



Penya *199#_Khetha 5 Ho Patala

Ho Na le Melaoana Le Lipehelo

Simplified Payments. Everyday. Everywhere

Sasai
ECONET
Financial Services

Newsday

...pacing standards

20 June - 26 June, 2025

www.newsdayonline.co.ls

Vol 07 No 19

M6.00

News

Youth disaster not official yet

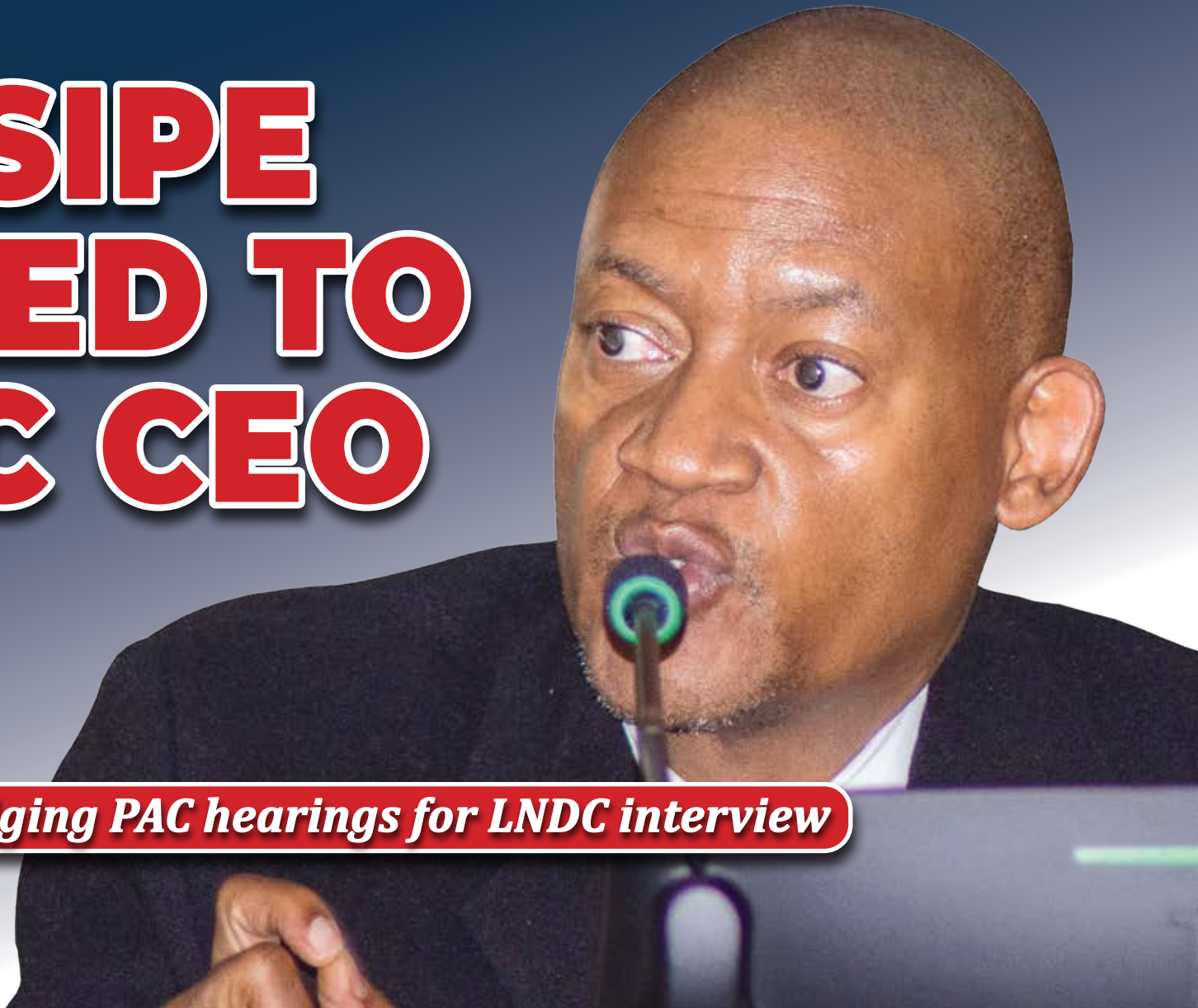
Page 2

Sports

Player shake-up looms at Lioli

Page 16

KHASIPE LINKED TO LNDC CEO BID



... Accused of dodging PAC hearings for LNDC interview

Page 3



Multiplex Industries
celebrates 10 years of existence

Powered by You for a decade

Youth disaster not official yet

Ntsoaki Motaung

Despite Prime Minister Sam Matekane publicly declaring this week that youth unemployment is a national crisis, *Newsday* can confirm that Lesotho is not yet legally under a state of disaster.

Speaking during a national dialogue on youth unemployment held on Wednesday in Maseru at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre, Matekane said the government views the issue as a crisis requiring urgent action.

"Let us remember that jobs are created by businesses and investors. The main responsibility of the government is to create a level playing field," Matekane said.

"Unemployment, especially among young people — the government sees it as a crisis. As a result, the Cabinet, on the advice of the DMA, has decided to declare that youth unemployment is a disaster. Relevant ministries are already working to ensure that there is a legal declaration so that the work can start."

He also called on young people to propose solutions: "Give us ideas on how to approach this issue so that we can overcome the disaster we are faced with."

Following the Prime Minister's remarks, the Government of Lesotho posted on its official social media platforms that: "The Cabinet, with the advice of the Disaster Management Authority (DMA), has decided to declare youth unemployment as a disaster."

However, under Section 3 of the Disaster Management Act of 1997, a state of disaster must be formally declared by the Prime Minister on the advice of the DMA Board and must be published in the Government Gazette to take legal effect.

"If at any time it appears to the Prime Minister, on the advice of the Board, that any disaster in any area is of such a nature and extent that exceptional measures are necessary to assist and protect the public of such area or that circumstances are likely to arise making such measures necessary, he may declare that with effect from a date specified by him in such declaration, a state of disaster exists within the area defined in such declaration and such declaration shall be published in the Gazette," the law states.

It adds: "The declaration of a state of disaster shall remain in force for a specific period as set out in the declaration and may be extended accordingly."

Newsday's efforts to verify whether Lesotho is officially under a state of disaster following Prime Minister Sam Matekane's public declaration have revealed that no legal declaration has been made, as required by law.

Authorities who spoke to *Newsday* clarified: "We are not under a state of disaster yet. There are processes that need to be followed before such a declaration can be published in the Government Gazette. Until that happens, we cannot determine the duration or legal effect of something that does not yet officially exist."

According to the Act, once a state of disaster is legally declared, the Chief Executive of



the DMA is required to prepare a National Disaster Relief Plan. This plan must be agreed upon by the Board and approved by the Cabinet before it can be implemented and maintained.

Additionally, each District Secretary must prepare a corresponding District Disaster Relief Plan for their area, also

subject to approval by the DMA Chief Executive.

The law further mandates that: "During a state of disaster, the Chief Executive shall prepare a Post-Disaster Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan and, following its agreement by the Board and approval by the Cabinet, shall implement and maintain that plan at national and district levels as appropriate."

However, *Newsday* has learned that none of these required documents, the National Disaster Relief Plan or District Disaster Relief Plans, are currently available, further confirming that the legal and administrative framework necessary to support the declaration has not yet been put in place.

Youth organisations hail declaration of unemployment as national disaster

In a statement released yesterday, a co-

Unemployment, especially among young people – the government sees it as a crisis...

alition of youth organisations in Lesotho welcomed "the Prime Minister's declaration of youth unemployment as a national disaster", crediting sustained advocacy, peaceful mobilisation, and legal action led by young people for the landmark decision.

"This declaration is a direct result of

the united voice of young people from civil society organisations, political party youth leagues, and individuals who came together to demand a bold and lawful action under the Disaster Management Act of 1997," the youth said.

"With over 48.8% of the youth unemployed, this crisis has claimed lives, dignity, and hope; but today we reclaim the narrative. This is not just a policy win, it is a declaration of truth," they added.

They further noted that youth unemployment has, for years, been a silent catastrophe, shattering futures through mental illness, poverty, drug abuse, crime, and hopelessness.

Now, they said, it has been officially recognised as a national disaster, one that warrants urgent attention, allocation of resources, and structured recovery efforts.

"We thank the Office of the Prime Minister for hearing the cries of young people and responding to our call. We also honour every young person who stood up, spoke out, and marched forward with courage and conviction. To the youth of Lesotho, this is your victory. To the government, this is just the beginning — not the end," the statement read.

They added that they now anticipate the development of a comprehensive Disaster Management Plan, including Disaster Relief Measures and a Youth Rehabilitation and Recovery Strategy, in accordance with Sections 5, 6, and 7 of the Disaster Management Act.

Youth unemployment a major concern — Finance Minister

When delivering the 2025/2026 Budget Speech earlier this year, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, highlighted youth unemployment as one of Lesotho's most pressing challenges.

"I wish to bring to your attention a significant challenge that our country is confronting — youth unemployment," she said.

Citing the 2024 Labour Force Survey, Matlanyane revealed alarming statistics that underscored the urgent need for intervention. Of the 760,230 Basotho aged 15 to 35, approximately 145,087 are currently unemployed.

"This figure is striking. Nearly 39 percent of our youth actively looking for work are unable to secure a job. This situation represents more than just numbers; it reflects postponed aspirations, unfulfilled potential, and futures that remain uncertain," she said.

The Minister expressed particular concern over the gender disparity in youth unemployment. While the overall youth unemployment rate is 38.9 percent, young women face a higher rate of 40.8 percent, compared to 37.1 percent for young men.

"This gender disparity reflects deeper structural issues that we must address," she added.

She also pointed to the low youth labour force participation rate, which stands at just 31.48 percent, meaning that only about one-third of the youth are employed or actively seeking work.

"This implies that many of our young people have become discouraged, with over 226,857 having given up looking for work altogether," Matlanyane noted.

Despite the sobering figures, she emphasised that opportunities exist within the challenge. The Minister highlighted that while the formal sector currently employs only 87,849 people, the informal sector accounts for 461,873 jobs.

"This picture suggests there is significant room for expanding job creation within the formal economy, particularly through private sector-led growth in emerging sectors," she said.

Matlanyane called for a multi-sectoral approach to create meaningful employment opportunities for young people, especially women, and to harness their potential in driving Lesotho's economic transformation.

Newsday (+266) 2231 4267/ 5945 8983

Carlton Centre
3rd Floor
Room 302
Kingsway
Maseru

PUBLISHER
Newsday Media (Pty) (Ltd)
Maseru

MANAGING EDITOR
Lerato Matheka
managingeditor@newsdayonline.co.ls

NEWS EDITOR
Kananelo Boloetse
editor@newsdayonline.co.ls

SUB EDITOR
Bereng Mpaki

NEWS ROOM
Ntsoaki Motaung
Seabata Mahao
Relebohile Makhetha
Kabelo Masoabi
Thoboloko Nišonyane
INTERNS
Palesa Moloinyane
Karabo Ramathe

CONTRIBUTORS
Theko Tlebere
Motsamai Mokotjo

PRODUCTION
Bolokang Mahlo
Bataung Monaheng

VIDEOGRAPHER
Khosi Matheka

DISTRIBUTION
Tumisang Motsamai

MARKETING
Tefah Sello
Mosa Lekhooa
Tumelo Ramofoane
marketing@newsdayonline.co.ls

WEBSITE
www.newsdayonline.co.ls

FACEBOOK
Newsday Newspaper LS
X
@LsNewsday

INSTAGRAM
Newsday Lesotho

PRINTER
Thabure Media Group
Maseru, Lesotho

Khasipe linked to LNDC CEO bid

... Accused of dodging PAC hearings for LNDC interview

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) Chairperson Thabo Khasipe has come under scrutiny from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for allegedly misleading Parliament about his whereabouts on Tuesday, this week.

Khasipe had reportedly asked to be excused from the PAC's afternoon session that day, citing a doctor's appointment.

However, PAC member Thabiso Lekitla on Wednesday challenged that explanation, alleging that Khasipe had instead attended an interview at the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), possibly for the position of Chief Executive Officer, which was advertised towards the end of last year.

Pressed to respond before the committee, Khasipe declined, saying he was not comfortable discussing personal matters in a public forum.

PAC Chairperson, 'Machabane Lemphane-Letsie, intervened and requested Lekitla to produce evidence supporting his claims. Lekitla promised to furnish the committee with the necessary proof, which Lemphane-Letsie said would be reviewed before any determination is made.

On Monday, LEC board members and staff



took an oath to speak the truth before the hearings commenced. According to the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act, providing misleading information to Parliament or its committees is a punishable offence.

Contacted for comment yesterday, LNDC's

Corporate Communications Manager, Tiisetso Moremoholo, said she could not confirm whether interviews took place on June 17, stating that such matters fall under the jurisdiction of the LNDC board.

Speaking to Newsday yesterday, Lekitla

maintained that Khasipe had been summoned by parliament to appear before the PAC and that his travel from Namibia, including flights and accommodation, had been covered by public funds through LEC.

He claimed that while he did not have written proof, he personally saw Khasipe at Avani Lesotho Hotel on June 17, where the LNDC interviews were reportedly held.

"He was not alone, other candidates and LNDC representatives were present. As the head of a major state-owned utility funded by taxpayers, Mr. Khasipe is expected to be accountable to the PAC. He cannot simply evade questions by calling them 'personal,'" Lekitla argued.

He added: "This committee derives its authority from the Constitution and is fully empowered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act No.12 to carry out its oversight role."

The LNDC advertised the CEO position towards the end of 2024, with applications closing on January 24, 2025. The Corporation, established by an Act of Parliament, is tasked with promoting industrial, commercial, and mining development to boost income and employment in Lesotho. The role requires a strategic leader with at least 10 years of executive-level experience and a relevant master's degree.

Khasipe currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), a role he assumed on February 1, 2023. Prior to that, he was Commissioner General of the Lesotho Revenue Authority (now Revenue Services Lesotho).

He is widely recognised for his service in national and regional institutions and holds qualifications including Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), a Master's in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics, and an MBA in Business and Commerce.

Transfer funds from your bank to your
EcoCash wallet anytime, anywhere

Scan the QR code to
download the EcoCashApp

debit
4589 XXXX XXXX XXX
VALID THRU
12/23

**Money moves
made easy!**

DAIL *128# OR USE THE STANDARD LESOTHO BANK APP TO TRANSFER

Ts & Cs Apply

LEC crying 'vandalism' while fueling it with shady deals



Ntsie Maphathe - Acting Managing Director LEC

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

While the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) routinely cites vandalism as a major reason behind electricity tariff increases, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has uncovered a glaring contradiction.

The company procured electrical cable worth over M1.2 million from a South African-based catering business, raising suspicions of black-market dealings.

The PAC this week hauled LEC's acting Managing Director, Ntsie Maphathe, before the committee to explain his role in the irregular purchase. Maphathe, who previously served as Transmission Manager and recently stepped down from the board to act as MD following the suspension of Mohlomi Seithleko, is under fire for authorising the transaction.

Central to the scandal is LEC's Procurement Manager, Peo Mputsoe, who allegedly sourced the cable directly from Witsieshoek near QwaQwa, Free State,

bypassing standard procurement procedures.

Shockingly, the supplier in question is a catering company with no known track record in electrical equipment, a fact that the PAC said points to black-market sourcing.

The PAC was dismayed that the cable was received on 1 April 2025, the very same day the Procurement Committee approved the deal, while the official purchase order was only issued two days later. Committee members questioned how a catering company, lacking valid trading documents, was able to supply technical infrastructure to a national utility.

Further raising red flags was a price increase of over 70 percent from around M700,000 to M1.2 million, within months, which the committee described as highly suspicious. Transporting the cable cost an additional M75,000. The PAC suspects the cable could be either stolen or second-hand.

"It is extremely concerning that while

the public is being asked to pay more for electricity to cover theft and vandalism, LEC is buying critical infrastructure from sources that may be part of the very problem," said PAC Chairperson 'Machabane Lemphane-Letsie.

In a recent interview with Lesotho Television, LEC Board Chairperson Thabo Khasipe disclosed that the utility owes suppliers over M2 billion. He also said that rampant cable theft has contributed to repeated applications to the Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA) for tariff increases.

However, PAC members pointed to email exchanges between Mputsoe and suspended Head of Finance, 'Makabelo Matsoso, where Matsoso warned against the irregular transaction. Despite this, Mputsoe pressed ahead with the purchase, claiming other suppliers were out of stock.

Both Matsoso and acting Head of Finance Lintle Thamae admitted during the PAC hearing that they authorised payments for the cable, even though no formal supplier contract existed. Thamae revealed that expired supplier contracts and improper use of Request for Quotations (RFQs) had become common practice at LEC, despite procurement policy requiring tenders for transactions over M100,000.

Tsietso Mosae painted an even bleaker picture, testifying that unqualified clerks often handled procurement, and that political interference in hiring was rife. He alleged that some companies were deliberately blocked from doing business with LEC and that the utility still operates under outdated financial regulations.

The PAC cited the Public Procurement Act of 2023, which mandates state-owned enterprises like LEC to ensure transparency, competition, and value for money. Committee members warned that without accountability, the cost of corruption would continue to be passed on to the public.

Lemphane-Letsie stressed that LEC

must be mindful of its financial decisions. "Whatever LEC does has a financial impact. Where mistakes have been made, we should not defend them; we must fix them. Somebody needs to take action, a very bold decision that will save LEC," she said.

PAC member 'Maboiketlo Maliehe called on the board to avail documents to the forensic auditors, warning that failure to do so would make the audit costly to the nation.

The Executive Committee (ExCo) remains under temporary suspension to allow a forensic audit to proceed. The audit is expected to be completed next month.

LEC had submitted a multi-year tariff hike application for the years 2023/24 to 2025/26. It requested a 23 percent increase for 2023/24 and 15 percent for each of the two subsequent years— an overall 62 percent upward adjustment for the three-year period.

LEC operates in all districts and, as of March 2023, served 301,872 customers nationwide, across industrial, commercial, domestic, street lighting, and general-purpose categories.

According to LEWA's Key Performance Indicators, LEC is required to make at least 15,400 new connections annually. However, by 31 August 2023, only 3,819 had made a shortfall primarily due to cash-flow challenges and delayed procurement of materials.

LEC's 2023 report acknowledged these issues when justifying its tariff hike application. It added that it is gradually implementing a robust supply chain management programme to address material shortages and manage contractors more effectively.

For the financial year 2022/2023, LEC was awarded M34 million to maintain its electrical infrastructure.

"Aggressively dealing with corruption" was cited as a key priority in LEC's three-year strategic plan (2021/22 to 2023/24) an ambition that may not have been successfully realised.

M5.2m meter software leaves LEC stranded

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) continued its probe into alleged corruption and tender manipulation at the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) this week, uncovering troubling details surrounding a failed M5.2 million software purchase.

LEC appeared before the committee to account for issues flagged in the Auditor-General's report. Central to the hearing was the revelation that a remote meter reading software, acquired around 2021 for over M5 million, is currently non-functional. The software, meant to automate meter readings, has remained dormant following the liquidation of the Bloemfontein-based supplier, Jager (Pty) Ltd, shortly after the sale.

LEC officials told the PAC that the software was already installed in their systems, but the utility has since been unable to use it or contact the supplier for support or reimbursement.

Suspended LEC Head of Customer Experience, Lebohang Mohasoa, was subjected to tough questioning over the procurement. He informed the committee that the company was engaged through an open tender. However, PAC member Dr Tšelisio Moroke challenged this explanation, revealing that Jager (Pty) Ltd lacked proper compliance documentation when tender submissions were opened.

"It was established that upon unsealing the submissions, Jager had no documentation proving compliance with requirements," said Dr Moroke.

He further questioned why payment was made to the company before it had submitted any performance or completion report, as is standard in procurement procedures. This irregularity, he noted, raised serious concerns about adherence to procurement protocols at LEC.

Compounding the issue, LEC revealed it had decided to procure meters separately after discovering that the existing ones were outdated and incompatible with remote reading technology. As a result, the utility still relies on manual meter reading, undermining the intended purpose of the software.

The PAC heard that LEC is now suffering losses from the investment, with no benefits realised from the software purchase and no means to recover the funds, as the supplier cannot be traced

following its liquidation.

LEC is currently under forensic audit, launched to investigate deep-rooted corruption and maladministration within the utility. As part of the process, the executive management team was suspended for three months to allow the probe to proceed without interference.

LEC Board Chairperson, Thabo Khasipe, who attended the PAC session, confirmed that the forensic auditors have requested a one-month extension and are expected to complete their investigation by July 2025.

Khasipe assured the committee that disciplinary action will be taken against anyone found guilty of wrongdoing. He also revealed that a turnaround strategy is in development and awaiting board approval before implementation.

Gov't backs youth-led rehab centre

Ntsoaki Motaung

To tackle the alarming rise in drug and alcohol abuse among young people, Lesotho's Ministry of Health has signed an agreement with a local youth group to establish a national rehabilitation centre, the first of its kind in years.

Health Minister Selibe Mochoboroane announced the initiative on Wednesday during a youth engagement forum with Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane, themed "Collective Contributions to Curb Unemployment." The project will be spearheaded by a youth group operating under the Prime Minister's Sebatatso youth empowerment programme.

While the name of the partnering group remains undisclosed, Minister Mochoboroane confirmed the government's full commitment, revealing that the Ministries of Health and Finance will reallocate two percent of the budgets from all other ministries to provide subvention funding for the rehabilitation centre.

Prime Minister Matekane, addressing hundreds of young people at the event, passionately decried the devastating impact of substance abuse: "What concerns us deeply is that young people are using alcohol and drugs. These are



dangerous issues, and they bring terrible consequences, not just for individuals, but for the whole country."

He called on the youth to take charge of their future: "Let us quit alcohol and drugs. Let us become responsible young

people who are prepared to lead this country tomorrow." The Prime Minister commended the youth for their initiative, confirming that he had instructed the Health Ministry to move quickly on the project.

"I have been informed that youth from across the country have already signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Health to establish a national drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation centre."

Minister Mochoboroane has been vocal about the growing drug crisis since 2024, repeatedly advocating for the revival of the now-defunct Blue Cross Society Lesotho rehabilitation centre in Thaba-Bosiu.

The closure of the Blue Cross facility several years ago, following a protracted funding dispute with the Ministry of Health, left Lesotho with no operational rehabilitation centres, public, private, or church-run.

The fallout between the Ministry and the Blue Cross Society stemmed from a 2015 dispute over financial transparency. The Ministry sought to audit the organisation and oversee its fund allocation, a move the Blue Cross resisted, citing its operational independence. The standoff has remained unresolved.

Energy access is a matter of justice for Africa's poor: King Letsie III

Ntsoaki Motaung

While world leaders gathered in Brussels to debate energy efficiency, Lesotho's voice, delivered powerfully by His Majesty King Letsie III, reminded them of a crucial truth that global energy challenges cannot be solved without addressing the plight of the world's poorest, especially women and girls.

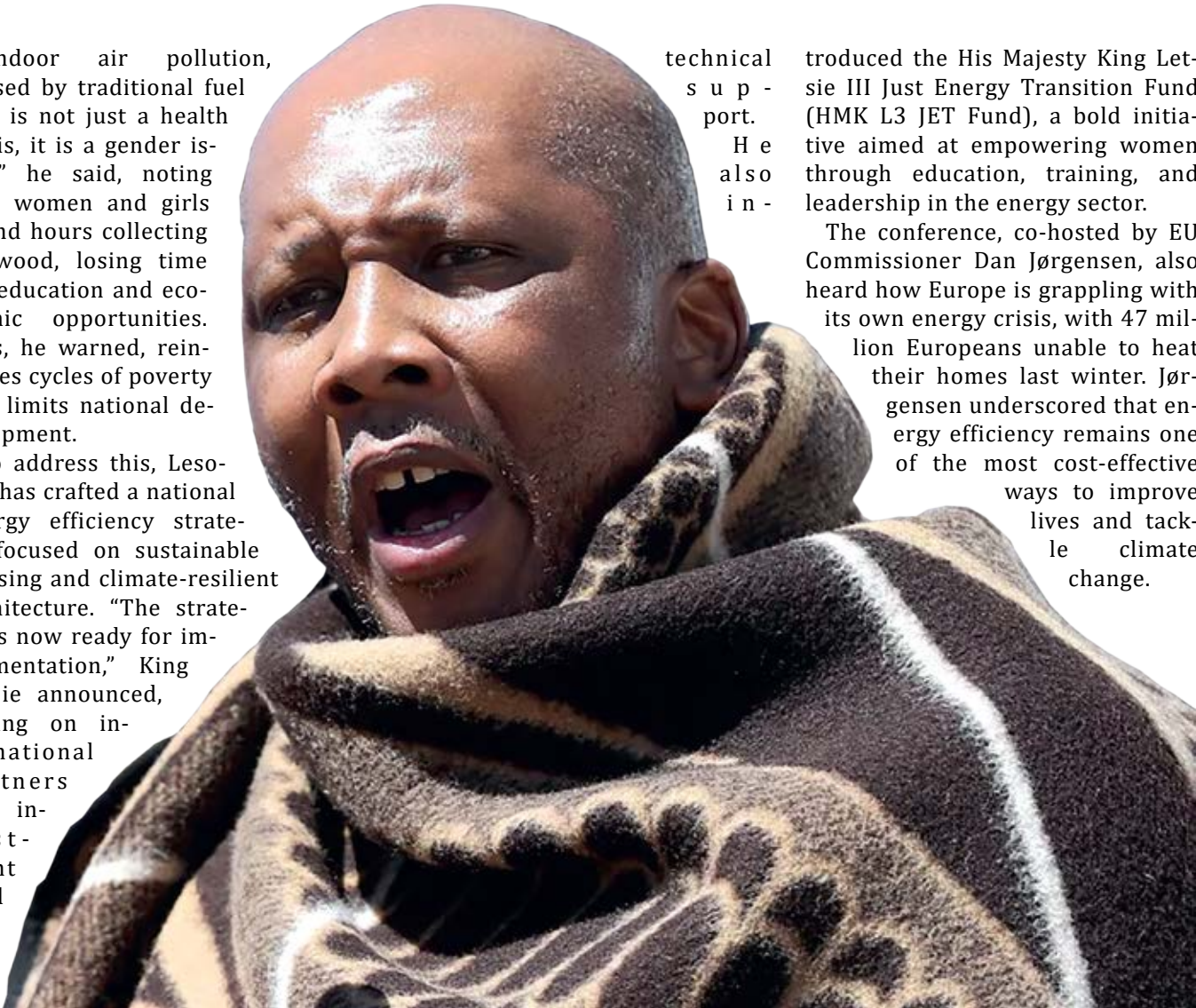
Speaking at the 10th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency, King Letsie III highlighted how energy poverty in countries like Lesotho perpetuates environmental harm and deepens gender inequality.

"Unlike in developed countries, where energy efficiency is about trimming excess, for Africa, and especially Lesotho, it is about building access," he said. "It is about ensuring that energy reaches everyone affordably, reliably, and sustainably."

The King painted a vivid picture of the harsh realities in Lesotho, where winter temperatures in the highlands can drop to below freezing point. With no access to clean energy, families rely on wood and charcoal for cooking and heating, fuelling deforestation, respiratory illnesses, and gender disparities.

"Indoor air pollution, caused by traditional fuel use, is not just a health crisis, it is a gender issue," he said, noting that women and girls spend hours collecting firewood, losing time for education and economic opportunities. This, he warned, reinforces cycles of poverty and limits national development.

To address this, Lesotho has crafted a national energy efficiency strategy focused on sustainable housing and climate-resilient architecture. "The strategy is now ready for implementation," King Letsie announced, calling on international partners for investment and



technical support. He also introduced the His Majesty King Letsie III Just Energy Transition Fund (HMK L3 JET Fund), a bold initiative aimed at empowering women through education, training, and leadership in the energy sector.

The conference, co-hosted by EU Commissioner Dan Jørgensen, also heard how Europe is grappling with its own energy crisis, with 47 million Europeans unable to heat their homes last winter. Jørgensen underscored that energy efficiency remains one of the most cost-effective ways to improve lives and tackle climate change.



Newsday Business

Movable assets bridging credit gap for the unbanked

Palesa Moloinyane

The Lesotho Registry of Interest in Movable Assets (LeRIMA), a government-backed initiative enabling the use of movable assets like livestock, vehicles, and equipment as loan collateral, is proving to be a quiet but powerful force in supporting financially excluded Basotho, particularly Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Launched in 2021 by the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), LeRIMA is gradually transforming Lesotho's credit landscape by making financing more accessible for people and businesses that do not own immovable property.

MSMEs, smallholder farmers, and informal businesses, often overlooked by traditional banks, have been among the main beneficiaries of this innovative financial reform.

This week, CBL hosted an awareness campaign aimed at educating the public and financial stakeholders on how LeRIMA operates and its benefits.

The campaign highlighted how movable assets can be registered and used as collateral to unlock loans, thereby broadening access to finance for those historically left out of the formal banking system.

According to Bafokeng Noosi, Director of



Bolebali Taasoana NBSD and Analyst CBL

Other Financial Institutions at CBL, LeRIMA has made it possible for Basotho to access credit using movable property, a development that has been embraced especially by microfinance institutions.

"Microfinance institutions have especially embraced this initiative by promoting lending to MSMEs that do not qualify for traditional banking services," he said.

Molise Sethobane, from the CBL Non-Bank Supervision Division, presented the

legal framework and impact of LeRIMA, emphasising its purpose to simplify the use and enforcement of movable asset-based collateral.

"LeRIMA aims to make provision for the creation of a security interest in movable property, to provide the prioritisation of competing interests in movable property as collateral as well as establishing simplified and expedient enforcement," he said.

Bolebali Taasoana, an analyst at the same division, showcased how the system functions and its growing usage across key sectors such as retail, construction, and government services. MSMEs now make up a significant portion of LeRIMA's registered debtors, indicating a shift from dependence on immovable property to more inclusive forms of collateral.

"The data shows most debtors fall within the micro to small size category, and the majority of loans secured are small in value, underscoring LeRIMA's mission to support financially excluded groups," she said.

She further explained that the increasing number of security interests filed and registry searches demonstrate rising trust and awareness among lenders and potential borrowers.

"The system offers benefits like better protection for lenders, improved borrow-

er discipline, and easier access to working capital for businesses without land or buildings. It aligns with Lesotho's goals of fostering entrepreneurship, job creation, and the formalisation of the informal economy."

However, Taasoana also acknowledged ongoing challenges. Despite its effectiveness, LeRIMA still suffers from limited awareness, especially in rural and underserved communities. She cited low digital literacy and poor internet access as barriers to wider adoption.

"To address these issues, we believe that strengthening public awareness campaigns, enhancing digital infrastructure, and building partnerships with local financial institutions could promote deeper adoption of LeRIMA services," she said.

CBL officials echoed this sentiment, stressing the importance of increasing public education on LeRIMA to ensure a broader national impact.

First National Bank's Leisa Leisanyane praised the platform's usefulness but called for system upgrades to improve efficiency.

"We still use old platforms. It would help if documents opened directly on the system instead of downloading PDFs. This would save space and improve workflow," he said. He also suggested adding notification features for smoother operations.

Econet oils economic wheels of creative sector with M1.1 million

Seabata Mahao

Lecholi Mountain Drive and Braai Experience is set for a major transformation, thanks to a headline sponsorship of M1.1 million from telecommunications giant Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL).

The significant investment underscores Econet's growing footprint in Lesotho's entertainment sector, a vital industry for stimulating job creation and economic growth.

Now rebranded as the Econet Lecholi Mountain Drive and Braai Experience, the fifth edition of the annual highland festival is scheduled to take place from September 26-28 this year.

The event promises an enhanced experience, fuelled by fresh investment into an industry increasingly recognised as a vehicle for youth employment and local economic development.

Hosted in the stunning Lekhalong la Baroa (Bushmen Pass), a scenic mountain pass about 2,266 metres above sea level in the Maseru highlands, the event has evolved into one of Lesotho's premier lifestyle, tourism, and entertainment showcases.

With thrilling 4x4 mountain drives, live music, sizzling braais, fireside movie nights, and camping under the stars, Lecholi has carved out a niche as a powerful platform for cultural and economic activity.

Under the new partnership, Econet will channel M500,000 directly into event planning and coordination, while an additional M600,000 will be allocated toward market-



Econet Headlines Lecholi Sponsorship with over a Million Injection

ing and logistical support.

This injection of funds is expected to unlock opportunities for local artists, service providers, and entrepreneurs who rely on such platforms for visibility and income.

Puleng Mathabo Masoabi, ETL's Acting General Manager – Marketing Communications and Customer Experience, emphasised the company's strategic commitment to the creative economy during the sponsorship announcement.

"This partnership is a bold statement of Econet's continued investment in Lesotho's creative and cultural economy," Masoabi said.

"We believe in the potential of our entertainment and tourism sectors to drive economic activity, foster social cohesion, and create employment opportunities, es-

pecially for Basotho youth. We are proud as Econet to be part of an event that captures the spirit of adventure, community, and celebration. These values align perfectly with our brand."

Event organiser, Mokhesi Hlalele described the sponsorship as a pivotal mo-

ment in the event's growth trajectory.

"We are thrilled to welcome ETL as our headline sponsor. Their support gives us the capacity to scale the event and elevate the overall experience for our guests," Hlalele said.

"This partnership is a game-changer and builds on the strides we have made since 2022. We are confident that this year's Econet Lecholi edition will be bigger, better, and more memorable than ever before."

While the event is known for its entertainment and lifestyle appeal, its economic significance continues to grow. Lecholi offers opportunities for vendors, creatives, caterers, guides, and small businesses who depend on such gatherings for seasonal income and exposure.

Running over three days, the festival concludes with the relaxed and ever-popular Sunday Chillaz session, a moment for festival goers to unwind and reflect in the peaceful mountain setting after an action-packed weekend.

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024;
ESTATE LATE TUMISANG LATISLAS FESI E890/2024

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 THURSDAY, 14TH AUGUST 2025 at 09:00 am for the purpose of: Proposing some person/persons to be appointed by the Master as Executor dative.

Dated at Maseru this 20th May 2025
Master of the High Court Office

Magistrate Court Building
Maseru



Newsday Health

Ntsoaki Motaung

Food insecurity poses a significant challenge for cancer patients in Lesotho, hindering their recovery and overall well-being.

This critical issue was highlighted by Thato Taunyane Motsamai, an Oncology Nutritionist at Senkatana Oncology Clinic, who revealed that many patients, particularly those from remote, high-poverty areas, struggle to access adequate and nutritious meals.

Motsamai emphasised that proper nutrition, rich in vegetables and plant-based protein, is crucial for cancer patients’ healing processes.

However, the reality on the ground is stark. “When we assess the food security of our patients, most of the time it is discovered that they struggle to get even one meal per day. Or some of them, even if they have the meal, it is food that is not recommended or does not have the required nutrients,” Motsamai stated.

She indicated that patients often expressed their understanding of the dietary recommendations but were then forced to admit the difficulty of obtaining their next meal.

This creates a heartbreaking paradox where knowledge of healthy eating clashes with the harsh realities of poverty.

Seithati Lekhotla, another nutritionist, underscored the universal importance of good nutrition, especially for cancer patients whose immune systems are weakened by the disease.

Effective medication and a robust recovery are heavily reliant on proper nourishment.

Lesotho’s cancer fight undermined by hunger



Sankatana Oncology Clinic Nutritionists worry about food insecurity amongst cancer patients

“Cancer patients are advised about the kind of food they have to eat at that time, based on the kind of treatment they will be taking,” Lekhotla added, emphasising the tailored nutritional needs.

In response to this pressing issue, the Nutrition Corner at Senkatana Oncology Clinic has taken proactive steps.

They are actively seeking assistance from various organisations and conducting awareness campaigns to educate the public on the role of nutrition in cancer prevention and recovery.

While significant progress is still needed, the clinic has secured a promising sponsorship from a local business that will provide bread to patients awaiting services and those in lodging.

Furthermore, they have received agricultural inputs and plan to utilise existing land to cultivate vegetables and grains.

This produce will not only be sold to sustain the project and purchase more inputs, but will also be used for demonstrations on food preparation and preservation.

Crucially, a portion of the harvest will be provided directly to food-insecure patients after assessment.



Government of Lesotho
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition

Invitation for Registration

Registration of Vehicles for short term hire in the Ministry database

- The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho intends to improve Agricultural service delivery. Therefore, part of the proceeds will be utilized on eligible payments resulting from the procurement of the above.
- The Principal Secretary now invites interested Basotho vehicle owners for the **Registration of Vehicles for short term hire in the Ministry database for financial year 2025/26**. Interested Basotho vehicle owners may obtain further information from the following address:

Procurement Unit and Administration Office
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
Corner Constitution and Linare Roads
Maseru 100, Lesotho
Tel: (++ 266) 22322741

- It is mandatory for Basotho vehicle owners to submit and note the following:

Vehicle Type: Double Cab 4x4, Single Cab 4x4, SUV 4x4, SUV, Ten-Ton Truck, Mini-bus (13 Seater) or Quantum

- Vehicle Registration
- Vehicle Model: 2015 upwards
- Valid third party insurance
- Complete tool kit
- Double Cab 4x4 with Canopy or Tonneau cover and Tow bar for pulling trailer
- Single Cab: Valid B permit & Tow bar
- Ten (10) ton: Valid F permit & Fitness
- 13 Seater: Fitness

- Submission and registration with Administration Office.**



GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

TENDER NOTICE

Tender number: MOLE/01/2025-2026

The Ministry of Labour and Employment invites tenders from legally registered and suitably qualified Security Companies for the provision of Security Services at its Premises in Eight Districts, Labour Court, Labour Department and Ha-Mafafa for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

SPECIFICATION FOR SECURITY SERVICES: MAY 2025
A Compulsory site inspection will be on the following dates:

LOCATION:	NUMBER OF SECURITY OFFICERS	DATE	TIME
NORTHERN DISTRICTS			
Mokhotlong : Day and Night shifts	2	30/06/2025	09:00am
Butha – Butha: Night Shift	1	30/06/2025	15:30pm
Leribe: Night Shift	1	01/06/2025	09:30am
Berea: Night Shift	1	01/06/2025	12:00 Noon
CENTRAL DISTRICTS			
Labour Department: Day and Night Shifts	2	07/06/2025	10:30am
Ha Mafafa: Night Shift		07/06/2025	11:30am
Labour Court: Day and Night Shifts	2	07/06/2025	12:30am
SOUTHERN DISTRICTS			
Mafeteng : Night Shift	1	02/07/2025	09:30am
Mohale’s Hoek : Night Shift	1	02/07/2025	12:00 Noon
NSTC : Day and Night Shifts	2	02/07/2025	15:30pm
Quthing : Night Shift	1	03/06/2025	11:00am
Qacha’s Nek : Night Shift	1	04/06/2025	09:30am
TOTAL NUMBER OF GUARDS	16		

- MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS:
- Certified (at source) copy of a valid Tax Clearance Certificate
 - Certified (at source) copy of relevant Traders’ Licence

- Copy of the company profile
- Bidders must attach the certificate of bonafide tendering, signed and stamped.
- Bidders must attach a form of tendering, signed and stamped.
- Bidders must attach an original copy of the proof of payment receipt with a bank stamp.
- Bidders must attach a recent bank statement (3 Months before the tender’s publication date). April, May and June and 2025.
- Bidders who fail to submit mandatory requirements will be disqualified.
- Audited Financial statements for the past year to date.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment is not bound to accept the lowest tender price

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Bidders are expected to use bid forms provided by the Ministry of Labour and Employment for uniformity. Bidders who do not use the forms will be disqualified.
- Prices should include all relevant costs, e.g. transport costs, VAT included. The acceptance of any tender will not necessarily be based on a lower price.
- All bidders are expected to stick to the specifications provided by the Ministry, no extra points will be awarded for bonus specifications.
- The tender document must be valid for Ninety days (90) from the submission date.
- Complete Tender documents will be obtainable from Procurement Office No: 701 or 702 at level 7 during working hours.
- Visiting hours shall be on Mondays to Fridays from 10:00 am to 03:00 pm.
- Tender document shall be available for a non –non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Maluti only (M500.00) from the 16th of June 2025 to the 28th of July 2025 payable in cash at the revenue office and receipt of payment will be issued and is to be submitted to the procurement office for tender document collection.

Two sealed tenders, original and 2 copies bearing no identification of the tenderer must be deposited in the Ministry’s Tender Box placed on the 7th floor, LNDc block D, Kingsway, Maseru in sealed envelopes marked “TENDER FOR PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT” on or before 12:00 noon on the 28th JULY, 2025.

Tenders will be opened on the same date, 28th ...July 2025 at 2:00 pm in the boardroom 7th floor, BLOCK D, LNDc BUILDING.

Interested bidders are expected to be legally registered and to comply with their tax obligations. To prove compliance, they must attach valid certified copies of valid tax clearances and traders’ licences, which should be certified by the issuing authorities. All prices should include VAT.

Disclaimer:

The Government of Lesotho – Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders for reasons that may be advanced. Payment will be processed upon delivery of goods.

For Enquiries:
Contact: Procurement Office at mlungoa@gmail.com and phokojoemb@gmail.com
58011551/ 53793835

All tenders must be addressed and delivered to:

PROCUREMENT UNIT
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT, P.O. BOX, BLOCK D, LNDc BUILDING, 7TH FLOOR, KINGSWAY, MASERU LESOTHO.



Theko Tlebere

Common Concern

Unemployment as a national emergency: What it means for Lesotho's youth

When Prime Minister Samuel Ntsokoane Matekane addressed hundreds of young people at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre this Wednesday (18th June), he reaffirmed his government's commitment to tackling youth unemployment. The message was clear: Lesotho can no longer afford to treat unemployment as a normal part of the economic cycle. The recent proposal by the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) to consider unemployment a state of emergency signifies a shift in both tone and policy approach. This could mark a watershed moment in how the government confronts one of the most persistent socio-economic crises facing the Kingdom.

Unemployment, particularly among youth, has long been an issue. Year after year, young Basotho graduate into a labour market that offers little opportunity. For those fortunate enough to find work, the reality is often comprised of unstable *lihalahala* contracts – short-term positions that come with no benefits, no job security, and limited scope for career growth. At the forum, youth representatives, including individuals with disabilities, made a passionate appeal to the government, urging it to absorb qualified young professionals into permanent roles and provide pathways to meaningful employment.

What stood out to me from this gathering was not only the urgency of the attendees' voices but also the government's willing-

ness to frame youth unemployment as a national emergency. This framing is significant. By adopting the language of crisis, the government elevates unemployment from a mere policy challenge to a disaster-level threat that deserves immediate, coordinated, and cross-sectoral responses.

The role of the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) is typically associated with natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, and pandemics. Its mandate includes coordination, rapid mobilisation of resources, and emergency relief. The fact that this institution is being called upon to advise on unemployment suggests that the state is beginning to view joblessness not just as an economic failure but as a risk to national stability.

The social consequences of youth unemployment are profound. Joblessness breeds hopelessness, fuels crime, fosters political disengagement, and even drives emigration. Lesotho has already seen a growing trend of skilled youth migrating to South Africa and beyond in search of opportunities. These are not merely labour issues; they are critical governance and development challenges. If left unaddressed, they risk undermining the very demographic that holds the key to the nation's future.

So, what could DMA involvement entail? First, it could introduce much-needed emergency response tools into the employment crisis. For instance, the DMA could

coordinate national and district-level "employment recovery plans" aimed at directing resources into youth-led enterprises, vocational training, and short-term public works programmes. This would not be an act of charity but a strategic investment in human capital, aimed at stabilising communities and rebuilding local economies from the ground up.

Secondly, declaring unemployment a national emergency could unlock extra-budgetary allocations or attract donor funding, particularly from international partners who are increasingly attentive to youth issues in fragile economies. The DMA's credibility as a coordinating body could help streamline these efforts and ensure accountability in implementation.

Thirdly, for those already employed under insecure contracts, DMA-led intervention could lead to policy reform that addresses the normalisation of *lihalahala* positions. Young professionals have long filled critical roles in government ministries, hospitals, and schools, only to remain stuck in cycles of short-term renewals. A state-of-emergency approach could hasten their transition into permanent roles, safeguarding both their livelihoods and the effective functioning of public institutions.

However, we must exercise caution. A declaration without action is merely a headline. Lesotho's political history is replete with promises made and promptly forgotten. Young people have heard speeches before; they have participated in dialogues. What they demand now is implementation. A crisis declared must

be a crisis addressed.

This moment also calls for youth readiness. It is insufficient to merely receive opportunities; young people must organise, advocate, and participate in crafting solutions. Those currently employed must support policies that create pathways for their unemployed peers. Business owners must advocate for reforms that favour local procurement and entrepreneurship. Civil society must monitor how "emergency" resources are utilised and hold leaders accountable.

If Prime Minister Matekane and his government are serious about this emergency declaration, then we must prepare for a whole-of-government, whole-of-society response. The DMA's involvement must not be symbolic; it must deliver the speed, coordination, and urgency associated with disaster responses because, make no mistake, unemployment is a disaster that has eroded dignity, limited potential, and stifled hope for far too long.

By re-framing unemployment as a state of emergency, Lesotho can lead boldly, act swiftly, and restore the faith of its youth. The question is no longer whether youth unemployment is a crisis, but whether the government will act as if it is. The Future is

NOW!



Thato Ramafu

Common Concern

Balancing tradition and innovation in a shifting media landscape

As the Public Relations industry advances into the age of artificial intelligence and algorithm-driven communication, it is tempting to assume we have outgrown the traditional pillars upon which the profession was founded: newspapers, radio, and the evening bulletin. Across global markets, there has been a marked pivot towards digital-first strategies: influencer marketing, real-time audience engagement, and data-informed storytelling. These innovations have indeed reshaped the industry. However, in many quarters, the pendulum has swung too far, and the time has come to restore equilibrium.

Globally, public relations is undergoing what Scott Cutlip, a pioneer of the discipline, described as "a necessary adaptation to social realities." In his foundational text, *Effective Public Relations*, Cutlip asserted that

PR must evolve in tandem with how society communicates. Yet, evolution does not imply the wholesale abandonment of what came before.

In Africa, and Lesotho in particular, traditional media remains not only relevant but essential. Print journalists continue to serve as the custodians of the public record, while radio broadcasters provide authoritative, accessible information to communities far and wide. In contexts where digital infrastructure remains uneven and data access is not universal, overlooking traditional media is, in effect, overlooking the very audiences that matter most.

Nevertheless, a troubling trend is emerging that corporate entities are increasingly diverting their entire communications budgets towards influencer engagements and social media advertising, to the exclusion

of newspapers, radio, and other legacy media. While these modern channels offer immediacy, relatability, and the potential for virality, they do not provide the depth or editorial rigour that traditional media can ensure.

Influencers are, without question, valuable assets to the PR ecosystem. They foster authentic connections and offer dynamic engagement. Yet, it is the media, particularly traditional media, that continues to confer legitimacy. In an age plagued by misinformation, the role of trusted journalists and established news outlets has never been more critical. They offer scrutiny, context, and verification, qualities essential to the long-term credibility of any brand.

The fundamental error many brands make is in treating this as an either-or decision. It is not.

The future of public relations, in Lesotho and beyond, lies in integration. Influencers should be utilised to generate buzz, drive engagement,

and introduce narrative dynamism. Traditional media, in turn, should anchor those efforts with gravitas and authority. Social media delivers the sizzle; print and broadcast deliver the substance.

At The PR and Brand Network, we advocate for this holistic approach. We design campaigns not merely for clicks or views, but to build enduring trust. We recognise that while social media may win hearts, it is the traditional media that secures minds and records.

Ultimately, effective public relations is not solely about visibility. It is about credibility. And credibility, in Lesotho as elsewhere, still arrives printed, aired, and signed off by an editor.

That Ramafu is the PR Executive at the PR and Brand Network



When age is a hierarchy: How ageism decides whose lives matter in our society

Rethabile Mathealira-Molapo

In Lesotho and many parts of Africa, the value of a person has long been structured along the lines of age. Age has determined more than one's place in a family, community or society; it has decided who gets to speak, who is taken seriously and who is allowed to lead. The older one is, the more they are presumed to matter. This is not just a cultural preference. It is a form of stratification, a hierarchy of human worth organised by age. And like all hierarchies, it creates winners and losers, privileges and lack thereof, rights and exclusions. In this system, age is not just a marker of time lived; it becomes a gatekeeping mechanism that determines whose voice matters, who receives first preference for opportunities, and whose life is valued.

Many Millennials and Generation Xers grew up in households where parents held disproportionate power, not just through caregiving roles, but through a deeply ingrained sense of superiority. Older people often spoke to children and youth in discourteous or coercive tones. With them, respect was not earned; it was demanded, and it was one-directional. Their views were prioritised, while those of younger people were routinely dismissed. Knowledge has been assumed to be held by seniority of age, even as younger generations have become more educated and exposed to new ways of thinking and thus have a greater capacity to question narrow worldviews.

Children were raised being gaslit and silenced. In many households, the idea that a child could observe or name an adult's wrongdoing was taboo. Something as mundane as pointing out that a parent passed wind would be denied outright, with the child shamed into silence. Over time, this established a pattern: older people could not be challenged, and younger people had to accept contradictions without question. As these generations became adults, the psychological distance between them and their parents has grown. Many began to

notice the gap between what parents said and what they did; their moral claims often failed to align with their conduct, particularly in matters of faith and values. But still, questioning them remained culturally unacceptable.

These early dynamics have continued to shape how power now operates in communities and public life. The tone set within families and communities, where elders spoke without accountability and youth were expected to defer, became the model for professional and political interactions. What emerges is a system of age-based oppression, where social power is tightly held by those seen as "senior," and wielded over those seen as "junior," regardless of merit, competence, or ethics.

Politicians today, and those closely aligned, operate from this same script. Public leadership mirrors the same disregard and lack of accountability that children experienced in the home. Society is treated not as a constituency of equals but as a population to be managed. Citizens are not engaged in dialogue or policy conversations, power is liberally abused, citizens if deigned to be involved, are often merely informed, commanded, or altogether dismissed. This is because the political imagination treats them as children who need to merely observe and obey parental decisions, and not make any inputs.

At its core, this is ageist cultural discrimination. And like all forms of discrimination, it has measurable consequences. Young people across Africa face high rates of unemployment, economic exclusion, and limited political participation. Their marginalisation is often rationalised through claims about maturity, experience, or readiness, but the deeper logic is that older people simply matter more. They perceive

themselves as more trustworthy, more entitled to resources, and more deserving of attention and comforts. This logic governs every aspect of societal participation and opportunities. And it is rarely questioned for what it is, to make a play on Orwell, older animals are more equal than others.

In the workplace, hiring decisions are often governed by job requirements that implicitly value older candidates. One of the most common criteria is lengthy work experience of prior employment, often in relatively junior roles. This systematically disadvantages younger applicants who, regardless of education or capability, are disqualified simply for being newer to the labour market. Underneath those assumptions lies the same age-based logic: that older means better, and younger means unprepared or less worthy.

But what about those relatively few younger people in positions of power or authority? What does their leadership look like? Do we demonstrate signs that we are doing better than our elders when given the same power? What does our track record look like in the limited spaces we already occupy?

Today, in the public sector and professional life, it is common for professionals, many of whom are millennials or Gen X themselves, to treat clients in the same tone parents once used with them as children: superior, dismissive, or discourteous, the same model repeats itself, power itself becomes a proxy for age. Instead of disrupting the system, they adopt its scripts. Position-conferred power takes on the logic of age-based superiority, often without the empathy one might expect from those who once experienced oppression. Professionals offering intimate services like healthcare depersonalise their patients, scribbling prescriptions without engaging them as people with agency and bodily autonomy to make deci-

sions about their health and bodies. Lawyers with compromised ethical principles routinely impose their own will on clients in life-defining matters, rather than taking instructions and advising appropriately.

What this means in real terms is that ageism and ageist mimicking use of power is not just a social attitude, it is a barrier to justice and growth, favouring elders and the few younger people who wield limited power based on an ageist power logic. It is a discriminatory system that shapes who gets hired, who gets heard, who gets funded, and who gets silenced. The result is a society in which innovation is stifled, new voices are silenced, and opportunities are reserved for those deemed worthy by age. Younger people, no matter how educated, capable, or insightful, are treated as subordinates. Their presence is tolerated, but their leadership is not welcomed.

This culture of ageism is holding our society back. It restricts economic development by excluding the very population most equipped to adapt to new technologies, global shifts, and creative industries. It weakens public services by encouraging one-way communication rather than collaborative problem-solving. And it erodes social cohesion by teaching generations that their value depends on something arbitrary: how long they've lived.

No question, experience matters. But experience is not the same as wisdom, and age is not a guarantee of either. Societies that continue to rank human value by age will continue to waste the potential of their people. The alternative is not to disrespect elders, it is to reject the assumption that being older means being more deserving. A just society is one where power is shared, voices are heard across generations, and respect is mutual. That begins with recognising ageism for what it is, not tradition, not culture, but discrimination and injustice.

Letter of Invitation for Prequalification (IFP)

Rehabilitation of the A1 Road from Maseru Border Post to Maqhaka (±22.35km)

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho through the Roads Directorate invites Contractors from suitably qualified **LOCALLY REGISTERED CATEGORY A CONTRACTORS** and **INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS**, with specific experience in Road Rehabilitation to apply for prequalification for Rehabilitation of a bitumen surfaced A1 road, comprising urban and rural sections, starting from Maseru Boarder to Maqhaka (±21.5km), and Pioneer Road (±0.85km) comprises the list of information, requirements and steps to be fulfilled as follows:

- The works under the project include road rehabilitation and/or reconstruction comprising bitumen surfacing, pavement layers, bridges and culverts, including some replacement, relocation of existing services covering telecommunications, electrical cables and water pipelines, and installation of streetlights and appurtenant works.
- International companies not categorized by Roads Directorate shall pay a non-refundable registration of M20 000.00.(Twenty Thousand Maloti) if they pass a pre-qualification stage in order to be eligible to submit a bid.
- Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures specified in the prequalification document, to be issued in Hard Copy (soft copy will only be issued as a supplementary document for document control purposes) upon **payment of non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Maloti and Zero Lisente only(M5,000.00). The method of payment will be by transfer or deposit into the following Bank Account: Roads Directorate Operating Revenue, Account Number No.: 021000067633, Swift Code: NEDLLSMX, Branch Code: 390161, Nedbank, Lesotho and proof therefore be presented to the Roads Directorate. Facility shall be made available for purchasing the documents by POS/Swiping at the Finance Division (Room G03), Roads Directorate Headquarters.**
- A site inspection commencing at **0900hrs**, and whose assembly point is located at the Engine garage near Maseru Boarder (coordinates: 29°18'0.10"S, 27°27'24.91"E) has been organized for **27 June 2025**. The inspection will be concluded with a briefing at Head Quarters of the Road Directorate, Corner Senate and Lepoqo Street, Maseru West Industrial Area (Opposite Browns Cash and Carry). Non-attendance at the pre-Application meeting will not be a cause for the disqualification of an Applicant. Prospective bidders are expected to attend at their own risk and non-reimbursable cost.

- The pre-qualification documents may be purchased by interested eligible Contractors starting from 23rd June 2025.
- The Proposals must be accompanied by

A valid Tax Clearance Certificate certified at source

A valid Trader's License certified at source

- Submission of the applications for prequalification shall comprise an original and four copies in sealed envelopes and a soft copy (flash) containing PDF documents (bearing the name "**PREQUALIFICATION APPLICATION FOR REHABILITATION OF A1 ROAD - MASERU BOARDER TO MAQHAKA AND PIONEER ROAD**") together with the additional mandatory information prescribed in the Prequalification Document, should be deposited in the Tender Box near the Procurement Office (Room G11) of the Roads Directorate on or before **18th July 2025 at 1200** Midday/Noon Lesotho Time and the tender opening will on the same on the date, at 1430 hrs.

Any correspondence regarding this Proposal shall be addressed to:

Postal Address

The Procurement Manager
Roads Directorate
P.O. Box 194, Maseru 100, Lesotho
Telephone: + (266) 22323029, 22323024, Fax: + (266) 2231 0123
Mobile: +266 63489643/58812805
Email: manoeilin@rd.org.ls; marek@rd.org.ls; mahiritonaf@rd.org.ls

Physical Address

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

The Roads Directorate reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders for reasons that may be advanced.



Roads Directorate



@Roads_LS



Road Directorate Lesotho



Quality Roads, Improving Connectivity

Letter of Invitation for Prequalification (IFP)

Rehabilitation of the A2 Road from Cathedral Circle in Maseru to Moshoeshoe I Airport Turn-off)

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho through the Roads Directorate invites Contractors from suitably qualified **LOCALLY REGISTERED CATEGORY A CONTRACTORS** and **INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS**, with specific experience in Road Rehabilitation to apply for prequalification for Rehabilitation of a bitumen surfaced A2 road, comprising urban and rural sections, starting from Maseru Main Circle and concluding at Moshoeshoe I Airport Road turn off (B22)(±14km), and comprises the list of information, requirements and steps to be fulfilled as follows:

- The works under the project include road rehabilitation and/or reconstruction comprising bitumen surfacing, pavement layers, bridges and culverts, including some replacement, relocation of existing services covering telecommunications, electrical cables and water pipelines, and installation of streetlights for the following road sections:
 - A2 Road from Cathedral Circle to Moshoeshoe I Airport Turn off (B22)
- International companies not categorized by Roads Directorate shall pay a non-refundable registration of M20 000.00.(Twenty Thousand Maloti) if they pass a pre-qualification stage in order to be eligible to submit a bid.
- Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures specified in the prequalification document, to be issued in Hard Copy (soft copy will only be issued as a supplementary document for document control purposes) upon **payment of non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Maloti and Zero Lisente only(M5,000.00). The method of payment will be by transfer or deposit into the following Bank Account: Roads Directorate Operating Revenue, Account Number No.: 021000067633, Swift Code: NEDLLSMX, Branch Code: 390161, Nedbank, Lesotho and proof therefore be presented to the Roads Directorate. Facility shall be made available for purchasing the documents by POS/Swiping at the Finance Division (Room G03), Roads Directorate Headquarters.**
- A site inspection commencing at **1000hrs**, and whose assembly point is located at A2 Road at Moshoeshoe I airport turn off to B22 road (**coordinates 29°25'22.64"S, 27°33'43.84"E**) has been organized for **27 June 2025**. The inspection will be concluded with a briefing at Head Quarters of the Road Directorate, Corner Senate and Lepoqo Street, Maseru West Industrial Area (Opposite Browns Wholesalers). Non-attendance at the pre-Application meeting will not be a cause for the disqualification of an Applicant. Prospective bidders are expected to attend at their own risk and non-reimbursable cost.

cant. Prospective bidders are expected to attend at their own risk and non-reimbursable cost.

- The pre-qualification documents may be purchased by interested eligible Contractors starting from 23rd June 2025.
- The Proposals must be accompanied by

A valid Tax Clearance Certificate certified at source

A valid Trader's License certified at source

- Submission of the applications for prequalification shall comprise an original and four copies in sealed envelopes and a soft copy (flash) containing PDF documents (bearing the name "**PREQUALIFICATION APPLICATION FOR REHABILITATION OF A2 ROAD - MASERU TO MOSHOESHOE I AIRPORT ROAD TURN OFF**") together with the additional mandatory information prescribed in the Prequalification Document, should be deposited in the Tender Box near the Procurement Office (Room G11) of the Roads Directorate on or before **18th July 2025 at 1200** Midday/Noon Lesotho Time and the Prequalification opening will on the same on the date, at 1430 hrs.

Any correspondence regarding this Proposal shall be addressed to:

Postal Address

The Procurement Manager
Roads Directorate
P.O. Box 194, Maseru 100, Lesotho
Telephone: + (266) 22323029, 22323024, Fax: + (266) 2231 0123
Mobile: +266 63489643/58812805
Email: manoeilin@rd.org.ls; marek@rd.org.ls; mahiritonaf@rd.org.ls

Physical Address

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

The Roads Directorate reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders for reasons that may be advanced.



Roads Directorate



@Roads_LS



Road Directorate Lesotho



Quality Roads, Improving Connectivity



GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO
THE JUDICIARY

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NUMBER 3 OF 2025/2026

Tenders are hereby invited from both local and international consultancy firms. Local firms must be registered with the Building Design Services of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, while international firms must be duly registered with the relevant authorities in their respective countries. Interested firms are requested to submit separate technical and financial proposals for the feasibility study of the proposed Southern Region Court Complex in Mphahle's Hoek.

A consulting firm, consortium, or joint venture is invited to tender for the following services:
I. Geotechnical Investigation
II. Land Survey (Cadastral and Topographical)
III. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)
A preference margin shall be granted in accordance with the Lesotho Procurement Act 2023.

NB: All potential Consultants are advised to note that consulting companies to Lesotho Government, are expected to be in compliance with their tax obligations. Consultants must attach **valid copies of Tax Clearance and Trader's License** to their bids, certified at the Source.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference and related documents will be available for collection from Monday, 02nd June 2025, between 9:00 to 15:00hrs from **Procurement Unit High Court** at a non-refundable cost of M3 000.00 payable at the Accounts office, Ground floor High Court building.

MANDATORY SITE VISIT

The Mandatory site visit will be conducted on Wednesday, 11th June 2025. All Bidders are expected to assemble in **Mphahle's Hoek**, outside the magistrate court premises at 11:30 a.m.

DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSIONS

The submission of **1 original and 4 additional copies** of each proposal **bids** in the sealed envelopes separately marked **Technical and Financial Proposals Bids** for the

Feasibility Study for the Proposed Southern Region Court Complex in Mphahle's Hoek, and which shall be put in one sealed envelope must be deposited in the tender box which will be placed at 1st Floor of High Court building, outside procurement office by **Friday 27th June 2025** on or before **12:00hrs**. Tenders will be opened on the same day of submission at **12:15hrs** in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.

Evaluation criteria

The points to be given under each of the evaluation criteria are as shown in the table below.
The minimum technical score required to have the financial proposal opened is **70%**.

The following evaluation criteria shall be observed.

SELECTION CRITERIA	MAXIMUM POINTS	POINTS AWARDED	REMARKS
Nationality Status	5		
Key Staff	20		
Company Experience	20		
Methodology	30		
Bid Amount Competitiveness	5		
TOTAL	80		

Table1: Evaluation Criteria

The Government of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids.
For any Further inquiries, please contact:
E-mail: napomatsolo9@gmail.com or jamesakabk@gmail.com;



Government of Lesotho
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tender Notice

INVITATION TO TENDER REF: MNR/EQP/F/2025/2026

Supply and Installation of Office Equipment, Non Office Equipment and Office Furniture

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The ministry of Natural Resources through its departments; Administration, Mining, Rural Water Supply, Water Affairs and Commissioner of Water Invites sealed tenders from eligible bidders for the supply of office Equipment and Office Furniture.

2. **Tender Issuance and Submission**

The tender is issued on the 12 June 2025, and closes on the 23 July 2025 at 10:00am. The MNR therefore invites competent bidders to bid for this tender. Tender documents are available at the Department of Rural Water Supply (Procurement Unit) at **non-refundable fee of M500.00 (five hundred Maloti) from Thursday, 12 June, until Wednesday 16 July 2025**. Tender document is payable in cash at the **Ministry of Natural Resources (DRWS) Accounts office**, Railway Station next to WASCO Offices. Receipt issued by Accounts, must be produced to the DRWS Procurement Unit for collection of Tender documents.

Bid responses from competent bidders must be submitted as follows:

one (1) original and four (4) hard copies to the Ministry's Tender Box situated next to the Ministerial Boardroom Bokamoso Business suite 2nd floor, Orpen Road, Opposite Centre for Accounting Studies Maseru, **not later than 10:00am, 23 July 2025. The bid response must be in a sealed envelope bearing no Identification of bidder marked "Supply of Office Equipment, Non Office Equipment and Office Furniture REF: MNR/EQP/F/2025/2026"**.

All tenders will be opened on Wednesday 23 July, 2025 at 10:30am at the Ministry of Natural Resources Ministerial Boardroom Bokamoso Business Suite 2nd floor, Orpen Road, Opposite Centre for Accounting Studies Maseru.

3. **CLARIFICATIONS**

All requests for clarifications and queries on this tender must be addressed in writing to the Procurement Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources Bokamoso Business Suite 2nd floor, Orpen Road, Opposite Centre for Accounting Studies Maseru 100 no later than **12:00 noon, 16 July, 2025. Tel: 27325160**.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Call for Applications: HASTEN business incubation programme now open for youth-led enterprises from in Lesotho, Rwanda and Sierra Leone

HASTEN business incubation programme is now accepting applications from youth-led enterprises in Lesotho, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. This unique opportunity supports the next generation of food systems entrepreneurs and enterprises committed to building sustainable, inclusive and resilient agrifood systems.

What is HASTEN business incubation programme?

HASTEN—Harnessing SDG-based Agrifood System Transformation through the Empowerment of the Next Generation of Agrifood Leadership in Africa— is an FAO project under the Flexible Voluntary Contribution (FVC), operating in Lesotho, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. It aims to:

- promote capacity development in transdisciplinary systems thinking for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) interlinkages,
- foster multistakeholder collaboration by strengthening public-private-academic partnerships for inclusive governance,
- and support agripreneurship and youth empowerment by scaling eco-inclusive business models that contribute to the SDGs and generate employment.

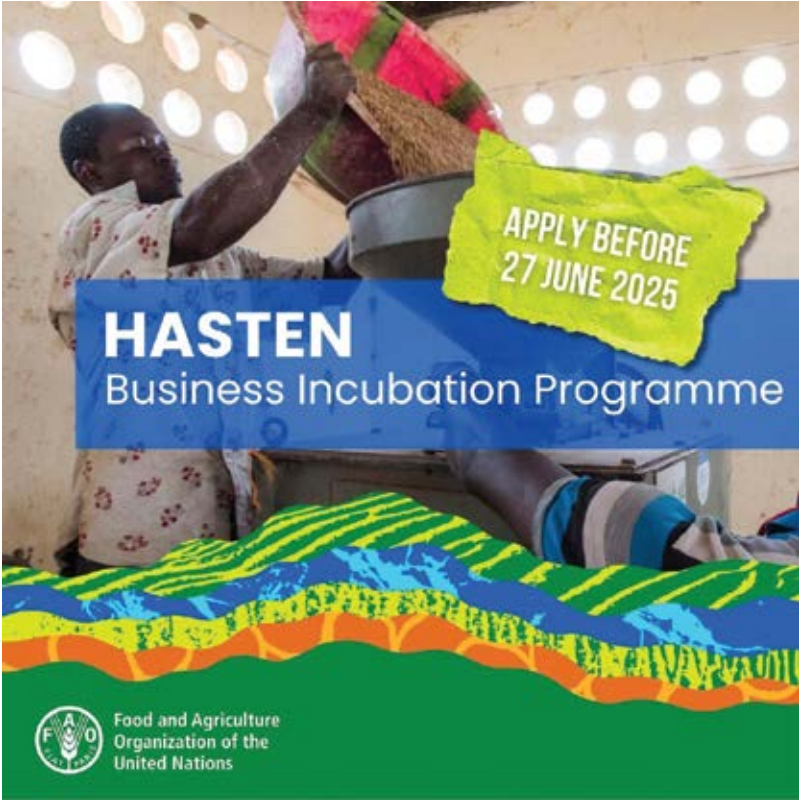
The business incubation component of HASTEN is an initiative to empower youth-led enterprises and entrepreneurs to drive agrifood system transformation. With a strong focus on youth and women-led, eco-inclusive and green startups, the programme supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that show high potential to contribute to making agrifood systems more sustainable, inclusive, efficient and resilient — and ultimately contributing to better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.

The programme is being implemented by the FAO Office of Sustainable Development Goals, with the technical support of SEED. And collaboration from FAO Country Office in Lesotho.

Who should apply?

The programme specifically targets SMEs and startups that meet the following criteria:

- Legally registered in Lesotho, Rwanda or Sierra Leone
- Operational for 1–3 years
- Led by entrepreneurs aged 18 to 35
- Demonstrate a clear contribution to sustainable agrifood systems transformation



- Fully comply with FAO integrity standards and are not involved in any UN prohibited or unethical practices

We are especially looking for:

Resilience boosting startups that enhance the resilience of agrifood systems to climate change, and other systemic shocks and stressors, through sustainable agricultural practices and climate-smart innovations.

Safe and nutritious food enterprises that produce or enhance access to healthy, nutritious, safe and affordable food, support food quality and safety standards and increase public awareness around nutrition and healthy diet choices.

Inclusive business models that promote value chain and livelihood opportunities for smallholder farmers, women and youth.

Programme benefits

Selected enterprises (8–10 per country) will participate in a 5-day, in-person incubation workshop, designed to strengthen sustainable business practices and support the growth of eco-inclusive and socially driven agripreneurship models. They will receive tailored guidance to develop sustainable business plans and financial strategies, utilizing interactive workbooks and hands-on tools, facilitated by international and national coaches.

The final day of each workshop includes an ecosystem event, where participants will pitch their business models and connect with stakeholders from the public and

private sectors, academia, and development organizations, opening doors to future collaboration and increased visibility in the startup ecosystem.

In addition, three enterprises per country will be selected for tailored follow-up support focused on scaling their operations and building strategic partnerships.

How to Apply and What to Expect

1. Read full details on the eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria on the [HASTEN webpage](#).
2. Fill in the [application form](#) by 27 June 2025.
3. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted and will be invited to present their business virtually before final selections are made.
4. Incubation workshops will be held in each country from September – October 2025, with follow-up support for selected enterprises taking place in October- November 2025.





Fees	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
Subscription	M 72.00	M 156.00	M 312.00
Delivery	M 60.00		

Names..... Email:.....No. Of Copies.....

Address:..... Start date:...../...../.....Expiry:...../...../

Tel:..... Cell:..... Signature:.....

Payment Method	Newsday Media PTY LTD	
Cash	Bank Deposit	Merchant
	Standard Lesotho Bank Acc#: 9080001310220	EcoCash 92669 m-pesa 3551

Staff Reporter

Warren Masemola

more to share
with our tasty treats

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







Arts & Entertainment

Newsday

MSL Relo unplugged: DJ, Comedian, MC, and a whole vibe

Karabo Ramathe

Newsday reporter **Karabo Ramathe** sat down with **Relebohile Mosola**, better known as MSL Relo The Japanese, one of Lesotho's most dynamic entertainers whose talents span music, radio, comedy, theatre, and event hosting. From a childhood spent between Mokhotlong and Maseru to becoming a household name, MSL Relo has built a career grounded in passion, resilience, and authenticity. In this exclusive conversation, he shares his journey from early performances and radio gigs to national recognition and mentoring the next generation of talent.

Karabo: Let us first begin with an introduction part, who are you? Where did you grow up, and what was your childhood like?

MSL Relo: I am Relebohile Mosola, my stage name is MSL Relo The Japanese. I am Mohlakoana ka seboko from Mokhotlong. I had a pretty unique childhood. I was raised mostly by my maternal grandmother, whom I still call my first love. But from age five, I moved to live permanently with my mom in Maseru. She was a domestic worker, so I only saw my grandmother during school holidays. Growing up between Mokhotlong and Maseru in the 1990s shaped a lot of who I am today.

Karabo: And your education? Where did you school?

MSL Relo: I went to Hoohlo Primary School, then Methodist High School, and later pursued my degree at the National University of Lesotho (NUL). I majored in Theatre & Drama and minored in History. I have always been fascinated by performance, Television, drama; you can mention them, so choosing theatre and drama just made sense.

Karabo: So, how did DJing come into the picture?

MSL Relo: Music has always been a big part of me. In high school, I was glued to OFM and PC FM, especially for Hip Hop and Rhythm and blues (R'n'B). When I got to NUL, one of the first things I did was apply to be a presenter at DOPE FM, the campus radio. Everyone there was spinning House and Kwaito, even at events at Kay-Cees. Me having a background in the genres I mentioned, it was only easy for me to pick a side that was not represented at all at groove, because I was tired of listening to only house and kwaito, and right there I started, I became a hit instantly, and with years I was featured in more gigs as I was offering something other than House or Kwaito and with time more DJs joined the bandwagon to play Hip Hop sets.

Karabo: You're also known for comedy and Master of Ceremonies (MC) work. Where did that start?

MSL Relo: The stage has always felt like home. In high school, Bofihla 'Neko known as Lilaphalapha, came in and took our drama group to another level. That was when I started seeing my full potential. I was also doing poetry back then and even winning awards for it. At NUL, I met a few like-minded classmates, and we got into stand-up comedy. That led to me hosting Miss NUL, Miss Intervarsity, and more events. After graduating in 2011, I vol-



unteered at Ultimate Radio under Dallas T, and I started to MC and DJ events. One major moment for me was being voted by Basotho as the first Vodacom Superstar TV competition host.

Karabo: You have mentioned working on radio, how long was that?

MSL Relo: That is true, from 2006 to 2011, and then again from 2011 to 2014 at Ultimate Radio. I later joined 357FM during its launch for about a year and a half, then returned to Ultimate Radio. That is where I created a comedy segment called 1 Minute with MSL, it was a big hit, I should say.

Karabo: How would you describe your evolution as a DJ?

MSL Relo: [Laughs] I have been called a "laptop DJ" more times than I can count, but I never let it get to me. People come to the groove to hear good music that fits the mood, not what gear you use. The support

I have received from DJs who appreciate my skill set has kept me going because I offered what others cannot or could not even in the rise of Hip Hop and R'n'B DJs. My goal has always been to entertain, not to dwell in the industry politics. I recently added Amapiano to broaden my spectrum. Also, shout out to Scorpio Knight and Cleketesen for recognising my skills, they helped me grow into one of the best stage managers in the country for big events in the country including Cleketesen, Lecholi, 'Maletsunyane Braai Festival, Vodacom All White, Makhaleng Christmas Party, among others.

Karabo: If you had to choose just one song that truly describes you on sets or performances, what would it be, and why?

MSL Relo: [laughs] Yoh! That would be "It's a Party" by Busta Rhymes ft. Zhané. That song is everything my sets aim to be.

From the first beat, it is like, "Right, right, right, it's on!" The energy is smooth, fun, and full of movement. You hear Zhané come in singing, "It's a party, let's get it on tonight..." and you already know it will be a night to remember. When Busta says, "Let me get down, do my thing ..." that is literally what I am about, I step into a venue and there to shift the energy, make people move, forget their worries, and just enjoy. Whether I'm DJing, MCing, or doing stand-up, that same spirit applies.

Karabo: And beyond the decks, what is something that you do?

MSL Relo: I wrote and acted in S'moko Feela, and was part of Mehla ea Fetoha too. I should emphasise that theatre and radio drama are still close to my heart.

Karabo: What inspired you, what was the motivation in all these?

MSL Relo: My motivation was further fuelled by the fact that NUL had more upcoming DJs than anywhere in the country, the likes of Smalls The DJ, Thizozo, Allegro, Skidzo, Detail, D.O.C just to mention a few, hence Roma becoming the center of entertainment during those times.

Karabo: With so many hats, DJ, MC, comedian, writer, how do you decide what to take on?

MSL Relo: Just depends on what I have been booked for at the event, normally when I take bookings I take those that make more sense to me, for MC'ing specifically I like weddings, graduations, cooperates and intimate stuff. With those, I get to MC and do Standup simultaneously.

Karabo: What advice would you give to young people trying to follow your path?

MSL Relo: Do not do this for fame because it will not pay the bills. Stay in school, have a nine-to-five if you must, then hustle for your passion on the side. Fame is a by-product, not the goal. I admire people like Mavele, who are always trying to evolve and serve both themselves and the industry.

Karabo: Are there any current projects we should know about?

MSL Relo: Of course, I am managing three incredibly talented artists right now. Da Lee Ls, Simon Maure, and Quetone. I believe they are going to shake the Afro House, Tech, and 3Step scenes, not just in Lesotho but beyond.

Apart from that, every Thursday I am doing KASI Kota, the Sky next to Masianokeng Lifestyle Centre on Sundays. As for annual events to look for are Econet Lecholi Mountain Drive and Braai Experience, OVO Party at Kasi Kota 25th October, and 'Maletsunyane Braai Festival.

Karabo: Entertainment in Lesotho is not always easy. What have been your highs and lows?

MSL Relo: The lows? That would definitely be the little or nonexistent fees. But the highs are locking down recurring, major events annually. That is how I know the work is being appreciated.

Karabo: Lastly, where do you see Lesotho's entertainment industry in 10 years?

MSL Relo: I see us exporting artists, DJs, and producers to South Africa and the global stage, especially in genres like Amapiano and Afro House. The talent is here; we just need to keep pushing.

End of an era, start of a new chapter

...Headlines nightclub transforms under Phole Taole's leadership

Chris Theko

After months of high-energy weekends, unforgettable performances, and a loyal following of nightlife lovers, Headlines Nightclub has officially closed its doors, at least for now.

The announcement signals the end of an era for one of Maseru's most prominent entertainment venues and the beginning of a new chapter under the stewardship of local entertainment entrepreneur, Phole Taole.

However, this publication has learned from a source close to the management that the venue is not shutting down permanently, but rather undergoing a facelift aimed at revitalising the space and repositioning it for better business.

Reports indicate that the club has faced business challenges since November last year.

"Yes, there is new management, as the statement confirmed, but the club is not shutting down," the source said. "It's simply changing its approach. The founding team,

who have been leading since its inception, are stepping back to allow Mr. Phole, who brings a fresh perspective, to take the reins and steer the business in a new direction."

Headlines was born out of the legacy of Cuban Linx, a vibrant hotspot that operated for six years at the LNDC Centre in central Maseru. Known for its electric atmosphere and star-studded events, Cuban Linx was forced to close after the LNDC terminated its lease, prompting a relocation to the Lakeside Hotel and a rebranding that gave rise to Headlines.

In a statement released by the outgoing management, the team expressed gratitude to their patrons and reflected on the club's journey:

"Fellow patrons and friends of Headlines, after months of unforgettable nights, top-tier entertainment, and a loyal community of music, events, and nightlife lovers, Headlines will be closing its doors effective immediately. This marks the end of our era in the club scene and entertainment sphere."

While the statement refers to a closure, it

is more accurately a transition. The venue will now be led by Taole, a respected figure in Lesotho's events and nightlife industry.

"We are officially handing over the reins to Phole Taole, a well-known figure in the entertainment industry known for his sharp business acumen, impeccable taste, and a proven track record in delivering unforgettable experiences. Just to name a few, Mr Taole is one of the founding members of Rock Your Team and Soul'nR&B, and has hosted major names like Thuli Pongolo and Tobetsa at Cuban Linx."

Taole's expertise in event planning, artist bookings, and marketing has made him a household name in the entertainment scene. His leadership is expected to usher in a new energy and fresh direction for the space once known as Headlines.

"This decision comes at a time when we thought it was high time to pass the baton. We are hopeful Mr Taole will set the stage for a refreshed experience that aligns with the evolving expectations of our patrons and the vibrant energy of the city's enter-

tainment life," the statement concluded.

One of the founders, Khoaele Komtanta, popularly known as DJ Mekonko, emphasised that this is merely a leadership transition, not a permanent closure.

"The club is temporarily closed to allow for renovations and to make way for the new management, as the statement said. Our loyal patrons should not worry, we are confident they will love the new look, feel, and vision under Mr. Taole. This is simply the passing on of the baton, while we focus on other business interests," said Mekonko.

For his part, Taole expressed excitement about the new venture, describing it as the realisation of a long-held dream.

"I am taking over as part of the ownership and bringing in my full character and vision. I have had this idea for the past five years, but I never had a clear opportunity until now. This is the freedom of ownership, to finally bring that vision to life," said Taole.

Renovations are already underway and will include a refreshed interior and expanded amenities. The plan is to create a venue that caters to both daytime and nightlife audiences. Notably, the revamped space will feature a modern-day Chisan-yama and a car wash area, a multifunctional spot designed to appeal to a broader crowd.

As one chapter closes, another begins. While many will look back fondly on the contributions of Headlines' outgoing management to Maseru's nightlife, there is growing anticipation for what Taole has in store.

For now, Maseru watches with curiosity and excitement as a new era in entertainment unfolds.

DJ Masilo triumphs with new house EP after MTB battle

Chris Theko

Fresh on the Lesotho music scene, DJ Masilo, a celebrated music producer and DJ, has returned with a powerful statement. His latest house music EP, Ke Tla Fihla, released earlier in 2025, marks both a personal and artistic resurgence following his recent hospitalisation for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MTB).

Between December 2024 and January 2025, Masilo was undergoing intensive treatment at Maseru's primary hospital for MTB, a serious and resilient form of tuberculosis. His journey through recovery was challenging, but the isolation and healing process became a wellspring of creative inspiration.

In an exclusive interview with this publication, DJ Masilo described feeling the pulse of life anew and channeling that energy into his music upon his return home.

"In 2024, I did not release a lot of music or any project as I wanted to work with vocalists, but that was a bit challenging, hence it never materialised.

After I was hospitalised, I immersed myself in music production, and I kept thinking I would get there, so I essentially took my illness as an awakening of my desire to make good music no matter what," said Masilo.

"I was fortunate enough that around that time I had just decided to continue on the musical journey by myself, I linked up with a vocalist I know too well called Moana Nong, and we worked with him."

The EP's title translates from Sesotho as "I Will Return", a powerful promise that reflects both Masilo's physical recovery and creative revival. The EP features a tight collection of deep house and vocal mix tracks, including the standout "Ke Tla Fihla (feat. Moana Nong)" and "Hoza (Vocal Mix)", blending soulful vocals

with rhythmic depth.

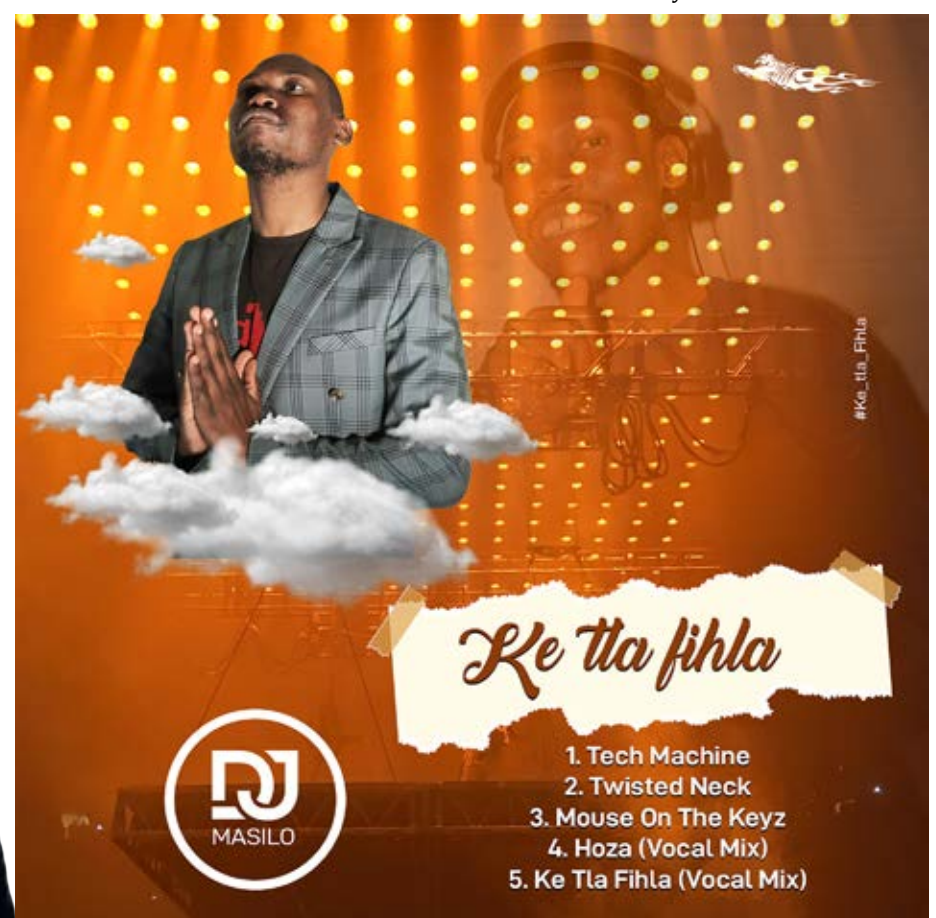
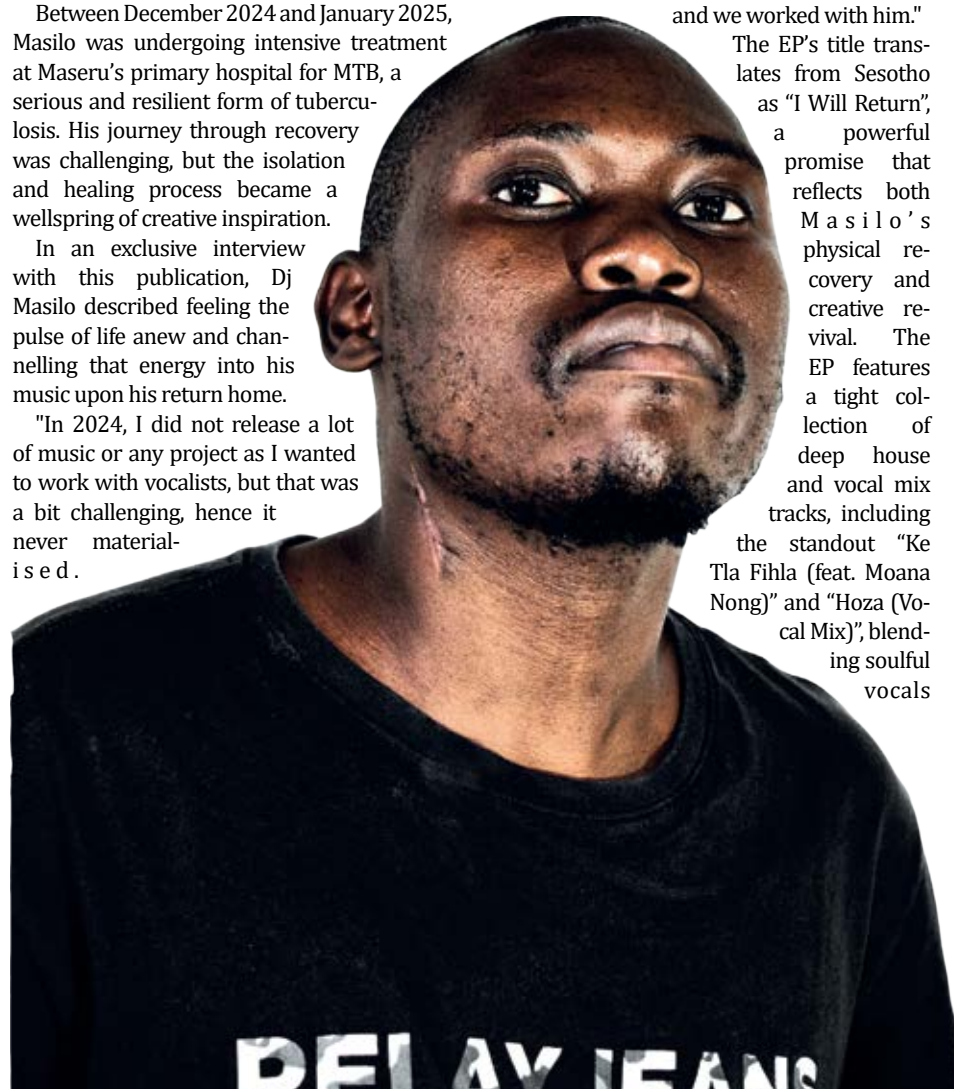
Apple Music, where the EP debuted on May 29, 2025, highlights Masilo's evolving sound, melding traditional Lesotho vibes with club-ready house beats. Tracks like "Mouse on the Keyz", "Twisted Neck", and "Tech Machine" offer a sonic journey through varied textures and moods, all tied together by Masilo's polished production.

In recent years, DJ Masilo has been solidifying his reputation. His prior 2023 single "Koloi Ea Eliea (feat. KJUST)" and collaborations like "The Light" with Ntaote & Mokoena_D (2022) have positioned him as a key player in Lesotho's dance music circuit. But Ke Tla Fihla is

different, it is more introspective and driven by profound personal meaning.

Fusing Basotho musical traditions with global house music influences, Masilo positions himself among a growing movement of Mosotho producers pushing the envelope. His EP arrives just as Lesotho's deep house community is gaining momentum, with events like Vinyl Escapade spotlighting the genre's local talents.

Masilo's public appearances celebrating the EP balance celebration with gratitude. His live DJ sets pulse with energy; at the same time, he uses the platform to raise awareness about TB and health recovery.



Alliance injects M11 Million into four Premier League giants

Karabo Ramathe

Alliance Insurance has renewed its sponsorship of four of Lesotho’s football powerhouses, Lioli FC, Matlama FC, LCS FC, and Linare FC, for another three years, committing a total of M11 million in a deal that strengthens the company’s long-standing support for domestic football and youth development.

The announcement was made by *‘Makeabetsoe Mabaleha* from Alliance’s Marketing and Public Relations Office, who highlighted that the new package marks an increase from the previous M8.5 million sponsorship, re-affirming the company’s unwavering belief in sport as a vehicle for social and economic empowerment.

“We have been supporting football for over 15 years, and it is not just about sport, it is about creating jobs and shaping futures. When we started sponsoring, we saw results. Football became more than recreation. It became a profession for many young Basotho,” said Mabaleha.

Since Alliance entered the football scene, the sponsored clubs have enjoyed unprecedented dominance. Over the past 20 Premier League seasons, these four clubs have secured 13 league titles, a testament to both their consistency and the structural benefits of sustained corporate investment.

- Lioli FC lifted the trophy six times (2009, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2024, 2025)



‘Makeabetsoe Mabaleha

- Matlama FC triumphed three times (2010, 2019, 2021)
 - LCS FC claimed four championships (2007, 2008, 2011, 2012)
- “This is not just about today. It is about creating a legacy. Let us make sure every young Mosotho sees football not only as a dream but as a real opportunity for employment and growth,” Mabaleha urged.

The sponsorship covers a wide range of operational needs, including team administration, player salaries, and kits. Its value could rise further should clubs capitalise on commercial ventures like merchandising and marketing.

Mabaleha stressed that the initiative’s success is not measured solely in trophies. She

noted that the four clubs continue to provide the backbone of the national team, Likuena, contributing to Lesotho’s growing stature in regional tournaments such as the COSAFA Cup.

“We want people to stop seeing football as just a game, but as a career path. What we want is to win, and it should be highlighted that these clubs are the backbone of our national team,” she said.

Lioli’s President Lebohlang Thotanyane, speaking on behalf of the sponsored clubs, hailed the long-term partnership and its impact.

“Lioli is proud to be the 2025 Premier League champion. Of the last 20 seasons, our teams have won the league 13 times. This is a clear reflection of Alliance’s impact.”

Premier League representative Thabiso Phethoka highlighted how the partnership has reshaped the footballing landscape.

“Through Alliance’s sponsorship, 140 players in the Premier League are employed. We applaud these four clubs for their discipline and commitment over the last 20 years.”

LeFA’s Competitions Manager Teboho Letseka also praised the shift toward professionalism.

“No team will be granted a license without proper governance. We are proud of the progress we have seen and applaud Alliance for its role in driving change.”

Bright start for new Lioli coach

Seabata Mahao

Lioli Football Club’s (FC) recently installed head coach Bongani Maseko has enjoyed a dream start to life at Tse Nala, guiding the Teyateyaneng giants to lift the inaugural T.J. Nthane Foundation Tournament with a 2–0 win over Linare FC last Sunday.

The preseason tournament, held in honour of the 70th birthday of the T.J. Nthane Foundation’s founder, Tšelisio Nthane featured four Foundation-sponsored clubs, Majantja FC, Linare FC, Lioli FC and Maroala FC.

Maseko’s charges showed their attacking intent early on in the competition, overcoming Maroala 3–1 in the semi-finals. Linare had earlier beaten Majantja 2–0 to set up the showdown against Lioli.

In the final, Lioli delivered a commanding performance, sealing the title with a convincing 2–0 win. The victory not only earned the team silverware but also underlined the squad’s readiness for the 2024/2025 season under their new coach.

The win came with a M200,000 cash prize, while Linare collected M100,000 for finishing second. Majantja and Maroala received M50,000 each for their efforts.

There was more to celebrate for Lioli as their players dominated the individual accolades. Forward Thejane Thejane walked



Lioli FC Head Coach, Bongani Maseko

away with the Golden Boot and a M2,000 prize, while teammate Sihle Maso, who impressed throughout the competition, was

named Best Player and awarded M2,500.

Despite the defeat, Linare’s Moleli Bataung was recognised as Best Goalkeeper and re-

ceived M2,000.

Speaking after the final whistle, Coach Maseko praised his players for adapting quickly to his methods and putting in performances worthy of champions.

“This team is strong and plays like true champions. The way they approached the games showed their determination to win this trophy. I’m very proud of how the boys performed,” said Maseko.

He expressed optimism for the season ahead, highlighting the team’s focus on greater goals, including national league success and possible continental competition.

Captain Mafa Moremoholo echoed the coach’s sentiments and applauded the squad for showing unity and discipline under new leadership.

“These boys are respectful, they listen, and they follow instructions well. I am proud to lead this group, and I believe we can achieve great things together,” said Moremoholo.

He acknowledged the recent departure of former coach Motheo Mohapi, saying that although it was a tough transition, the team has rallied behind Maseko.

Meanwhile, Linare’s head coach, Teboho Lekhula, took positives from the tournament, viewing it as part of their preseason preparations.

“We have improved compared to last season, where we finished second. We’ll work with the players we have and make a few additions here and there to strengthen the squad,” said Lekhula.

Despite the loss in the final, Lekhula said he was encouraged by his team’s performance, especially as they overcame adversity, including playing a match a man down.

But the spotlight firmly belonged to Lioli and Maseko, whose early success sends a strong message that Tse Nala mean business this season.



Player shake-up looms at Lioli



Seabata Mahao

Reigning Vodacom Premier League (VPL) champions, Lioli Football Club, have begun a squad profiling process described as aligning the team with the philosophy of newly appointed head coach, Bongani Maseko.

The move comes in the wake of the 2024/25 season's conclusion and the departure of former coach Motheo Mohapi, who had led the club to consecutive league titles.

Maseko's arrival has marked the beginning of what the club describes as a period of "self-introspection" as it prepares for the next phase.

Maseko steps into a role that has not been without controversy. Following Mohapi's exit, rumours emerged suggesting player discontent within the squad,

sparking concerns over team stability.

Interest from rival clubs in some of Lioli's key players has further fueled speculation, with forward Teboho Masuoane reportedly among those being targeted.

However, Lioli's President Lebohlang Thotanyane has dismissed fears of a mass player exodus. He stated that the club is working hard to retain its top talent during the current transfer window and emphasised the importance of maintaining continuity within the squad.

In an exclusive interview with Newsday Sports, Thotanyane revealed that coach Maseko, with the full backing of club management, is evaluating every player in the team, assessing their physical and mental readiness as part of the squad's restructuring.

"The new head coach needs to under-

stand and align with the current squad. This profiling process helps him and the technical team to determine who is best suited for the next chapter," Thotanyane said.

He added: "We are not going to part ways with any player prematurely. The coach will choose his preferred squad, and only those deemed not fit for the new vision will be released. Of course, those whose contracts are due to end will either be renewed or compensated fully."

Thotanyane also noted that several player contracts were renewed under Mohapi's leadership and reminded supporters that players are ultimately tied to the club, not individual coaches.

"Lioli FC players belong to the club, not to any individual coach. So, our supporters should not worry about the change

in leadership. Our goal is continuity with improvement," he emphasised.

Rather than initiating sweeping changes, Maseko is expected to bring in targeted reinforcements to bolster the championship-winning squad's competitiveness as it prepares to defend its league title and pursue success in other competitions.

"We want the best talent in the country to wear the Lioli jersey. We are committed to excellence, and this process is the first step in maintaining our dominance in the Premier League," Thotanyane concluded.

While the club has yet to make any official announcements regarding new signings, Newsday Sports has learned from credible sources that Lioli is close to re-signing star striker Masuoane, having seemingly fended off interest from other suitors for his signature.

Lioli F.C. :Picture Courtesy Sports Gallery Lesotho

Elevate your farming game with Lesotho's ONLY Agriculture Publication.

Get Local Wisdom, Global Vision:
Seamlessly blend traditional Lesotho farming practices with cutting-edge global trends. Simply **join our WhatsApp community** and **Follow our socials** for your daily information and interaction.

