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SA puts Lesotho compensation claims on ice

... Thousands of Basotho ex-miners left in limbo

Staff Reporter

In a move that has left thousands of Basotho ex-miners and their families in limbo, South Africa has indefinitely put on hold all claims for compensation by Lesotho and other foreign nationals, citing "verification process challenges."

This shocking development was revealed in an email from Thembisa Mama, Director at the Compensation Commissioner for Occupational Diseases, to Rantšo Mantsi, Executive Director of the Ex-Miners Association.

"Good day Mr. Mantsi. Please be informed that the Commissioner has put on hold all Lesotho/foreign claims due to verification process challenges with banks and courts. We will give an update as soon as this is resolved," Mama wrote curtly in the email sent on Tuesday.

This sudden freeze has dashed the hopes of thousands of Basotho who worked in South Africa's gold mines under gruelling conditions and later filed claims for silicosis compensation through the Tshiamiso Trust.

The trust, which has been in existence since February 2020, was created to give effect to the R5 billion settlement agreement between African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater and Goldfields and

claimant attorneys in the landmark silicosis and TB class action lawsuit.

It is responsible for compensating all eligible current and former mineworkers across southern Africa with permanent impairment due to silicosis or work-related TB, or their dependants where the mineworker has passed away.

The Trust, tasked with compensating eligible mineworkers and their dependents, last month acknowledged significant challenges in processing claims from Lesotho.

It reported difficulties in reaching over 1,800 former mineworkers in the country who urgently need Benefit Medical Examinations (BMEs) to determine the presence and extent of qualifying diseases. Tshiamiso Trust CEO Dr. Munyadziwa Kwindu expressed "deep concern" over the inability to contact claimants and called for immediate action to address the issue.

"Currently, we have over 1,800 former mineworkers who urgently need to be scheduled for BMEs. Without these examinations, their claims cannot progress. We are also struggling to reach many claimants who need to submit additional documentation," Kwindu admitted.

But the Trust's explanations and appeals ring hollow to many.

The bureaucratic and logistical hurdles, coupled with South Africa's decision to freeze



Prime Minister Ntsokoane Samuel Matekane and President Cyril Ramaphosa

claims, suggest a disturbing lack of urgency and accountability in fulfilling promises made to vulnerable ex-miners.

The numbers speak volumes

The scope of the crisis is staggering. As of now, the following regions in Lesotho have significant numbers of claimants awaiting BMEs:

Region Awaiting Claimants

Mafeteng	350
Mohale's Hoek	160
Quthing	148
Maseru 144	
Qacha's Nek	256
Mokhotlong	77
Teyateyaneng	160
Hlotse (Leribe)	216
Butha-Buthe	226
Thaba Tseka	90

Yet, despite these numbers, the Trust has announced that lodgement offices in Teyateyaneng and Butha-Buthe will cease operations by November 30, 2024, leaving claimants with even fewer avenues for assistance.

Blame the victims?

Dr. Kwindu partially blamed the claimants, suggesting that those who changed their contact numbers without updating the Trust were creating "a significant barrier."

This statement has sparked outrage among ex-miners and advocacy groups, who argue

that the onus should not fall on impoverished claimants but on the Trust to establish effective communication channels.

"This is just another example of South Africa's systemic neglect of foreign workers who toiled in its mines," said Bokang Sehloho yesterday. Sehloho's father, allegedly died of TB in 2004.

He added: "Many of these people sacrificed their health and lives for the prosperity of South African mining companies, and now they are being abandoned."

The bitter irony

While the Tshiamiso Trust continues to issue guidelines and eligibility criteria, the lived experiences of former miners tell a different story. These men and their families face bureaucratic indifference and financial despair, unable to access the compensation they are rightfully owed.

For living mineworkers, permanent lung damage caused by silicosis or TB should qualify them for compensation. For deceased miners, their families must prove death from work-related illnesses, a requirement that is both emotionally and administratively taxing.

The Trust's reassurances of "thorough assessments" are small comfort to those trapped in a cycle of poverty and neglect. "We were promised justice and dignity, but all we get are excuses," said Sehloho yesterday.

Staff Reporter



The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has awarded a R12.5 million contract for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Oxbow Hydropower Scheme to the ELC, Greenway, and Green Gold Joint Venture.

The contract, awarded in mid-November, marks a critical milestone in the advancement of Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

The ESIA work, set to begin in January 2025,

LHDA awards ESIA contract for Oxbow hydropower scheme

will take approximately one year to complete. The selected joint venture comprises Italy's ELC Electroconsult S.p.A., Lesotho's Greenway Consultancy (Pty) Ltd, and South Africa's Green Gold Group (Pty) Ltd.

This contract follows the recent award of the Oxbow Hydropower Design and Construction Supervision contract, signalling steady progress in the project. The Oxbow hydropower scheme is a major element of Phase II of the LHWP, alongside ongoing developments such as the Polihali Dam and Polihali Transfer Tunnel.

Scope of the ESIA

The ESIA will address key environmental and social factors and includes the following tasks:

- Conducting a comprehensive environmental and social impact assessment.
- Developing Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) and spe-

cialised studies.

- Ensuring compliance with Lesotho's Environment Act of 2008 and international standards, including the IFC Performance Standards.
- Supporting the application for a Record of Decision (RoD).
- Informing decisions on site selection, engineering designs, construction specifications, and monitoring requirements.
- Project management and contract administration.

The Oxbow hydropower scheme will include a dam on the Malibamatso River, a gated intake structure, a headrace tunnel, a surface powerhouse, and related infrastructure.

Construction will also require the diversion of the A1 national road and the building of a diversion weir and transfer tunnel to discharge water into the 'Muela reservoir.

The LHWP aims to enhance water resource management and energy production in Lesotho. The Oxbow Hydropower Scheme is seen as a key step toward reducing Lesotho's reliance on imported energy and meeting its growing electricity demands.

Phase II builds on the success of Phase I, which concluded in 2003 and included major projects like the Katse Dam, 'Muela Hydropower Plant, and Mohale Dam. The current phase consists of the Polihali Dam, a water transfer tunnel, and the Oxbow Hydropower Scheme, the hydropower component.

The LHWP is a bi-national initiative between Lesotho and South Africa, involving water transfer, hydropower generation, and ancillary developments. Managed by the LHDA on behalf of Lesotho's government, the project includes infrastructure to store, regulate, and transfer water while generating hydroelectric power.

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'More than 100 Basotho deported from SA monthly'

Kabelo Masoabi

The Leribe District Administration (DA) office is grappling with a persistent and troubling influx of deportees, receiving over 100 Basotho deported from South Africa each month.

This alarming figure underscores the growing challenge faced by local authorities as they struggle to manage the humanitarian and logistical needs of these individuals.

Senior Information Officer in the Leribe DA's office, Rasebilo Maqelepo, told Newsday this week that the situation is putting immense pressure on the office's resources.

"We provide food and transportation to ensure deportees are taken care of until they can reach their destinations," Maqelepo said.

"However, this has created a significant financial burden on the office, and we risk running out of funds before the next allocation is received."

Since October this year, according to Maqelepo, the office has recorded an average intake of more than 100 deportees monthly, a figure that highlights the urgent need for comprehensive support measures from government ministries and non-governmental organisations.

Maqelepo emphasised that the office's limited resources are being stretched to their limits, particularly as the festive season approaches, when numbers are expected to rise further.

He indicated that the majority of deportees originate from southern districts, including Maseru, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, and Qacha's Nek.

He further said that despite an agree-

ment between Lesotho and South Africa's cross-border crime prevention units to repatriate deportees directly to their home districts, most are dropped at the Butha-Buthe border, creating further logistical challenges for local authorities.

"If a person from Lesotho goes missing between Lindela, the notorious immigration detention center in Gauteng, and Lesotho, it may remain unknown," Maqelepo noted, citing a lack of communication from South African authorities.

This disconnect exacerbates the difficulties in ensuring safe and efficient repatriation.

One deportee, 'Malenka Moremoli, recounted her traumatic experience as an undocumented migrant in South Africa. Moremoli left Lesotho in January 2023 in search of work to support her family, only to face unimaginable hardships.

Like many Basotho, Moremoli sought employment in the neighbouring country, albeit without the necessary documentation. Her journey was motivated by desperation, as her hope for a better life outweighed the risks.

Upon her arrival, she found shelter at a friend's makeshift home in Boitekong township in Rustenburg.

Yet, despite her initial optimism, the job market proved dishearteningly bleak. Days turned into weeks, and the gnawing grip of hunger began to take its toll.

In a moment of desperation, her friend made a troubling suggestion: she urged Moremoli to do whatever it took to survive, including engaging in transactional sex. This proposition shook her to the core, and she refused, resolutely thinking: "I will never do

that because my body is the temple of God."

As the tension between her and her friend escalated, Moremoli made the difficult decision to leave. She hoped to reach a relative living in another part of the township who could assist her with taxi fare back home to her husband and children.

However, on her way, she encountered a police stop-and-search operation. Not having a passport on her, she was immediately categorised as an illegal migrant and taken into custody.

During her detention at Lindela, Moremoli said she endured a harrowing experience marked by physical and emotional suffering. She grappled with several health issues, including flu, tonsillitis, and severe sinus pain, yet was consistently denied medical care.

Any attempts to voice her discomfort were met with intimidation; she learned quickly that complaining only made her situation worse.

Moremoli described the living arrangements as horrific, with detainees crammed into cells designed for far fewer people. In one instance, a cell meant for 15 individuals housed nearly 70, compelling many to share beds while others slept on the floor, sometimes in puddles created by leaking toilets.

Access to adequate food and healthcare was virtually nonexistent, leading to further deterioration of detainees' health.

Compounding the trauma, Moremoli revealed a devastating reality: sexual abuse perpetrated by detention staff was alarmingly common. In exchange for sex, female inmates were promised freedom, which never materialised.



Senior Information Officer Rasebilo Maqelepo

After a month she was amongst hundreds of Basotho deported back to Lesotho. Her freedom was only sealed when she arrived at the District Administration (DA) office in Butha-Buthe, then transferred to the DA in the Leribe district, before she could be connected with her family in Mahobong, Leribe.

"I was stinking, dirty, stressed and sick. The office supplied us with fresh food that I hadn't had for a long time. I'll never set my foot in Lindela. It's hell on earth," she swore.

The ongoing deportations highlight a deeper socio-economic crisis. Many Basotho migrate to South Africa out of desperation, seeking better opportunities but often without proper documentation, exposing them to exploitation and abuse.

The Leribe DA office has called for increased support and collaboration to address this crisis. "This is not just a local problem," Maqelepo stressed.

"We need coordinated efforts from all stakeholders to ensure the humane treatment of deportees and to address the root causes driving Basotho to leave in the first place."

Police wage war on crime over the festive season

Community engagement

Recognising the importance of community involvement in crime prevention, Commissioner Khesa urged all citizens to collaborate with the police in combating crime.

He outlined plans for enhanced police presence in key areas, with officers stationed at entertainment venues and high-traffic locations. The approach will include random roadblocks and stop-and-search operations to deter criminal behaviour and reassure the community.

In addition to patrols, there will be a focus on crime prevention initiatives in nightlife places, including public bars and nightclubs. To address specific crime hotspots, such as Qoqolosing and Fobane, the police will establish satellite police stations to ensure rapid response capabilities and to maintain order in these communities.

Addressing gang violence and revenge attacks

The need for heightened security is underscored by recent incidents of violence linked to gang activity.

For example, in April, a tragic event in Fobane, Leribe resulted in the shooting deaths of five individuals in what is believed to be a

revenge attack linked to the notorious famo groups involved in illegal gold mining operations in South Africa.

This incident involved not only loss of life but also significant property destruction, as the victims' vehicles were set ablaze. The police are thus keenly aware that the festive season can exacerbate tensions between rival gangs.

To combat the expected rise in gang-related violence, especially during this volatile time, Khesa emphasised the importance of high-visibility patrols in vulnerable areas, particularly Matlamaneng and Ha Seetsa, where blanket-related gang wars have previously resulted in serious incidents.

The police will collaborate with the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), the National Security Service (NSS), and local community policing forums to conduct joint operations aimed at maintaining order and preventing violence.

Traffic safety measures

With traffic accidents frequently increasing during the festive season, the police are also ramping up their efforts to enforce road safety regulations. The police plan to target reckless and impaired drivers through increased monitoring and enforcement.

The implementation of strict alcohol testing measures will take center stage, and of-

fenders may face severe legal consequences, including fines, job loss, and having a permanent criminal record. Khesa emphasised that drivers are permitted to consume no more than 100ml of alcohol, underscoring the importance of responsible behavior on the roads during this busy time.

Educational initiatives and community awareness

In response to the troubling trend of sexual assaults reported during the festive season, Khesa announced the launch of youth camp programs designed to educate and empower younger individuals, particularly girls, regarding personal safety measures. These programs aim to raise awareness about potential dangers and provide tools for avoiding victimisation.

Despite the police's extensive efforts to ensure a secure environment during the festive season, residents are also encouraged to exercise personal vigilance.

Precautions include avoiding isolated areas during nighttime hours, being cautious when withdrawing cash from ATMs, not displaying expensive items, and steering clear of unsafe hitchhiking practices.

By taking these steps, community members can greatly enhance their own safety and contribute to a secure and joyous festive season for all, as highlighted by Khesa.



Kabelo Masoabi

To address rising concerns regarding safety during the festive season, the Leribe police have implemented a comprehensive crime prevention strategy aimed at protecting residents and preventing criminal activities.

This proactive approach was detailed in a recent interview with the Acting Assistant Commissioner of Police, Teboho Khesa, from the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS).

The festive season Khesa said often brings an increase in crime rates, driven by various factors including heightened consumer spending and greater alcohol consumption.

The police are focusing their efforts on a range of criminal activities, including robberies, revenge killings, shoplifting, and road traffic accidents.

Khesa highlighted that the police are particularly vigilant about social crimes that affect vulnerable populations, such as murder, sexual assault, and crimes targeting women, children, and the elderly.

Enhanced police visibility and com-

PS Majara remains in trouble

News



Staff Reporter

The Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Training, Ratšiu Majara is facing a six-month jail sentence as his Ministry dithers to execute the Labour Court's directive to settle outstanding salary underpayments for seven teachers.

In June this year, having been given an ultimatum by the Court to serve a six-month jail term or ensure that payment of the seven teachers' arrears is made by December 10 this year, Majara opted for the latter, but Newsday understands that the teachers have still not received their dues amounting to M751 638.44 in total.

This publication understands that should the payment be not made by December 16, Majara will be locked up.

Majara had appeared before the Labour

Court in June this year after being tracked down by the police following the issuance of a warrant for his arrest for contempt of court following the repeated failure for him and his ministry to obey several court directives to pay the teachers working for different Quthing and Mohale's Hoek schools.

Prior to the Labour Court's arrest order, Majara and the Ministry representatives had failed to appear before two separate hearings by the Directorate of Dispute Prevention and Resolution (DDPR), and also failed to execute their two corresponding default judgments against the Ministry.

The Teaching Service Commission, Teaching Service Department, Education Ministry's Principal Secretary Majara and the Attorney General were the respondents in the case that was first heard in September 2023.

The teachers were represented in the dispute against their employer by the Construction, Mining, Quarrying and Allied Workers (CMQ) union.

According to the court documents, Majara failed to oversee payments of varying amounts to seven school teachers for underpayment, unpaid wages, hardship and acting allowances, after the DDPR had ruled in their favour.

Majara's troubles began when the applicants, Nthabiseng Hesman, 'Matholang Ntjana, 'Mamotiki Khutlang, Ntšepeng Tlali and 'Mathapelo Rankibitle brought a pay dispute against their employers before DDPR for arbitration in 2023.

During the hearing, Ntjana testified before the DDPR that the government owed her M95

457.04 plus M2 475.00 in salary underpayment and hardship allowance underpayment accrued from 2018 to 2020.

Hesman said she was owed M21 000.00 plus M27 375.00 for salary underpayment and hardship allowance underpayment. Khutlang said she was owed M123 210.00 for salary underpayment.

Tlali said she was owed M186 440.00 and M40 754.40 for salary underpayment and acting allowance underpayment, while Rankibitle was owed M71 697.00 for salary underpayment, according to the documents before the DDPR.

The court records showed that on the day of the hearing of the matter, all the respondents did not show up before the DDPR despite having been notified. Leading up to the judgement, the DDPR indicated that in the absence of any evidence to rebut that of the applicants, their version would be assumed as the correct one.

"The Labour Court in the Mokoaleli vs Standard Bank and another LC/REV/21/2007 held that a right to be heard can only be given to a party who is willing to utilise it. The Tribunal subscribes to the view that the conduct of the respondent on this instance is tantamount to waiver and unwillingness to utilize this right.

"This is premised on the fact that on the 11th August 2023, 'Mathabo/Matsebo Theoha who is a personal secretary of the third respondent signed the notice of set down. On the same date, the notice was served to Dathney Lebeso, who was the acting director of the second respondent. On the very same day, the set down was served upon one Reitumetse Motopi of the fourth respondent.

"That notice of set down reflects the 14th September 2023 at 9am at Quthing as the date, time and place of hearing this case. That

is proof that respondents were aware of the date and time of hearing but failed to show up for reasons not known to the Tribunal.

"There is no reason why the provisions of section 227 (8) (c) of the Labour Code Amendment Act of 2000 cannot be implemented in this case. In the Metropolitan Lesotho vs Thabo Daniel Thoso LC/REV/251/06, the Labour Court held that default judgments are machinery by which courts fight the delay in the administration of justice, and they are not intended to be the denial of the audi alterum partem precept," the DDPR said.

The DDPR then delivered a default judgment in favour of the applicants in December 2023, and directed for the respondents to pay the teachers within 30 days of receipt of the arbitration award.

A similar case involving Atang Simon Makoetlane (owed M72 960.00 plus 25 800.00), Thabang Lechesa (owed M84 512.00) and Nteea Nkhahle from Mohale's Hoek against the same respondents about the same issues was handed down by the DDPR in December 2023 in favour of the applicants, with the exception of Nkhahle's claim, which was dismissed.

The respondents again failed to head the two directives, and after 30 days the seven teachers teamed up and approached the Labour Court seeking enforcement of the DDPR awards.

In response, the Labour Court on April 30 this year, ordered for the Ministry of Education to pay the aggrieved teachers within 31 days in accordance with the DDPR awards.

But the 31 days passed without the Ministry taking any action, with the Labour Court subsequently issuing a warrant of arrest for Majara on June 6.

Guterres urges Lesotho MPs to champion good governance and accountability



Staff Reporter

Members of Lesotho's parliament must take the lead in promoting good governance, transparency, and accountability, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres emphasised during a historic address to the country's legislative body on yesterday.

Speaking to a joint sitting of the Senate and National Assembly, Guterres called on lawmakers to honour their mandate by shaping a future grounded in sustainable development and justice for all Basotho.

"You represent the hopes and aspirations of all Basotho people. Through your legislative power, you can shape a prosperous and

equitable future; invest in clean energy and climate resilience; and champion good governance, transparency, and accountability," he told the gathered legislators.

This marked the first visit by a UN Secretary-General to Lesotho in over two decades, with Guterres paying tribute to the bicentenary of the Basotho nation and reflecting on the legacy of its founder, Morena Moshoeshe I.

"King Moshoeshe charted a revolutionary path. While others chose conflict, he embraced dialogue. His vision transcended the challenges of his time, transforming this great land into a sanctuary of peace through

diplomatic and moral courage," Guterres said.

Addressing injustice against Africa

The Secretary-General also delivered a strong critique of global systems that exclude Africa from decision-making.

"When a continent that is home to nearly a fifth of humanity remains systematically excluded from global decision-making, we must call this what it is: a relic of colonialism that has no place in today's world," he declared.

He highlighted the lack of African representation in the UN Security Council as a glaring injustice, calling for reforms to grant the continent permanent seats.

"Africa has no permanent voice when the world decides on matters of war and peace... This is unacceptable – and it must change," Guterres insisted.

Climate and financial justice for Lesotho

Turning to climate justice, Guterres underscored the disproportionate impact of climate change on Africa, despite its minimal contribution to global emissions.

"Families are grappling with food shortages, water scarcity, and the loss of livelihoods. Africa accounts for less than 4 percent of global carbon emissions but suffers from some of the most devastating climate impacts," he said.

Praising Lesotho's potential in renewable energy, he called for global solidarity and investments to harness the country's resources. "Lesotho is a fantastic example of the continent's renewable energy potential, which remains largely untapped," he noted.

He also addressed the burden of debt on African nations, including Lesotho, urging for an overhaul of the international financial system.

"African nations pay up to eight times more for borrowing than developed countries. For every dollar spent on education or infrastructure, disproportionate sums are drained away in interest payments," Guterres pointed out, describing the current system as "outdated, dysfunctional, and unfair."

Empowering women and youth

Guterres called for transformative actions to empower women and youth, who make up a significant portion of Lesotho's population.

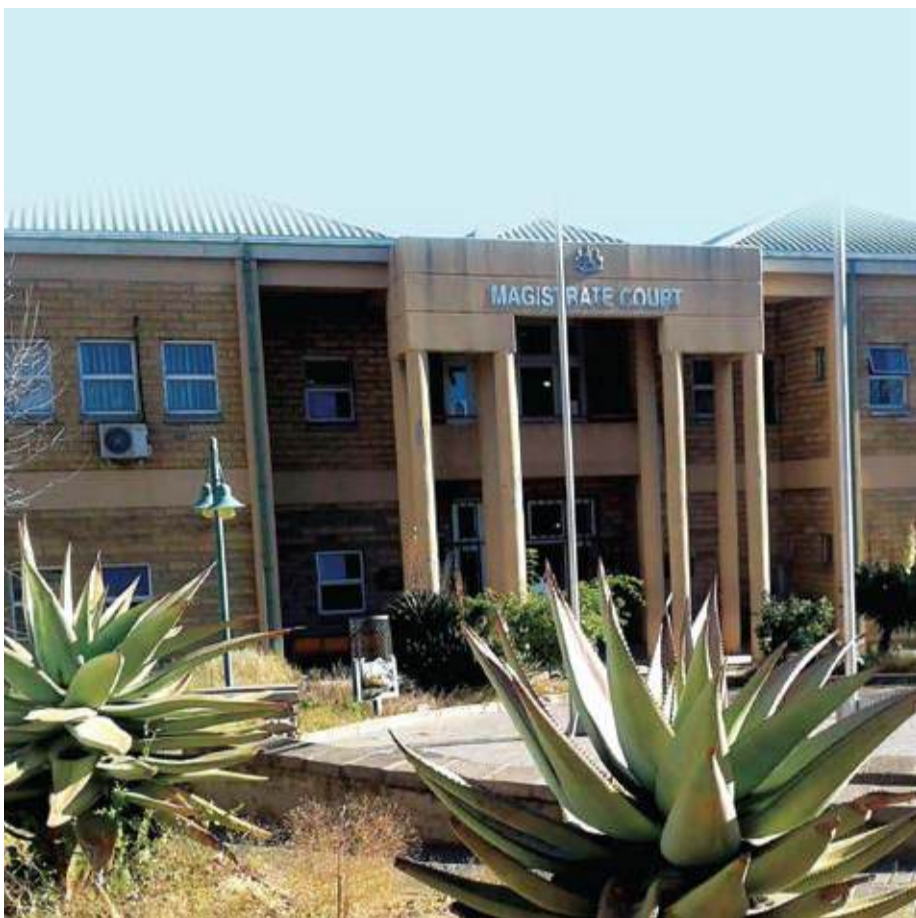
"No society can thrive while half its population is held back," he said. "Gender equality is fundamentally a question of power – and a means of redefining and transforming power that will yield benefits for all."

He highlighted the importance of providing opportunities for young people, noting that two-thirds of Lesotho's population is under the age of 30.

"This enormous potential needs to be properly invested in," he stressed, adding that international support is necessary to create jobs and harness the energy of Lesotho's youth.

The Secretary-General concluded his address by encouraging Lesotho's lawmakers to honour the legacy of their nation's founding principles.

"This is your moment to show the world that from the challenges of today, a new era of hope and equality can be born. As you say in Sesotho, 'Mohale o tsoa maroleng' – heroes emerge from the dust," he said, invoking the national motto, "Khotso, Pula, Nala" (Peace, Rain, Prosperity).



Relebohile Makhetha

A 41-year-old Maseru man appeared before the Maseru Magistrate Court on December 6 on charges of statutory rape and impregnating his 15-year-old daughter.

The court heard how his family members became suspicious in November 2021 when they noticed the girl's pregnancy and reported the matter to the police.

Investigations revealed that the man had been sexually abusing his daughter and, upon realising that she was pregnant, he took her to Thaba-Tseka to hide her. At the time the family reported the incident, the girl had already given birth.

The accused had fled to South Africa but was apprehended in Qacha's Nek on December 4, upon his return. He remains in custody and is scheduled to re-appear in court on December 18.

This was not the first time the accused has

faced such charges. In 2020, he was accused of raping a 16-year-old girl but disappeared after being granted bail.

In a different incident, six men appeared before the Thaba-Tseka Magistrate Court on December 4 for gambling in an unauthorised area.

The accused are, Cheba Marake (45), Shai Mahasi (45), Mahlomola 'Mabathoana (60), Tokelo Simone (34) of Ha Leronti, Tau Mokibe (49), and Mohatla Taole (39) of Ha Nyane, were found them guilty and sentenced to five years' imprisonment or M500 fine each. They opted to pay the fine and were released.

A 15-year-old girl from Roma appeared in court on December 9, charged with the murder of her three-month-old baby girl.

The court granted her bail. According to the report, the girl smothered the infant while it was asleep, believing that her relationship with the child's father would improve if the

Man rapes and impregnates 15-year-old daughter

baby was gone. She is scheduled to return to court on December 9.

A 48-year-old man from Qoqolosing, Leribe, is in police custody for the alleged murder of two police officers.

It is reported that on December 8 at around 12 midnight, the victims and others were socialising at a shebeen in Lower Motloheloa when the suspect arrived and fatally shot them.

A former police officer himself, the suspect allegedly believed they were involved in a romantic relationship. The victims were identified as a 29-year-old woman, the suspect's sister-in-law, and a 43-year-old man from Ha Ngoatonyane Mazenod.

Following the incident, the suspect handed himself to the police with the victims' 9mm firearm, which he allegedly used to commit the crime.

The suspect was previously on bail for shooting and killing a female prison officer in 2022. He had claimed that the victim was his girlfriend and that he suspected she was having an affair. He had resigned from after the first murder.

Maseru Rural Police are investigating a case of grave desecration that occurred on November 28, where an elderly woman's grave was disturbed and her remains were removed.

The perpetrators left behind a few scattered bones, including the scapula, lower jaw, pelvic bone, and hip bone.

The deceased woman, who was buried in 2010, was estimated to be between 82 and 86 years old at the time of her burial. No arrests have been made yet.

The police are urging the public to come forward with any information that may lead to the arrest of the individual(s) responsible for this heinous act.

Disturbing suicides pile-up

In Thaba-Tseka, a 31-year-old man from Tširela Mantšonyane fatally stabbed his 32-year-old wife at around 10:00 AM on December 4. The motive for the tragic incident remains unclear as both individuals have passed away as the man was later found hanging from the rafters of their home.

On the same day, in Mokhotlong at around 4:00 PM, a 29-year-old man from Tšilantšo was discovered hanging from the rafters of his house. It has been reported that he took his own life after his 49-year-old mother refused to allow him to sell a cow that he had inherited. This denial is believed to have driven him to suicide.

On December 9, a 59-year-old man from Ha Ranthotho Bokong, Thaba-Tseka was found hanging from the rafters of his home between 4:00 and 5:00 AM.

It is suspected that the man, who had been battling a long-term illness, was scheduled for a medical check-up on that day. His wife had prepared a bath for him and upon finding him hanging, she alerted the authorities.

Father convicted of ritual murders of family members

... Avoids death penalty

Relebohile Makhetha

On Monday, the High Court, presided over by Justice Molefi Makara, sentenced Mphatšoe Ntjelo to 25 years in prison for each of four brutal murders committed between October 2014 and February 2015.

The sentencing followed a deeply disturbing trial that exposed a horrific series of ritual killings intended to secure wealth through the use of 'muti.'

Ntjelo was convicted of murdering his three children—Ntšabi (10), Reatšelisheha (3), and Nthona (3 months)—as well as his younger brother, Molefi.

Prosecutor Thapelo Mukuru described how Ntjelo and his wife, 'Mamotšabi Ntjelo, believed that the mutilation of their victims and the use of ritual practices would bring them riches, including cattle, taxis, and a chain of shops.

The court heard that Ntjelo and his wife first killed their two older children in Octo-

ber 2014, followed by his younger brother in January 2015, and their infant child in February 2015.

The mutilated bodies were buried in two huts on the couple's property in Quthing, alongside a donkey's head and other ritual items. These heinous acts shocked the local community, who struggled to comprehend the couple's motives.

Ntjelo's wife, who was initially a co-accused, reportedly died in police custody in 2015, leaving Ntjelo to face trial alone.

During the sentencing phase, the court heard testimony from social worker Khahliso Mokhaoli, who detailed Ntjelo's traumatic upbringing and the harsh circumstances of his life.

Mokhaoli highlighted his experience as a socially isolated shepherd, his early departure from school, and the emotional toll of caring for his dying parents. She also pointed to his troubled relationship with his wife as further evidence of his difficult circumstanc-



es.

Mokhaoli urged the court to temper justice with compassion, arguing that Ntjelo was as much a product of his environment as he was a perpetrator of these heinous crimes.

In his ruling, Justice Makara acknowledged the gravity of the offenses but noted that Ntjelo's background played a significant role in the court's decision to forgo the death penalty. He emphasised that while the crimes were abhorrent, imposing the death penalty would be legally unjustifiable in this

case.

Ntjelo was sentenced to 25 years for each of the four murders, with all sentences to run concurrently. Justice Makara stated that the court had balanced the need for justice for the victims with consideration of the mitigating factors presented during the trial.

Although the ruling closed a chapter on one of Lesotho's most shocking criminal cases, it left the nation grappling with broader questions about the intersection of cultural practices, socioeconomic hardship, and justice.

BUSINESS

RSL, NECDOL celebrate journalism



Staff Reporter

In an impassioned address at the RSL and MISA Lesotho Journalism Excellence Awards, MISA Lesotho Chairperson Kananelo Boloetse likened journalism to the divine act of creating light, drawing parallels to its vital role in guiding nations through truth and accountability.

The awards, a prestigious event celebrating journalistic excellence, brought together media professionals and stakeholders to recognise the critical contributions of the press in Lesotho.

"Journalism is not merely a profession; it is a calling to illuminate the path for society," Boloetse declared.

"Like the creation of light in the beginning, journalism serves as the guiding light of our nation, shining truths into darkness and fostering accountability where it is needed most."

Boloetse emphasised the press's pivotal role in sustaining democracy, urging journalists to embrace their unique position in shaping the nation's discourse.

"Your work is fundamental in ensuring that our democracy not only survives but thrives. You uncover truths, challenge power, and amplify voices that would otherwise go unheard," he said, addressing the assembled journalists.

The chairperson's remarks came at a time when Lesotho continues to grapple with economic and social challenges. He underlined that the media's contribution is not just to inform but to act as a catalyst for economic and social progress, highlighting that a robust and independent press is critical for national development.

Despite the celebratory nature of the event, Boloetse expressed deep disappointment at the lack of support for the Journalism Excellence Awards.

"It is disheartening that an initiative recognising such a crucial sector in our small economy receives so little backing," he said.

He urged stakeholders, including government, businesses, and civil society, to prioritise supporting journalism, given its indispensable role in fostering transparency, accountability, and public engagement.

"In a country like ours, where the media plays a central role in addressing challenges, this lack of support is not just disappointing—it is a missed opportunity to elevate the very sector that underpins our democracy and economic progress," Boloetse stressed.

The awards ceremony honoured journalists who demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in reporting stories that matter to Basotho. Categories included investigative reporting, busi-

ness and economy journalism, and early childhood development, showcasing the breadth and depth of talent within Lesotho's media landscape.

While the afternoon celebrated individual and collective achievements, Boloetse's call to action served as a reminder of the work still needed to ensure that journalism in Lesotho is ade-

quately supported and its practitioners properly recognized.

"We must invest in our storytellers," Boloetse concluded. "For it is through their lens that we see ourselves, our challenges, and our possibilities. Let us not only celebrate their achievements tonight but commit to supporting their efforts every day."

IN THE HIGH COURT OF LESOTHO (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) Held at MASERU

MAMPEO LEISANYANE

AND
ESTATE OF MANTHATI MABOKOANE

MABATA MABOKOANE

CCA/ /2023
GCT/0540/2022

APPLICANT

1st RESPONDENT

2nd RESPONDENT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

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

The immovable property is the following:

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

DATED AT MASERU ON THE 11TH NOVEMBER 2024

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

HEALTH



Universal health coverage is not an impossible goal

Mengistu Asnake, Rispah Walumbe

Africa must strengthen health systems through innovation and collaboration to achieve universal health coverage, write Mengistu Asnake, Rispah Walumbe.

The economic case for investing in health systems has never been more compelling, yet the path to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) remains frustratingly complex.

A global UHC monitoring report published by the World Health Organization (WHO) last year confirms the enormity of the crisis: more than half of humanity—4.5 billion people—still lack access to essential health services. Two billion people are facing devastating financial hardship from health care costs.

Every year, according to the report, 1.3 billion people are pushed into poverty—or further into poverty—due to out-of-pocket health expenses.

With climate change and emerging pandemic threats adding to the pressure, it's clear we need a fresh approach to strengthening health systems.

Leading lights

Despite these huge challenges across Africa, we're seeing some positive interventions.

In Ethiopia's rural communities, health workers demonstrate extraordinary resilience and commitment to community health.

They have been instrumental in implementing high-impact health interventions, such as maternal and child health services, despite lacking some essential skills, facing systemic design flaws in the program, physical exhaustion and very limited resources.

In Kenya, stipends are being offered to Community Health Promoters, creating crucial bridges between formal health systems and local communities.

These grassroots efforts demonstrate the potential for change, even within fragmented health care landscapes.

The stakes couldn't be higher. A recent Lancet analysis suggests a greater than 20% chance of another pandemic causing at least 25 million deaths in the next decade.

The life expectancy gap between Africa and higher-income regions, such as Western Europe, remains a staggering 22 years—an indication of entrenched inequalities and



missed opportunities for strategic investment.

The work of Pathfinder and Amref across the continent demonstrates that effective health system transformation is possible.

Ethiopia's Transform Primary Health Care project has improved service delivery and health-seeking behaviors, training more than 110,000 health workers who serve 57 million people.

In Kenya, Amref Health Africa's Primary Care Networks show how strategic resource distribution between primary and higher-level facilities can improve care quality.

Digitization efforts in these networks underscore how technology can boost efficiency and care delivery.

Prepare for crisis

Countries could potentially reduce the risk of premature death by 50% over the next 25 years through focused health system investments.

While this goal might seem ambitious—especially given we're likely to miss many of the 2030 health targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals—meaningful progress is within reach.

The key lies in building people-centered primary health care systems that address communities' most pressing health needs.

This means ensuring essential

medicines are available and affordable and supporting health workers with necessary skills and resources.

We must also embrace multi-sectoral approaches that view the health system through the lens of collaboration.

We must develop health systems resilient enough to maintain essential services during crises, invest in emergency preparedness, strengthen supply chains, and develop flexible service delivery models.

We must leverage digital technologies thoughtfully and equitably. While technology alone cannot solve health system challenges, strategic digital investments can enhance service delivery, improve data use, and extend health care reach.

United front

"Health: It's on the government!" is the theme of this year's Universal Health Coverage Day (12 December), underscoring governmental responsibility.

Yet success demands broader engagement.

While 93% of African countries include UHC in health sector policies, only 37% have formal political commitments beyond health care, according to a report of the Africa Health Agenda International Conference.

This gap highlights the need for a whole-of-society approach, with

civil society organizations playing a crucial role in maintaining accountability.

Effective leadership drives transformation, as seen in the primary health care project in Ethiopia, where strong national and regional coordination has enabled widespread health system improvements.

When local voices shape health services and community needs guide implementation, we witness the emergence of health care systems that truly serve their populations.

The private sector's expertise in supply chain management and digital innovation, when thoughtfully applied, can further strengthen these systems while maintaining accessibility.

Achieving universal health coverage is more than an aspiration—it's an imperative.

Through focused investment, strategic partnerships, and an unwavering commitment to equity, we can build health systems that leave no one behind.

The challenges are significant, but the path forward is clear: strengthen primary health care and embrace innovation to truly serve everyone.

Provided by SciDev.Net

This story was originally published on Medical Xpress.

Call to action for Lesotho's leadership

UN Secretary-General António Guterres' yesterday's address to our Parliament was both a profound reflection on our nation's history and a powerful call for transformative leadership.

His message, framed with respect for the legacy of Morena Moshoeshoe I and the aspirations of Basotho, urged our lawmakers to champion good governance, transparency, and accountability.

These principles, as Guterres rightly noted, are the bedrock of a prosperous and equitable future.

The Secretary-General's remarks come at a critical juncture. Lesotho, like many nations, faces mounting challenges exacerbated by climate change, financial inequities, and systemic global injustices.

Yet, as Guterres reminded us, our nation's history is one of resilience and wisdom. The legacy of Morena Moshoeshoe I, who chose dialogue over conflict, provides a blueprint for navigating today's complexities.

The UN leader did not mince words in addressing the global injustices that perpetuate Africa's exclusion from decision-making.

His critique of the outdated international financial system and the lack of African representation in the UN Security Council resonates deeply. For Lesotho, these global inequalities compound our domestic struggles. High borrowing costs and limited access to international climate finance hinder our progress and deepen existing vulnerabilities.

Yet, Guterres' message was not solely a lament of challenges. It was a rallying cry for action. He emphasised the potential of Africa and Lesotho to lead transformative change, highlighting our nation's renewable energy resources and young, dynamic population.

His call for investment in clean energy, climate resilience, and gender equality underscores the opportunities we must seize to achieve sustainable development.

But words alone cannot drive change. Our lawmakers must heed Guterres' appeal by translating his vision into actionable policies. They must prioritise legislative reforms that promote transparency and accountability while fostering regional cooperation and global advocacy for Africa's rightful place in the world.

The Secretary-General's address also carried an implicit challenge to Basotho citizens: to hold our leaders accountable, demand justice, and champion the values of inclusivity and solidarity that have long defined our nation.

As Lesotho celebrates its bicentenary, we must reflect on Guterres' powerful closing words: "Mohale o tsoa maroleng" – heroes emerge from the dust. In this defining moment, let us rise as a nation to honour our past, confront our present, and shape a future rooted in peace, prosperity, and justice.

The time for action is now. Let us not squander this opportunity to transform our challenges into triumphs, guided by the wisdom of our history and the aspirations of our people.



Theko Tlebere

COMMON CONCERN

Are Lesotho's Delegations to International Forums Worth It? A Call for Youth to Reimagine Engagement

As a proud member of influential regional and global organizations such as Southern African Development Community(SADC), African Union(AU), and United Nations(UN), Lesotho has opportunities to amplify its voice, access development resources, and influence policies that shape our world. Yet, a pressing question remains: Are we genuinely benefiting from these memberships, or are we allocating limited resources to a cycle of symbolic participation with little return on investment?

Today's article aims to address this critical question by examining the costs and benefits of Lesotho's engagement in these forums, focusing on the youth, who embody both the present and the future. The youth must first understand the systems that influence their nation's path to effect meaningful change. The article is structured as follows: **The Reality Check:** An overview of Lesotho's participation in SADC, AU, and UN forums, highlighting the inherent opportunities and challenges. **Cost vs. Benefit Analysis:** A detailed analysis of the financial and human resource commitments associated with these memberships, compared to tangible outcomes for the nation, particularly its youth. **The Missing Link:** An investigation into why Lesotho struggles to maximize the benefits of its participation, focusing on implementation gaps and insufficient youth representation. **The Call to Action:** Practical recommendations for youth to reimagine Lesotho's engagement with international forums, advocating for accountability, inclusivity, and results-oriented approaches.

This article serves not only as an analysis but also as a rallying cry for young Basotho to recognize their power, question the status quo, and actively shape the future they wish to inherit. By the end, you will possess the insights and inspiration to take action, ensuring that Lesotho's voice on the international stage leads to genuine, transformative change at home.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC): Cost-Benefit Analysis

SADC promotes regional integration, peace, and economic growth. However, Lesotho's financial and human resource commitments to this organization necessitate careful evaluation. Costs: Sending delegations to SADC meetings incurs significant expenses, including travel, accommodation, and administrative costs, all of which strain the national budget. This financial burden raises critical questions about sustainability and whether the government can continue to allocate funds for international participation while addressing pressing domestic issues.

Benefits: Lesotho has experienced political stability due to SADC's intervention in resolving internal crises, such as mediation after political unrest. Furthermore, regional trade agreements have the potential to enhance the economy by opening markets and creating new opportunities for local businesses. However, the extent to which these benefits are realized across the nation remains inconsistent.

The Reality: Despite these advantages,

youth unemployment remains alarmingly high, and the country struggles to attract investments. These ongoing challenges question the effectiveness of our participation in SADC. Is the cost of involvement justified if these benefits do not reach the grassroots level? The gap between policy and practice seems to be widening, leaving many young individuals feeling excluded from the progress they were promised.

Call to Action for Youth: Advocate for cost-effectiveness by encouraging the government to prioritize initiatives that directly benefit youth, such as SADC-driven entrepreneurship programs. Young people need to engage in the dialogue and decision-making process regarding how these funds are allocated.

African Union (AU): Are We Getting Our Money's Worth?

The AU aims to foster unity and development across Africa; however, its membership fees and operational costs are a burden for resource-constrained nations like Lesotho. **Costs:** Participation in AU summits, contributions to its budget, and expenses associated with aligning national policies with AU frameworks accumulate to millions annually. This reality places an additional strain on an already limited national budget and raises concerns about prioritizing social spending versus international obligations.

Benefits: Initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and climate change programs offer long-term economic and environmental advantages. However, the implementation gap often prevents Lesotho from maximizing these opportunities, leading to frustration among citizens who recognize the potential benefits but lack tangible outcomes. **The Question:** If youth unemployment continues, basic services remain underfunded, and infrastructure is inadequate, can the African Union's (AU) ambitious goals be achieved in a small economy like Lesotho? The challenges faced by Lesotho reveal a significant gap between high-level continental aspirations and the everyday realities experienced by its citizens.

Call to Action for Youth: Young Basotho should demand detailed cost-benefit analyses of AU engagements and advocate for youth-centric programs with measurable outcomes. By pushing for transparency and accountability, they can ensure their voices are heard and their needs prioritized in both local and international discussions.

The United Nations (UN): Symbolic Membership or Tangible Gains?

As a member of the United Nations (UN), Lesotho engages in crucial global conversations surrounding human rights, health, and development. This participation is essential for enhancing the nation's visibility on the international stage. However, the financial costs associated with this engagement often overshadow the immediate benefits. Costs: Maintaining a permanent mission in New York and participating in various UN bodies imposes a significant financial burden on the national budget. These costs can drain resources, diverting funds from other critical needs within Lesotho.

Benefits: While Lesotho receives UN development aid, including educational assistance from UNICEF and healthcare initiatives from WHO, it is vital to evaluate the limitations of these benefits. These programs often depend on the priorities of international donors, which may not align with Lesotho's most urgent needs, potentially leading to inefficiencies and inequities in resource allocation.

The Dilemma: This raises a crucial question: Are the benefits of these programs sufficient to justify the high costs of sending delegations and providing administrative support? The relationship between investments made and returns received requires thorough examination.

Call to Action for Youth: There is an urgent need for youth to demand greater accountability regarding the use of UN resources. Advocating for their involvement in project planning can help ensure that initiatives are tailored to address local needs and the unique challenges faced by young people in Lesotho.

Is Lesotho Getting Value for Money?

Participation in global forums provides Lesotho with a valuable opportunity for diplomacy and development. However, the financial costs often exceed the tangible benefits gained. For instance, millions spent on delegations could be redirected toward more impactful areas such as job creation, education, and healthcare for young Basotho, ultimately uplifting our communities. **Missed Opportunities:** When commitments made in international forums are not fulfilled, the potential positive impact diminishes. There is a significant disconnect between the promises made and the actions taken, leaving the youth and the nation without the expected benefits from participation. **What Needs to Change?:** To ensure our engagement is genuinely beneficial, delegations should prioritize actionable outcomes relevant to the lives of the people, particularly the youth. A shift toward practical results can enhance the effectiveness of our international involvement.

A New Line of Thinking for the Youth

Lesotho's participation in international forums is not inherently flawed; it requires a more strategic and thoughtful approach to be cost-effective and impactful. For meaningful participation, young Basotho must advocate for: **Accountability:** Detailed government reports outlining the costs and benefits of these memberships are essential for transparent evaluation. **Youth Inclusion:** Ensuring representation in delegations is vital so that the concerns and aspirations of the young population are recognized and addressed in these discussions. **Results-Oriented Policies:** Initiatives that produce tangible benefits for the youth and the nation should be developed, aligning resources with actual needs on the ground.

It is time to rethink our global engagement practices. By questioning the value of our participation in international forums and advocating for necessary reforms, the youth can transform Lesotho's international interactions into pathways for meaningful development. Together, we can turn these discussions into engines of progress rather than platforms for expense-driven deliberations. The Future is NOW!

OPINION

Navigating the Legal Landscape as an Entrepreneur

Adv. Thapelo Donald Ntsiki, e-Legal Solutions Inc.

Entrepreneurship has become a vital driver of economic growth and innovation, especially in developing economies. As more individuals embark on this journey, understanding the legal framework within which businesses operate is essential for sustained success. Unfortunately, many entrepreneurs in Lesotho and beyond overlook this critical aspect until they face challenges that could have been avoided with proper guidance.

The Foundation: Choosing the Right Business Structure

The first step in establishing a business is deciding on the appropriate structure. Should you operate as a sole proprietor, a partnership, or incorporate as a private company? Each structure has its own implications for taxation, liability, and governance. For example, a sole proprietorship is simple and cost-effective to establish but exposes the entrepreneur to unlimited personal liability. On the other hand, registering as a private company offers limited liability but comes with compliance obligations that must be adhered to.

Compliance is Non-Negotiable

Entrepreneurs must comply with various laws, including tax regulations, labor laws, and industry-specific requirements. In Lesotho, businesses are required to register with the Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA), and if applicable, collect Value Added Tax (VAT). Ignoring these obligations may lead to penalties that can cripple a growing enterprise.

A common mistake is overlooking employment laws. As your business grows and you hire employees, it's critical to have proper employment contracts and policies in place. Labor disputes can be time-consuming and costly, often disrupting business operations.

The Role of Contracts in Business Success

A well-drafted contract is a cornerstone of any business relationship. Whether engaging with suppliers, customers, or



investors, having clear terms reduces misunderstandings and provides recourse in case of disputes. Entrepreneurs often rely on informal agreements, which are difficult to enforce in court. Seek professional assistance to ensure your contracts are legally sound and cater to your specific needs.

Intellectual Property: Protecting Your Ideas

Entrepreneurs invest heavily in innovation and branding, yet many fail to protect their intellectual property (IP). In today's competitive market, trademarks, copyrights, and patents are valuable assets. A business without protected IP risks losing its competitive edge to imitators.

Accessing Financing: The Legal Perspective

Raising capital often involves navigating complex agreements with investors or financial institutions. Whether you are securing a loan, bringing in equity investors, or crowdfunding, it is vital to understand the terms of these agreements. Negotiate terms that align with your long-term vision and ensure that your interests are protected.

The Need for Legal Education

Entrepreneurship and legal knowledge are interconnected, yet the latter is often neglected. This gap can be bridged through initiatives such as legal workshops, mentorship programs, and access

to affordable legal services. At E-Legal Solutions Inc., we are committed to empowering entrepreneurs by equipping them with the knowledge they need to thrive within the law.

Conclusion

The legal landscape for entrepreneurs is not just a hurdle but an enabler of sustainable growth when navigated correctly. By prioritizing legal compliance, entrepreneurs can minimize risks and build businesses that stand the test of time.

As Lesotho continues to embrace entrepreneurship, we must foster a culture where business owners see legal compliance not as an afterthought but as a pillar of success.

Basotho deserve to have their places named after them

Kananelo Boloetse

The proposal to name the Marakabei-Monontša road after United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has sparked debate in our country, and rightly so.

While António Guterres has undoubtedly made significant contributions to global peace and development, the naming of this critical infrastructure in his honour raises questions about our priorities and our respect for national identity and history.

Lesotho, a nation rich in culture and history, has no shortage of heroes who have shaped its destiny.

Our ancestors, freedom fighters, and unsung Basotho champions deserve to be immortalised in the landmarks and institutions of our land. Naming places after them is not just an act of recognition but a declaration

of who we are and where we come from.

Naming infrastructure after international figures, while well-intentioned, often feels like an abdication of our responsibility to celebrate local heroes. From Morena Mo-shoeshoe I, the founder of our nation, to the countless individuals who have contributed to our society's development, we have a wealth of people to honour.

These are the names that should echo through our valleys and mountains, not just for the sake of pride but to remind future generations of their roots.

When Basotho see roads, schools, or hospitals named after their compatriots, it fosters a sense of ownership and connection to the achievements of their fellow citizens. It inspires young people to dream big, knowing that their contributions, too, can be etched into the fabric of the nation.

While António Guterres has made commendable efforts in addressing global chal-

lenges, his direct impact on Lesotho is limited. Naming a major road after him could dilute the importance of local recognition. This is not to diminish his legacy but to assert that our national landmarks should primarily celebrate those who have shaped our specific context and narrative.

The Marakabei-Monontša road represents a significant development in our country's infrastructure, improving connectivity and economic prospects for the communities it serves. Naming it after a Basotho hero would emphasise the role of our people in driving progress and highlight our capacity to achieve great things as a nation. It would serve as a powerful statement of national pride, resilience, and identity.

Lesotho must prioritise celebrating its own people. As a nation grappling with economic and social challenges, it is imperative to build a strong sense of identity and pride in our achievements. Naming places after international figures, no matter how illustri-

ous, risks overshadowing the contributions of our own people and alienating future generations from their heritage.

Let us celebrate António Guterres in other ways if we wish to honour his contributions, perhaps through diplomatic or ceremonial recognition. But when it comes to naming our roads and landmarks, Basotho deserve to see themselves reflected in the names that shape their everyday lives.

The government should reconsider its proposal and engage the nation in a broader conversation about who we choose to honour and why. Marakabei-Monontša and other such landmarks belong to the people of Lesotho. They should tell the story of our struggles, triumphs, and aspirations, not serve as a stage for global figures who, while respected, remain distant from the lived realities of our nation.

Basotho deserve better. Let our landmarks remind us—and the world—of who we are.



Government of Lesotho
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

RE-ADVERTISEMENT - TENDER NO: 7 OF 2024/2025

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
 CONSULTANCY FIRM TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN CENSUS CARTOGRAPHY AND
 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS).**

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), through the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) has been allocated funds by the Government of Lesotho (GoL) for **Consultancy firm to provide technical assistance in census cartography and geographic information systems (GIS)** in the preparation and implementation of 2026 Population and Housing Census project. Part of the funds will be towards consultancy services to bring about improvements in census mapping/cartography activities. The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning invites sealed bids from eligible bidders of the above tender.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be available to the interested bidders upon payment of a **non-refundable participation fee of LSL 3,000.00.00 (three thousand Maloti only)**. The method of payment shall be in cash and the bidding documents must be collected in person at Development Planning Procurement Unit office number **124** (African House), Government Complex, Phase 2, Corner Nightingale and King's Way Road, Maseru. While payment must be made at 1st floor office number 262 - accounts office. Clarification requests on bidding documents will be allowed up to the day before submission date line, during office hours between 9:30 am until 3:30 pm. **A tender security of 2% of the bid price shall accompany all bids.**

Bids must be deposited on or before **14th January 2025, at 12:00 noon** in the tender box placed next to the Minister's suite at entrance foyer of the top floor of Development Planning Building (Africa House), Government Complex, Phase 2, Corner Nightingale and Kingsway road, Maseru. Bids ar-

iving after the closing date time shall be rejected. Tenders will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives at **14:30 hours** on the same day.

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

Department of Development Planning
 Procurement Unit
 P.O. Box 630
 Maseru 100
 Tel no. 266 22 317433 / 22328187

Tender Timetable

Activity	Dates
ITT Issued	28th November, 2024
Clarification dates	28th November, 2024 – 13th January 2025
Deadline for obtaining Tender Document	13th January 2025
ITT Close	14th January 2025 at 12:00 noon
Tender opening	14th January 2025 at 14:30 hours
Evaluation and tender award	31st January, 2025

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



TSEBO SOLUTIONS GROUP

VACANCY

Catering Supervisor (Lesotho) talent pool

Duties and Responsibilities

- Setting and management of service delivery standards.
- Lead, motivate, train and develop a team of staff.
- Implement and maintain operational controls in line within budgetary requirements.
- Ensure quality of food preparation, presentation and service is up to Tsebo Catering standards by meeting all quality star grading standards.
- Ensure all Tsebo Catering Solutions policies and procedures are complied with.
- Daily HR and IR issues (including training, development & performance management).
- Analyse and pre-empt client needs and possible complaints.
- Take responsibility for all functions by organising, preparing & co-ordinating.
- Management of all administration, finances, debtors, budgets, etc.
- Process paperwork.
- Monthly P & L.
- Relationship building with the client and customers on a daily basis (essential).
- Must be able to work long hours and over weekends should there be a need.
- Stay abreast of latest food trends and best practices.

Skills and competencies

- Attention to detail
- Client service orientated
- Business management principles
- Excellent people skills
- Strong judgement and problem-solving skills

Qualifications

- 1-2 years previous experience within a commercial / mining establishment.
- A minimum of 2 years management experience in catering.
- National Senior Certificate (Matric) and relevant qualification relating to Hospitality Management
- Computer literacy MS Excel and MS Word
- Financial acumen
- Drivers licence & own vehicle

To apply please visit: <https://tsebo.erecruit.co/candidat.../Jobs/View/TSE241204-10>

Closing date: 29 December 2024



INVITATION FOR BIDS

OPEN NATIONAL COMPETITIVE TENDER

LES/IEC/TEN/2024-25/10
 The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) invites tenders from interested companies for Supply and Delivery Office Furniture and Equipment.

DESCRIPTION

Lot: 1
 i. Executive Desks x 11
 ii. Office Desk x 102
 iii. Activity Storage – 3 drawer x 1

Lot: 2
 i. Visitor's Chairs x 30
 ii. Office chairs x 110
 iii. High Back Chair x 1
 iv. Office Filing Cabinets x 10
 v. Stationery Cabinet x 1

Lot: 3
 i. Hoovers x 10
 ii. Microwaves x 10
 iii. Shredding Machine x 1

Lot: 4
 (i) Smart.Tvs x 3

BIDDING DOCUMENT

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

EVALUATION CRITERIA

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

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

Technical bid should include	Financial bid should include
------------------------------	------------------------------

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

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

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

N.B

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

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

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

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

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

Procurement Unit-IEC



**Revenue Services
 Lesotho**

TENDER NOTICE:

Engagement Of Service Provider - RSL Wellness Programme'

RSL/BE/SCM/03/11/24

The Revenue Services Lesotho invites interested and qualified suppliers/ companies to submit proposals for "Engagement of Service Provider - RSL Wellness Programme". The proposed solution must entail the provision of comprehensive and accessible wellness support to all staff for the betterment of their welfare. The focus of the programme will be to support staff welfare, promote healthy lifestyles and psychosocial wellbeing. The bidder must be ready to deliver the work upon the award of the tender. All potential Bidders must be in possession of a proven track record and must be licensed for providing services of this nature.

All bidders must attach certified copies of valid Tax Clearance Certificates, company registration licenses, copy of shareholding certificates, and the most recent annual financial statements for RSL to assess the financial strength and capability of the bidder to carry out the assignment. Bids without these required minimum documents shall be disqualified.

The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) document indicating all requirements and specifications shall, upon request, be sent through email from the **02 December 2024 @ 10:00 am**. Interested entities shall contact Supply Chain Management office **through the email** stated below.

Terms and Conditions:

- Tender documents will be available at a non-refundable tender deposit of **M500.00**.
- The price quoted in the Bids must be in Maloti/Rand and must include all applicable taxes and duties.
- The Bids must be submitted not later than **12:00 hours** on the **29 January 2025** and they

- shall be opened same day at **12:30 hours**.
- Tenders received later than the above-mentioned deadline shall not be accepted.
 - Non- electronic tenders **shall not be accepted**; and
 - Detailed tender packaging and labelling requirements in the Request for Proposal (RFP) must be adhered to or this shall lead to **disqualification**.

1. Important indicative dates:

Action	Date
Issue RFP	02 December 2024
Pre- bid meeting	17 January 2025@1000hrs (Teams)
Final date to submit written questions only (email format)	17 January 2025@1700hrs
Distribution of questions and answers to all bidders (email format)	21 January 2025@1700hrs
Final date for submission of Bidder proposals in response to the RFP electronic	29 January 2025@1200hrs
Public opening of the bids (virtual)	29 January 2025@1230hrs

All tenders/ queries must be addressed to: The Secretary – Tender Adjudication Committee Revenue Services Lesotho at this e-mail address: supplychainmanagement@rsl.org.ls



Transafrica Life Insurance Company Ltd

VACANCY

Applications are invited for the position of Chief Executive Officer of Transafrica Life Insurance Co. Ltd. in Maseru.

Qualifications and Experience:

- In depth sales experience with the aim to drive sales at all levels as a main objective.
- A degree in business administration or relevant qualification and experience in the Insurance industry will be an advantage.
- Knowledge of Insurance policies, procedures and systems.
- Central Bank requirements of Insurance companies.
- Knowledge of the Insurance act.
- Personnel/Staff management at all levels.
- Performance driven.

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Report to the board of directors and other executives to establish short-term objectives and long-range goals, and related plans and policies.
- Presents regular reports on the status of the company's operations to the board of directors.
- Reviews the financial results of all operations, comparing them with the company's objectives and taking appropriate measures to correct unsatisfactory performance and results.
- Ensures the company's compliance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and standards.
- Serves as the company's representative to the board of directors, shareholders, employees, customers, the government, and the public.

Interested candidates should send their applications along with a CV and certified copies of certificates to gerhard@transafricagroup.co.za or buddy@transafricagroup.co.za before 31st December 2024.



Ministry of Natural Resources
Department of Rural Water Supply

Tender Notice

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

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

Work Description

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

Bidder Qualifications

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

Tender Submission

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

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

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

Pre-tender Meeting

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

Site visits

Site visits are also compulsory and will be on the 12 to 13 December 2024 in Maseru and 18 -19 December 2024 in Thaba Tseka

Tender Opening

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

Questions and Clarifications

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



SOS Children's Villages
Lesotho National Office
Botshabelo, Lepereng
Maseru Lesotho

+266 22316607
+266 22750016
www.sos-childrensvillages.org

TENDER NOTICE:

INVITATION TO TENDER NO: 01 Of 2024

Service Provider for Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship Training (YEET) Project

1. Introduction

SOS children's villages Lesotho intend to embark on a third phase of YEET project located in Leribe. It is for this reason that it calls for competent service providers to empower youth with vocational and life skills to give young people second chance in building enough skills capacity to explore economic opportunities.

Issuance and Submission of Bids

Tender documents are available at the SOS Children's Villages Procurement office or NCO reception at **five hundred Maluti M500.00** from Tuesday 09 December 2024 until Friday 23rd December 2024. All tenders will be opened on Friday 23rd

December 2024 at 14:00 hours at SOS Children's Villages Maseru Board-room.

- Technical proposal in one (1) original and four (4) hard copies in an envelope marked **Service Provider for Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship Training (YEET) Project**
- Financial proposal in one (1) original in a sealed envelope marked "**Service Provider for Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship Training (YEET) Project**" and shall bear the names and address of the bidder.
- Both technical and financial proposals must be in separate envelopes that shall be enclosed in one sealed envelope bearing no identification of bidder marked **Service Provider for Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship Training (YEET) Project** and shall bear the names and address of the bidder.

All requests for clarifications on this tender must be addressed to Procurement office, Maseru 100, **not later than 16:00 hours, 19th December 2024.** Tel: +266 22316607/58121980



SOS Children's Villages +266 22316607
Lesotho National Office +266 22750016
Botshabelo, Lepereng www.sos-childrensvillages.org
Maseru Lesotho

VACANCY

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES LESOTHO ADVERT NO.2 OF 2024

09th December 2024

BACKGROUND:

SOS Children's Villages Lesotho is a child focus organization and an affiliate of SOS Children Villages International. It is non-governmental, non-political, non-denominational, and non-racial organization. Its overall mission is to build families for children in need, help them shape their own futures and share in the development of their communities. To realize the mission of the organization, SOS CV Lesotho has established four (4) locations and/or duty stations, the National Coordinating Office, Maseru Programme Location, Quthing Programme Location and the Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Training (YEET) project located in Leribe. The main goal of the YEET project is to empower young people by capacitating them with entrepreneurship skills to enhance their independence as future leaders.

To ensure successful achievement of the project goals and objectives and the organization mission, SOS Children's Village Lesotho is recruiting, and applications are invited from suitably qualified local candidates for the below position(s):

Vacant Positions Adverts

Position	Application link	Deadline
Projects and Youth Coordinator	Projects and Youth Coordinator in Leribe Careers at YEET Project	20/12/2024
Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator	Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator in Maseru Careers at National Office	20/12/2024

MEARL Officer	MEARL Officer in Leribe Careers at YEET Project	20/12/2024
NCO Accountant	National Coordinating Office Accountant in Maseru Careers at National Office	20/12/2024
Programme Location Finance Administrator	Programme Location Finance Administrator in Quthing Careers at Quthing Programme Location	20/12/2024
Communications Officer	Communications Officer in Leribe Careers at YEET Project	20/12/2024
Driver	Driver in Leribe Careers at YEET Project	20/12/2024
General Assistant	General Assistant in Leribe Careers at YEET Project	20/12/2024

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested candidates should submit their applications through the shared application link for each position. Hand-delivered applications will not be accepted; therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to use the shared application links. The deadline for applications submission is the **20th December 2024 by 17:00 hrs.** Late submissions will be disqualified.

Re itokisetsa
Mzansi Young Farmers Indaba
e hlophisoang ke Food for Mzansi,
se ke oa salla morao. Eba karolo ea lihoai tse tlo
tsamaea le Seahlolo

Date: 1-2 April 2025

Venue: Lavender Kontrei Market, Pretoria North, Gauteng.



- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Package 1: 6000 | Package 2: 10 400 |
| Includes: | |
| -Event Entry | -Entry and Exhibition |
| -Transport | Limited to ONLY 5 farmers. |
| -3 x nights | NO perishable goods will be allowed |
| -50+ Exhibitions | -A table on the Exhibition floor |
| -6 + Masterclasses | -Transport |
| -Funding Opportunities | -3 x nights -6 + Masterclasses |
| | -50+ Exhibitions -Funding Opportunities |

Food is NOT included
Non-Refundable registration: M500



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Contact details: 50920676 OR 62425157 (WhatsApp)



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07 DEC 2024
10 a.m to 5 p.m



VENUE: DURHAM LINK DRESS CODE: "BRANDED" FARMERS ATTIRE
FEE PER PERSON: M150.00 BRANDED ATTIRE (OWN LOGO)
M 170.00 NOT BRANDED
M200.00 (NO ATTIRE & NON MEMBERS)

ACTIVITIES: M1330.00 PER 7 - 10 PEOPLE SHARING



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Chris Brown ready to thrill SA fans

Staff Reporter

Global music sensation Chris Brown is set to perform back-to-back concerts at FNB Stadium in Johannesburg this weekend, December 14 and 15, sparking excitement and controversy alike.

The shows, which were announced in September, have generated significant buzz, with the initial concert selling out in minutes and prompting the addition of a second date.

FNB Stadium, known for hosting major international events, has a mixed history regarding attendee safety. Notably, the 2018 Global Citizen Festival: Mandela saw reports of robberies in the vicinity. To address these concerns, event organizers Big Concerts have implemented rigorous safety measures.

In their statement, Big Concerts assured fans that "security is a top priority," highlighting the deployment of the South African Police Service (SAPS), crime prevention marshals, and enhanced parking and pedestrian security.

Additional lighting will also be installed around the stadium to ensure a safer environment. An email sent to ticket holders further outlined these measures, emphasising the organisers' commitment to a secure experience for all attendees.

To accommodate concertgoers, transportation options have been expanded, including access to the Gautrain and a park-and-ride service.

In addition to Brown's highly anticipated performance, the concerts will feature local stars Major League Djz, adding a South African flavor to the lineup. Originally scheduled for a single show on December 14, overwhelming

ticket demand led to the announcement of a second performance, reflecting the massive interest in Brown's return to South Africa.

Despite the excitement, Brown's visit has not been without controversy. Advocacy groups, particularly anti-gender-based violence (GBV) organizations, have criticized his past behavior, including his 2009 assault on then-girlfriend Rihanna and subsequent allegations of abusive conduct.

The advocacy group Women For Change has been particularly vocal, calling for accountability and highlighting the alarming rates of femicide in South Africa. "Hosting Chris Brown sends a harmful message to survivors of abuse and undermines efforts to combat GBV in the country," the group said. Their petition opposing the concerts has garnered over 51,000 signatures.

Similarly, the GOOD Party called on the Minister of Home Affairs to deny Brown entry into the country, though the request was not granted. Despite this, the party has confirmed it will not stage protests outside the concerts.

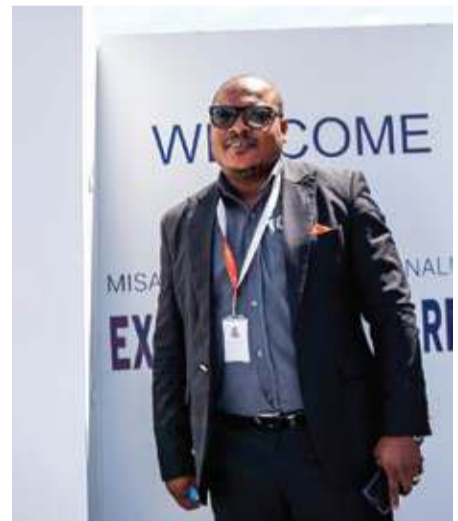
Amid the controversy, thousands of fans are expected to fill FNB Stadium this weekend to witness Brown's performances. Organisers are confident that the event will proceed smoothly, with heightened security and logistical arrangements in place.

For many fans, these concerts represent a rare chance to see the Grammy-winning artist live, while for critics, they remain a stark reminder of the broader societal issues still needing attention. Whether celebrated or debated, Brown's visit has undeniably sparked conversation in South Africa.



RSL/MISA Journalism Excellence Awards

In Pictures



SPORTS

Matlama edge Linare in thrilling tie



Seabata Mahao

Log- leaders Matlama Football Club (FC) triumphed over Linare FC with a 2-1 victory in a pulsating Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash held in Leribe yesterday.

The win further consolidates Matlama's position at the top of the VPL standings, as they continue their strong run this season.

In other midweek catch-up matches, LDF FC defeated Manonyane FC 3-0, Lifofane FC delivered a stunning 1-0 upset against Bantu FC, and Lioli FC edged past LCS FC with a narrow 1-0 victory.

Historic win over Lioli

Last weekend, Matlama secured a significant 1-0 victory against defending

league champions Lioli FC in a tense and competitive Week 10 fixture at Bambatha Tšita Stadium. The lone goal came from Matlama's midfielder Freddie Hlalele, whose header in the 35th minute sealed the match.

This win marked a dramatic shift in the rivalry between the two teams. Lioli has historically dominated their encounters, eliminating Matlama in previous cup competitions and winning their earlier league meetings this season. Breaking this winless streak against Lioli is a morale booster for Matlama as they push forward in the VPL.

Following their critical win over Lioli, Matlama's head coach, Halemakale Mahl-

aha, expressed delight in his team's performance.

"Lioli is a well-coached and experienced side, so this victory is a significant achievement for us. Phafa Tšosane, despite not being fully recovered, provided crucial experience and leadership on the field," Mahlaha said.

He emphasised the importance of maintaining momentum and taking each match as an opportunity to secure vital points.

"This victory means a lot to the team, but we won't rest. Every game matters, and we'll continue to fight hard," he added.

On the other hand, Lioli's coach, Motheo Mohapi, admitted frustration with the loss but remained optimistic about the season.

"It is still early, and we can not afford to lose focus. We need to work harder and prepare mentally for the challenges ahead," Mohapi stated.

He also encouraged fans to show constructive support for the team and the coaching staff, emphasising that setbacks are part of football but do not define the club's overall journey.

The win propels Matlama to the top of the VPL standings, solidifying their position as title contenders. For Lioli, the loss adds pressure as they drop to fourth place, raising the stakes in the coming fixtures.

As the league progresses, the competition remains fierce, with clubs vying for crucial points to secure their standings. Matlama's resurgence signals a shift in the dynamics of the VPL, making the remainder of the season even more exciting for fans.

Mabote Beavers crowned rugby champions



Mabote Beavers Rugby Club

Seabata Mahao

Mabote Beavers Rugby Team claimed the 2024 Econet Rugby League (ERL) title after a resounding 41-12 victory over Liqhomane Rugby Team in the championship final held at Mejametalana Airbase Ground last Saturday.

The Beavers walked away with the championship trophy, gold medals, and a cash prize of M15 000. Liqhomane secured second place with silver medals, while Lesotho Rugby Academy finished third, earning bronze medals.

The match marked the conclusion of the 2024 ERL campaign, with both finalists showcasing impressive performances throughout the season. Liqhomane reached the final by defeating Lesotho Rugby Academy, while Mabote Beavers avenged their earlier loss by overcoming Maseru Warriors in the semi-finals.

Although Liqhomane managed to triumph against Lesotho Rugby Academy twice—once in a replayed match due to player eligibility issues—the team fell short in the final against the reigning champions.

This is the second consecutive year Mabote Beavers and Liqhomane have met in the finals, with the Beavers successfully defending their title. Despite the intense match, Mabote Beavers demonstrated their determination to retain the championship.

Mohlomi Motlatsi, head coach of Mabote Beavers, praised his team's resilience and preparation.

"We worked hard to qualify for this final, and we knew Liqhomane was a tough opponent. We studied their games, identified their weaknesses, and capitalized on them. This victory reflects our dedication and hard work," he said.

On the other hand, Liqhomane's coach, Maruping 'Semethe' Mosoeu, acknowledged the challenges his team faced, including fatigue and injuries. "We were still recovering from the semi-finals, and it affected our performance. However, I am proud of my team for reaching the final again," Mosoeu remarked.

Meanwhile, the Mabote Beavers Ladies Team also made history, winning the league championship for the second consecutive year, further cementing the Beavers' dominance in Lesotho rugby.

Lishoeshoe in COSAFA final

Seabata Mahao



Lishoeshoe in COASAFA action during he semi-finals

Lesotho's under-17 women's football team will square off against Zambia today in the Council of Southern African Football Association (COSAFA) Under-17 Women's Championship.

The match is scheduled for 11:00 hours at the University of Johannesburg Stadium, in neighbouring South Africa.

On their unprecedented run to the final, Lishoeshoe thrashed eSwatini 6-0 in the group matches, and also defeated Comoros 10-0, recording the highest win so far. However, they lost 2-0 to Mozambique in the last group stage match.

They were, however, able to advance to the semi-final stage as the best runners-up after finishing second in their group. In the semi-final Lishoeshoe took matters into their own hands by edging Mozambique 1-0 to secure an unlikely spot in the finals.

Their one-goal victory over Mozambique came from Ntebohelenng Sooane who scored from the penalty spot in a match that was played at the University of Johannesburg Stadium on December 11.

Lishoeshoe is competing in the tournament for the first time since its establishment in 2019, and their coach Tjamela Tjamela acknowledged that they have developed a strong team that performs well according to their expectations.

"We wanted to have the best debut in this tournament, and so far we have succeeded. We have made a good team from development," Tjamela stated.

Meanwhile, their final opponents, Zambia, on the other hand were the first team to advance to the finals after defeating Madagascar 3-0 in the earlier match of the same day.



13 Dec - 19 Dec 2024

Homecoming Mzamane eye better days



Seabata Mahao

Mzamane Football Club (FC), based in Mokhotlong, is determined to host its home matches at the Mokhotlong Pitso Ground by January 2025, just in time for the second leg of the 2024/25 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) season.

The Pitso Ground underwent inspection recently, and league officials recommended planting turf on at least 80 percent of the field, alongside improving the fencing. Basic facilities, such as water, toilets, and dressing rooms, are already in place.

The club has since begun the grass-planting process, which they hope to complete within the coming week.

Hosting matches locally would reduce Mzamane's financial burden and boost revenue through gate takings. Currently, the debutant club has been hosting its matches in Maputsoe, approximately 214 kilometers (three and a half hours) from Mokhotlong, at a weekly cost of M15 000. This expenditure covers transport, food, and ground hire.

Mzamane's financial and logistical challenges have arguably contributed to their dismal performance this season. They sit at the second-bottom of the 16-team premier-ship table, with only three points from 11 matches.

Their record includes 10 losses, no draws, and a staggering 37 goals conceded,

while scoring just six times. Their solitary win only came last weekend when they edged ACE Maseru FC 1-0.

Head Coach Liteboho Ramantsoe attributed the team's struggles to financial constraints, which have hampered their ability to pay players' wages and adequately prepare for matches.

"It is not easy. We are a club without sponsors, except for Ntjamokoatle Trading and Siea-O-Butse Trading, who help with fuel and minor necessities. We are in crisis, and we are not playing well," Ramantsoe admitted.

Mzamane believes that returning to Mokhotlong will significantly improve their financial situation and foster community

support. The hometown backing could provide the morale boost needed to turn their fortunes around in the league.

The club's remaining fixtures in the first leg of the season include matches against giants Matlama FC, Lioli FC, LCS FC, and Majantja FC. They are yet to secure their first victory, and their current form makes them early candidates for relegation.

"This move back to Mokhotlong is a crucial step in stabilising the club," Ramantsoe emphasised.

The stakes are high for Mzamane as they fight to stay in the top flight. A successful return to their home ground could be the turning point they need to rebuild and regain competitive form.



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