist countries that are already experiencing the devastating effects of climate change.

While historic progress was made at COP28 with the establishment of the fund, COP29 exposed the rift between developed and developing nations on how the fund should be operationalised and financed. Small nations

demanding concrete commitments, emphasising that promises without action would leave them to bear the brunt of a crisis they did not create. This is precisely the kind of negotiation where Lesotho's voice is needed to amplify the call for accountability and fairness.

Lesotho's limited participation in COP summits is also a missed opportunity to shape its global identity. Active involvement in climate diplomacy would signal to the international community that Lesotho is not just a victim of climate change but a proactive player in seeking solutions. This shift in perception could bolster the country's standing in international relations, opening doors for broader cooperation and development assistance.

The walkout of small nations at COP29 should serve as a wake-up call for Lesotho. It is a reminder that the climate crisis is a global problem that requires unity and solidarity among vulnerable nations to counterbalance the dominance of larger, more powerful states.

By joining this collective action, Lesotho can align itself with the growing momentum for justice and accountability in climate governance. Lesotho cannot afford to remain on the sidelines of global climate negotiations. The time has come to step up, speak out, and take its rightful place in the fight for a just and sustainable future.

To avert the further devastating impacts of climate change, Lesotho must strengthen its national policies by engaging in global discussions about climate change as this can help the government align its policies with international standards and commitment. Engaging in global discussions on climate change does

not only give citizens optimism that climate change is a phenomenon that can be combated but it also provides Lesotho with an opportunity to connect with other nations, NGOs and stakeholders to build long-lasting partnerships to collaborate against the devastating impacts of climate change.

Representatives from Lesotho were expected to push for increased international support and investment in climate adaptation programmes by being active in such International forums. This presents a potential for Lesotho to raise its profile by being on the global stage, attracting attention by sharing their perspectives, challenges and successes of climate change.

COP29 does not just present a vital platform for young leaders to connect with global stakeholders but provides a significant component of Lesotho's strategy includes empowering youth to create a society that develops sustainable solutions. Young people are often deeply impacted by climate change yet they are left behind in climate discussions. More participation of young people in international climate discussions like COP29 is vital for voicing the concerns and ideas of the youth at the conference.

In conclusion, the most drastic action in climate change is inaction. Lesotho needs to work harder in combating the impacts of climate change by forming alliances with other countries. The government should align its national policies with global climate goals to achieve climate solutions. It is possible to combat climate change through regional continental and international cooperation.



Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP II) Matching Grant Programme

Call for Applications

Background: The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of Lesotho, with the support of the World Bank has established within the SADP II a Matching Grants Programme (MGP) to support investment by small and medium agriculture-related businesses, farmers, farmer groups and cooperatives and rural youth seeking to increase climate resilience, raise productivity, improve commercialization and increase production and consumption of high nutrition food products.

Priorities: The MGP invites applications for investment projects, with a maximum duration of one year and 4 months, which focus on the adoption and use of appropriate technologies and business initiatives by smallholder farmers and small and medium-scale private agri-business enterprises in Lesotho. These investments should: increase climate resilience, raise farm productivity and improve commercialization among smallholder farmers; increase competitiveness and profitability, increase value-added to local products among agri-business enterprises and increase market opportunities for smallholder farmers; and increase the production, consumption and availability of high nutrition food products. Eligible investments include: (i) improved seed and seedling varieties for crops, vegetables and fruit; (ii) improved livestock breeds; (iii) shade nets, tunnel houses, drip irrigation, water storage equipment, boreholes and pumps; (iv) equipment for cultivation, harvesting and weed and pest control; (iv) product collection, storage, post-harvest handling, processing, grading/sorting, marketing, packaging, labeling, brand development, presentation and promotion of agricultural products; (v) improvement of product quality and standards, food safety management practices and product certification; (vi) diversification and introduction of high value-added and niche products; (vii) better linkages and development of contractual arrangements among smallholder farmers, processors, traders and service providers; (viii) marketing intelligence including information, test marketing and studies when associated with concrete actions for specific products; and (ix) improvement of accessibility by small farmers to various services and input supply. Sectors could include meat production, poultry (broiler), fruits and vegetables, fish production, and products and activities such as mushrooms, aromatic and medicinal herbs and organic products. This list is not exhaustive and other innovative topics may be considered.

Grant financing: Two grants windows will be available to applicants: (i) grants for smallholder farmers and farmer groups to support investment in climate smart agricultural technology and other productivity enhancing technology up to a maximum of \$US 30,000; (ii) grants for small and medium size agri-businesses of \$US 30,000 to \$US 100,000, to support investment in value added activities including small-scale processing and marketing as well as provision of inputs and services.

Eligible Applicants: Applicants with farms and/or agri-business activities operating in all ten districts of Lesotho are eligible for grants. Eligible applicants include a) farmers or farm groups; b) registered cooperatives or associations; c) registered small and medium size agri-businesses; d) registered local, district and national associations and cooperatives; e) sub-groups of registered associations and cooperatives; rural youth; and f) partnerships between the above categories and registered processing/trading businesses in Lesotho. Smallholder farmers, members of farm households, rural youth and small and medium-scale

agri-business enterprises will receive priority for grant support but non-farm applicants with demonstrated farming experience and a strong knowledge of the proposed investment will also be considered. Eligible applicants may also submit joint proposals up to the maximum grant stipulated above. Youth under 35 and women are particularly encouraged to apply. Employees of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food security are not eligible.

Partnership with Service Providers: The potential applicants will be required to form partnerships with a qualified service provider(s). The service provider(s) will (i) provide technical and financial assistance and advice to the applicant to develop the business idea and prepare the application, (ii) work with the applicant to clarify different technical and financial aspects of the activity and prepare an activity implementation plan; (iii) provide technical and financial assistance to the applicant during project implementation and provide the products and services to be delivered according to an agreed schedule; (iv) support the applicant in managing grant funds, including keeping the necessary accounts and collecting contributions from beneficiaries; (v) supervise the inputs of beneficiaries/applicants and sub-contract technical assistance as necessary; (vi) monitor the progress of activities; (vii) support the applicant in the preparation and submission of the required financial and technical reports. Eligible service providers include a wide range of specialists engaged and already trained by SADP on development of the proposals and list available at SADP offices in each district. Employees of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security are not eligible to work as Service Providers. Service providers will be contracted directly by the applicants, with their responsibilities and rights clearly spelled out in the service contract, and their services would be funded through the grant.

Service Providers will need to show that they have successfully completed a training program on the preparation and technical and financial analysis of investment projects approved by the PMU or the MGC.

Beneficiary contribution: In all cases successful applicants will be required to make a co-finance contribution in cash to engender ownership and demonstrate commitment. The larger grants for agri-business enterprises will also be conditional on their willingness and ability to generate employment and build effective supply agreements with smallholder producers. Co-finance cash contributions will vary according to the grant sub-program as follows: (i) grants for smallholder farmers and farmer groups to support investment in climate smart agricultural technology and other productivity and post-harvest enhancing technologies to a maximum of \$US 30,000 will require a 20% co-finance contribution; (ii) Agri-business grants for registered agriculture-oriented and privately-owned enterprises, associations and cooperatives will receive a grant of \$30 000 to \$100 000 : grants in this program will require a 30% co-finance contribution.

Service providers may also contribute to the co-finance. The participation and contribution from different partners should be confirmed by written agreement reached between the principal applicant, the service provider and/or other partners.

Eligible Expenditures under Grant: Of the grant amount, the indicative types of financial support are: a) Provision of technical assistance by the service providers: This category may not be more than 20% of the grant amount up to a maximum of US\$ 3,000 equivalent, to be spent as an honorarium to cover

the costs of staff, travel, allowances and overheads of the service provider(s). Although not a requirement, co-financing proposals from the service providers (especially in the case of NGOs and other projects and various development programs serving as service providers and wanting to co-finance the project) could be sought, provided they are made in cash.

b) Investment Acquisition, Installation and Operation: This category must comprise at least 60% of the grant amount and may include costs associated with the purchase of improved seedling and livestock varieties; the purchase and installation of equipment for cultivation, harvesting, post-harvest handling, processing, preservation, storage, grading, packaging etc; the construction of necessary buildings for livestock production, storage, processing, marketing; the purchase and installation of tunnel houses, shade nets, irrigation equipment, pumps, boreholes, tanks etc; product development; alignment with national and international food and safety standards; and marketing campaigns. Where the investor is making substantial physical investments, the costs of land surveys will be covered for smallholder farmers in order to ensure that they have secure land ownership as a means to secure the benefits of investment. Agri-businesses will not be eligible for support for land surveys. Land survey costs may not be more than 10% of the grant amount, up to a maximum of \$US 2000 equivalent. The costs of land purchase, land lease or land rental will not be covered for any grants.

Furthermore, the project will consider applications which show that the applicant has part of infrastructure and needs to have a full package. As such, a grant window will start from a minimum M200 000.00 to up to the highest value of M1 500 000.00.

Non-Eligible Expenditures under Grant: The following items would not be covered out of the grant amount: (a) Salaries or payment for works and services provided to the project by the grant applicants or its members; b) any expenditures made prior to the date of signature of the Grant Agreement or after closure date of the project; c) purchase, rent or leasing of land and existing buildings; d) any expenditure related to operating costs, which are expected to be the direct responsibility of the applicant; e) any expenditure made in territories of any country that is not a member of the World Bank for goods produced in or services supplied from such countries; f) any expenditure with a hazardous impact on the environment.

Deadline and Place for Submission of Applications: The deadline for submission of applications is not later than **30th December 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Applications should be submitted in four copies (one original plus three photocopies) and delivered by hand at the office of the SADP II located in Districts Agricultural Offices in all the ten districts. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.**

Evaluation of the Applications: All applications received within the deadline will be screened by the MGP Secretariat for compliance with the above rules. The successful applications will then be evaluated by specialized Technical and Financial Reviewers and submitted to the MGC for approval. The list of successful applicants will be widely published in newspapers and through public posting at the MGP Secretariat's office. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed by letter and their original project documents could be returned to them on request.

Application Documentation: The official application forms and further necessary information on drawing up the application may be obtained from the Service Providers who will lead the development of the proposals in each district.



TENDER NOTICE

OPEN NATIONAL COMPETITIVE TENDER

LES/IEC/TEN/2024-25/11

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) invites tenders from interested companies for Supply and Delivery of Thirty-three (33) Desktops, Thirty-three (33) Application Softwares (Microsoft 365 Business) and Three (3) Color Printers .

SPECIFICATIONS

- Desktops x33
- Application Software licenses, Microsoft 365 Business x33
- Printers - Color Laserjet MFP M682Z x3

BIDDING DOCUMENT

Tender document is obtainable from Election House Procurement Unit 2nd Floor, Corner Maluti and Caledon Road, Maseru West during working hours from 09:00am to 16:00 hours. Bidders must purchase a copy of tender document at a **NON-Refundable fee of M3 000.00 (Three Thousand Maloti)**. The procedure for obtaining the Tender document is as follows: **Payment of bid document must be made at IEC Finance Department 2nd Floor. The receipt issued must be taken to the office of Procurement where document will be issued.**

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Technical weight 60%	Financial weight 40%
Specifications.	Price.
Experience - proven track record	Financial Capability: Current bank statement for three months and a valuation letter from the bank as an assurance that the suppliers will be financed for incapable supplier. OR Tenderers own current financial statements with an audit opinion from a qualified independent Auditor.
Lead time.	

N.B
IEC is not bound to the lowest price.

Technical bid should include:	Financial bid should include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specification Experience Lead time Mandatory requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quotation Financial Capability: Current bank statement for three months and a valuation letter from the bank as an assurance that the suppliers will be financed for incapable supplier. OR Tenderers own current financial statements with an audit opinion from a qualified independent Auditor.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- The price should be VAT inclusive for suppliers who qualify to

- collect VAT (attach VAT Registration Certificate). Price should be quoted in Maloti currency.
- Attach valid and relevant Traders License/ Business Identity Card.
- Attach valid copy of Tax Clearance Certificate.
- The specifications should be written in full.
- The Bonafide Certificate should be filled and signed by company's authorized representative (failure will lead to rejection) and the total cost should be written on the certificate.
- Provide access to credit facilities of 70% of the quoted price (Strictly from the bank).
- Provide current two reference letters for similar work done in with the last two years.
- Provide Bid Security, 10% of the total cost valid for three months, and fill a bid security declaration form.
- The provided Bid Security Form/ Bank Guarantee should be filled by the Suppliers Bank.
- Provide original bidding document and four copies.
- Bid validity period shall be ninety (90) days beginning on the closing date of the tender.
- Access to credit facilities of 70% of the quoted price (Strictly form the bank)
- Companies should tender for all items.
- Provide three envelopes, the outer envelope clearly marked **"Supply and Delivery of Desktops and Application Software"** the two inner envelopes, one clearly marked **"technical bid"** containing original and four copies and the other one clearly marked **"financial bid"** containing original and four copies.

N.B

- Bidders are informed that 5% source tax will be deducted from payments.**
- Electronic bidding shall not be permitted.**
- Payment will be done after delivery.**
- Unavailability of mandatory documents will lead to disqualification of the bid.**
- Bidders are informed that IEC will not be a signatory to any Bank confirmation letter OR any letter from a Financial Institution with regards to payment terms.**

Sealed Envelopes bearing no identification of the suppliers should be deposited in the tender box at Election House, Ground Floor, Corner Maluti and Caledon Road, Maseru West. **On or before 12:30pm 14th January 2025** and will be opened on the same date at **14:30hours 1st Floor Boardroom**. Envelopes should be clearly marked: **"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DESKTOPS, APPLICATION SOFTWARES AND PRINTERS"**.

For further information, relating to the above information please contact, **The Procurement Unit**
Independent Electoral Commission
Election House
2nd Floor
Corner Maluti and Caledon Road
Maseru West
E-mail: tenders@iec.org.ls

The Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.

Procurement Unit-IEC



TENDER NOTICE

OPEN NATIONAL COMPETITIVE TENDER

LES/IEC/TEN/2024-25/12

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) invites tenders from interested companies for Supply, Delivery and Installation of CCTV Cameras at Election house, Maseru West.

SPECIFICATIONS

Description	Quality
1. 2MP Domes	12
2. 40M 2MP Bullets Colour Vu	8
3. 32CH Acu-DVR	1
4. 18ch PSU	2
5. 6U Cabinet	1
6. 500M RG59	5
7. 60M HDMI	1
8. 4-Way HDMI Splitter	1
9. 40" Monitors	9
10. Junction Boxes	20
11. 16"16 Trucking	85
12. 100"40 Trucking	20
13. DC Males	25
14. BNC Spring	60
15. 4TB	4
16. 10M HDMI	1
17. Wall Mount Brackets	2
18. Sundries	
19. Installation	

BIDDING DOCUMENT

Tender document is obtainable from Election House Procurement Unit 2nd Floor, Corner Maluti and Caledon Road, Maseru West during working hours from 09:00am to 16:00 hours. Bidders must purchase a copy of tender document at a **NON-Refundable fee of M2, 200.00 (Two Thousand Two Hundred Maloti)**. The procedure for obtaining the Tender document is as follows: **Payment of bid document must be made at IEC Finance Department 2nd Floor. The receipt issued must be taken to the office of Procurement where document will be issued.**

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Technical weight 60%	Financial weight 40%
Specifications.	Price.
Experience - proven track record	Financial Capability: Current bank statement for three months and a valuation letter from the bank as an assurance that the suppliers will be financed for incapable supplier. OR Tenderers own current financial statements with an audit opinion from a qualified independent Auditor.
Lead time.	

N.B

IEC is not bound to the lowest price.

Technical bid should include	Financial bid should include

- Specification
- Experience
- Lead time
- Mandatory requirements

- Quotation**
- Financial Capability:** Current bank statement for three months and a valuation letter from the bank as an assurance that the suppliers will be financed for incapable supplier. OR Tenderers own current financial statements with an audit opinion from a qualified independent Auditor.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- The price should be VAT inclusive for suppliers who qualify to collect VAT (attach VAT Registration Certificate).
- Price should be quoted in Maloti currency.
- Attach valid and **relevant** Traders License/ Business Identity Card.
- Attach valid copy of Tax Clearance Certificate.
- The specifications should be written in full.
- The Bonafide Certificate should be filled and signed by company's authorized representative (failure will lead to rejection) and the total cost should be written on the certificate.
- Provide access to credit facilities of 70% of the quoted price (Strictly from the bank).
- Provide current two reference letters for similar work done in with the last two years.
- Provide Bid Security, 10% of the total cost valid for three months, and fill a bid security declaration form.
- The provided Bid Security Form/ Bank Guarantee should be filled by the Suppliers Bank.
- Provide original bidding document and four copies.
- Bid validity period shall be ninety (90) days, beginning on the closing date of the tender.
- Access to credit facilities of 70% of the quoted price (Strictly form the bank).
- Bidders are expected to attend a compulsory site inspection on Thursday the 19th December 2024 at Election House Maseru West.
- Provide a warranty of two years after installation.
- Provide three envelopes, the outer envelope clearly marked **"Supply, Delivery and Installation of CCTV Cameras"** the two inner envelopes, one clearly marked **"technical bid"** containing original and four copies and the other one clearly marked **"financial bid"** containing original and four copies.

N.B

- Bidders are informed that 5% source tax will be deducted from payments.**
- Electronic bidding shall not be permitted.**
- Payment will be done after delivery and installation.**
- Unavailability of mandatory documents will lead to disqualification of the bid.**
- Bidders are informed that IEC will not be a signatory to any Bank confirmation letter OR any letter from a Financial Institution with regards to payment terms.**

Sealed Envelopes bearing no identification of the suppliers should be deposited in the tender box at Election House, Ground Floor, Corner Maluti and Caledon Road, Maseru West. **On or before 12:30pm 14th January 2025** and will be opened on the same date at **14:30hours 1st Floor Boardroom**. Envelopes should be clearly marked: **"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF CCTV CAMERAS"**

For further information, relating to the above information please contact,

The Procurement Unit
Independent Electoral Commission
Election House
2nd Floor
Corner Maluti and Caledon Road
Maseru West
E-mail: tenders@iec.org.ls

The Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.

Procurement Unit-IEC



INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MEAT

OPEN NATIONAL COMPETITIVE TENDER

LES/IEC/TEN/2024-25/10

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) invites tenders from interested companies for Supply and Delivery Office Furniture and Equipment.

DESCRIPTION

- Lot 1
- Executive Desks x 11
 - Office Desk x 102
 - Activity Storage – 3 drawer x 1

- Lot 2
- Visitor's Chairs x 30
 - Office chairs x 110
 - High Back Chair x 1
 - Office Filling Cabinets x 10
 - Stationery Cabinet x 1

- Lot 3
- Hoovers x 10
 - Microwaves x 10
 - Shredding Machine x 1

- Lot 4
- Smart TVs x 3

BIDDING DOCUMENT

Tender document is obtainable from Election House Procurement Unit 2nd Floor, Corner Maluti and Caledon Road, Maseru West during working hours from 09:00am to 16:00 hours. Bidders must purchase a copy of tender document at a **NON-Refundable fee of M2, 200.00 (Two Thousand, two hundred Maloti)**. The procedure for obtaining the Tender document is as follows: **Payment of bid document must be made at IEC Finance Department 2nd Floor. The receipt issued must be taken to the office of Procurement where document will be issued.**

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Technical weight 60%	Financial weight 40%
Specifications.	Price.
Experience - proven track record	Financial Capability: Current bank statement for three months and a valuation letter from the bank as an assurance that the suppliers will be financed for incapable supplier. OR Tenderers own current financial statements with an audit opinion from a qualified independent Auditor.
Lead time.	

N.B
IEC is not bound to the lowest price.

Technical bid should include	Financial bid should include

Specification	Quotation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience Lead time Mandatory requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Capability: Current bank statement for three months and a valuation letter from the bank as an assurance that the suppliers will be financed for incapable supplier. OR Tenderers own current financial statements with an audit opinion from a qualified independent Auditor.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- The price should be VAT inclusive for suppliers who qualify to collect VAT (attach VAT Registration Certificate).
- Price should be quoted in Maloti currency.
- Attach valid and **relevant** Traders License/ Business Identity Card.
- Attach valid copy of Tax Clearance Certificate.
- The specifications should be written.
- The Bonafide Certificate should be filled and signed by company's authorized representative (failure will lead to rejection) and the total cost should be written on the certificate.
- Provide access to credit facilities of 70% of the quoted price (Strictly form the bank).
- Provide current two reference letters for similar work done in with the last two years.
- Provide Bid Security, 10% of the total cost valid for three months, and fill a bid security declaration form.
- The provided Bid Security Form/ Bank Guarantee should be filled by the Suppliers Bank.
- Provide original bidding document and four copies.
- Bid validity period shall be ninety (90) days beginning on the closing date of the tender.
- Access to credit facilities of 70% of the quoted price (Strictly form the bank)
- Companies should tender for all or any lots but cover all items in each lot.
- Provide three envelopes, the outer envelope clearly marked **"Supply and Delivery of Office Furniture and Equipment"** the two inner envelopes, one clearly marked **"technical bid"** containing original and four copies and the other one clearly marked **"financial bid"** containing original and four copies.

N.B

- Bidders are informed that 5% source tax will be deducted from payments.**
- Electronic bidding shall not be permitted.**
- Payment will be done after delivery of Office furniture and Equipment.**
- Unavailability of mandatory documents will lead to disqualification of the bid.**
- Bidders are informed that IEC will not be a signatory to any Bank confirmation letter OR any letter from a Financial Institution with regards to payment terms.**

Sealed Envelopes bearing no identification of the suppliers should be deposited in the tender box at Election House, Ground Floor, Corner Maluti and Caledon Road, Maseru West. **On or before 12:30pm 13th January 2025** and will be opened on the same date at **14:30hours 1st Floor Boardroom**. Envelopes should be clearly marked: **"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT"**

For further information, relating to the above information please contact,

The Procurement Unit
Independent Electoral Commission
Election House
2nd Floor
Corner Maluti and Caledon Road
Maseru West
E-mail: tenders@iec.org.ls

The Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.

Procurement Unit-IEC



Ministry of Gender Youth and Social Development

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF TEACHING AIDS MATERIAL FOR 'MATHEKO VOCATIONAL YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

- The Ministry of Social Development has received funding from the Government of Lesotho as a counterpart contribution towards the support of the 'Matheko Vocational Youth Training Centre (Thaba-Tseka) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply and delivery of the following teaching aids material:

LOT1	
ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
001	BRICK LAYING
LOT2	
002	SEWING/KNITTING
LOT3	
003	CARPENTRY

- The Ministry of Social Development now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply and delivery of teaching aids material for 'Matheko Vocational Youth Training Centre located at Thaba-Tseka town next Lesotho Correctional services.
- Bidding will be conducted through a national competitive procurement approach using Procurement Act no 3. of 2023 of the Kingdom of Lesotho and is open to all eligible Bidders registered with the Ministry of Finance (IFMIS) and in good standing in taxes with the Lesotho Revenue Authority and licencour Ministry of Trade and Industry.
- It is mandatory for bidders to provide their valid certified copies of relevant Trader's License and Tax Clearance Certificates issued by relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Lesotho. All copies shall be certified at source. Failure to submit these documents will form grounds for disqualification of the bid.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Social Development, Procurement Section during office hours from

Monday to Friday.

- The bidding documents will be available from 22nd November 2024 from 0800 – 1600 hrs. and may be purchased by interested Bidders upon payment of nonrefundable fee of M2000.00 to the Ministry of Social Development, Accounts Section, 2nd Floor at 1010 Building along Pitso Ground road.
- The government of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and is not bound to accept a tender with the lowest tender price. What is considered is the tender which provides value for money.
- All bids must be accompanied by a **bid security of not less than 2% of bid price per Lot** and must be in the form of a bank guarantee from an accredited financial institute and should accompany the tender submission.
- Bids must be hand delivered to the address below and deposited in the tender box situated on the 2nd floor 1010 building near (Pitso Ground) Maseru at the Ministry of Gender Youth and Social Development on or before 23rd December 2024 at 1230hrs in **one original and three copies** clearly marked **"COPY"** and **"ORIGINAL"** respectively in one sealed envelope clearly marked **"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF TEACHING AIDS MATERIAL"** **CLARIFYING THE LOT NUMBER** bearing no identification of the bidder. Bids submitted after the deadline will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend on the 23rd of December 2024 day at 1430hrs.
- All bids shall be addressed to:

Procurement Unit
Attention: Principal Secretary
Ministry of Youth and Social Development
Private bag A222
Maseru 100
Lesotho



ROADS DIRECTORATE

TENDER NOTICE

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF RESIDENTIAL PARKHOMES (12 UNITS/ROOMS) FOR RAPID RESPONSE UNIT

- The Roads Directorate has received financing from the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Residential Parkhomes (12 Units/Rooms) for Roads Directorate.
- Sealed Tenders/Bids comprising One (1) Original and Two (2) Copies in sealed envelopes, clearly labelled "SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF RESIDENTIAL PARKHOMES (12 UNITS/ROOMS) FOR RAPID RESPONSE UNIT" should be hand delivered to the Tender Box near the Ground floor, Procurement Office (near Room G11) at the address given below. All bidders must submit one (1) original document and two (2) copies of the tender.
- Bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Manager, email: nlhakanam@rd.org.ls, marek@rd.org.ls, mahiritonaf@rd.org.ls and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 0800 to 1630 hours at the address given below.
- The bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders (starting on Monday, 9th December 2024) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Maloti (LSL 2000.00)**. The method of payment will be by transfer or deposit into the following Bank Account: **Roads Directorate Operating Revenue Account, Account No.: 021000067633, Swift Code: NEDLLSMX, Branch Code: 390161, Nedbank, Lesotho**, and proof thereof be presented to the Roads Directorate. Facility shall be made available for purchasing the tender documents by POS/swiping at the Finance Division (Room G03), Roads Directorate Headquarters, Mpesa and Eco-cash.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below and deposited in the Tender Box [see address below] on or before 12:00 hrs. (local time) on **Thursday, 9th January 2025**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened on the same day as the submission date at 14:30 hrs (local time) in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of **Two Thousand Maloti Only (LSL 2,000.00)** in the form of a Bank Guaranteed Cheque addressed to "Roads Directorate."
- Each Bid must be accompanied by copies of valid 1) Tax Clearance Certificates and 2) Traders Licenses. All copies should be certified at source. All Bids should include VAT and Tenderers are advised to note that the Bids are expected to be in compliance with the Government of Lesotho's Tax Obligations.
- A **mandatory Pre-Tender Conference** shall be held Wednesday, 11th December 2024, at 10.00 am (local time), Roads Directorate's Boardroom in Maseru at the address stated below

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

The address(es) referred to above is (are):
Procurement Office (Room G11)
M D Nlhakana (Ms) – Procurement Manager
Roads Directorate
P.O. Box 194
MASERU – 100
Tel: (266) 22229000/52229000

Email Address: nlhakanam@rd.org.ls, marek@rd.org.ls, mahiritonaf@rd.org.ls

Physical Address
Procurement Section, Ground Floor
Roads Directorate
Corner Senate and Lepoqo Street
Industrial Area (Opposite Browns Cash & Carry)



NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANISATION

P O Box 1167
Mafeteng 900
Lesotho
Tel: (+266)2221 5300
Fax: (+266)2270 1340

INVITATION TO TENDER

Invitation for Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicle under Tender number NDSO/VEHICLE/2024/11

The National Drug Service Organisation invites bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of motor vehicles as per specifications under **Section V** of the bidding document.

For this bid invitation, eligible bidders are those registered in the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa.

The bidding document can be accessed on the NDSO official website @ <https://www.ndso.org.ls/>

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from:

National Drug Service Organization
Main South One Road
Mafeteng Lesotho
Tel: + 266 22215300
E-mail: tenders@ndso.org.ls



Ministry of Natural Resources
Department of Rural Water Supply

Tender Notice

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF TEACHING AIDS MATERIAL FOR 'MATHEKO VOCATIONAL YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

The Government of Lesotho through the Ministry of Natural Resources, supported by UNICEF hereby invites tenders from suitable companies interested in contracting their services for **rehabilitation of water supply systems in Mohale's Hoek, Maseru and Thaba Tseka Districts of Lesotho**.

Work Description

The title of the tender is: **Rehabilitation of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Projects 2024-2025**. Tender No: **DRWS/RE/002/2024-2025**. This tender will require the contractor to rehabilitate water supply systems in the three districts of Lesotho. Additional information and requirements are as specified in the Tender Documents.

Bidder Qualifications

To tender for the proposed contract, bidders must be in DRWS category A and B, and registered companies in Lesotho. Bid security of M20, 000.00 in a form of bank guarantee valid for one hundred and twenty (120) days will be required.

Tender Submission

The tender documents are available at the Department of Rural Water Supply Head Office (DRWS), Accounts Office Maseru at a non-refundable fee of **M2, 000.00, from Tuesday 26 November 2024 until Wednesday 8 January 2025**. The method of payment is cash. Bidders must produce the receipt obtained from accounts to procurement Unit at the (DRWS) in order to receive the soft copy of the Tender document. The closing date for this tender is 10.00am on the 15 January 2025. Bid documents one (1) original, 4 copies, soft copy, and sealed financial proposal must be deposited to the Ministry of Natural Resources Tender Box situated at the entrance of **DRWS Office Khubet-**

soana, Resource Centre, Next to Appropriate Technology Services (ATS) on or before the closing date and time in sealed envelope clearly Marked "Tender for Rehabilitation of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Projects 2024-2025."

All bidders are advised that Contractor and Suppliers to Lesotho Government are expected to be in compliance with their tax obligations. Please submit together with the tender, valid certified copies of DRWS certificate (certified at source), Traders License, VAT certificate and Tax clearance.

Pre-tender Meeting

A Compulsory pre-tender meeting shall be held on the **11th December, 2024, 10.00am** at the DRWS Khubetsoana Resources Centre.

Site visits

Site visits are also compulsory and will be on the 12 to 13 December 2024 in Mohale's Hoek, 16 to 17 December 2024 in Maseru and 18 -19 December 2024 in Thaba Tseka

Tender Opening

Bids will be opened on the date of submission at **10:30am** in the presence of bidders or their representatives who wish to attend at the following address: DRWS Office Khubetsoana, Resource Centre, Next to Appropriate Technology Services (ATS),

Questions and Clarifications

All questions and clarifications relating to this tender should be directed to The Procurement Unit, Ministry of Natural Resources, Bokamoso Business Suit, Old Christie House, Orpen Road, and Opposite Centre for Accounting Studies Maseru. Tel: 27325160.



Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Project Management Unit

INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)

TENDER NO.: MOFDPPMU/ITT/CTEQUI/2024-2

THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

- Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Project Management Unit (MOFDP-PMU) has funds under the GC7 and C19 grant and intends to apply part of the funds for payments under the contract for "The supply, delivery and installation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Equipment."
- The tender will be processed on National Competitive Tender (NCT) procedure.
- Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Project Management Unit (MOFDPPMU) now invites sealed Tenders from eligible and qualified Tenderers for "The supply, delivery and installation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Equipment."
- The items, quantities and the expected delivery period is as shown in the table below:
- Request for Clarifications may be sent in writing to the following email addresses ntelom@mofpmu.org.ls and sekakal@mofpmu.org.ls not later than **6th December 2024**.
- It is mandatory for Tenderers to submit the following valid documents: (a) Trader's License; (b) Tax Clearance Certificates, (c) VAT Registration Certificate (d) Certificate of Bona Fide Tendering, (d) Bid Security declaration, (e) Shareholders certificate and copies of the shareholders passports. These documents [especially (a) and (b)] shall either be originals or copies certified at source (e.g. Ministry of Trade and Industry and Revenue Services Lesotho). **Non-compliance with this requirement may invalidate a Tender.**
- Qualification requirements for award include amongst others: (a) **business experience of not less than three years in similar jobs**, (b) **successful completion of similar contracts of not less than M500,000.00 in the past three years**, and (c) **Credit line of LSL 500,000.00 from a financial institution (strictly from the bank)**. (d) **evidence of acceptable after-sale support or service.**
- Tenders shall be valid for a period of **Hundred and Twenty (120) Days** after Tender opening.
- Tenders clearly marked "The Supply, Delivery and Installation of Information and Communication Technology Equipment" must be delivered and deposited in the tender box located at the **Main Reception area at Fourth 4th Floor MGC Office Park, Corner Pope John Paul II and Mpilo Boulevard** on or before **1000 hours local time on 12th December 2024**. Late Tenders will be rejected. Tenders will be opened in the presence of the Tenderers and/or their representatives who choose to attend in person at **Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Project Management Unit (MOFDPPMU) Boardroom on the same date 12th December 2024 at 1015 hrs.**
- The Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any Tender, and to annul the Tender process and reject all Tenders at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Tenderers. The Purchaser is under no obligation to accept the lowest Tender.

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2.	Tablets	48
3.	Server	01
4.	Televisions	12
5.	Conferencing Equipment	1
6.	Desktops	2
7.	Display monitor	1
8.	Expand ECHO Equipment	6

- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain a complete set of Tender Documents in English from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Project Management Unit(MOFDPPMU) website on free download: <https://www.mofpmu.org.ls/tenders/>. The telephone number is +266 22 324 023. **Telefax and Email Tenders will not be accepted.**



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Mr. and Miss Teen Lesotho 2024: Crowning leaders of tomorrow

Chris Theko

The highly anticipated Mr and Miss Teen Lesotho 2024 pageant is set to take place on December 7, 2024, at the Victory Hall in Maseru.

The event, which has become a symbol of youth empowerment and leadership in the country, will see a new king and queen crowned, marking a significant moment in the lives of the contestants.

The 2024 coronation promises a vibrant celebration of talent, intellect, and social aware-

ness, with finalists competing in categories such as cultural expression, public speaking, and leadership challenges. The initiative seeks to inspire young Basotho to lead change within their communities, fostering future leaders with purpose and vision.

"Mr and Miss Teen Lesotho is not just about beauty; it is a platform for nurturing leadership and resilience," said Dylan Phori, the pageant's director. "Our goal is to highlight the strength,

commitment, and potential of Lesotho's youth while empowering them to become role models for their peers," Phori added.

Under the "Teen with Heart" program, each contestant is required to undertake a community project addressing social or economic challenges. This initiative showcases their ability to approach real-world issues with creativity and impact, offering judges and audiences a glimpse into their potential as agents

of change.

Phori noted that the event remains inclusive, with no strict criteria for body structure or height, nationality is the sole requirement for entry. "Our past contestants have proven that dedication and passion for the platform matter more than anything else," he said.

Phori took over the directorship of the pageant in 2019 but due to the Covid-19 pandemic there was no coronation until 2021 when Nelly Talanyane won the Miss Teen Lesotho. She handed over the crown to Emily Matlanyane in 2022 who ended her reign in 2023 when Litlhare Lenkoe won the title.

It was not until 2023 when the pageant's organisers decided to incorporate the Mr Teen into the coronation with Monyane Taabe being crowned the first Mr Teen Lesotho.

In addition to the competition, the event will feature Mr and Miss Teen Universe Botswana amongst guests of honour, as well as Miss Teen Gaborone. The pageant will also serve as a fundraising initiative for various youth-focused projects in Lesotho, reinforcing its commitment to social responsibility.

The Mr and Miss Teen Lesotho is still one of the pageants without a strict selection criterion in terms of body structure or height with nationality being the only condition.

"We have been lucky enough in the past to have had contestants who came in knowing that they are going to work hard and were willing to put in the work, passionate about the platform even beyond winning the crown," Phori said.

"All constants are required to have a project that they are working on before the main event, this is under our Teen with Heart program. The projects address different social or economic issues which then gives us a sense of how they approach life and what kind of impact are they looking to make in their communities."

While the pageant has grown under Phori's leadership, it still faces significant hurdles, particularly in securing adequate funding and sponsorship.

"The lack of sponsorship remains our biggest challenge, but we are determined to secure partnerships to bring our vision for Mr. and Miss Teen Lesotho to life," Phori said. He encouraged companies, organisations, and individuals to support the event, highlighting its potential to create lasting societal impact.

One of the organisers' long-term goals is to enable winners to represent Lesotho at international pageants. However, steep registration fees have so far prevented this vision from becoming a reality. "We aim to learn from neighboring countries like Botswana, where such initiatives thrive, and make this dream achievable in the future," Phori added.

The winners of Mr. and Miss Teen Lesotho 2024 will not only earn prestigious titles but also assume ambassadorial roles, championing youth development initiatives across the country. They will represent Lesotho at regional and international events, embodying the spirit of leadership and resilience that the pageant seeks to instill.

As the event draws near, excitement is building for a celebration that will spotlight the strength and potential of Lesotho's youth, inspiring a generation to lead and transform their communities.



OPINION

Water for South Africa, Despair for Villagers: Polihali Dam Protests and Unfulfilled Promises and Lost Livelihoods

Theko Tlebere

The Sesotho expression "monga khomo o ja lefureng" speaks to the expectation that ownership brings rewards. Yet, for many Basotho, this truism in the benefits promised by Metsi a Lihlaba as the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is colloquially called has become an elusive dream and manna from heaven that never comes. Instead of delivering prosperity (nala) as the motto of the nation says the project has created a glaring resource curse, particularly for villagers displaced by the construction of massive dams like Katse, Mohale, and now Polihali.

For some, the project is a missed opportunity to unlock abundant provision of clean drinking water for every Mosotho especially in urban areas, a labyrinth of canals for irrigation for every tšimo, subsidised electricity for every mokhoro and mokhúkhú, not to mention local economic development of thriving trout fishing and booming leisure tourism of boat cruises.

One can imagine these sailing up and down the Malibamatšo River from Katse Dam wall all the way up to Mphorosane, giving tourists and locals unparalleled experience of the beauty of these man-made wonders.

For many villagers and communities in the affected areas, these remain a pipe dream, for the project has brought only displacement, loss of livelihoods, and broken promises. The plight of these communities underscores the failure of this project as a whole. It was supposed to uplift the nation but has instead deepened poverty for many households in the areas affected.

Unfulfilled Promises and Lost Livelihoods

Recently there have been a series of protests around Phase II of this project, particularly the construction of Polihali Dam. Protests in Mokhotlong by residents and community associations from Malingoaneng and Tlokoeng have drawn fresh attention to the unresolved struggles surrounding the LHWP. These demonstrations reveal the villagers' dissatisfaction with unjust compensation, loss of subsistence farming and grazing land, and lack of meaningful consultation. Villagers view the project as a stark example of resource extraction that benefits local elites with political connections, and foreign companies, including Chinese contractors, while sidelining local communities, especially villagers in the areas affected by the project. Employment opportunities for those most affected have failed to material-

ise, and promises of economic prosperity have evaporated.

Instead, the LHWP has become a modern-day "resource curse," where natural resource wealth exacerbates the plight of already marginalised communities.

The arrogant unaccountable approach of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), the project's implementing body, through this project phases has also made matters worse. Instead of treating villagers as legitimate stakeholders whose concerns at least be listened to, LHDA has adopted a very belligerent stance consistently refusing to engage meaningfully with affected communities to address their concerns. In the case of Polihali, protesters have been met with indifference, and outright disdain by LHDA officials including the project manager Gerard Mokone, who refused to meet with the protesters.

Repeated meetings with Prime Minister Matekane by these protesters have at best been a waste of time that yielded no tangible results. This lack of responsiveness by both the Prime Minister and LHDA to these communal concerns reflects a deeper issue: a government determined to prioritise the project at all costs while neglecting the very people on whose land this project is being built.

For many Basotho, the promises of job creation, infrastructure development, and increased revenue have remained unfulfilled. Instead, the project has brought displacement and the destruction of livelihoods. Villages like Bokong in Thaba-Tseka and now Polihali in Mokhotlong will witness the flooding of farmlands and grazing pastures, which had sustained their communities for generations.

Relocated villagers often find themselves in settlements with few economic opportunities. Former farmers and herders, stripped of their ancestral lands, are left with no means of subsistence. Despite assurances of compensation and development, the reality has been one of deepening poverty and frustration. The absence of meaningful local benefits starkly highlights the inequalities created by the project.

Historical Injustice: Revisiting the Original Treaty

When completed, Lesotho will have three massive reservoirs: Katse, Mohale, and Polihali. While these reservoirs are vital for South Africa's water supply, they offer little direct benefit to local communities. However, with visionary leadership, they could be repurposed to drive local economic growth. Tourism, for instance, pre-



sents a significant untapped opportunity including recreational activities like boat cruises, fishing, and leisure tourism, all of which could create jobs and stimulate local economies, while offering sustainable livelihoods for affected villagers through employment and other business opportunities.

These massive water resources, while vital for supplying South Africa with water, as envisioned in the current treaty, have no direct ongoing benefit to the communities living nearby. However, there is potential to repurpose these reservoirs for local economic development, with specific reference to tourism. Investing in tourism infrastructure would generate employment while promoting Lesotho as a regional tourist destination. This shift in focus would ensure that the reservoirs become more than mere water tanks for South Africa, they could serve as catalysts for local development.

In the current treaty, the tourism potential of these sites has largely been ignored, and yet there is a real opportunity for sustainable economic growth if the dams are leveraged for leisure activities such as boat cruises, fishing, and recreational tourism. Lesotho's renowned trout fishing industry could be expanded around these reservoirs, creating jobs and economic opportunities for local communities.

Leisure cruises and charter boats on these reservoirs could become a major draw for both local and international tourists, offering villagers in areas like Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka new sources of employment. These types of initiatives would not only provide jobs for the communities in the long term but would also stimulate the local economy by encouraging investment in infrastructure, hospitality, and related industries locally. This is an opportunity for the government to think beyond water as just a resource for export to South Africa and to consider how it can generate long-term,

sustainable economic activity for local people, by exploiting the spins of the "mining of the white gold".

As Lesotho continues its journey with the LHWP, it must address these systemic issues to prevent further harm to communities in the affected areas and ensure that the project becomes a source of shared prosperity for the nation but more importantly where local villagers and communities can feel the tangible benefits at a personal level, not just another chapter in the country's tale of unfulfilled potential.

The roots of general discontent with Metsi a Lihlaba among many Basotho not just the residents of Polihali and surrounding villagers of Mokhotlong, trace back to the ill-conceived wretched treaty signed under duress in the 1980s by the military junta of Major General Metsing Lekhanya. Negotiated under the threat of Pretoria sanctions and blockades the agreement prioritised South Africa's water needs while offering little to Lesotho, especially to ordinary citizens. This explains former Lesotho Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's decades-long refusal to sanction this project.

This flawed treaty has long been seen as a form of economic subjugation. Today, there is an urgent need to renegotiate its terms to ensure that Lesotho genuinely benefits from its natural resources. The government of Prime Minister Matekane must leverage the next bilateral engagement with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa to demand a fairer deal and renegotiate a better treaty that recognises greater benefits for Basotho.

Such renegotiation would not only correct historical injustices but also pave the way for sustainable local economic development at places like Polihali that will last for years long after project construction is completed, and local communities can indeed enjoy the privileges of the status of "monga khomo o ja lefureng".

SPORTS

LMPS tops the league

Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) Football Club has claimed the top spot in the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) log standings, after edging the defending champions Lioli FC 2-1 this week.

The police side has had a brilliant start to the season, securing six wins and three draws with 21 points after nine matches. LMPS is the only side yet to taste defeat so far.

Their latest triumph, which came during the midweek catch-up matches, allowed them to leap-frog their opponents Lioli to first place.

LMPS's goals came from Moeketsi Setlai and Zanele Phantše, while Teboho Masuoane scored Lioli's consolation goal. The result which handed Lioli their first of the season left the champions with 19 points in second place.

In reaction to their massive win against Lioli, LMPS head coach, Tiisetso Molete said: "In the first half, we dominated possession by playing a 3-5-2 formation. This allowed us to control the ball and exploit Lioli's defensive gaps."

Elsewhere, Bantu FC also suffered their first loss of the season in a 2-0 defeat to Lesotho Defense Force (LDF) FC.

The double-header matches at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena saw LMPS defeating Lioli in the first match, with Mopeli scoring both goals. In the other match, Bantu struggled after their player



Lioli FC and LMPS FC players in action

Thabo Mafatle was sent off for a dangerous tackle.

Bantu's head coach, James Madidilane, admitted defeat against their superior opponents.

"It was a tough match. Playing with 10

men against a strong team like LDF was challenging. We will regroup and focus on upcoming games."

The midweek matches also featured an exciting come-from-behind 4-3 victory for Linare FC over ACE Maseru FC at

Ratjomose Ground. Linare's coach, Bob Mafoso, expressed optimism, stating, "Rebuilding the team will take time, but wins like this help us gain momentum." Manonyane FC and Lifofane FC played to a 1-1 draw at Nyakosoba Ground.

Last weekend's fixtures showcased some thrilling encounters. Majantja FC impressed with a dominant 3-0 win over Liphakoe FC, while LMPS overwhelmed Mzamane FC 8-1, with Koloti scoring a hat-trick. Matlama FC secured a commanding 4-0 victory over Machokha FC, and LDF and Lifofane played to a goalless draw.

Sunday saw Lioli bounce back with a 4-1 win against ACE Maseru FC, while Bantu continued their strong form, defeating Linare 2-0. LCS FC also claimed a 2-0 victory over Lijabatho FC, and Manonyane FC's clash with LUFU ended in a goalless draw.

Looking ahead, this weekend's fixtures promise more action. On Saturday, ACE Maseru will face Matlama FC at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena, followed by Liphakoe hosting Bantu FC at 3:30 PM. Lijabatho will take on LDF at Morija Ground at 3:00 PM, and Linare will host Manonyane FC at DIFA Maputsoe.

Sunday's matches will feature Lifofane against Lioli at Botha-Bothe Ground, LMPS hosting Majantja at Bambatha, Machokha facing Mzamane at Ratjomose at 1:00 PM, and LUFU playing against LCS at Ratjomose at 3:00 PM.

National Youth Games stars celebrated



National Youth Games stars celebrated

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) celebrated the Most Valuable Players (MVPs) selected from the National Youth Games held in October 2024 in Maseru.

These athletes were awarded in their various categories; Athletics, Aquatics, Boxing, Chess, Cycling, Rowing, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Lawn Tennis, Cricket, Rugby, and Volleyball.

This ceremony celebrated the exceptional talent, dedication, and sportsmanship demonstrated by our young athletes. The event promises to be an inspiring occasion, showcasing the future stars of sports and honoring their remarkable achievements.

LNOC in partnership with the Lesotho

Sport and Recreation Committee (LSRC), hosted a memorable award giving ceremony of 21 exceptional athletes from 12 sporting codes with the support of Vodacom Lesotho (VCL) one of the sponsors of the Maseru Youth Games.

Each athlete was recognised with state-of-the-art cellphones and headsets, equipping them to stay connected and thrive on today's technological and communication platforms.

LNOC stated that these games were more than just a competition as they were a springboard for their athletes as they prepare to represent Lesotho in the AUSC Region V Games scheduled for Namibia in 2025.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to VCL for making this recognition possible and to all the athletes, coaches, and

organisers for their hard work and dedication. Let us continue to support and inspire our young sports stars as they aim for greatness on regional and international stages," LNOC stated.

The president of LSRC, Litšitso Motšeremeli commended the players at the event and thanked their parents and guardians for letting their kids participate in sports.

He said there are more international competitions coming and the LSRC wants to see the young athletes compete in them, in particular the 2026 Commonwealth Games and the 2028 Olympics to be held in Los Angeles in the United States.

Moreover, the awardees in athletics are Amohelang Lepola and 'Mafusi Sehlooho; Thabo Motsopa and Lebohang Mphuthing in aquatics; Thabang Motlomo and Puseletso Tsunyane in Boxing; Lebajoa Tsephe and Nteboheleng Thetsane in chess; Khotsofolang Rakaota and Pontšo Makatile in cycling.

More awardees were Sempe Letsie and Mpho Seetane in rowing; Thabang Mokhorosi and Naleli Mfundisi in Table Tennis; Teele Mokoena and Hello Vilakathi in Taekwondo; Kamohelo Mathibela and Phuthi Leshoele in Tennis; Boitumelo Tlali in Cricket; Tebello Lechesa in Rugby; and Reabetsoe Ramaqoma from Volleyball.

In addition, LNOC is also celebrating the incredible achievements of Team Lesotho at the International Exchange Ses-

sion 2024, held in Kampala, Uganda on November 23 to 24, 2024.

Competing against participants from eight teams in five different categories, the team demonstrated exceptional talent and determination, bringing home outstanding results.

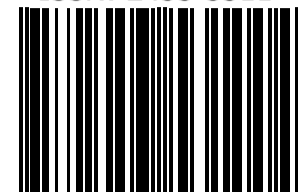
Representing Lesotho were students from, Leribe English Medium School, Molapo High School, and Qacha's Nek High School.

Team Lesotho came out in the first place in Poetry, second place in Public Speaking, third place in Essay Writing, first place in Debate, and fourth place in Quiz Bowl.

"With these remarkable performances, Lesotho proudly secured the overall second position in the competition with the team from Kenya taking the first place. This is a historic milestone and a true testament to the dedication, intelligence, and creativity of our young students. These competitions were centered around the Olympic Values," LNOC stated.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the coaches, teachers, and supporters who guided the team to success. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in showcasing Lesotho's brilliance on the international stage," LNOC stated.

The awarded winners from the competition are; In Debate, Thabo Leballo, Mpho Motloli and Tsepang Mosetoane were awarded the first place. Essay Writing, Tšepang Mosetoane) was awarded the third place. Public Speaking, Mpho Motloli was awarded the second place. Quiz Bowl, Konesoang Khalikane was awarded the fourth place. And in Poetry, Thabo Leballo and Mpho Mphunetsane were awarded the first place.



The Roof mania is here!

er Teodor Kabakchiev, the 2020 Junior Super Enduro World Champion, and South Africa's James Moore, a three-time national enduro champion who finished fourth in last year's race, are among his fiercest rivals.

Speaking to the media, Bereng Ntaote, Public Relations Officer for the Lesotho Off-Road Association (LORA), confirmed Young's participation despite earlier uncertainties due to his packed international schedule.

"All our local riders are ready, fit, and well-prepared. Their bikes are in excellent condition, and they're eager to make Lesotho proud," Ntaote stated.

The Minister of Tourism, Sports, Arts, and Culture, Motlatsi Maqelepo, officially welcomed participants and spectators, empha-

sizing the significance of this year's race as Lesotho celebrates 200 years as a nation. He encouraged visitors to enjoy the country's majestic mountains, scenic landscapes, and warm hospitality.

"To Basotho, let us welcome our guests with peace and pride. They bring not only excitement but also an economic boost for our country. Many accommodation facilities are fully booked, and this is a moment for all of us to celebrate together," said Maqelepo.

As the race continues, all eyes will be on the riders, braving the challenging Lesotho terrain in their quest for glory, while Basotho and visitors alike revel in the festivities of this iconic event.

Seabata Mahao

The spectacular annual Roof of Africa (ROA) yesterday burst into action, engulfing Maseru city in a hive of activity buzzing with international riders and tourists in for the latest dose of the daring rides and breathtaking scenery along the race route.

As is the standard, the three-day show kicked off with the 'Round the Houses' feature at Maseru Mall, where participants showcased their freestyle skills and competed in time trials.

The main race begins today, and will carry over to tomorrow, at the rugged Oxen Hill terrain in Matsieng, just outside Maseru.

Lesotho is notably represented in three categories: by Basia Maseatile, Shabeer Moosa, and Ulrich Pop in the silver category; David Salley, Timello Tšolo, Peter Andrews, and Katleho Tlaole in the bronze category. Eric Salley and Lesekele Hlaoli

This year's edition boasts an impressive 509 riders across four categories namely gold, silver, bronze, and iron. The riders hail from diverse countries, including France, Australia, Portugal, Romania, Germany, the United Kingdom, Estonia, Iceland, Zimbabwe, eSwatini, Namibia, South Africa, and host nation Lesotho.

Among the notable competitors is South African Wade Young, the reigning champion and a hard-enduro legend. At just 28 years old, Young has already claimed the Roof of Africa title eight times—in 2012, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023. His historic 2012 victory, achieved at the age of 16, made him the youngest champion in the event's history.

Young, competing in the Gold category, faces tough competition this year. Bulgarian rid-



Lesotho silver category rider, Basia Maseatile

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