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News
Over 2,800 jobs lost in manufacturing sector

Page 2

News
MPs drawn into Mafeteng water crisis

Page 3

SHADOW LOOMS OVER TRC



... Amid claims of organisational coma

Page 2

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Shadow looms over TRC

... Amid claims of organisational coma

Newsday Staff

A pall of uncertainty has enveloped the Transformation Resource Centre (TRC), a prominent local rights advocacy organisation, amid allegations that its primary benefactor has withdrawn financial support, ostensibly plunging the institution into dormancy.

Despite these claims, TRC's Executive Director, Tsikoane Peshoane, and the Chairperson of its Board, Mothusi Seqhee, have categorically dismissed the assertions as baseless and premature.

At the crux of the matter lies a protracted controversy involving allegations of sexual misconduct levelled against Peshoane.

Critics have accused the TRC board of dithering rather than resolving the issue expeditiously and conclusively – a controversy that has ostensibly dragged on for years, to the detriment of the organisation.

In January 2023, Bread for the World, a globally renowned development and relief agency of the Protestant Churches in Germany, told this publication that TRC board should suspend Peshoane pending a thorough and decisive investigation into the allegations.

The agency underscored that TRC must not merely appear to address the accusations but must do so in a manner that unequivocally satisfies stakeholders.

The agency further emphasised its unwillingness to associate with an organization perceived to triv-

alize grave issues such as sexual assault.

This purported inertia by the TRC board has, according to authoritative sources, culminated in the withdrawal of funding by Bread for the World, thereby incapacitating the organisation.

Bread for the World operates in nearly 90 countries, championing the empowerment of marginalised communities through initiatives encompassing food security, health promotion, education, democratic governance, human rights advocacy, and environmental integrity.

Seqhee, speaking on behalf of the board, described the allegations against TRC as unfounded and unfortunate.

"We are actively addressing this matter; however, it appears that certain individuals had preconceived expectations regarding specific outcomes within a particular timeframe. When these expectations were not realised, they hastily concluded that the board had been inactive," Seqhee remarked.

"This is an issue of considerable gravity, carrying significant ramifications. It must be approached with the utmost diligence and prudence to avoid errors that could result in profound and lasting harm, necessitating prolonged corrective measures," he emphasized.

When queried explicitly about whether Bread for the World had formally withdrawn its collaboration with TRC, Seqhee clarified that the organisation had not communicated any definitive decision.



"It seems they, too, harboured expectations regarding the trajectory of our actions and outcomes. When developments did not align with their expectations, discussions about suspending funding arose. However, as of today, there has been no official notification of funding cessation," he asserted.

He further assured that TRC would publicly address the situation to ensure stakeholders and the broader public are accurately informed. "It is essential that these matters are heard directly from TRC to dispel misinformation and maintain transparency," he concluded.

Peshoane also refuted allegations of organisational collapse, clarifying that TRC had merely suspended operations for the holiday season and was poised to resume normal activities on Monday, January 13.

He dismissed claims of funding withdrawal, asserting that no official notification from Bread for the World had been received.

"Even in the unlikely event of funding cessation, TRC has tangible assets that could be leveraged to sustain its operations," Peshoane added.

While Peshoane insists that TRC will resume

operations on Monday, several individuals, who by their roles should be privy to such developments, expressed ignorance regarding the organisation's reopening.

Speaking to Newsday yesterday, they indicated uncertainty, stating that, like everyone else, they would simply wait to see if the claim materialised. They further noted that TRC had effectively ceased most of its operations well before the onset of the Christmas holidays.

Established in 1979 by Jimmy and Joan Steward, the TRC emerged as an ecumenical resource center dedicated to justice, peace, and participatory development.

Rooted in Christian values, the organisation's mission draws inspiration from Paulo Freire's liberationist ideology, encompassing social analysis, justice advocacy, and community leadership.

The TRC derives its name from Training for Transformation, a seminal manual that encapsulates its foundational principles—a beacon for transformation and a veritable resource for socio-political empowerment.

Staff Reporter

Employment in Lesotho's manufacturing sector fell sharply, with a reduction of over 2,800 jobs from 34,600 in Q3 2023 to 31,763 in Q3 2024, according to the Performance of the Manufacturing Sector in Lesotho Third Quarter 2024 report released by the Bureau of Statistics (BoS) this week.

"On an annual basis, the manufacturing sector also experienced a significant decline in employment, with 8.2 percent drop in the third quarter of 2024 compared to the previous year," the report read.

In the textiles and clothing sector, employment declined by over 2,500 workers, from 29,911 in Q3 2023 to 27,333 in Q3 2024.

The report noted a consistent decrease in employment over several quarters. It stated: "Figure 1 depicts the declining employment figures in the textiles and clothing industry over time. The number of employees steadily decreased from Q3 2023 to Q1 2024. However, a slight increase in Q2 2024 suggested a temporary improvement in labour engagement."

It added: "From Q2 to Q3 2024, there was a significant decline in employment. The industry's workforce has plummeted due to business closures, dwindling orders from buyers, and the increased use of short-term employment contracts."

Despite the decrease in employment, wages and salaries increased by 2.9 percent quarter-on-quarter, with the average monthly wage reaching M3,386 during the period from third quarter of 2023 to the corresponding quarter of 2024.

Year-on-year, wages and salaries in the manufacturing sector showed robust growth, increasing by 17.2 percent in the third quarter of 2024.

"The 'Other Manufacturing' and 'Leather and Footwear' industries were primary drivers of this growth, with remarkable increases of 151.5 percent and 49.2 percent, respectively," the report read.

The quarterly survey provides estimates on var-

Over 2,800 jobs lost in manufacturing sector

... Foreign-owned firms dominate Lesotho's manufacturing sector



ious variables of interest in the medium and large manufacturing activities.

Employment in the manufacturing sector in Lesotho, according to BoS, has mainly been dominated, about 80 percent, by the textiles and clothing industry throughout the years.

'Leather and Footwear', 'Food and Beverages', and 'Other Manufacturing' are also playing a notable role in the manufacturing sector however, they still have a very low constant absorptive capacity.

"Information on manufacturing is collected through the Industrial Survey, which covers estab-

lishments engaged in the manufacturing and transformation of semi-finished products. The survey is undertaken on a quarterly basis," BoS stated in its report.

It further indicated that the distribution and collection of self-administered questionnaires to and from individual establishments is done through emails or hand-delivered.

"The exercise (data collection; distribution and collection) is done within the first two weeks of the start of the following quarter. Follow-ups are made, usually through telephone calls and emails," it said.

The industrial survey covers medium and large-scale establishments engaged in manufacturing activity on a quarterly basis, in all districts.

The report highlighted that the majority of manufacturing businesses in Lesotho, 97.2 percent, were categorized as private limited companies.

Ownership patterns revealed that 59.2 percent of these establishments were fully foreign-owned, while 21.1 percent fell under the 'Fully National Private' category. Businesses with more than 50 percent national ownership accounted for 14.1 percent.

The textile and clothing industry, a significant contributor to the sector, showed even stronger foreign dominance, with 82.9 percent of businesses foreign-owned and only 8.6 percent owned by Basotho nationals.

In terms of workforce demographics for Q3 2024, the manufacturing sector had a higher representation of females (76.7 percent) compared to males (23.3 percent).

Women also held the majority of managerial (53.0 percent) and part-time positions (78.8 percent). However, in industries like food and beverages, leather and footwear, and other manufacturing, male managers were in the majority, holding over 50 percent of managerial roles.

However, in the Textile and Clothing sector, a distinct scenario unfolded, with female managers surpassing their male counterparts by approximately 26.8 percentage points.

Regarding exports, South Africa remained the largest destination for Lesotho's manufactured goods, accounting for 74.4 percent of total exports during the period from Q3 2023 to Q3 2024.

The United States was the second-largest export destination at 16.3 percent, with other countries collectively representing a smaller but consistent share of 9.6 percent.

This highlights the sector's reliance on exports to South Africa and the United States.

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MPs drawn into Mafeteng water crisis

Staff Reporter

Three Members of Parliament (MP) from Mafeteng district have been thrust into the spotlight amid an escalating water crisis affecting the district.

Advocate Fusi Sehapi has written to Hlalele Letšaba, a proportional representative MP for the Democratic Congress (DC), Dr. Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, the Qalabane constituency MP, and Moeketsi Motšoane, MP for Mafeteng constituency, demanding they publicly address what actions they are taking to alleviate the crisis.

Letšaba serves as the treasurer of the DC, while Matlanyane, who represents the ruling Revolution for Prosperity (RFP), is the Minister of Finance and Development Planning.

Motšoane stated last night that he had not yet received the letter. Newsday was unable to obtain comments from Letšaba and Hlalele yesterday. However, it has reviewed a copy of the letter, which bears a stamp from Matlanyane's office, confirming that it was received there yesterday.

In his letter, dated January 9, 2025, Sehapi emphasised the critical nature of access to water, linking it to the constitutional right to life as outlined in Section 5 of the Lesotho Constitution.

"The right to life, as entrenched in Section 5 of the Lesotho Constitution, is central to the exercise of all other rights. The right to life is inseparably linked to access to adequate and clean water supply," Sehapi wrote.

He stressed that without water, voters who elected the MPs to the 11th Parliament would not have survived to do so, adding: "Without the lives of voters, you would be representing only yourselves in Parliament."

Sehapi called on the MPs to "account openly" and to "join forces with the people of Mafeteng in their desperate fight for their lives, and the lives of their children, animals, plants, and businesses."

He argued that the MPs have a "positive legal duty" to address the crisis as part of their social contract with voters.

Sehapi gave the MPs a seven-day dead-



line to respond, failing which he threatened to initiate urgent human rights litigation on behalf of Mafeteng residents.

On Wednesday this week, the Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) released a statement acknowledging the severe water scarcity currently affecting Mafeteng and said it was taking urgent action to address the water crisis.

"The Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) acknowledges the severe water scarcity currently affecting Mafeteng, which has disrupted daily life and strained businesses and essential services," WASCO said.

It indicated that this crisis directly resulted from unpredictable weather patterns linked to climate change, including prolonged droughts and extreme heat waves, compounded by the siltation of the Rasebala Dam, the town's primary water source.

WASCO's caretaker Chief Executive Seboko, expressed deep concern over the situation.

"We are acutely aware of the hardships faced by the Mafeteng community and busi-

nesses due to the ongoing water scarcity. As your service provider, we are fully committed to implementing effective measures to alleviate the crisis and ensure that Mafeteng residents and businesses receive the water they desperately need," Seboko said.

According to WASCO, the Rasebala Dam, commissioned in 1993 and upgraded in 2012 to meet growing demand, has suffered significant siltation, reducing its storage capacity to just 15 percent.

The town's water treatment plant, designed to produce 3.3 Mega Liters per day (ML/D), currently delivers only 1.8 ML/D, well below the town's demand.

"Additional challenges include dwindling water levels in supplementary dams, Luma and Raleting, which were commissioned during a severe drought in 2015 as temporary relief measures," WASCO said.

Last month, Advocate Sehapi, on behalf of Mafeteng residents and the rights

group Advocates for the Supremacy of the Constitution (SECTION 2), urged authorities to address the crisis.

In a letter dated December 24, 2024, Sehapi wrote to Health Minister Selibe Mochoboroane and Natural Resources Minister Mhloimi Moleko, reminding them of the government's obligation to provide water.

SECTION 2 issued a statement on December 31, 2024, confirming severe water shortages in Mafeteng and calling on Moleko to declare a water emergency within 14 days.

"Compliance with legal regulations governing water resource management is crucial for maintaining the rule of law and safeguarding citizens' rights," the group said.

The organisation pledged solidarity with Mafeteng residents and demanded transparency in water management practices. Failure to address the crisis, it warned, would lead to legal action against WASCO and the government.

Process of assisting dependants of ex-miners stalls

... Samples from deceased ex-miners unable to be sent to SA for silicosis and TB examination

Ntsoaki Motaung

The Parliamentary Social Cluster Committee of Lesotho has uncovered an obstacle in the process of securing compensation for dependants of deceased ex-miners.

The issue centers around the inability to transport tissue samples – primarily hearts and lungs – of ex-miners to South Africa for examination since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2019.

Dr Lineo Raselimo, from the Men's Clinic at Sankata Clinic, revealed that approximately 31 samples have been languishing in Lesotho for years, raising concerns about their viability for testing.

"The samples have not been sent to South Africa since COVID-19, and we are now unsure if they remain in a condition suitable for examination. The delay is jeopardising efforts to secure compensation for the dependants of deceased ex-miners," Dr Raselimo explained.

Lesotho collaborates with South Africa's Medical Bureau of Occupational Diseases (MBOD) and the National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH) to analyse samples from deceased ex-miners.

These examinations determine if the individuals suffered from silicosis or tuberculosis, occupational diseases commonly linked to mining. However, the

pandemic disrupted the transportation of these samples, and the situation has not yet been resolved.

Dr Raselimo noted that before COVID-19, a local Mosotho doctor facilitated the process, ensuring smooth transportation of the samples with equipment provided by MBOD and NIOH.

However, she pointed to a possible contract lapse between this doctor and the South African institutions as a contributing factor to the current impasse.

"In November last year, stakeholders convened to diagnose the problem and find a solution, but we are still awaiting a resolution," Dr Raselimo said.

Supporting Dr Raselimo's account, Dr Hatane Hatane, an Occupational Health Doctor at Mafeteng Hospital, highlighted additional complications.

"I began working at Mafeteng Hospital in 2023 when sample collection had already ceased. Upon inspecting the hospital mortuary, I discovered that the samples no longer have name tags, making it impossible to identify their origins or match them with specific families," Dr Hatane disclosed.

This loss of identification has created a new wave of challenges, including mounting frustration among family members of deceased ex-miners who are demanding answers.

"We are facing increasing pressure from



Dr Hatane Hatane Occupational Health Doctor Mafeteng Hospital

families who are desperate for updates and justice," Dr Hatane added.

Mokhothu Makahlanyane, Chairperson of the Social Cluster Committee, requested a comprehensive report on the status of the samples and the logistical

issues at play.

"All relevant information regarding the samples must be submitted to my office promptly so that we can address the problem and find a way forward," Makahlanyane stated.

Violent crimes dampen festive mood

Relebohile Makhetha



Four men appeared before the Maseru Magistrate Court this week in connection with the alleged murder of one Motsekinyane Ramphalile.

Tholang Pooke (34), Rethabile Makoe (25), Kananelo Manong (33), and Mohale Makoe (21) stand accused of unlawfully assaulting Ramphalile with sticks on December 19, 2024, at Ha Letele in Maseru.

The injuries Ramphalile sustained are alleged to have led to his death.

The investigating officer informed the court that inquiries into the matter were ongoing. As a result, the court ordered that the accused remain in custody, with the case adjourned to January 21, for further proceedings.

In a separate case, Teboho Kou faces murder charges for the fatal shooting of Mpho Mokatse on December 26, 2024, in Semonkong, Maseru District. The accused is alleged to have shot Mokatse twice in the chest.

The court heard that Kou had evaded arrest since the incident but was recently apprehended after being identified while appearing in connection with another criminal matter.

Kou has also been remanded in custody, with his case similarly set for further proceedings on January 21, 2025.

In another disturbing incident, Moitheri Mafereka (34) stands accused of sexual assault and threats of violence against his wife, Makarabo Mafereka. The alleged offence occurred on December 24, 2024, at Masooe 1 Ha Khoeli.

The court heard that Mafereka unlawfully and without consent committed an act of sexual assault by inserting his hand into the complainant's private parts. Additionally, he is alleged to have threatened the complainant with violence, pointing a knife at her and declaring, "I will kill you."

Mafereka was granted bail in the amount of M500. His case, too, has been remanded for further proceedings on January 21.

LNFOOD appeals for funding



Seabata Mahao

The U.S. Embassy in Lesotho and the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOOD) on Wednesday hosted a groundbreaking meeting under the theme, Empowering Inclusion: Voices of Professionals with Disabilities.

The gathering celebrated the milestones achieved by persons with disabilities while shedding light on the persistent challenges they face across sectors.

Advocate Nkhasi Sefuthi, Executive Director of LNFOOD, commended the U.S. Embassy and the Government of Lesotho for their unwavering support.

However, he underscored a critical and recurring challenge: inadequate funding to support LNFOOD's activities and implement policies and laws designed to benefit persons with disabilities.

"This includes ensuring that disability-inclusive policies and laws match the necessary resources to bring them to life. Without funding, these frameworks risk being empty promises," Sefuthi emphasised, urging stakeholders to prioritise tangible financial backing for disability-related initiatives.

Speaking on behalf of the U.S. Embassy, Chargé d'Affaires A.I. Thomas Hines expressed profound gratitude to LNFOOD for its leadership and collaboration in making the event a success.

"The United States remains unwavering in its commitment to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities," Hines affirmed.

He cited the transformative impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which has dismantled barriers in education, em-

ployment, and public spaces, enabling millions of Americans with disabilities to fully contribute to their communities.

Hines emphasised that the U.S. collaborates with governments, civil society, and organisations like LNFOOD globally to advance policies and programs that empower persons with disabilities.

"These efforts underscore our belief that inclusion is not merely a matter of equity—it is a cornerstone of sustainable development, social cohesion, and economic progress," he stated.

He noted that when societies embrace inclusion, they unlock their full potential. However, Hines also called for reflection on the contributions of those who have laid the foundation for this progress.

Hines paid tribute to the late President Jimmy Carter, a lifelong advocate for disability rights.

"During his presidency, President Carter spearheaded key reforms that opened doors for persons with disabilities. His humanitarian efforts extended long after his time in office, solidifying his legacy as a champion of inclusion and equity," Hines said.

Carter's advocacy, he added, serves as a powerful reminder of the role of leadership in driving meaningful change.

Hines highlighted the importance of gatherings like this event in fostering progress.

"By celebrating the achievements of professionals with disabilities, we shine a light on their invaluable contributions to society. By fostering dialogue on inclusion and accessibility, we identify ways to dismantle the barriers that persist. Together, we can create lasting change," he explained.

Program to boost intra-African trade unveiled

Ntsoaki Motaung

South African-based marketing powerhouse, Mollis Group, has launched a bold initiative aimed at promoting African-manufactured products within regional markets across the continent.

The programme aligns with the African Union's (AU) vision of leveraging intra-African trade to stimulate economic growth and combat poverty.

Mollis Group's Chief Executive Officer, Lebo Radebe, emphasised that the initiative embodies the spirit of Pan-Africanism, focusing on unity, African cultural pride, and the ethos of Ubuntu.

"Pan-Africanism is the core pillar of the AU, and Mollis Group seeks to amplify this through the marketing of African brands across continental regional markets, beginning with southern Africa," Radebe stated.

The group plans to expand beyond southern Africa into eastern, western, central, and northern regions, leveraging regional manufacturing advantages to strengthen Africa's economic independence.

Highlighting the maturity of Africa's manufacturing industry, the CEO stressed the

need to prioritize intra-African trade.

"We must empower ourselves economically by prioritizing trade among Africans," he emphasised. "Mollis Group is dedicated to expanding African brands and promoting them on the continent and globally."

The programme includes a structured system to enhance the visibility and trade of African-made goods, particularly in the food and technology sectors.

Mollis Group's mission reflects AU principles, including transparency, accountability, and professionalism, as well as the foundational goals of Agenda 2063—a comprehensive framework for Africa's sustainable development.

"As Mollis Group, we are committed to unity, cohesion, and solidarity, which are key objectives of the AU. Our focus is on strengthening Africa's manufacturing industries to improve the lives of people across the continent," Radebe added.

The group has forged a partnership with the Royal Council of Africa, which includes influential leaders like King Mswati III of Eswatini and former South African President Thabo Mbeki.

To the professionals with disabilities in attendance, Hines extended heartfelt commendation: "Your achievements are a testament to resilience, talent, and determination. You inspire us all to envision and work toward a future where every individual has the opportunity to thrive."

In his remarks, Minister of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Culture Pitso Lesaoana celebrated the achievements of professionals with disabilities in Lesotho while reflecting on the progress made in ensuring that all Basotho, regardless of their abilities, have opportunities to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development.

"Inclusion is not just a principle; it is a profound commitment to equality, dignity, and recognising the incredible potential within every individual," Lesaoana said. He emphasised that embracing inclusion creates a society that values diversity, fosters innovation, and ensures no one is left behind.

The Minister acknowledged the transformative power of opportunity and support, highlighting the resilience, determination, and talent of professionals with disabilities.

"These individuals are not only breaking barriers but also inspiring change across various sectors in Lesotho," he said.

Lesaoana reaffirmed the government's dedication to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, including implementing policies and laws that promote accessibility, equal employment opportunities, and inclusive education.

"While significant progress has been made, much work remains. Achieving full inclusion requires the collective efforts of government, the private sector, and civil society," he noted.

The Minister commended the U.S. Embassy for hosting the event and its continued partnership in fostering inclusion and empowerment in Lesotho. He emphasised that such collaboration is vital in achieving shared goals and building an inclusive society.

"To the professionals with disabilities here today, I salute you. Your achievements are a testament to what is possible when society invests in its people and creates spaces for everyone to thrive. You are not just voices of inclusion—you are leaders, innovators, and role models," Lesaoana said.

He urged stakeholders to use platforms like this event to amplify the voices of professionals with disabilities, share experiences, and recommit to building a future where barriers are eliminated.

"Together, we can create a Lesotho where inclusion is not merely an inspiration but a lived reality," Lesaoana concluded.



Lebo Radebe Mollis Group Chief Executive Officer

To mark the programme's official launch, Mollis Group will host a high-profile event in Johannesburg, South Africa, in the first quarter of 2025.

Supported by the AU and the Royal Council of Africa, the launch will feature distinguished figures such as former President Mbeki and 40 foreign delegates from across the continent.

FEATURE

How clean water supply transformed Thaba-Tseka

... Amid El Niño-induced drought

Kabelo Masoabi

Access to clean water and improved sanitation facilities remains a pressing challenge for families in Lesotho, especially in remote districts like Thaba-Tseka.

Many residents in these areas endure long, arduous walks to unreliable groundwater sources, often shared with domestic animals, raising significant health concerns.

In the small village of Topa, situated in the district's most remote regions, residents have long struggled with these issues.

Sharing springs with animals such as dogs exposed families to contamination and serious health risks. Agricultural activities in the area have also suffered due to recurrent droughts, exacerbating malnutrition across households.

Fortunately, the newly installed water systems have transformed the situation, providing many families in the district with access to clean drinking water from protected sources, which is crucial in areas facing severe drought conditions. Currently, at least 21 villages are experiencing improved access to this vital resource, which is essential for health and well-being.

This initiative is part of a forward-thinking action plan designed to tackle drought linked to the 2023/2024 El Niño phenomenon. The project has received generous funding of M4 424 893.64 generated by the World Food Programme (WFP).

Moreover, the initiative aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6.4, which aims to substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors by 2030.

It also emphasises the need for sustainable freshwater withdrawals to address water scarcity and reduce the number of people affected by it.

Goal 6.B further encourages the active participation and empowerment of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

The WFP's anticipatory action programs are focused on easing the humanitarian impact of extreme weather events. Their main goals include promoting climate-resilient food systems, strengthening social protection efforts, and boosting emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

A key feature of this initiative is the installation of large-capacity clean water storage tanks, each with a 5,000-liter capacity, strategically located in critical "hot-spot" areas to meet the urgent needs of local communities.

Chief 'Makutso Ntoa of Topa Village, one of the communities benefiting from this project, shared the struggles residents faced before the water system was put in place.

Previously, those living in the area had



to trek long distances to collect water from unprotected springs, raising the risk of health issues due to contamination. Ntoa expressed her relief, saying: "We can finally move beyond relying on contaminated water sources."

In Ha Khoaisanyane, Chief 'Maserati Khoaisanyane pointed out that access to water is crucial not just for drinking but also for sustaining small vegetable gardens. Furthermore, this water source supports small livestock, including traditional chickens, which play a part in their daily livelihoods.

The installation of these tanks began in July 2024 and was completed in November of the same year. Water is sourced from catchment areas situated on elevated land, with pipelines transporting it downhill to the storage tanks near households.

This design takes advantage of natural water pressure through gravity, making the system more energy-efficient compared to those relying solely on pumps.

'Matšepo Lebelo, the Community Liaison Officer from the District Department of Rural Water Supply (RWS), provided valuable insights into the project's management and execution.

Lebelo explained that the initiative is overseen by the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) district office, which coordinates the overall strategy and implementation.

The RWS ensures quality standards during installation and addresses any challenges that arise.

Lebelo emphasised the crucial role of the water tanks in drought relief efforts,

noting that with recurrent drought conditions, access to clean drinking water has become increasingly vital. "The installation of these tanks is designed to effectively tackle the water shortage, providing a reliable and safe supply for those affected," she remarked.

Additionally, this infrastructure project, she said, has significantly increased the district's overall water supply to 56 percent, showcasing its positive impact on community health and sustainability.

The project has also created job opportunities for local men and women who participated as labourers. For example, in Topa village, Chief Ntoa highlighted that 68 local residents were employed during construction, ensuring clean water access for approximately 50 households.

However, project contractor, Ramachaha Hlajoane, acknowledged there were some challenges met during construction, such as unclear survey designs from the RWS and drying out springs.

"Despite abundant surface water resources in Lesotho, groundwater resources play a crucial role in water supply for rural villages. However, in other areas the groundwater sources generally yield low quantities leading to water supply reduction," Hlajoane explained.

He said there were also instances of pipeline vandalism in Ha Khoaisanyane village. He stressed the importance of raising community awareness about the need to protect their infrastructure and the benefits it offers.

In December last year, representatives from all stakeholders involved in the pro-

ject went on a comprehensive four-day oversight visit to connect with the custodians of these initiatives.

During this insightful excursion, they witnessed the successful completion of vital infrastructure projects and the tangible benefits experienced by vulnerable populations, deepening their understanding of the community transformations taking place.

Through engaging with residents and community leaders, stakeholders gained a deeper understanding of the importance of recent changes and the optimism they bring for a brighter future. The stakeholder team visited among others, the villages of Topa, Khoaisanyane, Setoetoe in Bobete and Ha Mapheelle in Manemaneng.

In her remarks, Emily Doe, the WFP Deputy Country Director and community development expert, expressed her satisfaction: "I'm genuinely pleased to hear beneficiaries share how the recent developments have notably improved various aspects of their daily lives, particularly in accessing clean drinking water. Their positive feedback highlights the meaningful impact of our initiatives within the community."

"At WFP, we remain dedicated to supporting sustainable projects in Lesotho, ensuring that we tackle both immediate needs and long-term challenges to foster enduring change. Remember, a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. WFP is not a donor but a partner that looks for funds to support developmental initiatives."

Moreover, WFP's role goes beyond just providing physical infrastructure; it actively contributes to enhancing the government's ability to manage climate-induced challenges through targeted, inclusive early-warning systems.

These advanced systems are designed to quickly predict and respond to climate events, helping communities prepare for and reduce adverse effects, enhancing resilience against environmental uncertainties.

Starting July 2023, in response to the expected 2023/2024 El Niño-induced drought, WFP implemented anticipatory action plans in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho, and Madagascar. Key interventions included cash-based transfers, distribution of drought-resistant seeds, and Last Mile Early Warning Messages (LMEWM).

According to Nthomeng Majara, the DMA Manager in Thaba-Tseka, LMEWM enables timely sharing of weather alerts with vulnerable communities, allowing them to act before predicted hazards.

Majara emphasised the importance of anticipatory action in disaster risk management, highlighting that early intervention protects lives and livelihoods, prevents disasters, and strengthens resilience.

The initiative also targeted three additional drought-prone districts: Mafeteng, Quthing, and Mohale's Hoek.



BUSINESS

Staff Reporter

Storm Mountain Diamonds (SMD), which mines the Kao kimberlite in Botha Bothe, has appointed its former Head of Finance, Neo Hoala as the Corporate Chief Executive Officer (CCEO).

Hoala's appointment is particularly notable within the male-dominated diamond mining industry, which has previously seen few other females ascending to her level. She succeeds the former CCEO, Mohale Ralihariki.

Described as a visionary leader with over 15 years of diverse industry experience, Hoala brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to Storm Mountain Diamonds. Her professional journey spans various sectors, enhanced by an MBA from Stellenbosch University.

"Prior to becoming CCEO of Storm Mountain Diamonds, she held several senior positions within the company, including Head of Finance for five years. Most recently, she served as Chief Financial Officer in the insurance industry," SMD said in a statement.

Her career is distinguished by numerous notable achievements and leadership roles. As a Chartered Accountant with memberships in the Lesotho Institute of Accountants and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA-UK), Hoala is a seasoned financial expert.

Her ability to drive profitability and maximise shareholder value is complemented by strong leadership and strategic vision, SMD said.

"With a proven track record in the mining industry and a strong financial foundation, Hoala is ideally positioned to drive Storm Mountain Diamonds' continued success. Her deep understanding of the diamond market will be instrumental in shaping the company's future," the company added.

Her career track record spans

Kao mine appoints new CCEO



Neo Hoala CCEO

working for Metropolitan Lesotho as Chief Financial Officer; DHL International as Finance and Admin Manager; Econet Telecom Lesotho

as Finance Manager Planning; Habitat For Humanity Lesotho as the National Office Accountant; Thaba

Bosiu Risk Solutions as Finance and Administration Manager; and LE-TACC Firm of Auditors as an Auditor.

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 Tisetso Justice Rabolinyane on 59452730.

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE LATE MOHLOMI MICHAEL THULO : EF/96/2024

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 44 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No. 2 of 2024 calling upon all debtors and creditors of the deceased to attend before MABUANG FLORINA THULO (EXECUTRIX) of HA MAPHAKOANE, KUBAKE, MOHALE'S HOEK for the purpose of:

Lodging claims against and / or payments towards the estate of MOHLORI MICHAEL THULO, by 13th, MARCH 2025 Dated at MOHALE'S HOEK this 17th day of DECEMBER, 2024.

ADDRESS: HA MAPHAKOANE, KUBAKE

MOHALE'S HOEK
(+266) 57300250

MABUANG FLORINA THULO (Mrs.)
EXECUTRIX

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE LATE MPHIO ELIAS MOHOLOBELA E393/2024.

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

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

THE ADMINISTRATOR
MS MAITUMELENG MOHOLOBELA
MAHLONYENG

MASERU
PHONE: 00266 59008912 / 0027797146349

ESTATE NOTICE

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

ESTATE LATE MPHIO ELIAS MOHOLOBELA

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No. 2 of 2024 calling upon surviving spouse, the heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court at the office of the Master of the High Court, in Maseru on, 15TH FEBRUARY 2025 at 10:00 am for the purpose of: Proposing some person/persons to be appointed by the Executor dative.

Dated at Maseru this 7TH JANUARY 2025
Master of the High Court Office

Magistrate Court Building
Maseru

HEALTH



SA hospitals meet revenue targets through

Lesotho's referrals

Ntsoaki Motaung

On Wednesday this week, the country marked a historic moment with the official handing over of the construction site for the nation's first-ever cancer center.

The event, which included a groundbreaking ceremony, was attended by government officials, healthcare professionals, and members of the public.

During the ceremony, Maneo Moliehi Ntene, Principal Secretary (PS) for the Ministry of Health, spoke candidly about the financial strain the country faces due to the referral of cancer patients to South Africa for treatment.

"Our country's funds are being eroded to South Africa through cancer treatment for Basotho," Ntene said. "South African hospitals are even proud to state that Lesotho plays a key role in helping them reach their monetary targets, thanks to the payments made by the Lesotho government for cancer patients referred there."

Specialists have highlighted the significant increase in treatment costs over the years, stating that in 2015, Lesotho paid at least M145,000 for the treatment of one cancer patient.

By 2023, that amount had risen to M220,000.

"Due to the burden of appointments for treatment in South Africa, some of this money was paid for patients who had already passed on before they could attend their scheduled treatments," Ntene shared, underscoring the critical need for a local cancer treatment facility.

The tender for the construction of the center was awarded to a joint venture between Plem Construction and G.L. Civils and Construction.

Dr Kabelo Mputsoe, Clinical and Radiation Oncologist, expressed gratitude on behalf of cancer patients, saying that the new center would be a major breakthrough in the country's healthcare system.

"Once the center is completed, patients will be treated in their own country by people who better understand them," Mputsoe said. She acknowledged that current facilities, such as the Sankatana Oncology Clinic, are inadequate for cancer treatment.

"We are currently using buildings that are not suited for cancer treatment, and it has been an ongoing struggle for years," she explained. "The idea of having a cancer center in Lesotho dates back to 2012, and we are proud that it is finally becoming a reality."

Mputsoe also revealed concerning statistics on the rise of cancer cases in Lesotho, with 625



cases reported in 2023 and 750 new cases already recorded in 2024.

"All types of cancers are found in Lesotho, but the most prevalent are cervical cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer," she said.

Mokhotu Makhwanyane, chairperson of the parliamentary social cluster committee, echoed the significance of the project.

"The struggle to establish a cancer center has been ongoing for a long time, and many lives have been lost in the process," Makhwanyane said. "The committee fully supports the Ministry of Health in ensuring this project is completed."

Health Minister Selebe Mochoboroane spoke about the delays in the project, particularly surrounding the tender process. Mochoboroane also highlighted the potential benefits of the construction phase, which is expected

to create between 305 and 400 jobs.

"This project will benefit all Basotho, regardless of their background or where they come from," he said, emphasising the economic and social impact of the cancer center.

Women, girls bear brunt of climate crisis, warns UNFPA

Ntsoaki Motaung



A recently released analysis by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) highlights that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, bearing significant health, social, and economic burdens on the frontlines of climate change.

The report underscores that extreme heat and weather-related disasters pose severe risks to women's and girls' health, including heightened chances of stillbirth, malnutrition, gender-based violence, and exposure to heat stress and infectious diseases.

"Climate change also threatens gender equality and sustainable development. Weather-related disasters fueled by climate change exacerbate inequality, disrupt essen-

tial health services, and limit women and girls' access to education and livelihoods," the paper stated.

Dr Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director, emphasised that the climate crisis worsens conditions for everyone, but women and girls in the hardest-hit countries face the gravest challenges.

"As storms, floods, droughts and wildfires displace them from their homes, life-saving health services, safe spaces, education and livelihood opportunities can fall out of reach. Women and girls are on the frontlines of the climate emergency, and this new analysis is a reminder that their needs must not be ignored," Kanem said.

Although Lesotho is not listed among the 25 countries most affected by climate-related disasters, health professionals in the country report that extreme weather patterns have a pronounced impact on women and girls, particularly in remote areas.

"Mabokang Damane, Nurse-in-Charge at Molika-liko Health Centre, shared with Newsday the challenges faced by women in hard-to-reach areas, where extreme weather often forces them to give birth at home.

"In these areas, women still give birth at home, and one of the major contributing factors is extreme weather," Damane explained.

Recalling one case, she described how a pregnant woman was unable to reach the clinic due to heavy rains that caused rivers to overflow.

"We nearly lost the mother because she gave birth at home, and the placenta got

stuck. If not for the heavy rains, she would have reached the health center and avoided such complications," Damane said.

The mother, who was bleeding profusely, eventually required emergency assistance. "A helicopter had to be arranged to transport her to the hospital, where she finally received help," she added.

Damane emphasised that long distances and harsh weather conditions are significant barriers to women seeking antenatal care or treatment for other health issues in a timely manner.

At COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) emphasised the urgent need for climate action that prioritises women, girls, and young people. The agency called for measures to protect vulnerable groups from climate disasters, including the implementation of early warning

systems, disaster preparedness strategies, and climate-resilient healthcare.

Additionally, UNFPA highlighted the importance of providing adequate financial support to vulnerable countries, with a focus on addressing the specific needs of women and girls to mitigate climate change impacts and foster resilience.

The organisation also stressed the need to ensure that women and youth are actively involved in decision-making processes and have access to the resources required to lead climate action and build sustainable communities.

"Without urgent measures, climate change will set back the clock even further on achieving gender equality and sustainable development. The time is now to put the rights, health and well-being of women and girls at the heart of climate action," said Dr Kanem.

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NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANISATION

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

Invitation for Supply and Delivery of Medical Equipment under Tender number **NDSO/MED/2025/01/GF**

The National Drug Service Organisation invites bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of Medical Equipment as per specifications under **Section V** of the bidding document. Bidding shall be conducted through the Open International Competitive Tendering procedures based on the current Public Procurement Act of 2023. The bidding document can be accessed on the NDSO official website @ <https://www.ndso.org.ls/>

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from:

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

Cheers to 2025: Let's walk together!

Compliments of the New Year, dear readers!

As we step into 2025, the entire Newsday editorial team extends heartfelt wishes for a year filled with hope, progress, and positivity. We could not be more grateful for your unwavering support last year, and we are excited to continue this journey with you, every step of the way, through thick and thin.

Let's get one thing straight: **we are nothing without you.**

You are not just readers; you are the reason we exist. That is why we work tirelessly to deliver news that matters, news that does not just inform but empowers you to make decisions that shape your world.

At *Newsday*, we are unapologetically on the side of the people. Yes, you, the ordinary citizen, the ones often overlooked or silenced. We are here for the vulnerable, the poor, women, children, the elderly, and minority groups like the LGBTQI+ community.

When injustice rears its ugly head, do not expect us to sit quietly on the sidelines waving a neutrality flag. Nope, that's not us.

As Desmond Tutu wisely put it:

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

You see, neutrality has its place, but not when someone's rights are being trampled. And like Nelson Mandela said:

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

At *Newsday*, we stand firmly on the side of justice, equality, and freedom, even if it means ruffling feathers or taking some heat.

We know, we know, our approach might make some people squirm. We are not the type to follow the well-trodden path or dance to anyone else's tune. **We chart our course**, disrupt the status quo, and challenge power structures.

Yes, it is uncomfortable. But hey, **comfort has never sparked change**. And as Mandela so aptly reminded us:

"For anybody who changes his principles depending on whom he is dealing with, that is not a man who can lead a nation."

This is who we are:

Uncompromising on principles: We expose corruption, hold power accountable, and speak truth to power, no matter the cost.

Pan-Africanist to the core: We honour Africa's legacy, celebrate its heroes, and detest colonialism in all its ugly forms.

A Voice for the voiceless: Advocacy for the marginalised is non-negotiable for us.

Whether you are a reader, an advertiser, or a partner, know this: you are standing with a newspaper that does not just report the news, we fight for a better Lesotho and a better Africa.

So, here is to a year of courage, innovation, and truth. Let us take this journey hand in hand. Let's question, challenge, and celebrate together. Because at *Newsday*, we do not just cover stories, we stand by them.

Happy New Year! Let's make 2025 unforgettable.



NO COMMENT



Theko Tlebere

COMMON CONCERN

The Significance of a Strategic Cabinet Reshuffle: A Critical Moment for Lesotho's Governance

Lesotho's political landscape has once again drawn national and regional attention following the dismissal of Professor Nqosa Mahao from his position as Minister of Energy. This decision has ignited public debate regarding the direction of Prime Minister Sam Matekane's administration and whether it signifies the need for a broader cabinet reshuffle or merely a replacement to fill the vacancy. As we begin the year's long series of writings, my article for today examines the importance of a strategic cabinet reshuffle, particularly in the context of Lesotho's political dynamics, governance imperatives, and the potential benefits of effective policy implementation.

Professor Mahao's dismissal is more than just a routine personnel change. As a prominent academic and political figure known for his advocacy of governance reforms and transparency, his exit from the Ministry of Energy raises concerns about the internal cohesion within the coalition government. It also prompts questions regarding the performance expectations for cabinet members and whether his dismissal stemmed from policy disagreements, underperformance, or political maneuvering.

A vacant ministerial position, especially one as vital as energy, presents a crucial opportunity for the Prime Minister to reassess the composition of his executive team. This moment should not be viewed merely as an administrative formality to fill a vacancy; instead, it should encourage the Prime Minister to reflect on the efficacy, balance, and vision of his entire cabinet.

When conducted strategically, a cabinet reshuffle serves several important purposes. It is not simply a tool for rewarding or punishing politicians but a mechanism for enhancing governance and policy effectiveness.

Key purposes of a reshuffle include:

- 1. Policy Alignment and Efficiency:** As governmental priorities evolve, a reshuffle allows the Prime Minister to ensure that cabinet members possess the skills and commitment necessary to effectively implement the government's agenda.
- 2. Enhancing Accountability:** A reshuffle can send a clear message that poor performance or non-compliance with governmental directives will not be tolerated.
- 3. Reinvigorating the Administration:** A reshuffle can bring renewed energy to the government's leadership by in-

roducing new talent and redistributing responsibilities.

- 4. Political Stability and Representation:** In coalition governments like Lesotho's, reshuffles can help maintain harmony, ensure fair representation of various factions, and address grievances within the coalition.

Lesotho's political history features numerous examples of both successful and problematic cabinet reshuffles. Previous administrations have frequently employed reshuffles as reactive measures to political infighting rather than as strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing governance. Such reactive approaches have, in some instances, intensified instability and diminished public trust.

In contrast, well-executed reshuffles in other countries have strengthened their administrations. For instance, during South Africa's post-apartheid era, periodic reshuffles were implemented to align ministries with developmental priorities. Although occasionally controversial, these reshuffles underscored the importance of placing competent, reform-minded leaders in crucial positions.

If Prime Minister Matekane decides on a comprehensive reshuffle rather than merely replacing the Minister of Energy, several factors should guide his decision-making process:

- 1. Performance-Based Assessment:** Each cabinet member should be evaluated against specific targets and outcomes to ensure that reshuffles are based on merit rather than political expediency.
- 2. Sectoral Prioritisation:** In light of Lesotho's socio-economic challenges, critical sectors such as health, education, and energy must be led by individuals with technical expertise and proven leadership skills.
- 3. Maintaining Stability:** Given the fragile political climate, reshuffles should be managed cautiously to avoid destabilising the coalition and triggering factional disputes.
- 4. Public Perception and Communication:** Transparency throughout the reshuffling process is crucial for preserving public trust. Clear communication about the reasons behind changes can help alleviate speculation and reinforce the government's commitment to good governance.

A reshuffle presents Prime Minister Matekane

with an opportunity to tackle some of Lesotho's key governance challenges. The energy sector, for example, is vital for economic development, job creation, and service delivery. Appointing an experienced and forward-thinking leader to fill this vacancy could enhance the country's energy policy and attract necessary investments.

However, focusing solely on replacing the Minister of Energy without addressing broader governance issues may limit the change's impact. A strategic reshuffle could also rectify underperformance in other ministries, improve policy coherence, and signal a strong commitment to achieving tangible outcomes. Furthermore, introducing new faces can bring innovative ideas and fresh perspectives essential for overcoming entrenched challenges.

While a cabinet reshuffle can offer several potential benefits, it also carries risks. Frequent changes in leadership may disrupt policy continuity and create uncertainty among civil servants and stakeholders. Furthermore, reshuffles that appear politically motivated can foster public cynicism and erode trust in the government's intentions. To mitigate these risks, the reshuffling process should be guided by clear objectives and transparent criteria. The Prime Minister should refrain from reshuffling merely to appease political allies or silence critics. Instead, the emphasis should be on assembling a capable and cohesive team united by a shared vision for national development.

The dismissal of Professor Nqosa Mahao presents Prime Minister Sam Matekane with a pivotal moment in his administration. Whether he chooses a targeted replacement or a broader reshuffle, his decision must adhere to the principles of meritocracy, accountability, and national interest. By conducting a strategic reshuffle, the Prime Minister can enhance his government's ability to fulfill its promises and address the urgent needs of Basotho citizens.

A well-planned reshuffle has the potential to reinvigorate the administration, restore public confidence, and establish a foundation for sustainable development. However, such an initiative demands careful consideration, transparent communication, and a firm commitment to good governance.

At this critical juncture, Prime Minister Matekane has the opportunity to demonstrate that his government prioritises effective leadership over political expediency and is genuinely dedicated to building a prosperous future for Lesotho. The future is NOW!

OPINION

Open letter to my MP: Moeketsi Motšoane

Compliments of the New Year! I trust your Christmas was filled with joy, food, and maybe a few too many desserts (if that's your thing).

Now, I am sure you don't know me, so let me introduce myself.

My name is Kananelo Boloetse, born and raised at Ha Ramasabata in Mafeteng. But before you start wondering where that is, let me clarify: Ramasabata isn't the name of a herd boy or a famous tourist spot – though it certainly should be – but it's where my roots run deep.

Over time, the name has been overshadowed, and our beloved village is now considered part of Matšaneng, a much newer settlement wedged between Phahameng and Ha Motlere.

But let's not digress too much – Ramasabata is the father of Boloetse, our great-grandfather, and to my family and me, that name holds a great deal of pride.

We proudly correct anyone who dares call us "Matšaneng residents," because, to us, Ramasabata represents a part of our identity and during the holidays, we had a thought: why not reclaim the land, restore our legacy, and appoint our own chief?

But that's a conversation for another time.

Now, on to the serious business! I arrived in Mafeteng on December 23, 2024, and guess what? It was the first time in forever that I got to see the town at night.

Normally, I don't venture out in the dark when I'm home, because let's face it, Mafeteng has a reputation for violence linked to Famo music groups, especially around the holidays. And you know what happens when Makhomasha (those brave souls working in South Africa's illegal mines) come back to town – they bring their "holiday cheer," if you catch my drift.

But on December 23, I had no choice but to arrive late from Maseru. And boy, was I in for a surprise! Unlike Maseru, where streetlights were recently fixed and shining brightly like they're on some kind of world tour, Mafeteng was pitch black—no streetlights working, not even one!

The town was as dark as a black panther's coat, a stark contrast to the early 2000s when Mafeteng was practically lit up like a Christmas tree. Back then, we'd hang out at St John's High School after school, feeling safe with those lights guiding us all the way home in the evening.

On the 23rd, though, people moved around like it was broad daylight. You know how they say, "When you've been in the dark for so long, you get used to it." But when someone from the "land of lights" (that's Maseru, in case you're wondering) shows up, they can't help but notice the vast difference.

As someone who knows what it feels like to live with proper lighting, the contrast was impossible to ignore.

So, I'm here to say: for the love of all things bright and shiny, can we PLEASE get those streetlights working again?

It is simply unacceptable that a town of this size and importance, such as Mafeteng, could remain in darkness. This affects not just the residents but also local businesses and street vendors who are unable to operate efficiently. Street vendors in Mafeteng have significantly fewer hours to make a living than their counterparts in Maseru, all due to the lack of proper lighting.

They can't open their stalls early in the morning because it's too dark, and they have to pack up and leave by evening before they find themselves surrounded by nothing but darkness.

A street vendor in Maseru has WAY more daylight hours to make a living than someone trying to hustle in Mafeteng, and this disparity

ty because people refuse to live in a place without decent roads. Imagine the loss of income for these land-lords, some of whom are



Mafeteng MP Moeketsi Motšoane

must be addressed.

Now, let's move to the next pressing issue. The once-beautiful gravel roads in Matšaneng, Phahameng, and Ha Motlere were decent back in the day. But fast forward to 2005 or 2006 when the Ministry of Local Government came in, promising to turn them into tarred roads. And they did turn some of the gravel roads into tarred roads!

But we got only one tarred road that connected Phahameng, Matšaneng, Ha Motlere, and even Matlapaneng, leading up to the Main Traffic Cycle. Most of the gravel roads remained as they were.

But guess what happened after that? The gravel roads started disappearing – thanks to some heavy rains and, I suspect, a lack of care. Now, they're just mud paths that look like something you'd expect to see in a nature documentary about struggling villages.

Some rental rooms (we call them malaene) in Matšaneng are now emp-

watching their properties crumble before their eyes.

The last time any roadwork took place in these villages was about 20 years ago!

As if that wasn't bad enough, let's talk about water.

I spent two weeks at home, and in that time, the only time I saw water coming out of our taps was twice. When I asked why, I was told that Skanska Dam, the main water supplier for Mafeteng, had dried up, and water was now being rationed.

What shocked me even more was the complete lack of a schedule. People didn't even know when they'd get water. They'd check their taps every now and then, hoping for the best. And if you went to town for a while, you'd come back only to find that the water came and gone again while you were away, leaving you to borrow from your neighbours who had managed to fill up their big drums.

My friend, Advocate Fusi Sehapi, took the matter into his own hands and wrote to the relevant authorities on behalf of the people. SECTION 2, the human rights organisation, also issued a statement in support of the residents.

Thankfully, this crisis gained some attention, and WASCO (the Water and Sewage Authority) finally acknowledged the situation. But here's the thing, MP – where are you?

The silence from you, my dear MP, is deafening. It's concerning, and honestly, I'm beginning to wonder if you've been abducted by aliens. Where are you?

We need your voice, especially when things are getting this bad. You don't have to fix the roads or the lights yourself, but we need you to make noise! Let the powers that be know that Mafeteng deserves better!

To be fair, I know you're not the one in charge of deciding which roads get fixed or which lights get turned on. But come on, we need someone to speak up for the people of Mafeteng. If someone

mentioned your name, Moeketsi Motšoane, I'm sorry to say, I would have to do a double-take and think real hard about who that is. I might even ask, "Wait, is that the doctor we met at the Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital last week?" You're that invisible, my MP. Your name has become almost synonymous with inaction, and it has left the residents of Mafeteng feeling abandoned.

So here's our request: Do us all a favour. Make some noise. Shout from the rooftops (figuratively, not literally, because you know, we don't want to give the wrong impression). Let's get those streetlights fixed, those gravel roads within our villages upgraded to tarred road or repaired, and the water flowing reliably.

Don't let Mafeteng be a town stuck in the darkness – literally and figuratively. We need you, MP. The people of Mafeteng need you!



Opportunities

Organisation: Commonwealth Scholarship Commission
Sponsor department: Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office
Location: London
Sectors: Education
Skills: Audit and Risk, Change Management, Commercial, Communication, Media, Human Resources, International Experience, Technology / Digital, Regulation, Education
Number of vacancies: 3
Time commitment: 15 day(s) per annum
Length of term: 3 Years
Application deadline: 11:59pm on 3 February 2025

1. **Opening date**
13 December 2024
2. **Application deadline**
11:59pm on 3 February 2025
3. **Sifting date**
17 February 2025
4. **Interviews expected to end on**
7 March 2025

Timeline dates are only an estimate and can change

Appointment description

Collective Functions

Commissioners have corporate responsibility for ensuring that the CSC fulfils the aims and objectives set by its sponsoring department, FCDO, and for promoting the efficient and effective use of staff and other resources. Commissioners are expected to:

- Ensure that individuals are selected for Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships on merit, and on the basis of clear criteria which reflect the objectives of FCDO and, where appropriate, other sponsoring departments.
- Ensure that all Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships are awarded under six development-related themes:
 1. Strengthening health systems and capacity
 2. Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship
 3. Strengthening global peace, security, and governance
 4. Strengthening resilience and response to crises
 5. Access, inclusion, and opportunity
 6. Science and technology for development
- Establish the overall strategic direction of the CSC within the policy and resources framework determined by FCDO
- Ensure that FCDO and other relevant funding bodies are kept informed of any changes which are likely to impact on the strategic direction of the CSC or on the attainability of its targets, and determine the steps needed to deal with such changes
- Ensure that any statutory or administrative requirements for the use of public funds are complied with; that the CSC operates within the limits of its statutory authority and any delegated authority agreed with FCDO, and in accordance with any other conditions relating to the use of public funds; and that, in reaching decisions, the CSC takes account of guidance issued by FCDO
- Ensure that mechanisms are in place to review regular financial information concerning the management of the CSC; and that the CSC has sufficient information to perform its functions and is able to provide positive assurance to FCDO that appropriate action has been taken on any concerns which it has expressed on the activities of the CSC
- Act in a way that promotes high standards of public finance, including the promotion of regularity, propriety, value for money and feasibility
- Demonstrate high standards of corporate governance at all times, including by using the audit committee to help them to address the key financial and other risks facing the CSC.

Individual Functions

In addition to the above, Commissioners are expected to contribute expertise and judgement, and to fulfil their role in a manner consistent with the standards expected of public office holders. They are expected to:

- Participate in CSC policymaking and strategy development, though participation in full Commission meetings (currently three half days per year)
- Contribute actively to at least one Commission Committee (currently finance, awards policy, evaluation and monitoring, and audit and risk management), and/or take on a 'Lead Commissioner' role, as agreed with the Chair
- Participate in the selection of award holders, through participation in selection panels (typically three to four days per year, plus five to nine days for reading and preparation time)
- Attend an initial briefing with the Chair and/or CSC Secretariat, and meet at least annually with the Chair as part of the CSC's appraisal process
- Attend events with award holders and other stakeholders, such as the annual Connect and Collaborate and Farewell Events and other activities as part of the Scholar engagement programme
- Comment and contribute to CSC policy, and actively promote the work of the Commission, between formal meetings, as the opportunity arises and in accordance with their areas of expertise.

Commissioners are required to:

- Comply with the CSC Code of Conduct, and with relevant rules relating to the use of public funds and to conflict of interest
- Comply with the CSC's policy on the acceptance and giving of gifts and hospitality, and other benefits
- Comply with all CSC Policies and Procedures and uphold best practice
- Act in good faith and in the best interests of the CSC at all times
- Commissioners must not misuse information gained in the course of their public service for personal gains or for political profit, nor seek to use the opportunity of public service to promote their private interests or those of connected persons or organisations.

Location:

United Kingdom. The Commission's Secretariat is based at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) in London. Successful applicants should be resident in the United Kingdom and willing to travel to London (and occasionally

elsewhere in the country) to attend Commission and other meetings and events in

Person specification

Essential criteria

It is expected that all successful candidates will demonstrate:

- An interest and expertise in higher education issues; while a distinguished academic background may be relevant, the CSC is also seeking Commissioners with backgrounds in policy, with governmental and non-governmental organisations, relevant corporate contexts etc
- Expertise/clear interest in international development issues, and the challenges faced by countries whose academic systems and research culture is still emerging
- Skills and experience to contribute to the selection of candidates for scholarships and fellowships
- The ability to think strategically, contribute to team discussions, and challenge assumptions in a constructive manner
- The CSC is particularly interested in Commissioners with experience/expertise in STEM, evaluation, or operations as well as development practitioner experience.

Desirable criteria

The CSC has identified several skills gaps amongst its current membership. Candidates who could address these, in addition to the essential skills described above, would be particularly welcome. Areas that are particularly sought include:

- Practical experience in the field of international development
- Knowledge and/or experience of increasing/supporting involvement of disadvantaged groups in education, and of supporting women's achievement in higher education
- Skills/experience of engaging with and managing delivery partners
- Knowledge of governance issues including audit, finance and risk, and the ability to understand their application to the legal and administrative environment in which the CSC works
- Experience of administration, evaluation and/or finance and budget management
- Strong affinity with the principles and values of the Commonwealth

Application and selection process

How to apply,

In order to apply you will need to create an account or sign in.

Once you are logged into your account, click on 'apply for this role' and follow the on-screen instructions. To apply, all candidates are required to provide:

- a Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- a supporting statement
- equality information
- information relating to any outside interests or reputational issues

We will ask you to check and confirm your personal details to ensure your application is accurate.

You will also have the opportunity to make a reasonable adjustment request or apply under the disability confident scheme before you submit your application.

Eligibility criteria,

In general, you should have the right to work in the UK to be eligible to apply for a public appointment.

There are a small number of specialist roles that are not open to non-British citizens. Any nationality requirements will be specified in the vacancy details.

The Government expects all holders of public office to work to the highest personal and professional standards.

You cannot be considered for a public appointment if:

- you are disqualified from acting as a company director (under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986);
- have an unspent conviction on your criminal record;
- your estate has been sequestrated in Scotland or you enter into a debt arrangement programme under Part 1 of the Debt Arrangement and Attachment (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 17) as the debtor or have, under Scots law, granted a trust deed for creditors.

When you apply, you should declare if:

- you are, or have been, bankrupt or you have made an arrangement with a creditor at any point, including the dates of this.
- you are subject to a current police investigation.

You must inform the sponsor department if, during the application process, your circumstances change in respect of any of the above points.

When you apply you should also declare any relevant interests, highlighting any that you think may call into question your ability to properly discharge the responsibilities of the role you are applying for. You should also declare any other matters which may mean you may not be able to meet the requirements of the Code of Conduct of Board Members (see Outside interests and reputational issues section below)

If you need further advice, please contact joe.huggett@fcdo.gov.uk

Security clearance,

The successful candidate will be required to undertake Baseline Personnel Security Standard checks in line with the Civil Service guidelines. Additional Security Clearance may also be required for certain roles. However, where this applies, candidates will be notified during the appointment process. Further information on National Security Vetting can be found on the Gov.uk website here.

Additional information for candidates

Equality and diversity,

We encourage applications from talented individuals from all backgrounds and across the whole of the United Kingdom. Boards of public bodies are most effective when they reflect the diversity of views of the society they serve and this is an important part of the Government's levelling up agenda.

We collect data about applicants' characteristics and backgrounds, including information about people's educational and professional backgrounds, so that we can make sure we are attracting a broad range of people to these roles and that our selection processes are fair for everyone. Without this information, it makes it difficult to see if our outreach is working, if the application process is having an unfair impact on certain groups and whether changes are making a positive difference.

When you submit your application, your responses are collected by the Cabinet Office and the government department(s) managing your application. The data is used to produce management information about the diversity of applicants. You can select "prefer not to say" to any question you do not wish to answer. The information you provide will not be seen by the Advisory Assessment Panel who review applications against the advertised criteria and conduct interviews.

Disability confident,

We are a member of the Government's Disability Confident scheme. We use the Disability Confident scheme symbol, along with other like-minded employers, to show our commitment to good practice in employing people with a disability. The scheme helps recruit and retain disabled people. As part of implementing the scheme, we guarantee an interview for anyone with a disability whose application meets the essential criteria for the role, set out in the advert, and who has asked that their application is considered under the scheme. Indicating that you wish your application to be considered under the scheme will in no way prejudice your application. By 'essential criteria', we mean that you must provide evidence which demonstrates that you meet the level of competence required under each of the essential criteria, as set out in the job-advert. When you apply you will have the opportunity to select if you would like your application considered under this scheme.

Reasonable adjustments,

We are committed to making reasonable adjustments to make sure applicants with disabilities, physical or mental health conditions, or other needs are not substantially disadvantaged when applying for public appointments. This can include changing the recruitment process to enable people who wish to apply to do so.

Some examples of common changes are:

- ensuring that application forms are available in different or accessible formats;
- making adaptations to interview locations;
- allowing candidates to present their skills and experience in a different way;
- giving additional detailed information on the selection / interview process in advance to allow candidates time to prepare themselves;
- allowing support workers, for example sign language interpreters;
- making provision for support animals to attend.

When you apply you will have the opportunity to request reasonable adjustments to the application process.

Status of appointment,

As this is an office holder appointment, you will not become a member of the Civil Service. You will not be subject to the provisions of employment law.

Appointment and tenure of office,

Appointments are for the term set out in this advert, with the possibility of re-appointment for a further term, at the discretion of Ministers. Any re-appointment is subject to satisfactory annual appraisals of performance during the first term in the post. There is no automatic presumption of reappointment; each case should be considered on its own merits, taking into account a number of factors including, but not restricted to, the diversity of the current board and its balance of skills and experience. In most cases, the total time served in post will not exceed more than two terms or ten years in any one post.

Remuneration, allowances and abatement,

You can claim reimbursement for reasonable travel and subsistence costs which are properly and necessarily incurred on official business, in line with the travel and subsistence policy and rates for the organisation to which you are applying. However these payments are taxable as earnings and will be subject to tax and national insurance, both of which will be deducted at source under PAYE before you are paid.

The role of Commissioner is unremunerated, although out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed in line with CSC policies. Commissioners also receive an honorarium, currently £300, in respect of each selection committee meeting in which they participate.

Pension and redundancy,

This is an office holder appointment and does not attract any benefits under any Civil Service Pension Scheme. You will not be eligible for redundancy pay as you are not an employee. No other arrangements have been made for compensation upon the end of your term of appointment because an office holder who is appointed for a limited duration would have no expectation of serving beyond that period.

Application feedback,

We will notify you of the status of your application. We regret that we are only able to offer detailed feedback to candidates who have been unsuccessful at the interview stage.

How to complain,

We aim to process all applications as quickly as possible and to treat all applicants with courtesy.

Please contact the public appointments team in the first instance if you would like to make a complaint regarding your application at joe.huggett@fcdo.gov.uk. They will acknowledge your complaint upon receipt and respond within 15 working days.

How to complain to Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA), If you are not content with the appointing department's response you may wish to further complain to the Commissioner at publicappointments@csc.gov.uk. Further information on how the Commissioner handles complaints can be found on the Commissioner for Public Appointments' website <https://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk/regulating-appointments/investigating-complaints/>

Data protection,

The Cabinet Office will use your data in line with our privacy policy.

Your personal information will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. You will not receive unsolicited paper or electronic mail as a result of sending us any personal information. No personal information will be passed on to third parties for commercial purposes.

When you submit personal information to us when making an application, we promise we will:

- only ask for what we need, and not collect too much or irrelevant information;
- ensure you know why we need it;
- protect it and insofar as is possible, make sure nobody has access to it who shouldn't;
- ensure you know what choice you have about giving us information;
- make sure we don't keep it longer than necessary; and
- only use your information for the purposes you have authorised.
- We ask that you:
 - give us accurate information;
 - tell us as soon as possible of any changes; and
 - tell us as soon as possible if you notice mistakes in the information we hold about you.

If you apply for a post, the manner in which we share information with the interview panel is described above.

Our data protection policy is in line with the General Data Protection Regulations and there is more detail in Annex B of the attached candidate pack.

If you would like these details to be removed from our records as soon as this recruitment exercise is complete, please inform harriet.o'connor@fcdo.gov.uk.

Contact details,

If you have any questions about the appointments process, please contact harriet.o'connor@fcdo.gov.uk

VACANCY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and interested individuals to apply for the following position at National Drug Service Organization (NDSO) in the Quality Assurance and Customer Service Departments.

Position	Laboratory Customer Service Consultant
Reports to	Assistant Customer Service Manager
Required Minimum Qualifications	Diploma in Medical Laboratory Sciences
Required Minimum Experience	Two years working experience in a similar position
Position	Assistant Quality Assurance Manager –Monitoring and Evaluation
Reports to	Quality Assurance Manager
Required Minimum Qualifications	1) Bachelor's degree in statistics, demographics, economics, or related field.
Required Minimum Experience	2) Qualification in Monitoring & Evaluation will be an added advantage.

The details of the Job Descriptions will be found at NDSO website: www.ndso.org.ls

Interested individuals must send their application letters, CV and Certified Copies of educational certificates by hand to HR office , or email them to hr@ndso.org.ls on or before the closing date.

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

The closing date for applications is 24th January 2025 at 12H00.

VACANCY

Position Title: Radiologist
Reports to: Chief Medical Officer
Location: Mophales'hoek, Lesotho

Organizational Profile

Partners In Health (PIH) is a non-profit, global health organization that fights social injustice by bringing the benefits of modern medical science first and foremost to the most vulnerable communities around the world. PIH focuses on those who would not otherwise have access to quality health care. PIH partners with the world's leading academic institutions to create rigorous evidence that shapes more sound and all-inclusive global health policies. PIH also supports local governments' efforts to build capacity and strengthen national health systems. As of today, PIH runs programs in 11 countries (Haiti, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Navajo Nation, Peru, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and the United States), where it provides direct care to millions of patients, through public facilities and community engagement.

Position Overview

The Radiologist will review patient's x-ray and CT scan/MRI images and provide interpretation of images in a timely manner. The candidate will also perform ultrasound scans for diagnosis or monitoring purposes and will build capacity of frontline health care providers on use of ultrasound and x-ray interpretation. The radiologist will work closely with the PIHL and MOH clinical teams and will report directly to the PIH Lesotho Chief Medical Officer

Specific Responsibilities

- Review chest x-ray images, CT Scan/MRI images of patients from PIH supported facilities in rural areas and MDR TB hospital and provide interpretation of images to support disease management
- Perform Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) to patients as requested by PIH or MOH clinicians
- Review ultrasound images remotely and give feedback to frontline clinicians
- Support the MOH hospitals on patients' x ray or CT scan/MRI scan reading on request
- Train and mentor PIH Lesotho physicians and nurses on basic x-ray interpretation
- Advise PIH Lesotho and MOH on new medical technologies to procure in order to improve quality of patients' care
- Support the MOH in developing or updating clinical guidelines, protocols and SOPs related to radiology
- Training for US-guided procedures like central line insertion/ US guided deep abscess drainage/ US guided biopsies,

- Planning for a radiology training pathway after/ during internship for doctors

Qualifications

- Medical Doctor with specialty in radiology and sonography
- Minimum of 3 years of experience in working in the field of global health preferred
- Experience in use of telemedicine systems
- Being sensitive to patients' needs and ability to prioritize emergencies
- Proven ability to build relationships with a range of clinical and non-clinical teams and drive positive impact on patients
- Ability to work independently and effectively in high-pressure, fast-paced environment and handle multiple requests simultaneously
- Ability to work with humility and achieve results
- High levels of proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and internet applications
- Exemplary interpersonal skills; ability to collaborate effectively with culturally diverse staff across departments and country.
- Interest in social justice strongly desirable
- Ability to live full-time in Lesotho required

Commitment to Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment:

At Partners in Health, we are committed to ensuring that those who benefit from our work- including our patients, families and community members – as well as our staff are treated with dignity and respect and protected from sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment. A range of pre-employment checks will be undertaken in conformity with Partners in Health's PSEAH policy. Partners in Health will request information from applicants' previous employers about any findings of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment during employment, or incidents under investigation when the applicant left employment.

By submitting an application, the job applicant confirms their understanding of these recruitment procedures. Interested candidates should e-mail their applications (Subject line should be the position of interest Medical Officer, TB Nurse etc) Detailed CVs including three names of traceable referees with valid telephone numbers and email addresses to lesothorecruitment@pih.org no later than 17th January 2025. The referees should include the most recent supervisor/s. Hand delivered applications will not be accepted.

Only shortlisted applications will be accepted.



Kingdom of Lesotho
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II
MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAMME

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P165228
CREDIT NO: IDA -64220 -LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REVIEWER
DURATION: THREE (3) MONTHS
REF NUMBER: LS-MAFS-465836-CS-INDV
DUTY STATION: MASERU

1. BACKGROUND

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

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The technical and financial review process is central to the concept of a Matching Grants Program, as it is meant to provide the technical and financial oversight during the selection of the portfolio.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

Technical and financial reviewers are responsible to:

- Review in detail and evaluate the applications against the designated criteria and weighting-scoring system and procedures provided by the MGP Secretariat.
- Meet with the applicant(s) and service provider to assess their knowledge and competence and consequent ability to implement the investment.
- Complete an evaluation report for each application reviewed, using the forms provided by the MGP Secretariat.
- Assign criteria scoring and provide detailed comments when judged necessary for further consideration by the applicant, the MGP Secretariat and the MGC.
- Assign, at the end of the evaluation report/form, a level of recommendation to the application for consideration by the MGP Secretariat and MGC during the next steps of

the selection procedure.

- Support scoring and recommendations with any further detailed comments that may be judged important to be communicated to applicants.
- Submit all completed review documentation, including the evaluated application and the evaluation report/form, to the MGP Secretariat within a maximum of 10 calendar days.
- Participate, if invited to do so, in the MGC meeting to defend his/her evaluation or provide additional comments related to any of the evaluated applications in front of the MGC members.
- Declare any interest relation or other relation with the participants linked (directly or indirectly) with the application proposed for evaluation and withdraw from the evaluation for which a potential conflict of interest may arise.
- Keep the confidentiality of the evaluation from any participant or person related to the applicant of the service provider.

4. DURATION

- Contract duration is three (3) months.

5. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

- Forms to be used for evaluation of proposals
- Proposals from Beneficiaries.

6. DELIVERABLES AND FINAL OUTPUT

- Written report on the results of the evaluation including their recommendation on the proposals reviewed and scored.

7. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- University degree in Agricultural economics or Degree in Agriculture.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- At least 5 years of experience in the field(s) and the specialty(ies) that are (is) priorities of the MGP and for which he/ she may be invited to play the role of the technical evaluator.
- Successful completion of a training program in the technical and financial review of investment proposals, as approved by the PMU and the MGC.
- To have successfully accomplished a few activities on the

field of his/her specialization and have a good knowledge of Lesotho agriculture sector (production, processing and marketing issues). A good knowledge of international agriculture would be desirable.

- To have a good grasp of the financial management issues associated with subproject design and implementation.
- To be a well-known person, progressive and objective, have good communication skills with colleagues and partners as well as experience of multi-partner activities.
- To have experience on the projects/programs of agriculture development and contacts and international experience on technology transfer would be an advantage.

8. CLIENT ASSIGNMENT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS.

Project Director assisted by Matching Grants Manager will coordinate implementation of activities under this contract, agreeing timing of services and for acceptance and approval of the reports and for receiving and approving the Consultant's invoices for the payment.

9. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III paragraph 3.14 to

3.17 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated November 2020 and revised in September 2023, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in Procurement Regulations.

10. SUBMISSION

Expressions of interest accompanied by detailed CV must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person by **14:30hrs Harare, Pretoria time on 31st January 2025** clearly marked "Expression of Interest for Technical and Financial Reviewers" For further clarifications contact:

To: Project Director-SADP II
 Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
 Department of Livestock Services -Moshoeshoe 11
 P.O. Box 24
 Maseru 100 Lesotho.
 Email: procurement@sadpii.org.ls cc rkathibe@sadpii.org.ls



Fees	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
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Subscription	M 72.00	M 156.00	M 312.00
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Delivery	M 60.00
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Names:..... **Email:**..... **No. Of Copies:**.....
Address:..... **Start date:**...../...../..... **Expiry:**...../...../
Tel:..... **Cell:**..... **Signature:**.....

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T-Born to appear on American podcast

Staff Reporter

Lesotho's award-winning gospel hip-hop sensation, T-Born, is set to make waves internationally as he features in an American podcast interview scheduled for tomorrow, January 11.

The podcast, which is to be hosted by Ricky McClenton is scheduled to air at 11 AM local U.S. time (5 PM in Lesotho), and promises to spotlight T-Born's journey, music, and his rise to stardom in the competitive music industry.

T-Born, who won the coveted Best Hip-Hop Artist award at the 1st National Music Awards in Lesotho, has captured the hearts of fans with his unique blend of gospel and hip-hop, delivering inspirational messages through vibrant beats and profound lyrics.

Speaking ahead of his much-anticipated podcast appearance, T-Born expressed his excitement about the opportunity to share his story on an international platform.

"This is a moment I've been waiting for - to share my journey, my struggles, and my triumphs with a global audience. Gospel hip-hop is more than music; it's a message, and I'm honoured to represent Lesotho on this stage," he said.

The podcast, renowned for hosting influential artists and trailblazers from around the world, will delve into T-Born's career highlights, his inspiration for creating gospel hip-hop, and the challenges he has faced as an artist in Lesotho. The feature is expected to provide a deeper understanding of how T-Born's music has bridged the gap between faith and modern hip-hop culture.

Fans in Lesotho have expressed great anticipation for the broadcast.

"T Born has made us proud as a nation. It's inspiring to see his talent being recognized internationally," said one fan.

Since winning his award, T-Born has continued to make an impact in the music scene, performing in major concerts across Lesotho and releasing hit singles that resonate with both young and old audiences.

His appearance on the podcast marks another milestone in his journey, as he continues to break barriers and elevate Lesotho's music industry onto the global stage.



T Born

**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

Includes:

- Event Entry
- Transport
- 3 x nights
- 50+ Exhibitions
- 6 + Masterclasses
- Funding Opportunities

Package 2: 10 400

- Entry and Exhibition
Limited to **ONLY 5 farmers.**
NO perishable goods will be allowed
- A table on the Exhibition floor
- Transport
- 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)

SPORTS

Monese makes triumphant comeback

Seabata Mahao

Veteran rider, Phetsetso Monese emerged victorious at the National Mountain Bike (MTB) Championship, held last weekend at Lebung Park in Linakotseng, in Maseru.

The championship, an annual 36-kilometre race, saw local riders competing fiercely for the prestigious title.

Monese's triumph marks a significant comeback, dethroning the 2024 champion, Tumelo Makae, who dominated last year's event. This year, however, Makae faced mechanical issues with his bicycle, providing Monese with an opening to take the lead.

Monese capitalised on the opportunity and maintained his advantage to the finish line.

Reflecting on the victory, Monese acknowledged the stiff competition, particularly from Makae, whom he considers one of the best riders in the country.

"At the beginning, I was hopeful, but I knew it would be a tough race. I was fortunate to get a window of opportunity, and I seized it," Monese said.

He added that he initially entered the competition as part of his preparation for other upcoming events, viewing it as a chance to test his skills.

On the other hand, Makae attributed his defeat partly to the numerous postponements of the competition, which he said affected his motivation.

Despite this setback, he was gracious in defeat, stating, "Phetsetso Monese deserved this win as he is one of the best riders we have in the country."

Makae further mentioned that he is now



Mountain Bike (MTB) 2025 Champion, Phetsetso Monese

shifting focus to the upcoming Road Race as part of his training regimen for future international competitions.

The MTB Championship, originally scheduled for July 2025, faced significant hurdles due to a lack of funding after sponsors withdrew at the last minute. The Federation of Cycling Lesotho (FCL) had to overcome numerous challenges to finally host the event.

In an exclusive interview, FCL Public Relations Officer Malefane Morie expressed satisfaction with the overall success of the championship despite the setbacks.

"The weather was not on our side; heavy rain disrupted the race, forcing us to halt it temporarily. Additionally, many registered riders withdrew at the last minute, citing difficulties in riding in the rain. Others, who are students and workers, had to prioritize their engagements," Morie explained.

Although the FCL initially anticipated over 40 participants, the final turnout was just over 30 riders.

"We are hopeful for a larger turnout in the next championship."

Despite these challenges, he emphasised that the event was well-executed and the federation is already focusing on future competitions. The next major event on the FCL calendar is the Road Race 2024/25 Championships, scheduled for Sunday, January 12, 2025, at Phillips Industrial Area Bypass in Maseru.

Meanwhile, former MTB Champion Makae is gearing up for a series of international events. He is set to compete in the Tankwa Trek MTB in Ceres, Western Cape, South Africa, on February 6, 2025.

This will be followed by the South African Cup MTB from March 1-2, and the prestigious ABSA Cape Epic MTB in Cape Town from March 16-23, 2025.

Ramakongoana's star keeps rising

Seabata Mahao



Lesotho long distance marathoner, Tebello Ramakongoana in Xiamen

Rising long-distance runner, Tebello Ramakongoana, recently made history by smashing the national record for men's 42 kilometre race as well as besting his own personal record for the same distance.

The Qacha's Nek-born athlete pulled off the double feat during his extraordinary performance at the recent C&D Xiamen Marathon in China, where he managed a second place finish.

Competing against some of the world's finest marathon runners, Ramakongoana delivered an exceptional performance, clocking in at 2:06:18 to set a new national record for Lesotho.

The previous national record which Ramakongoana bested was 2:07:58, which he himself had set at the 2024 Olympic Games. The same record also happened to be his personal best.

This remarkable achievement has further solidified his status as one of Lesotho's premier athletes, underscoring his relentless determination and growth as a world-class athlete.

In China, he finished just seconds behind Ethiopian Dawit Wolde, who claimed victory with a time of 2:06:06. Defending champion Asefa Boki Kebebe, also from Ethiopia, secured third place, crossing the finish line at 2:06:32.

The results demonstrated Ethiopia's ongoing dominance in marathon running, but Ramakongoana's exceptional showing proved that he is a force to be reckoned with on the global stage.

In the women's race, Ethiopian athletes continued their remarkable performances. Ruti Aga emerged as the winner with an impressive time of 2:18:46, while her compatriots Gutemi Shone and Fikrta Wereta completed the podium with times of 2:23:11 and 2:23:15, respectively.

Ramakongoana's coach, James McKirdy, praised his athlete's incredible preparation for the challenging race. He explained that the Xiamen Marathon is a platinum label race, one of the highest-caliber events outside of the World Championships and Olympics. Competing at this level required Ramakongoana to be in peak physical and mental condition.

"After the Paris Olympic Games, Tebello prioritised recovery, focusing on local competitions like the Lesotho Half Marathon," McKirdy explained.

"When the Xiamen Marathon became an option, we dedicated nine to 10 weeks to intensive training. The Mountain Marathon 21, one of the most challenging half marathons in the world, was a key part of his preparation."

Despite facing setbacks such as a post-Olympic hamstring strain, Ramakongoana showed remarkable resilience and unwavering commitment to his craft. His

ability to overcome challenges and maintain focus was a key factor in his success.

McKirdy noted that Ramakongoana's progress over the past five marathons has been extraordinary. Over the span of his career, he has consistently improved his times, going from 2:10 to an astonishing 2:06. This steady progression is a testament to his dedication, hard work, and growing talent.

The Public Relations Officer of the Federation of Athletics Lesotho, Nkoebe Makhalemele, expressed immense pride in Ramakongoana's achievements.

"Tebello has made history and continues to inspire young athletes across the country. His performance is a testament to his dedication and hard work," Makhalemele said.

Makhalemele further emphasised that Ramakongoana's achievements bring great pride to Lesotho.

"We are proud to have such a remarkable athlete representing our country on the global stage," he added.

Ramakongoana's second-place finish at the Xiamen Marathon automatically qualifies him for the 2025 World Championships in Tokyo this September. Makhalemele highlighted how this result will significantly boost Ramakongoana's global ranking, providing him with even more opportunities to compete at the highest levels of the sport.

"Finishing second in such a prestigious event is a major accomplishment," Makhalemele said. "It not only elevates his status internationally but also serves as an inspiration for other athletes in Lesotho."

Ramakongoana's historic performance at the Xiamen Marathon has undoubtedly cemented his place as a trailblazer in Lesotho's athletics history. With his sights now set on the World Championships, the future looks incredibly bright for this talented and determined athlete.

10 January - 16 January 2025

ISSN: 2453-5311



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LMPS, LCS renew fierce rivalry



LMPS FC.

Seabata Mahao

Sparks are set to fly this weekend when fourth-placed Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) FC take on ninth-placed Lesotho Correctional Service (LCS) FC in a much-anticipated Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash.

Despite the nine-point gap between the two teams, encounters between these security agency rivals are never short of drama. Fans can expect an electrifying match when the two sides meet on Saturday at Ratjomose Ground.

LMPS enters the fixture with 25 points from 12 matches, while LCS has amassed 16 points from 11 games. The intense rivalry, coupled with both teams' desire to climb the league table, is bound to result in a fierce battle on the pitch.

In another key VPL fixture, league leaders Matlama Football Club (FC) will travel to Mohale's Hoek to face newcomers Majantja FC on Sunday.

The match, scheduled to take place at DIFA Mohale's Hoek Ground, will be a test of dominance for Matlama and

an opportunity for Majantja to make a statement against the league's top team.

Matlama, who have not faced Majantja in a league match for over a decade, recently defeated them 3-0 in the inaugural Mdlakovana Tournament held in Mohale's Hoek in September 2024.

Heading into this weekend's encounter, Matlama leads the log standings with 30 points and a goal difference of 20, having won 10 of their 12 matches and lost just two.

Majantja, on the other hand, sits in

10th place with 14 points and a goal difference of seven. The newcomers have won three of their 11 games, drawn five, and lost three. While Matlama has recently displayed their prowess by beating another debutant, Mzamane FC, 2-0, Majantja will look to defy the odds and claim a memorable victory on home turf.

This clash between the central and southern regions is expected to reignite old rivalries and attract fans from both regions, eager to witness a showdown that hasn't occurred in over a decade.

The Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena will host two matches on Saturday, including an intriguing fixture between third-placed Bantu FC and bottom-side ACE Maseru. Bantu has a golden opportunity to narrow the gap with leaders Matlama to just two points, as they also have a game in hand.

ACE Maseru, however, faces an uphill battle to avoid an immediate return to the second division and will need a miraculous turnaround to keep their hopes alive.

Other exciting matches in the VPL include the rivalry clash between LCS and LMPS at Ratjomose Ground on Saturday at 16:00, while Lifofane faces Linare in Butha-Buthe in another much-anticipated encounter.

On Saturday, January 11, Lioli will host Mzamane at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena at 16:30, while LCS takes on LMPS at Ratjomose Ground at 16:00. Bantu will face ACE Maseru at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena at 14:00, and Manonyane will host Machokha at Nyakosoba Ground at 16:00.

Sunday, January 12 will see Majantja hosting Matlama at DIFA Mohale's Hoek Ground at 16:00, while LDF takes on Liphakoe at Ratjomose Ground at the same time. Lifofane will meet Linare in Butha-Buthe at 16:00, and Lijabatho will face LU FC at Morija Ground at 16:00.

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