



# Newsday

...pacing standards

31 January - 06 February, 2025

www.newsdayonline.co.ls

Vol 06 No 51

M6.00

## Business

Government warned over mining sector incentives

Page 6

## News

M-Pesa fraudster dragged to court

Page 13

# MAFETENG WATER CRISIS: STORY OF

- Broken promises
- Costly alternatives
- Looming health disaster

Page 2



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

Date: 1-2 April 2025

Venue: Lavender Kontrei Market, Pretoria North, Gauteng.

For more Information: Turn to Page 14





# Mafeteng water crisis

## Story of

- Broken promises
- Costly alternatives
- Looming health disaster

Ntsoaki Motaung and Seabata Mahao

Mafeteng residents have been battling a persistent water crisis, and while the Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) acknowledges the severity of the problem, its response has been riddled with delays, rising costs, and questionable solutions.

Newsday this week conducted an on-the-ground investigation, uncovering alarming details about the deteriorating Rasebala Dam, the economic strain of alternative water supply methods, and potential health risks stemming from contaminated water sources.

### Dam choked by silt and bureaucracy

Rasebala Dam, once a reliable water source, is now plagued by severe siltation, reducing its capacity and threatening the town's water security.

On January 8, this year, WASCO said that 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.

Newsday discovered this week that a plan had been devised as far back as 2019 to address this issue by excavating and transporting the accumulated sediment elsewhere.

However, this undertaking was estimated to cost approximately M29 million at the time. Given inflation and other economic factors, sources suggested this cost may now be closer to M50 million.

In response to emailed questions yesterday, WASCO said: "The figures are correct and the plan has been changed to use a more appropriate method termed Dredging."

It added: "Dredging of sand from the dam has been considered for its technical and environmental prowess over excavating and transporting sand from the dam. The cost of dredging is estimated to be M50 million."

WASCO further said that the stability of the dam was greatly dependant on the load on the dam structure and the bearing capacities of the underlying care should be taken when maintaining the dam that the foundations of the dam are not affected anyhow as the interference with the structures may have detrimental effects.

"Dredging the dam is considered to be the safe way to deal with capacity restorations of the dams. Moreover, dredging can be done at any season and with the dam still functional to serve raw water for our treatment plant while the other method would be most practical in the dry season," it said.

However, WASCO did not provide clear timelines on when the project will commence, raising concerns that the water crisis will persist indefinitely while costs continue to rise.

### A financial drain: The cost of pumping water

Newsday also learned that due to the sediment accumulation in Rasebala Dam, WASCO is currently pumping water from Luma Dam into Raleting Dam, and subsequently from Raleting to the water treatment facility at Motse-Mocha.

It is important to note that, under normal circumstances, water from Rasebala Dam flows naturally to the treatment plant, and this eliminates the need for pumping.

WASCO acknowledged that the current sys-



tem incurs an annual electricity bill of M90,000, and this cost fluctuates depending on rainfall levels.

Economically, it acknowledged that relying on costly pumping rather than fixing Rasebala Dam is unsustainable.

"It is imperative economically for the company to restore the dam capacity for the mentioned reasons and others like the ease of treatment of water, settlement of solids start in the dams and less turbid waters will be realised if there is enough storage and as thus less chemicals will be needed for treatment of water," it said.

It added: "It is also very much important to

have continuous supply of water that meets the demand of the town even in the critical times to realise as much sales as possible from the produced water and keep the promise of supplying the community with potable water.

"It is in this spirit that the company seeks alternative sources of supply of water when the raw water from the Rasebala dam has deteriorated. The average annual consumption of electricity for pumping at Raleting and Luma is M90,000.00 annually and it varies depending on the rainfall in the year."

### Contamination fears: Sewage flowing into drinking water?

Newsday's investigation uncovered a particu-

larly alarming issue, a discharge of liquid resembling sewage flowing directly into Raleting Dam, one of the town's key water sources.

The discharge originates from a maintenance hole behind the National Drug Service Organisation (NDSO), raising urgent concerns about potential contamination.

When questioned, WASCO claimed ignorance of the issue but admitted it understands the risks.

"We are not aware of the incidence in question. However, we are aware of the potential pollution that this can bring but unfortunately the nature of gravity sewer lines are constructed at the places low- [Continues on page 7](#)



**Newsday** (+266) 2231 4267/ 5945 8983

Carlton Centre  
3rd Floor  
Room 302  
Kingsway  
Maseru

MANAGING EDITOR  
Lerato Matheka  
managingeditor@newsdayonline.co.ls

NEWS EDITOR  
Kananelo Boloetse  
editor@newsdayonline.co.ls

SUB EDITOR  
Bereng Mpaki

NEWS ROOM  
Ntsoaki Motaung  
Seabata Mahao  
Relebohile Makhetha

CONTRIBUTORS  
Theko Tlebere  
Motsamai Mokotjo

PRODUCTION  
Bolokang Mahlo  
Bataung Monaheng

Videographer  
Pheello Mosesi

DISTRIBUTION AND ADMIN  
Tumisang Motsamai  
MARKETING  
Tefah Sello  
Mosa Lekhooa  
Tumelo Ramotsoane  
marketing@newsdayonline.co.ls

WEBSITE  
www.newsdayonline.co.ls

FACEBOOK  
Newsday Newspaper LS  
X  
@LsNewsday  
INSTAGRAM  
Newsday Lesotho  
PRINTER  
Thabure Media Group  
Maseru, Lesotho

PUBLISHER  
Newsday Media (Pty) (Ltd)  
Maseru



## Ntsoaki Motaung

At schools in Mafeteng, students arrive not just with books but with containers of water, shouldering the burden of their own basic needs.

Teachers, too, are not spared, often seen carrying water to school desperate to keep lessons going despite the unbearable conditions.

The stench of unflushed toilets fills the air, hands go unwashed before meals, and thirst gnaws at young minds struggling to focus.

This is not just an inconvenience, it is a crisis.

A relentless water shortage in the district, blamed on drought and the siltation of Rasebala Dam, has left schools paralysed.

The Water and Sewage Company (WASCO) struggles to provide a steady supply, forcing students and teachers into a daily battle for survival.

The crisis has severely impacted school feeding programs and basic water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices, leaving students vulnerable to health risks.

Without access to clean water, pupils struggle to concentrate, teachers face difficulties in maintaining order, and schools are unable to meet essential hygiene standards, and even basic school meals have become uncertain.

Ramahetlana 'Matli, the principal of Mafeteng High School, is no stranger to the dire effects of the water crisis. His school, home to 120 students, is often among the first to run dry whenever shortages occur.

"Whenever a water crisis hits, we are the first school to lose supply. Other schools might have water for hours or even a day longer, but we run dry almost immediately," he said.

He explained that the crisis escalated in late 2024, and without a borehole, the school has been left particularly vulnerable.

WASCO provides emergency tanker deliveries, but the limited water is prioritised for cooking and drinking, leaving hygiene to suffer.

"Our teachers' restrooms use flush toilets, which become completely unusable without water. Teachers are forced to use pit latrines at their residences, while students continue using school toilets, even when they are unclean. The smell alone makes the environment unbearable," 'Matli explained.

If funds were available, 'Matli said his first priori-

# Mafeteng's water crisis cripples schools



ty would be drilling a borehole to provide a reliable water source, alleviating the school's dependence on WASCO's inconsistent supply.

He described how, when water runs out entirely, teaching becomes nearly impossible.

"Students cannot concentrate when they are thirsty and hungry. School starts at 7:00 AM and ends at 4:00 PM, and when there is no water, there is no food. Those who do not bring their own water from home go the entire day without drinking. It is a difficult situation because we have no choice but to continue teaching under these conditions," he said.

The school cannot resort to asking students to bring water from home, as such request would be far from being guaranteed given that many homes in Mafeteng are also battling with the same water scarcity.

Water crisis vs. global commitments

The water crisis in Mafeteng directly undermines the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) which calls for "clean water and sanitation for all." It is one of 17 goals established to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aims to ensure sustainable water management worldwide.

SDG 6 outlines eight targets to be achieved by 2030, focusing on water access, sanitation, and resource sustainability. The six key outcome targets include:

1. Universal access to safe and affordable drinking water.
2. Adequate sanitation and hygiene for all, with special attention to vulnerable groups.
3. Improved water quality through pollution reduction and increased wastewater treatment.
4. Enhanced water-use efficiency to combat scarcity.
5. Implementation of integrated water resource management at all levels.
6. Protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems.

Yet, for schools in Mafeteng, these targets remain distant goals rather than everyday realities.

Tumo Moshesha, the principal of St. John's A.C.L. High School in Mafeteng, recounted a distressing incident where he was forced to send students home during lunch due to a total water outage.

"Just last Thursday, we had no choice but to send

students home because there was no water at all, making it impossible to continue with afternoon lessons. Coincidentally, we had scheduled a staff meeting, and without water or teachers, we decided it was best to dismiss the students," Moshesha explained.

St. John's, which educates around 600 students, depends on a 2,200-liter water tank when the water supply from WASCO runs dry. This tank, however, only sustains the school for up to two days.

"The water scarcity impacts not just the students but also the teachers living in school residences," Moshesha added.

He further detailed that the school had installed a borehole years ago to combat such water shortages from WASCO, but it is currently non-operational because it was never fully completed.

"We have plans to fix and reactivate it, but funding remains our biggest challenge," he said. The school is now in the process of finding a partner to help restore the borehole, yet the financial hurdles continue to impede progress.

"Our temporary solution is to ask students to bring water from home, but many families here face the same water scarcity issues. We hope parents can somehow manage to provide water. It is not just the students; even teachers must carry water containers to school," Moshesha noted.

The bigger picture

The challenges faced by Mafeteng High School and St. John's are not isolated incidents. More than 50 percent of schools in Lesotho still lack access to basic WASH services.

Lesotho's National Guidelines for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools stress that all learners have the right to quality education, which includes access to clean drinking water and sanitation.

However, for many schools, these guidelines remain an aspiration rather than a reality.

The lack of clean water forces students to learn in unhealthy and undignified conditions, putting them at risk of disease and affecting their overall well-being.

## Villagers forced to drink from roadside well

### Ntsoaki Motaung

The sun beats down mercilessly on the parched earth of Ha Ramokhele, an old village just outside the city centre of Mafeteng.

Here, amid the dust and debris, an open roadside well stands as a lifeline for desperate villagers.

The air around it carries a sharp, unpleasant odour, thick with the hum of swarming flies.

Yet, for many, this water is their only hope of survival.

During a visit to the area, Newsday witnessed first-hand the grim reality of a community brought to its knees by an acute water shortage.

What was once a small, overlooked water source has become a critical supply point for hundreds of people, regardless of its alarming state.

Among those drawing water from the well is Mo-shoeshoe, an elderly man whose face bears the etchings of hardship.

With two large containers in hand and tightening the lid on one of his water containers, he said: "This is where we fetch water every day."



He added: "Even when the taps are working, some of us have no choice but to come here. But now, with no water anywhere else, even those with taps must come here."

The well, positioned near the ruins of the former Mafeteng Correctional Facility, is surrounded by discarded plastic waste and food scraps.

Children, barefoot and dusty, dart around its edges, their laughter incongruous against the bleak backdrop. Some dip old plastic bottles into the water, filling them for their families at home.

Mahambaetsoa Moletsane, a resident of Ha Motlere, described his daily struggle: "I rent a house with a tap, but most of the time, there's no water. So I walk there, near what used to be the prison, to get water. There's nothing else we can do."

For many, this likely contaminated water is used for drinking, cooking, bathing, and even brewing traditional beer.

Phokeng Lets'oara, a vendor who makes and sells the local brew, said she has no choice but to use the unsafe water: "We can't afford to buy water from Chinese supermarkets that still have running taps," she explained.

"Some customers have complained about stomach illnesses. Even the beer doesn't taste right, but what choice do we have?"

The health consequences have allegedly been noticeable.

A group of young boys playing near the well share their own experiences. "Last December, some people got sick," said one boy. "There was diarrhea, stomach cramps. We all know it's because of the water, but we have nowhere else to go."

The situation in Ha Ramokhele reflects a larger crisis across Lesotho.

According to World Vision, 80 percent of rural communities in the country still depend on unprotected water sources, with many traveling over 30 minutes to fetch what little they can find.

This stark reality stands in contrast to Lesotho's major water export projects: the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) supplies over 760 million cubic meters of water annually to South Africa, a figure set to rise with Phase Two.

Meanwhile, the Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer Project, currently in feasibility studies, aims to

send Lesotho's water over 700 kilometers to Botswana.

However, within its own borders, Lesotho struggles to provide its people with access to safe drinking water. The Lesotho Water and Sanitation Policy of 2007 mandates that all Basotho should have sustainable access to potable water, a goal echoed in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

But for the people of Mafeteng, those promises remain as dry as their empty taps.





## MASERU BUSINESS ACADEMY

(Since 1999)

*The business college with a difference*

Preparing the champion and business leaders of tomorrow  
in alliance with an internationally recognized institute

**THE INSTITUTE OF COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT (ICM) U.K.**



---

**Diploma And Advance Diploma in:**

- ❖ ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE
- ❖ HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
- ❖ OFFICE MANAGEMENT
- ❖ PURCHASING AND SUPPLY
- ❖ OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
- ❖ TOURISM AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
- ❖ COMPUTER COURSES

**Graduation ceremony upon completion**

- ❖ Free handouts
- ❖ Flexible payment terms

Call or visit us @  
2nd Floor, Room 206, Carlton Centre,  
Kingsway road, Maseru Lesotho



+266 22320882



+266 28327045



+266 62849830

**FULL TIME,  
PART TIME & ONLINE  
CLASSES AVAILABLE**

**2025 Admissions in progress**



# Mafeteng hospitality sector struggles amidst water crisis

**Seabata Mahao**

The hospitality industry in Mafeteng is reeling under the strain of a severe water crisis affecting areas under the Mafeteng Urban Council, primarily serviced by the Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO).

With persistent water shortages, many hotels and guesthouses have resorted to boreholes and outsourced water deliveries to sustain their operations.

However, these emergency measures are proving inadequate, forcing some establishments to limit the number of guests they accommodate.

During Newsday's visit to the town on Tuesday, Masoeli Letale, an employee at Golden Hotel, urged authorities to use the ongoing drought as an opportunity to rehabilitate Mafeteng's three main dams.

"Our government, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and WASCO, should take this time to remove silt from Skanska (Rasebala) Dam so it can be fully operational once the drought ends," she said.

Letale noted that while there had been a slight improvement in water supply recently, with low-pressure tap water available, the situation remains critical.

"The water pressure is very low, and we are unable to fill our tanks, which we rely on to distribute water into rooms for flushing toilets. We are forced to place buckets of water in the rooms so that visitors can flush manually," she explained.

Rethabile Sekike, an employee at City Centre Hotel, stated that their survival hinges on a borehole at the facility, though it is insufficient to meet the hotel's full water demands.

"Although it doesn't pump large amounts of water, it helps us keep operations running by supplying our storage tanks," Sekike said.

However, the situation worsens when the hotel is fully booked, particularly when hosting international guests.

"Our reserve water runs out quickly, and since the borehole takes hours to refill, this



causes major inconveniences, especially regarding hygiene," she noted.

Sekike also revealed that the water shortage negatively impacts their ratings on Booking.com, an online platform where international guests book accommodations.

"Tourists and business travelers do not understand the district's water challenges. Some get frustrated and leave immediately, while others stay after we explain the situation. Local guests, however, are more understanding," she added.

Limpho Mohapi, from Khatholoha Guesthouse in Matšaneng, reported that while they had received consistent water for the past few days, albeit with fluctuating pressure, the festive season and the beginning of the year had been particularly difficult.

"We had to outsource water from private borehole owners just to stay operational. We even had to cut some of our services," Mohapi said.

On January 8, the Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) acknowledged the severe water scarcity affecting Mafeteng, which it said had disrupted daily life and strained businesses and essential services.

WASCO attributed the crisis to unpredictable weather patterns linked to climate change, including prolonged droughts and extreme heat waves, exacerbated by the siltation of the Rasebala Dam, the town's primary water source.

"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 Litres per day (ML/D), currently delivers only 1.8 ML/D, well below the town's demand," WASCO stated.

"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," it added.

During the visit to the district, Newsday learned through interviews with various stakeholders that WASCO is currently pumping 2.3 million litres per day, following a brief heavy rainfall last week.

However, this remains below the plant's minimum required output of 3.3 million litres per day, and production could drop further if no additional rainfall occurs.

# Upgrading of Khubetsoana market raises concerns for local enterprises

**Kabelo Masoabi**

The reconstruction of the Khubetsoana local market in Maseru is set to significantly impact the 21 small businesses operating there, due to the market's urgent need for repairs.

The Maseru City Council (MCC), which oversees local markets under the Local Government Act of 1997 (as amended), has announced plans to demolish and rebuild the market to address its current state of disrepair.

The closure of these businesses during the construction phase not only threatens the livelihoods of the entrepreneurs but also impacts the broader community.

The MCC's goal is to replace the outdated market, which has been operational since it was handed over by the Ministry of Interior in 1989, with a modern facility that would better cater to both vendors and customers.

"The market, inherited from the former Ministry of Interior in 1989, has become outdated and is in disrepair. Nevertheless, it continues to host twenty-one small enterprises, supporting livelihoods and serving the community," MCC stated in a statement.

However, local business owners have expressed significant concerns about the upcoming changes. They highlighted the lack of clear communication from the council regarding demolition timelines, which is crucial for planning relocations.

Mokonyane Sehahloe, who has been renting space there since 2011, noted, "This initiative has been promised for years with little action. We are skeptical about the information we are given."

Entrepreneurs at the market pointed out several ongoing issues due to inadequate infrastructure, including the absence of basic amenities like clean water and proper restroom facilities.

Some said they have independently arranged for electricity, while others still operate without this essential service. Security is another major concern, with tenants often having to repair doors and install additional security measures due to frequent break-ins.

At the time of publication on Thursday, MCC's Public Relations Officer, Lintle Bless Mosala, was unavailable for comment.

The MCC, according to its earlier statement, has decided to proceed with the project through a Public-Private Partnership



(PPP). This approach involves engaging a private partner who will take full responsibility for the project's conceptualisation, financing, and execution.

The PPP model includes designing a new market structure, demolishing the current facility, constructing and managing the new market, and eventually transferring the ownership back to the MCC.

The private partner will also conduct technical, financial, and operational feasibility studies, develop an environmental management plan for sustainability, and secure all necessary financing.

Bidders for this project must either be locally registered or form a Joint Venture with locally registered firms, to ensure local involvement in the project.



# How LHWP is harnessing the power of water to drive human development

## Staff Reporter

The bi-national Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) exemplifies how a single infrastructure initiative can drive broad human development.

Beyond water transfer and power generation, the project has created jobs, developed skills, improved education and healthcare, strengthened businesses, and preserved the environment.

And with Phase II of the project currently underway, the LHWP- an initiative aimed at collecting and delivering specified quantities of water from Lesotho to address water shortages in South Africa's Gauteng region while simultaneously generating hydroelectric power for Lesotho- remains a beacon of progress.

Since its inception in 1986, the project has not only fulfilled its primary mission but has also significantly contributed to Lesotho's economic growth, employment, infrastructure, education, and environmental conservation.

## Economic empowerment

One of the LHWP's most remarkable achievements is its role in driving economic empowerment in Lesotho. The project has injected over M17 billion into the country's economy through Phase I, with Phase II expected to contribute an additional M53 billion by its completion.

This massive financial influx has spurred job creation, with 16,000 employment opportunities for Basotho in Phase I and 11,000 in Phase II to date. These jobs, spanning both skilled (7,491 positions) and unskilled (3,772 positions) labor, have improved livelihoods and fostered financial stability for thousands of Basotho families.

Speaking during a recent tunnel boring machine (TBM) launch and naming ceremony in Leribe, the Chief Executive of Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), Tente Tente gave a brief snippet of the profound impact of the project to date.

"Allow me to share with you the achievements that Phase II has made to date. It has generated over 11,000 employment oppor-



tunities for Basotho, with 7,491 skilled and 3,772 unskilled jobs created. We have also paid over M120 million in compensation to 1736 households to date," Tente said.

Furthermore, the project prioritises local procurement, having spent M1.2 billion on Basotho-owned businesses in Phase I. In Phase II, Basotho businesses have already received M366 million, with significant contributions directed toward companies in the Phase II Project Area, Mokhotlong and Leribe. This investment has supported entrepreneurship, strengthened local industries, and advanced skills development across multiple sectors.

## Sustainable revenue generation

Beyond employment and local business growth, the LHWP provides a steady revenue stream for Lesotho. To date, the country has collected over M17 billion in water royalties, generating an average monthly income of M300 million for the country.

The project has to date produced M1.4 billion in revenue through bulk electricity sales to the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC), with an average annual revenue of M55 million.

## Human development and skills growth

The LHWP has played a pivotal role in equipping Basotho with valuable skills and educational opportunities. Over 1,700 individuals from project communities have completed the LHDA's Skills Testing and Accreditation Program, with the project set for further expansion.

"I am aware that the communities on this Leribeside of Phase II have had concerns about implementation of some of the pro-

grammes that we have already implemented on the eastern side, Mokhotlong.

"I'm sure you will be pleased to note that this year after months of planning we will be launching the Skills Testing and Accreditation programme - which evaluates, accredits, and certifies the skills of candidates, thus opening new employment opportunities in semi-skilled categories in Lesotho and across the SADC region," Tente said.

Similarly, the LHDA Bursary Program has awarded 16 scholarships since 2018, benefiting 70% Basotho students at a cost of M4.1 million.

In addition, M99.7 million has been invested in skills development initiatives, while the Young Professionals Program has guided 82 graduates into sustainable careers, with 78 currently employed in LHWP-related fields.

## Infrastructure and social services development

Infrastructure improvements remain a cornerstone of the LHWP's legacy. Under Phase I, over 2,000 kilometers of roads were constructed, enhancing connectivity and trade while granting rural communities easier access to essential services.

The project has also made significant contributions to education and healthcare, with 45 classrooms built across 16 schools and five health facilities established to provide critical medical services to rural populations.

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, LHWP Phase II has spent M4.5 million on Health Management Information Systems, capacity building, and community health services, ensuring that the project's benefits extend beyond economic and infrastructural gains to include long-term improvements in public health.

## Environmental conservation and sustainability

As a responsible development initiative, the LHWP integrates environmental conservation into its operations. The project has established protected areas such as Tšehlanyane National Park, Katse Botanical Garden, and Bokong Nature Reserve, safeguarding Lesotho's biodiversity while promoting eco-tourism and job creation in conservation.

Moreover, the project's Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) program under Phase II has employed 10,987 Basotho in rangeland and wetland rehabilitation, with M36 million paid in wages in the past cou-

ple of years. These efforts help combat land degradation, ensuring that Lesotho's natural resources remain sustainable for future generations.

## Water and sanitation improvements

Water access remains central to the LHWP's mission, and its impact on local communities has been profound. Through the Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) initiative in Phase I communities, 2,292 households have gained access to potable water systems, while 446 households have received modern sanitation facilities. These improvements have enhanced hygiene, reduced disease prevalence, and improved overall quality of life.

## Rural electrification and energy access

In addition to its hydroelectric power contributions, the LHWP has extended energy access through solar electrification projects. Over 208 households in Katse and Mohale villages have been connected to sustainable solar energy, reducing dependence on traditional fuels and enabling economic activities that require reliable power.

## Infrastructure expansion and progress

LHWP Phase II continues to advance, with key infrastructure projects nearing completion. Housing and office facilities have been finalized, while new roads connecting Leribe, Thaba-Tseka, and Mokhotlong are set to enhance regional connectivity. The Senqu Bridge, the largest of three spanning the Polihali Reservoir, reached a milestone with the completion of all 15 piers in December.

Additionally, significant progress has been made on the Polihali Dam and Transfer Tunnel. Excavation and rockfill placement for the dam are ongoing, and tunnel boring machines (TBMs) have been introduced to accelerate progress.

The tunnel will facilitate gravity-fed water transfer from Polihali to Katse, further strengthening Lesotho's role as a key water supplier in Southern Africa.

"At the heart of the Project is the improvement of the livelihoods of our citizens. It is crucial for LHWP to never overlook the significance of restoring the lives of individuals directly impacted by this project," added Minister of Home Affairs, Lebona-Lephema on behalf of Prime Minister Samuel Matekane at the TBM launch.





# BUSINESS

## Government warned over mining sector incentives

**Bereng Mpaki**

The government has been urged to reconsider its mining sector investment incentives to prevent potential revenue losses that the state may be incurring.

This concern was raised during a recent dialogue titled “*Re-Thinking the Use of Tax Incentives and Other Investment Promotion Tools in Lesotho*,” facilitated by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in Maseru this week.

IISD, an independent think tank focused on sustainable development policy, collaborates with governments, intergovernmental organisations, academic institutions, and the private sector to provide research, analysis, technical assistance, and policy recommendations.

The IISD delegation’s visit to Lesotho forms part of a three-year technical assistance program aimed at supporting the country’s incentive reform efforts.

Discussions at the IISD-led workshop centered on improving Lesotho’s investment framework, optimising tax incentives as a trade promotion tool, and positioning the country to align with the Global Minimum Tax.

Stakeholders from key public sector entities—including the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), Revenue Ser-

vices Lesotho (RSL), the Ministry of Trade, Investment and Business Development, the Ministry of Finance, and the Department of Mining—were in attendance.

During the discussions, Liteboho Tlebere, the acting Chief Legal officer from the Department of Mining, expressed strong reservations about offering incentives in the mining sector. He warned that foreign investors often exploit these incentives, leading to reduced government revenue.

Tlebere highlighted that mining companies frequently cite “cash flow problems” as a justification to request deferred royalty payments, which results in the state receiving lower-than-expected royalty revenue.

According to the *Mines and Minerals Act, 2005*, holders of diamond mining leases are required to pay 10 percent of their gross sales value as royalties to the government. However, the Act also allows mining companies to apply for deferred royalty payments, with the duration determined by the Minister of Mining.

Additionally, minerals extracted for testing or examination purposes are exempt from royalty payments at the minister’s discretion—a provision that is susceptible to abuse by both mining companies and government officials.

“The open-ended wording of the Act creates regulatory challenges, particularly re-



garding the deferment of royalty payments and safeguarding the state’s interests,” the legal mind noted.

Lesotho currently offers several incentives to mining companies, including 100 percent depreciation on mining equipment investments, reduced electricity rates and zero-rated exports among others.

Other investment incentives including No withholding tax on dividends distributed by manufacturing firms, factory space incentives, and training or tertiary education expense allowance.

Many of these incentives are intended to attract investment but may be contributing

to financial shortfalls for the government; a challenge the IISD assistance program to Lesotho hopes to address by the end of three years.

The IISD experts that were in Lesotho for the mission included Elisangela Rita, the Senior Policy Advisor, Tax Incentives and Sustainable Investment, Economic Law and Policy Program; Viola Tarus, Policy Advisor, Tax and Extractives, Economic Law and Policy Program; Kudzai Mataba, Policy Analyst, Tax and Investment, Economic Law and Policy Program; and Josefina del Rosario Lago, the Policy Analyst, Tax Investment, Economic Law and Policy Program.

## Factory expansion creates 250 jobs



The launch ceremony of New Epoch expansion in Maputsoe industrial area

**Seabata Mahao**

In a significant boost for Lesotho’s textile industry, Maputsoe-based New Epoch Factory has expanded its operations, creating 250 new jobs.

This expansion offers a glimmer of hope amid the devastating job losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The factory, established in 2003, has opened a second production unit, increasing its workforce to over 300 employees once fully operational. Currently, 50 workers have al-

ready transitioned from the original facility to ease overcrowding, while 32 production lines are already in operation.

Speaking at the launch, New Epoch’s Managing Director, Huilan Wang, emphasised the company’s long-standing mission to empower local communities through employment and economic participation.

“Though the journey has been challenging, marked by obstacles, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to supporting the people of Lesotho,” Wang said.

“Through determination and persever-

ance, we have built a company that not only thrives but also contributes to the prosperity of its people.”

She expressed gratitude to key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Trade, the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), and the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC), whose collaboration was instrumental in making the expansion a reality.

The expansion aligns with the government’s ongoing ‘Re Bula Lifeme’ campaign, launched in late 2024 by the Ministry of Trade through LNDC. The initiative focuses on retaining and growing existing investments rather than opening entirely new textile firms.

Speaking on behalf of LNDC’s CEO, Industry Manager Puseletso Makhakhe reaffirmed the corporation’s commitment to stimulating investment and driving economic growth.

“There’s a misconception that LNDC is opening new textile factories, but our priori-

ty is to retain and support existing investors,” Makhakhe clarified. “We are witnessing the vital role of workers in maintaining investor confidence.”

Minister of Trade, Industry, and Business Development, Mokhethi Shelile, applauded the expansion and urged workers to take pride in their jobs. He emphasised the importance of protecting their workplaces and warned against political influences that could disrupt labor stability.

“Your jobs are valuable, and it is essential to respect both your work and workplace. When damage occurs—such as broken windows during protests—it is not just management that suffers, but investors who may be driven away.”

With this expansion, New Epoch is reinforcing its role as a key player in Lesotho’s textile sector, ensuring continued economic contribution and job creation for local communities.

### ESTATE NOTICE

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

#### ESTATE LATE MAKING MARY MOKAKE E89/2025

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’s estate within thirty-five (35) days of this publication.

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

**KHUBETSOANA  
MASERU  
(+266) 59579362**

**MONYAKE MOKAKE  
(THE ADMINISTRATOR)**



# Mafeteng water crisis



Continued from page 2

er than the households in elevation," it said.

It explained that it tests the raw water and treated water and ensures that the applicable water treatment standards are adhered to and to this point, "there has not been failures from the raw water and treated water."

"For this reason, we have not found it befitting to alert any authority about the issue. The company also attends the sewerage overflows timeously and where necessary rehabilitates the sewer lines to ensure minimal disruptions."

**Legal loopholes: WASCO's water permits**

**under scrutiny**

The Water Act of 2008 establishes that all water resources in Lesotho are owned by the Basotho Nation and held in trust by the King on behalf of the people. The Act further states: "The right to use water shall be in accordance with the provisions of this Act."

According to the Act, water use includes extracting water from a watercourse, storing it, impounding or diverting its flow, and engaging in streamflow reduction activities. It also covers the discharge of waste or wastewater into water resources via pipelines, canals, sewers, or other conduits.

Additionally, water use encompasses irrigation, industrial and mining activities, as well as the disposal of water heated during industrial, mining, or power generation processes. It also includes altering the bed, banks, or course of a watercourse, extracting underground water when necessary for operations or safety, recreational water use, and bottling water for commercial purposes.

Section 20 of the Act explicitly states: "No person shall engage in an activity of using or abstracting water without a water use permit." Anyone seeking to use water must apply to the Director using the prescribed form.

The permit is valid for five years and can only be transferred with written consent from the Director. The Director is also responsible for determining water volumes, monitoring usage, and ensuring compliance with permit conditions.

However, when questioned about whether it requires permits to abstract water from Raleting and Luma Dams, WASCO denied any obligation to apply, arguing that its authority to use these water sources is established through historical precedence and its own statutory mandate.

"Luma Dam and Raleting Dam, formerly known as Scott's Vlei Dam, have long been earmarked as the water supply dams in the town as noted in the Four Towns Water Supply Completion Report at the completion of the Rasebala Dam," it said.

"There has also been a water treatment plant named after and abstracting raw water from the

Scott's Vlei Dam before the construction of the Rasebala Dam which was first commissioned in 1988 before the Water Act was developed in 2008," it added.

WASCO further explained that it has also been formed by the WASCO Act, "which is a statute equal in power to the Water Act and it gives WASCO the right to use the water sources for its business".

"This implies that WASCO does not need to apply for a permit to use the water source as it is already allowed by the WASCO Act," it insisted.

**A crisis of accountability**

Mafeteng's water crisis is more than just an infrastructure problem—it is a glaring failure of leadership, planning, and accountability.

- WASCO has acknowledged the urgency of restoring Rasebala Dam but has yet to provide a concrete timeline.
- The company continues to waste financial resources on an expensive alternative supply system rather than implementing a long-term solution.
- Alarming evidence of potential sewage contamination has been met with indifference.
- WASCO's legal justification for bypassing water permit regulations raises serious concerns about governance and oversight.

With no immediate resolution in sight, residents of Mafeteng remain at the mercy of an inefficient and costly water supply system, while authorities continue to sidestep the pressing need for action.

## Water shortage endangers patients

**Ntsoaki Motaung**

When the Newsday team arrived at Mafeteng Hospital on Tuesday, the facility was completely without water, severely impacting its ability to provide adequate patient care.

The lack of a reliable water supply puts patients at risk as the hospital struggles to maintain basic hygiene, sanitation, and essential medical procedures, Newsday has learned.

Hospital workers, who could not speak on record due to a policy restricting media communication to the Ministry of Health's headquarters in Maseru, revealed that the crisis poses a serious public health threat.

To cope, the hospital is allegedly rescheduling certain surgeries and transferring urgent cases to other facilities. Procedures requiring stringent hygiene standards are particularly affected.

Some patients who have undergone surgery, despite the hospital's efforts to maintain maximum hygiene, have reportedly returned with infected wounds, suggesting a link to the ongoing water crisis.

Beyond medical care, the crisis presents significant logistical challenges. During outages, caterers rely on community boreholes, toilets remain unflushed, and patients must depend on family members to bring drinking water from home, sometimes leaving them unable to bathe.

For now, the hospital is managing to maintain services, but if the situation deteriorates further, service suspensions may become unavoidable.

The crisis is not confined to the public hospital; private clinics across Mafeteng are also suffering declining business.

In an interview, Masontaha Dlamini, proprietor of Medizone Private Clinic, cited the unreliable water supply as the reason she can no



Mafeteng Hospital

longer provide maternity care.

"We have been struggling with this water shortage for an extended period, and it is taking a toll on our services. Having to buy and transport water is severely impacting our business," Dlamini said.

She stressed that clinics must maintain the highest standards of hygiene, a standard now being compromised, putting the health of patients, healthcare providers, and visitors at risk.

Dlamini urged the Lesotho government to re-

spond urgently, suggesting that even short-term alternatives should be explored while authorities work toward a lasting solution.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities are essential for delivering safe, patient-centred services while upholding human dignity.

WHO highlights that adequate WASH in healthcare facilities is crucial because it is a fundamental human right and a core compo-

nent of quality healthcare, it reduces healthcare costs by protecting staff and preventing hospital-acquired infections, and it prevents disease transmission and promotes overall health and well-being, particularly for children and mothers.

It also helps control the spread of antibiotic-resistant pathogens by reducing the need for antibiotics and ensures safe management of wastewater and medical waste, preventing environmental contamination.



# LEADERS

## Role of Youth in Holding the Government of Lesotho Accountable: Lessons from the Bacha Shutdown Movement

Theko Tlebere

Even though I am no longer a youth because of my age, at heart I always feel youthful; hence, I take it to heart when youth movements like Bacha Shutdown increasingly become vital advocates for accountability in Lesotho, pressing the government for urgent action on issues such as unemployment, economic inequality, and social justice. A recent open letter from Bacha Shutdown to the National Assembly and Cabinet exemplifies youth engagement in governance. However, it raises an important question: is this type of action sufficient to achieve meaningful impact? Can it lead to tangible change, or should it be supported by broader strategies? This week, I want us to look at the impact rather than just the act of writing a letter to the Cabinet.

### Is Writing Letters Enough?

The letter addressed significant national issues, including corruption, unemployment, youth and gender inclusion, and resource mismanagement. By directly engaging the government, the Bacha Shutdown demonstrated commendable organisation and maturity, turning their grievances into actionable requests. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of such correspondence often depends on the government's willingness to engage in dialogue. While the letter represents a constructive first step, it cannot stand alone. If ignored or inadequately addressed, the demands may lose momentum, further eroding public trust in the government's accountability mechanisms. Consequently, youth must be ready to escalate their advocacy through additional avenues to ensure their voices are heard and acted upon. The broader implica-

tions of their demands highlight the urgent need for a systemic approach to addressing the multifaceted issues endemic in Lesotho.

### Beyond Writing Letters: Building Momentum for Change

**Stakeholder Collaboration:** Partnering with civil society organisations, academic institutions, and international bodies can significantly amplify youth voices. By forming coalitions, youth movements can access broader platforms and resources, enabling them to advocate for systemic change more effectively. These collaborations can foster a deeper impact by leveraging collective strengths and insights. The pooling of resources, knowledge, and expertise through partnerships creates a more robust advocacy framework, ensuring that youth concerns are not only heard but also prioritised in national dialogues.

**Community Mobilisation:** Grassroots campaigns are essential for ensuring that demands truly reflect the people's collective will. Regular town hall meetings, focus groups, and online campaigns can gather input, strengthen community support, and encourage active participation from diverse segments of society. By fostering inclusive dialogue, youth movements can cultivate a sense of ownership and commitment within the community. This engagement not only solidifies support for the movement but also empowers citizens to take an active role in shaping the political landscape, ensuring that their voices resonate in discussions surrounding accountability and governance.

Youth Representation in Decision-Making: While writing letters and organising protests are crucial, these efforts must evolve into structural participation within the govern-

ment. This includes lobbying for constitutional reforms that guarantee proportional youth representation in parliament and government advisory boards, ensuring that youth voices directly influence policy-making processes. Institutionalising youth representation would not only validate the concerns raised by youth movements but also pave the way for sustainable change, allowing for the integration of fresh perspectives that prioritise the needs and aspirations of younger generations in Lesotho.

**Policy Research and Advocacy:** Presenting data-driven solutions alongside grievances enhances credibility and effectiveness in advocacy. For instance, proposing a well-researched model for youth and women's funds, complete with eligibility criteria and sustainability mechanisms, makes their demands more actionable and compelling, providing the government with a clear framework for implementation. This approach not only conveys the seriousness of the requests but also showcases the thorough groundwork and consideration that have gone into the proposals, making it harder for policymakers to dismiss or ignore them.

**Legal and Peaceful Demonstrations:** When dialogue fails, peaceful demonstrations and legal actions can effectively maintain pressure on the government. These methods must be supported by clear communication of the movement's goals to prevent misinterpretation and ensure that the message reaches both the public and policymakers. By framing demonstrations not merely as protests but as platforms for dialogue and expressions of specific demands, the movement can foster constructive discourse that emphasises the importance of the issues at hand.

The strength of Bacha Shutdown lies in its ability to unify diverse youth voices, creating a

formidable force for change. This unity should be harnessed to monitor the government's response to their demands and hold leaders accountable. For instance, establishing timelines for addressing critical issues like unemployment or implementing a cash grant system allows for evaluating the government against clear benchmarks, promoting a culture of responsiveness and accountability. Furthermore, youth movements should advocate for transparency in government operations, including demands for public disclosures of resource allocations and progress reports on reforms, which can minimise corruption and foster trust among the populace. By encouraging collective action and sustained engagement with various stakeholders, the movement can cultivate a more participatory political culture that empowers young people as key agents of their future.

The youth of Lesotho, represented by movements like Bacha Shutdown, are critical stakeholders in the nation's future. While writing letters is an essential first step in holding the government accountable, it must be part of a broader strategy that includes direct participation in decision-making, community mobilisation, and advocacy for systemic change. By adopting these strategies, the youth can ensure that their voices lead to tangible improvements in governance and social equity, ultimately shaping a better future for Lesotho. Their activism must evolve to sustain momentum and deepen engagement, paving the way for long-lasting reform and social justice. The future is NOW!

## Book Extract

*Continued from last week*

### LNBS: A disgrace to journalism and country

Lefu Lechesa

In actual fact, Matekane is a mo\*\*\*n, as will be explained later, who knows not and knows not that he knows not, to employ a Chinese proverb.

I am deliberately ignoring Moeketsi Majoro for now from this trio because he presented himself as no more than just a *puppet*, a *lapdog*, or a toady boy fawning over a shady character like Thabane of all people; an academically gifted young man falling for someone with such a coloured reputation as Thabane just for 30 pieces of silver! Shame on you, Majoro; better you gave someone else those brains, or did not go to school at all; you are a disgrace to your *alma maters* and their faculties; you have no character!

Nor are the private media agencies, the LNBS's counterparts, any better performers; they are all the same. As an example, MoAfrica FM, a very popular station that I admire for its role in some of its community service programmes such as *Mokhosi* – so far its indispensable crime-fighting programme - reported a news item on December 15, 2023, thus, "*Monna o ile a utsoa linomoro tsa chelete e neng e romeletsoe nyatsi ea hae.*" So?

If you find this statement sensible, I am speechless to describe you; I can only say, you are a typical client of the LNBS because what was stolen was the money, not the serial numbers of that stolen money, or any other numbers.

As with the earlier LNBS examples, this news item is an indication of a writer, and not less the reader, who dispenses with accuracy; he writes for himself or herself, and not for an audience or readers, then does not care to edit what he or she may have written.

I have used the LNBS here only as a case for demonstration of the poverty of Lesotho media in general. Preposterous pieces such as this can be found everywhere.

The so-called The Kingdom in the Sky seldom attracts the attention of the news agencies beyond its borders, yet the time it does, it is so fortunate as to grab the headlines for all the wrong reasons. With such crucial national institutions as the LNBS performing so dismally as it does, one would be crazy to hope and expect poor Lesotho to be any better and able to come out of its politico-socio-economic morass in which it has been mired for so long even in the long

distant future.

To reiterate, examples will be provided to substantiate this condemnation, most of which are verbatim statements from the news bulletins that I have over the years – actually ninety-eight to 2024 - been collecting and recording verbatim in my diaries and, later with tech advances, in WhatsApp messaging system.

Not only recording, but also bringing, in vain, unfortunately, to the attention of the relevant political heads of the LNBS, and later respective administrative heads, such as Messrs Lira Moeti and Dyke Sehloho for LNBS, as well as Nazim Goolam and Maama Maama for the Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) - an organisation that serves no purpose than to just dish out super-scale salaries for its youthful, well-connected pals for them to lead a comfortable life of luxury amid the abject poverty and starvation this country is going through, yet in return for nothing.

The LCA is supposed to play the role of the overall overseer of the behaviour and performance of all the media houses and journalists operating within the boundaries of Lesotho.

You do not have to look further than these four executives to come to the conclusion that these two media organisations are not ably managed or led. Merits such as academic qualifications, competence and work experience were not the criteria for their selections, appointments and promotions. They were employed not to serve and satisfy the public needs and wants, but for their own sake and for the sake of those in political power who put them in those positions. So, you will be fooling yourself to expect anything better from them because they honestly cannot

offer anything better than they have been offering to date.

I further took the trouble to show some of this garbage to one Mr Lejakane, a neighbour of mine, who, before his exit, was one of the LCA's top executives. His only response was shock "*Jo!*"

It has further to be noted that I have been doing this in my capacity as an *occasional* consumer of just one of the LNBS's products, the so-called news broadcast on television, for that matter only in the evenings when I have the time to waste time, and no more than four times average per week.

My point in stating this last fact is, that I wonder what I would have discovered had I been a regular, not occasional, viewer of not only the news but also of every other programme on the LTV. After all, have I not stated in the title that this is just a bird's eye view of the institution and its political elite?

Nevertheless, I am going to write a line or two about those other programmes I might have stumbled upon in passing from time to time. Here too the LNBS fail miserably what they profess to be and do.

To conclude this introduction, all the examples so far cited buttress the fact that not only its news bulletins but the LNBS itself is not a credible news agency.

This is an excerpt from the forthcoming book, *Lesotho at the Best of Times: A Cauldron of Shame and Disgrace—A Bird's-Eye View of the Period 1998 to Date*, authored by Lefu Lechesa.



# OPINION

## The Agriculture Ministry's Perpetual Excuses – Time for Action, Not Blame

**Lerato Matheka**

The latest defence put forward by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSN) before the Economic Cluster on Monday is nothing short of maddening. Yet again, the ministry's leadership has chosen to deflect responsibility for its continued failures by pointing the finger at the previous government.

It is now their third year in office, and the fact that they are still blaming their predecessors for the state of the agricultural sector speaks volumes about their inability to make real progress.

We have heard the same excuses year after year: late delivery of seeds and fertilisers, lack of machinery, insufficient planning, and so on. At this point, we should be asking the ministry, particularly the Principal Secretary: How many more years will it take for these issues to be resolved?

The public is no longer interested in hearing about past mistakes; they want results. The long-promised transition from subsistence to commercial farming remains an elusive dream, with no clear plan or decisive action on the ground.

The PS always when pinned down to answer pertinent questions about the ministry's failure continues to blame the previous administration for the loss of crucial equipment like tractors, but three years into their tenure, this is no longer a valid excuse. The time for finger-pointing has passed. The government has had ample time to retool the ministry and put in place the necessary

infrastructure to kick-start the commercialisation of agriculture, yet the results are not only underwhelming, they're virtually non-existent. With only two years left in their term, the promise to revolutionise Lesotho's agricultural sector is beginning to look like nothing more than an empty slogan.

While Thabo Moleko, the Principal Secretary, claims the ministry is "actively working" to rectify these issues, the truth is that the challenges outlined remain almost identical to those voiced during their first year in office. What happened to the bold, transformative plans that were supposed to change the face of agriculture in Lesotho? What happened to the machinery that was promised, the timely delivery of inputs, the tractors donated to South Korea, the tractors financed by the Lesotho Post Bank and the necessary support for farmers who are still struggling to make ends meet?

It is nothing short of frustrating to hear Moleko once again talk about "strategic planning" and "long-term goals." Yes, planning is important, but at some point, planning must lead to action.

We don't need more PowerPoint presentations or reports; what we need is for the ministry to start delivering results. Every season, the same issues are raised. The delivery of vital inputs is late, machinery is still lacking, and farmers are left to fend for themselves. We cannot continue to pretend that these are just minor hurdles that can be solved with more planning.

The continuous reliance on international donations, such as the recent donation of

tractors from South Korea, is also troubling. While such assistance is valuable, it should not be the cornerstone of Lesotho's agricultural strategy. What about local capacity-building? What about strengthening domestic agricultural production and fostering an environment where Lesotho can stand on its own two feet? It is high time that the government stops relying on the kindness of other nations and starts looking inward for solutions.

Furthermore, the ministry's excuses regarding procurement timelines are bordering on the absurd. Year after year, we hear that funds from the Ministry of Finance are only made available late in the year, causing delays in procurement processes. This is a systemic failure, and it is hard to believe that such an issue is out of their control. The failure to procure essential resources on time is not just a logistical hiccup, it is indicative of poor planning and mismanagement which directly falls in PS Moleko's powers and office. The procurement process should be structured in a way that ensures timely access to necessary inputs, not one that leaves farmers scrambling to make do with whatever is left.

The continued inefficiency of the ministry to address these issues sends a dangerous message to farmers: that their livelihoods are not a priority. In the face of increasing food insecurity and economic hardship, the agriculture sector is in desperate need of a turnaround. But instead of focusing on delivering results, the ministry seems to be more concerned with defending its failures, mak-

ing excuses, shifting blame and telling the nation there is a need to plan as if that is not enshrined in the National Strategic Development Plan. What exactly is PS Moleko hoping to plan and at what stage is he going to lead his team to start planning because it's three years already?

To be clear, this is not an attack on individual employees within the ministry, but rather on a broader system of complacency that has taken root and in turn, affecting all corners of socio-economic wellbeing.

The lack of accountability and the failure to acknowledge that their time is running out is what is truly infuriating. The people of Lesotho deserve better, and they have every right to demand more from their government.

The agriculture ministry's repeated defence of its failures is no longer acceptable. The time for excuses has long passed. With only two years left in their term, this government must realise that it is now or never. They can no longer afford to blame the past. The only thing that matters now is the future, and whether or not the ministry can deliver on the promises made to Lesotho's farmers.

The agriculture sector is one of the most critical pillars of Lesotho's economy, and it is time for the ministry to stop talking about change and start delivering it. Anything less is a betrayal of the people it is meant to serve. The clock is ticking, and the question remains: Will the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition finally step up, or will they continue to be a barrier to progress?

## Why Brand Mastery Matters in 2025

**Poloko Mokhele**

In an era where the digital landscape is constantly evolving, the importance of brand mastery cannot be overstated. Whether you are a business owner or an individual, understanding and cultivating your brand is essential for success in 2025 and beyond. This past Saturday, January 25, I attended the 'Brand Mastery in Lesotho' event, a transformative branding mentorship program organised by the talented Patience Masupha, a youth activist and published author of *Passion and Devotion*. The insights gained from this event prompted me to write this article.

Honoured with an invitation as one of the panelists, alongside Tšepang Maboe, a renowned HIV activist, brand ambassador, and presenter, and Sello Makutle, a branding and marketing consultant and founder of The Next Big Thing creative agency, I engaged in meaningful discussions about the art and science of brand building. I left with a renewed sense of purpose regarding the significance of branding in our lives.

In today's competitive landscape, recognising oneself as a brand is crucial. Personal branding allows individuals to showcase their unique value, build credibility, and connect authentically with their audience. It is not merely about self-promotion, it is about sharing your story and establishing trust. In a world saturated with people doing the same things, a strong personal brand can be

the differentiator that sets you apart from the crowd.

For businesses, brand mastery is equally vital. A well-defined brand identity can lead to increased customer loyalty, higher sales, and a more substantial market presence. Companies that invest in their brand are often seen as more trustworthy and reliable, which can translate into long-term success.

In 2025, as consumers become more selective and demand transparency, businesses that prioritise brand authenticity will thrive.

During the event, we shared practical tips on creating a strong brand identity. One of the key takeaways was the importance of defining your mission and values. A clear understanding of what you stand for does not only guide your branding efforts but also resonates with your audience. When people connect with your values, they are more likely to become loyal supporters of your brand.

Leveraging social media for visibility was another critical point of discussion. Social media platforms are powerful tools for brand building. They allow individuals and businesses to reach a broader audience, engage with customers, and showcase their unique offerings. However, it is essential to maintain consistency in messaging across all platforms. A cohesive brand presence fosters trust and recognition, making it easier for your audience to connect with you.

Storytelling emerged as a powerful strate-

gy for engaging audiences. Sharing personal experiences and narratives can create an emotional connection with your audience, making your brand more relatable and memorable. As Maboe reflected on her journey, I realised how storytelling has played a significant role in her own brand development.

Likewise, when I first started my career in 2018 as a young media practitioner, I was unsure of how to position myself in a crowded market and as a young professional. It was through the process of building my personal brand that I discovered my unique voice and value proposition. By sharing my experiences, challenges, and successes, I was able to connect with others in my field and establish credibility. This did not only open doors for new opportunities but also helped me build a network of like-minded individuals who supported my growth.

One of the most impactful lessons I learned during the discussion was the power of collaboration. As highlighted by a fellow panelist, Makutle, collaborating with others can amplify your brand's reach and create opportunities for growth. By partnering with individuals and organisations that share similar values, you can leverage each other's strengths and expand your audience. In 2025, collaboration will be more important than ever as we navigate an increasingly interconnected world.

As I reflect on the insights gained from

the 'Brand Mastery in Lesotho' event, I am reminded of the importance of taking proactive steps in building our unique identities. Whether you are an entrepreneur, a professional, or simply someone looking to make a mark in your community, recognising yourself as a brand is the first step toward success.

It is essential to remember that brand mastery is not an overnight achievement. As the saying goes, "Rome was not built in a day." Building a strong brand takes time, effort, and dedication. However, the rewards are well worth it. A powerful brand can lead to increased visibility, greater opportunities, and a more fulfilling career.

In conclusion, as we move into the next eleven months of 2025, the importance of brand mastery will only continue to grow. For businesses, a strong brand can lead to customer loyalty and market success. For individuals, personal branding can open doors and create meaningful connections. I encourage everyone to start recognising themselves as brands and to take proactive steps in building their unique identities. The best is yet to come!

*Poloko Mokhele is a strategic social media and communications consultant. He specialises in media relations, social media management, and content development. The views expressed in this article are solely his. For feedback, he can be reached on Twitter @PolokoMokhele.*





Co-funded by  
the European Union

unicef  for every child

GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## REQUEST FOR CURRICULUM VITAE

### NATIONAL WASH ADVISOR ON RURAL WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT Metsi-A-Lesotho Funded by the European Union – Lesotho (candidates that applied previously do not need to re-apply)

#### I. Position Information

**Project:** Rural Water and Sanitation Project - Metsi a Lesotho

**Title:** National WASH Advisor

**Contract Type:** Government system

**Duration:** 3 years (with possibility of extension)

**Duty station (City and Country):** Maseru –Department of Rural Water Supply HQs

**Expected starting date:** March 2025

National WASH Advisor to support the implementation of Rural WASH projects under the Metsi a Lesotho initiative. This role involves in providing high-level policy advice, strategic leadership, and technical guidance to ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of the Metsi a Lesotho project. The National WASH Advisor will work closely with the UNICEF WASH team, Government agencies, and external partners to ensure the successful delivery of WASH services in rural communities, schools, and healthcare facilities.

#### Job organizational context:

Under the supervision and guidance of the Principal Secretary of Ministry of Natural Resources, the National WASH Advisor will be working with officials from the Department of Rural Water Supply, focusing on the Rural WASH projects under the Metsi a Lesotho initiative. The incumbent will be based at the Department of Rural Water Supply Headquarters. The National WASH Advisor will be engaged by UNICEF and the Ministry of Natural Resources to provide high-quality advisory services and coordination support with various stakeholders, including government agencies, contractors, and community groups.

#### Purpose for the job:

The Metsi a Lesotho project, funded by the European Union (EU), aims to improve access to safe and sustainable water supply and sanitation services in rural areas of Lesotho. This project addresses critical challenges in the water and sanitation sector, including inadequate infrastructure, limited access to clean water, and poor sanitation practices. The project will tackle these issues by delivering inclusive WASH facilities in rural schools, healthcare facilities, and communities and by establishing and implementing a conducive decentralized framework for rural WASH. This includes capacitating local, district, and national departments responsible for water supply, school WASH, WASH in Health Care Facilities, and promotion of sanitation and hygiene education, with a focus on empowering women and persons with disabilities.

Additionally, the project supports and equips the Department of Rural Water Supply (DRWS), Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), Environmental Health Division (EHD) in Ministry of Health (MoH), District Council WASH teams, and Water Service Authorities (WSAs) to effectively use monitoring and evaluation frameworks, GIS data, and planning tools to ensure accountability, transparency, and timely reporting of physical and financial progress for WASH in communities and institutions. By enhancing water supply and sanitation services, the project contributes to better health outcomes, poverty reduction, and overall socio-economic development in rural communities.

The Government of Lesotho, with support from the EU, is committed to ensuring that all citizens, particularly those in rural areas, have access to essential water and sanitation services. The project aligns with national development goals and international commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The National WASH Advisor will play a crucial role in providing high-level policy advice, strategic leadership, and technical guidance to ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of the Metsi a Lesotho project.

Key responsibilities:

The National WASH Advisor will be responsible for the following key functions:

#### 1. Policy and Strategy Development

- **Water and Sanitation Policy Analysis:** Conduct comprehensive analysis of water and sanitation policies, frameworks, and regulations, guidelines to inform and advise on project implementation. Identify gaps and provide recommendations for areas of improvement.
- **Reformatory framework:** Provide technical support to develop/finalize the regulatory framework and by-laws related to rural WASH.
- **Strategic Planning:** Provide strategic direction for the development and implementation of project activities, ensuring alignment with national policies and EU funding requirements.

#### 2. Project Management

- **Annual planning support:** Provide support in the development of national rural WASH annual planning procedures, including setting priorities, allocating resources, and establishing timelines to ensure the successful achievement of project goals covering the integrated planning for WASH communities, WASH in Schools, and WASH in HCFs and other institutions in rural communities.
- **Coordination and Implementation:** Oversee the coordination and execution of

project activities, in particular integrated planning between DRWS, MoET and MoH-EHD, ensuring timely and efficient delivery of outputs and outcomes for the Rural WASH activities in the Metsi a Lesotho project and generally improved planning and delivery of all rural WASH actions. Coordination of the Rural WASH activities with other EU supported activities such as ReNoka and sector capacity building.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Review existing DRWS reporting formats and M&E tools and develop and implement robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress, assess impacts, and ensure accountability generally in rural WASH delivery.

#### 3. Technical Advisory

- **Infrastructure Development:** Provide technical guidance on the design, construction, and maintenance of water supply and sanitation infrastructure and facilitate the development of common updated national guidelines and tools, standard designs and specifications for Rural WASH delivery in communities and institutions.
- **Capacity Building:** Support capacity-building initiatives in collaboration with DRWS, MoET, MoH-EHD, MoLG, and District Councils for both national and local stakeholders, including government and local government officials, community leaders, and private sector and NGO service providers, to enhance their skills and knowledge in water and sanitation implementation and management. Support the change management process in the national WASH departments as part of the devolution of WASH responsibilities to Councils. In addition, provide capacity building to DRWS and District Councils WASH offices to operationalize the Project Life Cycle and the use of planning, survey, and design tools, GIS data, M&E, data and reporting mechanisms.

#### 4. Stakeholder Engagement

- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Foster strong relationships with key stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, community organizations, and international partners, to ensure coordinated and integrated project implementation.
- **Community Mobilization:** promote, provide guidance and facilitate government, local government, and private sector and NGO implementation partner engagement with rural communities to promote participation, ownership, and sustainability of water and sanitation services.

#### 5. Resource Mobilization

- **Funding and Budget Management:** support the management in the rural WASH sector institutions to identify and secure additional funding opportunities to support project activities and ensure effective budget management in line with EU requirements.
- **Reporting and Documentation:** Prepare detailed reports, briefs, and documentation for stakeholders, highlighting project achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. Support the management in the rural WASH sector institutions to improve integrated progress reporting.

#### Education:

Minimum Bachelor's degree in Water Resources Management, Water and Environmental Engineering, Environmental Health, Public Health, or any other related field. A Master's degree will be considered an advantage.

#### Experience:

- Minimum of 10 years of relevant work experience in the water and sanitation sector, project management, and provision of policy advice.
- Extensive experience working in or with government at a senior level.
- Experience in capacity building and institutional development in decentralization processes
- In-depth understanding of Lesotho's water and sanitation sector.
- Proven leadership skills and ability to manage complex stakeholder environments.
- Strong policy development and strategic planning capabilities.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong analytical skills and attention to detail.
- Proven ability to address complex problems and manage conflicting priorities effectively.

#### Language Requirements:

Fluency in English is required and knowledge of a local language.

Interested candidates should submit their written applications together with certified copies of their educational certificates, and copy of National Identity Document to Human Resources Office, Ministry of Natural Resources, Bokamoso Business Suite, 2nd floor, Orpen Road, opposite Centre for Accounting Studies, Maseru Lesotho on or before **31 January, 2025 at 16:30 PM**.



**CALL FOR REGISTRATION OF LOCAL SUPPLIERS FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS, SERVICES & WORKS**

**LNDC**  
Block A, Development House  
Kingsway Road  
Private Bag A96  
Maseru 100

TEL: 22231000 / 22312012  
info@lndc.org.ls | www.lndc.org.ls

Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) invites applications from suitably qualified vendors for provision and supply of goods, services and works. Interested and eligible vendors must fill in the **Pre-Qualification Questionnaire** available on the LNDC website [www.lndc.org.ls](http://www.lndc.org.ls).

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- The applications together with the supporting documents, must be emailed in PDF Format to [tenders@lndc.org.ls](mailto:tenders@lndc.org.ls).
- The subject heading of the email **must** be **"Pre-Qualification of Vendors"**.
- The deadline for submission of applications is on or before Thursday, 20th of February 2025.
- For enquiries contact: [procurement@lndc.org.ls](mailto:procurement@lndc.org.ls).
- Tenderers are expected to submit valid Tax clearance and Trader's licence)

**Disclaimer:**

- *The LNDC reserves the right to reject all submissions, and cancel or withdraw this invitation for pre-qualification of vendors without providing any reasons.*
- *Participating in this process does not guarantee that applicants will be awarded contracts.*



www.lndc.org.ls



Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Nutrition  
P.O. Box 24  
Maseru 100  
Lesotho  
Tel: (+266) 22322741

**Letter of Invitation**

1. The **Principal Secretary for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition** now invites sealed bids from interested bidders to provide the following service: **Security Service for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition**. More details on the services are provided in the bidding document. **LOT:1 (Lesotho Agricultural College, Livestock Services and Agricultural Research)** and **LOT:2 (Crops, Administration, Marketing, Nutrition, Information, Field Services and DAO Maseru)**.
  2. The technical proposal shall clearly demonstrate your understanding of the expected outputs, your proposed approach to the services involved, necessary equipment, your comments on the Scope of Work, your relevant experience, and you will be expected to provide detailed and updated curricula vitae for the proposed key personnel for carrying out the assignment. The financial proposal should clearly reflect the breakdown of your fees and all other associated costs for carrying out the assignment.
  3. A Service Provider will be selected in accordance with the current Government Public Procurement Regulations 2007, Public Procurement Act 2023 and the procedures described in the RFP. A firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method as stipulated in this Request for Proposals (RFP).
  4. Detailed RFP which comprises the following documents is available at the address indicated under 5 below on request for a non-refundable fee of **(M 2,000.00) Two Thousand Maloti only**.
- Section 3 - Technical Proposal - Standard Forms  
Section 4 - Financial Proposal - Standard Forms  
Section 5 - Terms of Reference  
Section 6 - Form of Contract.
5. Your sealed proposals should be submitted at the following address by **12:00 noon on February 20th, 2025 and will be opened the same day at 14:30hrs**:  
  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition Headquarters, Corner Constitution and Linare Roads, P. O. Box 24, Maseru 100, Lesotho. Tel: (+266) 22322741; Attention: **Procurement Manager**.
  6. The submissions should be clearly marked: **"Provision of Security Service for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition"- GOL/NCS 01/2025-26"**. It is the Service Providers' responsibility to ensure that their proposals are received on or before the closing date whether posted or hand-delivered.
  7. The selection criteria shall take both technical quality and costs into consideration to determine the overall preferred Service Provider. Therefore, it should be noted that technical proposals will be opened first and evaluated and only those companies attaining the technical scores above the minimum pass mark will qualify for financial proposals opening and evaluation.
  8. Interested Service Providers from different firms may submit as an association or partnerships or joint ventures provided, they submit a letter of intent signed by all parties with a clear indication of the representative of such association or partnership or joint venture.

Section 1 - Letter of Invitation  
Section 2 - Information to Consultants

**Procurement Manager**

# MICRO

## Savings Account

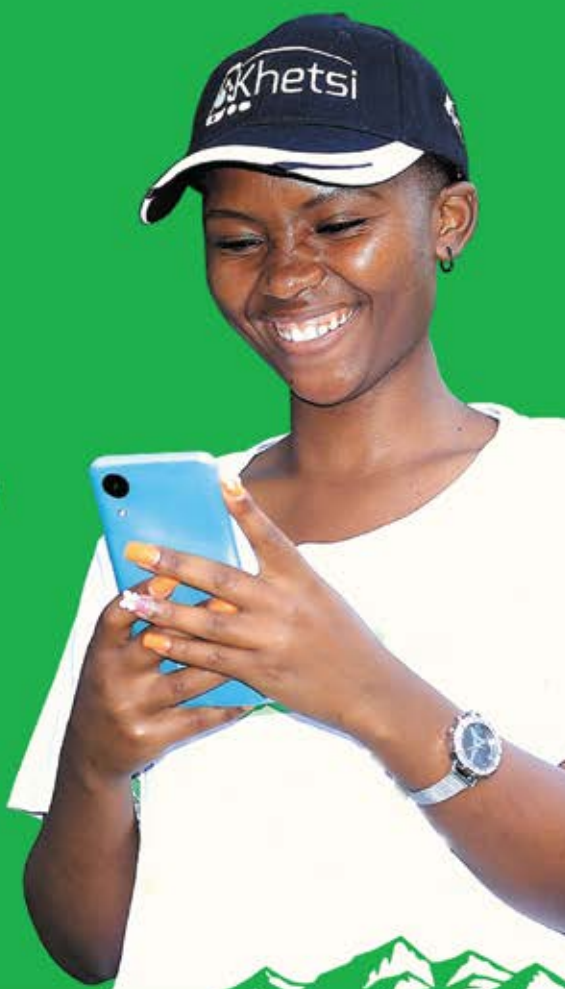
- Boloka ho tloha ka bonyane ba **M2.00**
- Boloka ka **Nako (Time based)** kapa ka **Boleng (Amount based)**
- Ikhethela moralo oa polokelo **(Auto/Manual)**
- Emisa Polokelo neng kapa neng ha u na le tlhoko.

**E fumaneha mona:**

USSD: **\*120\*222#** | APP:  

**Ts&Cs Apply**

Lesotho PostBank ke Banka e ngolitsisoeng ka mela e Banka e Kholo ea Lesotho (Central Bank of Lesotho). Hona le metsoana le lipetoho.

**Toll Free: 80099920**Tsotsoma, WhatsApp Line: **62579119**





**INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT**

**DRIVER SALESMAN**

**Location:** Blue Ribbon -LESOTHO  
**Reporting to:** Sales Manager

**Purpose of the job:** To ensure service delivery and bakery sales growth through on time in full deliveries of products as per customer requirements, collection of payments and bakery sales asset management on a daily basis.

**Responsibilities:**

- Communication
- Crate/ pallet control
- Vehicle use
- Cash management
- Sales Growth
- Stock management

**Qualifications:**

- LGSCE/COSC
- Valid code C1 license & PDP
- At least 1-3 years' experience in a similar position in the FMCG industry with emphasis on customer service FMCG background and sound knowledge of bread

**Competencies (knowledge, skills and attributes):**

- Self-motivated and responsible with the ability to achieve personal work goals and objectives
- Ability to build good trade relationship
- Ability to persuade and influence
- Ability to present and communicate information to all levels
- Good people management skills
- Business processes, rules and procedures
- Legislation
- Accuracy/ Attention to detail
- Problem solving
- Numerical ability

**Other Requirements**

- Pressurized environment
- 6-Day position
- Required to work Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays
- Required to work in alternative areas

**Values**

- Teamwork
- Accountability
- Sense of urgency
- Respect

Interested candidates are invited to apply through our email: [hr.lesotho@PremierFMCG.com](mailto:hr.lesotho@PremierFMCG.com)  
Documents should be sent together or on one email (School certificates and a CV), alternatively, you can hand-deliver at Blue Ribbon Offices, Thetsane Industrial Estates

**Closing Date: 4 February 2025. PS:**  
**Should you not receive a reply within 30 days of your application, please treat it as unsuccessful.**

Internal & External advertisement



**Position: Promoter**



**Job Detail**

**Job Type Classification**  
Permanent

**Job Title**  
Promoter

**Reporting to**  
Manager: Sales Operations

**Department**  
Sales

**Site**  
Premier Lesotho Bakery

**How to Apply**

Interested candidates are invited to apply through our email:

[hr.lesotho@PremierFMCG.com](mailto:hr.lesotho@PremierFMCG.com)

Documents should be sent together or on one email (School certificates and a CV).

Alternatively, you can hand-deliver at Blue Ribbon Offices, Thetsane Industrial Estates.

**Closing Date**

**Applications must be submitted by: 4 February 2025.**

*Should you not receive a reply within a month from your application, please treat as unsuccessful.*



**Main Objectives:**

To fulfil the role of a product and brand promoter who will be responsible for below line promotion activities for example instore, pro-mobile, brand campaigns, product launches and events.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Increase brand awareness by showcasing Premier Lesotho Bakery products to potential customers in line with the brand positioning
- Improve Sales.
- Build brand trust
- Optimize customer interactions/product presentation.
- To ensure full maintain and improve customer service levels as part of the extended Bakery Sales team.
- To support effective instore merchandising in collaboration with relevant merchandiser.

**Skills an Attributes Required**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock control principles</li> <li>• Customer relationship building</li> <li>• Product demonstration skills</li> <li>• Personal hygiene requirements</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merchandising according to planogram</li> <li>• Persuading and influencing</li> <li>• Basic reporting</li> <li>• Good communication skills</li> <li>• Basic etiquette</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

**Qualifications and Experience:**

- LGSCE/COSC
- Previous experience working in retail/promotions
- Merchandiser (6 - 12 months) Desirable
- Attention to detail
- Able to travel
- Able to work a flexible schedule

**Preferred:**

- Knowledge of MS Office/ Excel
- Experience using smartphones and tablets

**Other Requirements**

- Pressurized environment
- May have to deal with customer complaints
- 6-day position which may require to work Saturdays, Sundays, Public Holidays or as per operational requirements
- Ability to work in a team environment to achieve daily deadlines

Premier FMCG is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to Employment Equity and transformation. We encourage applications from all qualified individuals regardless of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability. By submitting your application, you consent to the processing of your personal information. In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI Act) of South Africa. We will only use your personal information for recruitment purposes and will keep it confidential in accordance with our privacy policy.



**More to share  
with our tasty treats**

Select something delicious with our iconic Champion Toffees, Manhattan, Mister Sweet, Super C Sweets, and Candy Tops Eclairs. Packed full of flavour and perfect value for money.



**Premier**  
Growing Together



THE ORIGINAL  
**CHAMPION**  
The BIG taste that lasts

Candy Tops Making life sweeter  
**ECLAIRS**



**mister sweet**  
MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE



**MANHATTAN**  
The taste of FUN



**SuperC**  
The original energy sweet.





# M-Pesa fraudster dragged to court

## Relebohile Makhetha

Tholo Rahlao (28) this week appeared before the Maseru Magistrate Court for defrauding two users of VCL Financial Services (VFS) mobile money platform M-Pesa, of a combined M8,400.

Rahlao was charged with two counts of fraud under Section 68(1), read with Section 109 of the Penal Code No. 6 of 2010.

The prosecution alleges that on January 7 in Lithabaneng, Rahlao fraudulently posed as a VFS employee and deceived Tlali Leemisa into revealing his M-Pesa PIN, leading to a financial loss of M5 100.

In a separate incident on January 9 in Ha-Motšoeneng, he allegedly used the same scam tactic on 'Manthatsi Georgina Motšoeneng, stealing M3 300 from her M-Pesa account.

The court granted Rahlao bail of M3 000, with an additional requirement of immovable



property worth M10 000 as surety. His case has been postponed to February 11 for further proceedings.

Meanwhile, Tefo' Manaka Letlatsa (23), from Semphetenyana, has been charged with murder. He is accused of fatally stabbing Moeti Ramosoetse on January 22, inflicting multiple wounds to the clavicle, chest, and right side of the nipple, resulting in his death.

Similarly, Semakuo Mokoma (20) is facing a murder charge for allegedly stabbing Ntlhlong Moerane to death with a knife on December 14, 2024, in Qoaling. Both suspects have been remanded until February 11.

According to police reports from January 2025, Lesotho recorded fewer than 20 murder cases involving suspects aged 18 to 30. While the numbers remain relatively low, authorities are concerned about the increasing involvement of young adults in violent crimes.

## Youth empowered in decision-making

### Kabelo Masoabi

On Wednesday, youth organisations from across the country gathered at the National Youth Dialogue and Network Forum held at Khutsong Lodge in Thaba Bosiu.

The event was designed to forge lasting solutions to the myriad challenges confronting young people by amplifying their voices in governance and development.

The Lesotho Youth Power Hub, a joint initiative by the European Union (EU), UNICEF, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), seeks to provide a dynamic platform for youth dialogue and engagement, as noted by Bob Muchabaiwa, UNICEF Lesotho Representative.

The forum brought together youth representatives, policymakers, and various stakeholders to address critical issues like creating an enabling environment for youth empowerment, influencing national budgeting, and enhancing youth participation in governance processes.

Youth representative, Mokhabi Shale, pointed out that this dialogue continues the momentum from the Youth Power Hub's launch in 2024. It aims to delve deeper into youth-related challenges and propose strategies to bolster youth involvement in deci-

sion-making, governance, and national development.

The event was organized into three key segments: a high-level panel on fostering an enabling environment for youth empowerment and development, discussions on youth and national budgeting, and sessions on youth governance, setting the stage for future actions.

The backdrop of this dialogue is the harsh reality of youth unemployment in Lesotho.

Limengoa Ntsiki, another youth delegate, highlighted the disconnect between the potential of young people and their actual participation in policy-making and budgeting.

Ntsiki advocated for increased youth involvement to ensure more inclusive and responsive governance.

Minister of Gender, Youth, and Social Development, Pitso Lesaoana, reaffirmed the government's commitment to integrating young voices into decision-making processes. Lesaoana discussed the upcoming Youth Development Bill and the Sebatso project, both aimed at youth empowerment.

Mokhothu Makhalanyane, chairperson of the Parliament Social Cluster Committee, urged the youth to assertively advocate for their rights, stating: "You must fight! Fight for your rights!"



European Union (EU) Ambassador, Paola Amadei, emphasised the Hub's role in equipping Lesotho's youth with the necessary tools for change.

"Here, you will find educational guides, training opportunities, funding information, and practical tools tailored to the diverse needs of our youth," Amadei said.

The Youth Power Hub, which will run

through 2029, targets young people aged 10 to 25, with a special emphasis on adolescent girls, young women, those with disabilities, rural youth, migrants, and those in the diaspora.

The EU has committed M45,083,000 to this project, supplemented by M2,372,818 from UNICEF, ensuring operations across all ten districts of Lesotho.

# Woman arrested for husband's murder



## Relebohile Makhetha

Authorities have arrested a 35-year-old woman from Mochatoane, Quthing, on suspicion of murdering her 41-year-old husband

following a domestic dispute.

According to reports, on the night of January 25, the couple left a local tavern and headed home. However, upon arrival, the husband reportedly returned to the tavern, prompting

his wife to follow. A heated argument ensued, but bystanders intervened and persuaded them to leave.

The altercation continued at home, where the woman allegedly stabbed her husband. He was taken to Quthing Government Hospital, treated, and discharged. However, on January 27, 2025, he was found dead at home. The woman was subsequently arrested and is set to appear in court once investigations are complete.

In a separate incident, a 62-year-old Mafeteng man, Tšotleho Libete from Reisi, appeared before the Magistrate Court on charges of illegal firearm possession.

He was arrested on January 21, 2025, after police found him in possession of a 9mm pistol with nine rounds of ammunition and a 7.65mm pistol with seven rounds.

Libete was sentenced to three years in prison or a fine of M3 000 per offense. He paid a total fine of M6 000 and was released.

In Maseru, a 27-year-old man from Mapoteng Ha Ntsang, known as Mali-a-Konyana, is facing charges of murdering a 24-year-old man from Ha Sola, Morija.

The attack occurred on January 21, when

the victim visited the suspect's residence. Upon arrival, police discovered a blood-stained pair of scissors, suspected to be the murder weapon. The victim had sustained approximately 80 stab wounds.

Authorities later revealed that the victim had previously served seven years and six months in prison for theft, while the suspect was already awaiting trial for the murders of two individuals, including his own father.

Police noted blood around the suspect's mouth, raising concerns given his alleged history of drinking the blood of his previous victims. The suspected motive was revenge, as the attacker believed the victim had betrayed him by associating with other inmates. He remains in custody, awaiting trial.

In Thaba-Tseka, a 22-year-old woman, Mahlape Lintlhokoane from Bokong Ha Tšepo, appeared before the Magistrate's Court on January 22, facing charges of child neglect and abandonment.

Authorities report that in February 2022, Lintlhokoane left her four-year-old daughter at a taxi rank in Khokhoba before traveling to South Africa. She was arrested on January 20, and remains in custody.





**MZANSI YOUNG  
FARMERS  
INDABA**  
1-2 APRIL 2025  
POWERED BY FOOD FOR MZANSI



## 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 Seahlo**

**Date: 1-2 April 2025**

**Venue: Lavender Kontrei Market, Pretoria North, Gauteng.**



**Package 1: 6000**

**Package 2: 10 400**

Includes:

-Event Entry

-Transport

-3 x nights

-50+ Exhibitions

-6 + Masterclasses

-Funding Opportunities

-Entry and Exhibition

Limited to **ONLY 5 farmers.**

**NO perishable goods will be allowed**

-A table on the Exhibition floor

-Transport

-3 x nights

-50+ Exhibitions

-6 + Masterclasses

-Funding Opportunities

**Food is NOT included**

**Non-Refundable registration: M500**

**THE PEOPLE OF THE  
INDABA!**

### Why Attend?

Gain insights from agricultural experts and leaders.  
Network with like-minded farmers and agripreneurs  
from across Africa.

Access opportunities to connect with funders and investors.  
Discover new ways to grow your farming business.

### Speaker Announcements

Some of Indaba's incredible speakers.  
More exciting announcements coming in the weeks  
leading up to the event.



**Payments methods:** | **Account: Standard Bank, Mpesa : 3551 & Ecocash: 92669**  
**9080001310220 | Newsday Media**

**Contact details: 50920676 OR 62425157 (WhatsApp)**



## SPORTS

# Manda targets VPL glory with Bantu

Chris Theko

Charles Manda, the former head coach of Matlama and Lijabatho FC, has set his sights on guiding Bantu FC to Vodacom Premier League (VPL) glory. Following a 1-1 draw with Matlama on Sunday at Bambatha Tsita Ground, Manda expressed his determination to lead Bantu back to the top of Lesotho football.

The Malawian tactician has signed a six-month contract with Bantu, with the option to extend. Manda replaces James Madidilane, who had been at the helm since January 2024 but recently left to join fellow VPL side Lijabatho FC.

Speaking after the match, Manda outlined his vision for the club and the responsibility he shoulders.

"I am not here to just make up the numbers in the technical team. As head coach, my primary goal is to help Bantu challenge for the Vodacom Premier League title. Just like any teacher wants their students to succeed, my aim is for this team to play well and win championships. That is my mandate," he said.

With the league halfway through its 2024/25 season, Manda remains optimis-

tic despite Bantu sitting in fifth place. "We are definitely going to chase the title. This is a work in progress. Just give us time as we move into the second round of the season. The Bantu that everyone knows – competitive and motivated – will be seen throughout the remainder of this campaign," he added confidently.

Manda is no stranger to Lesotho's football scene. He coached Matlama from 2019 to 2021, though his tenure ended prematurely following a string of poor results. Later that year, he took over at Lijabatho FC, where he spent two seasons before moving to Bantu. His return to the VPL with Bantu marks a fresh chapter in his coaching journey, with a clear focus on reclaiming the team's competitive edge.

The VPL standings are tightly contested at the halfway point. Matlama leads the log with 37 points after 15 matches, boasting 12 wins, one draw, and two losses. Hot on their heels is Lioli, with 35 points from 11 wins. LMPS and LDF occupy third and fourth places, re-

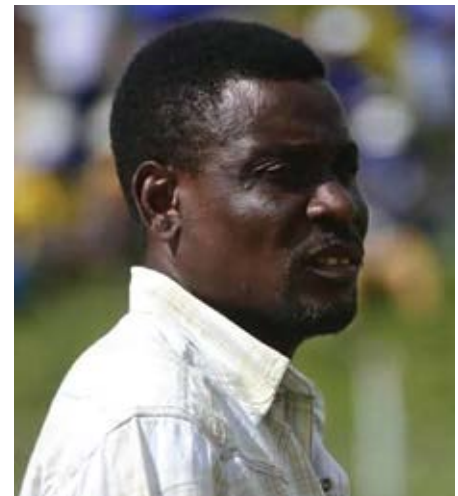
spectively, with LMPS on 31 points from 15 matches, while LDF has 29 points from 14 matches.

Bantu currently sits in fifth place, having collected 29 points from 14 games, with nine wins, two draws, and three losses. However, the team has a game in hand, which could potentially bring them closer to the top four. Manda believes the title race is still wide open.

"This league is a marathon, not a sprint. We have shown glimpses of what this team is capable of, and with the right adjustments, I am confident we can close the gap on the leading teams," Manda stated.

Bantu FC supporters will be hoping for a strong resurgence under Manda's leadership. Known for his disciplined approach and tactical acumen, Manda has promised to instil a winning mentality in the squad.

"The fans deserve to see a competitive Bantu, and that's what we are working towards. This team has a proud history, and I am here to ensure we add another chapter of success



Charles Manda

to it," he concluded.

As the second round of the season approaches, all eyes will be on Manda and his quest to restore Bantu FC to its former glory. The journey may be challenging, but with Manda at the helm, Bantu's title aspirations remain alive.

# El Legado powers football-for-a-course tourney



Seabata Mahao

The start of a new school year marks both continuity for returning students and fresh beginnings for newcomers.

As parents and guardians prepare for the annual ritual of purchasing school supplies, many face financial challenges, including school fees and essential learning materials.

Recognising this struggle, El Legado Business and Masianokeng Sports Academy have redefined the traditional Back to School celebration.

Now in its second edition, the event—held on Sunday, January 26, 2025—goes beyond nostalgia, transforming into a call to action for businesses and social clubs to contribute school essentials to underprivileged students.

Speaking to Newsday, Tlokotsi Ndlovu of Masianokeng Sports Academy emphasized the importance of using this event to support students in need.

"We have so many students who have dropped out because they lack school essentials," Ndlovu explained. "This initiative aims to restore hope and ensure that children return to school, equipped with the materials they need."

Through collaboration with head teachers from Masianokeng High School and Primary School, organizers will identify students in need, ensuring the donated items reach the most vulnerable learners.

The Back to School tournament kicked off with eight competing football clubs: Libetsi, Lesotho Post Bank, Team 20, Linaoeng Masters, Vintage, Gold Dollar, Team El Legado, and Foso Social Team.

The competition began with knockout quarter-finals, where four teams—Libetsi, Team 20, Vintage, and Foso Social Team—secured spots in the semi-finals. The remaining teams will battle for their place in the tournament.

The semi-final matches, scheduled for Sunday, February 2, 2025, will see Team 20 face Libetsi, while Vintage takes on Foso Social Team. The winners of these two matches will compete in the final.

Molapo Shakhane, co-founder of El Legado Butchery, underscored the power of collaboration in charitable efforts.

"We must work together as a community to support those in need—not for personal gain, but for the betterment of society," Shakhane said. "Back to School celebrations take place

goal: expanding the initiative to cover annual school fees for at least ten students in the coming years.

With football and philanthropy at its heart, this Back to School celebration is more than just a sporting event—it's a movement to empower students and uplift communities.

in many settings, from workplaces to social clubs and sports events. Let's use this opportunity to change a child's life."

He further revealed El Legado's long-term

**MASERU CITY RUN**  
The Kingdom's Marathon

**3<sup>rd</sup> EDITION**

**23 FEB 2025**  
Start: Moshoeshoe Statue  
Finish: Maseru Club  
5km, 10km, 21km, 42km, Aerobics

**CORPORATE REGISTRATIONS**

**PROFESSIONALISM BEGINS WITH WELLNESS.**

**REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY**

Registration closes 31 Jan 2025.

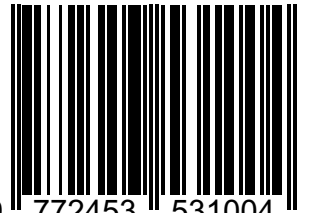
+266 62500 225 | 5831 5471  
maserucityrun@gmail.com

MALUTI MOUNTAIN CEMENT  
THE LEHAKOE CLUB



31 January - 06 February 2025

ISSN: 2453-5311



9 772453 531004

# Resurgent Bantu climbs to third on log



Vodacom Premier League (VPL) Bantu's Lehlohonolo Fothoane in action

## Seabata Mahao

Bantu Football Club capped off a productive week with a crucial 2-1 victory over LU FC on Wednesday, following a spirited 2-2 draw against league leaders Matlama FC over the weekend.

The win propelled **A Matšo Matebele** to third place on the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) table with 32 points from 15 matches. They now trail Matlama by just five points at the midway stage of the

2024/25 season, keeping their title ambitions alive.

In other midweek fixtures, LCS FC edged LDF FC 1-0 in a fiery clash between the security agency clubs, while Majantja FC pulled off a surprising 1-0 win over Linare FC.

Following his team's draw against Matlama, newly appointed Bantu's coach Charles Manda remained optimistic about the club's future.

"Playing in the VPL is like running a marathon—one game does not decide the champion," Manda stated.

"We should have won the match, but considering it was my first game in charge, a draw isn't a bad result. Bantu will become a very strong team in the coming games."

Manda, who has only been at the helm for four days, expressed satisfaction with the team's performance. "The way they

played pleased me. In a month, Bantu will be a formidable force capable of dominating other teams," he added.

He emphasised his ambition to lead Bantu back to its winning ways: "Every coach's job is to guide his team to victory, and I am determined to see Bantu reclaim its competitive edge."

Bantu's resurgence under Manda has certainly set the stage for an exciting second half of the season. And with momentum on their side, they remain in strong contention for the title.

On his part, Matlama's head coach Halemakale Mahlaha, meanwhile, praised his players' effort despite the dropped points.

"We made some mistakes that cost us, but I'm proud of the fight the team put up to secure an equaliser," Mahlaha said.

He explained that tactical adjustments, including bringing in Tshepang "Busquets" Ntshenyane and Lisema Lebokollane, helped turn the tide in Matlama's favour. "We knew Bantu would focus on controlling the midfield, so we decided to exploit the wings, and it worked well for us," he noted.

Additionally, the VPL weekend results were as follows: Saturday: **LU FC 0 - 2 Lioli FC, Lijabatho FC 0 - 1 Linare FC, Liphakoe FC 1 - 1 Lifofane FC, LMPS FC 1 - 3 LDF FC**

On Sunday, **Machokha FC 0 - 1 LCS FC, ACE Maseru FC 1 - 1 Manonyane FC, Matlama FC 2 - 2 Bantu FC, Mzama FC 0 - 4 Majantja FC.**

Elevate your Brand's visibility!  
**Advertise With Us**  
 and unlock exclusive rates...