



# Newsday

...pacing standards

14 February - 20 February, 2025

www.newsdayonline.co.ls

Vol 01 No 01

M6.00

## News

**LHWP Treaty constitutionality challenged**

Page 3

## News

**Drug theft debacle rocks QMMH**

Page 4

# OVER M450 MILLION 'TAX FRAUD SCHEME' EXPOSED

- Law enforcement turns a blind eye
- Whistle-blower's plea ignored
- DPP Motinyane dragged into the controversy

Page 2

**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 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



# Over M450 million 'tax fraud scheme' exposed

- **Law enforcement turns a blind eye**
- **Whistle-blower's plea ignored**
- **DPP Motinyane dragged into the controversy**



## Staff Reporter

In a country where corruption allegations frequently surface, a shocking trove of correspondence obtained by Newsday exposes the chilling risks faced by whistle-blowers and the institutional inertia that stifles justice.

At the heart of the matter is an alleged tax fraud scheme amounting to over M450 million, implicating Tholo Energy and its Managing Director, Thabiso Moroahae.

The whistle-blower, whose identity Newsday has chosen to withhold for security reasons, has relentlessly pursued accountability, only to be met with bureaucratic silence, dismissive responses, and a glaring lack of action from law enforcement agencies.

The whistle-blower's correspondence, addressed to the country's top law enforcement bodies, reads like a desperate plea against an untouchable entity, Tholo Energy, shielded by official complacency.

Reading the correspondence evokes a chilling resemblance to the Gupta scandal in South Africa, where it was alleged that state institutions had been effectively captured.

Reporting corruption against them seemed futile, as they would, by the next day, be fully aware of every allegation made and the identity of the whistle-blower. This rendered the act of speaking out seem both powerless and perilous.

A particularly damning letter, dated January 20, 2025, was sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Advocate Hlalefang Motinyane, following months of stonewalled attempts to engage the Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL), Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), and the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO).

"I am forced to write this letter directly to your attention with illegal practices that have been perpetuated by Thabiso Moroahae through Tholo Energy due to deliberate acts of disdain by law enforcement agencies to prosecute this company or its directors," the whistle-blower wrote.

The letter suggested that Moroahae and his company allegedly orchestrated a decade-long tax fraud operation, under-declar-

ing fuel volumes and siphoning off state revenue through undeclared levies, potentially defrauding the government of an estimated M450 million "or more".

The whistle-blower explained to the DPP that they reported the alleged fraud to various agencies, but the responses, or lack thereof, painted a disturbing picture of complicity or sheer negligence.

According to the records Newsday obtained, only the FIU appeared to show any interest and conducted an analysis that confirmed the allegations.

However, despite sharing its findings with law enforcement, no further action has been taken.

"The law enforcement units of the country have assisted Tholo to be absolved from prosecutions and proudly left him considering and declaring himself as invincible," the whistle-blower stated in frustration.

"There is proof of this malpractice and there is no reason as to why it has been stalled unless the (law enforcement) units have a peculiar interest in protecting Moroahae."

"However, due to Moroahae's considerable influence, law enforcement agencies have seemingly ignored these serious allegations," the whistle-blower asserted. "There is concrete evidence of this malpractice, and the continued inaction raises questions about whether these agencies have a vested interest in shielding Moroahae from prosecution."

"What transpired is that none of the first four agencies—except for the FIU—showed any interest in pursuing the matter. Fortunately, the FIU conducted an investigation and issued a report in mid-June 2023, confirming the crime. The report was shared with all law enforcement agencies, exposing the allegations of Tholo's tax under-declarations," the whistle-blower stated.

They referenced a letter from the FIU dated August 19, 2024, which specifically cited Section 15(1) of the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act of 2008.

"I urge your office to formally request this report from the FIU and review its findings, which expose clear illegalities. Once you have assessed the report, there should be sufficient grounds to initiate legal proceedings. I am fully available to provide further insights

into the matter," the whistle-blower wrote.

When Newsday contacted Advocate Hlalefang Motinyane yesterday to confirm receipt of the letter, she stated that she was in a meeting and requested a follow-up call in an hour. However, subsequent attempts to reach her went unanswered.

Efforts to obtain a comment from Moroahae were also unsuccessful, as his phone remained unreachable.

Newsday has learned that the whistle-blower sent a follow-up letter to the LMPS, DCEO, RSL, and FIU more than six months ago, on August 8, 2024, requesting an update on the progress of the investigation.

"As you will recall, I formally reported the massive fraudulent under-declaration of fuel levies by Tholo Energy (Pty) Ltd to your office some time ago. This letter serves as a follow-up regarding the progress made on the matter to date. I would sincerely appreciate your response as soon as possible, preferably within three days," the whistle-blower wrote.

The letter was met with vague and unhelpful responses.

About six days later, on August 14, 2024, RSL Commissioner General 'Mathabo Mokoko acknowledged the whistle-blower's contribution but cited taxpayer confidentiality laws as a barrier to disclosing any investigation progress, if there was any at all.

"Your information is invaluable in our efforts to ensure fair and equitable taxation. However, due to taxpayer confidentiality laws, we are unable to provide any details regarding the progress, results, or decisions made based on the information you have provided," Mokoko stated.

She further emphasised that this restriction applied to any "progress or results of any investigation, if any has been undertaken."

FIU Director Jothame Phakisi issued a terse response on August 19, 2024, confirming that the unit had conducted an analysis and shared its findings with the relevant authorities.

But no indication was given as to whether further action had been taken.

"Please be informed that the Financial Intelligence Unit conducted an analysis of the matter and shared the results with both investigative and supervisory authorities, as

required under Section 15(1) of the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act of 2008, as amended."

FIU is established under Section 14 of the Act.

Section 15 of the Act designates the FIU as the central agency responsible for receiving, requesting, analysing, and disseminating to investigatory and supervisory authorities disclosures of financial information:

- (a) concerning suspected proceeds of crime and alleged money laundering offences;
- (b) required by or under any law to combat money laundering;
- (c) concerning the suspected financing of terrorism and terrorist property.

Section 15(3) further stipulates: "The Unit shall refer any matter or information derived from a report or information it receives to the appropriate law enforcement agency in Lesotho if, on the basis of its analysis and assessment, it has reasonable grounds to suspect that the transaction could be pertinent to the investigation or prosecution of a money laundering offence, a terrorist offence, or another serious offence. In connection with this, the Unit shall also send a copy of such referral or information to the relevant supervisory authority."

The FIU's reference to Section 15(1) of the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act of 2008 suggests that the findings were serious enough to warrant referral to investigatory and supervisory authorities.

However, the agencies remain unmoved, failing to act on the very evidence they received.

On August 26, 2024, Commissioner of Police Borotho Matsoso washed his hands of the matter, stating that the RSL was the main stakeholder and that despite existing challenges, "the matter was still being dealt with accordingly."

"The office of the Commissioner of Police humbly wishes to inform you that the process you requested is led by the Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) as the main stakeholder in this regard," Matsoso said.

This was the last time the whistle-blower received any communication regarding the case.

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

Carlton Centre  
3rd Floor  
Room 302  
Kingsway  
Maseru

PUBLISHER  
Newsday Media (Pty) (Ltd)  
Maseru

MANAGING EDITOR  
Lerato Matheka  
[managingeditor@newsdayonline.co.ls](mailto:managingeditor@newsdayonline.co.ls)

NEWS EDITOR  
Kananelo Boloetse  
[editor@newsdayonline.co.ls](mailto:editor@newsdayonline.co.ls)

SUB EDITOR  
Bereng Mpaki

NEWS ROOM

Ntsoaki Motaung  
Seabata Mahao  
Relebohile Makhetha  
Kabelo Masoabi

INTERNS  
Lungile Maseela  
Kananelo Mokhele

CONTRIBUTORS  
Theko Tlebere  
Motsamai Mokotjo

PRODUCTION  
Bolokang Mahlo  
Bataung Monaheng

VIDEOGRAPHER  
Khosi Matheka

DISTRIBUTION  
Tumisang Motsamai

MARKETING  
Tefah Sello  
Mosa Lekhoaa  
Tumelo Ramotsoane  
[marketing@newsdayonline.co.ls](mailto:marketing@newsdayonline.co.ls)

WEBSITE  
[www.newsdayonline.co.ls](http://www.newsdayonline.co.ls)

FACEBOOK  
Newsday Newspaper LS  
X  
@LsNewsday

INSTAGRAM  
Newsday Lesotho

PRINTER  
Thabure Media Group  
Maseru, Lesotho

# LHWP Treaty constitutionality challenged

Staff Reporter

A local rights group, Equal Rights and Justice, along with activist and lawyer Lemohang Nsuzi, has taken legal action against the governments of Lesotho and South Africa, as well as prominent international organisations, including the United Nations (UN).

They have petitioned the High Court to compel the respondents to amend, or facilitate the amendment of, the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) Treaty and its annexures.

The applicants argue that the Treaty should be revised to ensure that both Lesotho and South Africa commit to the principles of equitable and reasonable utilisation and sustainable development concerning the LHWP river system.

They further seek to have both governments bound by internationally recognised water governance frameworks, including: the Helsinki Rules (1966), the Berlin Rules (2004), the United Nations Convention on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997), and the Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) (2000).

Additionally, they call for harmonisation of the Treaty with Lesotho's domestic legal framework.

Specifically, they argue that sections 5, 6, and 13 of the Lesotho Water Act should be reconciled with the LHWP Treaty, alongside alignment with the Lesotho Environment Act.

Alternatively, Equal Rights and Justice and Nsuzi seek a declaration that the LHWP Treaty is unconstitutional for fostering a discriminatory regime, which they argue is expressly prohibited under section 18 of Lesotho's Constitution.

They also request a mandamus order compelling the respondents to harmonise the LHWP Treaty with the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORA-



SECOM) Agreement, since both agreements govern a common watercourse, albeit involving multiple countries.

This, they argue, aligns with Article 8 of the UN Convention on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997), which emphasises cooperation among riparian states.

The case was formally filed in the High Court yesterday.

In his founding affidavit, Nsuzi, a Mafeteng-based activist and climate champion, outlined his involvement. He stated that while conducting research on "Hydro-colonisation of Lesotho," he became engaged in the ongoing dispute between the Mafeteng community and the government of Lesotho over water rights.

"When the Mafeteng community requested my assistance in their struggle for the enforcement of water rights, it was a moment of serendipity," Nsuzi said. "I provided all the in-kind support I could while continuing my research."

He further explained that on January 13, 2025, he issued formal correspondence on behalf of Equal Rights and Justice to the 1st and 6th respondents,

seeking negotiations over the grievances raised. The letter, he noted, was drafted in a conciliatory tone, allowing the respondents 21 days to respond.

Since that deadline has lapsed without a response, Nsuzi has urged the High Court to intervene. He specifically requests a declaration that Articles 5(1) and 18(9) of the Phase II Agreement of the LHWP Treaty violate Section 2 of Lesotho's 1993 Constitution.

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is a multi-phase initiative designed to supply water to South Africa's Gauteng region while generating hydroelectric power for Lesotho. Established through a 1986 treaty between the two governments, the project involves the construction of a series of dams to harness water from the Senqu/Orange River.

Phase I was completed in 2003 and inaugurated in 2004, while Phase II is currently underway.

In his affidavit, Nsuzi further stated that, growing up, Lesotho was often referred to as the "Mountain Kingdom" with an abundance of water resources, believed to be vast and inexhaustible.

"Typically related to as mountain spring water ('metsi a lihlababa)," he said

However, as he grew older, he realised that the

widely held belief in Lesotho's water wealth was becoming more questionable than celebrated.

He explained that different people had different expectations—some had anticipated tangible and practical economic growth, others had hoped that water and electricity bills would be minimal, and some even believed that Basotho would never have to pay for water or electricity at all.

"The truth is, even I began to get so daunted I became desperate for answers," he said.

He cited a 2024 article by local journalist, Sechaba Mokhethi, supported by the Pulitzer Centre, which examined Lesotho's situation following the implementation of the LHWP.

The article stated: "The droughts have reduced the water levels at Katse Dam, Africa's second-largest dam, which powers the turbines at Muela Power Station. Mohale Dam, which feeds Katse Dam, has also experienced extended periods of low water levels. The results are severe: lack of drinking water and reduced hydropower generation capacity. Lesotho is thus struggling to meet its energy needs and the 1986 Treaty's obligations to supply water to South Africa."

He also referenced another article published by the Pulitzer Centre, which stated: "Lesotho and Zambia, two countries in southern Africa, are increasingly relying on hydropower to meet their growing energy demands. However, climate change is significantly impacting hydropower generation, as water levels in major dams have been declining with increasing temperatures."

He acknowledged that even if he possessed the eloquence of the most skilled rhetorician, he could not have articulated the gravity of the situation as effectively as these Pulitzer Centre reports.

"The best I may do beyond the Pulitzer Centre reports, is to bring this Honourable Court to my confidence to bear the predominant predicament of the Mafeteng (fourth district of Lesotho in the order of the alphabet) people over serial water shortages.

"This has prevailed for over a decade; the situation has only deteriorated beyond tolerance, within the past twelve (12) months. Dams have run brittle dry; fisheries die like flies; hospital facilities have become human butcheries; and schools are confronted with profuse thirst, health and sanitary cataclysm."



**EBA KAROLO EA PHETHOHO!** **28/02/2025 PITSO GROUND**

*Eba karolo ea phethoho ka ho fetola moruo oa Naha! Letsatsi la 'Maraka la Naha ke Lena, sebelisa Matla a ho reka ho fetola maphelo.*



## Official Press Release

CLARIFICATION REGARDING RECENT MEDIA REPORTS ON COURT CASE INVOLVING LHDA

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has noted recent articles published in two national newspapers on 7 February 2025 concerning a court case involving the LHDA. We wish to clarify certain inaccuracies in these reports to ensure that the public has a correct understanding of the matter.

The case in question is still before the courts of Law and has not yet been heard and decided. LHDA is currently awaiting to obtain a date of hearing following the consolidation of the case with another matter of similar nature. As such, and in adherence to legal principles, the LHDA is unable to comment on the substantive details of the case at this stage as it is sub judice.

However, we categorically refute the claim made in one of the articles that the LHDA has been ordered to pay a specific amount to the Land Administration Authority (LAA). No such court order exists. The judgment referenced in the article merely pertains to the court's ruling on joinder which was against the LHDA. It does not constitute a final judgement against LHDA on the merits of the case.

The LHDA remains fully committed to compliance with legal processes, good governance, and transparency in all its dealings. We respect the rule of law and will continue to engage with the judicial system as required. We encourage the public and media to rely on verified and factual information regarding this matter and will provide updates when appropriate.

For further inquiries, please contact the LHDA's Public Relations Manager on [brownm@lhda.org.ls](mailto:brownm@lhda.org.ls)

# CHE raises alarm over forged qualifications

**Ntsoaki Motaung**

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) has expressed concern over the rising number of forged qualifications, both from institutions in Lesotho and abroad, since the implementation of the Lesotho Qualifications Framework (LQF).

CHE's acting Chief Executive Officer, Nthatisi Kosane, stated this week during a presser that the council has recorded several cases involving fake qualifications from both local and foreign institutions.

While most cases in Lesotho involve counterfeit degrees from the National University of Lesotho (NUL), Kosane cautioned that other institutions are likely facing similar challenges.

She said that CHE has identified several individuals implicated in qualification fraud.

These include a doctor from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) working in Lesotho, a Mosotho claiming to have studied in South Africa and currently employed in a government position, and another Mosotho who submitted a fraudulent qualification in an application for government employment in Lesotho.

Kosane confirmed that the police are handling these cases, with two specific investigations currently underway: one involving a person who studied in Lesotho and is now working in South Africa, which is being handled by the South African Police Service (SAPS), and another case of a local individual

who applied for employment in Lesotho using a fraudulent qualification.

To verify qualifications, CHE uses two methods: physical applications and online verification through the Lesotho Qualifications Management Information System (LQMIS).

Dr. Molise Nhlapho, Lesotho Qualifications Officer, explained that evaluation and verification are crucial in maintaining the credibility of Lesotho's education system.

Evaluation assesses qualifications in the context of their country of origin, determining their equivalence to local qualifications under the LQF.

Verification, on the other hand, confirms the legitimacy of an award by verifying the accreditation of the institution, the qualification, and the authenticity of the qualification holder.

"The LQF, approved by Cabinet in June 2019, is a ten-level framework ranging from Basic Education (Level 1) to PhD (Level 10). CHE is mandated to implement the LQF by registering all local qualifications, verifying both local and foreign qualifications, evaluating foreign qualifications, developing a National Learner Records Database, and creating policies for effective implementation," Nhlapho said.

In August 2022, the Ministry of Public Service announced plans to enhance the recruitment process to prevent negligent hiring, which could lead to government liabilities.

Citing Section 8(1) of the Public Service Act, read with Regulation 31 of the Public Service Regulations of 2008, the ministry emphasised the need to verify that job applicants are the



Acting Chief Executive Officer Nthatisi Kosane during a press conference about the Implementation of Lesotho Qualifications Framework

legitimate holders of the qualifications they present.

"It is against this background that the government has decided to require all individuals interested in applying for government jobs to verify and evaluate their qualifications. This measure ensures merit-based hiring and prevents the appointment of candidates with fraudulent qualifications," the ministry stated.

From September 1, 2022, all applicants for positions in Lesotho's public service were required to submit a copy of their qualifications vetted by the Council on Higher Education (CHE).

"This requirement applies to all applicants, including graduates registered for placement by the Ministry of Public Service, current public servants seeking senior positions within government ministries, departments, and agencies, as well as all new job seekers apply-

ing for public service positions," the ministry added.

To regulate qualifications in the country, the government, through the Ministry of Education and Training, developed the Lesotho Qualifications Framework (LQF) in 2019.

The LQF is an integrated system covering all qualifications, including basic education, technical and vocational training, academic degrees, professional development awards, and partial qualifications.

The framework defines and standardises qualifications, provides clear pathways for learners, and establishes guidelines for registering, verifying, and evaluating both local and foreign qualifications.

Additionally, the LQF enhances the mobility of students and graduates within Lesotho and internationally by ensuring the comparability of local qualifications with global standards.

# Drug theft debacle rocks QMMH

...Two staff suspended as investigation unfolds

**Ntsoaki Motaung**

An investigation is currently underway at the Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital (QMMH) following an alleged attempt to steal medication from the facility, Newsday has learned.

QMMH Public Relations Officer, Thakane Mapeshoane Sepipi, confirmed the incident this week but declined to provide further details, citing the ongoing investigation.

Sepipi did, however, reveal that the stolen medications included antibiotic injections. "I cannot confirm whether this was an isolated incident or part of a pattern. The investigation will hopefully shed more light on this," she stated.

She also confirmed that a case has been opened with the Lithabaneng Police Station in Maseru and that two pharmacy support staff members have been suspended pending the investigation.

Dr. Mojakisane Ramafikeng of the Lesotho Medical, Dental, and Pharmacy Council stated that the council has not yet received official



Queen mamohato memorial hospital

notification of the incident but expressed concern, as the matter falls under its mandate to protect patient safety from malpractice.

Dr. Ramafikeng added that once the council receives an official report, it will launch its own investigation and take appropriate action against any members found to be involved.

He indicated that the theft of medication means patients who go to health facilities ex-

pecting treatment may find none available and said this is a serious issue.

"We urge those responsible to ensure that anyone found guilty is held accountable," he said.

He further explained that stolen medication can be misused, leading to various health risks, including antimicrobial resistance, a growing global crisis. He emphasised the importance

of proper diagnosis and prescriptions by medical professionals, warning that improper use of antibiotics could exacerbate resistance and compromise treatment options.

If medication access and pharmacy management are not improved, Dr. Ramafikeng said, this issue will persist, including here in Lesotho, where antimicrobial resistance is already a concern.

# Cancer survivors call for financial support

**Ntsoaki Motaung**

Cancer survivors have called on the government to provide financial grants, warning that many patients are facing extreme hardship despite state-funded medical care.

Speaking during last week's World Cancer Day commemoration under the theme 'United by Unique', breast cancer survivor 'Maatang Chaka said the disease often forces patients to leave their jobs, pushing them into financial crisis.

"While the government covers medical expenses, cancer patients struggle to afford basic necessities like food," she said.

Chaka highlighted that only Starlight Oasis of Hope Hospice provides limited food pack-

ages, but many patients remain in dire need. She recounted cases where patients sent to South Africa for treatment were turned away because malnutrition had weakened them too much for medical procedures.

"Many come from remote areas and cannot afford to return home, recover, and go back for treatment. Without money for food, their survival is at risk," she warned.

Caregiver Kekeletso Motsamai backed the call for financial support, adding that counseling services are equally critical.

"Both patients and caregivers suffer psychological trauma after a cancer diagnosis. If the patient is the family's breadwinner, their illness leaves the entire household struggling,"

she said.

However, Health Minister Selibe Mochoboroane defended the government's efforts, saying significant support is already being provided. Mochoboroane admitted that Lesotho's reliance on foreign aid is a major challenge, citing recent funding directives from the US as a wake-up call.

"We need to shift from dependence on aid to self-reliance by building our own health system. We must start with health insurance," he said.

Mochoboroane proposed a system where all Basotho contribute to health insurance, allowing the government to support organisations assisting cancer patients.



Breast cancer survivor Maatang Chaka at the commemoration of World Cancer Day



# Newsday Courts & Police Reports

## Father found guilty of brutally stabbing toddler to death

Relebohile Makhetha

The accused, Reli Letuka, has been found guilty of the murder of his three-year-old child, Lebohang Letuka, following a trial before the High Court Judge Tšelisio Mokoko.

The trial resumed this week with prosecutor, Thapelo Mokuku, representing the Crown and defence counsel Tšebeletso Motloli appearing on behalf of the accused.

Letuka, a 34-year-old resident of Khohlo-ntšo, Thaba-Tseka, was charged with the murder of his child on October 14, 2018. The court heard that the accused inflicted multiple stab wounds on the deceased, resulting in the child's death.

It was suggested that the motive for the crime stemmed from the child's persistent crying, which reportedly agitated the accused.

The prosecution called its first witness, 'Mapheello Molube, a neighbour of the

handed over the weapon. Both the accused and the deceased's body were subsequently taken by police.

The prosecution also called Matthias Molumo, the accused's uncle, who testified that the accused had initially claimed his younger child was missing. However, Molumo later received a call informing him that the child had been found dead.

Upon arriving at the scene, Molumo said he discovered that the child had suffered 21 stab wounds.

Judge Mokoko, in delivering the court's findings, stated that the evidence, including the post-mortem report and the accused's plea of guilt, overwhelmingly pointed to the accused's guilt.

The post-mortem confirmed the nature of the injuries, and witness testimonies established the accused's intent to kill. As a result, the court found Letuka guilty of murder.

During the mitigation phase, prosecutor Mokuku argued that while the crime was

accused, who testified that she saw the child's body lying in the garden on the morning of the incident.

Molube said she raised an alarm with a fellow neighbour, and members of the community confirmed that the child was deceased.

The second witness, Seephephe Mahao, the chief of the area, testified that he received a call informing him of the child's death. Upon arriving at the scene, he found the child's body discarded in a vegetable garden.

When Mahao inquired about the whereabouts of the accused, he learned that Letuka had been seen leaving the area. Mahao then instructed individuals in Ha Nkopane village to apprehend the accused. Letuka was detained at the airport runway and escorted back to the crime scene by the police.

The police learned from Letuka that the murder weapon was hidden on the roof of his house. He led them to the location and

heinous, the court should consider the broader circumstances surrounding the accused's actions.

He emphasised that while men are often likened to dogs, even a dog would not intentionally kill its offspring. He further pointed out that the absence of the accused's wife in the testimonies suggested that Letuka was solely responsible for caring for his children while also tending to agricultural duties.

Mokoko proposed that the accused's actions could have been influenced by a compromised mental state and recommended a psychiatric evaluation.

The court agreed with the prosecution's submission and ordered a psychiatric assessment for Letuka, with the report expected within 14 days.

Judge Mokoko noted that the evaluation would assist in determining an appropriate sentence. The matter was adjourned to March 13, this year, for further proceedings.

## Police reports

Relebohile Makhetha

### Man sentenced to 13 years or M13,000 fine for assaulting wife

A 36-year-old man, Binare Mokoatsi from Ha Leronti, appeared before the Thaba-Tseka Magistrate's Court on February 5, 2025, facing two charges of assaulting his 35-year-old wife with the intent to cause serious injury.

The first assault occurred in November last year after a dispute over who would cook that day. Both were intoxicated at the time. The wife reported the incident to the police on December 29, 2024, seeking mediation rather than immediate legal action. She later moved in with her relatives.

However, on February 11, 2025, Mokoatsi attacked his wife again, this time using a stone, demanding that she return home. The court found him guilty and sentenced him to seven years in prison or a fine of M7,000 for the first offence.

For the second assault, he received six years in prison or a fine of M6,000, bringing his total sentence to 13 years in prison or a M13,000 fine. Unable to pay the fine, he was sent to prison.

### Traditional healer charged with murder after fatal altercation with initiate

In another case, a 37-year-old traditional healer from Mhlakeng, Ha Poli, appeared before the Thaba-Tseka Magistrate Court on February 11, 2025, charged with murder.

The healer is accused of killing a 27-year-old man from 'Muela, Botha-Bothe. Reports indicate that the victim, who was at a traditional healer's initiation school, was instructed by the healer to undergo a ritual on February 8, 2025. When the victim refused, the healer allegedly assaulted and fatally stabbed him with a knife.

17-year-old arrested for sexual as-

### sault on elderly woman

In Qacha's Nek, a 17-year-old boy is facing charges of sexually assaulting a 79-year-old woman from Melikane, Letlapeng. The incident occurred on the morning of February 3, 2025, when the elderly woman was walking from Ha Rasekoele to Letlapeng. She reportedly encountered the suspect in a field, where he allegedly dragged her into a ditch, undressed her, and assaulted her. The woman's screams attracted the attention of two men, aged 38 and 40, who rushed to her rescue. The suspect is expected to appear in court

once investigations are complete.

### Berea woman stabs husband to death

A 32-year-old woman from Masetlakong, Ha Makhoroana, is set to appear before the Berea Magistrate Court on February 11, 2025, charged with the murder of her 42-year-old husband. Reports indicate that the couple had been living apart since their separation in December last year, during which the woman had taken some household items with her.

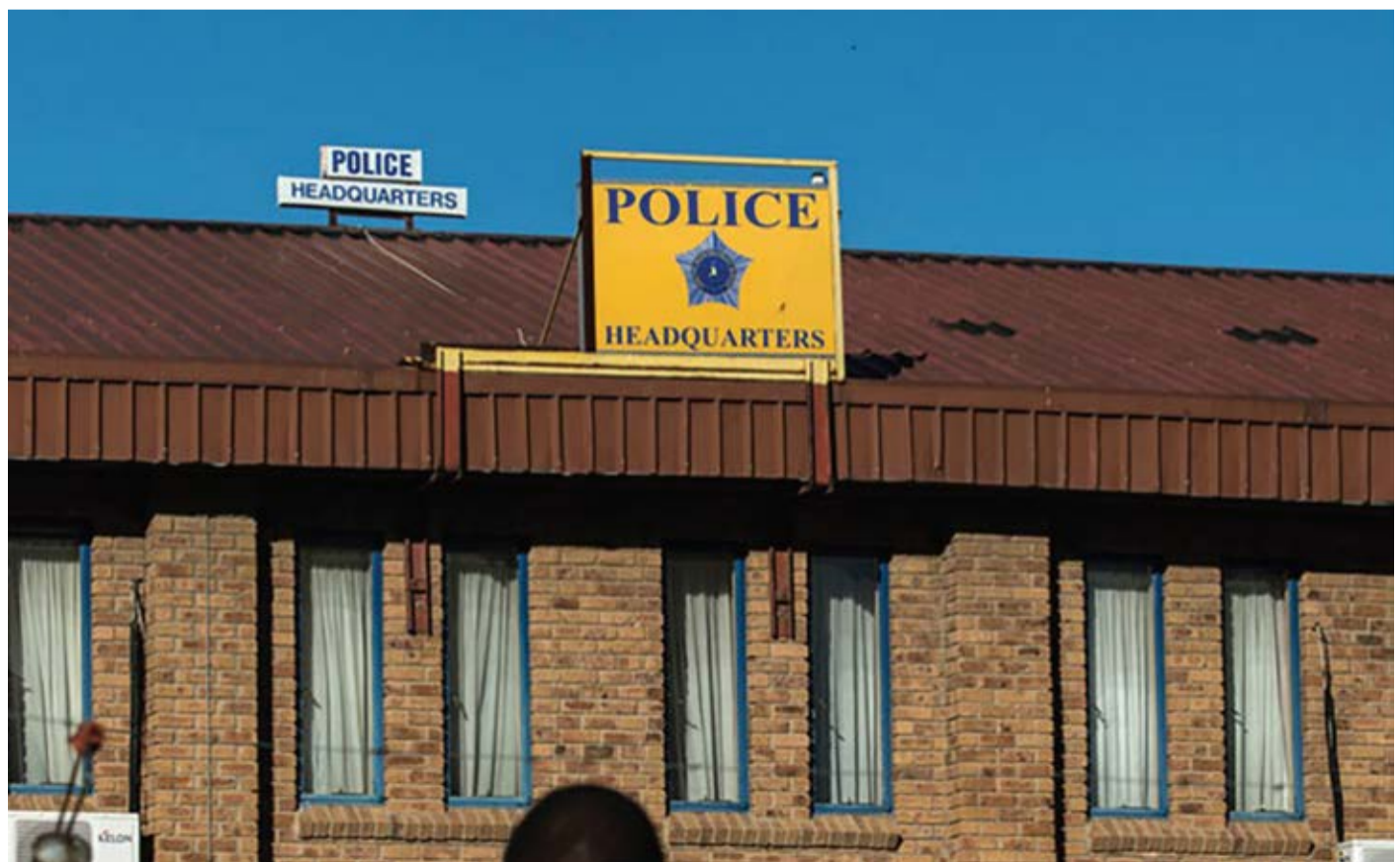
On February 9, 2025, the deceased, allegedly intoxicated, went to his estranged wife's home to reclaim the items. He returned armed with two knives and attacked her. In self-defence, the woman grabbed an Okapi knife and stabbed him multiple times, leading to his death. She

turned herself into the Mapoteng police following the incident.

### Zimbabwean smuggler jailed for attempting to import banned mercury into Lesotho

A 44-year-old Zimbabwean national, Nodie Mugwadli, residing in South Africa, appeared before the Maseru Magistrate Court on January 5, 2025, charged with possession of mercury, a banned substance in Lesotho. Mugwadli had been arrested in November last year while attempting to smuggle the mercury into the country, reportedly to sell in Mafeteng.

He was found guilty and sentenced to either two years in prison or a fine of M10,000. Unable to pay the fine, he was sent to prison.



Police Head Quarters Maseru



# AEO program hailed for easing border delays

## Seabata Mahao

Retailers are breathing a sigh of relief as the implementation of the Approved Economic Operator (AEO) program has significantly improved cross-border trade, ensuring fresh produce reaches shelves on time.

Sam Mphana, the co-owner of Pick n Pay Lesotho, has hailed the program as a game-changer in alleviating the long-standing challenges of delays at the border, which previously led to major losses.

For years, Pick n Pay and other retailers relied on fresh produce imports from South Africa to meet customer demand. However, border delays presented a persistent obstacle.

Speaking at the Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) Tax Symposium for the central region earlier this week, Mphana explained that their trucks transported produce with a shelf life of only three days, yet before the AEO program, they would spend more than 24 hours at the border due to customs inspections.

By the time the produce reached store shelves, it often had only a few hours left before it had to be discarded. These delays resulted in significant financial losses and product shortages.

"The AEO program has been a game-changer for us," Mphana said.

"In the past, border delays were a nightmare, especially for goods with a short shelf life. Our trucks would get stuck for hours, sometimes even days, while customs



Sam Mphana, Pick'n Pay Co-Owner at RSL Tax Symposium Central Region

and inspections took place. By the time the produce got to the store, we were forced to throw much of it away. It was frustrating, inefficient, and costly."

But with the introduction of the AEO program, the situation has changed dramati-

cally. Mphana explained that trucks registered under the program now undergo a streamlined process where they simply declare at customs and receive immediate clearance.

Instead of long waits at the border, in-

spections are now conducted when the goods are offloaded, reducing overall delays and ensuring that produce arrives in optimal condition.

"This process has saved us more time in shelving life unlike before whereby if trucks took over two days at the border gate we had to call them off to return or had to throw the fresh produce out of the shelves due to our three days shelf life commitment to our consumers," Mphana specified.

The benefits of the AEO program extend beyond individual businesses. RSL's Deputy Commissioner of Customs Advisory Services, Thapelo 'Moleli, explained that the program is designed to facilitate trade, enhance compliance, and strengthen the country's position in regional and global markets while streamlining trade operations to foster economic growth.

"The AEO program benefits not only local trade but also plays a crucial role in supporting exports, especially for Basotho entrepreneurs aiming to tap into SACU markets," he said.

Despite the success of the AEO program in improving cross-border trade, Mphana noted that Lesotho still faces challenges in securing a steady supply of fresh produce.

While efforts have been made to support local farmers, inconsistency in supply and quality issues continue to pose problems. He stressed that bridging this gap remains crucial for the long-term stability of Lesotho's fresh produce market.

# New diamond body targets local beneficiation

## Staff Reporters

Lesotho's diamond industry is set for a transformation with the imminent arrival of the Lesotho Diamond Manufacturers Association (LDMA), the first organisation of its kind in the country.

LDMA aims to maximise the value of Lesotho's diamond resources by fostering local cutting, polishing, and manufacturing, driving economic growth thereby enhancing its global competitiveness.

The initiative, which is led by Kobina Baffoe, the CEO of Maluti Mining Innovations, seeks to retain more value within Lesotho by encouraging local beneficiation.

All of Lesotho's rough diamond production, which is among the top ten globally in terms of value, is exported in its raw form to Europe for value addition into a variety of premium value goods.

This means most of the downstream diamond processing of Lesotho diamonds takes place abroad, limiting the full economic benefits such as job creation for the country.

And the association, which is currently at the final stages of registration with the Law



Office, intends to change the game once the paper work has been sorted.

LDMA plans to leverage on the well-documented reputation of Lesotho for producing some of the world's largest and most valuable diamonds, such as the 910-carat "Lesotho Legend" and the 603-carat "Lesotho Promise."

The LDMA aims to change this by establishing a local manufacturing ecosystem that enhances Lesotho's role in the global market.

"Lesotho is home to some of the world's most exquisite diamonds, but historically, much of the value from our natural resources has been realised outside of our borders," Baffoe said in a recent statement.

"Our association is committed to changing this by fostering a vibrant diamond manufacturing sector that creates jobs, develops local expertise, and positions Lesotho as a key player in the global diamond industry."

By harnessing the country's exceptional

diamond reserves and promoting local beneficiation, LDMA aims to ensure that more value is retained within Lesotho, to benefit its people and economy.

"By focusing on local beneficiation, skills development, and innovation, the LDMA is poised to transform Lesotho's diamond industry into a cornerstone of our nation's economy," Baffoe added.

"We invite all stakeholders to join us in realising this vision and unlocking the true potential of Lesotho's diamond wealth."

LDMA intended to work with the likes of African Diamond Manufacturers Association (ADMA), the government of Lesotho, mining companies, and international organisations such as the African Diamond Council (ADC).

"The association is committed to working closely together with the African Diamond Manufacturers Association (ADMA), the Government of Lesotho as well as with mining companies and international partners to create an enabling environment for growth.

"It will also engage with global diamond trade organisations such as the African Diamond Council (ADC) to ensure that Lesotho aligns with international best practices and remains a trusted source of ethically produced diamonds," a statement from the association said.

**Introducing "Kopano: The Battle for the Mountains" – A Tale of Transformation and Resilience**

Once, in a land of breathtaking beauty and rich fertility, vibrant landscapes thrived under the sun. This was the Kingdom of Lesotho—a place where lush fields flourished, and communities lived in harmony with nature.

Over time, this paradise is faced with a number of daunting challenges: land and wetlands degradation, soil erosion, invasion of alien plant species, and climate change adding to these challenges is affecting the natural resources in Lesotho.

Lesotho, considered the “Water Tower of Southern Africa” contributes 42% of run-off water to the Orange-Senqu basin, benefitting around 16 million people within the basin. The Lesotho Land Cover Atlas indicates that between 2017 and 2021, Mokhotlong experienced a 0.98% degradation of wetlands, transitioning into grasslands and shrublands. This shows how crucial it is to protect the land and water resources in Lesotho and raise awareness to as wide an audience as possible.

ReNOKA is excited to launch a comic series, targeting a younger audience to pass the message of protection, conservation and restoration of our natural resources. Retelling the story of Kholumolumo, the 9 part animation series introduces the villain to the environment, Kholumolumo, who’s devastating actions lead to donga formations, burnt rangelands and dried up wetlands. Amidst the struggles, a young heroine named Lerato emerges. Inspired by the teachings of her wise

grandfather, Koena, Lerato embodies hope and resilience. Grandfather Koena often spoke of the deep connection between people and the land, imparting lessons on stewardship and respect for nature. Armed with this knowledge, Lerato decides to rally her community to reclaim their environment.

Lerato’s determination shines as she leads her friends, family and community to sustainable practices, demonstrating the power of unity in restoring their environment. The journey illustrates how one person can spark change, inspiring others to join the fight against environmental degradation.

Follow this captivating nine-episode story brought to you by ReNOKA. **If you are between the ages of 7 and 15, don’t miss the chance to participate in our exciting competition by simply answering 2 easy questions Dial 21219956 \ +266 59956 ONLY on PC FM every Saturday at 09h30.**

Join us as we reinforce the message that together, we can combat the environmental challenges Lesotho and the world are faced with and #reimagine Lesotho together.

For more information visit our social media pages @ReNOKA Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

**Access the Story on:**

**Newspapers:** The Post, Newsday, The Reporter, Public Eye

**Website:** www.renoka.org

**Facebook:** ReNOKA

**Instagram:** renoka\_movement



Illustrated by Sekantši Mokhohlane, a locally based Mosotho artist whose work has reached the international stage.

## Is the LHWP Treaty a blessing or a betrayal?

Lesotho, often hailed as the “Kingdom in the Sky,” has long been revered for its abundant water resources—so much so that it was believed water would be its greatest economic asset.

Yet, decades after the signing of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) treaty, the reality facing Basotho is starkly different from those early promises. The recent legal challenge questioning the constitutionality of this treaty is more than just a court case, it is a moment of reckoning for a nation struggling to balance sovereignty, economic gain, and the fundamental right to water.

When the LHWP was first conceived, it was envisioned as a landmark agreement that would benefit both Lesotho and South Africa. Lesotho would supply South Africa with water, earning much-needed revenue, while also improving its own water infrastructure and energy supply.

However, as the years have passed, many Basotho have come to view the treaty not as a triumph, but as a one-sided deal that has left them burdened with water shortages, energy crises, and growing inequality.

The case filed at the High Court yesterday raises critical questions: Has Lesotho truly benefited from the LHWP, or has it been shortchanged? Should international agreements be upheld even when they appear to work against national interests?

Most importantly, does this treaty align with Lesotho’s constitutional obligation to protect the welfare of its people?

Reports supported by the Pulitzer Centre and referenced by the Applicants highlight the severity of the crisis. Droughts have significantly reduced water levels at Katse and Mohale Dams, limiting Lesotho’s ability to generate hydroelectric power while also struggling to meet the treaty’s obligations to supply water to South Africa.

Meanwhile, towns and villages across Lesotho, including Mafeteng, have endured chronic water shortages for over a decade, an unacceptable contradiction for a country exporting millions of cubic meters of water annually.

This crisis exposes a broader issue: the failure of successive governments to prioritise Lesotho’s own water security. The expectation that Basotho would enjoy lower water and electricity costs due to the LHWP has not materialised.

Instead, many struggle to afford basic utilities, while the benefits of the project seem disproportionately skewed in favour of South Africa.

This legal challenge is not just about the LHWP, it is about governance, accountability, and the right of a nation to question agreements that may no longer serve its best interests.

If the treaty is found to be unconstitutional, it could set a powerful precedent for renegotiating international agreements that undermine national sovereignty. However, if it is upheld without revision, it will cement a legacy of misplaced priorities and unfulfilled promises.

As the court deliberates, the government must reflect on its duty to the people. The LHWP was meant to be a cornerstone of Lesotho’s economic and infrastructural development. If it has instead become a source of hardship, then urgent reforms are necessary to ensure that Lesotho’s natural resources serve its citizens first and foremost.

The time has come for an honest, fearless conversation about Lesotho’s water sovereignty. The people deserve answers, and more importantly, they deserve solutions. The LHWP cannot continue to be a symbol of lost opportunity, it must be redefined as a project that truly benefits all Basotho.



# NO COMMENT



Theko Tlebere

# Common Concern

## Lesotho’s Absence in AU Commissioner Nominations: A Missed Opportunity for Influence

This week, the African Union (AU) is holding elections for commissioners in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. These elections are crucial as they determine key leadership positions within the AU Commission, influencing the continent’s development, security, and governance policies. However, a significant issue has arisen: Lesotho is noticeably absent from the list of shortlisted candidates, while South Africa has secured two nominations. This raises important questions: Has Lesotho missed an opportunity following Joshua Phoho Setipa’s unsuccessful bid for Commonwealth Secretary-General? Are there no qualified Basotho capable of competing? What actions can be taken to change this situation?

Setipa’s candidacy for the Commonwealth Secretary-General was a bold move aimed at increasing Lesotho’s visibility on the global stage. However, the country seems to have stepped back from pursuing leadership roles in international arenas following this campaign. While South Africa continues to promote its candidates for influential AU positions, Lesotho’s absence is concerning. This situation casts doubt on the country’s strategy for advancing its human capital both continentally and internationally. Had Lesotho fielded even a candidate for a lesser-known position, it could have gained valuable experience in AU politics and leadership. The lack of representation suggests either an inability to identify and support capable candidates or a reluctance to engage at the highest levels of African governance. This passivity could have long-lasting repercussions for Lesotho’s influence in AU decision-making processes.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations plays a crucial role in ensuring that Lesotho is represented in continental leadership. The ministry must take proactive steps to identify and endorse qualified Basotho for positions within the AU, as well as engage in strategic lobbying and diplomatic negotiations to support these candidates. Ensuring that Lesotho has a visible presence on AU platforms involves forming alliances with influential

stakeholders and advocating vigorously for fair representation. Without this active involvement, Lesotho risks further marginalisation in continental governance, which could have long-term negative consequences for the nation’s interests.

It is hard to believe that Lesotho lacks qualified professionals who could fill leadership roles within the AU. The country has produced a wealth of diplomats, economists, legal experts, and development specialists who possess considerable experience and expertise. Thus, the challenge that Lesotho faces appears to stem not from a shortage of skilled individuals but rather from a lack of political will and strategic lobbying efforts. For instance, South Africa, through its Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, takes deliberate steps to support its citizens in securing leadership positions within international organisations. In stark contrast, Lesotho has not demonstrated a comparable level of organisation. The process of nominating candidates necessitates substantial government support, robust networking, and effective regional diplomacy, three areas where Lesotho seems to be falling short.

Without a candidate of its own in the race, Lesotho may find itself in the position of endorsing nominees from other countries. While this could cultivate diplomatic goodwill, it does not contribute to enhancing Lesotho’s representation within continental decision-making structures. Supporting South Africa’s nominees might help strengthen bilateral relations with its more influential neighbour; however, this approach does not guarantee tangible benefits for Lesotho unless it can secure specific concessions. Such concessions could include senior advisory roles or technical positions for Basotho professionals within the AU Commission, which would provide meaningful opportunities for participation in governance.

Even in the absence of a candidate for commissioner roles, Lesotho still has the potential to wield influence within the AU by aiming for mid-level and technical positions in the AU Commission, the Peace and Security Council, and other AU organs. Nevertheless, achieving this position of influence requires proactive engagement from Lesotho’s Permanent Mission to the AU and direct government intervention in

the career placements of qualified professionals. Ambassador Ntšiuoa Sekete, Lesotho’s representative to the AU, plays an essential role in advocating for Basotho professionals for key positions, forging crucial alliances with influential stakeholders within the AU, and promoting a structured approach for future AU leadership nominations. By prioritising these efforts, Lesotho can work toward ensuring its rightful place in continental leadership and decision-making processes.

Lesotho’s absence in this year’s AU elections should serve as a wake-up call for the nation. To secure a meaningful voice in shaping Africa’s future, it is imperative for the country to actively nurture and position its talent for leadership roles. This involves a concerted effort to encourage young Basotho professionals, academics, and diplomats to engage deeply with AU affairs. They should be motivated to participate in policy discussions, seek out opportunities for collaboration, and pursue employment within AU institutions.

It is not too late to change course and reclaim a seat at the table. With strategic planning, dedicated active lobbying, and a firm commitment from the government, Lesotho can foster a robust pipeline of candidates for future AU elections. This endeavour is not merely about participation; it is about empowering the next generation of Basotho leaders to step forward and take on the responsibility of continental leadership. They should not shy away from the chance to influence and shape Africa’s policies from within the AU framework.

As the AU elections occur, this moment should invoke significant reflection for Lesotho. The pertinent question extends beyond our current absence; it probes into how we can ensure our representation in tomorrow’s decisions and discussions. The urgency of this reflection cannot be overstated, as the choices made now will profoundly impact the future trajectory of Lesotho within the African continent. The future is NOW!





## Radio must be a platform for progress, not a kangaroo court

**Kananelo Boloetse**

On February 13, 2025, we celebrated World Radio Day, a moment to reflect on the profound role radio plays in shaping our society, informing public discourse, and driving national progress.

This year's theme, "Radio and Climate Change," serves as a timely and urgent reminder that radio must be more than just a medium of entertainment, it must be a platform for education, engagement, and empowerment.

Lesotho has come a long way in establishing a dynamic and diverse radio landscape. Today, we boast over 20 radio stations, including community broadcasters that serve as vital lifelines to local populations. Notably, only two of these stations are state-owned, a testament to the strides we have made in fostering independent media.

However, with this independence comes an immense responsibility: to ensure that radio remains a vehicle for constructive dialogue rather than a battleground for misinformation, character assassination, and political propaganda.

Freedom of the press is a hard-won privilege, but it is also a delicate one, easily undermined when broadcasters prioritise sensationalism over substance, controversy over credibility, and spectacle over the pursuit of truth.

Radio must resist the temptation of being reduced to a kangaroo court where people's dignity and integrity are casually trashed for the sake of entertainment or political expediency. The airwaves should not be used as a weapon to settle personal vendettas or advance narrow interests at the expense of the

public good.

When radio stations allow themselves to become platforms for unverified allegations, inflammatory rhetoric, and unchecked bias, they fail in their fundamental duty to inform and educate. They turn into echo chambers of division rather than beacons of enlightenment.

Instead, radio must reclaim its role as a trusted public service tool, one that fosters meaningful conversations, bridges divides, and propels Lesotho forward. It should be a space where diverse perspectives are welcomed, where national issues are debated with depth and integrity, and where the voices of the people are amplified in a responsible manner.

True journalism is about holding power to account, not tearing individuals down through reckless broadcasting.

Sensationalism and irresponsible reporting do not only erode the credibility of our media but also weaken the very fabric of our democracy. The public depends on the media to separate fact from fiction, to provide clarity in times of uncertainty, and to serve as a watchdog against abuses of power. When the media itself becomes a source of misinformation and manipulation, it betrays the trust placed in it by society.

In an era where trust in the media is increasingly fragile, radio practitioners must rise to the occasion and restore faith in ethical journalism. This means upholding principles of fairness, accuracy, and balance. It means resisting external pressures that seek to compromise editorial independence. It means being deliberate in choosing content that serves the national interest rather than personal agendas.

Lesotho's radio industry has a powerful role to play in shaping public opinion, influencing policy, and driving national development. But to fulfill this role effectively, it must operate with integrity.

The responsibility lies not just with station owners and managers, but with every producer, editor, presenter, and journalist who steps behind the microphone. The strength of our democracy depends on a well-informed public, and a well-informed public depends on responsible, ethical, and independent media.

Radio has the power to inspire, to educate, and to unite. Let us ensure that it is used for the right purpose, not as a tool of division, but as a force for progress.

Among the most pressing issues requiring sustained media attention is climate change. Despite its severe consequences, prolonged droughts, soil erosion, and erratic rainfall patterns, climate change remains underreported and misunderstood in Lesotho. National forums, seminars, and conferences on this existential threat are rare, and as a result, public awareness is dangerously low.

If we are to foster a national response, radio must lead the charge in educating Basotho about the realities of climate change and the urgent need for action.

While some media houses have taken commendable steps—such as The Post, Lesotho Times, Bokamoso 974, The Uncensored News, and Seahlolo—the broader media landscape remains largely silent on climate issues. This silence must be broken.

We call on radio proprietors, managers, editors, producers, anchors, and reporters to dedicate more airtime to climate action programming. By doing so, they will not only fulfill their duty to inform but also play a critical role in shaping policies that protect our environment and future generations.

Historically, radio has been at the forefront

of social and political transformation. Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP21, radio stations worldwide have played a pivotal role in shaping public perceptions of climate change.

Lesotho must follow suit. Radio possesses a unique ability to create mental imagery and evoke emotions, making it a powerful tool for breaking down complex issues into relatable narratives, particularly for rural communities where it remains the most accessible source of information.

We urge all stakeholders in the radio industry to resist the lure of sensationalism and instead commit to broadcasting content that uplifts, educates, and empowers. Ethical journalism should not be an afterthought, it should be the foundation upon which our radio industry stands.

Radio is more than just a communication medium; it is a driver of social change. It must be used to hold power to account, to inspire critical thinking, and to promote conversations that will shape the future of Lesotho.

As MISA Lesotho, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advocating for a free, independent, and responsible media. We call upon all radio stations to step up and use their influence to address the real issues that matter to Basotho. Climate change is one of them, but so are many other urgent national concerns. The choice before us is clear: we either use radio as a tool for national progress or allow it to be hijacked by those who seek only personal gain.

The future of our nation depends on it.

**World Radio Day is an international day celebrated annually on February 13th to recognise the importance of radio as a powerful medium for communication, education, and information. It was proclaimed in 2011 by UNESCO and later adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day.**

## The imperative of demilitarising the state

**Nkoane Sekhoba**

In recent months, Lesotho has witnessed a concerning trend: the increasing involvement of the military in political and civil affairs. This development threatens to undermine the democratic principles that the nation has worked so hard to uphold.

The recent events surrounding Prime Minister Matekane's government, including the controversial secondment of a military officer to head the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO), have raised alarm bells about the militarisation of the state.

It is imperative that Lesotho reaffirms its commitment to democratic processes and ensures that the military remains confined to its constitutional role, refraining from encroaching on the political and civil space.

The involvement of the military in political matters is a slippery slope that can lead to the erosion of democratic institutions. In October 2023, when members of parliament were mulling toppling Prime Minister Matekane through a democratic process of a vote of no confidence, the heads of the army, police, and national security service (Lesotho Mounted Police Service Commissioner Holomo Moli-beli, Lesotho Defence Force Commander Lieutenant General Mojalefa Letsoela and National Security Service Director General Pheello Ralenkoan) publicly declared their opposition to the move.

While their intention may have been to maintain stability, their intervention set a dangerous precedent. It signalled that the military could influence political outcomes, thereby undermining the sovereignty of parliament and the will of the people.

Now, with the appointment of a military officer to lead the DCEO, the Matekane government risks further entrenching the military's role in governance. The DCEO is a critical institution in the fight against corruption, and its independence is paramount to its effectiveness.

By placing a military figure at its helm, the government risks politicising the institution and eroding public trust in its ability to operate impartially. This move undermines the fight against corruption in Lesotho and blurs the lines between civilian and military authority.

Why would Matekane replace Molelle with a soldier? Does he no longer trust a civilian lawyer as has been tradition? Does he now feel the need to share the DCEO with Letsoela who remains the commander of the soldier to head the DCEO?

Lesotho's democracy is built on the principles of transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. These principles can only be upheld if democratic processes are allowed to function without interference from the military or any other external forces. The attempted vote of no confidence, while controversial,

was a legitimate political manoeuvre within the framework of Lesotho's democratic system. The military's intervention in this process was a clear overreach and a threat to the separation of powers.

Prime Minister Matekane's government must recognise that its legitimacy derives from the democratic mandate given by the people, not from the support of the military. By keeping the military too close, the government risks being perceived as relying on military strength to maintain power.

This perception can lead to widespread disillusionment among the population and undermine the government's credibility.

In a democratic society, the military's role is to protect the nation from external threats and to support civilian authorities in times of crisis. It is not the military's place to intervene in political processes or to influence the functioning of civilian institutions. The military must remain apolitical and subordinate to civilian authority, as enshrined in Lesotho's constitution.

The recent actions of the Matekane government, however, suggest a troubling shift towards militarisation. By seconding a military officer to head the DCEO, the government is effectively allowing the army to run a civilian institution. This move not only undermines the independence of the DCEO but also sets a dangerous precedent for the militarisation of other state institutions.

To safeguard Lesotho's democracy, it is crucial that the Matekane government takes immediate steps to demilitarise the state. This includes ensuring that key institutions such as the DCEO are led by civilian officials with the necessary expertise and independence to carry out their mandates effectively.

The government must also reaffirm its commitment to the rule of law and the separation of powers, ensuring that the military remains within its constitutional boundaries.

Furthermore, the government should engage in dialogue with all stakeholders, including civil society, political parties, and the international community, to reinforce the importance of democratic processes and practices. By doing so, Lesotho can send a clear message that it remains committed to democracy and the rule of law.

Lesotho stands at a crossroads. The increasing militarisation of the state poses a significant threat to the nation's democratic institutions and processes. Prime Minister Matekane's government must take decisive action to demilitarize the state and reaffirm its commitment to democracy.

The military must refrain from encroaching on the political and civil space, and the government must ensure that democratic processes are allowed to prevail. Only by upholding these principles can Lesotho secure a stable and prosperous future for its people.



## TENDER NOTICE

### OPEN NATIONAL COMPETITIVE TENDER LES/IEC/TEN/2024-25/13

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) invites tenders from interested Registered Security Firms for Security Services required at IEC Head Office Maseru West, all IEC offices countrywide and IEC Central Warehouse Industrial Area for a period of thirty-six months. The required number of Security Guards is fifty one (51).

#### BIDDING DOCUMENT

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

#### VALUATION CRITERIA

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

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

Technical bid should include:	Financial bid should include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specification</li> <li>Experience</li> <li>Mandatory requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Quotation</b></li> <li><b>Financial Capability:</b> Current bank statement for three months and a valuation letter from the bank as an assurance that the suppliers will be financed for incapable supplier. <b>OR</b> Tenderers own current financial statements with an audit opinion from a qualified independent Auditor.</li> </ul>

#### MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- The price should be VAT inclusive for suppliers who qualify to collect VAT (attach VAT Registration Certificate).

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

N.B

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

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

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

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

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

Procurement Unit-IEC



## TENDER NOTICE

### OPEN NATIONAL COMPETITIVE TENDER LES/IEC/TEN/2024-25/14

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) invites tenders from interested companies for Supply and Maintenance of Internet and related Information Technology Facilities for the period not exceeding three (3) years at IEC Head Office Maseru West, 10 Districts and Central Warehouse Industrial Area.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

- Internet access and services,
- Website hosting,
- Email domain hosting
- Mail hosting/spam filtering,
- Dedicated bandwidth of 2048Kbps between districts and Head Office,
- Dedicated bandwidth of 4096Kbps at Head Office,
- Election Registration Management System,
- Election Results Publishing System,
- Vehicle Tracking and Management System.

#### BIDDING DOCUMENT

Tender document is obtainable from Election House Procurement Unit 2nd Floor, Corner Maluti and Caledon Road, Maseru West during working hours from 09:00am to 16:00 hours. Bidders must purchase a copy of tender document at a **NON-Refundable fee of M3 000.00 (Three Thousand Maloti)**. The procedure for obtaining the Tender document is as follows: **Payment of bid document must be made at IEC Finance Department 2nd Floor. The receipt issued must be taken to the office of Procurement where document will be issued.**

#### EVALUATION CRITERIA

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

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

Technical bid should include:	Financial bid should include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specification</li> <li>Experience</li> <li>Lead time</li> <li>Mandatory requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Quotation</b></li> <li><b>Financial Capability:</b> Current bank statement for three months and a valuation letter from the bank as an assurance that the suppliers will be financed for incapable supplier. <b>OR</b> Tenderers own current financial statements with an audit opinion from a qualified independent Auditor.</li> </ul>

#### MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

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

N.B

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

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

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

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

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

Procurement Unit-IEC



## MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFTAINSHIP, POLICE AND HOME AFFAIRS LERIBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### OPPORTUNITY

#### PROJECT NAME: MAINTANANCE AND REPAIR OF YELLOW PLANT AND TIPPER TRUCKS AND INSURANCE COVER FOR YELLOW PLANT, TIPPER TRUCKS AND WORKMAN COMPANSATION

Tenders are invited from suitably qualified companies for the MAINTANANCE AND REPAIR OF YELLOW PLANT AND TIPPER TRUCKS AND PROVISION OF INSURANCE COVER FOR YELLOW PLANT, TIPPER TRUCKS AND WORKMAN COMPENSATION. Tender documents are obtainable from Procurement Office, Leribe District Council from the 13th February 2025 for provision of insurance cover at a non-refundable fee on M2, 000.00, payable at Hlotse Urban Council Accounts office. Site visit for maintenance will be on 13th February 2025 from Department Rural Roads (DRR) offices Hlotse and tenders will be obtained via email same day. Participation fee of M2, 000 is be on or before 17/03/25.

#### MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

All prospective tenderers must attach to the tender the following documents:

- Valid traders licence certified at source
- Valid tax clearance certified at source
- Refundable bid security of 1% of the bid price (Letter from accredited Financial Institution endorsed with a revenue stamp)
- Power of attorney

Sealed bids, **Original and four copies of bid documents clearly marked "provision of insurance cover for Leribe district council for Insurance and maintenance and repair of yellow plant and tipper trucks for Leribe District Council for Maintenance"** bearing no identification of the bidder should be deposited at the tender box situated at Hlotse Urban Council.

ACTIVITY	DATES	DATES
ITT ISSUED BOTH	10/02/2025	10/02/2025
DEADLINE FOR CLARIFICATIONS BOTH	17/03/2025	17/03/2025
ITT CLOSING DATE INSURANCE	24/03/2025 at 10:00 am	
ITT CLOSING MAINTANACE		25/03/2025 at 10:00am
TENDER OPENNING DATE INSURANCE	24/03/2025 at 12noon	
TENDER OPENNING DATE MAINTANANCE		25/03/2025 at 10:30am
EVALUATION AND TENDER AWARD	26/03/2025 TO 11/04/2025	26/03/2025 TO 11/04/2025

**DISCLAIMER:** Leribe District Council also reserves the right to cancel the tenders before submission/opening of tenders, postpone the tender submission/opening date and to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. Leribe District Council is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

For more information, contact Procurement Unit at the following numbers: +266 62265955, +26662069277, +26663697597



## NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

### VACANCY

The National University of Lesotho invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the following posts:

POST NO.	POSITION	DEPARTMENT / FACULTY	DEADLINE
2113	Administrator	NUL Innovation Hub	19th March, 2025
3576 (Re-advert)	Senior Lecturer / Lecturer	Procedural & Adjectival Law	19th March, 2025

**For full job description please refer to NUL Website: [www.nul.ls](http://www.nul.ls) or visit our HR Office at Roma for a hard copy. Please quote the post number you are applying for. For further clarifications call +266 22340247 or +266 22340601 ext 3842/3844.**

**In your application letter, include the names and contact details of your three (3) referees**

**Please combine covering letter, CV, certificates, Identity Document/Passport and email them in read only PDF file, if not, will be disqualified. All applications should be emailed to [chr@nul.ls](mailto:chr@nul.ls) and addressed to:**

Director - Human Resources  
National University of Lesotho  
Roma 180 - Lesotho



# Road Fund

## TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ICT EQUIPMENT

The Road Fund Secretariat requests proposals from suitably qualified locally registered suppliers with the capacity to supply and deliver ICT equipment.

Suppliers are expected to tender according to the following categories:

**Lot 1:** Supply of 15 x Desktops

**Lot 2:** i). Supply of 5 x HP LaserJet Printers

ii). Supply of ICT Tools

**Lot 3:** i). Supply and Installation of a Fire Suppression System

ii). Supply and Installation of Environmental Monitoring System

**Lot 4:** Supply and Installation of raised flooring for the head office server room.

1. There will be a compulsory Prebid meeting on **21<sup>st</sup> February 2025, at 10:00 am** in the Road Fund boardroom for those suppliers who will be tendering for Lot 3 and Lot 4;
2. Suppliers must submit a refundable bid security from a reputable bank or Insurance company registered with the Central Bank of Lesotho valued at 5% of the bid amount;
3. Suppliers must be compliant with their tax and licensing obligations, hence a valid company Tax Clearance and Trader's License/Business Identity must be submitted;
4. Two reference letters from where the suppliers provided similar services within the past five (5) years;
5. Suppliers for Lot 3 and Lot 4 must provide a detailed project implementation schedule;
6. Suppliers should indicate the delivery period from receiving an official order.

Detailed minimum specifications and tender requirements are available at the Road Fund website at [www.roadfund.org.ls](http://www.roadfund.org.ls).

### Submission:

Sealed bids marked "**Tender for Supply and Delivery of ICT Equipment**", specifying the Lot number and bearing no identification of the bidder should be deposited in the tender box located at the reception area of the Road Fund offices. Submission must be made on or before **1:00 pm on Friday, 7th March 2025**. A public tender opening will be held on the same day at **2:00 pm** for interested Suppliers or their representatives.



2007/86 LDTC, Opposite Manthabiseng Convention Centre,  
P. O. Box 14359,  
Maseru – 100, Lesotho  
Email: [gemesotho23@gmail.com](mailto:gemesotho23@gmail.com)

### Subject: Call for Expression of Interest

The Geography and Environmental Movement (GEM) invites Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Lesotho working on environmental issues to express their interest in joining the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Multi-Environment Agreements (MEAs) CSO Network. This initiative seeks to jointly strengthen community driven environmental efforts, enhance policy advocacy, support innovative solutions to environmental challenges and amplify the voice of Lesotho's civil society at the national decision making platforms. Please join us if you are a **Civil Society Organisation, Community Based Organisation, Faith Based Organisation, Association, Philanthropic Organization, Activists groups and Cultural Organisations**, actively engaged in the following thematic areas:

9. Biodiversity Conservation
10. Wetland Restoration and Protection
11. Agro ecology and Indigenous Crops Promotion
12. Beekeeping for Biodiversity and Livelihoods
13. Eco-Tourism and Conservation Education
14. Wildlife Protection and Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation
15. Community-Based Rangeland Management
16. Aquaculture Development Projects
17. Reforestation and Afforestation
18. Soil Conservation & Land Restoration
19. Food Banks & Food Waste Reduction and Processing
20. Livestock and Poultry Initiatives

1. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
2. Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security
3. Water Conservation & Management.
4. Ecosystem Restoration & Conservation
5. Renewable Energy Initiatives and Sustainable livelihoods
6. Waste Management & Recycling
7. Waste-to-Art and Green Enterprises
8. Circular Economy and Green Jobs Program

Fill up the form provided and send your Expression of Interest (EOI) via email to [gemesotho23@gmail.com](mailto:gemesotho23@gmail.com) and copy to [kmalintle@gmail.com](mailto:kmalintle@gmail.com) with the subject line: "Expression of Interest – GEF & MEAs CSO Network Lesotho" by 14th March 2025. For more information, please contact Lira Masemene -56677260 and Manthatisi Makhaola-58069560

Join us in # 5 year marathon to 2030! Advancing environmental sustainability for a resilient future in Lesotho!



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Recruitment Services for the Position of Chief Executive Officer at Lesotho National Development Corporation  
**RFP#: LNDC-LAS-2024092**

### LNDC

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

TEL: 22231000 / 22312012  
[info@lndc.org.ls](mailto:info@lndc.org.ls) | [www.lndc.org.ls](http://www.lndc.org.ls)

The Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) invites sealed tenders from locally registered and qualified consulting firms and other organizations for provision of Recruitment Services for the Recruitment and Appointment of Chief Executive Officer of the LNDC.

The main objective of this assignment is to provide support to the LNDC Board of Directors in the recruitment and appointment of the Chief Executive Officer capable of leading the current strategic plan and implement the mandate of LNDC.

Interested and eligible bidders must obtain the tender document by paying a non-refundable fee of **One thousand five hundred Maloti (M1,500.00)** at the Finance Office at LNDC Development House Block A level 6.

Tenders must be deposited in the **tender box** situated on the 1st floor of LNDC Development House Block A, Reception Area.

The deadline for submission of tenders is on or before **Friday 28th of February 2025 at 10:00am**. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. The tender box will be opened publicly immediately thereafter.

All bids must be accompanied by valid copies of business identity card, tax clearance, and proof of authorized signatory.

The LNDC reserves the right to cancel the tender, reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The LNDC is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

## INVITATION TO BID

**BID REF NO: RD/CLEANING, HYGIENE & GARDENING SERVICES-001/2025**

**PROJECT NAME: PROVISION OF CLEANING, HYGIENE AND GARDENING SERVICES FOR ROADS DIRECTORATE HEAD QUARTERS' OFFICES, REGIONAL OFFICES, AND DISTRICTS' OFFICES**

**1.1** The Roads Directorate intends to apply part of its budgetary allocation to fund eligible Payments under the contract for **RD/CLEANING, HYGIENE AND GARDENING SERVICES-001/2025**, towards the realization of the above cited project.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF GOODS:

**PROVISION OF CLEANING, HYGIENE AND GARDENING SERVICES FOR ROADS DIRECTORATE HEAD-QUARTERS' OFFICES, REGIONAL OFFICES AND DISTRICTS' OFFICES.**

**1.2** The Roads Directorate invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders in and outside Lesotho for **Provision of Cleaning, Hygiene and Gardening Services for Roads Directorate Headquarters, Regional Offices and Districts' Offices**.

**1.3** Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bid documents at the following address and office during normal working hours (08:00AM and 18:30PM):  
The Procurement Manager

### Postal Address

Roads Directorate  
P.O. Box 194  
MASERU – 100  
Tel: (266) 22229000/52229000  
Email Address: [ntlhakanam@rd.org.ls](mailto:ntlhakanam@rd.org.ls)/[mahiritonaf@rd.org.ls](mailto:mahiritonaf@rd.org.ls)/[rd.org.ls/marek@rd.org.ls](mailto:rd.org.ls/marek@rd.org.ls)

### Physical Address

Procurement Section, Ground Floor (Room G11)  
Roads Directorate  
Corner Senate and Lepoqa Roads  
Industrial Area (Opposite Browns Wholesalers)

A complete set of Bid Documents may be obtained by interested Bidders upon payment of non-refundable fees of **Three Thousand Maloti Only (M3000.00)** in a cash or Bankers Cheque payable to Roads Directorate, Nedbank Lesotho, Operating Revenue, Account No: 021000067633.

**1.4 All Suppliers Should Submit Recent Financial Statements of 3yrs (between years 2022 to 2024)**. All

suppliers to the Lesotho Government are expected to be in compliance with their tax obligations. They should therefore attach copies of **valid Tax Clearance Certificates, valid copies of Traders License/Registration Certificate**, all certified at source. **A proven track record on Provision of Cleaning, Hygiene and Gardening Services is required. Please see the Submission Details in the Tender Document under Section III – Scope of Services and Performance Specifications.**

**1.5** There will be a compulsory pre-bid meeting to be held at Roads Directorate offices on Thursday, 13th February 2025 at 10:00am at the Roads Directorate offices.

**1.6** Prices quoted should be net inclusive of all taxes and delivery must be in Lesotho Maloti and shall remain valid for 90 days from the closing date of the Bid.

**1.7** Bidding Documents must be accompanied by a **Bid Security of Five Thousand Maloti (M5,000.00)** in the form of a Bank Guarantee Letter addressed to "Roads Directorate" which must be attached.

**1.9** Completed Bid documents comprising One (1) Original and Two (2) copies and One (1) Memory Stick of the Technical combined with the Financial Proposal, are to be enclosed in plain sealed envelopes bearing no identification of the Bidder and marked as follows: "Provision of Cleaning, Hygiene and Gardening Services for Roads Directorate Headquarters, Regional Offices and Districts' Offices" must be deposited in the Bid Box at **Ground Floor, Roads Directorate, Corner Senate and Lepoqa Roads** and addressed to Roads Directorate at the above address.

Tenders have to be received on or before **12 Noon, Thursday 6th March 2025**. Late Bids will be rejected.

Bids will be opened the same day at **14:30hrs** by the Roads Directorate's Tender Board, in the presence of the Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.



Roads Directorate



@Roads\_LS



Road Directorate Lesotho





Fees	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
------	----------	----------	-----------

<b>Subscription</b>	<b>M 72.00</b>	<b>M 156.00</b>	<b>M 312.00</b>
---------------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------

<b>Delivery</b>	<b>M 60.00</b>
-----------------	----------------

**Names:**..... **Email:**..... **No. Of Copies:**.....  
**Address:**..... **Start date:**...../...../..... **Expiry:**...../...../  
**Tel:**..... **Cell:**..... **Signature:**.....

**Payment Method**      **Newsday Media PTY LTD**

Cash	Bank Deposit	Merchant
	Standard Lesotho Bank Acc#: 9080001310220	EcoCash 92669 m-pesa 3551

**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.



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.





# Ntate Stunna vs Sannere: Beef or strategy?

Chris Theko

Sesotho Fashioneng rapper Ntate Stunna and rising rap sensation Sannere have seemingly put an end to their brief feud, which peaked with the release of Stunna's diss track, *After School*, last Saturday.

The track, which directly called out Sannere and some of his associates, took fans by surprise as there had been no prior public indications of bad blood between the two—both of whom are considered among Lesotho's hottest rappers today.

Despite Sannere opting not to respond with a diss track of his own, Stunna has since backtracked and called for a truce, raising speculation over whether the feud was real or simply a publicity stunt.

"I really would like to distance myself from all this beef saga, to protect this beautiful brand and all the family brands I associate with. Ana Ke amang a mabaka a sa mpaleisa hip hop. I sincerely apologize to everyone I disappointed with this, also my manager, who was never part of this, and all my business partners, ke its'oabetswe," Stunna wrote on his social media page.

As a gesture of apology, Stunna announced that he would be dropping a new song, *Moya*, this Friday.

Stunna later also shared the details of an event in which both him and Sannere are scheduled to perform.

Origins of the feud

In an exclusive interview with *Newsday Arts*, Ntate Stunna, real name Thaabe Letsie, revealed that he felt disrespected by Sannere's lyrics and had to respond.

"From the first song I heard from Sannere, there was a sneak diss aimed at me," Stunna claimed. He referenced a line from *Bahale*, a song by Citizen Ls featuring Sannere, where Sannere raps:

"*Ba ntseng ba re Lesotho le mahetleng a bona, ba bua ka Lesotho le feng?*"

Stunna interpreted this as a direct jab at him, as he had previously rapped in his 2020 song *From Khaya to Jozi*:

"*I feel like Basotho ba mahetleng aka.*"



He confronted Sannere at Malome Vector's homecoming event, but said Sannere evaded the issue. To Stunna, this confirmed that the young rapper was using him as a stepping stone to industry recognition.

Further tension arose when Sannere released a track that included the line:

"*Ba ntseng ba re ke li jersey number 10 ba khutle ba ilo mamela Bahale.*"

At the time, Stunna was the only rapper referring to himself as *Jersey Number 10*.

"I even involved Malome Vector in the situation. I called him, and we talked about it. He had already confronted Sannere about it," Stunna explained.

The conflict did not end there. Even after Malome Vector's passing, Stunna claims Sannere continued excluding him from lists of top Basotho lyricists.

Beyond lyrical tensions, industry politics have played a role in the rift between the two camps. In December 2024, three members of Stunna's label, *Penya Play Productions*—DJ Zacca, rapper *Cheezy Brizzy*, and photographer *Mpho Tau*—left the label.

Their exit was accompanied by a statement from *Penya Play* declaring a "New Era" focused on artist autonomy and creative freedom.

Shortly after their departure, *Mpho Tau* and *DJ Zacca* were seen working with Sannere's label, *Mets'oaka Group*, which was launched in January 2024. Stunna believes financial disagreements and an attempt to hold the label "at ransom" contributed to their departure.

One of the most unexpected aspects of *After School* was that it was produced by *Flash Cortez*, a key member of *Mets'oaka Group*.

This was surprising because *Cortez* had announced a music hiatus in January—coincidentally, right after *Mets'oaka Group*'s launch.

When approached for comment, Sannere acknowledged that he and Stunna had a conversation at Malome Vector's homecoming event, where they resolved their misunderstanding.

"We did meet at the event, and he con-

fronted me about a line I used," Sannere explained. "I told him it was just a misunderstanding—I wasn't talking about him. It was simply a line that came up, not directed at anyone."

Sannere said he never responded to the diss track because he wasn't sure why he was being attacked.

"I didn't respond to the diss track—neither by releasing my own nor by confronting him—because I was shocked. I had no idea why he was attacking me, and to this day, I still don't know. As far as I'm concerned, we were on good terms."

**Beef or marketing strategy?**

Hip-hop has long been shaped by rivalries—from *Tupac vs Biggie* to *Jay-Z vs Nas*, and even South Africa's *AKA vs Cassper Nyovest*. Some feuds remain lyrical, while others escalate into real-life conflicts.

With Stunna and Sannere now performing at the same event and Stunna promoting new music, fans are left wondering: Was this an actual beef, or just an industry strategy to generate hype?

# Bobby Stringz set to drop new single 'Recording' in March



Fusi Hlaoli

Lesotho-born artist Thabelang Leluma, popularly known as Bobby Stringz, has announced the upcoming release of his latest single, *Recording*, set to drop in March this year.

In an exclusive chat with *Newsday*, Stringz shared his excitement about the project and offered insight into the inspiration behind the track.

Currently based in Pretoria, South Africa, Bobby Stringz has been working closely with renowned producer *Kinglee*, known for collaborations with some of South Africa and Lesotho's top artists, including *Malome Vector*, *Wave Rhyder*, *Lizwi Wokuqala*, *Mawebele*, and even the celebrated duo *Blaq Diamond*.

Although a specific release date is yet to be confirmed, Stringz assured fans that the song is ready and highly anticipated.

"I am about to drop a song called *Recording*," he revealed.

Describing the track as a light-hearted and fun take on love, he explained that his inspiration stemmed from wanting to create something fresh for Valentine's Day.

"Most love songs tend to be deep and emotional, but I wanted to make something fun, something that captures the playful side of love," he said.

Stringz delved into the song's theme, touching on the unpredictability of modern relationships.

"Love is a risk these days. Relationships don't always last, but that doesn't mean we can't enjoy the moments we have. *Recording* is about embracing love while it lasts,"

he added.

Looking ahead, Stringz expressed his desire to evolve his sound for a global audience.

"This year, I really want to tap into pop culture. It's not just Afro-pop—it's a fusion, more versatile and internationally appealing," he explained.

*Recording* is a solo project, produced by *Kinglee*, and marks another step forward in Stringz's artistic journey. While optimistic about the future, he acknowledged the challenges of music delays and audience reach.

"I feel like this year, we're getting it right," he said, hopeful that 2025 will bring greater recognition and success.

Fans of Bobby Stringz should keep an eye out for *Recording* when it drops this March.



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



**SEAHLOLO**  
we grow together

## Re itokisetsa

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

**Date: 1-2 April 2025**

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

**8%**

**Discount**  
before End  
of February

**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 | Newday Media**

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

**SPORTS**

# Fothoane's exit haunts Bantu

**Seabata Mahao**

The recent departure of Bantu Football Club's (FC) talisman, Lehlohonolo Fothoane, is already haunting the Mafeteng club as they lost further ground on the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) standings following a heavy 4-0 defeat to Lijabatho FC last weekend.

Bantu has now dropped to the fourth position on the league table, sharing 32 points with LMPS FC and LDF FC.

Their latest setback has allowed Lesotho Defense Force (LDF) FC to climb above them after a crucial 2-1 victory over LCS FC. Lesotho Mounted Police Services (LMPS) follows closely in fifth position.

Reacting to their loss, Bantu's head coach, Charles Manda, acknowledged that the departure of Fothoane, their top goalscorer, has left a significant void.

Fothoane, who was also leading the VPL goal-scoring charts before his exit, joined Botswana's Township Rollers in January this year after notching 17 goals in 15 games.

"The absence of Lehlohonolo Fothoane was evident during this match, and it posed major challenges for us. We need to work harder to fill the gap he left. The team was already struggling in previous matches, but this heavy defeat has made things worse," Manda stated.

Manda also admitted that his players underestimated their opponents, which led to their defensive collapse. "We should have done better in preventing those four goals because they were defendable. It's something we need to address urgently," he added.

In a separate interview with the General Manager of Bantu, Poosela Pule indicated they had an ordinary match postmortem to discuss their strengths and weaknesses.

"Our coach also urged us to invest in more young players because the club currently depends on senior players who have a lot of fatigue and club's politics,"

"Bantu management has engaged the technical management and the players about the strategy going forward and we all agreed to support each other so that our club can be stronger," Pule explained.

Following this disappointing loss, Bantu is eager to bounce back when they face Limkokwing University (LU) FC on Sunday at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena. However, LU FC is no

pushover, having recently defeated Majantja FC 1-0 to climb to 13th place on the log.

With new signings boosting their squad, LU FC has shown significant improvement and aims to further advance in the standings. Bantu had previously beaten Liphakoe FC 4-2 under their former coach, James Madidilane, but in their recent encounter, they suffered a shocking 4-0 defeat under Manda's leadership. This inconsistency adds to the pressure on Manda as he seeks to prove himself.

Other past weekend results are as follows: Saturday; LCS FC 1 - 2 LDF FC, Liphakoe FC 3 - 5 Matlama FC, Bantu FC 0 - 4 Lijabatho FC, and Lifofane FC 1 - 2 Manonyane FC.

On Sunday, Mzamane FC 0 - 5 Linare FC, ACE Maseru FC 0 - 0 LMPS FC, Machocha FC 0 - 1 Lioli FC, and Majantja FC 0 - 1 LU FC.

This coming weekend's fixture will see on Saturday, Mzamane FC hosting Liphakoe FC at 16:00 at Botha-Bothe Ground, Matlama FC will host LMPS FC at 16:00 at BambathaTšita Sports Arena, LCS FC will host Lifofane FC at Ratjomose Ground at 14:00 hours, and ACE Maseru will host Machokha FC at 16:30 at Rat-



Former Bantu FC midfielder, Lehlohonolo Fothoane in action

jomose Ground.

On Sunday, Majantja FC will host Linare FC at 16:00 at DIFA Mohale'sHoek, Lioli FC will host LDF FC at 14:00 at BambathaTšita Sports Arena, Manonyane FC will host Lijabatho at 16:00 at Nyakosoba Ground, and LU FC will host Bantu FC at BambathaTšita Sports Arena.

# Makatile upbeat about global cycling tourney



the upcoming sensational cyclist, Khotsofalang Rakaota(Left) and Lesotho road racing cyclist, Kabelo Makatile (Right) re-invited by the World Cycling Centre (WCC) for another camp

**Seabata Mahao**

Young road racing cyclist Kabelo Makatile is gearing up for the prestigious 2025 Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Road World Championships with optimism, despite having limited preparation time.

The event is set to take place in Kigali, Rwanda, from September 21 to 28, 2025—marking the first time in its 103-year history that the championship will be hosted on African soil.

The UCI Road World Championships is the pinnacle of international road cycling, featuring elite-level competitions such as the road race, time trial, individual time trial, and team time trial. The event is expected to draw over 5,000 cyclists and 20,000 delegates from across the globe.

According to Cycling Federation of Lesotho (CFL) Spokesperson Morie Malefane, this milestone will leave a lasting legacy for cycling in Africa, inspiring future generations and pushing the sport to new heights.

Having represented Lesotho in several international cycling competitions, Makatile expressed his pride in once again wearing the national colors on a world stage.

To prepare, he has been re-invited to train at the World Cycling Centre (WCC) in Cape Town for an intensive camp running from February 15 to March 15, 2025.

Makatile is currently Lesotho's national cycling champion, having claimed the title in December last year upon his return from an

earlier WCC camp.

He is also a Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) youth Olympic scholarship beneficiary, first attending WCC training in 2021, where he joined top riders from across the continent.

For this year's camp, Makatile will be joined by rising star Khotsofalang Rakaota, aiming to sharpen their competitive edge ahead of the UCI Road World Championships.

As part of his training, Makatile was invited to participate in Namibia's Pro Cycling Team (NCCS) Tour de Windhoek, a four-day event scheduled for February 17 to 20, 2025.

However, due to the passing of former Namibian President Hage Geingob, the tour was canceled.

Undeterred, Makatile has shifted focus to two key domestic competitions, including the highly anticipated Bocheletsane Cycling Classic on March 16, 2025. He is currently awaiting final confirmations from his sponsors before heading to Cape Town for training.

"I am preparing for the biggest cycling competition in the world and I am confident that am going to make myself, the federation and my country proud. For now I am waiting on my funders for the camp to finalise their process so I can leave for Cape-Town,"

"I have to come back in time so I can have enough time to rest in order to prepare for Bocheletsane Cycling Classic. I am going to ask to leave the camp early before its time as it ends on March 15 while the competition is on March 16," Makatile stated.

camp early to allow for adequate rest before the Bocheletsane Classic.

Makatile's rising profile on the African cycling scene saw him selected by the Confederation of African Cycling (CAC) to join Team Africa for the 2024 UCI World Championships in France.

Beyond continental recognition, Makatile has built an impressive track record, competing locally, regionally, and internationally, cementing his place among Africa's most promising cyclists.

With the 2025 UCI Road World Championships on the horizon, all eyes will be on Makatile as he gears up to make history for Lesotho.

According to the Cycling Federation of Lesotho (CFL) Spokesperson, Morie Malefane, this is a momentous occasion that will leave a lasting legacy, inspiring generations to embrace the joy of cycling and continue reaching new heights.

Makatile also hopes to wrap up the WCC



## MASERU CITY RUN 2025 SPONSORS





# Who is LeFA backing in LNOC presidential race?



*LNOC Presidential candidate, the President of the Federation of Athletics Lesotho (FAL), Tšelisio Pheta*



*LNOC Presidential candidate, the incumbent LNOC President, Tlali Rampooana*



*LNOC Presidential candidate, the current LNOC Vice-President, Letsatsi Ntsibolane*

## Seabata Mahao

Impeccable sources have alleged that the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) has withdrawn its support for Federation of Athletics Lesotho (FAL) President Tšelisio Pheta in the upcoming Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) presidential elections, instead aligning itself with incumbent president Tlali Rampooana.

The highly anticipated LNOC elections are set to take place during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 23.

Rampooana, who was first elected in 2021, is seeking re-election for another four-year term, facing stiff competition from Pheta and current LNOC Vice-President, Letsatsi Ntsibolane.

While the sources indicate that LeFA has distanced itself from Pheta due to concerns over his lack of support among key sporting constituencies, the association's Secretary General, Mokhosi Mohapi, has downplayed any claims that LeFA has officially taken a stance.

"LeFA has not even submitted its delegation list," Mohapi said.

"We don't vote for popularity, even at CAF and FIFA and even at COSAFA we have always voted for candidates we feel are the ones who best represent our interests not because of popularity," Mohapi stated.

Despite apparent loss of LeFA's backing, Pheta remains confident in his campaign, maintaining that his candidacy is driven by

the need for transparency and meaningful sports development.

He has criticised the current LNOC leadership for failing to make significant progress in improving sports in Lesotho.

"Despite serving on the executive committee for several years, the present president of LNOC has not produced much evidence of his leadership. There hasn't been any significant advancement, and our sports are still becoming worse.

"We simply never receive the funding we require to get our athletes ready for big competitions like the Olympics," Pheta said.

Meanwhile, Ntsibolane has positioned himself as the best candidate to lead the LNOC,

citing strong backing from national federations that believe in his vision. His primary focus is on improving sports administration, enhancing sporting facilities, and advocating for physical education to be incorporated into Lesotho's school curriculum.

"Our team is putting in a lot of effort, and we are sure we will win. We will succeed by promoting our constructive vision for the LNOC, not by disparaging others," Ntibolane stated.

With the election date fast approaching, all three candidates remain resolute in their campaigns, each aiming to secure the mandate to lead Lesotho's Olympic movement into a new era.



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