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Re itokisetsa
Mzansi Young
e hlopi
Mzansi,
tse tlo tsamaea le rona
2025
Lavender Kontrei Market,
Pretoria North, Gauteng.

CANCELLED



Moteane must go, MPs demand

...As report lays bare a cesspool of corruption at Moshoeshoe I Airport



Ntsoaki Motaung

A damning parliamentary report has laid bare a cesspool of corruption, incompetence, and cronyism surrounding the rehabilitation of Moshoeshoe I International Airport, Lesotho's sole international gateway.

At the center of the storm is Minister of Public Works and Transport Matjato Moteane, whose immediate removal is now demanded over alleged conflicts of interest and misconduct.

The report, tabled yesterday by three National Assembly committees reveals Moteane's ties to contractors and a procurement process reeking of favouritism that has turned a vital infrastructure project into a national disgrace.

The joint report, compiled by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the Portfolio Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism, and Land Cluster, and the Committee of Chairpersons, calls for the axe to fall not just on Moteane but also on the Principal Secretary (PS) Tšepang Koele, Deputy Principal Secretary

(DPS) Katiso Ntoane, and Director of Building Design Services (BDS) Motheba Letsoela.

"The Principal Secretary, Ms. Koele, Deputy Principal Secretary, Mr. Ntoane and Director BDS, Ms. Letsoela, of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport are implicated in a tender scandal involving the refurbishment of Moshoeshoe I International Airport," the report read.

It recommended their dismissal and a criminal probe by the police or the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) alleging that the procurement process was so rotten it demands court action to unearth the full extent of the rot.

Moteane's phone rang unanswered when Newsday sought comment yesterday.

The fiasco centers on a contract awarded to LSP Construction, a firm with suspiciously close links to Moteane. The report revealed that LSP's bid included documents from Khatleli Tomane Moteane Architects, a company where the minister was once a shareholder.

As if that were not incriminating enough, LSP

is allegedly tangled up with Polihali Infrastructure Consultants (PIC), comprising the South African-based Mott MacDonald PDNA (Pty) Ltd and Khatleli Tomane Moteane Architects (Pty) Ltd that has been contracted by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) in the Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

"PIC has sub-contracted LSP at some time during its work there. The committees were also informed that Hon Moteane was a representative of the JV at Polihali shortly before he joined the government as a Minister and that it is for the same reason why some of the companies are using a similar address which is a property of one 'Malikotsi Moteane.'" the report sneered painting a picture of a minister neck-deep in a web of self-dealing.

The airport project itself is a shambles. Initially pegged at M50 million, the LSP contract ballooned to a jaw-dropping M184 million, a discrepancy that Koele, the ministry's chief accounting officer, feigned ignorance about.

"The CAO (Chief Accounting Officer) of the Ministry, Ms Ts'epang Koele, informed the Committees that the value of the project was M50 million. When asked why the contract with LSP cost M184 million, she said they did not know that the project value would be more than 50million" read the report.

Yet Moteane contradicted her, admitting to the committees that "he and all the staff members, including the CAO, knew that the project value was way above 50 million even before they went for tendering."

This is not the first misstep. In 2021, the ministry hired Leseli Technical Engineering (LTE) to oversee the airport's refurbishment, only to terminate the contract after a review found their work abysmal and their staff inadequate.

During termination, LTE had already been paid an amount totaling M7,000,000.00 for invoices submitted earlier.

Then came LSP, handpicked through a dubious "Expression of Interest" process that ignored a 2013 master plan by Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats (ICT), a study Moteane himself reportedly called "the most comprehensive and detailed to enhance the airport's infrastructure."

Why ditch a fully paid, world-class blueprint for a backroom deal with LSP Construction? The report does not say, but the implication is clear that personal gain trumped public good.

The committees are not just pointing fingers, they are demanding action. They have called for LSP's contract to be scrapped and a new, transparent tender launched, one that heeds the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) 2007 and 2022 audit warnings on safety and standards.

Moshoeshoe I International Airport, commissioned in 1985, is Lesotho's only international airport and a vital gateway for economic and regional connectivity.

The facility has suffered years of neglect, with outdated infrastructure failing to meet ICAO standards. Past administrations have repeatedly attempted to rehabilitate the airport, yet political interference and questionable dealings have derailed progress.

In 2013, an India-based firm, ICT, conducted a comprehensive study on the economic feasibility and engineering design for airport upgrades. The report was paid for in full, yet it has constantly been ignored by successive governments.

In 2021, the Ministry of Transport awarded a contract to LTE Consultants to oversee the airport refurbishment. However, upon Moteane's appointment, the project was abruptly halted, citing a "new government vision".

According to the report, Moteane claimed that a post-2022 election mandate from the prime minister forced a project rethink. The report quoted him saying the new vision included "a Special Economic Zone and hospital premises."

UN addresses Trump-era funding cuts in Lesotho

- **28% of PEPFAR support has resumed, 32% paused and 40% terminated.**
- **804 of the 1,508 human resources for health supported through PEPFAR funding currently terminated**

Ntsoaki Motaung

Significant cuts to the United States funding for HIV programs in Lesotho have triggered widespread disruptions, threatening the country's progress in combating the epidemic, according to a report released by UNAIDS this week.

The reductions, affecting projects under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), have left critical services paused or terminated, prompting urgent action from the government, civil society, and the United Nations (UN).

Lesotho, a small nation with one of the world's highest HIV prevalence rates, approximately 23 percent among adults, has long relied on international support, particularly from PEPFAR, to sustain its HIV response.

Since its inception in 2003, PEPFAR has been a cornerstone of global efforts to fight AIDS, channeling billions of dollars into treatment, prevention, and care programs across sub-Saharan Africa.

In Lesotho, this funding has supported a workforce of over 1,500 health professionals and initiatives targeting vulnerable groups, including or-

phans, key populations, and young women.

However, recent U.S. budgetary decisions have upended these efforts.

According to UNAIDS, "approximately 28 percent of PEPFAR support has resumed, 32 percent is still paused, and 40 percent is terminated." This partial restoration has not stemmed the tide of disruptions, with "804 (53.3 percent) of the 1,508 human resources for health supported through PEPFAR funding" now out of work.

Programs providing voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC), pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and care for key populations remain shuttered, while only a fraction of projects, like those for orphans and vulnerable children in all 10 districts, have been reactivated.

The funding instability stems from a U.S. Government review period, set to conclude on April 20, 2025, leaving Lesotho's health system in limbo.

"The frequent changes in the status of US Government-funded projects have caused delays in the activation process," the UNAIDS statement noted, highlighting the operational chaos caused by shifting directives.

Some USAID implementing partners have received termination notices, further exacerbating service gaps.

In response, according to UNAIDS, Lesotho's Ministry of Health has mobilised a task team, operational since January 27, to map affected projects and devise mitigation strategies.

"The immediate priorities of the Ministry of Health and National AIDS Commission (NAC) are to ensure commodity security," UNAIDS said, underscoring efforts to maintain supplies of HIV and TB medications amid the funding shortfall.

The government has also submitted a contingency budget to cover salaries for essential staff for three months, though long-term solutions remain on hold pending the U.S. review outcome.

Civil society organisations (CSOs), backed by UNAIDS, are also amplifying the call for action. A joint press statement from CSOs urged the government to accelerate "social contracting" to sustain services, though the response has been uneven.

"Some CSOs are receiving activation notices, while others, like LENEPWHA (Lesotho Network of People Living With HIV & AIDS), remain under termination," the UNAIDS statement revealed, signalling the precarious state of grassroots advocacy.

UNAIDS itself is playing a pivotal role, collaborating with the government on mitigation measures and supporting the development of Part B of the HIV and TB Sustainability Roadmap.

"UNAIDS is working with the National AIDS Commission and Ministry of Health to expedite the development of HIV and TB Sustainability Roadmap Part B, with preparatory and analytical work while awaiting global guidance," UNAIDS said.

The stakes are high. Lesotho's HIV programs have made strides in recent years, reducing new infections and expanding treatment access. But the loss of over half of PEPFAR's health workforce and the termination of 40 percent of its funding threaten to reverse these gains, particularly for vulnerable groups.

As the U.S. review deadline approaches, all eyes

are on the government and its partners to bridge the gap, and on Washington to clarify the future of its commitment.

"UNAIDS has kept the Resident Coordinator (RC) and UN Country Team (UNCT) regularly updated, with the RC advocating for the establishment of an inter-ministerial task team to monitor the US Government funding situation, UNAIDS report concluded.

UNAIDS, formally known as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, is a specialized program within the United Nations system.

It was created in 1996 to coordinate the UN's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, bringing together the efforts of multiple UN agencies.

It is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Since the first cases of HIV were reported more than 35 years ago, 78 million people have become infected with HIV and 35 million have died from AIDS-related illnesses.

Since it started operations in 1996, UNAIDS has led and inspired global, regional, national and local leadership, innovation and partnership to ultimately consign HIV to history.

UNAIDS is a solutions-oriented organisation. It empowers people living with HIV and those affected by the virus by involving them in decision-making and centering them in the design, delivery, and oversight of the AIDS response.

The organisation charts actionable pathways for countries and communities to accelerate progress toward ending AIDS, while boldly advocating for the removal of legal and policy obstacles that hinder effective responses.

It delivers strategic direction, advocacy, coordination, and technical expertise to galvanize leadership from governments, the private sector, and communities, ensuring access to life-saving HIV services.

Without UNAIDS, the AIDS response would lack a cohesive global vision, risking fragmentation and stagnation in the fight against the epidemic.

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Power struggle and chaos at Enrich

- **The company stands as a house divided against itself**
- **M15 million lifeline, intended to save Basotho legacy, has instead become its epitaph**

Staff Reporter

Enrich Holdings, a once-proud Basotho-owned enterprise teetering on the edge of collapse, has descended further into chaos as its board of directors suspended acting Chief Executive Officer Peter Morolong on Tuesday.

The dramatic move, detailed in a scathing letter signed by board chairperson Thabo Qhesi and director Paul Mosuoë, cites allegations of “gross misconduct” and paints a picture of a company unraveling at the seams.

The flagship Enrich Supermarket, meant to be the jewel in the company’s crown, remains inoperative and its future is uncertain.

“You will recall that the Enrich Holdings Ltd Board of Directors has allowed you to make representations as to why you could not be suspended for your alleged gross misconduct,” Qhesi and Mosuoë wrote in a letter dated March 18.

“The time given to you to provide your response has expired; The notice is hereby given to you for your suspension accordingly,” they added.

The board further instructed Morolong to return all company property to Mosuoë’s offices at Messrs Mosuoë & Associates in Maseru by Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

“You are further directed to hand over such property between 10:00hrs & 12:00hrs on Tuesday, 18th March 2025, which property shall be reported in the books of record, the present condition upon arrival, and the like; and, You are advised that you will be informed of your hearing date soonest. We trust you will find the above in order,” the letter concluded.

But Morolong, defiant and unbowed, fired back in an explosive interview with Newsday last night. “I am still the acting CEO. As far as I know, the board has never resolved to suspend me,” he insisted, dismissing the suspension as a sham orchestrated by the people he claimed had no authority.

“The person purporting to suspend me was suspended himself last week!” he roared, referring to Qhesi.

His reference to Qhesi’s alleged suspension stems from a dramatic twist just eight days earlier:



On March 10, Morolong had issued his own letter removing Qhesi from the board, accusing him of conflicts of interest, negligence, and bringing the company into disrepute by failing to implement shareholders’ resolutions.

“Enrich Holdings has decided to suspend you with immediate effect due to conflict of interest you have shown in conducting your fiduciary duties, lack of time and commitment to perform your duties with duty of care and due diligence, bringing the company into disrepute by refusing to act and implement shareholders’ resolutions made on the 21st December 2024,” he wrote.

He added: “You will be informed of the Date of the Special Meeting where your removal as a non-executive director will be discussed. You will be given an opportunity to make written representation to the company and its members.”

Qhesi released a statement yesterday informing the public that the board has temporarily suspend Morolong, effective from Tuesday, March 18, a move that Morolong scorned as illegitimate.

“Board members do not have executive powers; they cannot release statements on behalf of the company. I am the acting CEO, and I am the only legitimate spokesperson of this company. Mr. Qhesi doesn’t know what he is doing,” Morolong lashed out.

Enrich Holdings has been struggling financially,

prompting the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) to intervene in December 2023.

LNDC pledged a M15 million loan to rescue the Basotho-owned supermarket, attributing its decline to a lack of skilled management.

LNDC Interim CEO Molise Ramaili emphasised that the corporation’s involvement aimed to “ensure the loan investment is effectively managed, benefiting both Enrich and other businesses.”

As part of its oversight, LNDC secured representation on the company’s board and advocated for appointing a CEO or managing director with substantial retail experience.

“We prioritize individuals with both local and international retail expertise,” Ramaili stated. “LNDC’s involvement will include monitoring financial management and ensuring regular operational reports.”

A portion of the loan was allocated to settling Enrich’s debts, including preventing the auctioning of the company’s gym equipment by the courts. LNDC projected that Enrich would regain stability and repay the loan within seven years.

However, by December 2024, a task team report presented to shareholders identified several unresolved challenges including a lack of proper documentation, incomplete staff recruitment processes, and unclear delegation of powers, among others.

“There is no proper documentation showing the change from the original contract to the current SPV

(Special Purpose Vehicle) arrangement. The second contract does not formally recognise the SPV,” the report read.

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

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

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

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

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

The task team also disclosed to the shareholders that it held two meetings with the Enrich Holdings Board to address concerns regarding the Special Purpose Vehicle SPV.

It said a request to meet with representatives of LNDC was made but was unsuccessful. “The plan is to open the store in the first week of February (2025),” read the report.

February has come and gone, and the store remains closed.

At the heart of the feud lies a bitter dispute over the LNDC’s millions. Morolong alleges that Qhesi and his allies are attempting to funnel the loan from LNDC into an SPV account, a move he calls “misappropriation of funds”.

“LNDC has a contract with Enrich Holdings, not some SPV,” he told Newsday. “I will not stand by and let this happen.”

KOPANO

Battle for the Mountains

The next day Lerato took a walk and was brought to tears by the destruction that Kholumolumo had brought to her community.

Lerato tries to rebuild a stoneline on her own but she realises it is not easy.

THESE ROCKS ARE TOO HEAVY FOR ME TO CARRY ON MY OWN

That night, feeling defeated and helpless, Lerato had a dream.

SETLOHOLO SA KA, DO NOT GIVE UP! THIS LAND DEPENDS ON YOU THE YOUNG PEOPLE

With a renewed sense of hope, Lerato makes the decision to visit the Chief the next day.

I HAVE COME TO VISIT BECAUSE I AM DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT OUR LAND. PLEASE TELL ME HOW THE LAND WAS WHEN YOU AND MY GRANDFATHER, KOENA WERE GROWING UP?

MY CHILD, THE LAND USED TO BE RICH WITH GRASS AS TALL AS YOU, RIVERS WITH CLEAN WATER WE COULD DRINK FROM SOURCE, THE PEOPLE TOOK CARE AND RESPECTED THEIR LAND.

BUT WHAT CHANGED?

MY CHILD, THEY STOPPED TERRACING, CAUSING SOIL EROSION, DESTROYING GRASS IN RANGELANDS AND NOW PEOPLE GRAZE ANIMALS IN THE WETLANDS

WE ONCE HAD WILD FLOWERS AND DIVERSE BIRDS, BUT NOW OUR LAND IS COVERED IN PLASTIC AND PAPER. WE'RE OLD NOW LERTO - YOU MUST ACT

CALL A PITSO, CHIEF - THE PEOPLE LISTEN TO YOU!

WE'LL DO IT TOGETHER!

Will the community attend the pitso? What will they say?

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.

LHDA gears for annual stakeholder dialogue



Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) hosted a strategic engagement meeting this week in Maseru, bringing together key stakeholders who work closely with its headquarters.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather input, address concerns, and compile feedback from central stakeholders ahead of the upcoming Annual Stakeholders' Engagement Meeting, scheduled for March 26–27, at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre in Maseru.

Speaking with Newsday on the sidelines of the gathering, LHDA's Public Relations Manager, Mpho Brown, highlighted the importance of continuous engagement, stating that the LHDA sought to interact with stakeholders to track project progress, understand challenges, and identify areas for improvement.

"We held a similar engagement meeting in 2024, but before the national stakeholders' engagement meeting, we conducted regional meetings in 'Muela, Katse, Polihali, and Mohale, focusing on communities directly affected by the projects," Brown explained.

He noted that in response to previous recom-

with the LHDA's efforts compared to previous years. However, he acknowledged that some challenges raised in 2024 still need resolution.

Call for greater civil society involvement

Lenka Thamae, representing Policy, Environmental Justice and Water Resources Advocacy (PEWA) at the LHDA gathering, called for stronger

collaboration between the LHDA and civil society organisations, which advocate for the rights of communities affected by the LHWP.

"I am happy that they finally invited us to the gathering after many years of leaving us out in the cold. We stand ready to work with them to ensure that the people get the water supply they so de-

serve," he said.

Thamae also urged the LHDA to make its plans and policy documents accessible to civil society groups, emphasising their role in protecting the interests of affected communities.

"We also appeal to them to make their policy documents available to us. If they don't, we will be forced to make our own uninformed decisions about how the LHDA runs its affairs," he said.

He further criticised the LHDA for excluding PEWA from key strategic discussions, particularly its 10-year strategy stakeholder summit.

"We believe that we are experts and partners in community affairs, including the LHWP treaty. The policies of the LHWP directly affect us and the people we represent, which is why it is crucial for the LHDA to engage with us," Thamae stated.

Other community representatives raised concerns about compensation delays, access to essential resources, and resettlement conditions, urging the LHDA to prioritise sustainable livelihoods for displaced families.

Discussions also touched on environmental concerns, particularly the impact of dam construction on local ecosystems and the need for clear and consistent communication between the



mendations, the LHDA had expanded this year's consultations to include Maseru-based stakeholders, ensuring broader participation before the main conference.

"We engaged civil society organisations, trade unions, and academic institutions that we collaborate with in youth empowerment programs. We also invited media house leaders to provide feedback on LHDA's progress, information-sharing strategies, and areas of improvement in working relations," he said.

Brown further stated that feedback from communities in the mini-conferences showed increased appreciation, motivation, and satisfaction



LHDA and affected communities throughout the project's implementation.

The LHDA pledged to take stakeholder feedback into account, assuring participants that regular engagement sessions would be held to track progress and address concerns effectively.

As the LHWP continues to expand, affected communities and stakeholders hope that such engagement sessions will lead to more transparent, fair, and community-centered solutions.

With the Annual Stakeholders' Engagement Meeting scheduled for March 26–27, all eyes will be on the LHDA to see how it incorporates stakeholder feedback into its long-term strategy



Newsday

Courts & Police Reports

Confession reveals chilling details in Mohale Dam murder case

Relebohile Makhetha

A shocking confession has unveiled the grim details of the Mohale Dam murder case, exposing an alleged extrajudicial execution carried out by members of military intelligence.

The revelation came during the ongoing trial, as the prosecution presented its 24th witness, Inspector Nkeane, who recounted the chilling account given by one of the accused, Sergeant Lekhooa Moepi.

According to Inspector Nkeane, the investigation into the case led authorities to military intelligence officers, prompting requests for their cooperation. On September 21, 2017, military police brought in Captain Mahlehle Moeletsi and Sergeant Moepi for questioning.

The following day, Moepi was escorted to the magistrate's court to give a confession. What followed was a harrowing disclosure of how the victims met their tragic end.

In his confession, Moepi reportedly detailed that the sequence of events began after two soldiers were shot at the Maseru border gate, leaving one dead and another hospitalised.

A military intelligence team was tasked with investigating the matter while police detained suspects. Some were released, while others were taken to court.

However, another group of military officers, including Captain Moeletsi and Warrant Officer Liphapang Sefako, was assigned to re-arrest those who had been freed.

On April 18, 2017, Moepi, along with Sefako and another officer, received orders to follow two suspects who had boarded a 4+1 taxi. They intercepted the vehicle and apprehended them.

The group was also instructed to follow a bus carrying additional suspects. Upon stopping the bus in Lekokoaneng, Warrant Officer Sefako boarded and identified a suspect who resisted arrest. The man was forcibly removed and taken into custody.

The most disturbing details of Moepi's confession came next.

He recounted how the suspects were transported to Setibing, near the military base. During the journey, Captain Moeletsi remained in communication with someone he addressed as "sir". Upon arrival, the suspects were allegedly ordered to be executed.

Moepi reportedly admitted that he suggested suffocating them instead of using firearms to avoid drawing attention. However, when he hesitated, Moeletsi and Sefako allegedly threatened him with death if he did not comply.

In a gruesome turn, Moepi described how plastic bags were used to suffocate the suspects until they perished. Their bodies were then weighted with stones and transported to Mohale Dam, where they were dumped.

The following day, the officers involved were commended by their superiors and warned to remain silent about the incident.

Inspector Nkeane confirmed that the confession aligned with previous intelligence and was officially attached to the case docket. On September 22, 2017, a site visit was conducted with Moepi, other suspects, and investigators. The team was taken to Setibing, where the victims were allegedly murdered, and then to Mohale Dam, where the bodies were disposed of.

Days later, more suspects, including Warrant Officer Sefako and Motšoane Machai, were brought in by military police. They were charged with murder and remanded in custody.

Investigators worked closely with the Special Operations Unit (SOU), whose divers

marked the exact location in Mohale Dam where the bodies had been dumped.

On September 29, 2017, authorities questioned Private Tieho Tikiso, a key witness, who corroborated Moepi's confession and helped identify critical locations tied to the case.

At the heart of this case are three civilians, Lekhoele Noko, Molise Pakela, and Khothatso Makibinyane, who were allegedly abducted, strangled, and discarded like debris in Mohale Dam.

The fate of the accused now rests in the hands of the courts, as Judge Moroke Mokhesi presides over this harrowing trial. The prosecution is led by Advocate Motene Rafoneke, while the defence is represented by Advocates Qhalehang Letsika, Letuka Molati, and Napo Mafaesa.





LESOTHO
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VIBRANCE • INNOVATION • IMPACT

2025

Admissions

RECRUITMENT
ROADSHOW



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

Roads crumble as funding falls short, warns Road Fund

Staff Reporters

Lesotho's road network is deteriorating at an alarming rate, according to the Visual Road Condition Surveys of 2021, and the Road Fund is scrambling to bolster its revenue to avert a crisis.

This stark warning comes from the Fund's recently published annual report for the 2023/2024 financial year.

The report underscores the urgent need for efficient revenue collection and smarter investments in stakeholder engagement and cost-effective initiatives to optimise the nation's crumbling road infrastructure.

"It is estimated that Lesotho's network requires M15 billion to transform from a very poor to very good condition," the report states.

"To achieve this mammoth task, the Road Fund Secretariat needs to collect around M2.3 billion annually for seven years to fund road maintenance interventions, yet total annual collection is currently under M300,000,000.00."

Lesotho's road network, spanning roughly 9,300 kilometers, comprises arterial, urban, and rural access roads. Arterial roads connect the country's districts and link border posts to the main network, while urban roads fall under municipal councils, and rural access roads serve local community councils.

"The network is classified based on surfacing material," the report explains, not-



ing that arterial and rural roads crossing multiple community councils are managed by the Central Government, while local authorities oversee roads within specific council areas.

The Roads Directorate, under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, sets national road sector policies and standards that all agencies and councils must follow.

Meanwhile, the Road Fund Secretariat

has been the primary financier of maintenance projects executed by the Maseru City Council (MCC), the Ministry of Local Government, and the Roads Directorate, though these agencies remain accountable for their respective networks.

A system under strain

The report highlights additional allocations to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, particularly for its Road Safety

Department, which is spearheading efforts to reduce road accidents.

The Road Fund Secretariat also continues to support comprehensive assessments of maintenance needs through the Lesotho Road Management System (LRMS).

For 15 years, the Roads Directorate has relied on LRMS to conduct road condition surveys, enabling agencies to evaluate network performance and refine planning.

"The assessment of maintenance needs in this report is based on data from LRMS," the Fund notes, emphasising its role in tracking Maintenance Demand Costs.

Under Legal Notice 103 of the Finance (Road Fund) Regulations 2012, Section 10(1)(c), the Secretariat is mandated to review and approve funding for Annual Roads Programmes and road safety initiatives at least six months before the national budget is finalised.

However, with collections falling woefully short of the M2.3 billion annual target, the gap between ambition and reality looms large.

A race against collapse

The report paints a grim picture of a road network on the brink, with Lesotho's economic and social connectivity hanging in the balance.

Arterial roads stitching districts together, urban streets bustling with life, and rural paths linking remote communities, all are at risk without a dramatic funding overhaul.

Govt lays foundation for development bank

Staff Reporters

The anticipated launch of the M400 million Inclusive Growth Fund (IGF), a financing facility designed to improve access to credit and promote entrepreneurship, is set to serve as the foundation for the long-awaited establishment of a development bank.

For years, lack of access to finance has been a significant constraint on business growth, with entrepreneurs and individuals across the country struggling to secure funding.

Recognising this ongoing challenge, the government aims to address the issue head-on, supporting its vision for a private sector-led economic transformation.

The IGF is designed to bridge the financing gap, enhance liquidity, and lower barriers to credit access. It is scheduled to commence operations this year in collaboration with all commercial banks, pending the finalisation of operational frameworks and agreements.

A key objective of the Fund is to mitigate

the challenges posed by stringent collateral requirements and risk-averse banking practices, which have historically limited credit availability—particularly for women, youth, small businesses, and startups.

"The Inclusive Growth Fund represents a transformative policy intervention aimed at building a more equitable and dynamic economy. By unlocking financial opportunities for women, youth, and entrepreneurs, the Fund will catalyze inclusive economic growth and position Lesotho as a nation that empowers its people, strengthens its financial sector, and fosters sustainable development.

"It lays a foundation for a venture capital financial vehicle and a much-needed development bank with maturity and at a later stage," said Finance Minister DrRetšelisitsoeMatlanyane in her 2025/26 budget speech.

To kickstart the IGF in the 2025/26 financial year, the government has earmarked M400 million for its initial phase.

"In line with the objective of promoting and supporting private sector activity and leading participation in the economy, the

Government has allocated M400 million towards the Inclusive Growth Fund (IGF), an all-inclusive business financing vehicle of a venture capital fund type, designed to enhance access to credit, promote entrepreneurship, and drive inclusive economic growth for businesses."

Matlanyane emphasised that a defining feature of the Fund is its commitment to empowering women and youth.

"Part of the total allocation will be dedicated to financing women- and youth-led enterprises, ensuring that these histori-

cally underserved groups gain meaningful access to capital. The Fund will also be available to other eligible businesses and individuals seeking to expand their operations, invest in productive assets and activities, or enter new markets."

By improving access to finance, enhancing liquidity, and reducing credit barriers, the IGF is expected to stimulate enterprise development, accelerate job creation, and foster a more inclusive financial ecosystem.

"Moreover, by leveraging commercial bank partnerships, the Fund will promote a self-sustaining financial model that ensures long-term credit expansion without imposing undue fiscal pressure on the government," Matlanyane concluded.

With its launch, the IGF is poised to create new economic opportunities, laying the groundwork for a future development bank that will further solidify Lesotho's financial landscape.

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.

ADDRESS: **APPLICANT'S NAMES AND ADDRESS**
Land Registrar **Matsobotsi Lefoka**
Land Administration Authority. **Likotsi Ha Tsiambe**

Lerotholi Road **Maseru Lesotho**
P. O Box 11856
Maseru 100. **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 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.



Are Lesotho MPs clueless? Why are they demanding cash from the wrong pockets!

Kananelo Boloetse

A few weeks ago, Khosi Malie expressed profound dismay at the quality of questions posed by Members of Parliament (MPs) to government ministers. Malie lamented that many of these inquiries were superficial, lacking the depth and gravitas one would expect in the halls of the National Assembly.

On the same day Malie voiced his concerns, I reviewed the National Assembly's Order Paper and found a list of the questions to be debated. Among them, an MP asked about a damaged fence at a local court in one of the districts.

While such a concern might resonate with the constituents of that area, it raises a broader question about the role of MPs and the scope of their duties.

MPs, as representatives of their constituencies, may feel compelled to voice the concerns their voters would raise if given the opportunity to confront ministers directly. This instinct, while understandable, blurs the lines of the constitutional framework that governs our democracy.

Lesotho operates under a two-tier system of government: national and local government. The National Assembly is so named for a reason, it is the forum where matters of national significance should take precedence.

The National Assembly exists to deliberate on national issues, not to serve as a municipal complaints desk. MPs are not, and should not be mistaken for, emissaries of local government.

Given the persistent dysfunction of local governance structures, a failure that has spanned decades, one might sympathise with MPs attempting to fill this void.

However, rather than assuming the responsibilities of local authorities, parliamentarians should focus on ensuring that the nation has a robust, functioning local government system capable of addressing such issues independently.

As I pondered the calibre of parliamentary discourse, another revelation deepened my astonishment. On March 10, 2025, the Portfolio Committee on the Economic and Development Cluster presented its Consolidated Report on the Annual Budget and Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2025/2026 to the National Assembly.

Within this document, the committee listed several entities, among them the Basotho Enterprise Development Corporation (BEDCO), the Lesotho Tourism Development Cor-

poration (LTDC), and the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), accusing them of failing to remit dividends to the government.

This assertion struck me as perplexing and prompted me to do a deeper inquiry into the nature of these organisations and their obligations.

BEDCO, LTDC, and LNDC are not conventional companies or profit-driven enterprises; they are statutory corporations, established through legislation to advance public policy objectives.

Unlike the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) or the Water and Sewage Company (WASCO), which are registered as companies under the Companies Act and operate with shareholders, BEDCO, LTDC, and LNDC resemble bodies like the Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA), the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO), or the National University of Lesotho (NUL).

Imagine the absurdity of the National Assembly demanding dividends from the IEC or the DCEO, it would be laughable.

Statutory corporations are typically designed to reinvest their revenues into their mandated activities, not to distribute profits like companies. If the government expects financial remittances from such entities, this must be explicitly stipulated in law, not presumed as a matter of course.

When I raised this anomaly with a media colleague, they countered that LNDC, in particular, holds shares in various companies on behalf of the government and should therefore pass along dividends received from those investments.

This argument merits scrutiny.

The LNDC, established under the LNDC Act No. 20 of 1967 (and amended in 1990 and 2000), is a parastatal tasked with spearheading Lesotho's industrial development.

Its legal mandate is clear: to "initiate, promote and facilitate the development of manufacturing and processing industries, mining and commerce" to boost income and employment.

To achieve this, the Act empowers LNDC to raise, lend, or borrow funds, invest in projects, and provide technical or financial assistance, not to serve as a profit-generating arm of the state.

This raises three critical questions: First, should LNDC itself be required to pay dividends to the government? Second, should the companies in which LNDC holds stakes declare dividends, which LNDC then channels to the government? Third,

and most fundamentally, is LNDC the appropriate vehicle for managing state investments?

The law positions LNDC as a facilitator of industrial growth, not a cash cow for the treasury.

LTDC, on the other hand, was established under the Lesotho Tourism Act of 2002, a legislative framework that defines its structure and purpose. Section 3(3) of the Act mandates that the Registrar of Companies enter the LTDC's name into the Register of Companies.

Section 16(1) stipulates that the corporation's share capital is to be determined by the Minister, with the government holding a majority stake of 51 percent.

Further, Section 16(2) requires the Minister of Finance to subscribe to these shares, drawing funds from the Consolidated Fund as needed by the LTDC, while Section 16(3) clarifies that these shares are non-transferable and must be registered in the name of the Ministry.

Most pertinent to this discussion, however, is Section 17(4). This provision explicitly states that all income, property, and profits of the LTDC, regardless of their source, must be dedicated solely to advancing the corporation's functions.

Crucially, it prohibits the payment of dividends to shareholders, including the government.

I wish to quote that section verbatim:

"All income and property, and all profits of the Corporation, from whatever source they may be acquired, shall be applied exclusively to the promotion of the functions of the Corporation and no dividend shall be paid to the shareholder."

This unambiguous directive underscores that the LTDC is not designed as a profit-distributing entity, but rather as a vehicle for promoting tourism development, with its resources reinvested to fulfill that mandate.

Clearly, LTDC was not designed to function as a profit-generating enterprise for government revenue. Expecting it to pay dividends contradicts its legal purpose.

If the government seeks returns from its investments, it must establish a coherent, legally grounded mechanism, something LNDC, BEDCO, and LTDC were never designed to provide. Demanding dividends from these entities without a clear statutory basis is not only misguided but risks undermining their core missions.

A more rational solution lies in the

creation of a dedicated state holding company, a model successfully adopted by other nations. South Africa's Public Investment Corporation (PIC), for instance, manages state pension funds and investments with transparent governance structures.

In Singapore, Temasek Holdings exemplifies how a sovereign investment company can steward state assets with financial discipline.

A Lesotho State Holding Company could consolidate all commercial investments under one roof, equipped with a clear dividend policy, rigorous financial reporting, and professional management.

This would eliminate the legal ambiguity and inefficiency of expecting statutory corporations to double as profit centres while ensuring that public investments contribute to both national development and government revenue.

The root of this confusion, however, may lie in the calibre of our elected representatives. In the 2022 elections, wealth and business acumen were often touted as qualifications for parliamentary seats.

However, some of these "successful businessmen," a few reportedly running their empires from their bedrooms, now sit

in the National Assembly, grappling with issues they seem ill-equipped to address.

Parliament should be a place of rigorous debate and informed policymaking, not a stage for shallow discussions and misguided financial expectations. MPs must educate themselves on their constitutional duties, understand the difference between national and local government, and stop treating statutory corporations as profit-making enterprises.

If Lesotho is to move forward, we need a Parliament that asks the right questions, debates national issues with depth, and makes decisions grounded in law and logic. Right now, we are far from that reality.

Workplace assault forces a labourer to resign

... Chinese foreman gets ‘suspended’

Kabelo Masoabi

Workplace harassment, violence, and abuse are increasing concerns for employees in Lesotho, and reports indicate that many cases are often under-reported.

Hlalefang Seoaholimo, the General Secretary of the Lesotho Workers Association (LEWA), asserts that a significant number of workplace harassment cases in Lesotho go unreported. This alarming trend he said is largely due to the widespread lack of awareness about rights and the pervasive fear among individuals to come forward.

But this time, Mokete Mothibi, former labourer at UNIK Construction Engineering (Pty) Ltd, took a courageous step against this unlawful behaviour. He filed a case of assault after being physically attacked by his supervisor, Liu Changqing, who is from China.

The company they both work for is involved in Phase II of the Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project, which is currently installing pipelines to supply water from Hlotse to Maputsoe.

The incident occurred on February 10, 2025, at Ha Potloane in Tsikoane, Leribe, where the workers were engaged in pipeline construction.

Mothibi recounted that he was attacked, kicked, and injured by his su-

pervisor after being accused of improperly placing road warnings at the start of their routine shift. This incident resulted in injuries to his body.

“It started as a normal day around 6:50 am. The first action we take during our routine work is to place road signboards to warn road users about the ongoing pipeline construction. After I had put up the signs, my supervisor charged at me, shouting in Chinese, which I couldn’t understand.

“He grabbed me by my collarbone and dragged me back to the signboards. When we arrived, he kicked me in the leg and knocked the boards down. A colleague watched in shock as the drama unfolded,” Mothibi told Newsday, adding that they have not been in good terms with Changqing for a while.

Mothibi said he reported the incident to the human resources department, but no immediate action was taken against the foreman. He eventually filed a report with the police, which resulted in a case of assault being opened. Following this, Changqing was suspended from work.

The police commander at St. Monica’s Satellite Post, Sergeant ‘Mamarumo Matela has confirmed that a case of assault was opened.

The Penal Code Act of 2012, states

that a person who intentionally uses unlawful force against another commits the offense of assault.

The police intervened by arranging several meetings with all parties involved, including the company’s management, in a bid to find a solution. During these meetings, Mothibi made a compensation claim for M100,000.

“I requested that Changqing compensate me for the injuries I incurred, the trauma I experienced, and the potential long-term medical expenses. Speaking through an English translator, he offered to compensate me with M1,500, which I refused. Since the day Changqing assaulted me, I have been unable to work productively due to the pain. Because of this weakness, there is a possibility that I will be laid off in the near future,” he told Newsday.

Mothibi showed this publication a medical report stating he was unfit for work and recommended that he be given 5 days of sick leave.

Speaking to the Human Resource officer Kamohelo Bofelo, she acknowledged the situation but stated that she could not comment further as the case has been forwarded to court.

“The management did not agree to Mothibi’s compensation claim, stating that it was too high. All I know is that the matter has been directed to court for a verdict,” she explained.

She further indicated that the ac-

cused, Changqing, remains suspended while the management prepares to take appropriate action against him. “I was only surprised last week (Wednesday) when Mothibi handed over his resignation,” she said.

The complainant clearly expressed that he resigned due to feeling unsafe while working with a Chinese manager who he claimed openly supported Changqing during the intervention meetings held for several just days since the incident.

Nevertheless, LEWA General Secretary Seoaholimo indicated that if an employee resigns due to intolerable conditions created by the employer, it can be considered a constructive dismissal, and the employee may be entitled to remedies.

He said an employee who believes they have been constructively dismissed can take legal action, potentially seeking reinstatement, compensation, or other remedies.

The Lesotho Labour Code provides the legal framework for addressing unfair dismissals, including constructive dismissals.

“The resignation must be a direct consequence of the employer’s actions, not simply a coincidence. These conditions could include things like persistent harassment, discrimination, unreasonable workload, or a hostile work environment,” added Seoaholimo.

Ray of hope for visually-impaired learners at St. Catherine’s

Staff Reporters

For the visually impaired learners at St. Catherine’s Centre for the Blind, each day presents a challenge, compounded by a severe shortage of essential assistive learning equipment.

With 22 students currently enrolled, the centre’s scholars are forced to share outdated and malfunctioning braille machines, a situation that significantly hinders their learning process and negatively affects their academic performance, especially during exams.

The school caters to 14 male and eight female students with visual impairments, many of whom are grappling with these insufficient resources.

However, this week, a ray of hope shone through, thanks to a generous act from the Third Order Society of Saint Francis (TSSF), an Anglican religious formation.

In a heartwarming gesture, the TSSF donated six brand new braille writing machines, along with six packs of special braille paper, to the school. The learners joyfully celebrated the donation with songs during the handover ceremony.

The timely support was made possible through the Monaco Department of International Cooperation, which responded positively to a funding request from TSSF aimed at alleviating the plight of the centre, located within the grounds of St Catherine’s High School.

The TSSF is an inclusive Anglican/Episcopal religious order comprising individuals from all walks of life—whether single or in relationships, lay or ordained—who adhere to Franciscan principles and live out their faith “in the world.”

The society draws its inspiration from St. Francis of Assisi, one of the church’s most revered saints, known for his deep compassion and inclusivity.

The ceremony was graced by the Anglican Church of Lesotho Bishop, Reverend Dr. Vicentia Kgabe, who also serves as the Bishop Protector for the African province of TSSF. Other attendees included TSSF members from Lesotho and the school management, among others.

Chaba Mokuku, a TSSF member in Lesotho, shared the motivation behind the donation.

“After witnessing the struggles of the visually impaired learners and the increasing number of students at the centre, we felt compelled to act,” Mokuku explained.

“I learned about the Monaco Department of International Cooperation through a friend in Switzerland. St. Catherine’s Centre for the Blind had previously benefited from one braille machine we donated, but the need for more equipment was still immense.”

In her speech, Rt. Reverend Dr. Kgabe emphasised the importance of visually impaired individuals in society, noting their presence across all social groups, including in the church.

She underscored the importance of creating environments conducive to their success, starting with the school setting.

“The TSSF’s donation of six new braille machines and braille paper will significantly enhance the educational resources available to our learners,” Dr. Kgabe said.

“We express our deepest gratitude to the Third Order Society for their generosity. This contribution will play a vital



role in improving the educational experiences of our learners and advancing their development.”

She also expressed her thanks to the Monaco government for their instrumental role in supporting vulnerable learners in Lesotho.

On his part, Grade 11 student Relbohile Lebeko expressed optimism, saying the new equipment would enhance their academic performance, especially in subjects like mathematics and Sesotho.

“We are hopeful that with these new machines, we can excel in our studies,” Lebeko said.

A cry for more learning equipment

Despite the recent donation, there is still a dire need for more resources, according to Dr. Ntoa Nkanda, the principal of St. Catherine’s Centre for the Blind.

“Education for these learners is far more expensive compared to that of normal students,” Dr. Nkanda said. “A

standard pen costs less than M10, but a braille machine, which is necessary for visually challenged students, can cost between M15,000 and M20,000.”

He added that the school often struggles to afford the repair of broken machines and has resorted to salvaging parts from damaged devices to keep others operational.

“These machines arrived at the perfect time, as our existing ones were all worn out and malfunctioning. We are grateful to the TSSF for their intervention. However, more assistance is needed. The number of learners, 22, far exceeds the six machines we now have.”

Despite the recent boost, it is clear that the need for additional resources remains critical. The generosity of the TSSF and their partners has provided a much-needed lifeline for the students, but the journey toward equal educational opportunities for visually impaired learners in Lesotho is far from complete.



**Revenue
Services**
Lesotho

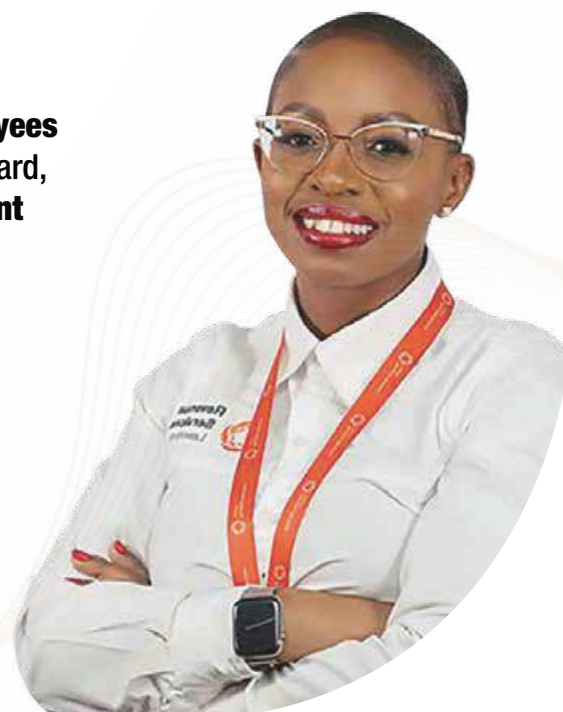
CELEBRATING WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: HONORING OUR TRAILBLAZING COMMISSIONER GENERAL THIS MONTH

As we commemorate **International Women's Day**, we proudly celebrate **Mrs. Mathabo Mokoko**, the **first woman to hold the position of Commissioner General of the Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL)**. Her leadership is a testament to the power of **empathy, resilience, and inclusion**.

Since her appointment as the Commissioner General on **September 1, 2023**, Mrs. Mokoko has led the organization with unwavering dedication, overseeing a team of about **574 employees** and ensuring that every individual—both within and beyond the institution—feels valued, heard, and empowered. Her commitment to fostering a **supportive and inclusive work environment** is a reflection of her compassionate leadership, which prioritizes people as the driving force behind the organization's success.

A distinguished legal professional, Mrs. Mokoko is an **Admitted Advocate of the High Court and Court of Appeal of Lesotho**. Her wealth of expertise, integrity, and vision continue to shape RSL into an organization built on **service, innovation, and excellence**.

As the **first woman to hold this esteemed position**, she is a trailblazer whose impact will inspire generations of women to break barriers and lead with purpose. On this special occasion, we honor her for exemplifying the true essence of **empathy—uplifting others, listening with intent, and leading with kindness**.



Honouring Mrs. Mathabo Mokoko: A Leader of Empathy and Impact



**Revenue
Services**
Lesotho



REMINDER

Vendors

Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) reminds **all registered VAT vendors** to file **value added tax (VAT)** returns for the month of February 2025 and **pay taxes due in full** on or before **20 March 2025**.

You can pay through:

Mpesa, Ecocash (available on RSL web site, <https://epayment.rsl.org.ls/login>), Unayo. For payments made through the banks (Standard Lesotho Bank, FNB, Nedbank Lesotho & PostBank for (VAT only) attach proof of payment.



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Job Opportunity!!!

Women and Law in Southern Africa Research & Education Truist (WLSA)-Lesotho

WLSA's mission is to contribute to the socio-economic political and legal advancement of Women and Children in Lesotho. The Trust is an NGO pursuing children and women's human rights in the legal context. Since 1989, WLSA has been the anchor and the lead organization in Lesotho with the main objective of facilitating gender integration on prevention and protection of violence against Children (VAC), Gender Based Violence (GBV) and response across the country through provision of post violence care services with the goal of enabling environment for uptake of health services particularly SRHR, HIV, TB etc. in -order to achieve Gender Equality in the development process.

Led by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Project Management Unit (MOF- PMU), WLSA is currently implementing a Global Fund supported Grant to Support Implementation of Community System Strengthening under the Grant Cycle 7, for Human Rights and addressing Gender Barriers to HIV and SRH Services. The project is implemented in the six districts of Leribe, Butha-Butha, Thaba-Tseka, Quthing, Qacha's Nek and Mokhotlong. *The position advertised here depend on availability of funds.*

1. Title: Finance and Administration Officer Section: Finance Reports to: Finance Manager
Job Description: The finance and Administration officer oversee and ensures the provision of an entire range of financial services and activities, including review of accounting transactions, tracking and monitoring bank relationships, and coordinating budget management, preparation and auditing processes.
Position Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Officer will be responsible for the preparation of payments vouchers, register of payment vouchers and other payment requests for good and services receive, ensuring valid supporting documents and obtaining authorization and approval.Develops budget for all departments at WLSA.Reviews journals and prepares financial reports (monthly and quarterly as per reporting expectations)Facilitates training for key staff in different departments on the finance policy.Review and recommend updates for financial policy in line with international reporting standardsBe part of the organization's procurement structures and ensure compliance thereto with applicable policiesReconcile any discrepancies or errors identified by conversing with employees/or clients.Conducts spot checks to review compliance of the various departments to WLSA policyCollect and enter data for financial spreadsheets on a weekly basisCoordinate with district teams for advance issuance and their timely adjustments of advances & Trainings documentation.Ensure completeness of supporting documents in all respect which includes authenticity of signatures, cross-checking attendance sheets and verifying payments made.Posting all vouchers into transaction spreadsheet on daily basis for review by the Finance Manager.Ability to work under minimum supervision, under extreme pressure and tight timelines

Qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Associate Degree in finance, Accounting or related-fieldHonesty and strong commitment, Accuracy in record checkingAbility to work as part of the teamDemonstrated skills and competencies on confidentialityKnowledge of accounting packagesKnowledge of advance excelPlanning, budgeting and organization skillsAbility of speak English and SesothoIT skill including MS Office and Accounting application including software are mandatoryCommunicationInterpersonalExperience of 5 years in NGO field and budgeting and reporting for donors will be an added advantage.
Interested candidates should send an application letter, Updated CV, Names of three referees of previous employers and copies of educational certificates addressed to: info@womenandlaw.org.ls Cc: sebasim@womenandlaw.org.ls
Submission Deadline: 04th April 2025
Address: The Human Resource Officer - WLSA HOUSE, Katlehong, Maseru, Lesotho.
NB: No hand delivered applications will be accepted.
Should you need further clarification please call the WLSA landline: +266 22 313123



TENDER NOTICE

PROVISION OF ANNUAL EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES FOR THREE FINANCIAL YEARS (2025/26, 2026/27, and 2027/28)

The Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC), established under the 1986 Treaty between the Governments of Lesotho and South Africa, is responsible for overseeing the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), advising both governments, and serving as a communication channel beyond the LHWP.

LHWC invites bids from reputable firms registered in Lesotho and South Africa for the provision of Annual External Audit Services for three consecutive financial years ending **31st March 2026, 31st March 2027, and 31st March 2028.**

Submission of Bids

Sealed bids, clearly marked “**Tender for the Provision of LHWC Annual External Audit Services (2026–2028)**”, with no identifying details of the bidder on the envelope, should be delivered to:

Commission Secretary (ai.)

Lesotho Highlands Water Commission
5th Floor, Standard Lesotho Bank Tower
Maseru 100, Lesotho

Submission Deadline: 31st March 2025, no later than noon (local time).

Eligibility and Requirements

Interested bidders must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be a registered and accredited auditing firm in Lesotho or South Africa.
- Demonstrate experience in conducting external audits for similar organizations.
- Comply with relevant international auditing and accounting standards.
- Provide company registration documents, professional certifications, and references from previous clients.

Enquiries

For further information or clarifications, please contact: sec@lhwc.org.ls



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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Sannere’s manager parts ways with Mets’oaka Group

Chris Theko

Prominent artist manager Moeketsi Pius Kebise has parted ways with Mets’oaka Group just two months after its official launch.

Kebise, who has been the long-time manager of celebrated artist Sannere and also served as the label’s Managing Director, announced his departure in a statement on social media.

“After an incredible journey with Mets’oaka Group, I am stepping into a new chapter of my life, embracing fresh opportunities and new challenges. My time with Mets’oaka has been nothing short of transformative, filled with invaluable learning experiences, meaningful relationships, and milestones that I will always hold dear,” he wrote.

While Kebise framed his exit as a new beginning, Newsday Arts has learned that disagreements between him and the label’s founder, Sannere, contributed to his departure.

In an interview, Kebise confirmed that he and Sannere had irreconcilable differences, making it difficult for him to continue in his role.

“Sometimes, when you’re not seeing eye to eye with the people leading an organisation, it’s best to take a step back and make a decision that benefits everyone involved. There is no bad blood, just a shift in priorities on my part,” he explained.

Mets’oaka Group was launched in January this year, with Kebise appointed as Managing Director while continuing as Sannere’s manager. However, internal challenges within the company’s leadership appear to have led to his decision to leave.

Kebise is the second high-profile departure from the label since its inception.

Just two days after the official launch, Sannere’s producer, Flash Cortez, who worked on his debut EP Phabalimo, also left following reported disagreements with the label’s leadership.

When contacted for a response, Sannere, real name Relebohile Monaphathi, stated that, as far as he is aware, there is no bad blood between him and his former manager. He emphasised



Pius Kebise

that employees frequently make the decision to leave in any business, and it does not necessarily indicate conflict. “As far as I know, Pius’s departure was a decision he made on his own accord, not because of any conflict between us. In any company or business, employees leave when they feel they have better opportunities elsewhere.

While disagreements can sometimes be a factor, that was not the case here,” Sannere said. When asked about Pius’s comments and the fact that he is the second individual to leave the label since its launch, Sannere maintained that he was unaware of any disputes that could have led to their departures.

“I have no idea what disagreement Pius is referring to because, as far as I recall, we were all on good terms. I can’t comment on something I do not know of. As I said, people make these decisions for their own reasons, and we can’t hold that against them. Their departure shouldn’t automatically be seen as a sign of trouble,” he concluded.

Strictly Lesotho Music: The beat behind local musical revolution

Fusi Hlaoli

Katleho Mohapi, the visionary behind Strictly Lesotho Music (SLM), has revolutionised Lesotho's music scene, transforming it from overlooked to undeniable.

What began as a passion project in April 2015 has evolved into a powerhouse platform, now regarded as the "backbone of Lesotho's music industry", boasting over 282,000 Facebook followers and 49,000 on TikTok, among other vibrant digital communities.

"Strictly Lesotho Music is more than just a social media platform," Mohapi explained. "We created it to give local artists the recognition, exposure, and opportunities they deserve."

Through meticulous music blogging, reviews, and archival efforts, SLM has reshaped the narrative of Lesotho's musical landscape, ensuring that homegrown talent gets the spotlight it deserves.

Beyond digital outreach, SLM offers crucial services like music consultancy, artist promotions, events marketing, and music workshops, all facilitated through strategic brand partnerships. This multifaceted approach has directly shaped careers, propelled local artists to global platforms, and solidified Lesotho music as a formidable force.

Mohapi recently formalised SLM as "STRICTLY LESOTHO MUSIC PTY LTD" in

August 2023, signaling a shift towards structured monetisation and industry growth. "This is now a trusted local music preservation movement," he emphasised, "with a mission to ensure artists can profit from their craft."

While acknowledging the potential role of government and institutions, Mohapi noted the current

"hit-or-miss" or uneven support. "There is still so much that can be done, like funding artists, setting up platforms for exposure, or building studios and venues," he stated.

He advocates for the government to recognise music as a valuable cultural export, similar to other nations.

Despite challenges



Katleho Mohapi. The Founder of Strictly Lesotho Music

lenges like limited resources and bureaucratic hurdles, Mohapi remains optimistic. "I had to be the pillar of hope by stepping up," he said, expressing openness to collaboration.

He envisions partnerships with the Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts, and Culture, led by Hon. Motlatsi Maqelepo, to elevate Lesotho music to a national brand. He also calls on cultural bodies, like the National Music Awards and LESCOSAA, and private companies to invest in the industry's growth.

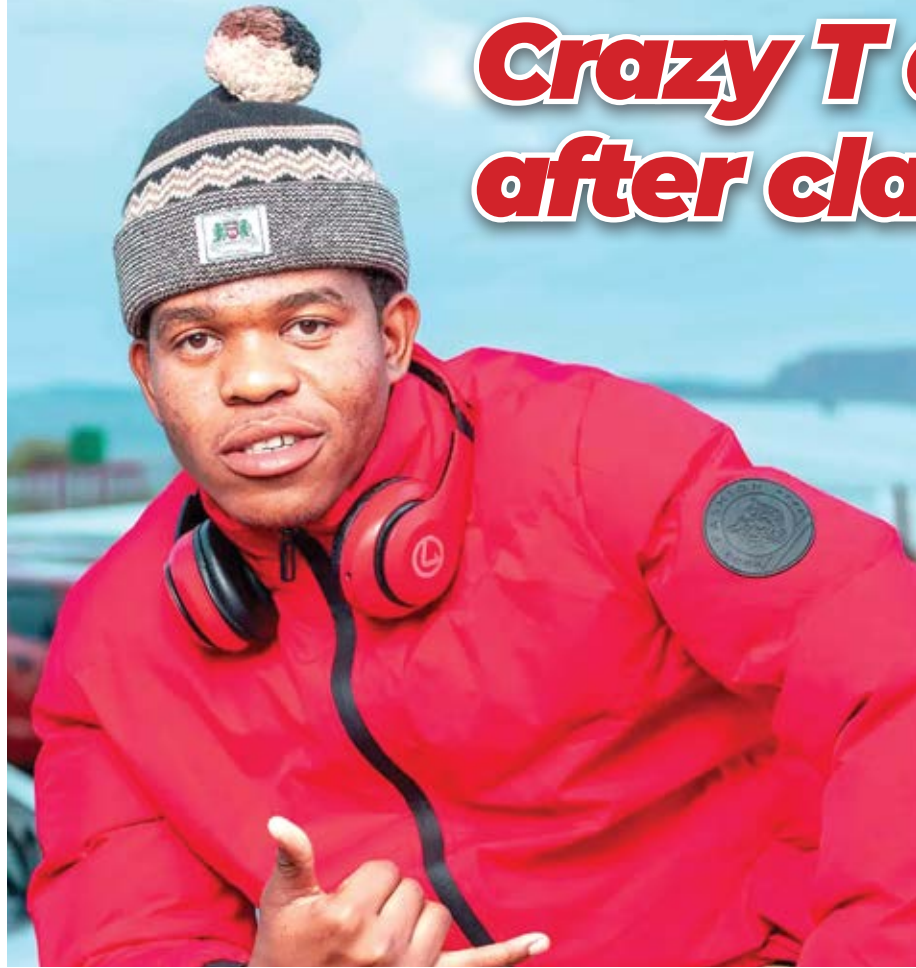
Regionally, Mohapi aims to secure collaborations with South African festivals and digital platforms, while also pursuing partnerships with major international platforms. On the business front, he seeks collaborations with brands, particularly telecoms and banking sectors, to support youth creativity.

Looking forward, Mohapi's vision for SLM is ambitious. He aims to expand digital reach, develop an SLM app for streaming and artist-fan interaction, establish a physical space for workshops and recording, and create a sustainable monetisation model. "I want SLM to be the go to platform where artists can build careers, fans can discover talent, and the world cannot ignore Lesotho music," he stated.

His ultimate goal is to see Lesotho artists headlining international festivals, collaborating with global names, and preserving our unique Sesotho sound. He envisions a vibrant, respected, and sustainable music scene, archived for future generations and celebrated worldwide.

"We have already shaped careers and flipped the script on how local music is seen since 2015," Mohapi concluded. "Now it's about scaling that impact." SLM, he asserts, will continue to lead the charge, solidifying Lesotho's musical legacy.

Crazy T quits Sothokids after clash over marriage



Crazy T

Chris Theko

Hlotse-born rapper, songwriter, and model Teboho Johannes Maphike, known professionally as Crazy T, has officially parted ways with Sothokids Culture Agency, his longtime management company.

The celebrated artist had been with the agency since 2019, achieving significant milestones under its guidance.

Crazy T announced his departure via so-

cial media, stating:

"I would like to announce that I'm no longer working with my previous team. After four years together, I want to clarify that there is no bad blood between me and my brothers."

However, in an exclusive interview with Newsday Arts, the rapper disclosed that a series of events, particularly personal disagreements with his manager, Makhebe Seatlana, led to his decision to leave.

Clash over marriage

Crazy T, who recently tied the knot with his girlfriend of a few months, revealed that his manager had strongly opposed the marriage, arguing that he was not financially stable enough for such a commitment.

"The truth is, I had no plans to leave the agency anytime soon. But after a series of events in recent weeks leading up to my wedding, I had to reevaluate my position. After discussing it with my wife, I made the difficult decision to part ways," he explained.

He further alleged that Makhebe's disapproval influenced other artists under the same management, including Omali Themba and Cityzeen, who subsequently blocked him on WhatsApp and unfollowed him on social media.

"Two weeks ago, I was paid for a gig, and shortly after, Omali Themba called, asking for money. Since I was on public transport, I told him we'd talk later. I didn't realise he took offence until I heard from Makhebe that Omali was unhappy about my response. Later, I discovered that both Omali and Cityzeen had blocked and unfollowed me, and they didn't even attend my wedding," Crazy T shared.

Management's response

Makhebe confirmed that he disapproved of Crazy T's marriage, maintaining that it was a rushed decision with financial consequences.

"I told him I do not support this decision

because he is not financially stable. For a long time, I have made efforts to ensure that he is taken care of. Marrying someone he met in January this year was not a well-calculated move. Then, I received a message from his phone, though it was clearly from his partner, insulting me and telling me to stay out of his personal matters," Makhebe said.

Regarding the financial dispute, Makhebe explained that Omali's request for money was made in jest but that tensions escalated when he later attempted to discuss the matter with Crazy T.

"During the call, I heard his partner telling him to drop the phone. Then Crazy T asked me if I was done talking before ending the call. That was the last time we spoke. His behaviour disappointed many within the agency, which is why some of the artists chose to distance themselves from him. It was not my directive for them to block him."

A new chapter for Crazy T

Despite the fallout, Crazy T remains optimistic about his future in the music industry. While it is unclear whether he will seek new management, for now, he plans to remain independent.

Founded in 2018 by Makhebe Seatlana, Sothokids Culture Agency has played a pivotal role in discovering and nurturing talent in Lesotho. However, the agency now moves forward without one of its most prominent members.

SPORTS

Comrades-bound athletes in high spirits

Seabata Mahao

Veteran runner, Teboho Sello, with over two decades of Comrades Marathon experience, is keen to bring victory home in this year's edition of the grueling South African ultra marathon.

"We are going to practice together and build a tight force so that we can conquer the Comrades Marathon together. We are going to bring victory home," Sello said this week

Sello was speaking at the announcement of a M100, 000 in financial support by Alliance Insurance Group for local athletes' preparation for this year's Comrades Marathon.

The funds will support the organisation of the Hillbusters' Last long Run Marathon scheduled for April 26, serving as a critical training platform for athletes targeting the 98th Comrades Marathon. Unlike previous years, there will be no prize money for race winners.

The event, a partnership between Alliance Insurance Group and Hillbusterz Running Club, will feature three categories: a 65km marathon from Matsieng in Mafeteng to Maseru, a 21km half-marathon, and a 10km race in Maseru.

This year's edition expands beyond Hillbusterz members to include a broader range of athletes. The 2025 Comrades Marathon will follow the Pietermaritzburg-to-Durban route, reversing last year's course.

Limakatso Mokobocho, Alliance Insurance Group's Public Relations and Corporate Communications Manager, reaffirmed the company's commitment to supporting local marathoners.

"The upcoming marathon will be no different. The members of the Hillbusterz Racing Club will go to their international competition prepared. There is no prize money, but there are medals and trophies as our way of helping our teams and to ensure that they have enough preparation for the Comrades Marathon. We are really improving, and every athlete will benefit from this marathon," she said.



Mokobocho emphasised that Alliance's partnership with Hillbusterz aims to support Basotho athletes competing in the Comrades Marathon. The company's M100, 000 contribution covers crucial logistics including attire, transport, and medical assistance.

"We realised that we have many Basotho athletes who participate in the Comrades Marathon, and we have noticed that out of all sporting codes in the country, Basotho perform better in marathons, so it is only right to support them."

"We started last year with this initiative, and we noticed that they were all training independently in their own ways. So we decided to bring

them together with the little support we have so they can train and practice together in order to make us proud," Mokobocho stated.

The ultra-marathon is open to all interested Basotho runners with an affordable M100 registration fee. Those completing the 65km race will receive medals.

Hillbusterz Racing Club Deputy Chairperson, Hlopmphang Nkalai, reflected on the growth of the initiative.

"We started as a small group because we did not have the funding to cater to other athletes, but with the support of Alliance Insurance Company, we were able to secure financial backing to open this marathon to oth-

er long-distance runners."

"We always advise interested participants that they should be able to handle long distances so that they will not have any challenges along the way. For our debut participants, we advise them to prepare a year earlier in order to build their physical strength," Nkalai stated.

This year's training route from Matsieng to Maseru was deliberately chosen to mirror the 2025 Comrades Marathon route.

"The event is open to everyone, but we would love to see the 65km race dominated by regular marathon runners, especially those training for the Comrades Marathon," Nkalai said.

New horse race inspires sports tourism shift

Kananelo Mokhele

The vibrant culture and sporting spirit of Basotho were on full display as the inaugural Peka Horse Racing took place over the weekend in line with Moshoeshoe's Day celebrations.

Hosted by Ramela Foundation, the rare event marked a new entrant into Lesotho's sporting calendar, with plans of being a mainstay in the nascent horseracing industry for years to come.

The grand occasion was graced by the Minister of Sports, Arts, and Culture, Motlatsi Maqelepo, who emphasised the importance of sports in boosting the nation's economy and fostering unity among Basotho and

their regional neighbours.

In his speech, Maqelepo expressed gratitude to all those who made the event possible, particularly recognising the contributions of Ramela Foundation, the main sponsor and host of the inaugural Peka race.

He wished Bishop David Ramela, the founder of Ramela Foundation, good health and commended his dedication to the sport.

The Minister further encouraged more entrepreneurs and business people to invest in sports, stressing that with the right financial backing, Lesotho could develop a world-class horse racing facility.

Given horse racing's deep cultural roots in the country, he believes this

vision was not only achievable but essential for preserving and celebrating Basotho heritage.

Sports and tourism, he pointed out, are closely linked, and horse racing presents an opportunity to attract visitors from across Southern Africa and beyond. The Minister called on all stakeholders to work together to elevate the sport to an international standard, ensuring that Lesotho benefits both economically and socially.

He also urged participants and attendees to keep sports free of conflicts, reinforcing the idea that events like these should serve as a platform for unity and national pride.

On his part Ramela, whose generous donation of M500,000 through

his Foundation, made the event possible, and who personally organised the inaugural Peka race, took the stage to express his appreciation.

He assured attendees that the Moshoeshoe's Day Horse Racing Event was not a one-time initiative but a tradition that would continue to grow with each passing year.

His hope is that the event will gain international recognition, placing Lesotho on the map as a premier destination for horse racing enthusiasts.

Acknowledging the presence of guests from neighboring countries, including Botswana and other Southern African nations, Ramela highlighted the power of sports in strengthening regional ties.



Likuena in the lion's den

Seabata Mahao

The senior national football team, Likuena, faces a tough challenge as they take on South Africa's Bafana Bafana this evening at 6:00 PM in the second leg of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers at Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane, South Africa.

Likuena will then travel to Rwanda later this month for another crucial qualifier in their bid to secure a historic World Cup spot.

Bafana Bafana currently sit second in Group C with seven points, tied with group leaders Rwanda and third-placed Benin. Nigeria is in fifth place, while Zimbabwe sits at the bottom of the group.

The rivalry between Likuena and Bafana Bafana has been evident over the years. Their most recent encounter ended in a goalless draw in a friendly match.

Likuena's head coach, Makhetha Notši, acknowledged the enormity of the challenge ahead but stressed that securing points against Bafana Bafana and Rwanda would be a significant achievement.

"Securing points against these teams would be a great achievement," Notši said.

He admitted that his team is stepping into the lion's den but said the opportunity to compete against strong sides is a motivating factor.

Speaking to the media, Notši emphasised that Group C of the CAF World Cup qualifiers remains wide open, presenting every team with a chance to collect points and strengthen their qualification hopes.

"Some nations in the group are considered favorites, but they still need to earn the necessary points to qualify for the World Cup," he stated.

"For Lesotho, the upcoming qualifiers are particularly crucial, especially since they will play two consecutive away matches, which could be physically demanding," Notši explained.

He added that Likuena must dig deep to challenge group favourites South Africa and Rwanda, seeing these encounters as an opportunity for his players to improve.

"Lesotho is in a highly competitive group featuring strong footballing nations, but he sees this as a challenge for his players to push themselves further," he said.

Touching on the AFCON 2025 qualifiers, Notši expressed deep disappointment over Lesotho's failure to qualify. He noted that facing North African and West African teams is always difficult, mainly due to the challenges of long-distance travel and back-to-back matches.

However, he pointed out that there were positive takeaways from both the CHAN and AFCON qualification campaigns, which



Likuena Head Coach, Leslie Nots'i during a pre-match interview

the team aims to build on moving forward. Likuena's campaign so far has been a mixed bag of results. They played to a 1-all draw against Nigeria, a goalless draw against Benin, a 2-0 victory over Zimbabwe, and a 1-0 loss to Rwanda.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup, which will be co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, is set to take place from June 11 to July 19, 2026. Lesotho is fighting to qualify for the tournament for the first time in history.



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