



Newsday

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20 December - 26 December, 2024

www.newsdayonline.co.ls

Vol 06 No 46

M6.00

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- *Recommends inclusive gender marker options beyond the binary of male and female in identity documents.*

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ICJ calls on Lesotho to decriminalise sodomy

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- **Recommends inclusive gender marker options beyond the binary of male and female in identity documents.**



Ntsoaki Motaung

The Parliament should amend the Sexual Offences Act to explicitly repeal the common law offence of sodomy and remove the provision in Schedule I, Part II of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act of 1981 that lists sodomy as an offence.

Additionally, it should amend section 22 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, which addresses the “change of sex of a child,” to include provisions allowing adults to change their assigned sex at birth to their self-determined gender in the birth register.

Parliament should also amend section 12 of the National Identity Cards Act to include the “gender of the bearer” in identity documents and provide gender marker options beyond the binary framework of “male” and “female.”

These recommendations, among others, were made by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in its recent briefing paper, *They See Us as How We Have Sex, Not as Who We Are*, published in November 2024.

Composed of 60 distinguished judges and lawyers from around the world, the ICJ promotes and protects human rights through the Rule of Law by leveraging its unique legal expertise to develop and strengthen national and international justice systems.

Established in 1952 and active on five con-

tinents, the ICJ works to advance the progressive development and implementation of international human rights and humanitarian law, safeguard civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights, uphold the separation of powers, and ensure the independence of the judiciary and legal profession.

Its November 2024 briefing paper uncovers and analyses the predicaments that LGBTIQ+ persons may and do encounter when navigating the justice system in Lesotho.

Significantly, according to the paper, LGBTIQ+ persons in Lesotho are subjected to many different forms of prohibited discrimination, including structural barriers to exercising their human rights, as well as harassment and abuse because of their real or imputed sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics (SOGIE-SC).

It reads: “Discriminatory, heteronormative and patriarchal societal norms in Lesotho have led to stigmatisation, social and economic exclusion, violence and abuse against LGBTIQ+ persons, as well as the many human rights abuses they may experience when attempting to access justice when their rights have been violated.

In light of these observations, ICJ also recommended that the parliament should explicitly include SOGIE-SC as prohibited

grounds for discrimination under section 18 of the Constitution.

It should also provide clear guidelines for the implementation of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act and National Identity Cards Act to ensure that gender markers in identification documents accurately reflect the bearer’s self-determined gender identity.

“Conduct a comprehensive review of all laws and policies in the country to ensure that they explicitly affirm and protect the human rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, including the right to equality and equal protection before the law,” ICJ said.

“The legislature and relevant government departments such as the Ministry of Law and Justice should conduct this review in consultation with civil society organisations, lawyers, LGBTIQ+ persons and other stakeholders advocating for the human rights of LGBTIQ+ persons,” it added.

The judiciary is also urged to take action.

ICJ said that in a similar manner to the rules created in 2023 for enhancing access to justice for persons with disabilities, the relevant authority within the judiciary could develop judicial rules and guidelines for enhancing the ability of LGBTIQ+ individuals to navigate courts and ensure sensitivity in court proceedings.

It indicated that these rules should be cre-

ated in collaboration with NGOs advocating for the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, legal experts, the Ministry of Law and Justice, and relevant judicial bodies.

“These guidelines should address issues such as sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, gender markers, attire at courts, and sensitivity to the needs of LGBTIQ+ persons in court proceedings,” it said.

Further, it recommended that the judiciary should continue sensitisation of public prosecutors, court administration staff, court security staff, court researchers and judicial officers on the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons with respect to a range of issues.

ICJ mentioned that given the success of previous engagements with the Lesotho judiciary on the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons that have been led by non-governmental and civil society organisations, such as the ICJ and People’s Matrix, the judiciary should aim to conduct, or collaborate with these organisations, human rights experts and the relevant government ministries, to conduct sensitisation workshops targeting not only judges and magistrates, but also court administrators and prosecutors.

The workshops should cover, in detail, the obstacles impeding access to judicial services for LGBTIQ+ persons, sensitivity to issues of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics of LGBTIQ+ individuals, including through manner of dressing, and impartiality and the independence of judges in judicial proceedings.

The workshops should also cover in detail, respectful treatment of LGBTIQ+ individuals by adjudicators and court administration staff throughout judicial proceedings and providing equal access to justice without discrimination, identifying cases that may have a SOGIE-SC-bias element, and the implementation and use of the potential rules and guidelines to ensure that judges and court staff are not only knowledgeable about LGBTIQ+ issues but can promote fair and respectful treatment in the justice system.

The Ministry of Law and Justice is also urged to implement more effective awareness-raising initiatives about the human rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, addressing in particular access to justice barriers.

ICJ said: “To address widespread stigma and discriminatory attitudes towards LGBTIQ+ persons, it is imperative that the authorities, primarily through the Ministry of Law and Justice, fulfil their obligations to conduct awareness-raising activities and ongoing public education to foster acceptance of such persons.

It added: “Awareness-raising initiatives should generally cover human rights and issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics and the obstacles preventing LGBTIQ+ persons from accessing courts and effective remedies for violations of their human rights.

“In this regard, the relevant government departments should work with civil society organisations, the local media and development partners to carry out ongoing awareness-raising activities within community settings that are aimed at changing the general public’s attitudes towards LGBTIQ+ persons.”

Newsday (+266) 2231 4267 / 5945 8983

Carlton Centre
3rd Floor
Room 302
Kingsway
Maseru

PUBLISHER
Newsday Media (Pty) (Ltd)
Maseru

MANAGING EDITOR
Lerato Matheka
managingeditor@newsdayonline.co.ls

NEWS EDITOR
Kananelo Boloetse
editor@newsdayonline.co.ls

SUB EDITOR
Bereng Mpaki

NEWS ROOM
Ntsoaki Motaung
Seabata Mahao
Relebohile Makhetha
Kabelo Masoabi

CONTRIBUTORS
Theko Tlebere
Motsamai Mokofo

PRODUCTION
Bolokang Mahlo
Bataung Monaheng

VIDEOGRAPHER
Pheello Mosesi

DISTRIBUTION
Mahlo Bolokang

MARKETING
Tefah Sello
Mosa Lekhoaa
Tumelo Ramotsoane
marketing@newsdayonline.co.ls

WEBSITE
www.newsdayonline.co.ls

FACEBOOK
Newsday Newspaper LS
X
@LsNewsday

INSTAGRAM
Newsday Lesotho

PRINTER
Thabure Media Group
Maseru, Lesotho

Enrich aims for February 2025 reopening



Staff Reporter

The plan is to reopen the collapsed Enrich Supermarket in the first week of February 2025, according to a report prepared by a task team and shared with shareholders this week.

“The task team has held two meetings with the Enrich Holdings Board to address concerns regarding the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). A request to meet with representatives of the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) was made but was unsuccessful,” the report stated.

“The plan is to open the store in the first week of February,” it added.

In December last year, LNDC announced that it would play a vital role in salvaging the Basotho-owned supermarket, attributing its downfall to a shortage of skilled personnel in management.

Molise Ramaili, Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of LNDC, outlined the terms of the corporation’s M15 million loan to Enrich, emphasising LNDC’s intent to be represented

on the company’s Board of Directors.

“We aim to ensure that our loan investment is managed effectively, benefiting not just Enrich but other businesses as well,” Ramaili affirmed during a press conference in Maseru last December.

“Our participation on the Board will enable us to monitor the funds allocated, scrutinise operational costs, and ensure regular operational reports to facilitate business growth,” he added.

Highlighting LNDC’s active role in the supermarket’s resurgence, Ramaili stressed their interest in influencing the appointment of Enrich’s CEO or Managing Director.

“We prioritise individuals with substantial retail experience, both local and international. LNDC’s involvement will extend to managing these skilled individuals to ensure timely reporting and effective decision-making,” Ramaili stressed.

Part of the loan, he stated, would be allocated to pay Enrich’s creditors, with LNDC intervening to prevent the imminent auctioning of gym equipment by the courts.

Envisioning a strategic exit plan, Ramaili projected Enrich would regain stability within seven years, aiming to settle the loan to LNDC within that period.

“Our goal is to stabilise Enrich and eventually withdraw from direct involvement, fostering its self-sufficiency and growth,” he outlined.

However, the report by the task team has identified several issues, including a lack of proper documentation, incomplete staff recruitment processes, and unclear delegation of powers, among others.

“There is no proper documentation showing the change from the original contract to the current SPV arrangement. The second contract does not formally recognize the SPV,” the report read.

“Recruitment processes for staff remain incomplete or unclear. There is ambiguity regarding the delegation of powers between Enrich Holdings and the SPV,” it added.

The report further lamented the unclear SPV structure and operations. It revealed that the board is composed of three representatives from LNDC and two from Enrich Holdings.

“The SPV will handle operations, but clarity is required on oversight. Enrich Holdings will receive dividends annually. It is unclear whether LNDC’s dividends will be treated as loan repayments,” the report stated.

It cautioned that it was not clear which business plan would guide the operations of the SPV and recommended that the stipulation that profits be used to repay LNDC within seven years required further clarification.

“There has been a breakdown in communication between the board and shareholders, leading to confusion and concerns. There is no clear explanation regarding whether LNDC’s share of profits is a loan repayment

or another financial arrangement,” the report added.

In light of these concerns, the task team recommended continuing with the first contract until clarity on the SPV arrangement is achieved.

“Clause 6.3, which may present operational or financial risks, should be repealed or reviewed to align with shareholders’ interests. The SPV structure can help shield Enrich Holdings from potential litigation risks, provided clear agreements and operations are established,” the team stated in their report.

It added: “The task team should be formally recognized as advisors to the board. While their advice should not be binding, they can play a key role in offering guidance and ensuring shareholder concerns are addressed. This recognition does not require financial compensation but ensures that the task team remains involved in critical company decisions.”

The task team also reminded all shareholders of the special conference scheduled for tomorrow, December 21, 2024, at Cathedral Hall.

“This event is critical as it will provide a platform to further discuss the SPV, address pressing concerns, and ensure all shareholders are well-informed about the company’s future. Your attendance is highly important to ensure transparency, collective decision-making, and alignment on key issues moving forward,” it said.

It concluded the report by acknowledging the efforts made so far but highlighted significant gaps in documentation, clarity of roles, and financial arrangements concerning the SPV.

“Immediate action is required to address these issues before the store opening in February to ensure transparency, protect shareholders’ interests, and create a sustainable operational structure. The task team will continue to engage with the board and update shareholders on any progress,” the report concluded.



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Thaba-Tseka worries about increased burglaries

News



SSP Karabo Morapeli

Kabelo Masoabi

As the cheery spirit of the Christmas season looms over Thaba-Tseka, a palpable sense of anxiety stirs among residents due to the alarming trend of rising burglaries that typically accompanies this festive time.

Local authorities are urging the community to be proactive in safeguarding their homes, emphasising the necessity of vigilance during this time when crime rates tend to soar.

In an interview with Newsday on Wednesday this week, Acting Senior Superintendent (SSP), Karabo Morapeli, who leads police in Thaba-Tseka, expressed his deep concerns regarding the annual spike in house robberies during the holiday season.

"In recent years, we have witnessed a steady increase in such crimes, particularly as families prepare to leave their homes unoccupied while they travel for the holidays,"



Morapeli elaborated.

He said the allure of unguarded properties entices criminals looking for opportunities, particularly during a time when many residents let their guard down to focus on celebrations and gatherings.

He also pointed out a critical aspect of the holiday season: "This time of year often leads to increased expenditures as people indulge in shopping and festivities. Unfortunately, criminals are also aware of this trend and are motivated to exploit it for their own financial gain."

He further advised the community that this is a crucial moment for households to strengthen their security measures, adding that simple protocols can deter potential burglars and protect their belongings.

Morapeli emphasised the importance of collective awareness, stating: "Although the holiday season is intended for joy, connection, and celebration with loved ones, we

must not overlook the importance of our safety in the process. The spike in crime historically observed during this period serves as a warning for residents to remain alert, whether they are planning to travel for vacation or remain home to enjoy the festivities."

A recent case in the district underscores the seriousness of the situation.

On December 13, a 44-year-old resident, Thabane Thabane, was sentenced to five years in prison by the Thaba-Tseka Magistrate Court after being found guilty of burglary and theft.

Thabane's crime was particularly brazen; he broke into a local liquor business and stole a case of Castle Lite beer. The court heard that Thabane was not only a former employee but had retained a spare key to the establishment.

This incident is just a glimpse into the criminal activities that often flood the area during the holiday season, as SSP Morapeli

noted.

"Only this morning, we received a report of another burglary that occurred at a business shack in town," he reiterated, highlighting the continuous threat faced by local businesses.

He urged entrepreneurs and shopkeepers to remain vigilant, as thieves frequently observe their daily routines, waiting for the opportune moment to strike.

"If you notice anyone acting suspiciously around your premises, report it to the police immediately," he advised, reinforcing the importance of community cooperation in crime prevention.

Furthermore, Morapeli elaborated on the underlying factors contributing to this seasonal rise in crime: increased consumer spending, greater availability of goods, and heightened alcohol consumption during celebrations.

"These elements can foster environments where theft and other crimes flourish," he noted, expressing the need for heightened awareness among residents.

He also raised concerns regarding the potential rise in sexual assault incidents during the holiday festivities, which often involve an increase in drinking and social gatherings.

Understanding the dangers that accompany the season, police are actively implementing preventative measures.

They are engaging with community members through educational initiatives and awareness campaigns that will inform residents about the heightened risks during the festive period.

Such programs aim to arm the community with knowledge and practical tools to protect themselves from becoming victims of such crimes, according to Morapeli.

As the festive season approaches, Morapeli's message to the residents of Thaba-Tseka is clear: while celebrating with family and friends, it is equally crucial to prioritise safety and security, creating a harmonious and protected environment for all to enjoy the holiday spirit.

A glimpse into Lesotho's crime scene



Relebohile Makhetha

Man arrested for alleged murder in Mohale's Hoek

A 37-year-old man from Ketane, Thoteng, is in police custody for allegedly killing a 44-year-old man from Nk'hunk'hu. The incident occurred on December 10, 2024, when the deceased visited his 36-year-old girlfriend in Ketane Thoteng.

Around 9 PM, while the couple was asleep, the suspect reportedly broke into the house by kicking down the door and attempted to attack the deceased with a stick. A fight ensued and spilled outside, where the de-

ceased managed to escape.

However, his lifeless body was discovered by a neighbour the following night. The suspect, allegedly enraged to find the deceased in bed with his sister, was arrested on December 12, 2024, in Kubake, where he had been hiding.

Retired police officer faces charges of public misconduct

Thabo Lebamang (47), a retired police officer, appeared in court on charges under Section 84 and Section 109(3) of the Penal Code Act No. 6 of 2010. He is accused of

using abusive and threatening language in public against female officers Ratšoeu and Moremoholo.

The incident took an unusual turn when Lebamang allegedly consumed a road sign during the altercation. The incident also revealed his criminal history, including a previous armed robbery charge in Mafeteng. Lebamang was granted bail of M500.00 and is scheduled to appear again on December 31, 2024.

Man surrenders unlicensed rifle in Mohale's Hoek

A 61-year-old man from Lithabaneng, Maseru, handed over an unlicensed .303 rifle to police on December 9, 2024. The weapon was displayed during a funeral in Phamong, Tlaling, on December 7, 2024, when the heavily intoxicated man placed it on a table in front of the pastor mid-sermon. He was unable to explain how he acquired the firearm and is reported to have a history of substance abuse and mental instability.

Police officer investigated for misappropriating travel funds

A 46-year-old police constable from Lise-meng 1, Leribe, is under investigation for allegedly misappropriating funds meant for a group trip to Durban, South Africa. While some arrangements were made, the officer is accused of diverting the funds for person-

al use, later disappearing when transport providers demanded payment.

He was arrested in Maseru on December 14, 2024. The case is awaiting clearance from the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mother charged with abandoning baby in Mantšonyane

'Mampolai Matseletse (29) from Ha Mafa, Mantšonyane, has been charged with child abandonment under Section 23(1)(e) (11) of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act of 2011. On December 12, 2024, Matseletse abandoned her seven-week-old baby girl under a culvert at the Ha Setala junction. The baby was rescued and taken to St. James Hospital.

Matseletse later confessed that fear of her mother-in-law's reaction to her undisclosed pregnancy drove her actions. She was released on bail and is set to reappear in court on December 31, 2024.

Police Constable dismissed for desertion

Police authorities have confirmed the dismissal of PC Fani Mochekoane (32) from Motsekuoa, Mafeteng, for desertion. The officer had been absent from duty since June 2024, with all efforts to locate him proving unsuccessful. Even his family claimed no knowledge of his whereabouts.

His dismissal, effective December 3, 2024, highlights the police force's concern over officers abandoning their posts and wasting public resources invested in their training. Police management emphasized their commitment to discipline and urged officers to uphold their oaths of service.

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BUSINESS

More client value in Alliance Insurance's revamped policy

Staff Reporter

From providing education cover for the members' children, and providing key burial services like cremation to paying monthly annuity income to members' dependants, these are some of the added value propositions from Alliance Insurance's newly revamped funeral cover, U-Mang Legacy Funeral Cover.

The company, which boasts more than 30 years of experience in innovative risk and wealth management solutions, has consolidated its initial U-mang Funeral Cover following its launch in 2017.

"The new and improved U-Mang Legacy funeral cover allows clients to cater for a variety of their critical financial needs allowing them to live better and to leave a true and lasting legacy for their loved ones," the company said during a recent re-launch.

Mahlohonolo Lebina, the Chief Executive of Alliance Insurance Company speaking at the launch said the improved funeral plan is more than just a funeral policy, as it comes packed with a wide range of benefits for their beloved clients.

"The new and improved U-Mang Legacy funeral cover is the first insurance product of its kind in Lesotho. This policy is much more than a funeral policy, it allows our members



to invest and benefit from the power of compound interest, take up policy-backed loans, buy additional top-up cover at relatively lower premium rates, provide education cover for their children, receive monthly annuity income for 24 months to support dependents and many more," Lebina said at the launch.

Among notable key features of the revamped policy is that it covers new members up to the age of 84 years, and covers the entire family including parents, grandpar-

ents and other dependent relatives.

"The Molebe benefit which guarantees full cover continues for free for all lives insured on the policy if the main member passes away, becomes permanently disabled or they reach the age of 65."

It also has educator benefits of up to M75 000 to cover up to three children which includes tertiary education fees if the main member passes away. The policy comes with an investment account which earns compound interest and provides members with

the option to take loans.

It also returns of two out of every 12 premiums received, paid back to the client every five years. There is also the My Provider Benefit which pays monthly income benefits to dependents for 24 months to help cover their living expenses after the passing of the main member.

The policy also has a premium holiday (waiver of premiums) for up to three months following the retrenchment of the main member.

It also comes with quality burial services by Lehae Funerals including cover for coffins, tombstones and repatriations; and utility vehicle for three days, for the family to use towards burial preparations.

"This funeral cover reflects our understanding of how challenging and overwhelming it can be to arrange a funeral for loved ones, and hence the cover includes options to buy quality burial services providing: burial service, coffins, tombstones, repatriations, cremations, etc at our pioneering Lehae Funerals which now provides services country wide," Lebina further added.

On his part, the Chief Executive of Alliance Group Investment Holdings Company Limited, Angus Yeats said:

"Our clients are at the heart of all that we do, and this is why we continue to put their needs and experience first. With U-Mang a portion of every premium received is ploughed back into community development initiatives. As our motto "Always There for Basotho" states; we will be there even in the most difficult of times. This is our legacy for Basotho, who have made us what we are today".

Econet showers vulnerable communities with groceries

Seabata Mahao

Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) has recently kicked off its annual '12 Days to Christmas' charity campaign at its Thetsane headquarters, in a bid to spread festive cheer and support vulnerable communities.

The campaign began with a donation of groceries worth over M65 000 to ten homes for orphans and vulnerable children across Lesotho. The gesture reflects ETL's unwavering commitment to supporting care-givers who dedicate their lives to nurturing those in need.

Speaking at the launch of the campaign, ETL's Chief Executive Officer, Dennis Platjies emphasised the initiative's deeper significance, describing it as a celebration of love, compassion, and gratitude.

"As the ETL family, we recognise the pivotal role these homes play in shaping the lives of disadvantaged communities. We are humbled to contribute to their incredible ef-

forts," Platjies said.

Platjies also thanked ETL's customers, noting that their loyalty enables the company to make a meaningful impact in communities across Lesotho.

On his part, the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Youth, and Social Development, Mahlapane Makakole-Boliba, commended ETL for its continued generosity.

"ETL sets an inspiring example of how corporate partners can uplift vulnerable populations in our society. This donation not only provides for orphans but also extends vital support to other at-risk groups," Makakole-Boliba remarked.

Representing the beneficiary homes, 'Mamonyane Mohale from Ministry of Hope Lesotho expressed heartfelt gratitude.

"The support we receive from initiatives like '12 Days to Christmas' restores our hope and faith in humanity. These groceries will bring joy to many children and remind us of the true spirit of Christmas," Mohale said.



Econet's 12 days to Christmas campaign

The event highlights ETL's dedication to corporate social responsibility, which is further strengthened by its collaboration with HigherLife Foundation Lesotho, the company's social investment arm.

Through this partnership, ETL continues to provide consistent support to impoverished communities, reaffirming its status as a socially conscious corporate leader.

NOTICE OF COMPANY RELOCATION

Notice is hereby made by TISETSO JUSTICE RABOLINYANE that the company SURFACE SYSTEM CIVIL CONSTRUCTORS PTY LTD of company number 50032 is relocating from MAJARA SEEISO, THABANA-MORENA ROAD, near BEDCO MAFETENG, LESOTHO, to new address at THABANA MORENA ROAD, OLD CASH BUILD BUILDING MAFETENG(PO Box 8116 Mafeteng 900). Anyone with queries can direct their objections or queries to Tiisetso Justice Rabolinyane on 59452730.

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE LATE MOSIUOA PATRICK MOKHOTHOTHO : E152/24

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 44(1) of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No. 2 of 2024 that all persons having claims against the deceased or his Estate to submit their claims within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice. The claims can be submitted to the Curator Bonis, Mr. Ramotsitsili Elliot Mokhotho at Katlehong, Maseru. His contact details are 62004555

DATED AT MASERU THIS 11TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2024

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE LATE ZIPHO FLIX RAMOLOKO E B71/24

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 37 of Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon all heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend before The Master of the High Court, at the office of the Master of the High Court in the Butha-Buthe district, near the District Administration Office, on the 16th of January 2025.

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

DATED AT BUTHA-BUTHE ON THIS 13TH DECEMBER 2024.

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT OFFICES BUTHA-BUTHE BEHIND PASSPORT OFFICE BUILDING, OPPOSITE POST OFFICE, BUTHA-BUTHE.

HEALTH



MP questions safety of HPV Vaccine

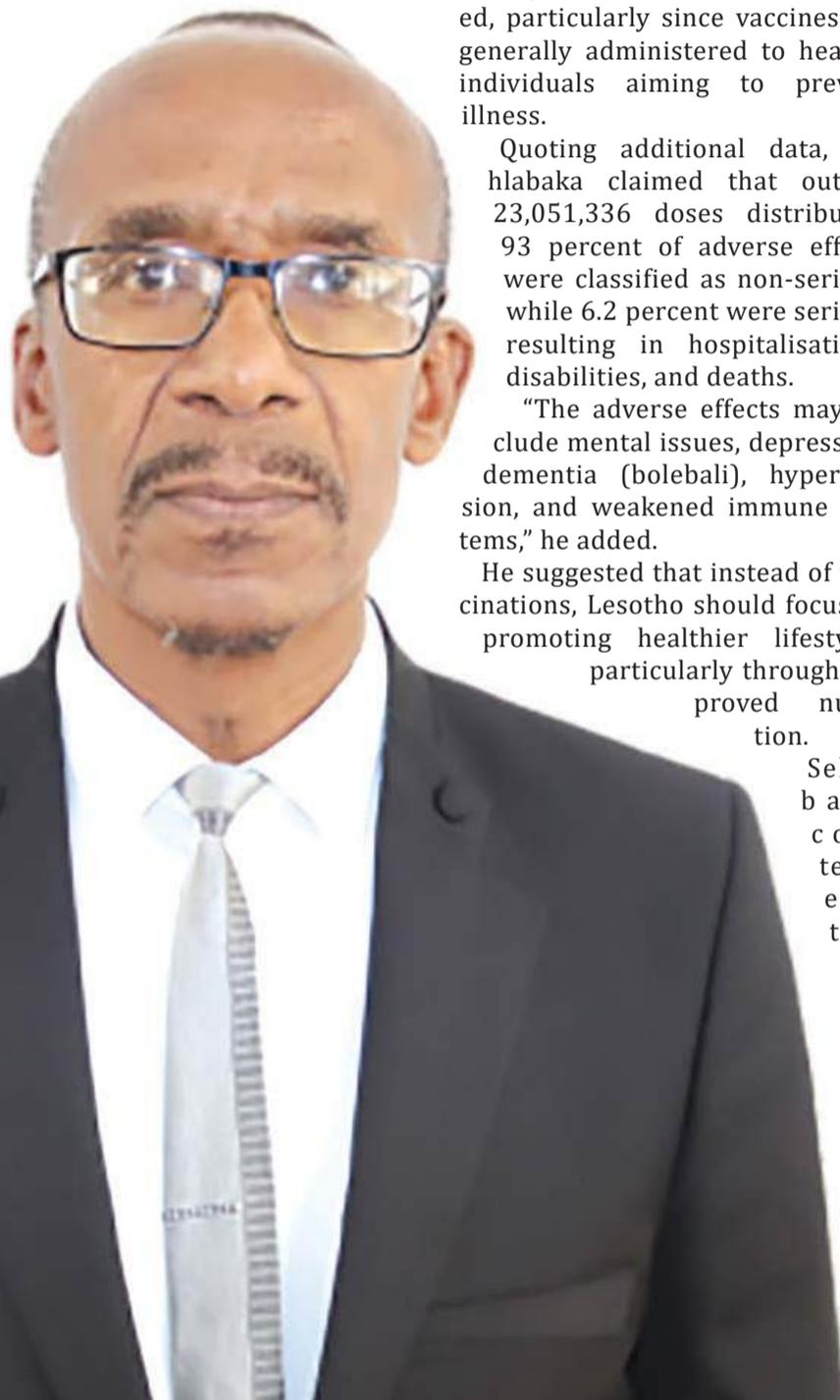
Ntsoaki Motaung

Although he could not provide living examples of young girls or women in Lesotho experiencing adverse effects from the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, Member of Parliament (MP) Remaketse Sehlabaka remains convinced that the vaccine poses risks to recipients.

On November 6, this year, Sehlabaka tabled a motion before the National Assembly stating: "That this Honourable House urges the Government of Lesotho to stop, with immediate effect, the cervical cancer vaccinations on Basotho female adolescents aged nine years and older, with regard to the health risks and hazards involved."

Speaking to Newsday,

Sehlabaka explained that the motion remains unresolved as the National Assembly is currently on



32 deaths.

Sehlabaka argued that while these figures may seem low, they are significant to individuals affected, particularly since vaccines are generally administered to healthy individuals aiming to prevent illness.

Quoting additional data, Sehlabaka claimed that out of 23,051,336 doses distributed, 93 percent of adverse effects were classified as non-serious, while 6.2 percent were serious, resulting in hospitalisations, disabilities, and deaths.

"The adverse effects may include mental issues, depression, dementia (bolebali), hypertension, and weakened immune systems," he added.

He suggested that instead of vaccinations, Lesotho should focus on promoting healthier lifestyles, particularly through improved nutrition.

Sehlabaka contended that

"cancer is largely a lifestyle disease."

HPV Vaccine campaign sees significant progress

Meanwhile, in May, Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso announced that over 139,000 girls aged 9 to 14 had received the HPV vaccine in Lesotho, marking significant progress in the country's fight against cervical cancer.

The Queen highlighted Lesotho's alignment with the global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer, launched in November 2020.

She stressed that this initiative is vital not only for healthcare but also for poverty reduction, education accessibility, and improving women's and children's health outcomes.

During the second phase of the national HPV vaccination campaign, former WHO Country Representative Dr. Richard Banda emphasised the vaccine's importance as a cost-effective method to prevent cervical cancer.

"The WHO recommends HPV vaccines for girls as a core strategy for cervical cancer prevention. The Global Strategy calls for 90 percent of all girls to be vaccinated against HPV by age 15 by 2030," Banda said.

He underscored the urgency to close gaps in vaccination, screening, and treatment, adding: "No woman should lose her life to cervical cancer. All women and girls must claim this right because they are essential to the country's development aspirations. HPV vaccines are safe. With over 200 million doses administered globally, no major side effects have been reported."

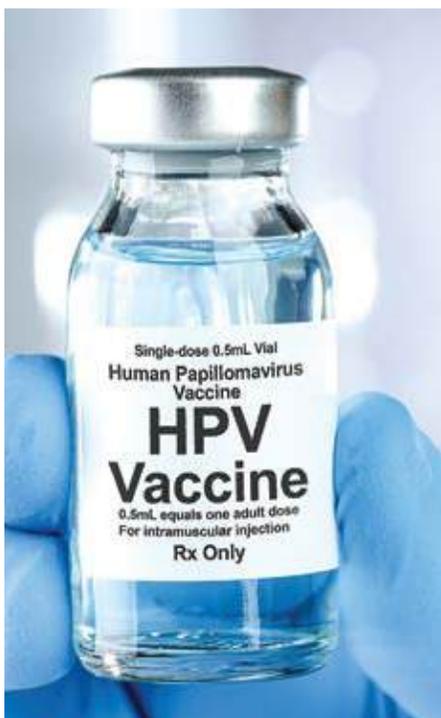
Christmas recess.

As a herbalist, he acknowledged that all medications have side effects but argued that the adverse effects of HPV vaccines—though reportedly rare—are concerning.

"Although the adverse effects of the HPV vaccine are said to be rare, I cannot sit back and watch girls and women being given a vaccine that could potentially cause death. I cannot allow Basotho children to suffer such effects," he stated.

Sehlabaka referenced his information source, Dr. Jennifer Ashton, who has written about "The HPV Vaccine Debate".

According to Ashton, in 2009, more than 23 million doses of the vaccine were administered, with 770 reported adverse effects and



INTERVIEW

Ex-LEFF leader reflects on toxic politics and the power of spirituality

Radical, passionate, and determined, but also militant and controversial, the political party, Lesotho Economic Freedom Fighters (LEFF), with their distinct bright red berets and black combat boots, has been perceived by the public with both admiration and skepticism. Tefo Makhakhe, from Thuathe in Berea, was at the very center of it all, a key figure in the establishment and leadership of the LEFF, making his mark as a driving force behind the party's early momentum.

But that is old news. Makhakhe has since left the party and the life of politics behind him, reflecting on those times with pain and regret. LEFF is a branch of the more prominent South African party, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), currently led by Julius Malema, who holds the position of Commander in Chief and president of the party.

Established in 2013, the EFF has been viewed by many as strong advocates for the marginalized and impoverished, fighting for economic justice and land reform. However, their approach has often been described as confrontational and aggressive, utilising disruptive protests and strong rhetoric to achieve their goals, making them a contentious force in South African politics.

During his time as the leader of the LEFF, Makhakhe was instrumental in spreading the EFF's ideology in Lesotho, becoming a prominent voice for the party's goals and its commitment to Pan-Africanism. However, the EFF's presence in Lesotho fizzled out as quickly as it arrived due to internal challenges and disagreements within the LEFF, particularly regarding compliance with the broader EFF's organisational standards. It is a topic that is very difficult for Makhakhe to share, but as he plans to completely close that chapter of his life, Makhakhe sat down for a final tell-all.

Background and Early Life
Newsday: Can you tell us about your early life? What shaped your initial interest in politics and ultimately led you to join the EFF?

Tefo Makhakhe: When I was around the age of five and onwards, we would occasionally visit and stay with my grandmother. She was deeply involved in a certain political party, so during those visits, we grew up listening to political party songs on cassettes. I really enjoyed those songs, and as I grew older, they gradually pulled me into taking a side politically. However, at home with my parents, any political songs or discussions about politics were considered taboo. As a result, I did not actively pursue politics or develop much interest in it during my childhood and teenage years.

In 2011, after graduating from Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (LUCT), I began working to empower the youth in my community. This involved activities like capacity-building initiatives and talent appreciation. During this time, I established a mokhatlo (organisation) called All Possibilities, which initially focused on youth talents. Over time, this organisation evolved into the Appreciation of Capabilities Youth Groups Movement Lesotho. By 2012, the mokhatlo had become very strong.

As a graphic designer and artist, drawing was something I had loved since childhood, I pursued a career in graphic design and visual communications. This enabled me to express my views in ways that resonated with the youth. The mokhatlo continued to grow, expanding into other districts and building a large following. Our youth work gained significant recognition. By 2013, we had extended our efforts to support vulnerable groups through charity initiatives. Our work with the community-led people to ask me to take on a more formal leadership role as a community counsellor, a position with political implications. They believed that working solely in the social sphere might limit my ability to amplify their concerns and represent their needs effectively.

That marked the beginning of my political journey. I began learning about politics and comparing it to community work. I soon realised how different the two were. While I initially thought politics was primarily about helping people, I discovered that it often involved complexities that strayed from that purpose. This realisation frustrated me over time, but I stayed committed because I genuinely loved working with people and seeing positive change. Back then, I was a big dreamer with huge ambitions, driven by a desire for transformation.

Newsday: What drew you to the EFF, and what values or ideals of the party resonated most with you at the time?

Tefo Makhakhe: What drew me to the EFF was what the party stands for, its ideologies of socialism and Pan-Africanism. Socialism, for instance, seeks to decentralise the economy, ensuring that its benefits reach everyone rather than allowing a few to grow rich while others remain in poverty. I deeply admired that. Similarly, Pan-Africanism, calling for the unity of African countries that have endured colonialism, apartheid, and other forms of exploitation, also resonated with me. These ideals felt personal to me because I have always believed in the golden rule: what I want for myself, I should also want for others. I have always felt that self-interest alone is not enough. These principles were the biggest reasons why I ultimately joined the EFF.

The Political Journey
Newsday: You were known as a controversial figure during your time with the EFF. Looking back, how do you reflect on those days and the role you played?

Tefo Makhakhe: At the time, I think many people misunderstood me because of my character. Often, people compared me to the leader of the EFF, Julius Malema, and could not reconcile how I fit within the party. But as I have explained, I had my reasons for joining the EFF, and I never intended to mimic Julius Malema. He is his own person, admired for who he is. I did not want to be a copycat. What many people did not see was the impact I was having in communities and among the youth, just by being myself. Some perceived me as too radical or aggressive, but that was not the reality. I think what puzzled people even more was how someone like me, at my age, managed to rise to the position of LEFF leader.

Newsday: Can you share one of the most pivotal or challenging moments from your time in active politics? How did it impact you personally?

Tefo Makhakhe: When LEFF was first introduced in Lesotho, it gained immediate popularity due to the country's unstable political landscape. People saw LEFF as a potential solution to the chaos. But, this also made the party seem like a threat, which created significant challenges. Some people warned of violence or even murder in politics, especially when a new party like ours disrupted the status quo. It was intimidating, but I stood my ground because I was committed to the idea of change for the country and improving Basotho livelihoods. One of the hardest parts of politics is the constant battles. There are external struggles with opposition



forces, but internal conflicts within the party are often the most painful. It is like a fight within a family, it is more damaging than outside attacks. These internal battles affected me deeply. The fight within the family is more dangerous than the one outside the family.

Newsday: The EFF has been described as one of the most polarising political parties in Africa. How did you navigate the party's often-controversial stance and its public perception?

Tefo Makhakhe: The EFF stands firmly for its principles, and standing for the truth often makes you unpopular. Some will love you for that truth, but others will

really hate you. Some people loved the party for its honesty and boldness, but others strongly disliked it. I shared the EFF's passion for truth and justice, and that kept me motivated, even when faced with criticism or controversy. Another critical aspect was political education. Many Basotho lacked understanding of political ideologies or the essence of EFF's mission. To address this, I prioritised educating people about our principles, helping them see what EFF stood for and why it was meaningful. I found beauty in these teachings, and it strengthened my resolve despite the challenges.

The Turning Point
Newsday: What was the defining moment that made you decide to leave politics altogether?

Tefo Makhakhe: I decided to leave politics when I realised my spirit was no longer aligned with it. Deep inside, I felt restless, even when achieving significant milestones. My heart lacked peace, and that inner conflict made it clear that politics was no longer my path.

Newsday: You have described your time in politics as "toxic." Can you elaborate on what you mean by that? Was it the political environment, personal experiences, or something else?

Tefo Makhakhe: Politics, as I have come

to learn, is a dark and challenging world. For someone who wants to live an honest life, it is a difficult space to navigate. The system often rewards corruption and dishonesty, making it hard for those with integrity to endure. On a personal level, I felt a disconnect between my spiritual values and the demands of political life. My spirit, the inner essence of who I am, could not thrive in that environment. It is not just about the external challenges; it is also about how politics conflicts with one's inner peace and beliefs. Even after leaving, the effects linger. Some people continue to admire the work I did, especially in 2017 when I served as a community counselor and accomplished meaningful projects. However, transitioning to other fields has been tough because of how people perceive me based on my political past.

Newsday: How did your personal beliefs and values evolve as you transitioned out of politics?

Tefo Makhakhe: Leaving politics was both a relief and a challenge. The first step for me was introspection, listening to my inner voice and reexamining what brought me peace. I prayed and reflected a lot. What emerged was a realisation that my passions were still rooted in helping others, but in ways that aligned better with my values. I also began pursuing

personal growth, exploring opportunities that allowed me to contribute meaningfully to society without compromising my authenticity.

A New Path: Graphic Design and Spirituality

Newsday: After leaving the EFF, what inspired you to pursue graphic design? Was it something you were always passionate about or a new discovery?

Tefo Makhakhe: After I left EFF, I had already gotten my qualification in graphic design. As I am a professional graphic

designer, I just continued freelancing the same way I did while I was in politics. So yes, graphics, as I am also an artist, it is my passion. That is why.

Newsday: You have also become deeply spiritual since leaving politics. How has your Christian faith influenced your new path?

Tefo Makhakhe: Kanneite, my quest in my spirituality became even more profound when I left politics. Politics can be incredibly distracting and, at times, misleading, often pulling you toward actions that don't align with your core beliefs. Living a spiritual life requires someone to lead a righteous existence, walking in the Spirit rather than in the flesh. My Christian faith has profoundly influenced my life, not in a purely religious sense but in a deeply spiritual way. I've come to know God for who He truly is, not through traditions or customs but through personal connection and understanding.

Newsday: In what ways do you think your political experiences have shaped your perspective on life and work today?

Tefo Makhakhe: My time in politics taught me invaluable lessons, particularly about working with and understanding people. I developed a commendable ability to engage with others and appreciate their diverse perspectives. Wherever I go now, I draw upon these experiences to navigate human dynamics effectively, which has been instrumental in shaping how I approach both life and work.

Public Perception and Challenges

Newsday: Many people still associate you with your past political life. How do you deal with the misconceptions, and what would you like people to know about the "new" Tefo Makhakhe?

Tefo Makhakhe: There is a common phenomenon where people always identify you with your past profession, like a retired policeman who is still seen as a policeman, or a President referred to as a former President. Similarly, people still associate me with politics. I have made peace with that because it is something that will remain in people's minds. What I would like people to understand about the "new" Tefo Makhakhe is that I am now deeply rooted in spirituality. I have embraced my love for God and my spiritual quest, a love that I have had since my early years but which was delayed or diverted by politics. Now, I am fully immersed in understanding God, the world, and the spiritual realm. That is who I am today.

Insights and Advice

Newsday: Politics and graphic design seem worlds apart. What parallels, if any, do you see between the two?

Tefo Makhakhe: Graphic design is an incredibly broad field, and many leaders possess its skills without even realising it. Take Steve Jobs, for instance, he was a visionary leader and also a graphic designer, mastering typography and calligraphy, which are integral aspects of graphic design. Graphic design is essentially about visual communication, a way to express ideas visually so that others can understand them clearly. Similarly, politics involves communicating messages and ideas effectively to people. For me, having an



EFF leader Julius Malema in Lesotho during the inauguration of Prime Minister Matekane

open mind made it easier to excel in both fields, ensuring that my work as a youth worker, social worker, and politician proceeded smoothly. The ability to convey messages, whether visually or verbally, ties these two worlds together.

Newsday: What lessons have you learned from your journey that you would like to share with others, especially those considering leaving a highly public or controversial career?

Tefo Makhakhe: The most significant lesson I have learned is this: the most vulnerable position a person can find themselves in is relying on others for help. I have been in that position, and it is not about what you want, it is about what others are willing to give at that moment. No matter how much good you have done, people can be unpredictable and flawed. My advice is to never place yourself in a position where your well-being depends solely on others. Instead, go into the world of politics, or any career, with a fixed mindset and flexibility in your expectations. Understand that trust is fragile, and people's support can be fleeting. Prepare yourself mentally, and you will navigate such challenges more effectively.

Newsday: If you could go back in time and give your younger self advice, knowing what you do now, what would you say?

Tefo Makhakhe: Work hard, but above all, remember to lead a compassionate life. Your life is one, and you should not overwork yourself trying to impress others, especially if they might not show gratitude in return. Also, start pursuing God at a young age, because that is the true life, not these others that only serve this world. When you die, you will remain here, having worked only for the temporary, instead of for the world that is to come.

Looking Forward

Newsday: What are your future aspirations in graphic design, and how do you plan to continue building this new chapter of your life?

Tefo Makhakhe: In the future, I want to pursue graphic design with determination, even though I do not have a complete vision of where I want to be yet. My primary focus right now is on achieving peace. As you grow older, you realize that peace is what matters most, far more than fame, money, or other material things. I will continue working in graphic design, but in a way that brings me peace and contentment.

Newsday: Do you see yourself ever returning to politics in any capacity? Why or why not?

Tefo Makhakhe: I do not think I will go back to politics, because my spiritual life has become bigger than politics, it is now my main focus. Politics often leads to things that diminish spiritual strength. As I have said before, its origins feel dark to me, and I believe it is not compatible with the spiritual path I am pursuing.

Newsday: How do you hope to inspire others who might also be seeking a fresh start in their own lives?

Tefo Makhakhe: To younger people or anyone listening, I would say this: work hard, but do not do to impress or please others, it is a dangerous path. If people do not respond as you hope, it can hurt deeply. Remember, every action has a reaction, so focus on working for what truly matters to you, rather than seeking validation from others.

Final Reflection

Newsday: If you were to summarize your transformation in one sentence, what would it be?

Tefo Makhakhe: Almost everything is possible, especially with God. (I never thought I could leave the life I was so passionate about politics, social work, and youth work. I had set aside countless opportunities, including business opportunities, in pursuit of politics. But now, I have left that life and found peace in a way I have never experienced before.)



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VACANCY

UNIVERSAL HEALTH INFORMATION CONSULTANTS

Project Assistant

Location: Maseru, Lesotho

Universal Health Information Consultants (UHIC) is a private management consultancy firm registered in Lesotho and Namibia, specializing in research, evaluation, policy development, strategy formulation, and capacity building, with a focus on health, gender, youth, and social inclusion.

Responsibilities

- Provide administrative and logistical support for project activities.
- Assist in organizing meetings, workshops, and events.
- Support the preparation of reports, proposals, and project documentation.
- Assist in data collection, entry, and basic analysis.
- Coordinate communication with clients, team members, and stakeholders.

Qualifications & Experience:

- Degree/Diploma in Evaluation Studies, Development Studies, Gender Studies, HIV Management, Public Health, Sociology, or related fields.
- Having a Master's degree will be an added advantage.
- Minimum of 1 year experience in project support or research for development
- Familiarity with proposal writing and donor-funded projects (eg, UN Agencies, USAID) is an advantage

Skills:

- Strong organizational and multitasking abilities.
- Basic writing and communication skills.
- Proficiency in MS Office and data entry tools.
- Attention to detail and ability to meet deadlines.

How to Apply:

Submit a Cover Letter, CV, and certified copies of qualifications to admin@uhiconsultants.net by 0000 0000000000 0000.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Join UHIC and contribute to impactful health and development projects



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES - INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Development of the Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) Policy for Lesotho Country Coordinating Mechanism

Background

The Lesotho Country Coordinating Mechanism (LCCM) was established in response to requirements and recommendations of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS and Tuberculosis "Global Fund") as a governance and oversight mechanism for the mobilization and use of grants from the Global Fund. The purpose of the Global Fund is to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (herein referred to as The Global Fund) is to attract and disburse additional resources through a new public-private partnership that will make a sustainable and significant contribution to the reduction of infections, illness and death, thereby mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis

In line with this commitment, LCCM seeks to develop a robust Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) Policy to protect its staff, members and the stakeholders that they interact with from sexual exploitation, Abuse and Harassment.

Deliverables

The Consultant is expected to deliver the following outputs:

- A comprehensive PSEAH policy tailored to the specific needs and context of the LCCM.
- Guidelines and procedures for the implementation of the PSEAH policy include reporting mechanisms and support services for survivors of abuse.
- A final report documenting the process of developing the PSEAH policy, including a summary of key findings and stakeholder feedback.

Timeline

The consultancy is expected to be completed within 10 working days with regular check-in meetings with the Secretariat to track progress.

Qualifications

The consultant should possess the following qualifications and experience:

- Extensive experience in developing PSEAH policies for non-governmental organizations or civil society Organizations.
- In-depth knowledge of international best practices and standards related to PSEAH
- Strong communication and facilitation skills with the ability to engage effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders.

How to Apply:

All those interested in applying for this consultancy should submit the following by 14:30hrs, 10th January 2024 to the following email address; ccmsec@ecoweb.co.ls cc ccmoso@ecoweb.co.ls or hand deliver to:

LCCM Secretariat
4th Floor, MGC Office Park Corner Pope John Paul II and
Mpilo Boulevard,
P.O. Box 7178, Maseru 100
Tel: (+266) 22325544

For further information, including the responsibilities of the Consultant to develop PSEAH Policy can be obtained on the LCCM Website: <https://ccm.org>



VACANCY

Job description

With over 70 years of experience, our focus is on helping the most vulnerable children overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. We help children of all backgrounds, even in the most dangerous places, inspired by our Christian faith. Come join our 34,000+ staff working in nearly 100 countries and share the joy of transforming vulnerable children's life stories!

Employee Contract Type:

Local - Fixed Term Employee (Fixed Term)

Job Description:

Reporting to the Project Coordinator, the Project Officer will be responsible for capacity enhancement to different and relevant community based structures and other strategic partners. The Project Officer will be responsible for all People with Disabilities (PwD) and Trafficking in Persons (TiP) community facilitation and stakeholder engagement. They will facilitate documentation of best practices and share them with different partners both internally and externally in order to inform National level advocacy interventions and thus contribute towards efficiency improvements in the response to TiP and support of PwD in Lesotho. The Project Officer will be based in Mohale's Hoek supporting the districts of Maseru, Mafeteng Mohale's Hoek and Quthing.

Key Responsibilities and Outputs:

- Facilitate effective roll out/implementation of local level advocacy initiatives/Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) model in the existing AP's of WV through capacity enhancement to relevant structures at the local and district level in line with the project objectives. (20%)
- Build strategic linkages with government, civil society organizations, faith based organizations and traditional/community leadership and other relevant partners at the local and district level to promote their participation in support to the planned project initiatives. (10%)
- Facilitate engagement of local and district level authori-

ties in awareness raising on TiP and rights of PwD, by supporting community led initiatives in the reporting and responding to TiP; including protection of the rights of PwD. (10%)

- Stimulate documentation of best practices at the community and district level on PwD to increase engagement in public policy and advocacy process to inform National level Advocacy initiatives and thus ensure linkage between local level and National level Advocacy. (10%)
- Enhance capacity of WV staff and communities in TiP and rights of PwD to ensure that they understand and support initiatives on reporting and responding to TiP and protection of rights of PwD. (10%)
- Facilitate WV's participation in the campaigns and initiatives aimed at advocating for rights PwD and increased service provision for victims of TiP (10%)
- Provide regular communication and quality and timely reports (monthly, semi and annual) to the National Project Coordinator and other relevant partners as per the World Vision guidelines. (10%)
- Organize dialogues/roundtable discussion and learning events for the concerned parties for sharing of ideas and experiences in line with the project objectives and outcomes. (10%)
- Perform any relevant duties assigned by the Supervisor. (10%)

Qualifications and Experience:

- Degree in Social Work, public administration or community development preferred
- Experience in working within the civil society organizations, community and faith based organizations
- Experience in engaging governments and working in policy environment
- Familiarity with Child Rights dynamics
- Experience in conducting policy oriented research
- Minimum of three (5) Years work experience

Core Competencies:

- Be Safe and Resilient
- Build Relationships
- Learn and Develop

- Partner and Collaborate
- Deliver Results
- Be Accountable
- Improve and Innovate
- Embrace Change

Other Competencies and Skills:

- Must be a committed Christian, able to stand above denominational diversities.
- Attend and participate in daily devotions.
- Solid experience in advocacy work preferably in the field of child protection;
- Excellent facilitation, presentation, communication and reporting skills;
- Be culturally sensitive and have the ability to work with people from different cultural backgrounds;
- Must be able to work independently while being a team player;
- Perform other duties as required.

Working Environment / Conditions:

- Office-based with frequent travel to the field

Remuneration: Competitive with market standards

Application Requirements:

Please upload your CV and covering letter with copies of educational certificates, transcripts and national ID. You are requested to provide full details of 3 referees (2 professionals and 1 spiritual) including 1 HR Practitioner. The required details are full referees' names, designation, email address and contact numbers.

Closing Date:

22nd December, 2024

Applicant Types Accepted:

Local Applicants Only

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| | -50+ Exhibitions -Funding Opportunities |

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Newsday
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CLOSED

As the festive season approaches, we at **Newsday** would like to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support throughout the year. You are the heart of our journey, and it's been a privilege to keep you informed, inspired, and connected.

Please note that our team will be on Christmas holiday from **20th December 2024** and will resume all services on **6th January 2025**.

We wish you a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year! See you in 2026 with more stories that matter.

Warm regards,
The Newsday Team

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Malome Vector tops Google's 2024 music search in SA

... With Ntate Stunna ranking 10th

Sesotho.

Before pursuing music full-time, he considered studying law or IT. However, after his mother faced financial difficulties during his matric year, Stunna focused on music. His first single, "Mookho," went viral in Lesotho, launching his career.

Stunna faced challenges in the music industry, such as limited royalties and piracy.

To combat this, he launched a T-shirt line to accompany his viral single. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to create a fashion line, including a partnership with Aranda to produce a blanket as part of his "Sesotho Fashioning" EP.

His single "Ke Thatha" has garnered over a million views on YouTube, and as an independent artist, he continues to thrive.

Staff Reporters

Google has unveiled the findings of its 2024 Year in Search for South Africa, revealing that Lesotho artist, the late Malome Vector, topped the list of the Top 10 music searches.

He was followed by Shebeshxt, Chris Brown, Tyla, P. Diddy, Tswana Bami, Kabza Chant, Donald, and Imithandazo.

Another Lesotho artist, Ntate Stunna, secured the 10th spot on the list.

Malome Vector tragically passed away in a car accident on July 24, 2024, while traveling back to Lesotho.

Born Bokang Moleli, Malome Vector seamlessly blended afro-pop, R&B, soul, and afro beats. He began his musical journey as a choir boy in Roma, Maseru, before rising to international fame.

After signing with South Africa's Ambitiouz Entertainment in 2020, his debut album "Karabo" debuted at number one on iTunes South Africa. His 2024 EP, "1964," further cemented his place as one of the region's most sought-after artists.

Despite his success in South Africa, Malome Vector's Lesotho roots remained central to his identity. His untimely death, at just 32, shocked fans across the continent and solidified his legacy, as seen in his top spot on the 2024 Year in Search list.

Ntate Stunna, born Thaabe Letsie in 1996, fell in love with hip-hop before it became mainstream in Lesotho. He started listening to artists like 50 Cent and G-Unit during primary school when house music was more popular in the country.

Despite early criticism, Stunna continued to pursue his passion for hip-hop. His stage name, Ntate Stunna, was inspired by his fans, with "Ntate" meaning "father" in



Motul Bike Wash donates water tanks to Tšenola Community



Staff Reporters

For the tenth consecutive year, Motul's Bike Wash facility was an essential part of the Roof of Africa, helping competitors clear the mud and dust from their motorcycles after each challenging stage.

This year, however, Motul's commitment to the event went beyond just assisting riders, it extended to a significant gesture of support for the Tšenola community.

In a collaboration with Industrial Supply Centre (ISC), EcoTanks, and Cashbuild Maseru, Motul's Bike Wash partners donated two 4750L water tanks to the Tšenola community.

The donation comes after the conclusion of the 'Mother of Hard Enduro' race, marking a new chapter in the race's legacy by contributing to the local community's access to water, a precious resource in the region.

Craig Kruger, manager of Extreme Clean and the man behind the Bike Wash initiative, expressed the profound impact of the donation.

"It was deeply humbling to witness firsthand the transformative power of this donation. Access to water is a basic necessity that many of us take for granted. Through the Motul Bike Wash partnership, we are making a real difference, one tank at a time," said Kruger.

The donation ceremony was a heartfelt occasion, where Kruger and his colleague, Brendon Venter, were honoured with traditional Basotho garments by the Tšenola community as a token of appreciation.

The ceremony underscored how vital these water tanks would be in a community where water is not always readily accessible.

Tšenola Community Deputy, Thethuoe "T" Lelakane, who has been part of the Motul Bike Wash team for nine years, noted that the initiative had come full circle.

"It's an amazing feeling to see my own community benefit from the work we've been doing all these years," Lelakane remarked.

Motul's General Manager for Southern and Eastern Africa, Mercia Jansen, emphasised the importance of local support

for the success of events like the Roof of Africa.

"Without the support of local communities, events like the Roof of Africa would not be possible. We are privileged to have this opportunity to give back through initiatives that resonate with our commitment to community empowerment," she said.

The donation of water tanks to Tšenola highlights the far-reaching impact of the Motul Bike Wash initiative, showcasing how corporate social responsibility efforts can extend beyond the race tracks to improve the livelihoods of local communities.

Motul is a renowned French company with over 170 years of expertise in the specialized formulation, production, and distribution of high-performance engine lubricants for two-wheelers, cars, and other vehicles.

The company also offers industrial lubricants through its Motul Tech division.

Founded in 1853, Motul has built a reputation for the quality of its products, its commitment to innovation, and its involvement in motorsport. In 1971, Motul became the first lubricant manufacturer to develop a fully synthetic lubricant, inspired by aeronautical technology and utilising ester-based technology—result-

ing in the groundbreaking 300V lubricant.

Motul collaborates with numerous manufacturers and racing teams to advance its product development, leveraging insights gained from motorsports.

The company serves as an official supplier to teams in prestigious events across various disciplines, including Road Racing, Trials, Enduro, Endurance, Superbike, Supercross, Rallycross, and World GT1.

Notable events include the 24 Hours of Le Mans (both cars and motorcycles), the 24 Hours of Spa, the Le Mans Series, the Andros Trophy, the Dakar Rally, and the Roof of Africa.



SPORTS

More accolades for
'Queen' Rabale in SA

Seabata Mahao



The national women's team captain and Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies forward, Boitumelo 'Queen' Rabale, has been crowned the Golden Boot winner after finishing as the top scorer in the Hollywoodbets Super League.

Rabale's remarkable tally of 17 goals not only earned her the prestigious title but also played a key role in securing Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies' League championship.

The achievement adds to Rabale's growing list of accolades. Last season, she was named Player of the Year, a testament to her consistent excellence on the field.

Her stellar performance was instrumental in her club's dominant campaign, solidifying her reputation as one of the league's most formidable players.

The Hollywoodbets Super League, home to some of South Africa's most

talented female footballers, witnessed Rabale rise above the competition with her clinical finishing and game-changing presence.

Her journey to the top of the scoring charts was nothing short of extraordinary, showcasing her technical brilliance, speed, and unmatched ability to find the back of the net.

As both a prolific goal-scorer and a creative force, Rabale has become a vital asset to her team and a nightmare for opposing defenders.

Rabale's success transcends individual accolades, highlighting the growing talent and potential within women's football. Her accomplishments underscore the Hollywoodbets Super League's role in providing female athletes with a platform to shine and inspire future generations.

Beyond her club achievements, Rabale has also made her mark on the international stage as the captain of the senior women's national team, Mehalalitoe.

She has represented her country with distinction, becoming a beacon of hope and inspiration for aspiring footballers in Lesotho.

Rabale's contributions to football history are groundbreaking. She is widely regarded as the first Mosotho player, male or female, to win a CAF Champions League gold medal.

In 2023, she was also named Player of the Tournament at the African Women's Champions League and Player of the Season in the South African Hollywoodbets Women's Super League.



Likuena face Angola in CHAN qualifiers

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's national football team, Likuena, will tomorrow face Angola in the first leg of the African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers in Durban, South Africa.

Victory in the crucial fixture will secure a spot for Likuena in the CHAN tournament, which will be co-hosted by Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya next year.

Likuena has been in camp since November 15 to prepare for the important clash. The team departed for Durban on Wednesday and will complete their preparations upon arrival.

Likuena earned their spot in the qualifiers after a 1-0 victory over Namibia in the first leg and a dramatic penalty shootout win (4-3) following a 1-1 aggregate tie in the second leg.

Historically, Angola has had the upper hand, winning three of their last five encounters with Likuena, drawing once, and losing only once. Angola also defeated Lesotho 3-1 earlier this year during the COSAFA Cup.

Despite this, Likuena's Head Coach, Leslie Notši, remains optimistic about his team's chances. Speaking to the media ahead of the clash, Notši highlighted the team's readiness and shared updates on the squad.

Two new players, Jane Thabantšo and 17-year-old Leluma Mofoka, both from Matlama Football Club, have joined the squad.

"Our team is ready to compete and bring victory home. Although we have had minor injury concerns with Lehlohonolo Fothoane and Hlompho Kalake, the medical team is confident that they will be fit to play," said Notši.

Notši acknowledged Angola's strengths



but emphasised the importance of capitalising on scoring opportunities.

"Angola is a strong team that plays fast-paced football, but we have prepared for them. Our focus is on scoring goals to secure a strong position in the qualifiers," he added.

The absence of key striker Lemohang Lintša, who was injured in the previous Likuena match against Morocco, is a notable setback. However, Thabantšo has been called up to strengthen the attacking lineup.

Also reflecting on their upcoming match, Likuena captain, Rethabile Rasethuntša, echoed the coach's sentiments, emphasising the need for teamwork and determination.

"Angola outclassed us during the

COSAFA games, but that ends now. It is time to show them what we are capable of," Rasethuntša stated.

"For many of us, this is not our first time playing at this level, so we understand the significance of the match. We are committed to giving our best and bringing pride to Lesotho."

The first leg of the CHAN qualifiers will take place tomorrow, with the second leg scheduled for December 28 in Luanda, Angola.

With a blend of experienced players and promising young talent, Likuena aims to overcome their past struggles against Angola. Coach Notši's confidence in his team, combined with the players' determination, sets the stage for an exciting encounter.

Likuena's Provisional Squad:

Goalkeepers: Tankiso Chaba (LCS), Ntsane Molise (Linare), Leluma Mofoka (Matlama).

Defenders: Rethabile Mokokoane (Matlama), Mohlomi Makhetha (LCS), Rethabile Rasethunts'a (Linare), Mpho Hlephole (Lioli), Thabo Mafatle (Linare), and Thabo Matsoele (Bantu FC).

Midfielders: Lisema Lebokollane (Matlama), Lehlohonolo Matsau (LDF), Jerry Kamela (Lioli), Lehlohonolo Fothoane (Bantu), Hlompho Kalake (Bantu), Ts'epo Toloane (LDF), Mote-loa Khemisi (Bantu), and Paseka Maile (Kick4Life).

Forwards: Katleho Makateng (LDF FC), Keketso Snyders (LCS FC), and Jane Thabantšo (Matlama).



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Matlama stay on top after Mzamane rout



Seabata Mahao

Maseru giants Matlama Football Club (FC) secured a commanding 3-0 victory over Mokhotlong-based newcomers Mzamane FC in the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) campaign last Sunday, consolidating their

position at the top of the log.

During a match that was played at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena, Matlama wasted no time in asserting their attacking dominance. Charlie Hlalele opened the scoring in the 8th minute, putting Matlama 1-0 ahead. Despite their efforts, Mzamane struggled

to create significant chances to equalise, finding themselves repeatedly thwarted by Matlama's solid defence.

The game took a dramatic turn just before halftime when Matlama's Ntsimane Mashili was shown a red card for a foul, leaving the team with only 10 players. How-

ever, this setback did little to dampen Matlama's determination.

The second half saw Matlama continue their relentless pursuit of victory. Shortly after the restart, Jane Thabantšo doubled the lead with a well-taken goal, making it 2-0.

Despite being a man down, Matlama maintained their attacking momentum, testing Mzamane's goalkeeper, who delivered several impressive saves.

As Mzamane's players began to tire, Matlama capitalised. Hlalele struck again, completing his brace and sealing the win with a stunning third goal. Mzamane's woes were compounded by injuries, including the loss of key striker Themba Mzamane, which further disrupted their rhythm.

While Mzamane fought valiantly, they were ultimately unable to overcome Matlama's dominance.

In his post-match remarks, Matlama Head Coach Halemakale Mahlaha expressed his satisfaction with his team's performance.

"I am happy with the win, and now we are at the top of the league with 30 points. Even with the red card, the team executed our game plan well. They showed great dedication and determination to secure the win," Mahlaha said.

Mzamane Head Coach Liteboho Ramantsoe remained optimistic despite the loss.

"We knew how they would play, so it was not much of a surprise. Although we lost, I am happy with the team's performance," Ramantsoe said, adding that while chances were limited, his team stuck to their plan.

The win propels Matlama to the top of the standings with 30 points, four points ahead of second-placed Lioli FC. For Mzamane, the defeat leaves them in 15th place with just three points, deep in the relegation zone.

As the VPL takes a break until the second week of January 2025, Matlama will look to maintain their momentum when they face Majantja FC in Mohale's Hoek this coming weekend.

Meanwhile, Mzamane will seek to regroup and prepare for a challenging match against defending champions Lioli FC at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena.



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