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News

Leaders' words break bones, shatters lives

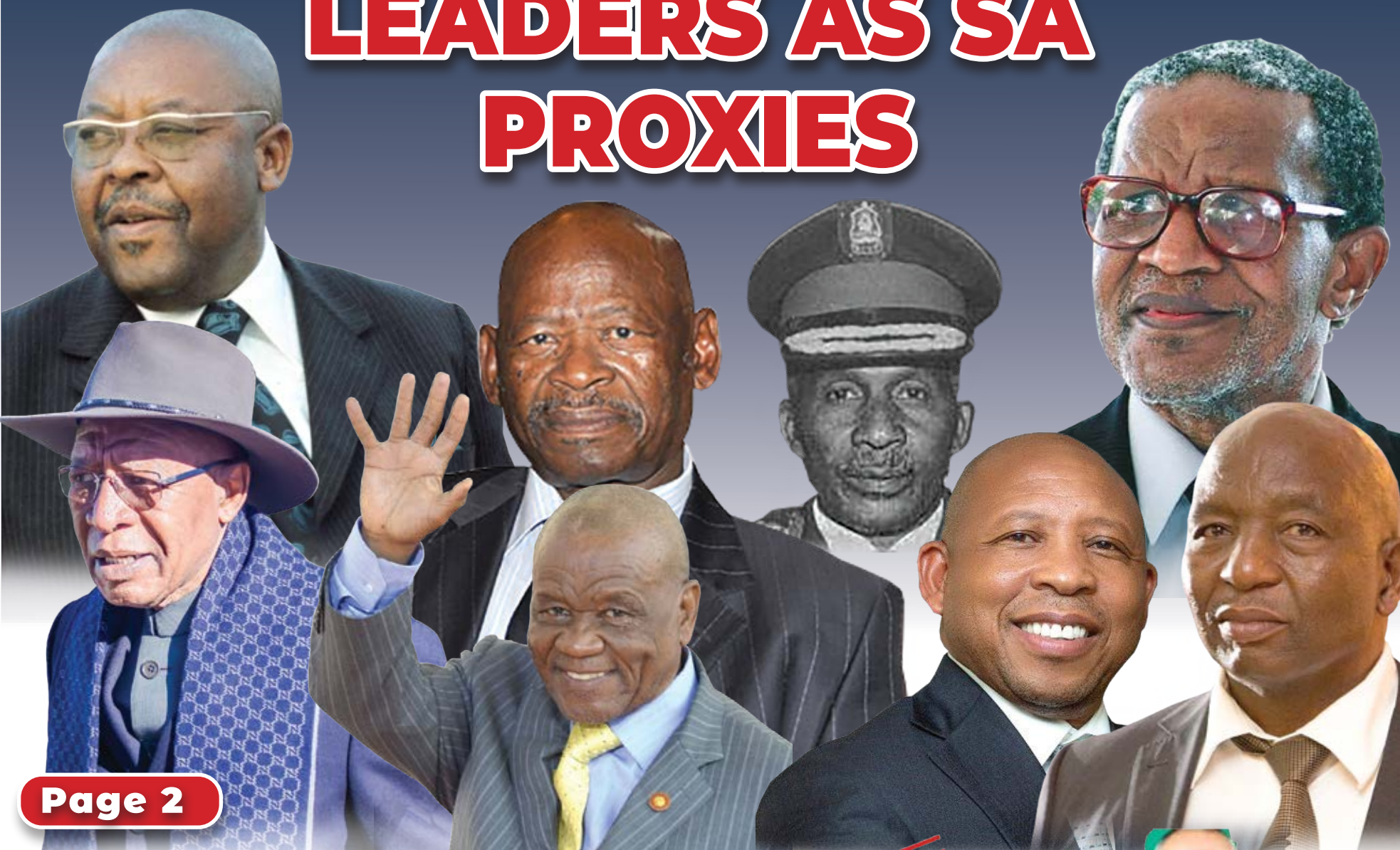
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MZANSI YOUNG FARMERS INDABA
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Lipholo slams Lesotho leaders as SA proxies

- **Claims MPs, ministers, and judges are SA citizens**
- **Wants to lead the Conquered Territory**
- **Begs UN for financial aid**

Staff Reporter

Dr. Tšepo Lipholo, a fiery Member of Parliament (MP) and leader of the Basotho Covenant Movement (BCM), has ignited controversy with a petition claiming that every Lesotho government since independence in 1966 has been a puppet regime controlled by Pretoria, South Africa.

A full copy of the petition, obtained by Newsday, accuses successive administrations, including the current one led by Prime Minister Ntsokoane Samuel Matekane, of bowing to South African influence, thwarting efforts to reclaim what Lipholo calls the "Conquered Territory" of the Basotho.

This territory, lost to colonial and Boer encroachments decades ago, includes the entire Free State province and parts of other South African provinces.

Lipholo alleges this puppetry explains why Lesotho has never fought to restore these lands, as allegedly mandated by United Nations (UN) resolutions. His campaign hinges on a historical grievance dating back to the 1800s, when Basotho lands were reduced through wars with Boer settlers and British colonial agreements.

The 1869 Convention of Aliwal North formalised these losses and ceded vast territories to what is now South Africa. When Lesotho gained independence from Britain in 1966, it inherited these diminished borders, a decision reinforced by the Organisation of African Unity's (OAU) 1963 pledge to respect colonial boundaries.

Lipholo's petition, reportedly submitted to the UN General Assembly and Security Council earlier this year, invokes UN Resolutions which he says urged Britain to address Basotho land claims before independence, a call he says was ignored, leaving the issue unresolved.

His claims echo long-standing nationalist sentiments among some Basotho groups who believe that Lesotho should reclaim its pre-colonial boundaries.

However, successive Lesotho governments have largely maintained diplomatic relations with South Africa and refrained from pursuing territorial claims aggressively.

"Ever since 1966, South African government has been putting its own proxy governments in Lesotho whose leaders all had to report in Pretoria," Lipholo stated in the petition.

"This has naturally resulted in all these proxy South African governments re-

sisting to ensure the enforcement of the UN Resolutions, namely; granting of the full self-determination to the inhabitants and the return of all their land in the territorial Boundaries of Basutoland as directed," he added.

Lesotho, a landlocked kingdom entirely surrounded by South Africa, relies heavily on its neighbour for trade, jobs, and infrastructure.

Lipholo cites a specific example to bolster his case that Lesotho is subjugated: a motion he introduced in Lesotho's parliament on April 24, 2023, (Motion No. 8 on Reclamation of Lesotho Territory), which faced fierce opposition.

"Lesotho parliament's heavy resistance of the Motion put by Petitioner to declare such territorial boundaries as ruled by this Assembly," he wrote. He said some MPs suggested negotiating with South Africa for the land's return, a proposal he deems unlawful.

"This matter is res judicata, the UN has already ruled South Africa an aggressor and ordered the land's return. Lesotho has no business negotiating with them."

He argued that such talks would undermine UN authority, render its resolutions toothless, and set a dangerous precedent under international law, and allow powerful states like South Africa to bully smaller nations unchecked.

"Needless to say that the said motion was finally frustrated and lost and such government has not even made endeavours to initiate such so-called negotiations with the said South African government," he said.

In a bid to prove Lesotho's subjugation, Lipholo made another bombshell claim.

"Most members of these proxy governments, in the Executive as ministers, in the judiciary, and in both houses of parliament—are South African citizens." He alleged that many MPs and Senators hold South African identity cards, some even commuting daily from South Africa, creating a blatant conflict of interest.

This, he said, violates Section 59 of Lesotho's Constitution, which disqualifies anyone pledging allegiance to a foreign state from serving in parliament.

However, in a partial backtrack, he called on the UN to compel both governments to disclose which parliamentarians hold dual citizenship.

He asserted that MPs and senators have to reveal this, as their votes against

Basotho interests align with their allegiance to South Africa.

"It is clear that such MPs and Senators have violated the provisions of the very Constitution which they are supposed to uphold and RSA has a duty to disclose their citizenship as we have a reason to believe that they have misused their positions to vote against the interests of indigenous inhabitants of Lesotho for the implementation of the Resolutions of this General Assembly when they owe their allegiance to a foreign government being RSA," he said.

1986 military coup and LHWP treaty

Lipholo further alleged that the apartheid government in Pretoria orchestrated a military coup in Lesotho in 1986, toppling Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan, to tighten its grip on the mountain kingdom.

The coup, he claimed, paved the way for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) treat, an agreement he called "infamous", that handed South Africa indefinite control over Lesotho's most precious resource: water.

For Lipholo, this is more than a historical footnote, he said it is evidence of ongoing exploitation.

Lesotho's political landscape shifted dramatically on January 20, 1986, when a military coup ousted Jonathan, ending his 20-year rule. Jonathan, leader of the Basotho National Party (BNP), had governed since independence in 1966 but faced mounting tensions after refusing to cede power following a disputed 1970 election.

His government's growing defiance of apartheid South Africa, Lesotho hosted African National Congress (ANC) exiles and criticised Pretoria's policies, strained relations with its powerful neighbour.

Lipholo alleged that South Africa, unwilling to tolerate this resistance, "closed all the borders of Lesotho and sponsored its proxies" to execute the coup, violating international norms protecting landlocked states' sovereignty.

Historical accounts partly support this narrative. In early 1986, South Africa imposed a border blockade, citing security concerns over ANC activities, crippling Lesotho's economy, which relied on South African trade routes.

Days later, Major General Justin Lekhanya seized power with little bloodshed, installing a military junta.

While direct evidence of Pretoria's sponsorship remains debated, the timing, followed by Lekhanya's swift alignment with South

Africa, lends credence to suspicions of external influence.

Lipholo framed

this as a deliberate sidestep of UN Security Council resolutions which condemned South Africa's economic pressure on Lesotho and urged support for its independence.

The coup's aftermath saw the rapid signing of the LHWP treaty in October, 1986, between South Africa and Lesotho's new military regime. Billed as a win-win development project, the LHWP aimed to supply water to South Africa's industrial Gauteng province while generating hydropower and royalties for Lesotho.

Phase I, including the Katse Dam, Africa's second-largest double-curvature arch dam, began construction in the 1990s.

Lipholo, however, sees the treaty as a predatory deal.

"Immediately after toppling Jonathan, South Africa signed an infamous treaty with its proxies, giving itself Lesotho's only precious commodity, water, for an indefinite period."

He argued that the treaty granted South Africa perpetual leases on Lesotho land within the project area, a move he said contradicts Lesotho's Land Act, which caps leases at 100 years even for citizens.

"This means the land and water of the Basotho are permanently occupied and owned by South Africa," Lipholo asserted.

In contrast, he said, Lesotho receives royalties for only 50 years, with no adjustments since the treaty's inception 37 years ago, despite provisions for review.

The lack of parliamentary oversight, he noted no review has occurred, fuels his claim of a rigged arrangement favouring Pretoria.

The LHWP's impact on Basotho communities adds weight to Lipholo's critique. Over 20,000 people were displaced by Phase I, losing homes, farmland, and access to communal resources like medicinal plants and grazing pastures.

Compensation has been a flashpoint. Lipholo alleged that rates were as low as 68 lisente per square meter for arable land, translating to annual payments of less than M16 for some families, far below any poverty line.

"There's been no compensation for communal land or useful plants for 37 years," he stated, calling the rates "inhuman" and a stark undervaluation of Basotho livelihoods.

Ongoing Phase II, featuring the Polihali Dam in Mokhotlong, deepens the controversy. Lipholo claimed it is built on "prime areas with 400 diamond pipes," citing geological reports that allegedly suggest untapped mineral wealth beneath the reservoir sites.

He alleged that 18 failed feasibility studies were ignored to push the project forward, prioritising South Africa's water needs over Lesotho's economic potential.

While diamond estimates vary, Lesotho's known kimberlite pipes have yielded gems like the 910-carat Lesotho Legend. Experts agree that Mokhotlong district probably holds significant deposits.

In conclusion, Lipholo demanded recognition, restoration, and return of the Conquered Territory of Basutoland as a sovereign state under his interim leader-

ship and financial and technical assistance from the UN to achieve full self-determination for this reclaimed state, per past resolutions.



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Leaders’ words break bones, shatter lives

Ntsoaki Motaung

A new report by the Ombudsman, Advocate Tlotliso Polaki, has revealed disturbing allegations of human rights violations committed by the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) and the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) during operations.

The report, released this week, details accounts of torture, ill-treatment, and unlawful detention of civilians during Operations Fiela and Hard Fist. It paints a harrowing picture of brutality, with victims describing being subjected to beatings, forced to perform degrading exercises, and detained in inhumane conditions.

The findings come months after Prime Minister Ntsokoane Samuel Matekane and LDF Deputy Commander Major General Matela Matobakele made controversial statements that rights groups said emboldened security forces to act with impunity.

In August last year, the local human rights group, SECTION 2, strongly condemned the Prime Minister’s directive to the LDF, in which he urged them to adopt the same tactics used in Mozambique’s Cabo Delgado region to restore peace in Lesotho.

“Lesotho is not at war. There is no justification for employing counter-insurgency measures against its own citizens,” SECTION 2 said at the time, warning that such rhetoric could lead to severe human rights abuses.

Major General Matobakele also made alarming remarks, stating that the LDF would not “sit back while criminals terrorise the country,” a statement critics said signaled a green light for unchecked force.

The government dismissed them as alarmists. Now, Polaki’s report proves the critics right, and the cost is paid in broken bodies. The report details multiple incidents of civilians being brutalized by security forces under the guise of crime-fighting.

The Ombudsman indicated that the investigation, initiated following widespread media reports and public outcry over alleged abuses, sought to address concerns about the conduct of security forces in communities across the country.

The report highlights a pattern of misconduct, with numerous individuals alleging brutal treatment at the hands of LDF and LMPS officers.

It contains harrowing accounts from villagers who described being subjected to inhumane treat-

... Ombudsman exposes the cost



ment. Victims reported being beaten with sticks and other objects, forced to perform degrading exercises, and subjected to torture methods such as asphyxiation.

One individual, whose identity is being withheld for their protection, described how army officers arrived at their house at 5:00AM, forced them outside, and made them take the officers to the headman’s house. The individual then detailed how villagers, including the elderly, women, and children, were forced to roll on the ground, and those who could not keep up were beaten.

Another villager from the same community reported being kicked in the testicles and forced to participate in grueling physical exercises. Disturbingly, this occurred on the day of a funeral for three victims of unknown gunmen, with army officers ordering villagers to abandon the burial proceedings.

In a particularly egregious case, a man from Leribe, Liteboho Mahloana, was arrested by the army and allegedly beaten so severely that both his legs and arms were broken. Mahloana claims he was subjected to brutal torture, including being beaten with

a knobkerrie and sticks, and forced into various positions to facilitate the beatings. Despite the severity of his injuries, he has not been charged with any offence.

His wife, ‘Maleseli Mahloane, had to seek legal intervention to determine her husband’s whereabouts and ensure he received medical attention.

The Ombudsman’s report also raises serious concerns about the conditions under which individuals were detained.

Victims described being held in unsanitary cells with limited access to food and water: One individual reported being locked in a cell with a bucket filled with urine and faecal matter on the floor.

The report also highlights instances of individuals being detained without sufficient justification and some victims being held for extended periods without being charged.

According to the report, in response to the allegations, the LDF acknowledged the volatile security situation in the country, citing the prevalence of Famo gangsterism and illegal firearms as major concerns.

While the LDF maintained its operations are conducted within the law, the Ombudsman’s report raises serious concerns about the methods employed.

The report concludes that there is a need for urgent action to address the human rights violations and prevent future occurrences.

The Ombudsman has issued a series of recommendations to the relevant authorities, including that the LDF and LMPS should immediately revisit their operational procedures to ensure they comply with human rights standards and that the Ministry of Justice and Law should provide legal advice on permissible interrogation methods.

She also recommended that law enforcement personnel should receive training in international law, criminal law, and human rights law, parliament should establish an independent Office of the Military Ombudsman to investigate complaints against the military, and that internal investigations should be conducted by the LDF and LMPS to hold accountable officers who have breached regulations.

She further recommended that the government should consider providing compensation to victims of ill-treatment and that a Commission of Inquiry, headed by a judge, should be established to further investigate the matters arising from the report.

The Ombudsman stressed the importance of balancing the need to address crime and security challenges with the protection of fundamental human rights.

The report urges the government to implement the recommendations to restore public trust and ensure that law enforcement operations are conducted within the boundaries of the law.



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

Disclaimer: The story was developed with the financial support of the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Integrated Catchment Management Coordination Unit (ICU), and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or the BMZ.

Powering sustainable tourism and cultural preservation at Katse



Staff Reporter

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority's (LHDA) support of the rapidly growing Katse Dam Tourism Festival reflects its wider commitment to preserving the cultural and natural heritage of Lesotho.

As part of its broader mandate, the LHDA is historically renowned for investing in infrastructure projects and tourism initiatives that respect the environment and promote cultural preservation.

The Katse Dam, which serves as the centre piece for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), an elaborate network of water works between Lesotho and South Africa, is also a focal point for tourist attraction.

By sponsoring the Katse Dam Tourism Festival, the LHDA hopes to draw attention to the area's natural beauty and rich traditions while ensuring that such development is environmentally sustainable.

This year's edition of the festival, held from March 7-8, witnessed the unwavering support

LHDA's vital role in the festival

The presence of the LHDA at the festival emphasised the importance of such events in promoting sustainable tourism. By fostering the celebration of local culture, the LHDA is working hard to turn Katse into a cultural hub that attracts visitors from all corners of the globe.

"This is more than a festival; it is a living testament to the heartbeat of the Basotho people. As LHDA, we are committed to ensuring that ownership and meaningful participation in this project remain rooted in the communities who give it life," the LHDA's Chief Executive Tente Tente remarked on the side lines of the festival.

"Here, visitors do not just witness a dam and its workings; they immerse in our culture, walk in our villages, and experience the spirit of Basotho traditions. Events like the cattle riding competition are more than spectacle; they are a celebration of heritage, resilience, and pride. For us this is not just development; it is empowerment. The story of Katse will always be written by those who call it home," he added.

As the festival unfolded against the breath-

taking backdrop of the Katse Dam, it quickly became clear that the LHDA's involvement was pivotal in facilitating the event's success. Schools from across the region participated in cultural competitions, showcasing their talent in performances that included *mohobelo*, *litolobonya*, and *ndlamo*.

Day 1: A cultural extravaganza

The first day of the Katse Dam Tourism Festival set the tone for what would be an unforgettable weekend. An electrifying march kicked off the festivities, with students, performers, and community members parading through the streets, their energy infectious.

The day was filled with cultural, dance, and music competitions, with students from various schools displaying their knowledge of Basotho traditions through vibrant performances.

These competitions are more than just an opportunity for the youth of Lesotho to showcase their talents; they are a celebration of the cultural practices that have been passed down through generations.

The festival also provided an immersive experience of Lesotho's cuisine, with local food stalls offering traditional delicacies that delighted visitors and participants alike. The lively atmosphere, filled with the sounds of traditional music and the smells of Basotho dishes, encapsulated the spirit of the festival, which was made possible through the LHDA's ongoing support.

Day 2: The main event showdown

The second day, which is the main festival, brought a new level of excitement. Esteemed dignitaries, corporate representatives, and government officials attended the event, showing their support for both the festival and the community of Katse.

The main event line-up of artists boasted the man of the moment, Sannere, Selimo Thabane, Mantša, Juvy, Phoka Ea Boroa, Manyarela, and Sentšo, who each took turns in wowing the revelers with their electrifying performances.

The event provided a space for corporate sponsors and local businesses to showcase their products and services, giving them a



of the LHDA, ensuring the successful delivery of the two-day extravaganza that featured a myriad of cultural and traditional performances, traditional cuisine, athletics events and aerobics and top billed performances from some of the prominent local musicians.

The annual festival, which carries the tagline *A Cultural Celebration of Moshoeshoe 1* not only showcases the vibrancy of Lesotho's traditions, but also highlights how heritage and tourism can go hand in hand to boost local economies and bring communities together.

Every year, the hosting of the festival coincides with the celebration of Moshoeshoe's Day: a public holiday that takes place on March 11 to commemorate the passing of the founder of Basotho nation, king Moshoeshoe I.

Now in its fourth installment, the vibrant festival is the brainchild of the locals living within the Katse Dam village vicinity.



unique opportunity to interact with both locals and international visitors. The collaboration between LHDA, the private sector, and local community members made the festival a comprehensive celebration of Lesotho's rich cultural heritage and tourism potential.

Building a tourism destination

Through their investment in the Katse Tourism Festival, the LHDA is helping to build Katse Dam and its surrounding areas into a premier tourist destination. As a leader in sustainable development, the LHDA's involvement reflects its broader mission to enhance the socio-economic well-being of the people of Lesotho while maintaining respect for the country's cultural heritage and environmental resources.

And through this active involvement in the festival, the LHDA has demonstrated that tourism can be both an economic driver and a means of safeguarding cultural heritage.



Newsday Courts & Police Reports

Fed-up women protest ex-cop's bail

Relebohile Makhetha

Two days after International Women’s Day, scores of women gathered outside the High Court on Monday to protest the potential bail of former Police Constable Jeremane Sekhohola, 33, charged with murdering his ex-girlfriend, ‘Matšepang Tebello Moleleki, 29.

The brutal killing, where Sekhohola allegedly stabbed Moleleki multiple times, slit her throat, and stole her handbag and cellphone near a hotel in Ha Motjoka, Berea, has sparked nationwide outrage.

Leading the demonstration, Member of Parliament (MP) ‘Malelaka Malakane Lehohla of the Women’s Caucus and Social Cluster Committee condemned the rising tide of gender-based violence (GBV). She cited another recent murder in Berea, where a woman was killed by her boyfriend.

“Men, meant to protect us, have become aggressors. It’s heart-breaking, women die, children suffer, and we live in fear. Enough is enough; we deserve peace,” she said.

She continued stressing that the violence against women must end. “It is devastating to witness this daily abuse, where women are killed, children are harmed or go missing. We, as Basotho women, are saying enough is enough. We deserve to live peacefully, without the constant threat of violence.”

Lehohla also emphasised the need for men to take responsibility for their actions. “If there is something men need to say, they should express it rather than resort to violence. A real man protects his family, not one who abuses them,” she declared.

She warned that granting bail to Sekhohola would send a painful message to the women across the country. “It would be heartbreaking if an abuser and murderer, someone who took a life, were granted bail. Even though it’s his legal right, it would be devastating for us as women. We fear that if he is released, he could kill again,” Lehohla explained.

Lehohla also expressed concern over the potential for revenge, which could lead to further violence. “The people who are most affected by ‘Matšepang’s death might seek revenge, and that could result in more crime. We cannot allow this cycle of violence to continue. We must stop being cannibals to each other,” she added.

In her call for action, Lehohla urged all female parliamentarians to stand united in the fight against domestic violence. She stressed that while parliament had passed a law to counter domestic violence, it had yet to be fully implemented due to procedural delays.

Specifically, the law required a dedicated



family court to handle these cases, but such a court has not been established.

“The law has not entered the system because it lacks critical infrastructure, including the establishment of a family court to hear such cases. Without this, crimes like the one we are witnessing will continue as if nothing is happening,” Lehohla stated.

She concluded by urging the government to take immediate steps to ensure the law is fully implemented to protect not only women and children but also men who may be victims of abuse. “This law is essential for the protection of all, and we need to see it enacted now,” she said.



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2025

Admissions

RECRUITMENT
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DISTRICTS	PROPOSED DATES Feb - Mar 2025	NO. OF DAYS	VENUE
Qacha's Nek	24th - 25th Feb	2	Thimo & Sons Guest House, Qacha's Nek
Quthing	26th - 27th Feb	2	Fuleng Guest House, Quthing
Mohales Hoek	3rd - 4th Mar	2	Rubicon Guest House, Mohales Hoek
Mafeteng	5th - 6th Mar	2	Hotel Mafeteng, Mafeteng
Berea	12th - 13th Mar	2	Golden Pot B&B, Berea
Thaba Tseka	17th - 18th Mar	2	Motherland Guest House, Thaba Tseka
Leribe	19th - 20th Mar	2	Naleli Guest House, Hlotse
Butha Buthe	24th - 25th Mar	2	Crocodile Inn Hotel, Botha Bothe
Mokhotlong	26th - 27th Mar	2	Mosito Guest House, Mokhotlong



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Newsday Business

CBL's new strategic plan embraces digital transformation

Seabata Mahao

The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) has unveiled its 2024-2027 strategic plan, charting a bold new direction with a strong emphasis on digital transformation to enhance monetary stability, financial inclusion, and consumer protection.

With global financial systems evolving at a rapid pace, CBL's new strategy seeks to ensure that Lesotho remains resilient in the face of both local and international uncertainties.

During the recent launch of the strategic plan, CBL Governor Dr Maluke Letete emphasised that the current global financial landscape is marked by complexity, technological advancements, and uncertainty, which requires central banks to be agile and forward-thinking.

"The current global landscape is complex and unpredictable, and it necessitates that central banks be proactive in advising governments and safeguarding the integrity of the financial system," Letete said.

The strategic plan, designed for a shorter timeframe of two to three years, is particularly responsive to rapid global changes and emerging challenges.

"This strategy is designed for a shorter timeframe of two to three years to adapt to rapid changes, particularly unpredictable global factors such as the policies of the United States of America," Letete explained.

At the heart of the new plan is a commitment to digital transformation, an area that CBL sees as pivotal in modernising the financial system and improving financial services for consumers. The CBL's digital focus will enhance its regulatory and supervisory capabilities while also driving financial inclusion across the country.

Letete highlighted the importance of digital tools in increasing transparency, access, and efficiency in financial operations, ultimately benefiting both businesses and consumers.

"As central bankers, we must protect our integrity and ensure that monetary systems are fully safe-

guarded. This strategy represents our commitment to finding innovative solutions in an uncertain world," Letete noted.

In line with its digital direction, the CBL has also launched a new website that represents a significant milestone in its digital transformation journey. The website is designed with user experience in mind, offering a modern interface, improved accessibility, and a wealth of resources for stakeholders.

It serves as a platform for transparent communication and engagement with the public, underscoring the bank's commitment to openness and accountability.

The new website is not just a digital upgrade but a testament to the CBL's long-term focus on digital innovation as a core element of its strategy. It is designed to enhance public awareness and provide easier access to information, further facilitating CBL's role in educating and engaging the public on financial matters.

While digital transformation is a key focus, the CBL's strategic plan also targets other critical areas, such as safeguarding monetary and financial stability, improving organisational capacity, and enhancing governance structures.

Letete pointed to the bank's achievements in the past, including winning an international award for the best-designed banknote and strengthening consumer protection mechanisms despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have also strengthened governance at the board, committee, and management levels to ensure financial stability within CBL," he said.

Letete outlined that the strategic plan aims to address emerging challenges and improve the bank's adaptability to an ever-changing global landscape.

"We are focused on digital transformation, robust research, and securing long-term financial stability. This includes ensuring price stability and protecting consumers in a volatile global economy," he emphasised.



The Governor of the CBL addressing the CBL Strategic Plan

NOTICE OF LOST LEASE

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply for a copy of a registered Title Deed / Lease to immovable property registered under **No 12311-097** on the 18th / 07 / 2013 in Favour of **KETUMETSE GRECY LEFOKA** in respect of Every right or interest on and to the building (s) and other developments express or implied in certain Plot **No. 12311-097** situated at **LIKOTSI, MASERU URBAN AREA** on plot **No 12311-097** As held by the Chief Surveyor.

All persons having objection to the issue of the said copy are requested to lodge such in writing to the Land Registrar within three weeks from the last publication of the notice.

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Land Administration Authority. **Likotsi Ha Tsiane**

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Maseru 100.

Maseru Lesotho

Contact Numbers: 58912449

A passion for changing lives

Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) is passionate about changing lives by contributing to Lesotho’s economic growth through its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme. Through this programme, RSL invests in various areas, including education, environmental conservation, entrepreneurship, sports, arts and culture, health, orphanages, and support for vulnerable communities. The primary objective of the RSL CSI programme is to make a meaningful contribution to the communities in which the Service operates. Here are some of the recent successful projects and initiatives that RSL has supported in implementing its CSI programme.



RSL Tree Planting Initiative

Following a successful campaign in 2023, where RSL, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, planted twenty thousand (20,000) trees to celebrate its 20th anniversary, the organization continued this initiative in 2024 by planting 21,000 trees. Through a partnership with Mantsopa Rotary Club and the Lesotho Defence Force, RSL planted 5,000 trees at Liphokoaneng, Berea, and 10,000 trees at Makoanyane Barracks. Additionally, more trees were planted at Mohlaka Oa Tuka Primary School (800), Masapong Primary School (780), Lords New Church High School (1400), Leqele High School (1020), Setebing Primary School (500), Metsoarong Primary School (500), Machache Primary School (500) and Metolong Primary School (500).



Hlokomela Banana

RSL continued its support to Hlokomela Banana Adopt a School Campaign through an injection of M124, 310.00 (One Hundred and Twenty Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Ten Maloti) towards the project. RSL adopted 14 schools for 2025 and a total of 802 girls will be provided with sanitary towels throughout the year. Her Majesty Queen ‘Masenate Mohato Bereng Seeiso in 2015 founded the campaign with a view to alleviate social challenges that underprivileged girl children face in schools such as lack of sanitary towels. Hlokomela Banana initiative seeks to restore the dignity of Basotho girls, some of whom miss school for over 50 days annually when they are on their monthly periods. Through availing pads and toiletries to learners, the initiative under the Queen’s National Trust Funds seeks to enhance the girls learning environment.



Health

Annually, RSL supports the Cancer Walk by purchasing tickets for staff and sponsoring the event. This initiative aims to raise general awareness about cancer.



Bacha Entrepreneurship Project

Five youth businesses were given a new lease of life when they were announced as winners of 2024 Bacha Entrepreneurship Project (BEP. The top five winners were Setilo & Sons Lintel Manufacturing, Med-IQ Group, Kabo Farmacyard Fertilizers, Mabatho Farms, and Agromoth. The project is intended to assist unemployed youth within the ages of 21 to 35 to become employers and drivers of economic growth by becoming entrepreneurs. The project, now in its 4th phase, is intended to build a crop of young entrepreneurs who can break the barriers to become job creators, not job seekers. The corporate social responsibility project which began in 2014 has established and developed twenty-eight (28) businesses in different sectors of the economy and 103 youth have been employed in the businesses. The project has also capacitated 188 youths with entrepreneurial skills. The deadline for the submission of proposals is the 28th June 2024. The project is proudly sponsored by Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL), Standard Lesotho Bank, and the Basotho Enterprise Development Corporation (BEDCO), with a combined seed capital of M1 million.



Sponsorship for the institutions of higher learning academic awards

In line with the strategy to invest in people and technology, aiming to become a leading data-driven organization, RSL supports academic awards for best performers at the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology. RSL presented awards for outstanding performance to three graduating students from the NUL. The recipients were Tsepang Nkoe, recognized as the Best Student in Information and Computer Technology, Mofihli Makatla, awarded Best Student in Economics, and Khalemang Legela, who received the award for Best Student in Accounting. RSL also presented awards to Moeketsi Lipholo as a best performer in creativity and innovation, graduating in Bsc Software Engineering with Multimedia and Khahloe Thathane – a nominee under Industry Award for Excellence in Diploma in Business Information Technology at the Likmokwing University of Creative Technology.

Culture

Moshoeshoe Walk (Menkhoaneng to Thaba-Bosiu)
RSL supported the 18th Annual Moshoeshoe Walk (Menkhoaneng to Thaba Bosiu) from 6th to 8th March 2025 through the participation of 40 employees in this historic event. The primary objective of the walk is to rekindle the spirit of unity among Basotho, as embodied in the legacy left to this great nation by its founder, Moshoeshoe I.

Polaki’s fearless fiat Justitia

... Lesotho’s institutions must rise to the bar

Advocate Tlotliso Polaki, Lesotho’s Ombudsman, has rendered an exemplary service to the nation with her recent report, meticulously unveiling distressing transgressions by the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) and Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) during Operations Fiela and Hard Fist.

Her resolute delineation of inhumane treatment, excessive force, and unwarranted detentions exemplifies an unwavering commitment to her mandate, executed with neither trepidation nor partiality. This endeavour warrants profound commendation, illuminating the enduring potential of Lesotho’s constitutional framework.

In myriad nations, such malfeasance by state apparatuses remains obscured, veiled by bureaucratic obfuscation or authoritarian decree. Where accountability falters, those audacious enough to illuminate such shadows often face dire repercussions, silenced, sidelined, or worse.

Lesotho, however, presents a contrasting narrative. Here, an institution like the Ombudsman’s office persists in its constitutional stewardship, courageously scrutinising the excesses of power. Polaki’s work underscores a democratic resilience that, though imperfect, distinguishes Lesotho as a polity where institutional integrity can still flourish.

Her report, a sobering chronicle, articulates the plight of citizens subjected to grievous indignities: villagers coerced into debasing acts, a man from Leribe grievously injured, and detainees confined in deplorable conditions.

However, it transcends mere exposition and proffers cogent remedies, revising operational protocols, enhancing training in humane standards, establishing independent oversight, and ensuring redress for the afflicted. This is a clarion call, thoughtfully balanced, to harmonise security imperatives with the sanctity of human dignity.

Regrettably, this commendable endeavour casts into relief the languor of other state entities. The Ministry of Justice and Law, entrusted with guiding lawful conduct, has yet to proffer substantive counsel.

Parliament, vested with legislative authority, taries in fortifying oversight mechanisms. The LDF and LMPS, while grappling with palpable threats, must elevate their adherence to principled restraint over perfunctory justification.

These institutions would do well to emulate Polaki’s assiduous example and reinvigorate their roles before public confidence wanes irretrievably.

A note of circumspection is due for Prime Minister Ntsokoane Samuel Matekane. His earlier pronouncement, advocating tactics redolent of foreign conflicts, alongside Major General Matela Matobakele’s concurrence, appears to have unwittingly precipitated this lamentable chapter.

Such rhetoric, however well-intentioned, demands greater prudence in future articulations. Leadership of this stature calls for measured discourse, attuned to the delicate equilibrium of peace and justice. The government now stands at a juncture: to embrace Polaki’s counsel and fortify its moral standing, or risk squandering a moment of transformative potential.

Advocate Polaki has discharged her duty with laudable fidelity, reaffirming that Lesotho’s democratic edifice endures through such steadfast custodians. Her peers in governance must rise commensurately, lest her efforts remain a solitary triumph. The Prime Minister, too, might reflect on this as an occasion for tempered stewardship. Lesotho’s aspirations rest on such collective resolve.

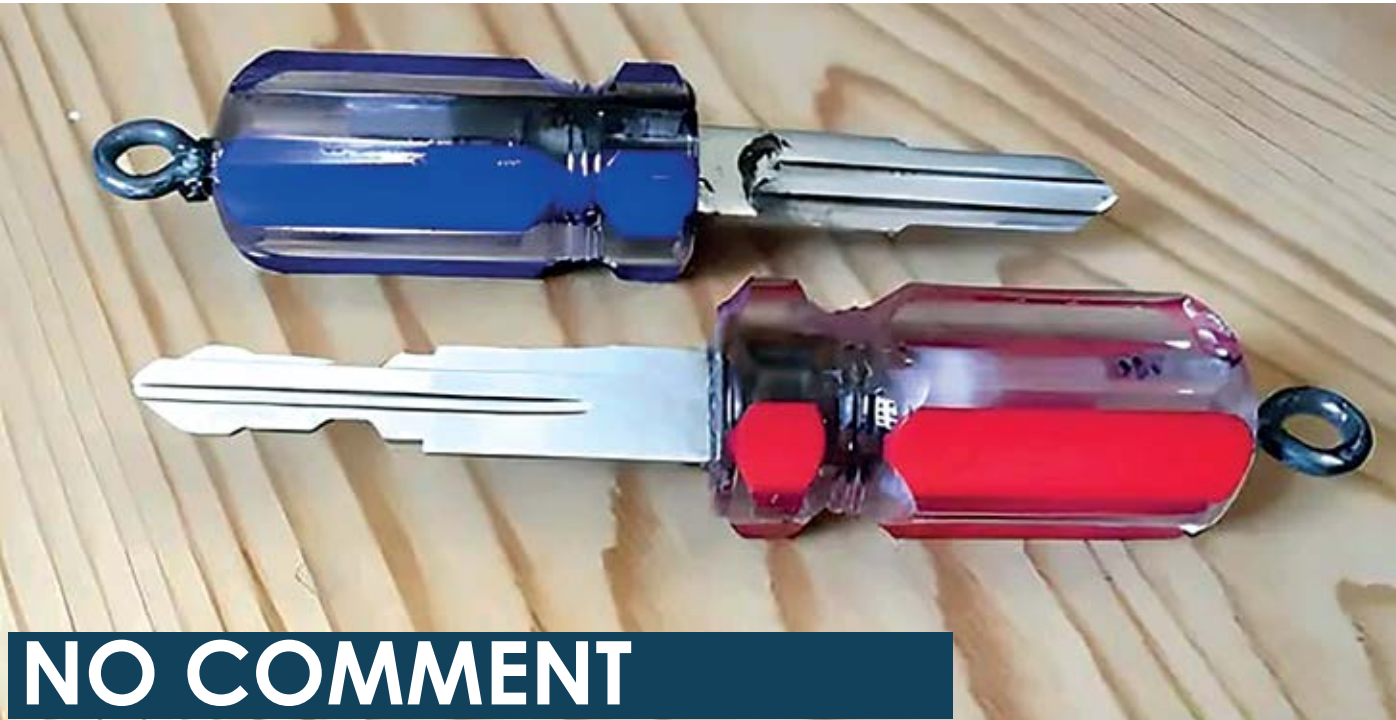
Retraction and Correction

In the previous edition of our publication, we inadvertently misstated the legal foundation of the Road Fund, asserting that it was established under the Road Fund Act of 1996. We regret this inaccuracy and wish to set the record straight with the utmost clarity and respect for factual precision.

The Road Fund was, in fact, initially instituted by the Lesotho Government pursuant to the Finance Order of 1988 and commenced operations through the Finance (Roads Fund) Notice of 1995. This framework governed its activities until 2005, when the Finance (Road Fund) Regulations of 2005 were promulgated to further refine its operations.

Subsequently, with the enactment of the Public Financial Management and Accountability Act of 2011 (PFMA 2011), the Road Fund Secretariat was duly integrated into the array of funds delineated under Section 21(3) of the PFMA. Presently, it operates under the auspices of the Finance (Road Fund) Regulations of 2012, tasked with the collection of revenue and the allocation of resources for the maintenance of the nation’s road infrastructure.

We sincerely apologise for the oversight and any confusion it may have caused our readers. Our commitment to accuracy remains steadfast, and we are grateful for the opportunity to correct this error with the diligence it deserves.



Rethinking National Development in Lesotho: Beyond the capital

...continuation

Lesotho’s development challenges are reflected in global indicators: the country ranks low on the Human Development Index (HDI) due to widespread poverty, high unemployment, and restricted access to healthcare. Over 50 percent of Basotho live below the poverty line, with the most severe conditions found in rural districts. Unemployment is especially acute among youth, and job opportunities outside of Maseru are scarce.

The country faces serious health issues, including an HIV/AIDS prevalence rate exceeding 20 percent, exacerbated by a shortage of medical professionals in rural regions. These statistics underscore the urgent need to rethink Lesotho’s national development strategy to ensure a more equitable and balanced distribution of economic and social progress across all districts.

A sustainable development model for Lesotho must prioritise decentralisation, economic diversification, and infrastructure expansion to uplift all ten districts. One of the most critical steps is moving away from the Maseru-centric economic model by establishing regional economic hubs that can drive localised job creation.

Districts such as Mafeteng and Berea have the potential to develop agro-processing industries, while Mokhotlong, with its scenic landscapes, could leverage tourism and eco-businesses. Attracting private sector investment to these regions is essential; the government should consider offering tax incentives and infrastructure support to encourage businesses to operate outside the capital.

Infrastructure is a crucial enabler of economic development, yet rural areas remain neglected. Improving road networks would facilitate better movement of goods and people, thereby promoting trade and economic activities.

Expanding rural electrification projects is also vital, as access to electricity

would support small businesses, enhance educational opportunities, and improve the overall quality of life. Prioritising digital infrastructure is necessary to connect rural areas to national and global markets, ensuring participation in the digital economy.

Agriculture, historically the backbone of Lesotho’s economy, remains an underutilised sector with significant potential for rural development. Introducing modern farming techniques, providing access to finance for small-scale farmers, and establishing agro-processing plants in rural districts could enhance productivity and create jobs. Mining operations located in rural areas should also be restructured to ensure that local communities benefit from natural resource extraction rather than being marginalised.

In addition to economic infrastructure, healthcare and education are crucial pillars of national development. Decentralising healthcare services is essential to ensure that every district has access to medical professionals and essential facilities. Prioritising well-equipped district hospitals and community health centers, along with introducing incentives to attract medical professionals to rural areas, is vital.

In the education sector, expanding technical and vocational training in rural regions would equip young people with skills that align with market demands, reducing unemployment and boosting local economies. E-learning platforms could bridge the educational gap between urban and rural students, ensuring quality education is accessible to all.

Lesotho’s long history of skilled migration presents a unique opportunity for national development. Instead of viewing migration solely as brain drain, the government should actively encourage brain circulation, allowing skilled Basotho living abroad to contribute their knowledge and expertise to national development.

Providing incentives for returning professionals, such as business grants and tax breaks, could encourage them to establish businesses or contribute to key sectors

requiring specialised skills. Creating knowledge-sharing networks between the Basotho diaspora and those within the country would help transfer valuable expertise to sectors such as healthcare, education, and technology.

For these initiatives to succeed, Lesotho must strengthen its local governance structures. Empowering district councils to lead economic and social development is essential for decentralisation. National development budget allocations should be fairly distributed across all ten districts, ensuring rural areas receive adequate funding for essential projects. Greater community participation in decision-making processes would allow local development plans to effectively reflect each district’s specific needs.

Lesotho’s approach to national development can no longer focus solely on Maseru. For the country to achieve sustainable progress, development must be inclusive and decentralised, ensuring that all ten districts benefit from economic opportunities, healthcare, education, and improved infrastructure. By establishing regional economic hubs, enhancing rural infrastructure, modernising agriculture, decentralising healthcare and education, and leveraging the skills of the Basotho diaspora, Lesotho can transition toward a more balanced developmental model.

Aligning these efforts with the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals would not only accelerate progress but also ensure the benefits of development are felt across the entire country. For Lesotho to truly advance, no district should be left behind. It is time to rethink national development and create a future where progress is shared by all Basotho, regardless of their location. The future is NOW!



What women in Lesotho can learn from Cameroonian Women's Day celebration

Mpho Manesa

Lesotho's women have long been at the forefront of societal change, advocating for gender equality, economic empowerment, and social justice. However, last weekend's celebrations in Cameroon for International Women's Day offered a valuable opportunity for reflection and inspiration. The way Cameroonian women embraced the occasion last weekend highlights lessons that women in Lesotho can adopt to advance their own struggles and aspirations.

This was the second year I have witnessed the celebration of International Women's Day in Cameroon, and from what I gathered, local businesses including bars, eateries, and transport, were all prepared to host and honour women for the work they do. Nation-wide preparation for this day showed that this day was taken as a national event, attracting Cameroonian women in diaspora for the festivities. Hidden beneath those celebrations are a few lessons women in Lesotho can learn.

Cameroon's Women's Day celebrations were not just a moment of festivity but a powerful statement of resilience, unity, and advocacy. Women from various walks of life gathered in colourful attire, displaying their traditional heritage while emphasising the importance of economic and political

inclusion. Their parades, discussions, and engagements with policymakers underscored a critical message: Women's voices must be heard, and their contributions acknowledged in all spheres of life.

One of the most striking aspects of the celebrations in Cameroon was the emphasis on economic empowerment. Women showcased their entrepreneurial skills through exhibitions featuring handmade crafts, agricultural products, and other locally produced goods. This was not just about celebrating their creativity but also about demonstrating the necessity of financial independence.

For women in Lesotho, this serves as a reminder of the need to strengthen local entrepreneurship and support networks that help women thrive economically. Investing in female-led businesses and cooperatives can be a transformative step toward financial security and community development.

In addition to economic empowerment, Cameroonian women used the occasion to engage in policy discussions with government representatives, emphasising issues such as gender-based violence, education for girls, and improved healthcare services. This level of engagement is crucial in Lesotho, where women continue to face similar challenges. Women's Day should not only be a moment for celebration but also a platform for advocacy,

pushing for laws and policies that protect and uplift women in society.

The power of unity was another lesson evident from the Cameroonian celebrations. Women from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and professions came together, setting aside their differences to speak with one voice. This solidarity is crucial for women in Lesotho as well. Collective action has the power to influence policy and shift societal norms. By forming strong networks and alliances, women can create a more significant impact and drive meaningful change in their communities.

Moreover, Cameroonian women infused cultural expression into their celebrations, using dance, music, and storytelling to highlight their struggles and triumphs. These cultural elements served as a medium for education and awareness, demonstrating how art can be used as a tool for advocacy. In Lesotho, integrating cultural traditions into activism can help spread important messages in a way that resonates deeply with communities. Whether through traditional dances, songs, or poetry, cultural expression can be an effective way to educate and mobilize people toward gender equality and social justice.

Cameroonian women have shown that Women's Day is more than just an annual event, it is a movement. Their approach to the celebration was dynamic,

combining cultural pride with serious discussions on gender equality. This should inspire women in Lesotho to rethink how they mark the occasion, turning it into a springboard for action. Beyond wearing matching outfits and attending speeches, Women's Day should be a catalyst for long-term strategies aimed at improving women's lives.

The key takeaway for women in Lesotho is that change requires deliberate action. Advocacy, economic empowerment, cultural expression, and mentorship are all critical components of a successful movement. Women must use every opportunity, including Women's Day, to amplify their voices, hold leaders accountable, and create spaces where their contributions are valued. By learning from their Cameroonian counterparts, women in Lesotho can build a stronger, more unified movement that drives real change for generations to come.

Truth be told, those posters shared by big companies, businesses and different organisation means nothing if women do not take charge to celebrate this day by making it a spectacle, an event of the year or something to look forward to. It's time to women in Lesotho, from all the district to come together and celebrate the work they do both domestically and in their career. Its time for women to celebrate womanhood for that one single day.

The perils of wealth-driven politics

Nkoane Sekhoba

A seismic shift is redefining the political aspirations of Africa's highest-altitude kingdom. Once dominated by parties steeped in liberation-era ideologies, the nation's democracy is increasingly becoming a playground for the wealthy.

The trend, driven by a disillusioned electorate and the decline of traditional political institutions, raises urgent questions about the future of governance in a country where over half the population lives in poverty.

The collapse of support for legacy parties like the Basotho National Party (BNP) and the Basotho Congress Party (BCP) has created a vacuum filled not by reformers but by affluent entrepreneurs and defectors from the political elite.

The Revolution for Prosperity (RFP), founded by Sam Matekane, capitalised on this disillusionment in 2022, winning power with promises of economic revival with slogans such as 'Moruo ke Bophelo'.

Its rise has inspired a wave of copycat movements, with wealthy figures from somewhere and nowhere launching parties across Lesotho, framing personal wealth as a proxy for leadership competence.

The surge of moneyed candidates reflects a global populist impulse to equate financial success with governing aptitude. But in Lesotho, a nation ranked among the world's most unequal, the risks are acute. Critics argue that wealthy leaders often prioritise optics over systemic change, relying on lavish campaigns, short-term handouts, and vague pledges of job creation rather than coherent policy platforms.

This transactional approach, analysts warn, reduces politics to spectacle while obscuring the structural reforms needed to address poverty, unemployment, and rampant inequality.

The trend also risks entrenching corporate interests over public welfare. Many of Lesotho's new political entrants hail from industries long accused of exploiting the country's re-

sources and labour.

Their agendas, critics contend, may favour deregulation and privatisation, policies that could deepen economic divides in a nation where 58 percent of citizens survive on less than \$2.15 a day.

Moreover, the myth that wealth confers empathy for the poor ignores a stark reality: Lesotho's affluent political class often operates in circles far removed from the daily struggles of subsistence farmers, factory workers, and unemployed youth.

Lesotho's political instability is not new. The kingdom has endured multiple coups, military meddling, and fractured coalitions since gaining independence in 1966. Yet, the current crisis is distinct. The proliferation of political parties has fragmented parliament, paralysing governance and fostering a culture of deal-making over principle.

Voter apathy compounds the problem. A reflection of deepening cynicism. Many citizens, particularly the youth, view politics as a closed sys-

tem where power flows to those with money or connections, not merit. This disconnect threatens to sever the already-frayed ties between leaders and the governed, leaving democracy vulnerable to populist demagoguery or authoritarian backsliding.

The solution to Lesotho's crisis lies not in wealthy saviours but in institutional renewal. Stricter campaign finance laws, transparent lobbying rules, and anti-corruption mechanisms could curb the influence of money in politics. Strengthening civic education and grassroots movements may also revive democratic engagement, particularly among the youth.

For now, Lesotho's experiment with prosperity-driven leadership remains a cautionary tale. Wealth may command attention, but it cannot substitute for accountability, vision, or a genuine commitment to equity.

As the nation navigates this precarious chapter, the survival of its democracy hinges on a fundamental truth: good governance cannot be bought; it must be built.



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Issue Date 06-03-2025

The GOL aims to engage a grant contracting expert that will provide technical support to the MOH to review and clearly define the health services purchasing function of the MOH to maximize value for money from purchasing of health services

No	Activities	Time-lines	Payment
1	Inception report	5 days	5%
2	Analytical Report on services purchased by the Ministry of Health	10 days	20%

3	Draft Guidelines, SOPs, Monitoring tool and grant agreement templates for Strategic Purchasing of Health Services	25 days	50%
4	Final Guidelines, SOPs, Monitoring tool and grant agreement templates for Strategic Purchasing of Health Services	5 days	
5	Validation Meeting	2 days	20%
6	Dissemination Meeting	1 days	5%

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted within two weeks of the submission deadline. If you do not receive any communication within this period, please consider your application unsuccessful.



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Sehlabeng,
Maseru, Lesotho

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5772 8208



NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE
ORGANIZATION

GENERAL DOCUMENT

DOCUMENT TITLE	Invitation Letter		
DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	L4-GEN-PD-50	REVISION NUMBER	01
EFFECTIVE DATE	23 January 2024		
NEXT REVIEW DATE	24 January 2026		

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION
Kingdom of Lesotho

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, National Drug Service Organization

- The National Drug Service Organization (NDSO) is a Trading Account for the Ministry of Health in Lesotho. It is mandated to procure, store, and distribute Medicines, Medical Supplies, and Laboratory Consumables for the Government and other Health Institutions in Lesotho. NDSO was legally established through a gazette Supplement No.4 to Gazette No.19 of the 2nd March 2007. The Health Facilities use the allocated funds for Medicines, Medical Supplies, and Laboratory Consumables to buy the supplies from NDSO. NDSO uses these funds to Procure Medicines, Medical Supplies, and other Health Sector Goods from eligible Suppliers using the tendering method of procurement. NDSO intends to pre-qualify suppliers and/or firms for the pharmaceutical supply. **This prequalification will be valid for three years, and all suppliers whose prequalification has exceeded three years must participate in this process.**
- Prequalification will be in adherence to the current **Public Procurement Act, 2023**
- Interested parties may obtain further information from and inspect the **prequalification documents at the address below from 0800 to 1630 hours** except on weekends and holidays. A complete set of prequalification documents in English may be sent electronically free of charge to the interested bidders on **the submission of a written application to the address below.**
- Prequalification documents must be emailed to delivered to qualityassurance@ndso.org.ls at or before **1400 hours on Wednesday 30th April 2025.**
- Request for Prequalification documents can be sent to the following e-mail address: qualityassurance@ndso.org.ls

Lekotoane Namole (Mr)
Quality Assurance Manager
National Drug Service Organization



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

12 March 2025

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – EOLS02/2025 FOR AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE SERVICES

Closing date and time: 26th March 2025 @ 2359hrs

Background

Over 70 percent of Lesotho's population lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture as the primary source of income, and about 80 percent relies on subsistence farming. The agricultural sector accounts for more than 17 percent of GDP, but only 10 percent of the country's land is arable. Agriculture is rain-fed and most households' ability to meet their food needs has declined in recent years because of erratic rainfall, flooding, recurrent droughts, worsening land degradation and soil infertility. Measures to increase the climate resilience and agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers are therefore crucial to enhance food security and nutrition in the country.

The Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADPII) in Lesotho has been supporting increased adoption of climate-smart agricultural (CSA) technologies, enhancing commercialization, and improving dietary diversity among targeted beneficiaries.

Objective

The main objective of this assignment is to design and roll out a Weather Index Agriculture Insurance at micro level in Lesotho in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture through the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project, SADP II and the World Food Programme, (WFP).

Duties and Responsibilities
1) Indices development

The firm, through strategic partnerships with any organisation(s), will be responsible for

a. Designing the weather indices for drought that will be used for the agriculture micro insurance, focusing on open field cereals and legumes, and vegetables such as cabbage

and others that are not irrigated. Then for livestock, specifically sheep and improved shoats for potential interested farmers, not specifically to be implemented this phase 1 of implementation

b. Developing an Online Data Kit (ODK) that will be used for data collection processes, as and when needed. The firm can also advise on the data collection tools of preference that are user friendly.

c. Strengthening capacity for existing data collection tools to enhance accuracy of the data collected.

d. Recommending input data that will be used for the indices based on field data and other secondary sources of data and providing options for index designs which meet the needs of the targeted farmers.

e. Where possible, matching farmer experience of drought years by collecting data and input from local experts and stakeholder, including thorough climate analysis in the selected areas and districts.

f. Ensuring that the weather index insurance product is available for the 2025/26 summer agriculture season.

g. Advising the operational feasibility based on administrative boundaries, where appropriate.

h. Collaborating with other partners who in the subsequent year, together can have the potential to develop a hybrid index insurance product, combining both Weather Index Insurance and Area Yield Index Insurance, if possible. This is important to enhance strategic partnership and collaboration.

Eligibility to be shortlisted as a WFP Supplier to participate in the tender will be based on meeting and submitting the below requirements:

- Company registration with relevant company registrar.
- Valid Licences for offering General (Non-Life) Insurance with Central Bank of Lesotho.
- Tax clearance with Revenue Authorities of Lesotho.
- Undertaking that the Company is not undergoing voluntary or compulsory liquidation.
- The Company has the required resources internally and existing partnership with reputable regional or international expert companies in parametric climate insurance.
- Confirmation that the Company has offered coverage to risks of high magnitude.
- Undertaking confirming that there are no Conflicts of Interest of the company or the directors. If conflicts of interest exist, these should be disclosed.
- The Company has a Compliance Programme in place.
- The company accepts to adhere to the Clients' Terms and Conditions.
- Have skills set or willing to learn the agribusiness value chain.
- The Company has or willing to invest in the correct Equipment, Tools, and Software to complete the work
- Detail Company profile
- Company registration certificates – Legal Document
- Tax Clearance/VAT Registration certificate
- Confirmation letter from the bank endorsing your company banking details
- Recommendation letters from three (3) of your major clients within the last 3 years

All supporting documents listed above MUST be submitted to the following email address: maseru.procurement@wfp.org not later than **26 March 2025 @2359hrs**



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Join the Growing Community



**Ministry of Natural Resources
Department of Rural Water Supply**

Tender Notice

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

Work Description

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

Bidder Qualifications

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

Tender Submission

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

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

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

Pre-tender Meeting

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

Site visits

Site visits are also compulsory and will be on the 12 to 13 December 2024 in Maseru's Hoek, 16 to 17 December 2024 in Maseru and 18 -19 December 2024 in Thaba Tseka

Tender Opening

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

Questions and Clarifications

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



Arts
Entertainment

Newsday

Sesotho-Fashioneng launches green revolution in Maseru

Fusi Hlaoli

The Sesotho-Fashioneng Festival 2024's vibrant energy has ignited a new movement in Maseru with the launch of the #Hloekisa Lesotho cleaning campaign.

Spearheaded by the festival organizers and backed by renowned artist Ntate Stunna, this initiative aims to beautify the city and inspire environmental responsibility among youth.

Inspired by the overwhelming success of the festival, which drew thousands to Maseru, Sesotho-Fashioneng felt compelled to give back to the community.

"We recognised the importance of contributing to the beautification and cleanliness of Maseru town, following in our government's footsteps of making Lesotho cleaner and greener," explained Selloane Nyakane, media liaison (Communication) for the campaign.

The campaign will kick off on March 21 with a massive clean-up effort at Pitso Ground, the central hub of Maseru. "Pitso Ground is the heart of our town and has a high population," Nyakane stated, highlighting the strategic choice of location.

The day will also include a dustbin handover ceremony to the Maseru City Council (MCC), emphasising the importance of proper waste management. The cleaning initiative will extend to Sambatha Stadium, further expanding the campaign's reach.

The following day, March 22, the focus will shift to Qeme, where volunteers will participate in a tree-planting initiative. This dual approach of cleaning and greening underscores the campaign's commitment to a holistic environmental vision.

The #Hloekisa Lesotho campaign places



Hloekisa Lesotho Cleaning Campaign poster

a strong emphasis on youth involvement, evident in their slogan: "Bacha, Bohloeki Ba

Tikoloho Ea Rona Bo Matsohong a Rona!" (Youth, the cleanliness of our environment is

in our hands!).

Sesotho-Fashioneng hopes to "foster youth involvement and responsibility in a clean and green Lesotho," Nyakane explained.

The campaign's impact extends beyond the two-day event. Sesotho-Fashioneng, now an annual festival, plans to make #Hloekisa Lesotho an annual event. The distribution of dustbins throughout the community will serve as a constant reminder of the collective responsibility towards cleanliness.

Lesotho, like many nations, is facing the challenges of climate change. The #Hloekisa Lesotho campaign is seen as a crucial step towards mitigating its impact.

"Clean environments and proper waste management infrastructures are proper actions to mitigate its impact, and that could also lead to economic benefits," Nyakane emphasised.

The involvement of Ntate Stunna, a beloved artist with a massive youth following, is expected to amplify the campaign's message. "He shall bring influence to youth and awareness to our communities and foster a sense of unity in environmental responsibilities for a sustainable Lesotho," Nyakane stated.

Adding to the excitement, the campaign will feature entertainment, making it a vibrant and engaging experience for participants.

The #Hloekisa Lesotho campaign is not just a one-time event but the launch of an annual initiative. Sesotho-Fashioneng also aspires to expand the campaign to other districts, encouraging youth across the nation to take ownership of their environment. "The future of our clean and green country lies in their hands," Nyakane concluded, urging youth from all districts to join the movement.

Minister Spokes delivers powerful, electrifying show



Fusi Hlaoli

Minister Spokes, born Poloko Mohlapiso, a prominent figure in the local gospel music scene, delivered a compelling 'One Man Show'

at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Center on March 8, leaving attendees inspired and energised.

The event, a continuation of his annual 'The Genesis' initiative, which began in 2018, also marked the recording of his third album showcasing his evolution as an artist.

Speaking with Newsday Media after delivering the captivating show, the Semonkong-born performer emphasised the connection between this performance and his established 'The Genesis' series.

"This is a continuation of that journey," he explained, "a testament to the growth and evolution of the vision that started back in 2018."

While the show was a resounding success, Minister Spokes openly addressed the challenges faced in organising such a large-scale event.

"The cost of putting together a show of this magnitude is significant. We wanted to ensure a high-quality experience for everyone, and that required substantial investment."

Another hurdle was the late surge in ticket purchases. "We observed a trend of people delaying their ticket purchases, with a signifi-

cant number opting to buy them at the door," he noted.

This last-minute rush, while ultimately successful, added logistical pressure to the event.

Despite these challenges, the atmosphere at 'Manthabiseng was electric. The audience was treated to a powerful performance, featuring a blend of new material from his upcoming album and beloved classics from his recorded albums, "Lifelatsa Chache," "The Genesis," and "I Am Grateful."

The event also featured guest artists from South Africa, including Khaya Sibanyoni, and local talents. Neo Matee, a beloved Lesotho artist, graced the stage with her powerful vocals, while DJ Thizozo, known for bringing gospel music to club settings, delivered a unique and uplifting set, adding diverse layers to the musical experience. The Master of Ceremonies for the night was Nthabiseng Makepe.

Fans who spoke with Newsday Media were overwhelmingly positive about the show. "It was an incredible event," one attendee exclaimed.

"You can clearly see the growth and improvement from his previous shows. Minis-

ter Spokes is truly taking his ministry to new heights."

Another fan echoed this sentiment, adding, "The energy was amazing! He really connected with the audience. In the future, I hope he considers hosting his events at Setsoto Stadium, it would be a perfect venue for his growing audience."

The success of the 'One Man Show' was supported by the generous backing of numerous local sponsors, including Lesotho Post Bank, Lesedi Hub, Bokamoso 974 radio, and Jam Session, among others. Their contributions played a crucial role in making the event possible, highlighting the community's commitment to supporting local artists and cultural initiatives.

Minister Spokes' dedication to his craft and his ability to connect with his audience were evident throughout the evening. The 'One Man Show' served as a powerful reminder of the transformative power of gospel music and the importance of perseverance in pursuing one's passion.

The recording of his third album, captured live at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre, is eagerly anticipated by fans.



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

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- 3 x nights
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- Funding Opportunities

Package 2: 10000

- Entry and Exhibition
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- A for
- masterclasses
- Funding Opportunities

No

Registration: M500

100%
End
February

Why

Gain insight from agricultural experts and leaders.
 Network with successful 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.
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SPORTS

Resilience propels Lesaoana's rise in women's football

Seabata Mahao

Kick4Life's Senior Women's Football Club (FC) captain, Lisebo Lesaoana, has defied the odds to become a standout figure not only in football but also in her community, proving that resilience and determination can break barriers.

Born and raised in Nazareth, in the east of Maseru, Lesaoana, fondly known as Mosebuza, has consistently demonstrated her strength of character and determination.

Her story is one of perseverance and growth, rising from humble beginnings to hold multiple roles that have significantly impacted women's football and beyond.

Mosebuza is known for her compassionate, dedicated, and hardworking nature, both on and off the field. Beyond being a footballer, she is also Kick4Life's Life Skills Coach, Soccer Schools Coach, Junior Women's Head Coach, and a Carpenter in training. Her impressive versatility sets her apart as a role model for young women in Lesotho and beyond.

Lesaoana's football journey, however, hasn't been an easy one. She began her career playing for local teams like Nazareth Community FC and Manchester Ladies FC, but her time on the pitch was limited.

Undeterred, she set her sights on the Nazareth High School FC, only to see the team dissolve shortly after she joined due to a lack of support. Despite this setback, her coach referred her to Kick4Life in 2015, a pivotal moment that would change her life.

Joining Kick4Life Senior Women's FC as they entered the Lesotho Women's Super League (WSL), Lesaoana found a second home where her talents could truly shine. It did not take long for her to make a mark; her exceptional defensive abilities earned her the Most Improved Player (MIP) award at the end of the 2015/16 season.

From there, she continued to thrive, playing a key role in her team's successes, including clinching the WSL Cup in 2018/19



Lisebo Lesaoana(Carpenter)

and the coveted national championship in 2021/22.

In the 2022/23 season, Lesaoana's leadership qualities were recognized when she was appointed team captain. Her leadership was further acknowledged with the prestigious 'Player of the Season' award, and her talents were rewarded on the national stage with a call-up to the senior national team in both 2021 and 2022.

However, Lesaoana's journey didn't stop there. Her leadership and passion for empowering others led her to become one of the first coaches of Kick4Life's Girls United

Programme, launched in July 2018. In this role, she was trained as a life skills coach, facilitating football-based interventions aimed at empowering young girls and women in areas such as sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention, conflict management, and gender rights.

Reflecting on her role as a life skills coach, Lesaoana said, "Being a Life skills coach gives me so much joy and pride because even years after an intervention, former participants sometimes approach me and thank me for having impacted positively on their lives."

She also highlighted one of her most memorable experiences working with visually impaired participants, where she was pushed beyond her limits to create an inclusive and enriching learning environment.

Her passion for coaching young girls led her to volunteer as an assistant coach for the Kick4Life Junior Women's FC in 2022, a team that acts as a feeder to the senior squad. In January 2024, her hard work and dedication earned her a spot as an assistant coach in the Kick4Life Soccer School Programme, aimed at developing young children with a focus on academics, athletics, and character enrichment.

Lesaoana's commitment to coaching and nurturing the next generation of football stars has made her an invaluable asset to Kick4Life. Her dedication has also seen her enroll in the CAF C Licence coaching course, supported by the Equal Play Effect Africa Project (EPEA), an opportunity she cherishes.

"Being part of the CAF C licensing course was a golden opportunity, and I am grateful to Kick4Life, the EPEA movement, and the Lesotho Football Association for making it happen," she added.

Her journey in football and coaching continues to soar, with her latest achievement being her appointment as the Head Coach of Kick4Life's Junior Women's team in January 2025. At the same time, Lesaoana remains a key player and captain for the Senior Women's team, who are currently leading the Women's Super League table, eyeing another national title and potential qualification for the African Champions League.

Despite her many roles, Lesaoana has not slowed down. She continues to study Carpentry and Joinery at the Lesotho Opportunities Industrialisation Centre (LOIC), aiming to graduate in November 2025, with plans to pursue a career in this field.

Econet intensifies rugby league support

Kananelo Mokhele

The Federation of Rugby Lesotho (FRL), in partnership with Econet Telecom Lesotho, has announced a significant sponsorship increase for the 2025 Econet Rugby League season, with a total funding of M400,000.

This represents a major uplift from the M170,000 sponsorship allocated for the previous season.

The additional funding will primarily be directed toward improving transportation logistics for participating teams, ensuring smoother travel arrangements for both the men's 15s and women's 7s competitions.

The initiative is expected to alleviate the financial strain on teams, many of which have struggled with the high costs of travel to matches.

Despite the overall increase in sponsorship, FRL has confirmed that prize money for the upcoming season will remain unchanged from the previous year.

However, the extra funds allocated for transportation are expected to enhance the league's overall organisation. This will allow teams to focus more on training, performance, and player development, rather than the financial pressures of travel expenses.

Speaking during the sponsorship announcement, FRL's secretary general,



The launch of the Econet Rugby League (ERL) and the announcementb of Lesotho Rugby Awards

Litšitso Motšeremeli expressed gratitude to ETL for its ongoing support of rugby development in Lesotho.

He emphasised that the partnership with ETL has been pivotal in the growth of the sport within the country.

"This increase in sponsorship is a game changer for rugby in Lesotho. It addresses one of the biggest challenges teams face—

transportation. We greatly appreciate Econet's commitment to supporting our athletes and making rugby more accessible," he said.

'Mathabo Masoabi, ETL's acting General Manager - Marketing, Communications and Customer Experience, reaffirmed the company's dedication to investing in local sports, noting that their goal is to foster a

competitive and professional rugby environment.

"Rugby has been growing rapidly in Lesotho, and we are proud to be part of this journey. By increasing our support, we are ensuring that teams have better access to matches, which will ultimately improve the quality of the league and give players a chance to showcase their talents," she said.



Four-way battle for People's Cup glory

Seabata Mahao

The stage is set for a thrilling week-end of football as the 2025 People's Cup competition nears its climax, with four top-tier clubs battling for a chance to be crowned champions. In one semi-final, the current Vodacom Premier

League (VPL) log leaders, Matlama FC, will face the spirited Lijabatho FC, while the second semi-final will see Bantu FC take on Linare FC, two teams eager to prove their worth and secure a spot in the final.

Both matches are set to kick off on Saturday morning, promising a day full of intense action, drama, and footballing brilliance.

The winners of each semi-final will meet later in the day for a highly anticipated final, where the coveted People's Cup trophy will be up for grabs.

With all four teams displaying remarkable form throughout the tournament, fans are expecting nothing short of an epic clash to decide who will emerge as the 2025 champions.

Matlama: Defending champions eye another title

Defending champions Matlama, head into the semi-final with their eyes firmly fixed on retaining the trophy they won last year. They have been in superb form in the VPL, and will look to carry that momentum into this tournament. However, their road to the semi-finals has not been easy.

In the quarter-finals, Matlama found themselves in a hard-fought battle against Majantja FC, narrowly escaping with a win through a penalty shootout. The match in Mohlai's Hoek was a tense affair, with both teams fighting tooth and nail, but in the end, Matlama held their nerve to secure a place in the semi-finals.

With their star players gearing up for this high-stakes encounter, Mat-

lama will be determined to make a statement and defend their crown.

Lijabatho: Fearless and full of determination

Lijabatho FC, who are having a

strong run in the tournament, will go into their semi-final match against Matlama with plenty of confidence. They made their way to the semi-finals after a nerve-wracking penalty shootout win against Lioli FC, following a goalless draw in normal time.

The match was a true test of character, with Lijabatho showing incredible composure in the shootout.

Their goalkeeper, Monaheng Ramalefane, was a standout performer in that quarter-final, pulling off several crucial saves to help his team advance. His heroics earned him the well-deserved 'Man of the Match' award, and he will undoubtedly be a key figure in the semi-final. Lijabatho's fearless approach to the game makes them a dangerous opponent, and they will be eager to challenge the defending champions for the title.

Linare FC: Strong and resilient

Linare FC is another team that has shown resilience throughout the tournament. In the quarterfinals, they triumphed over LMPS FC in a thrilling encounter that ended 4-3. Linare's attacking play was clinical, and their defense stood firm when needed. Thato Sefoli played a pivotal role in securing the victory, earning the 'Man of the Match' award for his outstanding performance.

Linare has demonstrated a balanced and disciplined approach, combining a solid defense with an attacking prowess that makes them a formidable side. As they face Bantu

FC in the semi-finals, Linare will be looking to continue their fine form and secure a place in the final.

Bantu FC: Grit and determination

Bantu FC, known for their unwavering determination, will be looking to make their mark in the semi-finals after a 1-0 win over Lifofane FC in the quarter-finals. Their solid defense and clinical finishing have been key to their success in the tournament, and they will need to maintain that same level of focus and composure if they are to overcome Linare FC and make it to the final.

As one of the more experienced teams in the competition, Bantu will bring a wealth of experience and tactical know-how to their semi-final clash. They will be keen to prove their worth and challenge for the 2025 People's Cup title.

The road to the final

With Matlama, Lijabatho, Linare, and Bantu all in the hunt for the prestigious People's Cup, the semi-finals promise to deliver high-octane football with everything on the line. Football fans across the country are eagerly awaiting these matches, which are set to be a feast of skill, passion, and determination.

The winners of the two semi-finals will advance to the final, where the ultimate prize, the 2025 People's Cup, awaits.

The tournament is supported to the tune of M1.5 million by a partnership between Sam Matekane Foundation (SMF) and Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL), who have contributed M800 000 and M700 000, respectively.



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