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28 March - 06 April, 2025 www.newsdayonline.co.ls Vol 07 No 07 **M6.00**

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Vodacom Lesotho challenges Elon Musk's empire

- **Urges local ownership for Starlink**
- **Raises national security concerns**



Vodacom Lesotho Managing Director, Mohale Ralebitso

Staff Reporter

Vodacom Lesotho (VCL), the country's leading mobile network operator, has called for Starlink Lesotho (Pty) Ltd to establish local shareholding, despite the Lesotho Communications Act of 2012 not mandating it.

VCL argues that local ownership would promote economic empowerment, create jobs, and drive infrastructure development in the communications sector.

"Local involvement may foster partnerships with domestic businesses, thereby, creating investment opportunities and ensuring broader economic inclusion," said VCL Managing Director, Mohale Ralebitso, in written comments submitted to the Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) on March 20, this year.

"Furthermore, local shareholding would boost government revenues through taxes and dividends. As is standard practice with terrestrial providers, which are required to have local shareholding, Starlink should also have to this principle to ensure that a portion of its revenues is within the country, Ralebitso added.

Last month, LCA issued a public consultation notice informing the public that it had received an application for the Network Services Licence from Starlink Lesotho.

It said that Starlink has applied to provide satellite internet services to the public and businesses in Lesotho. The duration of the licence, if approved, will be 10 years from the date of issuance.

Acting in terms of Section 4(j) of the Communications Act, LCA then invited comments from the general public and industry stakeholders regarding the application.

Starlink is a satellite internet service operated by SpaceX, the aerospace company founded by Elon Musk. It provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet to users around the world, particularly in re-

mote and underserved areas where traditional internet infrastructure is limited or unavailable.

Vodacom Lesotho is itself partly locally owned. It started operating in 1996 with the government of Lesotho as a shareholder through its stake in Lesotho Telecommunications Corporation.

When the government began its privatisation process in 1999, it invited bids for this share in Vodacom Lesotho. In July 2000, Sekha-Metsi Consortium, a group of local business people and public figures, was announced as the successful bidder.

Sekha-Metsi holds a 20 percent share in Vodacom Lesotho with the remaining share held by Vodacom Group which is majority-owned by Vodafone (65.1% holding), one of the world's largest communications companies by revenue.

In its submission, VCL not only requested that Starlink establish local shareholding and a local presence but also stated that if Starlink intends to provide services directly to end-users without partnering with a local licensee, the satellite operator must obtain a unified licence and adhere to all existing obligations set by the LCA for unified licensees.

"However, it should not be mandatory for Starlink or, by extension, satellite service providers to hold a local licence in situations where satellite operators collaborate with local licensees to offer connectivity to end-users," Ralebitso said.

He further requested that the LCA ensure Starlink is subject to the same compliance obligations as other licensees, such as licence commitments, to guarantee a level playing field.

Addressing national security and sovereignty protections, Ralebitso said that Starlink, along with satellite operators in general, should be required to establish local gateway earth stations to ensure compliance with local regulations.

"Without physical infrastructure in Lesotho, the government has limited control over these networks, which raises concerns about data sovereignty and national security," he said.

"Additionally, the authority must ensure that satellite service licensing does not compromise national security or enable unregulated communication pathways," he added.

Further, he posited that Starlink should not be granted access to IMT spectrum that would enable direct-to-device internet connections. He said this restriction would protect against harmful interference and address concerns about quality of service.

"Mobile spectrum should remain the exclusive domain of MNOs until otherwise determined at the ITU level (WRC-27). If WRC-27 concludes that such allocation is necessary in the future, we advocate that it must be limited to a secondary status, whereby the operation of satellite service solutions is permitted only as a supplementary option to traditional land-based IMT provided by MNOs," he said.

VCL further suggested that satellite service providers should be utilized when terrestrial options are inadequate, such as in remote areas or during emergencies when ground infrastructure is compromised.

"For clarity, we recommend that the LCA implement conditions on its use. For example, they should provide services where there are coverage gaps so that they become complementary to the MNOs' services, as this is the value proposition they should bring to the country to ensure universal coverage."

It further said that satellite services should be required to collaborate with MNOs to ensure the coexistence of services offered by various categories of licensees while managing interference and quality of service concerns. To this end, VCL expressed support for the framework that the LCA has imple-

mented for foreign satellite service providers, which mandates their partnership with local MNOs, and indicated that they believe it should be adopted for GEO satellite service providers.

"For instance, Vodacom is currently running a proof of concept (trial) for satellite transmission, having commenced with two use cases: enterprise clients and BTS backhaul, to gather important insights before commercializing the service," VCL said.

It added: "For the trial, Vodacom has partnered with Avanti, a global satellite provider of fully integrated Multi-Orbit Connectivity Services, which offers customers dedicated fixed and flexible-beam satellite connectivity through a hybrid network and managed services that deliver seamless integration with MNO networks, providing customers with the world's most reliable satellite connectivity."

VCL acknowledged that LEO satellite services like Starlink have the potential to transform the broadband landscape, particularly in rural and remote areas.

"We support a framework where these services complement MNOs in addressing coverage gaps, positively impacting the sector. We believe that allowing satellite operators to provide internet services in Lesotho positions Starlink as a direct competitor to MNOs, creating an uneven playing field that, if permitted, could deter MNOs from making future investments," Ralebitso said.

"This situation could lead to idle assets and an unfair competitive environment, discouraging mobile operators from investing in necessary infrastructure expansion and new technologies that foster innovation. Consequently, they may face inadequate returns on their investments, alongside a potential decline in licence fees, tax revenues, and job opportunities," he added.

"To this end, we advocate for a level playing field that ensures competition is fair and balances the interests of all licence holders, including a regulatory framework that is predictable to protect and encourage investment in the sector and the country."

Ralebitso also mentioned that VCL has been a long-standing investor in Lesotho and plans to continue further investments to expand network coverage. He said Vodacom invested over M130 million, which has contributed to projects and initiatives that have transformed the lives of Basotho.

"These initiatives fall under the health, education, emergency services, and entrepreneurship support pillars. Examples within the health pillar include M-Mama (which supports maternal and infant mortality) and the Moyo Project (focused on HIV)," he said.

He further mentioned that Vodacom made a significant financial contribution of over M18 million to support the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines for Basotho during the critical period when the virus was rampant and businesses were struggling.

"This funding was specifically allocated to assist the Lesotho government in acquiring vaccines, with a focus on phase three of the country's vaccination rollout plan. In the education pillar, we have continued to provide internet access to 161 schools through the Schools Connectivity project, including computer labs awarded to schools as part of CSI through our subsidiary, VCL Financial Services," he said.

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LNDC cancels M15 million deal with Enrich

Staff Reporter

The Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) has officially terminated its M15 million funding agreement with Enrich Holdings, citing unmet conditions and ongoing internal conflicts within the company’s leadership.

In a letter dated March 24, 2025, LNDC’s Interim Chief Executive Officer, Molise Ramaili, confirmed that the corporation has decided not to proceed with the financial support that had been approved in 2023 under strict conditions.

“LNDC’s board approved funding of Enrich Holdings’ turnaround strategy and business plan to the value of M15 million in 2023 with conditions precedent,” Ramaili stated in the letter.

He said that Enrich Holdings, however, could not meet clause 8.3 under conditions precedent in the loan agreement, which also happened to be the most critical.

“The clause reads as follows: The borrower shall provide a share register and certificates that are up to date together with proof of contributions or acquisition of shares.”

He narrated that as a result of Enrich’s failure, an agreement to register a special purpose vehicle (SPV), Enrich Investments, to de-risk the transaction was reached and executed between the two parties.

Subsequently, an offer letter of M15 million, with an acceptance deadline of December 13, 2023, was issued to Enrich Holdings



to be disbursed into Enrich Investments as an SPV that would facilitate the trading of Enrich stores until the LNDC funding is recovered.

“Enrich Holdings did not accept the offer. There were instead a series of internal disagreements within Enrich Holdings’ leadership and management of LNDC’s proposed risk mitigation measures that have not been resolved to date,” Ramaili said.

“The Corporation therefore regrets to inform Enrich Holdings that it has reached a decision not to proceed with the funding. The decision was not made lightly and is based on the number of risks that have been identified,” he added.

This decision marks the end of what was

initially seen as a promising deal.

Thabo Qhesi, board chairman of Enrich Holdings, confirmed receipt of the letter in an interview with Newsday. He informed shareholders of LNDC’s decision on March 25 and announced an urgent board meeting to address the situation. “We will issue a statement once deliberations are complete,” Qhesi said.

The cancellation follows a turbulent period for Enrich Holdings. Last week, Newsday reported that the struggling Basotho-owned enterprise descended further into chaos when its board suspended acting Chief Executive Officer Peter Morolong on March 18.

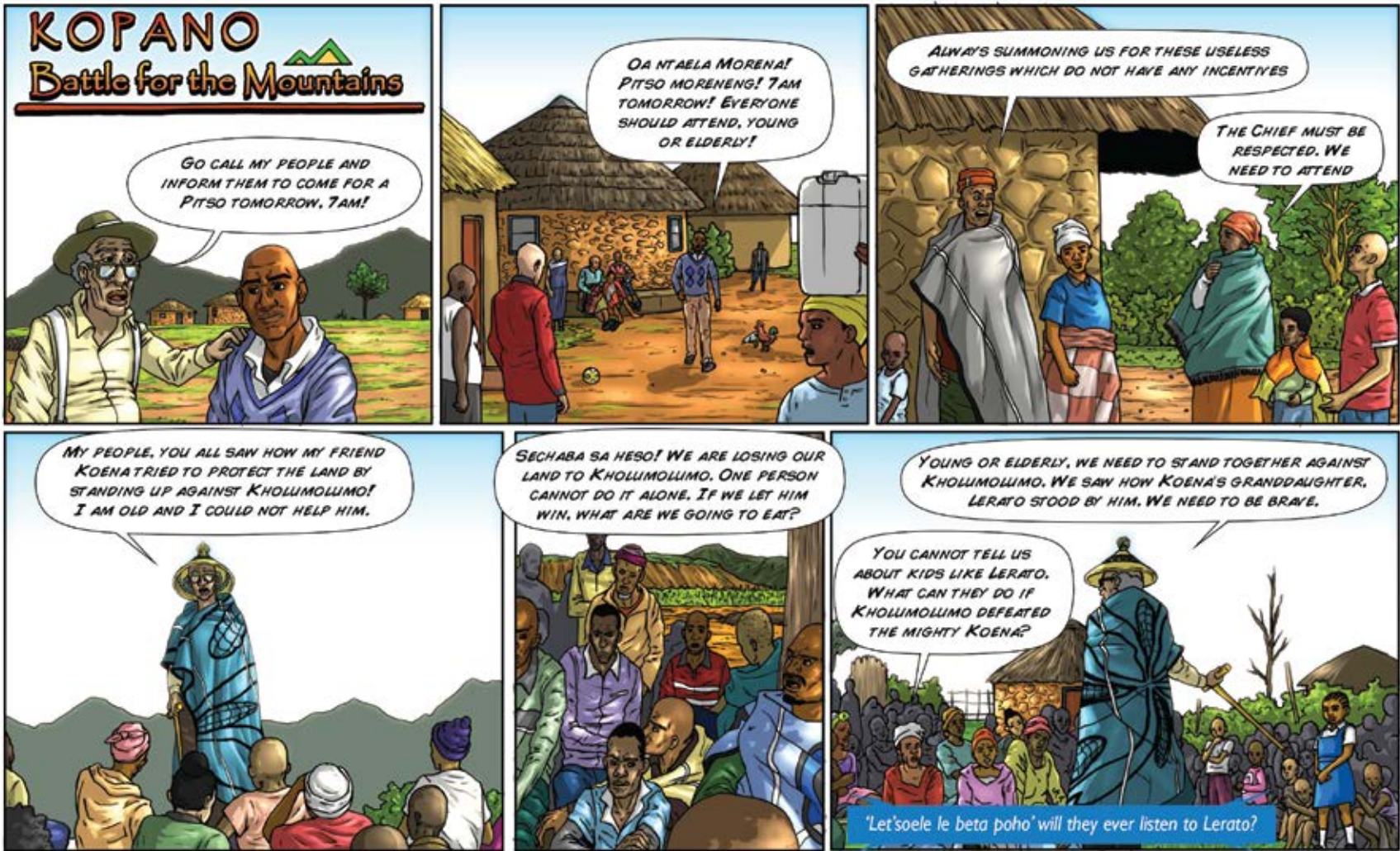
In a letter signed by Qhesi and director Paul Mosuoe, Morolong faced accusations of

“gross misconduct” amid a company unraveling at its core.

Morolong, on March 10, attempted to remove Qhesi from the board, alleging conflicts of interest, negligence, and failure to implement shareholder resolutions from December 21, 2024.

“Your suspension is effective immediately due to your lack of commitment, failure to exercise due diligence, and actions bringing the company into disrepute,” Morolong wrote.

Enrich Holdings’ flagship Enrich Supermarket, intended as the cornerstone of its operations, remains shuttered, its future uncertain as the company grapples with mounting challenges.



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.

Biting the bullet: LHDA answers burning community questions



Staff Reporter

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) held its 2025 Stakeholder Conference in Maseru this week, bringing together key stakeholders to assess the progress of Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) and strengthen collaborations for long-term impact.

Under the theme *“Waves of Change: Strengthening Partnerships for Lasting Change,”* the conference followed up on last year’s discussions, deepening engagement on issues like accountability, transparency, and sustainable development.

During the two-day conference, the LHDA provided updates on key areas, including infrastructure and community initiatives under the LHWP, challenges affecting project execution, and improvements made to enhance accountability and governance.

The conference served as a crucial platform for stakeholders—government representatives, affected communities, international development partners, and private sector actors—to contribute insights and shape the future direction of the project.

With LHDA beginning to implement its new 10-year strategic plan, this year’s discussions emphasised responsible governance, collaborative problem-solving, and ensuring that the LHWP continues to deliver shared benefits.

A platform for open dialogue

Officially opening the conference, the LHDA’s Chief Executive, Tente Tente, emphasised the importance of the conference as a platform for open dialogue.

“At a time of transition and strategic renewal, platforms like this are vital,” he said.

“Good governance, accountability, and transparency are not just ideals—we embed them in how we engage with our partners and communities. This conference reaffirms our commitment to listening, adapting, and working collectively to ensure that the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) continues to serve the best interests of all stakeholders.”

Tente noted the significance of the rare conference, providing a space for honest and constructive discussions.

“It is not always those with responsibility to implement projects that affect so many lives across the nation’s boundaries who get a chance to have open, candid, and constructive dialogues,” he explained.

Tente stressed that the collaboration between LHDA and stakeholders is key to ensuring sustainable benefits from the project.

“We remain true to our work and purpose, which is to transform project-affected people into project beneficiaries,” Tente added.

He also acknowledged public criticism of the LHDA, and indicated that the authority is open to suggestions for improving operations.

“When it comes to community issues, land use restoration matters, there is a lot of criticism that is directed towards the LHDA. We are here to solicit your input because we need to improve and work together.”

Tente further clarified that the purpose of the conference is not for the LHDA to be criticized or “put on a pedestal,” but rather to collaborate and find sustainable solutions.

“I put it to you as our stakeholders, to think as you go through the two-day sessions. What is your contribution toward the LHDA’s success? And what was your contribution to its shortcomings?” he asked.

“Critically introspect and look at yourself where you are sitting. Did you enable the LHDA to achieve its intended goals, or did you stand in the way?”

Addressing misinformation, Tente stated that LHDA has refrained from responding to some allegations in the hope that the work would speak for itself.

“But lately, it has become too much,” he said. “We accept our vulnerabilities, but at the same time, there is a lot of good that we are doing.”

Project milestones and progress

Day 1 of the conference featured high-level presentations on project milestones, community engagement outcomes, and strategic priorities.

During the session, Ntsoli Maiketso, LHDA’s Divisional Manager for Phase II explained that the construction of the major works at Polihali dam under Phase II of the LHWP was progressing well, with Polihali dam construction at 25 percent

completion, Polihali transfer tunnel construction at 30 percent complete, and Senqu bridge construction which is 75 percent complete.

On his part, LHDA’s Divisional Manager for Development and Operations, Reentseng Molapo, indicated that the ongoing tunnel rehabilitation and the subsequent water delivery and power outages would be slightly behind scheduled completion.

While the scheduled completion of the works was end of March 2025, the resumption of water delivery to South Africa and power generation at Muela hydropower plant are now expected mid-April this year.

Day 2 introduced thematic panel discussions on key topics such as compensation, livelihood restoration, labor recruitment and skills development, local business participation, and enterprise development.

Community’s demand for accountability

One of the recurring concerns raised by attendees was the irregular recruitment of unskilled workers in the ongoing Polihali dam construction, particularly in favour of workers from the Mokhotlong district.

Tšepa Chaba, the Botha Bothe District Administrator, expressed frustration that none of the registered workers from his district had been hired.

“When is the recruitment of unskilled workers going to start? Because from the list I have of those who registered for work, no one has been hired yet,” Chaba questioned.

Maseru District Administrator, Tšepo Lethobane, echoed similar concerns, questioning the criteria used in the recruitment process.

In response, Ntsoli Maiketso from the LHDA explained that the construction of major works at Polihali was still in its early stages, and therefore few workers had been hired so far. He noted that over 200 unskilled workers had been hired from the other nine districts, aside from Mokhotlong.

Maiketso explained that the selection process for unskilled workers was based on a lottery system, in which names were drawn at random.

Kepa Keqe, Mokhotlong District Administrator raised concerns about possible corruption in the recruitment process, alleging that some human

resources personnel were soliciting bribes from job-seekers.

“I have a strong suspicion that recruitment reports sent to the LHDA do not reflect the true situation on the ground. I believe there are HR officers who solicit bribes from job-seekers and report as though they employed people from other districts,” Keqe stated.

Tente acknowledged these concerns and assured the stakeholders that the LHDA was committed to addressing them by setting up a dedicated compliance unit to verify the information on the ground.

Unlocking the Untapped Potential

Other discussions focused on the untapped potential of the LHWP for ancillary purposes, such as providing potable water supply for communities, water for irrigation, tourism, fisheries, and other economic developments.

Sekonyela Mapetja from the Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN) pointed out that, despite provisions for these additional developments, very little has been done to realise the potential of the project.

He called for a focused dialogue to explore the types of projects that could be developed without compromising the primary purpose of the water project.

In response, Tente agreed that there was a need for specific discussions on how to unlock more opportunities for using the project water.

Tente clarified the concerns over the alleged LHDA’s refusal to provide documents to Parliament about the Polihali dam construction. He explained that the contracts with contractors included confidentiality clauses, and sharing some of the documents would breach these agreements.

“We requested permission from the contractors to share the information, and they were clear that we could not disclose certain details,” he said.

“It is not the LHDA that is objecting, but our partners. We have explained this to parliament, and the consequences of breaching the contract are far-reaching.”

Tente emphasised that LHDA is working in good faith with stakeholders, despite challenges and criticism.





Newsday Courts & Police Reports

Rape-accused Katara tells his side in court

Relebohile Makhetha



Katara

Reabetsoe ‘Katara’ Bulane, a former employee of Cappello, a resurant at Maseru Mall, testified this week in an ongoing sexual offense trial. Bulane recounted events from the night of January 19, 2024, when he was working as a waiter at Cappello.

He stated that it was his first time meeting the complainant, Priscilla Hakane, although he had previously seen her companion, Thato, from a distance. That evening, he was serving two female customers, whom he later invited to join the table where Priscilla and Thato were seated.

Although Priscilla and Thato were being served by another waiter, only identified as Joshua, Bulane continued attending to his own clients at the same table.

According to Bulane, his clients left before the restaurant closed, while Priscilla and Thato remained. As they were leaving, Joshua informed him of an unsettled champagne bill, which he initially thought belonged to his clients. However, upon verifying his records, he confirmed that his customers had cleared their bills.

To resolve the issue, Bulane and Joshua decided to check on the remaining patrons. He said that before stepping outside, a man named Mpho from the nearby restaurant, The Market, informed him that Thato was heavily intoxicated and unable to stand outside the restaurant.

Bulane rushed out and found Thato alone, Priscilla was nowhere to be seen. The Market staff told him she had gone to another club still at Maseru Mall.

Concerned about Thato and the unpaid bill, Bulane went to find Priscilla at the club. He located her with a male companion, introduced himself, and explained the situation. Priscilla assured him she would return to assist, so he left.

However, after waiting for 10 to 15 minutes without her showing up, he decided to search for her again. When he passed by The Market Restaurant, a guy called Tšepo informed him that Priscilla had entered the women’s restroom.

Bulane stated that he went in, knocked twice on the restroom door but received no response. He noticed the dim lighting inside, indicating someone had been there for an extended period.

Upon entering, he found Priscilla seated on an open toilet, her brown tights lowered to her knees, with her head resting on the flushing tank. He claimed he attempted to wake her, but she only briefly opened her eyes before closing them again, appearing heavily intoxicated.

Bulane testified that he then helped Priscilla dress. While doing so, a worker named Mpho knocked on the door, asking if they were done, as the restaurant was closing. After spending approximately 10 to 15 minutes inside the restroom, he and Priscilla exited.

However, just a few steps from the restroom, Priscilla suddenly pulled away from him and started shouting, accusing him of rape. The Market staff urged them to leave as they were closing the premises. At the exit, Priscilla sat down and repeated the

accusation.

A waiter at The Market advised Bulane to return to Cappello, suggesting that if Priscilla was serious about the allegation, she would follow him there. Upon returning, he saw Thato still lying down in a drunken state.

About 15 minutes later, Thato entered Cappello and asked him what had happened. After he explained the incident, he went to the kitchen. Five minutes later, Priscilla arrived, shouting and pointing at him, again accusing him of rape. A heated exchange ensued, with Priscilla throwing objects, including an ice bucket, and spitting at him.

Bulane stated that his colleagues noticed his anger and advised him to leave before he did something he would regret. He exited through the back door, where his car was parked, and drove home. While driving, he received a call from colleagues at Cappello informing him that Priscilla and Thato were now fighting.

The following morning, on January 20, Bulane received a call from his cousin, who urged him to check Facebook for disturbing allegations against him. Using his sibling’s phone, as his own was off, he discovered a post by Priscilla accusing someone named “Katara” of rape.

Disturbed by the allegations, he went to Ha Mabote Police Station to seek clarification on legal procedures. He was then directed to the Maseru Mall Police Station, where the alleged incident had occurred. Upon arrival, he was informed that no case had been registered against him.

Despite living in fear, Bulane was not contacted by the authorities until January 26, 2024, when he received a call from Maseru Central Police Station instructing him to report himself. Upon doing so, he was informed that Priscilla had formally lodged a rape complaint against him.

He was detained from January 26 until January 29, when he appeared in court.

During cross-examination, Advocate Sekoati Hlophe questioned Bulane about why it took him 10

to 15 minutes to wake and dress the complainant. Hlophe also inquired why female wait staff had not assisted her.

Bulane responded that waking a highly intoxicated person was difficult and that Cappello and The Market had only male waiters on duty that night.

The prosecution further argued that even if Bulane did not commit rape, touching a woman’s thighs without her consent could constitute sexual assault. Bulane insisted that his actions were solely intended to ensure the safety of the restaurant’s patrons, in line with workplace policies.

Advocate Hlophe also pointed out that it was suspicious for a heavily intoxicated individual to twice accuse him specifically of rape. Bulane maintained that he was still perplexed as to why Priscilla had accused him.

The trial, presided over by Magistrate Thabang Tapole, continues with Hlophe representing the state and Advocate Dlamini Matla leading the defence. The case is set to resume on May 2, 2025.



LESOTHO
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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

Price inflation rises to 4.1%

Seabata Mahao

The domestic inflation increased to 4.1% in February, up from 3.6 percent in January 2025 driven by price hikes in key sectors such as Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Housing, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels, as well as Transportation.

The surge in food prices was largely due to supply-side constraints, particularly the sharp increase in demand for white maize.

Looking ahead, inflation is expected to remain moderate, projected at 5.2 percent for 2025. This reflects modest pressures from non-food inflation, though upside risks persist.

This was disclosed by the First Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho, Lehlomela Mohapi, during a recent meeting of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

In his address, Mohapi highlighted that domestic economic activity contracted by 4.5% in January 2025, reversing the growth seen in the previous month.

The contraction was broad-based, primarily driven by weak domestic demand and reduced activity in the manufacturing, construction, and transport services industries.

Mohapi noted that while growth projections have remained largely unchanged since the last MPC meeting, rising global uncertainty and domestic vulnerabilities, particularly related to trade and development agreements, pose downside risks to the outlook.

"Growth is projected to moderate to 2.1 percent in 2025. Inflation continued its downward trend in February 2025 across several major economies. In the US and the euro area, this de-

cline was primarily driven by falling energy and services costs. Similarly, in Japan, government subsidies helped ease inflationary pressures as early as January 2025," he said.

"However, inflation in the UK and South Africa (SA) increased, mainly due to rising energy, utility, and housing costs. In response, most central banks held their policy rates steady, except in the euro area and India, where rates were lowered. Consequently, both short-term and long-term yields declined as central banks maintained rates and inflationary pressures eased," Mohapi added.

He emphasised that despite heightened global uncertainty, global economic activity is expected to remain resilient. Domestically, economic growth is projected to be modest amid rising uncertainties and vulnerabilities.

In light of these developments, the MPC decided to maintain the Net International Reserves (NIR) target floor at M15, 340, 416, 000 to ensure sufficient reserves to sustain the one-to-one peg between the loti and the rand. The Committee also decided to keep the CBL rate at 7.25 percent per annum to align with prevailing domestic and regional economic conditions.

"The CBL's NIR fell by approximately US\$105.2 million to US\$998.9 million as of 13th March 2025, from US\$1,104.2 million on 23rd January 2025. This decline was mainly driven by net outflows from commercial banks. In the near to medium term, the NIR position is projected to improve," Mohapi noted.

"The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) held its 112th meeting on 25th March 2025. The Committee



Monetary Policy Committee members

assessed recent developments in global, regional, and domestic economies, as well as financial market trends, to guide its policy decisions," he added.

The MPC statement also noted that "Economic activity generally improved in selected economies in the fourth quarter of 2024, mainly due to strong consumer demand despite trade challenges. While most economies are expected to grow in the first quarter of 2025, the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), and the euro area are projected to experience slower growth."

"The anticipated impact of tariffs on the US economy and policy uncertainty in the euro area is likely to dampen growth and exert inflationary pressure. Nonetheless, Japan, China, India, and South Africa (SA) are demonstrating stronger growth prospects, supported by robust consumer demand in Japan, a stimulus package in China, and strong manufacturing sector performance in India and SA. However, these growth prospects are unfolding amid global trade and policy uncertainties," the statement reads.

The statement further noted that "Although

the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) global growth projections have not changed since the January 2025 World Economic Outlook (WEO) update, global uncertainty has heightened due to escalating trade tensions and recurring geopolitical conflicts. The US economy is projected to expand in 2025, while Europe is expected to stagnate. Nonetheless, Germany's infrastructure investment programme is expected to boost growth in the near term. Key risks to global growth include inflationary pressures, commodity price volatility, and intensifying trade tensions."

"Labour market conditions varied across major economies in early 2025. In the US, the unemployment rate remained relatively stable, supported by job gains in key sectors. In contrast, the euro area recorded a decline in unemployment, although youth unemployment remained a concern. In Japan and China, unemployment rates rose, primarily due to structural changes, while the UK's rate held steady despite higher national insurance contributions," the statement concludes.

RSL and LDF in new partnership



Seabata Mahao

The Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) officially handed over a newly constructed sports ablution facility to the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Airwing Base, in a move that underscores the importance of collaboration between government institutions.

The event, held at the base, was attended by senior officials from both organisations, mark-

ing a significant step in efforts to improve the well-being of personnel.

The state-of-the-art facility includes two fully equipped dressing rooms, complete with lockers and benches, ensuring that users have a comfortable space to prepare for and recover from physical activities.

The facility also features 12 shower rooms

and eight toilet rooms, addressing a crucial need for sanitation and hygiene at the base's sports grounds.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, RSL's Commissioner General, 'Mathabo Mokoko expressed her delight at seeing the project come to fruition.

She emphasised that the facility symbolises more than just a physical structure; it represents the strong relationship between RSL and LDF and their shared vision of enhancing the working and sporting environment for their employees.

"This occasion marks a significant milestone in the partnership between RSL and LDF," Mokoko stated.

"We recognise the importance of promoting the well-being of our employees, and through this facility, we hope to contribute to an improved and more dignified sporting environment. Our collaboration not only strengthens institutional ties but also reinforces our collective commitment to ensuring better facilities for all stakeholders who use the LDF grounds."

The construction of the facility is part of a broader initiative to improve sports and recreational infrastructure in Lesotho, particularly in areas where security forces and other government personnel engage in physical training.

With increasing recognition of the role that sports play in physical and mental well-being, the new ablution block is expected to signifi-

cantly enhance the user experience at the LDF Airwing Base.

LDF's Commander, Lieutenant General Mojalefa Letsoela, expressed deep appreciation for RSL's generosity and commitment to improving conditions at the base.

He acknowledged the challenges that existed before the facility's construction, noting that personnel often struggled with inadequate sanitary amenities after training sessions and sporting events.

"On behalf of the Lesotho Defence Force, I extend my sincere gratitude to RSL for making this facility a reality. The provision of modern and hygienic amenities will not only benefit our personnel but also others who use these grounds. As army leadership, we assure you that we are committed to maintaining and properly managing this facility to ensure its sustainability for years to come."

The handover ceremony concluded with a tour of the facility, allowing guests to appreciate its modern design and functionality. Officers and sports enthusiasts alike expressed excitement about the new infrastructure, with many stating that it would encourage greater participation in sports and fitness activities at the base.

Beyond improving hygiene and convenience, the facility is expected to strengthen camaraderie among personnel from both institutions.

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 37 Of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024;

ESTATE LATE MALEBANYE CLEMENTI TAASO E596/2025

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon surviving spouse, the heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court at the office of the Master of the High Court, in Maseru on **TUESDAY, 22ND JULY 2025 at 10:00 am** for the purpose of:

Proposing some person /persons to be appointed by the Master as Executor dative.

Dated at Maseru this 24th MARCH, 2025
Master of the High Court Office

Magistrate Court Building
Maseru

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No. of 2024;

ESTATE LATE KOTSI AUGUSTINUS MPHALOANE E44/2025

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon surviving spouse, their heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court, in Maseru on **WEDNESDAY, 23RD APRIL 2025 at 10:00 am** for the purpose of;

Proposing some person/persons to be appointed by the Master as Executor dative.

Dated at Maseru this 26th March, 2025
Master of the High Court Office

Magistrate Court Building
Maseru



Over M180 million TB fight targets 5,151 cases by 2030

Ntsoaki Motaung

Over the next five years, the government of Lesotho, in partnership with Partners In Health (PIH), aims to detect and treat an additional 5,151 people with tuberculosis (TB) and significantly reduce TB prevalence in the country.

The initiative, estimated to cost \$10 million (over M182 million), underscores PIH’s commitment to mobilising the necessary resources. This was announced by PIH Deputy Executive Director, Retšepile Tlali, during the National TB Day press conference this week.

Tlali highlighted that, in response to Lesotho’s ongoing TB crisis, Minister of Health Selibe Mochoboroane has issued a strong call to action for an aggressive national response. She reaffirmed PIH’s dedication to supporting the government’s efforts through a comprehensive strategy aimed at TB elimination.

“At the heart of this initiative is a simple yet powerful approach: Search, Treat, and Prevent. Our goal is ambitious but achievable, to eliminate TB by ensuring that every individual is tested once a year; every diagnosed patient receives prompt treatment, and every at-risk person gets the necessary preventive care,” Tlali stated.

The five-year initiative will continue to

bridge service gaps in the seven PIH-supported health facilities, Nkau, Nohana, Bobete, Tlhanyaku, Manamaneng, Methalaneng, and Lebakeng, where the Search, Treat, and Prevent strategy has already been piloted with a 93 percent TB detection rate.

Expanding the program to Mohale’s Hoek, where an alarming 82 percent TB treatment gap exists, is a key priority. “This expansion will ensure that more people receive life-saving TB care and that no one is left behind,” Tlali added.

According to Tlali, the project’s success depends on a robust health system, driven by a well-trained and motivated workforce to implement community- and facility-based interventions, advanced TB diagnostic tools for detecting both active and latent TB infections, and a consistent supply of TB medications to prevent treatment disruptions.

It also depends on robust health system driven by greater community-level interventions to improve TB accessibility, innovative technology such as the TB Hunter System, a live data management tool for tracking treatment outcomes, and GIS mapping to identify TB hotspots, and addressing socio-economic barriers that hinder patients from completing

TB treatment.

Lesotho’s TB Burden and Challenges.

Lesotho remains among the world’s 30 high-burden TB countries, with an alarming incidence rate of 664 cases per 100,000 people.

Ministry of Health Principal Secretary (PS) ‘Maneo Ntene noted that Lesotho’s TB treatment success rates currently stand at 80 percent for drug-sensitive TB and 74 percent for drug-resistant TB, both below the 90 percent target set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

“The country’s TB detection rate is dangerously low, at only 42 percent, meaning 58 percent of cases remain undiagnosed and untreated, continuing to spread the disease. On average, a TB patient visits healthcare facilities at least three times before receiving a proper diagnosis. This delay, combined with health-seeking behaviour challenges, contributes to a 13 percent fatality rate and an additional 4 percent loss to follow-up cases,” she said.

TB continues to disproportionately affect men (68 percent), women (38 percent), and children (4 percent). Key vulnerable populations include people living with HIV, ex-min-




Principal Secretary for Ministry of Health ‘Maneo Ntene during a press conference to commemorate World TB day

ers, current miners and their households, factory workers, correctional service staff and inmates, healthcare workers, public transport operators, and smokers.

This year’s World TB Day theme, according to the WHO, is “Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver.”

“The theme presents an opportunity to reflect on ongoing efforts and strengthen commitments at local, national, and international levels to end TB, particularly by addressing the rising threat of drug-resistant TB,” WHO stated.

		NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANIZATION	
GENERAL DOCUMENT			
DOCUMENT TITLE	Advertisement of a Position		
DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	L4-GEN-HRD-72	REVISION NUMBER	02
EFFECTIVE DATE	15 September 2024		
NEXT REVIEW DATE	14 September 2026		

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and interested individuals to apply for the following positions at National Drug Service Organization (NDSO) in the Procurement Department.	
Position	Assistant Procurement Manager
Reports to	Procurement Manager
Required Minimum Qualifications	<div><div>Degree in Pharmacy with Qualification in the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS);</div><div>OR</div><div><div>Diploma in Pharmacy Technology with Five Years Work Experience and at least level 5 Qualification in the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS);</div><div>OR</div><div><div>Any Bachelor’s degree with at least level 5 Qualification in the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply(CIPS) and Five Years’ Experience in Procurement;</div><div>Or</div><div><div>Any Diploma with five years working experience in Procurement and level 6 Qualification in the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply(CIPS);</div><div><div>Registration with the Lesotho Medical Dental and Pharmacy Council and having the retention Certificate 2024 is a must.</div></div></div></div></div></div>
Required Minimum Experience	<div><div>Degree in Pharmacy, minimum two years’ experience of work in Procurement or Supply Chain Activities.</div><div><div>Diploma in Pharmacy, minimum five years’ experience of work in Procurement or Supply Chain Activities.</div><div><div>Any Bachelor’s degree or Diploma with level 5 or 6 CIPS, Minimum of Five years’ experience in Procurement</div></div></div></div>

<div><div>1. Summary of the Job Description:</div><div>The Assistant Procurement Manager (Tenders & Contracts) is responsible for managing tenders, maximising performance of suppliers from the available resources through contract management, promoting best value for money out of all procurements by applying most appropriate method of procurement that adheres to the Public Procurement Regulations of the country, ensuring that there is steady flow of goods and services that meets the Organization’s needs, maintaining sound cooperative relationship with other Departments, overseeing and supervising Procurement Officers and Assistant Procurement Officers and ensuring smooth procurement of the following categories but not limited to, of items procured by NDSO: ARVs, Pharmaceuticals, Medical Supplies, Dental Products and Non-Medical products</div></div>
<div><div>2.0 List of Duties.</div><div>Management of Tenders and Contracts:</div><div><div>1. Use the Standard Bidding Documents developed within the Organization to develop specific Bidding Documents for the tenders to be floated and semi-tenders (Request for Sealed Quotations).</div><div>2. Ensure that tenders are floated after the approval to float from the Chairperson of the Tender Panel, and must use a list of suppliers received from the Procurement Manager.</div><div>3. Advertise Prequalification of Tenders as well as ensuring that prequalification document is sent to the Bidders and potential Bidders.</div><div>4. Ensure that documentation for and samples for prequalification are sent to the relevant Department</div><div>5. Ensure that Procurement Officers follow-up with all Suppliers to confirm receipt of Bidding Documents and participation in the tender.</div><div>6. Must make a report of invited suppliers for the tender, by giving indication of suppliers who will be participating in the tender and the reason for those suppliers not participating</div><div>7. Attend to all questions from Bidders and where relevant, send the addenda while the Tender is still open as per relevant SOP and ensure a good environment for Bidders’ participation.</div><div>8. Organise the Tender opening event, and the subsequent meetings/and events of the NDSO Tender Evaluation Team to the final stage of Presentation to the NDSO Tender Panel until sending the contracts and ensuring that all the Tender procedures are adhered to.</div><div>9. Ensure that the Procurement plan drawn by the Procurement Manager is adhered to.</div><div>10. Ensure that the Schedule of Activity time frame for each tender is adhered to and signed off.</div><div>11. Prepare and issue tender results, contracts and award notifications and ensure that contracts are authorised and sent to the Bidders.</div><div>12. Ensure adherence to contract terms as well as service level agreements and whenever a Supplier or Service Provider deviates from the agreed terms of the contract, must handle the dispute.</div><div>13. Compile the entire Tender Evaluation report as per Performance Management System.</div><div>14. When all quantities awarded to Suppliers have all been procured or the Services have been concluded and the contract period has lapsed, must write to suppliers to close the contract and return performance securities.</div></div></div>
<div><div>Overseeing Activities within the Procurement Department</div><div><div>1. Must manage the requests for cost estimates for all UN agencies by requesting the estimate, ensuring payment, sending proof of payment, availing documents prior to arrival to the relevant Departments, and making a summary report for that procurement.</div><div>2. Co-ordinate funds availability for all Procurements made for MOHSW under NDSO (i.e. for Health Sector goods).</div><div>3. Must ensure that all Purchase Orders that need to be received as Donations have Purchase Orders, and that the relevant Departments are availed documents to enable receiving thereof.</div><div>4. Must manage and track deliveries for Donor and UN agencies en route to NDSO.</div><div>5. Participate in the Procurement Supply and Management planning activities.</div><div>6. Must attend to clarifications and queries (e.g. Rejected items, Shortages, Oversupplies) between NDSO and the suppliers.</div><div>7. Must handle all the pre-payments between NDSO and the Suppliers and ensure proper documentation is availed to relevant Departments to effect payments.</div><div>8. Oversees and supervises the activities of the Procurement Officers and Assistant Procurement Officers.</div><div>9. Assist the office of the Procurement Manager with any Procurement related activities within the Department.</div><div>10. Attend to any other duties, work related, the Procurement Manager might assign from time to time.</div></div></div>
<div><div>Performance Standards</div><div><div>1. Signed off Tender Activity Schedule and Updated Procurement Plan.</div><div>2. Specific Bidding Documents developed within seven days of receipt of procurement request.</div><div>3. Tenders floated and updated supplier participation register within two weeks of floating a tender.</div><div>4. Set of contracts developed within seven days after the cooling-off period.</div><div>5. Tender Evaluation Reports including minutes developed and signed off by the Procurement Manager within a month of contract award.</div></div></div>
<div><div>Interested individuals must send their application letters, CV and Certified Copies of educational certificates by hand to HR office , or email them to hr@ndso.org.ls on or before the closing date.</div><div>Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.</div><div>The closing date for applications is 04th April 2025 at 16:30.</div></div>

A cry for justice, not rhetoric

The harrowing stories of women and children falling victim to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide in Lesotho evoke a deep well of sympathy and outrage. The image of women carrying the body of their slain sister to her grave, filling the soil with their own hands after she was allegedly killed by her partner; a police officer no less, is a gut-wrenching testament to the betrayal and fear that now define too many relationships.

The Parliament Women's Caucus is right to shine a spotlight on this crisis, as every slashed throat, gunshot wound, or brutal beating reported feels like a collective wound to the nation's soul. Women, who form the backbone of Basotho families and communities, deserve safety, dignity, and trust, not the constant threat of violence from those closest to them.

Yet, while the caucus's fury is justified, their call for Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane to declare a state of emergency over GBV and femicide, though emotionally compelling, raises questions of practicality and legality. A state of emergency is an extraordinary measure, reserved under Lesotho's Constitution for situations of war, invasion, or a breakdown of public order so severe that ordinary laws and governance cannot cope.

International precedents, such as those set by the United Nations and cases like Lesotho's 2022 case against the state of emergency, further caution against its misuse, emphasising that it must meet a clear threshold of systemic collapse or imminent national peril.

The grim reality of 125 GBV cases in Mafeteng or 51 in Qacha's Nek over a year, while infuriating and tragic, does not appear to satisfy this rigorous standard. Declaring an emergency risks diluting its gravity and could invite legal challenges or unintended consequences, such as curtailed rights, without addressing the root issues.

This is not to dismiss the caucus's anguish or the urgency of the situation, it is a plea for focus over symbolism. The call for a state of emergency feels more like rhetorical flourish, a loud signal to galvanise attention, than a feasible policy proposal.

Parliamentarians, including the caucus, know the constitutional requirements and the high bar for such a declaration. They also know that laws like the Counter Domestic Violence Act of 2022 and the Sexual Offences Act of 2003 already exist, yet falter in implementation, a point Chairperson 'Makatleho Motsoasele herself acknowledged. If the goal is tangible change, why lean on a dramatic gesture when simpler, actionable solutions lie within reach?

Sympathy for women demands action, not posturing. The caucus could push for immediate, practical steps: fast-track the Bail Bill to curb the release of dangerous offenders, as public frustration over bail leniency grows; bolster funding and training for the Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU) to enhance response times and victim support; and expand helplines (116 and 112) with nationwide awareness campaigns. Partnerships like the Male Engage Initiative with GIZ could be scaled to re-educate men on respect and accountability, addressing cultural norms, like the fading "thupa e otlolloa e sale metsi," that Motsoasele laments.

Courts, too, as Minister Richard Ramoetsi noted with the two 40-year sentences in Moleale's Hoek, are showing resolve. Why not reinforce this with mandatory sentencing guidelines for GBV?

Women deserve a Lesotho where they can trust their partners, walk freely, and live without fear. The caucus's voice is vital in this fight, but it must channel its energy into solutions that work now, strengthening enforcement, supporting survivors, and changing mindsets, rather than a state of emergency that sounds bold but may collapse under scrutiny.

Let's honour the pain of victims with results, not rhetoric.



NO COMMENT



Theko Tlebere

Common Concern

Accountability of a Sitting Prime Minister in a Westminster-Type of Government: A focus on Prime Minister Samuel Matekane

In a Westminster-style system of government, the relationship between the executive and legislative branches is structured to ensure that the government remains accountable to the people. This system is founded on the principle of responsible government, in which the executive is drawn from and accountable to the legislature. A key aspect of this accountability is the prime minister's obligation to be transparent, answerable, and responsive to both Parliament and the public. This article explores how a sitting prime minister in a Westminster system, specifically Lesotho's current Prime Minister, Samuel Matekane, holds himself accountable to the people.

Originating in the United Kingdom, the Westminster system is characterized by a parliamentary democracy where the executive, led by the prime minister, is usually the leader of the party with the most seats in the House of Commons or its equivalent. The executive must be accountable to the legislature, which reflects the will of the people. This accountability is enforced through several key mechanisms:

Parliamentary Question Time: In many Westminster systems, the prime minister and other ministers are required to appear in Parliament regularly to respond to questions from members of Parliament (MPs). This process is crucial for government accountability, allowing the opposition and backbenchers to scrutinize government policies and actions.

The Confidence of the House: The government must maintain the confidence of the legislature to remain in office. If the prime minister or government loses a vote of confidence in Parliament, they are typically obliged to resign or call for new elections. This requirement ensures that the prime minister is attentive to the political landscape and public sentiment.

Public Engagement and Transparency: In modern democracies, public engagement has become an essential component of accountability. The prime minister must ensure that their actions and decisions are transparent and that they effectively communicate with the public, often through media appearances, speeches, and press conferences.

Judicial and Institutional Oversight: Beyond parliamentary oversight, other institutions, such as the judiciary and various anti-corruption bodies, play vital roles in holding the prime minister and the government accountable. Courts, watchdog agencies, and independent

commissions provide checks and balances that ensure the government operates within the law.

Samuel Matekane became the Prime Minister of Lesotho in October 2022, following a period marked by political instability and frequent leadership changes. A businessman-turned-politician, Matekane entered politics with a commitment to delivering stability and economic development for a nation long affected by governance issues, including corruption, political fragmentation, and an underdeveloped economy. As the leader of the Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) party, his main responsibility is to steer the country through this transitional phase while adhering to the democratic principles of accountability.

In the context of Lesotho's Westminster-style government, Matekane's accountability to the public is influenced by several key factors, the first being parliamentary oversight. One of the primary mechanisms for holding Prime Minister Matekane accountable is the Lesotho National Assembly. As the central legislative body, the National Assembly plays a crucial role in scrutinizing the work of the executive. Matekane, as head of government, is expected to attend sessions and respond to questions posed by Members of Parliament (MPs). These sessions provide both the opposition and the public with direct insight into the key issues facing the Prime Minister. For example, Matekane has been questioned about the progress of his government's key promises, such as job creation, anti-corruption efforts, and measures to address economic inequality.

In a government like that of Lesotho, opposition parties have the opportunity to challenge the government's performance and demand transparency on these important issues. Furthermore, the prime minister's government must maintain the support of a majority in the National Assembly to remain in power. Should Matekane's government lose a vote of confidence, it would be expected to either resign or call for new elections, thereby increasing pressure for broad-based support and accountability to both Parliament and the electorate.

Beyond parliamentary mechanisms, Prime Minister Matekane is also expected to engage with the public through various media channels. Public accountability in a Westminster system extends beyond parliamentary debates to encompass the broader media landscape. Through television interviews, social media, and public addresses, Matekane can communicate government plans, provide updates, and respond to public concerns.

Media platforms have become central to government accountability in many countries, in-

cluding Lesotho. They play a crucial role in questioning government policies, investigating allegations of corruption, and mobilizing public opinion on significant issues. Prime Minister Matekane's ability to manage media scrutiny and engage with the public demonstrates his commitment to transparency. In the early months of his tenure, he faced considerable pressure to address governance and corruption concerns, particularly regarding his party's campaign promises. The media has played an instrumental role in urging him to fulfill these commitments. At the same time, public forums have provided spaces for civil society organizations, opposition leaders, and citizens to voice their opinions and hold the government accountable.

Lesotho's judiciary and independent institutions are essential for ensuring that the government, including the prime minister, is held accountable. In recent years, Lesotho has intensified its efforts to combat corruption and improve governance, notably there is a pressing need of establishing the Anti-Corruption Commission and empowering with more resources the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences.

Prime Minister Matekane has committed to addressing corruption and promoting good governance. However, his administration operates under the scrutiny of these institutions, which have the authority to investigate and take action against any government official implicated in corruption or abuse of power. This added layer of oversight ensures that the government remains answerable to both the law and the public.

In a Westminster-style government, the prime minister's accountability is multifaceted, involving parliamentary oversight, public engagement, media scrutiny, and institutional checks. For Lesotho's Prime Minister Samuel Matekane, the challenge lies in maintaining political stability, addressing pressing national issues, and ensuring that his government remains transparent and responsive to the people. By effectively utilizing these accountability mechanisms, Matekane can meet his obligations to the people of Lesotho and strengthen the country's democratic institutions, paving the way for future progress and prosperity.

The Future is NOW!

‘Maseribane slams Lesotho’s unused global perks

Ntsoaki Motaung



His-Excellency-Thesele-Maseribane
Former Lesotho Ambassador to Italy, Chief Thesele ‘Maseribane, has raised concerns over the country’s substantial expenditure on subscriptions to interna-

tional organisations while failing to fully utilise the opportunities they offer.

Speaking to journalists on Tuesday, ‘Maseribane, who is also a former minister, noted that in many cases, opportunities meant for Lesotho remain untapped, allowing other nations to benefit instead.

“Lesotho pays subscriptions to organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP), among others. These institutions offer a range of opportunities, including jobs, scholarships, internships, and grants, yet we are not taking full advantage of them,” he said.

He emphasised that proper utilisation of these opportunities could help address the country’s unemployment crisis, particularly among the youth.

“Each of these organisations has employment quotas for member countries, but Lesotho rarely fills its slots. If we actively pursued these opportunities, we could significantly reduce unemployment because we have capable people,” he stat-

ed. ‘Maseribane highlighted that Basotho could benefit greatly from these organisations, especially given the government’s prioritisation of agriculture. He urged the government to review its foreign policy to ensure more Basotho secure jobs abroad.

He pointed out that Lesotho’s diplomatic mission in Italy is based in a region where agriculture is a major economic sector. To leverage this, he suggested that Lesotho should appoint an agricultural attaché with expertise in the field.

“If we facilitate more Basotho working abroad, they will eventually return home with valuable skills, establish businesses, and create jobs,” he said.

‘Maseribane further noted that Italy has adopted innovative agricultural practices, including waste recycling, which Lesotho could replicate.

“In Italy, treated waste, including sewage, is applied to agricultural land to boost production. There is also a strong emphasis on supporting smallholder farmers in organic food production,” he explained.

He added that given Basotho’s agricultural knowledge, the country should capitalise on international assistance, including Israel’s commitment to supporting Lesotho’s agricultural sector, particularly in irrigation.

Ukrainian analyst visits Lesotho and blasts Trump

Staff Reporters

In an exclusive interview with Newsday on Friday in Maseru, Peter Zelmayev, a Ukrainian-American political analyst, expressed deep concern over the volatile dynamics between U.S. President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky amid ongoing efforts to broker a ceasefire in the Russia-Ukraine war.

Zelmayev, speaking from the capital of Lesotho during a visit, described the situation as “chaotic and schizophrenic”, warning that Trump’s rush to secure a peace deal could jeopardise Ukraine’s survival and America’s global credibility.

Zelmayev pointed to a series of erratic moves by Trump that have left Ukraine in a precarious position. “It has been a chaotic and schizophrenic time where President Trump has threatened to withdraw military aid, and they put military aid on hold when they invited Zelensky for a dress down in the Oval Office, and then called Zelensky a dictator, and then even said that Ukraine started the war,” he said.

“I mean, this is all, let’s just put it pretty simply, it’s crazy.”

The analyst was referring to a contentious February 28 Oval Office meeting where Trump and Vice President JD Vance publicly clashed with Zelensky, accusing him of disrespect and gambling with millions of lives by resisting a swift peace deal.

Following the confrontation, the U.S. briefly suspended military aid and intelligence sharing with Ukraine, only restoring it after Kyiv agreed to a U.S.-proposed 30-day ceasefire during talks in Saudi Arabia earlier this month.

Trump’s subsequent claim that Ukraine initiated the conflict, a narrative echoing Putin’s revisionist rhetoric, further alarmed Kyiv and its allies.

Despite the tensions, Zelmayev emphasised Ukraine’s dependence on U.S. support. “Ukraine cannot afford to lose America as an ally. We have to be careful. We have to keep Trump happy somehow, right? And it’s been a delicate dance,” he said.

With Trump engaging in separate one-on-one diplomacy with both Putin and Zelensky, Zelmayev expressed cautious optimism that reason might prevail. “We’re hoping that at the end of the day, America will not want to squander its political capital, its reputation by letting Ukraine be eaten by Russia.”

Recent developments underscore the stakes. On March 18, Trump and Putin agreed during a phone call to pursue a limited ceasefire targeting energy and infrastructure strikes, a step short of the broader 30-day truce Ukraine had accepted.

However, Zelmayev dismissed Putin’s proposal as a stalling tactic. “He says, like, okay, great idea, but let’s talk about some more, and maybe we can do a 30-day moratorium on missile strikes against infrastructure, right? That’s what he proposed. It’s all bullshit, obviously, right?” he said.

“There’s a way for Putin to drag out the time and then accuse Ukraine of violating ceasefires. There’s so many tricks up his sleeve.”

Zelmayev’s skepticism aligns with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s own warnings. In a March 19 address, Zelensky noted that Russian forces launched 150 drones targeting energy facilities and hospitals overnight, even after Putin’s supposed agreement to halt such attacks, casting doubt on Moscow’s sincerity.

The analyst pinned much of the risk on Trump’s impatience, driven by his campaign promise to end the war in 24 hours and his apparent ambition to win a Nobel

Peace Prize.

“What’s playing against Ukraine and America’s side in this is Trump’s haste, his hurry to enter history books as the great pill’s peacemaker,” Zelmayev said. “And a war that’s going on for three years, I mean, it’s common sense. You cannot solve quickly, right? He has this belief that he’s got such magnetism about his personality, he’ll just sit down with Putin and he’ll, like, have a gentleman agreement.”

Zelmayev was scathing in his assessment of Putin’s reliability and Trump’s approach. “You cannot trust Putin in anything. He’s a liar, he’s a manipulator, he’s very cunning,” he said.

“Trump is, you know, he’s either naive or he just willfully ignores the reality.” As the war enters its fourth year, Zelmayev’s remarks highlight the high stakes of Trump’s diplomatic gamble, and the fears of those who see Ukraine’s fate hanging in the balance.

The Russia-Ukraine war began in February 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea, a part of Ukraine, following a controversial referendum. Tensions escalated as Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine’s Donbas region, specifically Donetsk and Luhansk, declared independence, sparking a conflict that reportedly killed over 14,000 people by 2022.

The situation dramatically worsened on February 24, 2022, when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, aiming to topple its government and asserting claims over Ukrainian territory based on historical and security pretexts.

Ukraine, supported by Western allies like the U.S. and NATO countries, has resisted fiercely, defending its sovereignty. Now in its fourth year, the war has caused massive displacement, economic disruption, and geopolitical strain, with ongoing efforts to negotiate peace complicated by mutual distrust and competing interests.

NDSO

NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANISATION

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Lesotho
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Fax: (+266) 2270 1340

Invitation for Supply and Delivery of Gym Equipment under Tender number NDSO/GYM-EQUIPMENT/2025/02

The National Drug Service Organisation invites bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of Gym Equipment as per specifications under **Section V** of the bidding document and the list of requirements. For this bid invitation, eligible bidders are those registered in the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa. The bidding document can be accessed on the NDSO official website @ <https://www.ndso.org.ls/>

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from:
National Drug Service Organization
Main South One Road
Mafeteng Lesotho
Tel: + 266 22215300
E-mail: tenders@ndso.org.ls



LerOTHOLI POLYTECHNIC

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

TOURISM TRAINING PROGRAMME

Assignment Title: Development of Training Manuals for Tourism Skills at Lerotholi Polytechnic

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to put forward a Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for the development of Training Manuals for Tourism Skills at Lerotholi Polytechnic. It is therefore necessary to invite and encourage local and international organizations which may show "Expressions of Interest" in working together with Lerotholi Polytechnic in its efforts to see this significant undertaking.

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Government of Lesotho (GOL), through Lerotholi Polytechnic (LP), has identified the need to develop a high-quality training programme with materials for critical Tourism and Hospitality skills. This initiative is aimed at equipping trainees with practical knowledge and competencies to succeed in Lesotho's growing tourism sector. The programme will align with Lerotholi Polytechnic's commitment to creating industry-ready graduates who can contribute to the country's strategic tourism goals. This initiative seeks to develop comprehensive training manuals that cover diverse tourism areas, focusing on practical skills and theoretical foundations. The manuals will prepare trainees to specialize in activities such as hiking, mountaineering, abseiling, fly fishing, bird watching, skiing, sports tourism, heritage site management, and Hospitality to name a few. It is on the basis of the above background that Lerotholi Polytechnic hereby announces an invitation for Expression of Interest from local and international companies in helping in development of the training manuals.

SCOPE OF WORK

The role of the Curriculum Development Expert is to work closely with Lerotholi Polytechnic to develop an integrated curriculum, training manuals, handbooks and to:

- Conduct a consultative workshop to enable stakeholders and development partners to make inputs on the proposed curriculum;
- Follow Lerotholi Polytechnic curriculum development guidelines;
- Align the curriculum with the Lesotho Qualifications Framework;
- Develop an integrated curriculum of short courses that respond to the needs of the country, with a provision of e-learning modules too.
- Develop comprehensive teaching/training manuals to be used by trainers, to build the capacity of industry service providers;
- Develop handbooks that will give trainees practical guidance in becoming players in the tourism sector;
- Make recommendations on how best the curricula can be delivered, including recommendations about the most effective training strategies, methodologies, and tools;

- To align the short courses with the changing nature of the discipline;
- To ensure that the short courses are still in line with the National Development Goals of Lesotho.

SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment involves the development of a training programme with manuals or materials in the following focus areas:

1. **Tour Guiding:** Practical and theoretical approaches to leading groups.
2. **Tour Operations:** Operational and logistical aspects of tour operating businesses.
3. **Event Management:** Organizing and managing tourism events.
4. **Hospitality Skills:** Customer service, food and beverage management, and accommodations.
5. **Specialized Activities:**
 - Hiking and mountaineering
 - Abselling and adventure sports
 - Fly fishing and bird watching
 - Skiing and other winter sports
 - Sports tourism
 - National monuments and cultural heritage management

The deliverables will serve as practical tools for learners, enabling them to become key players in Lesotho's tourism sector.

SHORTLISTING CRITERIA

Interested consultants/firms must demonstrate expertise in tourism training and manual development. The criteria for shortlisting are as follows:

1. Evidence of business registration and a valid trader's license.
2. Valid tax clearance from the relevant authority.
3. Proof of current registration with relevant professional tourism or educational bodies.
4. Demonstrated experience in curriculum or training manual development in tourism or related fields.
5. Evidence of similar assignments completed within the past 5 years, including references.
6. Technical and managerial capacity, including an organogram or narrative of key personnel.
7. A detailed cost proposal with clear identification of all costs.
8. Knowledge of Lesotho's tourism sector will be an added advantage.
9. Among its personnel, there should be local Basotho experts with the knowledge of regional tourism.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in written form in five (5) hard copies (one original and four copies) in a sealed envelope clearly labelled: **"Expression of Interest – Development of Training Manuals for Tourism at Lerotholi Polytechnic"** Submissions must be delivered in person to the Procurement Manager's Office on or before **30th April 2025 at 12:00 noon**. Submissions by email are also accepted on this email address: procurement@lp.ac.ls. For further details, please contact: Procurement Manager Lerotholi Polytechnic, P. O. Box 16 Matsoatlareng, Maseru Email:mokoenan@lp.ac.ls/ procurement@lp.ac.ls/neotlebere@gmail.com

DISCLAIMER

Lerotholi Polytechnic is not committed contractually in any way to those applicants who will be shortlisted and invited to submit their proposals. The issue of this Request for EOI does not commit or otherwise oblige Lerotholi Polytechnic to proceed with any part or steps of the process. Whilst the information contained in this Request for EOI has been formulated with all due care, Lerotholi Polytechnic does not warrant or represent that the information is free from errors or omissions. The information is made available on the understanding that Lerotholi Polytechnic and its respective employees and agents, shall have no liability (including liability by reason of negligence) for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred or arising by reason of any person using or relying on the information and whether caused by reason of any error, omission or misrepresentation in the information or otherwise.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Late applications will not be accepted. Any application that is not received in full by the closing time and date shall not be considered. Where an application is received by post after the closing time and date, the applicant may need to satisfy the Lerotholi Polytechnic that all the required information was posted or lodged at a Post Office or other recognised delivery agency at a time that should reasonably have allowed delivery before the closing time and date. Applications sent by email and not completely received by the closing time and date shall not be considered. Applicants will be advised in writing whether they are to be shortlisted for submission of proposals or were unsuccessful. An unsuccessful applicant will not be provided with information specifically comparing its application with those of other applicants. No rating data will be provided.



The Kingdom of Lesotho
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project

Vacancy

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSN) has just started implementation of the Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project (WaMCoP), which is a 7 years project that covers the 10 districts of Lesotho. The project is financed by the Government of Lesotho, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), OPEC Fund for International Development, Global Environment Facility and beneficiary's contributions. The projects overall goal is to increase the economic and climate resilience of wool and mohair value chain stakeholders, with emphasis on wool and mohair farmers' livelihoods, including women and youth. The MAFSN has established the key positions of the project coordination unit and would like to make a call to the relevant professionals for the following additional positions:

1. **Position:** Assistant Monitoring &Evaluation Officer
Duty Station: Maseru, Lesotho
Reports to: Monitoring &Evaluation officer
Number of positions: 1

Job Summary
The Assistant M&E Officer will support the M&E Officer in all data collection, analysis, and learning activities to help ensure accountability and efficiency of the project implementation for the Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project (WaMCoP). The incumbent will provide technical field support to the M&E unit and liaise with all beneficiary project departments engaging in the WaMCoP. The Assistant M&E Officer will work closely with technical offices (Livestock Production and Business Development) to assess field conditions, support capacity building initiatives, and facilitate the collection of quality data under the supervision of the M&E Officer.

- Duties and Responsibilities**
1. Program management Support
 - 1.1 Support all M&E initiatives for assigned project, including monitoring data quality, tracking progress of activities, and contributing to staff capacity building initiatives as necessary.
 2. **System Development**
 - 2.1 Support in creating framework and procedures for the monitoring and evaluation of project activities
 - 2.2 Support in defining and implementing key performance indicators as well as monitoring them throughout the duration of the projects.
 - 2.3 Assist in proposing strategies to increase data use, communication and M&E culture
 - 2.4 Support project staff and other stakeholders on ways to properly document, organize and capture project progress
 - 2.5 Draft tools and their revisions as well as data collection procedures under the supervision of the M&E Officer (e.g. logical framework, project performance tracking, indicators, data flow chart, M&E manuals)
 - 2.6 Support in the development of the management information systems.

3. **Data Management and Analysis**
 - 3.1 Keep abreast of developments in project changes and progress in order to advise and recommend tools and strategies to increase project performance and results
 - 3.2 Suggest ways to facilitate data collection and flow of data within project components
 - 3.3 Identify strengths and weaknesses in existing data collection and management systems and propose solutions along with the M&E Officer
 - 3.4 Perform regular field visits to ensure quality of data collected by project field staff and verify accuracy of reported data
 - 3.5 Analyse changes and patterns in key performance indicators data and performance reports in order to support project beneficiaries

- 3.6 Supports data queries to ensure accurate and timely presentation and submission of required data.
- 3.7 Support and participate in project evaluations.

4. **Communication and Reporting**
 - 4.1 Support M&E Officer in preparing required reports for timely submission.
 - 4.2 Assist project stakeholders in developing log frames, M&E work plans, and targets throughout project implementation
 - 4.3 Review and analyse periodic reports (weekly, monthly, quarterly, bi-annual and annual) with the M&E Officer to identify the causes of potential bottlenecks in project implementation and to enhance quality of reporting.
 - 4.4 Collaborat with stakeholders in reviewing and preparing monthly, quarterly and final narrative and financial reports.

Qualification and Experience
Bachelor's degree in Economics, Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation Plus minimum of 3 years in a similar position

- Skills and Competencies**
- Capacity to produce high-quality briefs and reports in English
 - Proficiency in Ms Project, Ms Excel and any other quantitative data analysis tool
 - Ability to design M&E tools, surveys, surveillance systems, and evaluations
 - Demonstrated ability to train and build capacity of others
 - Cultural sensitivity and flexibility are desired characteristics.
 - Excellent command of both Sesotho and English language
 - Experience with Development Partner project implementation i.e IFAD, OPEC, and GEF is desirable.

Mode and Duration of Contract
The duration of the assignment will be three years, renewable depending on satisfactory performance.

2. **Position:** Assistant Procurement Officer
Report to: Procurement and Contracts Manager
Duty Station: Maseru
Number of positions: 1

Job Summary:
Under the supervision of Procurement and Contracts Manager, the Procurement Assistant will be responsible for assisting with planning, coordinating, executing and delivering project procurement function consistent with the agreed project procurement arrangement with quality and efficiency. The project follows IFAD Procurement Guidelines and procedures as stated in the Financing Agreement. Duties and responsibilities

- Ensure that the procurement function is delivered with the agreed requirements, and procedures stipulated in the agreements entered in by the Government of Lesotho and IFAD.
- Assist in the compilation of the requirements of different user departments to enable preparation of annual procurement plans
- Prepare bidding documents, evaluation reports and draft contracts using IFAD standard bidding documents;
- Prepare procurement plan and Uploads all procurement documents in the OPEN system for IFAD review and keeping the Contract Monitoring Tool updated;
- Participate in relevant tender committee meetings and assist with the preparation of com-

- mittee reports;
- Solicit quotations from Suppliers for national and international shopping procurement methods;
- Prepare advertisements for the local and international newspapers pertaining to active procurement activities;
- Support safekeep and confidentiality of all procurement documents, including bids/quotations/ proposals received, various securities.
- Take part in evaluation of quotations /bids and prepare draft evaluation reports for review by the Procurement and Contracts Manager;
- Fill in the requisition forms and initiate preparation of purchase orders to commence contractual relationship with the selected Supplier;
- Inspect the goods delivered in consultations with the user department to ensure that the supplier has satisfied its contractual obligations, and the goods delivered are in accordance with the agreed specifications;
- Keep track of various contractual deliverables from the suppliers/contract/consultants and send reminder as needed
- Guide the user departments on how to prepare terms of reference for consultancy services;
- Track payment to suppliers/contract/consultant against all contracts and follow up on delays in payments
- Maintain the contract register and regularly update the same with monitoring data on progress of all contracts;
- Liaise with user departments, bid evaluation committees, procurement staff of MAFSN and other stakeholders for smooth conduct of procurement functions
- Participate in procurement audits and reviews of the Project;

Qualification and Experience
Degree in Business Management Studies/ Business Administration/ Supply Chain Management/ Procurement. CIPS Advanced Diploma Certificate is an added advantage
Have a minimum of 3 years dealing with procurement of civil works, goods, and services, and award of contracts.

- Skills and Competencies**
- Planning and organizing skills
 - Effective Communication & negotiation skills
 - Results oriented
 - A high level of interpersonal skills and ability to work with teams.

Mode and Duration of Contract
The duration of the assignment will be three years, renewable depending on satisfactory performance.

SUBMISSION
Interested candidates' applications should be accompanied by detailed CVs, certified copies of national identity document, educational certificates and transcripts and be delivered to the address below not later than **18 April 2025 At 16:00hrs**
The Director Human Resources
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
80 Constitution Road
P.O. Box 24
Maseru 100

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Thabo Moleko (Mr.)
Principal Secretary - MAFSN



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

- 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 standards
- Be part of the organization's procurement structures and ensure compliance thereto with applicable policies
- Reconcile any discrepancies or errors identified by conversing with employees/or clients.
- Conducts spot checks to review compliance of the various departments to WLSA policy
- Collect and enter data for financial spreadsheets on a weekly basis
- Coordinate 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

- Associate Degree in finance, Accounting or related-field
- Honesty and strong commitment, Accuracy in record checking
- Ability to work as part of the team
- Demonstrated skills and competencies on confidentiality
- Knowledge of accounting packages
- Knowledge of advance excel
- Planning, budgeting and organization skills
- Ability of speak English and Sesotho
- IT skill including MS Office and Accounting application including software are mandatory
- Communication
- Interpersonal
- Experience of 5 years in NGO field and budgeting and reporting for donors will be an added advantage.

Interested candidates should send an application letter, Up-dated 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**

ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED.



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

Road Users are informed of Toll Gate Fees increase at all Ports of Entry, effective 01 April 2025

Class	Local Registered Vehicles / Foreign Registered Vehicles	Old Fees	New Fees
Class 1 Motor Cycle and Light Vehicle designed or adopted for conveyance of people or freight with no heavy axle	Local Registered Vehicles	M65.00	M70.00
	Foreign Registered Vehicles	M90.00	M100.00
Class 2 Medium Heavy Vehicles designed or adopted for conveyance of people or freight with heavy axle	Local Registered Vehicles	M110.00	M120.00
	Foreign Registered Vehicles	M150.00	M165.00
Class 3 Large Heavy Vehicles designed or adopted for conveyance of people or freight with 3 axle	Local Registered Vehicles	M160.00	M175.00
	Foreign Registered Vehicles	M270.00	M300.00
Class 4 Extra Large Heavy Vehicles designed or adopted for conveyance of people or freight with 4 or more axle	Local Registered Vehicles	M390.00	M420.00
	Foreign Registered Vehicles	M580.00	M650.00

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MZANSI YOUNG FARMERS INDABA

1-2 APRIL 2025

POWERED BY FOOD FOR MZANSI

SEAHOLO

we grow together

Re Itokisetsa

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

Dates: 1-2 April 2025

Venue: Lavender Kontrei Market, Pretoria North, Garden of Eatin'

Package 1: 6000

Package 2: 10000

Includes:

-Entry and Exit

-Event Entry

-Transport

-3 x nights

-50+ Exhibitions

-6+ Masterclasses

-Funding Opportunities

-Entry and Exit

Limited to 1000

NO pre-booking

-A 10% discount for

Masterclasses

Standing Opportunities

Registration: M500

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Discover new ways to grow your farming business.

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Newsday

Writers Space Africa-Lesotho ignites literary revival



Fusi Hlaoli

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

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

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

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

The campaign will kick off on March

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

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

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

The #Hloekisa Lesotho campaign places a strong emphasis on youth involvement, evident in their slogan: "Bacha, Bohloeki Ba Tikoloho Ea Rona Bo Matso-

hong a Rona!" (Youth, the cleanliness of our environment is in our hands!).

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

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

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

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

Nyakane emphasised.

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

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

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

Women MPs urge state of emergency over GBV crisis

Ntsoaki Motaung



Gvernemnt Ministers and Members of the Women's caucus at the press conference where the Prime Minister was called to declare state of emergency in response to GBV in the country.

The Parliament Women's Caucus has called on Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane to declare a state of emergency in response to the alarming rise in gender-based violence (GBV), including the brutal killings of women and children and incidents of rape.

Chairperson of the caucus, 'Makatlheho Motsoasele, said the group felt compelled to issue a strong statement condemning these atrocities while acknowledging that men and boys are also victims of GBV.

"We come together to denounce these horrific acts. Every day, we hear of a

woman or child being brutally murdered, whether by throat-slitting, gun violence, or severe beatings. In most cases, the perpetrators are their own partners," she said.

Motsoasele revealed that the caucus investigated the root causes of GBV and identified stress, drug abuse, and emotional distress as major contributing factors.

She emphasised that while Parliament has passed laws such as the Counter Domestic Violence Act of 2022 and the Sexual Offences Act of 2003, enforcement re-

mains a challenge.

"After laws are enacted, they are handed over to other stakeholders for implementation. However, it is still our duty, through oversight, to ensure they are being enforced effectively," she said.

Motsoasele added that the caucus has been particularly shaken by a recent case in which women carried the body of a murdered woman to the graveyard and buried her themselves. The victim was allegedly killed by her partner, a member of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) based in TY, Berea.

"To us, this act sent a powerful message: women no longer trust their male partners or spouses," she stated.

She also criticised the decline of traditional Basotho values in raising children, citing the proverb "thupa e otolloa e sale metsi" (a stick is straightened while still wet), implying that discipline and moral guidance in early childhood are essential in preventing violent behaviours later in life.

Concerns over how bail is granted in GBV cases were also raised.

'Mamokete Ntšekhe, a member of both the Women's Caucus and the Law and Public Safety Cluster, revealed that the committee is working extensively on the Bail Bill.

"For years, bail decisions have been made under various laws, but without an independent Bail Act. The Ministry of Law and Justice has now tabled a draft bill, consultations with the nation have been conducted, and Basotho's views will be incorporated before the bill is debated in the National Assembly," she said.

Minister of Gender, Youth, and Social Development Pitso Lesaoana acknowledged that while both men and women are victims of GBV, women and girls remain the most affected.

He highlighted various government efforts to combat GBV, including participation in global agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and collaboration with the Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU).

"We have helplines 116 and 112 for reporting GBV cases. Additionally, through a partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), we are running the Male Engage Initiative, which educates men on respecting women," he said.

Minister of Law and Justice Richard Ramoetsi revealed shocking GBV statistics, with Mafeteng recording the highest number of cases between March 2024 and March 2025.

- Mafeteng: 125 cases (45 prosecuted, 29 ongoing, 18 withdrawn).
- Qacha's Nek: 51 cases (21 prosecuted, 19 ongoing, 2 withdrawn).
- Mohale's Hoek & Quthing: 49 cases each.

Ramoetsi highlighted a recent case in Mohale's Hoek, where a man was convicted of murdering two women from Qalakheng and sentenced to 40 years in each case, meaning 80 years in prison.

"This shows that our courts are now listening to the public's concerns," he said.

Minister of Home Affairs, Local Government, and Police Lebona Lephema stressed that while GBV advocacy often focuses on women, some cases also involve female perpetrators, particularly in child marriage and human trafficking.

He revealed that the police department is launching a 'Dog Squad' initiative to combat drug abuse, a known contributor to GBV.

"This initiative will help identify and crack down on drug dealers, reducing one of the major triggers of GBV," he said.

Another customer enriched by Econet

Seabata Mahao



In a heartwarming gesture to give back to the community and show appreciation for its loyal customers, Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) recently presented a cheque worth M200, 000 to Ntsoaki Paulina Thaane, as the third major cash prize winner of the ongoing Baso200 campaign.

Launched on November 29, as part of the nationwide celebrations marking Lesotho's bicentennial, the Baso200 campaign was designed to reward ETL's valued customers with incredible prizes while delivering unmatched value to new subscribers.

The initiative reflects the company's ongoing commitment to enriching the lives of Basotho through innovative and meaningful initiatives.

At the handover event, Retšilisitsoe Nkhahle, Public Relations and Customer

Experience Specialist at ETL, highlighted the company's continued dedication to giving back to the community.

"As Econet, we didn't hold back. We saw it fit to celebrate this day by appreciating the people who have supported us over the years. That is why we dedicated a remarkable M200, 000 prize for the winner of this campaign to say thank you to the Basotho people," Nkhahle shared.

He also urged everyone to participate in the campaign, emphasizing the potential for life-changing opportunities.

"This initiative is our way of transforming our customers' lives for the better, giving back to them in a meaningful and stylish way," Nkhahle added. "I urge all Basotho to join the Econet family to unlock incredible benefits and stand a chance to

win life-changing prizes."

A visibly excited and overwhelmed Thaane expressed her deep gratitude to ETL for the opportunity.

"I am deeply grateful to ETL for this amazing opportunity. Winning M200, 000 is life-changing for me and my family," she shared with emotion.

She also encouraged others to join the campaign and stay alert to the exciting opportunities offered by Econet's initiatives.

"I didn't even hope that I would win. But now, I am overwhelmed with joy, and I want to advise everyone to join the competition and be part of the amazing opportunities that Econet offers."

Thaane is the third winner of the Baso200 campaign, following the earlier

wins of Makaete Grace from Butha-Buthe and Ntsie Mafatle from Maseru Lithabang.

The Baso200 campaign continues to be a significant milestone in ETL's mission to reward customers and strengthen its bond with the Basotho community.

It serves as a testament to the company's focus on local empowerment and the lasting positive impact it aims to create. By the end of the campaign, many Basotho are set to benefit from the extraordinary prizes and opportunities being offered.

As the campaign unfolds, participants are encouraged to get involved and unlock remarkable rewards, with the potential for more life-changing prizes in the near future.



SPORTS

Seabata Mahao

National football team coach, Leslie Notši, has expressed frustration with the lack of luck following their recent 1-1 draw with Rwanda in the 2026 World Cup qualifier. Likuena midfielder, Lehlohonolo Fothoane, leveled the score in the 81st minute after coming on in the second half on Tuesday this week. Rwanda had taken the lead in the 58th minute through Jojea Kwizer’s strike. Reacting to the draw, Notši explained that the team came into the match well-prepared, given the limited number of crucial games left to determine their fate for next year’s World Cup.

“Our players made a positive outlook in the right way to lose against the South African group. We had opportunities to win the match, but luck was not on our side,” Notši stated.

On the other hand, Rwandan coach, Adel Amrouche, expressed satisfaction with his team’s performance, despite initially expecting a win.

“We won the first leg against Lesotho, so I believe the players were relaxed in the second leg, hence we drew with them,” Amrouche said.

During the match, Motlomelo Mkwanazi was shown a yellow card for a foul. Several substitutions were made, with Keketso Snyder replacing Hlompho Kalake, Thabo Matšoele replacing Lehlohonolo Matsau, Katleho Makateng replacing Lemohang Lintša, and Fusi Matlabe replacing Rethabile Rasethuntša.

The match was intensely contested from the start, with both teams attacking and defending vigorously. However, they ultimately shared the spoils, drawing 1-1.

In their previous campaign against South Africa, Likuena lost 2-0 in an away match.

Last Friday’s match saw the Notši -

Luck was not on our side - Notši



Likuena Head Coach, Leslie Nots'i

coached side frustrate the hosts throughout the first half, which ended goalless. However, the home team’s dominance finally paid off in the second half, with Rel-ebophile Mofokeng breaking the deadlock in the 60th minute. Four minutes later, Bafana Bafana doubled their lead through Jayden Adams.

Despite Lesotho’s efforts to absorb the pressure, they were unable to pose any significant threat to the hosts until the final whistle.

Currently, Likuena sits in fifth place with six points in Group C of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

In the Group C standings, South Africa leads with 13 points, while Rwanda is in second with eight points.

Likuena’s upcoming fixtures include a home match against South Africa on September 1, 2025, followed by an away match against Benin on September 8,

2025. They will then host Nigeria on October 6, 2025, and Zimbabwe on October 13, 2025.

Likuena is in Group C alongside South Africa, Benin, Rwanda, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe.

With the World Cup qualification on the line, Likuena now faces a daunting task if they are to secure a spot in the 2026 tournament, which will be co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Although mathematically possible for the lower-ranked teams in Group C to qualify, this would require them to collect enough points in their remaining matches while hoping for poor performances from those at the top.

Likuena’s chances of qualifying for their first-ever World Cup have significantly diminished after this weekend’s loss and draw. Achieving their maiden World Cup berth now appears increasingly unlikely.

Kick4Life sends Jobo to Nigeria



Puseletso Jobo jets off to Nigeria

Puseletso Jobo, a senior striker for Kick4Life Ladies Football Club (FC), has jetted off to Ibadan, Nigeria, where she will pursue a Master of Science (MSc) Degree in Sports Management and Policy at the Pan African University, Life and Earth Sciences Institute (PAULESI).

Jobo is not only a star on the field but also an administration trainee at Kick4Life Social Enterprise. She secured a fully funded scholarship that will enable her to complete the two-year Master’s Degree.

This opportunity comes after her hard work and dedication at Kick4Life, where she plays as a striker in the Senior Women’s team, serves as a life skills coach under the Lesotho United Programme, and has trained as an Academy Admin Assistant and a Front of House server in the No.7 Restaurant under Kick4Life’s Fit4Work and Play Programme.

Known for her goal-scoring prowess, Jobo was the top scorer in the Lesotho Women’s Super League (WSL) during her first season with Kick4Life in 2022/23. This outstanding achievement earned her the Fans’ Favourite Player award at the prestigious Ladies in a Men-Dominated Game event.

Jobo’s impact goes beyond the pitch. While honing her football skills, she is also acquiring valuable administrative experience, making her more employable and shaping a promising future. In a recent interview with Kick4Life’s Communications and Marketing team, Jobo shared insights into her journey.

In addition to her work in administration, Jobo serves as a character development facilitator and a life skills coach for Kick4Life’s Girls United program. This initiative empowers girls and young women with sexual and reproductive health education, knowledge of their rights, and tools to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

In his address, Kick4Life’s Country Director, Motlatsi Nkhahle, said “Jobo has worked very hard to earn this opportunity and has been a committed member of Kick4Life in various capacities, becoming an inspirational role model for young people in Lesotho.”

“We wish her all the very best as she embarks on this next step in her journey, and look forward to hearing of more successes, on and off the pitch.

“Our objective extends beyond merely cultivating players. By embedding positive values, encouraging a service-oriented mindset, and advocating for a growth-oriented approach, we are pleased to assist Puseletso and other young individuals from Basotho in this transformative experience,” Nkhahle added.

Kick4Life is dedicated to leveraging sports as a means of fostering social change, empowering its participants in various aspects of life, both on and off the field. Initiatives such as Fit4Work and Play serve to connect the realms of sports and employment, enabling young individuals like Jobo to unlock their full potential and create more promising futures.

Lesotho hosts over-40 women's netball tourney

Kananelo Mokhele

Lesotho is set to welcome seasoned netball players as it hosts the prestigious Women’s International Over-40 Netball Tournament this weekend.

The highly anticipated two-day event will take place at the Maseru Club and the National Teacher Training College (NTTC), starting today and concluding on Saturday.

The tournament aims to promote active aging and encourage lifelong participation in sports. Lesotho, as the host nation, will be represented by four teams, competing against teams from neighboring Botswana and South Africa.

Botswana will send two teams, while South Africa will have a strong presence with multiple teams representing all nine provinces. With a total of 36 teams participating, the event promises to be a thrilling display of skill, experience, and sportsmanship.

Speaking at the launch, acting CEO of Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission (LSRC), ‘Malitsietsi Zwakala, emphasised the significance of such tournaments in fostering recreational sports.

She encouraged other national federations to introduce similar Over-40 competitions to keep former athletes engaged in the sport and promote a healthy lifestyle.

The tournament will officially kick off with an opening ceremony on Friday, set-

ting the stage for two days of intense yet friendly competition. Netball enthusiasts and sports lovers are encouraged to come out in large numbers to support the teams and witness a unique showcase of talent, teamwork, and passion for the game.

Participating Teams

Maseru Legends One

- **Team Manager:** Mary Mokoatle
- **Coach:** Mamonehela Mahao
- **Assistant Coach:** Ninile Mabatho-ana

Players:

- o Matsepo Sooko
- o Mamolupe Pitso
- o Matsepo Musi
- o Malekanyane Qhalasi
- o Malechesa Matete
- o Rethablle Moahloli
- o Motebang Napo
- o Makutloano Mofolo
- o Anna Shale

Maseru Legends Two

- **Team Manager:** Mabasia Mphafi
- **Coach:** Hlakane Mathabiso
- **Assistant Coach:** Sheila Moluo

Players:

- o Malesenyeho Matsepe
- o Marethabile Sepiriti
- o Makarabo Nkholise
- o Mamajaki Tjabane
- o Mamakebe Moshoeshoe
- o Mampiti Mafeke
- o Konosoang Seetane
- o Manteboheleng Moima

- o Mapaballo Maloi
- o Marethabile Mohanoe
- o Matsikane Khali
- o Mankoatsane Scout

Maseru Legends Three

- **Team Manager:** Palesa Molise
- **Coach:** Neo Mokone
- **Assistant Coach:** Kandase Jele

Players:

- o Nthabiseng Phokojoe
- o Makhoabane Mafooa
- o Tsepisio Matsie
- o Nyakallo Sehloho
- o Mpho Matla
- o Mantsoti Penane
- o Madasine Ntsane
- o Maphiri Mafatlane
- o Maneo Alotsi
- o Mapoloko Machabe

Maseru Legends Four

- **Team Manager:** Mathapelo Tsoenyo
- **Coach:** Thabang Monese
- **Assistant Coach:** Lesimole Molet-sane

Players:

- o Ivy Mapitsi
- o Matebatso Phate
- o Malefa Kotelo
- o Mamoitheri Matekane
- o Makatleho Qekisi
- o Lineo Tseeiso
- o Mokhollane Mabuthlezi
- o Lemohang Mahao
- o Palesa Ntsane



LeFA pins hopes on FIFA

Seabata Mahao

Having failed to lodge a formal protest within the required timeframe, the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) is now pinning its hopes on FIFA's intervention following a controversial incident in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers match between Likuena and South Africa's Bafana Bafana on March 21.

The issue centers around South Africa's fielding of an ineligible player, Teboho Mokoena, and LeFA is calling on FIFA to take decisive action to uphold the integrity of the competition.

Mokoena should have been suspended from the match due to an accumulation of yellow cards. According to FIFA's regulations, any player who receives two yellow cards—whether in a single match or over two separate matches within the same competition—is automatically suspended from their team's next match.

Mokoena, having met the criteria, was ineligible to play in the game between the two teams.

However, LeFA's ability to protest the incident was hampered by time constraints. FIFA's rules state that any protests regarding player eligibility must be submitted to the FIFA Match Commissioner within two hours of the match, with a full written report to be sent to FIFA's Disciplinary Committee within 24 hours.

Unfortunately, LeFA missed this critical window and was unable to file the complaint within the prescribed timeframe.

Despite missing the window for an official protest, LeFA has not given up on seeking justice. The association recently sent a formal enquiry letter to FIFA, urging the global governing body to address the situation.

LeFA's Secretary General, Mokhosi Mohapi, emphasised that the issue goes beyond the eligibility of a single player; it is about enforcing FIFA's established regulations and ensuring fairness in the competition.

"There is a FIFA regulation that requires a country to initiate a process, but there is another that obligates the competition organisers to enforce automatic suspensions," Mohapi explained.

"The organisers of the competition are the only body that can impose such suspensions, and we are seeking their intervention to ensure that the rules are enforced properly."

Mohapi also clarified the strict nature of FIFA's protest procedures, pointing out that any protest regarding player eligibility must be lodged within tight time limits.



LeFA Secretary General, Mokhosi Mohapi

"If a protest is not submitted within the required two-hour window to the match commissioner and the 24 hours to FIFA, it will be disregarded," he added.

LeFA has emphasised that, as a fully affiliated FIFA member, it is committed to upholding the principles of fair play and ensuring that FIFA's regulations are applied equally to all teams.

"We are asking FIFA to uphold the principles of fair play consistently, as they have in similar cases in the past," said Mohapi.

"If FIFA has previously deducted points for similar violations, we trust that they will apply the same approach here."

Mokhosi echoed these sentiments in a statement, reiterating the association's

stance.

"We are merely asking FIFA to enforce its regulations and maintain consistency in applying its disciplinary measures. As a legitimate member of FIFA, we have a responsibility to protect the integrity of the sport and ensure that fair play is upheld, regardless of who the perpetrator may be."



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