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Meritocracy thrown out of the window at LTDC

...PS Mahlomola puts neck on the block over CEO appointment

Staff Reporter

The principle of meritocracy, prominently championed by Prime Minister Ntsokoane Samuel Matekane as the foundation of his administration, appears to have been disregarded in a contentious decision by the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC) board.

In a move that has sparked debate, the LTDC board overlooked the candidate ranked first by an independent recruitment consultancy for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) position, appointing instead the second-ranked candidate, citing the need for a "fresh mind" to drive the organisation forward.

Pokello Mahlomola, the Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts, and Culture, who chaired the meeting that sealed the controversial decision, has staunchly defended the board's actions.

"I chaired the meeting when the final decision was made," Mahlomola told *Newsday* this week.

He also mentioned that the process had been handled by a consultant.

"We had to make a decision between an old employee who had worked there acting in the same position and a new person who came from another organisation," he said.

"It was important to look at the organization from which he came. We had to find a leader who would come with a fresh mind to change the organisation for the better. And we did," he added.

Prime Minister Matekane has repeatedly emphasized that merit-based hiring would underpin his government. However, concerns about fairness and transparency are now overshadowing this promise.

Newsday reported last week that former acting CEO Sehlabaka Ramafikeng, who was reportedly ranked first by the consultant, was sidelined in favour of Molupe Pheko, who insiders claim was flagged by a referee as potentially unprepared for the challenging role.

If true, the decision raises eyebrows over the LTDC board's commitment to professionalism and accountability.

"The storm that we see is resistance to those changes that we wanted out of the CEO. The recruitment was above board. No one was entitled to be appointed on the basis of points," Mahlomola told *Newsday* this week in a WhatsApp text.

He added: "The board had to use various stages of assessment to choose the best candidate, not to rubber stamp an automatic selection made by machines."

He explained that the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) had been invited to investigate.

"Let us be open for the outcome. If it found no wrongdoing, let us say so. If there is anything wrong, then appropriate action will ensue," he vowed.

Speaking to this publication last week, Mamolemo Maleke, the board's secretary, emphasised that reports sug-



gesting Ramafikeng had been ranked first, with Pheko second, were categorically unfounded.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In its previous publication, *Newsday* emphasised the importance of accessing the report, arguing that as a publicly funded institution, the LTDC's CEO appointment process should be subject to public scrutiny in the interest of transparency.

As a democratic kingdom, Lesotho is expected to uphold transparency and accountability across all state institutions. If the LTDC board had valid reasons for diverging from the consultancy's recommendations, those reasons remain undisclosed.

Public institutions must justify their decisions when departing from established selection processes, particularly in cases where a seemingly more qualified candidate has been overlooked. Transparency in such matters is essential to maintaining public trust.

Mahlomola this week declined to provide *Newsday* with a copy of the consultant's report, citing confidentiality.

"Some documents are confidential,

especially those that concern people's information, specifically psychometric results and other individual ratings of some people. You would have to secure a court order to get them," he said.

"Earlier in the recruitment process, DCEO investigated the process and expressed their opinion. It would help to find what DCEO uncovered in their investigation. They have powers to access confidential documents," he added.

He emphasised that the end result of the recruitment process is the board.

"It had recommendations from consultants and made its decision. This was done within the law. The board has a final say. Not the consultant. What the consultant does is to recommend. And they do not come with one name, they bring 3 best candidates."

Section 14 (1) of the Lesotho constitution, titled; freedom of expression, states that every person shall be entitled to, and (except with his own consent) shall not be hindered in his enjoyment of, freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions without interference, **freedom to receive ideas and information without interference, freedom to communicate ideas and information without interference (whether the communication be to the public generally or to any person or class of persons)** and freedom from interference with his correspondence.

However, subsection (2) states that nothing contained in or done under the authority of any law shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of Section 14 to the extent that the law in question makes provision:

- In the interests of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health; or
- For the purpose of protecting the reputations, rights and freedoms of other persons or the private lives of persons concerned in legal proceedings, preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, maintaining the authority and independence of the courts, or regulating the technical administration or the technical operation of telephony, telegraphy, posts, wireless broadcasting or television; or
- For the purpose of imposing restrictions upon public officers.

It further stipulates that a person cannot rely on any such law in judicial proceedings unless they can demonstrate to the court that the law or action taken does not unnecessarily limit the freedom guaranteed in subsection (1), and that the limitation is justified in a democratic society for the purposes outlined in subsection (2) (a), (b), or (c).

There is no legal authority that the PS has invoked to justify his refusal to provide *Newsday* or its reporter with a copy of the report.

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High administrative costs hinder timely disbursement of grants

Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Gender, Youth, and Social Development has expressed concerns about the high costs of administering social grants, which it claims exceed the value of the actual grants.

This revelation was made by the ministry's Principal Secretary (PS), Mahlapane Makakole-Bodiba, in a letter to the local rights group, Advocates for the Supremacy of the Constitution, also known as SECTION 2.

"The Ministry faces the challenge of incurring administrative costs that surpass the value of the actual grants. Due to these costs and the logistics involved in distributing the grants, the Ministry has had to implement measures to ensure effective quarterly payments," Makakole-Bodiba stated in a letter dated November 8, 2024.

The letter was in response to SECTION 2's inquiry to Minister Pitso Lesaoana on October 30 regarding the frequency of disability grant payments.

"On behalf of SECTION 2, the Advocates for the Supremacy of the Constitution, I write to respectfully bring to your attention a concern raised by members of the disability community regarding the frequency of their disability grant payments," wrote the group's Secretary-General, Tjatjapa Sekabi.

Sekabi referenced the Persons with Disability Equality Act of 2021, noting that Section 44 guarantees individuals with severe disabilities a disability grant, the amount of which is set annually under Section 45(2). He pointed out that in 2023, through Legal Notice No.56, the disability grant was set at M600 per month, effective April 1, 2023.

"However, it has come to our attention that many recipients report receiving their grants quarterly rather than monthly, as specified in the Notice," Sekabi added.

In light of these concerns, SECTION 2 requested clarification on several points.

First, the group asked the ministry to confirm whether the grant was indeed being distributed quarterly and, if so, what circumstances led to this arrangement, despite the stipulation in Legal



Notice No.56 for monthly disbursements.

Second, they sought clarification on any measures being considered to align the payments with the prescribed monthly schedule, if a discrepancy between the legislative mandate and the actual distribution existed.

"As advocates for constitutional integrity and the protection of rights for all Basotho, SECTION 2 believes it is essential to uphold the financial security and dignity of persons with disabilities," Sekabi emphasised.

He added: "This grant serves as vital support, and we trust that under your leadership, any necessary adjustments will be made to ensure the grant reaches beneficiaries in a timely and consistent manner."

Sekabi concluded the letter by offering SECTION 2's assistance in addressing the issue: "Should there be any further discussions required, please know that SECTION 2 is at your full disposal to assist in addressing this important issue for the betterment of the lives of Baso-

tho with disabilities."

In her response, Makakole-Bodiba began by acknowledging receipt of the letter, in which SECTION 2 had raised concerns about the payment frequency of the disability grant.

"You stated that Legal Notice No. 56 of 2023 set the disability grant at M600 per month and that the Ministry has continued to pay the grant on a quarterly basis despite this notice," she wrote.

"Kindly note that the Ministry acknowledges that the Disability Grant is to be paid monthly, as stipulated in the Legal Notice. However, it is important to note that the Disability Grant is not the only grant of its kind administered by the Ministry."

She explained that the ministry was facing the challenge of administrative costs exceeding the actual grants, and due to these costs and the logistics of processing all the grants, it had implemented quarterly payment measures for efficiency.

"Currently, the grants are disbursed by paying officers who travel to each

district to physically hand over the grant monies. The Ministry has engaged the services of G4S (a security company), which was initially contracted to pay Public Assistance and Child Grants. The Disability Grant now piggybacks on this payment method, significantly increasing the cost of the contract between G4S and the Ministry," she elaborated.

"These costs amount to millions, and this is the reason for the quarterly payment schedule. The cost of paying the grant monthly would be substantially higher," she continued.

To address SECTION 2's concerns, Makakole-Bodiba reassured the group that the ministry was in the process of migrating to a digital payment system for the grants.

This, she said, would not only enable the ministry to adhere to the monthly payment requirement stipulated by law but also improve the overall efficiency of the grant distribution process.

"We thank you for your understanding and look forward to your continued cooperation," the PS concluded.

Man stabs rape victim 20 times

Relebohile Makhetha

A 34-year-old man is in Mokhotlong Police custody after allegedly stabbing his former lover to death amid a pending case of sexual assault involving the same woman.

The Salang villager handed himself to the police after committing the grisly act, the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) confirmed this week.

The police indicated that on November 17, at around 8:00 PM, the suspect approached the 36-year-old deceased, demanding for her to withdraw a sexual assault case against him that was filed earlier in September this year.

But when the victim refused to budge, the suspect stabbed her over 20 times, before fleeing the crime scene, but he inadvertently left his mobile behind which led to his arrest.

The police have established that the two were former lovers but had ended

their relationship at the time of the murder of the woman.

The police investigations revealed that things took a nasty turn between the lovebirds when the woman decided to end their relationship. Then in a fit of rage, the suspect sexually assaulted the woman, who reported the matter to the police.

It was while awaiting the finalisation of the sexual assault case that the suspect attempted to compel her former lover to withdraw the charges against him. He then repeatedly stabbed her to death when she refused to drop the charges.

The suspect will appear in court after investigations have been completed.

In a different incident, a 42-year-old woman, 'Makhotso Ramaisa from Ha Nkhabu in Mafeteng district, appeared before the Mafeteng Magistrate Court charged with illegal possession of a 9mm firearm and 25 rounds of ammunition. She was released after paying a M2 000 fine after being convicted.

Her arrest was made after her son pub-

licly posted pictures of himself posing with the gun. These photographs found their way to the police, who then visited to family, and 'Makhotso directed them to where they had hidden the illegal firearm.

In Quthing district, a 20-year-old man, Sekonyela Khooa of Ha Mohlakoa-na Mphaki, appeared before the Quthing Magistrate Court charged with sexually assaulting a 26-year-old man from Thifa, Qacha's Nek.

Both men are currently inmates at the Quthing correctional facility, and Sekonyela reportedly sodomised the victim while he was asleep.

The court therefore found Sekonyela guilty and sentenced him to eight years in prison without the option of a fine.

The police investigations revealed that before this incident, other inmates had warned Sekonyela against his behaviour, including commenting on other men's appearances.

In Thaba Tseka, a 22-year-old woman, 'Matlotliso Makume of Ha Tšekelo, ap-

peared before the Thaba-Tseka Magistrate Court charged with concealing the death of her newborn baby.

The court found her guilty and sentenced her to two years in prison or a fine of M3,000. She was unable to pay the fine and was sent to prison.

Police investigations revealed that after giving birth, she smothered the infant and buried the body in a shallow grave outside the village. Scavenging dogs later unearthed the remains, leading to her arrest after investigations pointed to her.

Still in Thaba-Tseka, two men appeared before the Magistrate Court, charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. Johane Lepolesa (45) of Lesobeng Manganeng was found with a 7.65mm firearm and three rounds of ammunition.

Telang Bonagele (29) of Lesobeng Ha Ngope was found with a 7.65mm firearm and ten rounds of ammunition. Both were sentenced to six years in prison or a fine of M8 000. Failing to pay, they were sent to prison.

Feet in water, thirsty for relief

Lesotho's water wealth fails to quench its own people's needs



Ntsoaki Motaung

Despite Lesotho's vast water resources, many of its citizens remain thirsty, grappling with limited access to safe drinking water.

This paradox was put on the spotlight during the 6th SADC Groundwater Conference recently held in the country.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Mhlomi Moleko, praised Lesotho for its vast water resources during his speech at the conference.

Moleko highlighted Lesotho's unique position as the "water tower" of the region, situated within the Orange-Senqu River Basin, which includes Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, and South Africa.

He noted that despite Lesotho occupying only 30 percent of the landmass in the region, it provides 40 percent of the water.

The minister further explained that Lesotho was one of the most beautiful countries, known for its breathtaking views, snow in winter, skiing, fresh air, and spring water.

He emphasised that the government views water as a key driver of the country's economic development.

The Minister provided an update on three major water-related projects.

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), which supplies South Africa with approximately 760 million cubic meters of water annually, with phase two aiming to increase this to over 1 billion cubic meters per year.

The Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer Project, with a feasibility study set to conclude within a year, expected to transfer water to Botswana through a 700-kilometer pipeline.

The Lesotho Lowlands Water Project, which aims to provide water to the lowland areas of Lesotho.

However, Moleko's optimistic view of Lesotho's water resources contrasts sharply with the difficulties many Basotho face in securing clean water for their households.

The Lesotho Multiple Indicator Survey 2018 paints a sobering picture: nearly 25 percent of the population lacks access to safe drinking water, with 17 percent of households still using unprotected sources.

Climate change has exacerbated the situation, with droughts and erratic rainfall patterns worsening water shortages. As a result, many Basotho must walk for hours to collect water, often from sources that are unsafe.

These challenges have serious implications

for human development and poverty reduction in the country, as the inability to access safe drinking water and sanitation hinders progress in these areas.

During the conference, 'Mapolao Mokoena, Director of Infrastructure at the SADC Secretariat, discussed the governing instruments for transboundary water management.

Mokoena highlighted the Shared Water Protocol of 2000 and the 2005 policy cur-

rently under review, which considers climate change impacts. She also mentioned a five-year strategic plan for water resources management and other protocols for agriculture.

"We do have a protocol on the Shared Water Process of 2000. It articulates, it also touches a little bit on the issues of groundwater. We also have a policy that was developed in 2005, which we are currently reviewing. We are reviewing it because we are taking into account issues of climate change," she said.

"We do have other instruments because we are a service. We provide a service for agriculture. We also have protocols there. We have strategies and policies there," she added.

James Sauramba, Executive Director of the SADC Groundwater Management Institute (GMI), emphasised the conference's theme, which focused on using advanced technologies, harnessing data, and establishing innovative governance structures.

This year's theme, inspired by World Water Week's initiative, "Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future," sought to encourage collaboration in water management to enhance peace and security across the region and beyond.

"We hope this theme inspires you to shape our discussions throughout the conference," Sauramba concluded.

In March 2021, local journalists Sechaba Mokhehi and Pascalinah Kabi published an article titled Disease Stalks Villages as Lesotho Sells Water to South Africa, revealing a stark contrast between Lesotho's vast water resources and the struggles of its people to access safe drinking water.

They highlighted that communities living near Lesotho's two largest dams, Katse and Mchale, face a daily battle to obtain clean

water, as the "white gold" they see flowing in these dams is being sold to neighbouring South Africa.

According to the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), which manages the water sales, Lesotho earned a total of 11.2 billion maloti (approximately \$746 million) from 1996 to 2020 by selling 16,401.3 million cubic meters of clean water to South Africa.

In 2020 alone, Lesotho earned 1.03 billion maloti (around \$69 million) for the sale of 780 million cubic meters of water.

However, despite the financial gains from these water sales, the local communities near the dams have seen little benefit.

The journalists revealed that these villages often suffer from diarrheal outbreaks, attributed to drinking contaminated water from unprotected wells.

In some cases, villagers have taken matters into their own hands, connecting their homes to existing LHDA water tanks. Yet, they allege, the government often takes credit for these grassroots efforts, without providing the necessary resources to improve the community's access to clean water.

The struggle for water also has a significant social impact, particularly on women and girls, who bear the brunt of the daily water collection. The hours spent walking to and from unprotected water sources not only affect the health of these individuals but also hinder the education of students, who are forced to spend valuable time fetching water instead of attending school.

The article underscored the growing disparity between Lesotho's water wealth and the lived reality of its rural communities, who continue to face severe water access challenges despite the country's water exports to its much wealthier neighbour.



Stakeholders urged to unite in the fight against sexual exploitation

Ntsoaki Motaung

The Lesotho Safeguarding Network gathered this week with leaders from various organisations to discuss collaborative efforts in combating sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment, and violence, with a particular focus on protecting children.

The meeting coincided with the World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence, an observance aimed at raising awareness and fostering action to protect children globally.

Lintle Mathosi, safeguarding officer at Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS), explained that the purpose of the meeting was to in-

roduce the network to different stakeholders, encouraging their involvement and gaining support for the network's goals.

"Our aim is to avoid duplicating efforts and ensure that every NGO and civil society organisation is aligned in spreading the same message: the protection of people's rights and preventing further harm," Mathosi said.

Moving forward, Mathosi highlighted that after receiving pledges from various organisations and ministries, the network would outline specific commitments from each party.

"We will later engage with Members of Parliament to outline how organisations should function collaboratively to ensure that Lesotho becomes a safe and inclusive country, free

from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment," she added.

The World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence is recognised annually on November 18, as designated by the United Nations (UN).

According to the UN, approximately 120 million females under the age of 20 worldwide have experienced some form of forced sexual contact.

While global data on sexual violence against boys is scarce, studies from 24 high- and middle-income countries suggest that between three percent and 17 percent of boys under 18 have also been affected by sexual violence.

Between hunger and health: Young migrant's struggle against HIV and poverty

Katleho Mohanoe



One night, Thabiso Motjopi tossed and turned on his bed, staring at the roof, feeling the weight of the world on his shoulders.

It was already midnight, but sleep eluded him.

The burden of rising prices, the suffocating grip of poverty, and the reality of another long journey back to Cape Town in South Africa hung over him.

The last meal he had had with his younger sister was maize meal porridge for supper, and he had not eaten since.

As hunger gnawed at him, the thought of illegally migrating back to South Africa to find work began to take root. He knew the risks – he had heard the gunshots from the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) officers warning people trying to cross the border without paying the M20.00 bribe.

He wondered if he would make it to Sterkspruit without being caught by the South African border guards, who would arrest him and send him to prison.

Despite these fears, hunger is more merciless than the possibility of arrest. Motjopi was determined to make it back to Cape Town, the place where he believed his future lay, no matter the cost.

Thabiso's life journey is fraught with peril.

At just 20 years old, he returned from Cape Town sick, and was diagnosed with

HIV. After starting on antiretroviral therapy (ART), he regained his health.

Then his biggest hurdle became not the disease, but the crushing poverty of his family, which continued to haunt him at every turn.

Eventually, after a treacherous journey, he made it to Cape Town, though the struggle was far from over.

He settled in a remote area away from the bustling city.

The lives of the farm workers in this rural location are chaotic, alcoholism is rampant, and many people walk long distances to work or are picked up in trucks and vans.

It is a harsh, fast-paced life, where "up is down and down is up."

Thabiso's ART treatment pills are running out. He knows that soon, he'll be swimming in a pool of defaulters.

According to Lebohang Mothae, the Chief Executive of the National AIDS Commission (NAC), Lesotho has made some progress in responding to the HIV epidemic, with the support of the United States government and other partners.

The government has committed to fast-tracking the 95-95-95 targets by 2025 and aims to end AIDS by 2030.

"There is a clear path to ending AIDS by 2030 and it requires strong political leadership, following the science, tackling inequalities and ensuring sustainable funding."

That was the message from UNAIDS, the United Nations (UN) agency dedicated to ending the epidemic, which said in July last year that truly eradicating it boils down to a "political and financial choice".

The agency's Executive Director, Winnie Byanyima, said that today's leaders have the opportunity to save millions of lives and be "remembered by future generations" as those who put a stop to the world's deadliest pandemic.

However, despite the government's efforts, HIV and AIDS remain a significant challenge. Poverty, unemployment, and slow behavioural change continue to fuel the epidemic.

A major concern is the inability to curb new infections, especially among adoles-

cents and young women. Prevention efforts remain a national priority, with the government focusing on providing high-impact services to vulnerable populations.

Mothae stated: "HIV and AIDS remain a significant challenge for Lesotho. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, and slow behavioral change continue to drive the epidemic. Efforts to curb new infections, particularly among adolescents and young women, have not been successful."

"Preventing new HIV infections in adults and children is the nation's top priority. To address this, the government has intensified coverage, access, and utilization of high-impact services, focusing on populations most at risk and vulnerable groups, while making strategic investments."

Currently, over 324,000 adults in Lesotho are living with HIV, with approximately 5,000 new infections occurring annually. The HIV prevalence rate stands at 22.7 percent, which, while high, also reflects improved survival rates among those living with the virus.

According to Dr. Tapiwa Tarumbiswa, the HIV and AIDS Programme Manager at the Ministry of Health, a substantial M2 billion budget has been allocated to developing a sustainability roadmap for addressing HIV and TB responses.

Dr. Tarumbiswa explained that the government's overarching goal is to provide high-quality, universal access to HIV and TB prevention, treatment, and care for all Basotho.

The strategic plan includes reducing new HIV infections to 2,600 annually by 2028 and addressing the 4,800 new infections reported by the end of 2023.

Additionally, the plan aims to reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission to less than two percent by 2038.

Pepukai Chikukwa, the UNAIDS Country Director, highlighted that despite global advancements in HIV treatment, access to care remains unequal. Many key and vulnerable populations struggle to receive necessary services due to systemic barriers.

Chikukwa noted that multiple concurrent crises, such as rising commodity prices and

climate change, threaten both global and national HIV responses.

He emphasised that Lesotho must adopt a sustainable approach to maintain its progress beyond 2030, underpinned by strong political will and financial commitment.

Teboho Mokhomphatha, Nurse-in-Charge at Villa Maria Health Centre, explained the critical importance of adherence to ART (antiretroviral therapy).

"Adherence remains a challenge, particularly for those migrating illegally to South Africa. Despite this, the government has made significant strides in expanding access to ART treatment," Mokhomphatha said.

To enhance service delivery, measures such as motorbike delivery systems for treatment have been introduced. Migrants working in South Africa are provided with treatment lasting up to a year, with six-month supplies readily available.

Additionally, transfers are arranged to connect them with healthcare facilities abroad when requested.

"For those who default, we restart treatment and closely monitor their viral load. In cases of treatment failure or severe side effects, we switch regimens," Mokhomphatha added.

The nurse emphasised that ART treatment is highly effective, even for individuals who have defaulted, though maintaining adherence remains paramount.

"Adherence enables people with HIV to live longer, healthier lives, reduces the risk of HIV transmission, and ensures viral load suppression. We do everything possible to encourage adherence," Mokhomphatha concluded.

Thabiso's story is not unique. Many face the same struggles: a choice between hunger and health, between survival and defiance. Yet, despite the challenges, hope remains.

With continued government efforts and community support, the fight against HIV and AIDS in Lesotho will persist. The road ahead may be difficult, but for many, the journey towards treatment adherence and a better life is worth every step.

Disability Inclusion: Listen to the Future

Mpeo Khrehloa

As we celebrate World Children's Day under the theme "Listen to the Future," it is vital to amplify the voices of children and young people with disabilities.

These voices are often ignored, yet they are key to building a future that includes everyone. I understood the need to advocate for disability inclusion when I saw the daily barriers children with disabilities face. From inaccessible schools to healthcare systems that fail to address their needs, these challenges demand urgent action.

Disability inclusion is not just about fairness—it's about justice and fulfilling every child's rights. Too many children with disabilities are excluded from education, healthcare, and community participation. This exclusion denies them opportunities to thrive and limits their potential. It also affects entire communities, creating cycles of inequality.

In my community, these challenges are stark. Children with disabilities are often hidden away, denied schooling, or unable to access spaces to play and grow. Families

struggle to navigate systems that were not built for inclusivity. This affects everyone, weakening our collective potential.

Young people must lead the charge for inclusion. Our voices are powerful, and we can challenge outdated norms and demand change. By speaking up, we can ensure that all children—regardless of ability—have the tools they need to succeed.

Imagine a world where every school has ramps, playgrounds welcome all children, and healthcare systems meet everyone's needs. Such a world would affirm the dignity of children with disabilities while enriching our communities with their talents.

To those who want to join this advocacy, start by listening. Learn from the experiences of people with disabilities and amplify their voices. Push for inclusive policies in education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Even small actions, like raising awareness on social media or volunteering, can spark meaningful change. Advocating for inclusion requires hope—hope fueled by the belief that change is possible. Progress may be slow, but every step forward brings us closer to a world where every child feels seen,



valued, and empowered.

Policymakers and elders, we need your support. Listen to us. Take action to ensure that children with disabilities are not left behind. Build schools, healthcare systems, and communities that embrace inclusion. By

doing so, you invest in a brighter, more equitable future for all.

Disability inclusion is about fulfilling children's rights, uplifting communities, and ensuring every child can thrive. Our future depends on it. Please act today!

BUSINESS

Two major festivals fuel year-end economic boom



Seabata Mahao

As the final throws of 2024 roll in, Lesotho is poised to leverage two flagship events, the 55th *Roof of Africa (ROA)* and the *Maletsunyane Braai Festival*, to drive economic growth and showcase its vibrant culture and natural beauty.

These globally recognised events are not only set to entertain but also to generate significant revenue through tourism and associated industries, marking them as pivotal moments for the country's economy as the festive season craze kicks in.

In terms of revenue collection, the Revenues Service Lesotho (RSL) can expect increased collections through mechanisms like

the recently introduced Tourism Levy, Road Fund tollgate fees, and VAT from visitors, both domestic and international.

These taxes will be bolstered by the high demand for accommodations, food, and other services during these events.

The Roof of Africa: Mother of Hard Enduro

Scheduled for November 28–30, the ROA—dubbed the “Mother of Hard Enduro”—is set to host over 500 participants from countries like France, Australia, Portugal, and South Africa.

The event attracts not only riders but also teams, families, and spectators who are expected to spend up to five days in Lesotho, engaging in activities around Maseru and

beyond.

Lesotho Off-Road Association (LORA) Chairperson Mopeli Ntabe confirmed the readiness of the event, with 520 riders already confirmed.

In addition, this year's edition has also attracted a record number of local riders to compete in various categories. At least ten local riders have registered for the showpiece.

“We expect more registrations as we close a week before the race,” Ntabe said, highlighting the growing global interest in the event.

In an exclusive interview with Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation's (LTDC) acting Public Relations Manager Molapo Matela said:

“Locals refer to the Roof of Africa as a ‘rainmaker’ because of the economic benefits it brings. During the event, accommodation establishments around Maseru are fully booked, creating short-term jobs in tourism and hospitality, and there is high demand in sectors like transportation, restaurants, and souvenir sales,” he noted, emphasising the synergy between sports and tourism in Lesotho.

Maletsunyane Braai Festival: A culinary extravaganza

Taking place from November 29 to December 1, this festival promises a weekend of scenic hikes, horse and quad rides, and a sizzling braai master competition featuring culinary delights like *Maluti Potjie* and *Vodacom Mpe-sa boerie rolls*.

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of Maletsunyane Falls, the festival also serves as a platform for local artisans, farmers, and entrepreneurs to showcase their products and

services.

Free stalls have been allocated to Semonkong residents, while others benefit from temporary jobs and rental opportunities, ensuring inclusive economic participation.

The two festivals align with Lesotho's *National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II)*, which prioritises job creation, poverty eradication, and sustainable economic growth. Tourism has consistently ranked among the top 10 contributors to Lesotho's GDP, with events like these further strengthening its role.

The Tourism Sports, Arts, and Culture Minister Motlatsi Mapelepo previously noted the 2022 Roof of Africa generated M10 million in revenue. This year, projections are even higher, given the growing scale and popularity of the events.

With a focus on resilience and sustainable growth, as emphasised in the 2024/25 budget speech, Lesotho's strategic use of sports and tourism events demonstrates a path toward economic revival. By merging global appeal with local participation, the nation is positioning itself as a hub for cultural and sporting excellence, fostering unity and prosperity.

These events not only celebrate Lesotho's unique identity but also offer a glimpse into a promising future where tourism and sports catalyse lasting economic and social transformation.

Economic and Social Impact

The two events are expected to deliver multifaceted benefits such as boosting local tourism through increased visitor traffic to Semonkong and other regions, thereby promoting local attractions.

They also help to support local businesses such as restaurants, shops, and artisans anticipate higher sales leading up to and during their duration.

The high demand for local produce, particularly meat, stimulates farming activities during this time of the year, while providing a platform for showcasing Basotho heritage, and fostering future tourism.

Cross-borders traders cry foul

Seabata Mahao

Local traders and businesses have voiced concerns over significant challenges in cross-border trade with South Africa, highlighting issues of double taxation, high VAT rates, and lengthy customs procedures.

These grievances were aired during the ongoing *Mphahlolle* Tax and Customs International Instruments Campaign by the Revenue Service Lesotho (RSL), whose latest edition was held in Maseru's Hoek this week.

Some traders highlighted the financial burden of paying VAT in both South Africa and Lesotho. Moeketsi Chere, a trader from Mafeteng, explained that the high costs often force them into non-compliance.

He recounted paying as much as M70 000 in VAT for goods worth M500 000, and noted that the system prioritises detecting undercharges but fails to address overcharges, which leaves traders in a difficult position.

Traders also reported that after paying VAT in South Africa, they are left to chase reimbursements on their own. This, coupled with the slow customs clearance process on the Lesotho side, leads to significant delays, customer dissatisfaction, and financial losses.

Chere described the situation as untenable, stating that the inefficiencies often result in South Africa benefiting more from VAT collections than Lesotho.

The Deputy Commissioner for Customs Advisory Services at RSL, Thapelo Moleli,

emphasised the importance of traders registering their goods with the (RSL) upon entry into the country.

This process, he explained, would allow for better VAT claims and minimise delays. He also encouraged traders to adopt the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) program, which is designed to facilitate smoother trade for compliant businesses by reducing customs checks and providing flexible inspections.

According to Moleli, the program also improves Lesotho's export efficiency by fostering cooperation with South African customs authorities.

Also speaking at the event, Acting Commissioner General of RSL, Rakokoana Makoa, acknowledged existing inefficiencies but assured attendees that the RSL was working to simplify VAT systems and improve compliance, aligning with broader goals of fostering economic growth and reducing poverty in Lesotho.

He also highlighted the potential benefits of international tax treaties and trade agreements. He underscored how these agreements reduce barriers, ensure fair taxation, and eliminate double taxation, creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive.

“Tax treaties and trade agreements serve as cornerstones for fostering international cooperation and creating an enabling environment for businesses. By reducing trade



barriers, ensuring fair taxation, and eliminating double taxation, these agreements make it easier for enterprises to expand across borders, attract foreign investment, and integrate into global value chains.

“One remarkable example is the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), a transformative initiative aimed at creating a single market for goods and services across the continent. By reducing bureaucratic red tapes, improving logistics, and enhancing connectivity, the AfCFTA not only fosters regional integration but also positions African nations, including Lesotho, to compete effectively

in the global marketplace,” he said.

He further mentioned that their focus on efficient customs tariff management helps businesses navigate complex tariff structures, ensuring compliance while minimising the cost of doing business.

“Through initiatives such as the SACU AEO program, we are working to streamline customs processes and enhance the competitiveness of Basotho businesses. The AEO program is designed to reward compliant traders with expedited customs clearances and other benefits, reducing costs and delays in cross-border trade,” Makoa stated.

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 MATSEPISO 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

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

ESTATE LATE SEIPATI MATILDA MAPETLA E264/2024

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

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

MASIANOKENG
MASERU
(+266) 56979077

NTSOAKI MAPETLA
(THE ADMINISTRATOR)

ESTATE NOTICE

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

ESTATE LATE CHERE MICHAEL MPOKA-EC75/2024

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

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

Ha-Motlokoa, Peka
Pela lebaleng la bolo
LERIBE

MANTEBALENG ANACLETTA MPOKA

(ADMINISTRATOR)
+266 59502223

ESTATE NOTICE

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

ESTATE LATE MAJORO MOHAPI E297/2024

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

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

Dated at Maseru this 29th October 2024 Magistrate Court Building
Master of the High Court Office Maseru

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

CCA/ /2023

CCT/0540/2022

MAMPEO LEISANYANE

APPLICANT

AND

ESTATE OF MANTHATI MABOKOANE

FIRST RESPONDENT

MABATA MABOKOANE

SECOND 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



**LAND
ADMINISTRATION
AUTHORITY**

Insurance Services Tender Advert

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

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

Bank Name: Standard Lesotho Bank

Account Name: Land Administration Authority

Account Number: 9080003568748

Branchcode: 060667

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

Submission requirements:

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

The proposal must highlight the following:-

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

Submission address:

The Land Administration Authority Lerotholi Road

PO BOX 11856

Maseru 100 Lesotho

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

Opening at 12:30hrs.

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



Kingdom of Lesotho

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Nutrition

Invitation for Bids

Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Machinery & Implements.

- The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho intends to improve agricultural service delivery. Therefore, part of the proceeds will be utilized on eligible payments resulting from the procurement of the above.
- The Principal Secretary now invites sealed bids from interested bidders for the **Supply & Delivery of Agricultural Machinery and Implements.**
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **(M5,000.00) Five Thousand Maloti only.** The method of payment must be payable at Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. Bidding document will be available from **29th October 2024.**
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **28th November 2024 at 12:00 noon.** Late bids will be rejected. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **M20, 000.00** in the form of a bank guarantee or irrevocable/assurance letter of credit valid for thirty (30) days beyond the validity of the bid. As appears in the bid data sheet.
- It is mandatory for bidders to submit the following

valid documents: (a) Tax Clearance Certificates; (b) Trader's License, (c) Certificate of Bona Fide Bidding, (d) Bid Security and (e) a completed bid form. These documents [especially (a) and (b)] shall either be originals or certified copies from the source. **Non-compliance with this requirement may invalidate a bid.**

- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **14:30hrs on Thursday, 28th November, 2024** at the address given below:

Board Room
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
Corner Constitution & Linare Roads,
Maseru 100, Lesotho.

- Bidders shall ensure that the envelopes containing their bids are properly addressed as indicated under ITB above and are clearly marked **"Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Machinery & Implements" GOL/G006/2024/25**

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security also reserves the right to cancel the tender before submission or opening of the tenders, postpone the tender submission or opening date and accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

Procurement Manager

'Health for All' initiative ends with a bang



Seabata Mahao

The *Health for All Through Sports* initiative culminated in a vibrant community celebration last Saturday at the football grounds of Qoaling, in Maseru.

Spearheaded by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, USAID, and the Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission (LSRC), the event blended the excitement of sports with essential healthcare services, bringing joy and health to children, adolescents, and their families.

Attendees could access critical screenings, vaccinations,

and consultations, all while enjoying an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie.

Sports Triumphs and Community Spirit

The day's competitions featured thrilling performances across various sports categories:

- Netball:** Abia Girls Netball Team clinched victory, earning brand-new jerseys, medals, and a trophy.
- Football:**
 - Under-14 Boys: Mpaola FC emerged champions.
 - Under-14 Girls: Emmanuel FC secured the top spot.
 - Under-19 Boys: Mpaola FC



claimed another victory.

- Under-19 Girls: Emmanuel FC triumphed again.
- 3rd Place: Sehlabeng

Fill-the-Water Challenge:

- 1st Place: Sehlabeng
- 2nd Place: Matšoareng
- 3rd Place: Khubelu

Tug of War:

- 1st Place: Sehlabeng
- 2nd Place: Monyane
- 3rd Place: Khubelu

Dance Competition: Best Performance: Matšoareng

Innovative Approach to Healthcare

The event was not just about games and trophies. It provided a platform for critical healthcare services, including vaccinations, health screenings, and consultations, ensuring even the most remote residents could access essential care. Health tents stationed around the grounds were busy throughout the day, serving young and old alike.

This innovative combination of sports and healthcare emphasised the initiative's deeper goal: closing healthcare gaps, particularly for children and adolescents in underserved communities.



Men hail 'Health for All' initiative for bringing services closer

Ntsoaki Motaung

The *Promoting Health Outcomes Using Sport* initiative, spearheaded by UNICEF Lesotho, the Lesotho Sport and Recreation Commission (LSRC), and the Ministry of Health, concluded its outreach programs in Maseru, Berea, Mphahle's Hoek, and Leribe.

These districts were strategically selected due to their lower vaccination rates, and the initiative sought to improve health outcomes by combining sports events with accessible healthcare services.

Bringing Health Services to the Community

The initiative offered on-site health screenings and vaccinations, including those for high blood pressure, cervical cancer, diabetes, HIV, and prostate cancer.

Vaccines available included the COVID-19 vaccine, HPV vaccine, and various child immunisations. This innovative approach aimed to bridge the gap between healthcare facilities and communities, especially for populations

less likely to access services—such as men.

Goaling community member Sekhoane Maqala on Saturday praised the initiative for making health services more accessible. Maqala expressed that having services brought directly to communities removes barriers like long queues and time constraints that often deter men from visiting health facilities.

"It is not easy for men to take time from their busy schedules to visit health facilities," he explained. "But if services are brought to us this way, it is easier to make time because we avoid the whole day spent waiting in queues."

Mofoka Semeka shared a sim-



ilar sentiment, admitting he typically avoids health facilities unless urged by his wife.

"Last time, I only went because my wife forced me. However, the services were excellent, as they were today," he said. Semeka suggested that such community outreach programs should occur at least once a month to encourage more men to access care.

He also highlighted a common concern: the lack of medication at health facilities, which often forces patients to buy medicine from pharmacies.

Tefo Mabase added that another barrier for men was the discomfort of being served primarily by women in healthcare settings. While Mabase indicated that he now regularly seeks healthcare, he emphasised that bringing

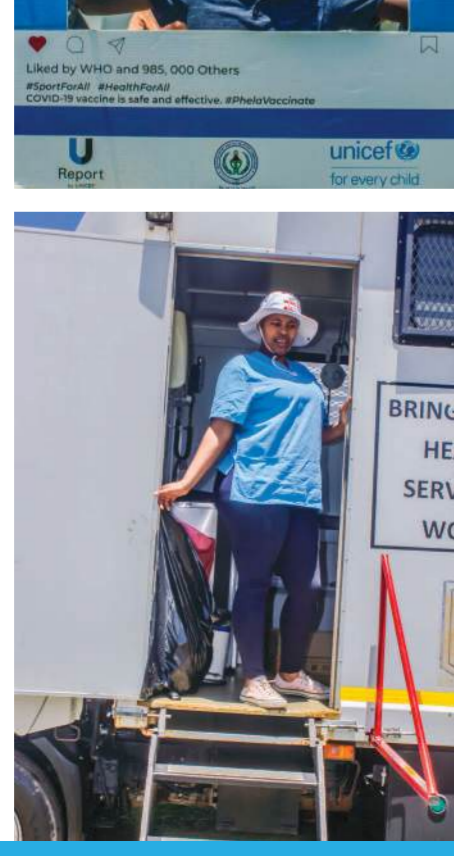
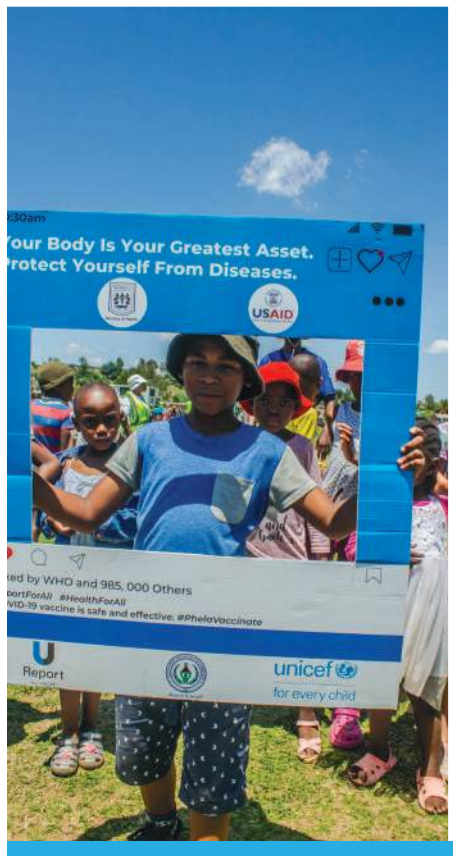
services closer to communities reduces costs and eliminates excuses for delays.

"When health services come to us, no one can complain about transport expenses or long waits," he stated.

A Model for Future Outreach

The *Health for All* initiative demonstrated the potential for innovative healthcare delivery in Lesotho. By combining sports with accessible health services, it not only improved vaccination rates but also encouraged men, traditionally less likely to seek healthcare, to participate actively.

As calls for more frequent community-based health services grow, this initiative leaves a lasting impact and serves as a model for improving public health in rural and underserved areas.




QUEEN 'MAMOHATO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

 Private bag A114, Maseru 100 Tel:+266 2222 0000
 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: OMMH/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

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

INVITATION FOR BIDS

31st October 2024

 BID No.: QMMH/ITT 4 OF 2024/2025
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF STORES CONSUMABLES TO QUEEN MAMOHATO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

- 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
PROJECT NAME: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MEAT

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

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

Disclaimer:

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


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

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

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

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

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

1. Technical capacity and Experience

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

2. Financial Capacity

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

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

SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Procurement Manager

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development

P.O Box 747

Maseru 100 Lesotho

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

For any enquiries call: 22315491

Or

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


Ministry of Gender Youth and Social Development
INVITATION TO BID
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF TEACHING AIDS MATERIAL FOR 'MATHEKO VOCATIONAL YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

1. 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 2022 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.

10. All bids shall be addressed to:

Procurement Unit

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


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 sekakalal@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.

LOT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1.	Laptop Computers and Carry Backpack	61
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.**



Fees	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
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Subscription	M 72.00	M 156.00	M 312.00
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Delivery	M 60.00
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Address:..... **Start date:**...../...../..... **Expiry:**...../...../
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Baka Ngwane film team brings Eswatini's story to Lesotho



Kananelo Boloetse

The talented team behind the Eswatini film *Baka Ngwane*, set to be screened later today at Alliance Française de Maseru, arrived in the country yesterday and is scheduled to depart tomorrow, Saturday.

Baka Ngwane is a gripping historical drama that delves into the origins of the Kingdom of Eswatini. It chronicles the journey of the Nguni people as they migrated to the region and established a powerful kingdom under the leadership of King Matalatala I.

The film explores universal themes such as love, loss, power, and the formidable challenges faced by the kingdom's early rulers, offering viewers an enriching glimpse into Eswatini's heritage.

The creative team includes: Sibusiso Dlamini, producer; Shaft Moropane, director; Mandisa Mamba, actress (portraying Queen Qoshile), and Samkelo Dlamini, actor (portraying King Matalatala).

Their presence at the festival exemplifies the European Film Festival's commitment to fostering dialogue between international and local filmmakers.

This annual festival, funded by the European Union with additional contributions from EU member states, features a diverse array of European and regional films.

The 2024 edition explores powerful themes like social justice, identity, and human resilience, providing fresh perspectives through storytelling.

Thanks to support from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, France, Italy, Ireland, Poland, and Spain, this year's festival has expanded its scope and reach.

Screenings now span four venues: Alliance Française de Maseru, the National University of Lesotho (NUL), Café What?, and The Hub in Morija.

The festival also includes filmmaker seminars, audience discussions, and opportunities for local creatives to engage with international industry professionals.



ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
Nov 13-22, 2024
Hall

NUL
Nov 19-22, 2024
ISAS Auditorium

CAFÉ WHAT?
Nov 25-26, 2024

THE HUB
Nov 27-28, 2024

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OPINION

Wake-Up Call for Lesotho: The Urgent Need to Invest in Football and Sports Infrastructure

Theko Tlebere



The recent 7-0 defeat of Likuena, Lesotho's national football team, to Morocco in the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers starkly underscores the urgent need for our government to prioritise sports development. This devastating loss not only reveals gaps in the talent pipeline but also highlights the systemic neglect of sports infrastructure and policy in Lesotho. Football, the most popular sport globally, holds untapped potential as an economic driver for national development. Prime Minister Sam Matekane's government must take concrete steps to invest in football, particularly in infrastructure, to elevate Lesotho's presence on the continental stage and harness its socioeconomic benefits.

Football is not merely a sport; it is an economic powerhouse. Countries like Botswana and Zambia have successfully leveraged sports infrastructure and football development to spur economic growth, foster national pride, and improve citizens' quality of life. For instance, Botswana's world-class facilities, including the Francistown Stadium, have at-

tracted regional and international events, significantly boosting tourism and local economies. Similarly, Zambia's investments in grassroots football, paired with infrastructural enhancements, led to their historic victory at the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations—a triumph that united the nation and showcased its sporting potential to the world. Lesotho can adopt these successful strategies by investing in stadiums, training facilities, and football academies nationwide, not just in Maseru. Well-planned sports infrastructure can play a dual role: developing elite athletes while hosting regional tournaments that attract visitors, create jobs, and generate business opportunities.

Prime Minister Matekane and his deputy, Justice Nthomeng Majara have undertaken numerous diplomatic missions worldwide, diligently forging partnerships and seeking investment opportunities. However, these trips often overlook the critical development of sports infrastructure, despite its vast diplomatic and economic potential. Football serves as a universal language that transcends borders, and international collaborations in sports could yield significant benefits for Lesotho. For example, Morocco—Lesotho's recent opponent—has invested heavily in football infrastructure and development, transforming their national team into a continental powerhouse. Collaborating with countries like Morocco, which has expertise in establishing state-of-the-art facilities, could equip Lesotho

with the technical knowledge necessary to modernise its own sports infrastructure.

The Lesotho Football Association (LEFA) has made significant strides in football development through grassroots initiatives and by enabling Likuena to compete internationally. However, the responsibility for advancing the sport cannot rest solely on LEFA. The government must collaborate with LEFA, providing the crucial financial and logistical support needed to enhance these efforts. Countries like Zambia have demonstrated the benefits of public-private partnerships in football development. By aligning the goals of the government, national football associations, and corporate sponsors, Zambia has created a sustainable football ecosystem that benefits both players and the economy. Lesotho should adopt a similar strategy, with the government taking the lead in policy formulation, funding, and infrastructure development.

The following five issues need to be considered by our government;

1. Establish a National Sports Development Fund: Create a dedicated fund for sports infrastructure and talent development, ensuring resources are allocated transparently and effectively.
2. Build Regional Football Academies: These academies would identify and nurture young talent while serving as community hubs for sports and recreation.

3. Upgrade Existing Facilities: Transform dilapidated football grounds across the country into modern, multi-purpose stadiums capable of hosting international matches.
4. Leverage International Partnerships: Collaborate with countries excelling in sports development to gain technical expertise and investment in infrastructure.
5. Integrate Sports into National Development Plans: Recognise football as a vital sector in economic and social policy, incorporating it into broader strategies for youth development, tourism, and health.

Football has the power to unite nations, uplift communities, and empower individuals. In Lesotho, where unemployment and poverty rates remain alarmingly high, football could be a beacon of hope and opportunity. Nationally developing this sport would improve Lesotho's performance on the field, create jobs, foster national pride, and position the country as a hub for regional football events. The disappointment experienced by Likuena in Morocco should serve as a wake-up call for all stakeholders. It is time for Prime Minister Matekane's government to recognise the transformative power of football and invest in its potential. By doing so, Lesotho can reclaim its dignity on the football pitch and harness the sport as a vehicle for national development. The ball, quite literally, is in the government's court. The future is NOW!

Children's Day and the heartbreaking reality of child safety in Lesotho

Mpeo Khrehloa

On Wednesday, 20 November 2024, we marked Children's Day, a day meant to honour and protect the rights of the most vulnerable among us – the children.

Yet, just one day after this observance, news broke of a tragedy that cut through the heart of our nation. A young girl, reportedly just five years old, disappeared from Ha Leqele in Maseru on Wednesday, and by Thursday, she was found murdered.

This horrific event serves as a stark reminder of the dark reality we must confront: our children are in grave danger, and something needs to change urgently.

The person who shared this news with me could not have been more accurate when he said, "We have a crisis." The pain and sorrow in his words echoed the sentiment many of us feel as such stories seem to frequent our news headlines.

The brutal disappearance and murder of this little girl is not an isolated incident; it is part of a disturbing pattern that continues to unfold across our communities. And it is not just the headlines that are impacted, it is the hearts and lives of

parents, families, and entire communities who are left reeling in the aftermath.

As a nation, we should feel outrage, heartbreak, and an unyielding resolve to protect our children. Our children are our future – they are the light in our eyes, the hope for tomorrow.

Yet, as we celebrate their rights, we fail them in the most fundamental of ways: their right to be safe. This tragedy is not just an act of violence; it is a call to action, a plea from the very heart of our society to stop the growing wave of child exploitation, abuse, and violence.

How many more children must suffer before we act decisively?

How many more innocent lives must be stolen before we recognise that our children need more than just words, they need protection, security, and justice. It is heartbreaking to think that in a country with so much potential and promise, the safety of our children is increasingly threatened by those who seek to harm them.

What can we do to stop this horror?

First and foremost, we must come together as a nation. This is not a problem that can be solved by one group, one institution, or one individual. It requires a col-

lective effort from all sectors of society: government, civil society, communities, and individuals.

We need to strengthen laws to protect children and hold those who harm them accountable. We need to create an environment where children feel safe to speak out, where they trust the adults around them, and where we, as a society, are dedicated to ensuring their well-being.

But it is not enough to just rely on the authorities.

Each of us has a role to play. We must foster a culture where children are heard, respected, and protected. Parents, caregivers, educators, neighbours — we must all stand as guardians of the young. We must teach our children their rights, empower them to recognise dangers, and ensure they know how to seek help when needed.

We also need to look beyond the immediate incidents and address the root causes. Why is there so much violence against children in Lesotho? Is it a lack of education, poverty, or a breakdown in family structures?

These are questions we need to explore and answer if we are to begin solving this crisis. But one thing is clear: we cannot

afford to sit back and allow this pattern of violence to continue. We must act with urgency, compassion, and conviction.

Let this tragic event serve as a turning point. Let the heartbreak of one more child's life being taken be the catalyst for lasting change. We cannot bring back the innocent life that was stolen, but we can work to ensure that no more children suffer in silence, that no more parents face the unimaginable grief of losing their child in such a way.

We owe it to our children to do everything in our power to protect them, to fight for a future where they can grow, thrive, and live in safety. Their lives are worth more than just our sympathy; they deserve our action, our commitment, and our relentless pursuit of justice.

As we reflect on Children's Day and its significance, let us remember that true honour lies in the protection and nurturing of the children who are the heart of our nation. Let us stand together in solidarity, knowing that the future we build for our children will be the legacy we leave behind.

May we never again let another child be lost to violence. It is time to act, and act now.

SPORTS

Likuena's AFCON dream crumbles in 7-0 defeat to Morocco

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's national team, Likuena, saw their Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2025 dreams crushed in a devastating 7-0 defeat to Morocco on Monday.

The match, held in Morocco, underscored the significant gap between Lesotho and Africa's footballing powerhouses.

Though Likuena's qualification hopes were already dashed before the game, they aimed to end the campaign on a high note following a morale-boosting 1-0 victory over the Central African Republic (CAR) in Bloemfontein, South Africa, last Thursday.

Likuena finished third in Group B, earning just four points from six matches. Morocco and Gabon secured the group's top two spots. Despite flashes of potential, the team's overall performance highlighted areas in need of significant improvement.

Lesotho's struggles against elite teams have been a recurring theme.

This latest loss marked their heaviest competitive defeat since 2012, when they suffered an identical 7-0 drubbing by Ghana during the 2014 World Cup qualifiers.

Morocco, still riding high from their historic 2022 FIFA World Cup semi-final run, fielded their first-choice team and wasted no time asserting their dominance.

A goal from Diaz in the fifth minute set the tone, and Morocco continued to outclass Likuena throughout the match, treating it like a training session.

Lesotho's defense crumbled under relentless Moroccan attacks, with goals



coming from every angle. By the final whistle, the scoreline stood as a harsh reminder of the gap between the two nations.

Tactical Missteps

Criticism has been directed at Likuena's coaching staff for questionable tactical decisions. A football analyst, who requested anonymity, pointed out glaring errors:

- **Key Players Excluded:** The omission of Fothoane, Thabo Mats'oele, and Ts'epo Toloane was deemed "catastrophic" by some. These players could have bolstered the team's performance against a formidable opponent like Morocco.

- **Players Out of Position:** Concerns were raised about Mafate starting in midfield despite playing as a defender at his club and Lehlohonolo Matsau being used as a defender against CAR, contrary to his club role.

- **Baffling Decisions:** Thabang Malane, an experienced defender, was deployed as a winger, leaving many questioning the tactical approach.

The analyst added, "As long as we continue to disregard players' natural positions and roles, we will remain stagnant. Against high-caliber opponents, we need a clear strategy. What unfolded against

Morocco was damage control at best, but even that failed."

Looking Ahead

Likuena now shifts focus to next month's African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers, where they face Angola. A win would secure their place in the continental finals scheduled for February 1-28, 2025, in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

The journey to improvement for Likuena remains long and challenging.

As fans look ahead, the hope is that lessons from this campaign will drive better preparation, strategic decision-making, and a more competitive future for Lesotho's national team.



Seabata Mahao

In a landmark achievement for sports in Lesotho, the Federation of Rugby Lesotho (FRL) has been granted full membership by World Rugby.

The milestone marks a significant

forward step for the country's rugby community, ushering in opportunities for international competition, grassroots development, and financial support.

World Rugby is the global governing body for the sport of rugby union. World

Lesotho gets global rugby recognition

Rugby organises the Rugby World Cup every four years, the sport's most recognised and most profitable competition.

Speaking on their achievement, FRL's President Fetang Selialia described the recognition as a turning point for rugby in Lesotho.

"This is a momentous day for rugby in Lesotho. We are incredibly proud of how far we have come. This membership is not just recognition of the hard work of the federation but of the dedication and passion of every player, coach, and supporter who has contributed to the growth of rugby in our country," Selialia explained.

As a member of World Rugby, the FRL will now receive critical funding to enhance infrastructure, launch youth programs, train coaches, and improve overall standards. Selialia emphasized that these resources would create a solid foundation for the sport's sustainable growth and long-term success.

The FRL's Public Relations Officer, Mo-

rapeli Motaung, expressed gratitude and optimism for the future, noting that the recognition came despite recent challenges.

Lesotho's national rugby team, Likatola, has suffered a heavy defeat in an international test match against Botswana's Vultures. However, Motaung pointed out that the team's efforts played a pivotal role in securing the FRL's membership with World Rugby.

"This membership allows us to access vital resources and expertise from World Rugby, which will be instrumental in elevating the country's rugby standards," Motaung said.

He highlighted plans to invest in youth development, strengthen domestic competitions, and improve rugby facilities nationwide.

Motaung also extended heartfelt thanks to Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) for its continued sponsorship, which he described as critical to the federation's progress.



22 Nov - 28 Nov 2024

Berea Ladies bounce back after shaky start



Thabo Rakhomo

Berea Ladies, considered one of the superpowers of the Lesotho Women Super League, had a rough start to the 2024/2025 season, losing two consecutive matches.

The Berea Queens suffered a 2-1 upset

against newly promoted Bokamoso College Ladies in their opening game at Maputsoe DIFA Stadium. The situation deteriorated in their second match, where LDF Ladies handed them a 2-0 defeat in Morija.

Determined to turn their season around, Berea Ladies sought redemption against Tha-

ba-Tseka Ladies in their third match. Playing at Bambatha Stadium in Maseru on Sunday, they delivered a commanding performance, securing a resounding 5-0 victory.

Berea Ladies' coach, Lehlonya Nkhasi, expressed satisfaction with his team's depth, despite missing five key players who were on national duty.

"I am very happy with the depth we have in the team. We have about five players who are out on national teams' duty and still managed to play and win," Nkhasi said.

Although league regulations allow teams to request a reschedule if three or more players are on national duty, Berea Ladies chose to field available players and emerged victorious.

Nkhasi credited his squad for stepping up, highlighting the healthy competition within the team. "This healthy competition boosts the performance of every player, as regulars know that everyone in the team can deliver," he added.

However, Nkhasi noted that despite the emphatic win, some issues still needed attention. He vowed to address these as the team works toward maintaining consistency.

On the other side, Thaba-Tseka Ladies' coach, Liteboho Khau, lamented the lack of preparation ahead of matches, citing academic commitments as a major challenge.

"Most of my squad consists of students who are busy with examinations and cannot attend weekday practice sessions," Khau explained.

Despite these setbacks, he commended his players for their effort and resilience under difficult circumstances. He remains optimistic that his team's performance will improve once the players complete their exams.

Thaba-Tseka Ladies have faced significant challenges this season, including losing 80 percent of their key players and undergoing a coaching change. Former head coach Bolokoe Mohale joined LMPS Ladies, taking some players with him, while others moved to Berea Ladies.

Other Matches:

- LDF Ladies dominated FC Stoko with a 6-0 victory in the first match of the day at Bambatha Stadium.
- In Mafeteng, Mphaki High School Ladies edged out Bantu Ladies 2-1 in a closely contested match.

Zambia overpowers Lesotho in 9-0 COSAFA rout

Thabo Rakhomo

The Lesotho Women's Under-20 team is currently competing in the 2024 COSAFA Women's Championship, held in Soweto, South Africa.

The tournament began on Tuesday and will conclude on Sunday, featuring five national teams: South Africa (hosts), Lesotho, Zambia, Mozambique, and Botswana.

Teams are battling in a round-robin format, where each team faces all others, and the team finishing first will be crowned champions. This point system format was also used during the 2014 AUSC Region 5 Games.

Lesotho's campaign opened with a tough 9-0 defeat to Zambia, exposing the team's lack of preparation and experience. In the second fixture of the day, South Africa cruised past Mozambique with a 4-0 victory.

Speaking after the match, Lesotho coach Elizabeth Yelimala congratulated Zambia's coach and acknowledged the challenges her team faced. "Most of my players are experi-



encing this level of competition for the first time. It took them a while to settle, especially

playing against athletes they've only seen on television," she said.

Yelimala also noted that the team's preparation was far from ideal, with most players taken straight from school to join the tournament. This lack of readiness was evident during the match, as Lesotho struggled to string together five consecutive passes, while Zambia displayed superior chemistry and experience.

Zambia's dominance continued in their second match, where they defeated hosts South Africa 3-0, showcasing their strength and tournament readiness.

Lesotho's second game will see them take on South Africa today at 3 PM at the University of Johannesburg's Soweto Campus Stadium.

Despite the tough opening, Yelimala remains optimistic. "We've learned a lot from the Zambia match. We will work on fixing our issues and aim to present a stronger team against South Africa and in our upcoming games," she said.

Lesotho's remaining fixtures are:

- Botswana on Saturday, November 23, at 3 PM
- Mozambique on Sunday, November 24, at 12 PM

As the team continues in the tournament, fans hope to see an improved performance and valuable lessons learned for future competitions.



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