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## PARLIAMENT ACCUSED OF LETTING ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY BURN



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# Parliament accused of letting environment ministry burn

## Staff Reporter

The deepening chaos within the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has taken a fresh turn, now drawing in the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism and Land Cluster, which stands accused of complacency and inaction.

Earlier this month, Newsday reported that the ministry was teetering on the brink of collapse under what insiders have described as a reign of terror by Principal Secretary (PS) 'Maphakamile Xingwana. Her leadership, characterised as erratic, authoritarian and unaccountable, is said to have transformed one of the country's most critical ministries into a workplace gripped by fear, dysfunction, and inertia.

In a damning formal complaint addressed to Government Secre-

tary (GS) Teboho 'Mokela, senior officials in the ministry, whose identities are known to Newsday, outlined a litany of grievances against Xingwana.

The complaints painted a disturbing picture of an institution held hostage by unilateral decision-making, a blatant disregard for procedure, and an aggressive intolerance for dissent. Morale, they said, is at an all-time low, and internal operations are near paralysis.

One of the most serious allegations against Xingwana is that she has hoarded government vehicles, keeping four for her personal use despite being entitled to only one. Sources within the ministry told Newsday that the portfolio committee was alerted to this specific

abuse of resources but chose not to act.

"When the committee was first told about this, she had already taken three vehicles. It did not act. Now she has four vehicles all to herself," one source said.

Committee chairperson Moeketsi Motšoane this week denied that his committee ignored the complaints, but acknowledged that the ministry is riddled with issues that demand urgent resolution.

"There are many problems in that ministry that need to be resolved once and for all," Motšoane said. "For instance, we found that a former minister is now serving as a deputy PS. That means the current PS is the senior to someone who once held a higher office; that dynamic alone creates unnecessary tension."

Motšoane assured Newsday that the committee was actively engaged in addressing the turmoil, saying: "We are seized with these matters, and they will be resolved."

But the seeds of this crisis were planted long ago. In July 2024, Minister of Environment and Forestry Letsema Adontši formally wrote to both the GS and Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane, requesting Xingwana's removal.

Adontši's letter offered a blistering assessment of the PS's performance and detailed the dysfunction he faced in trying to carry out his ministerial duties under her grip.

"I humbly requested your office to change the PS I am working with now, Mrs. 'Maphakamile Xingwana," Adontši wrote. "There are plenty of reasons to which I have

come to this decision." Among the grievances, the minister said Xingwana barred directors of departments from accessing his office without her permission, effectively cutting him off from key operations and information.

"This leads to me not getting any feedback or necessary information on anything that is being done in the Ministry," he wrote. "Though I may not put a nail to it, the majority of staff complain about her making it hard for them to fulfil their tasks to their maximum capabilities because she delays or at times does not authorise documents."

A year later, little has changed, and many fear things are deteriorating further.

When contacted by Newsday earlier this month, GS 'Mokela claimed the matter was being handled.

But for many, the situation feels like déjà vu. Just last year, then-Minister of Energy Professor Nqosa Mahao pleaded with Matekane to remove his PS, Tankiso Phapano, citing similar dysfunction.

Instead of removing Phapano, Matekane fired Mahao.

Since November 2024, Minister of Natural Resources Mhloni Moleko has been acting in the energy portfolio, which still has no substantive minister. The ministry has been dogged by controversy as the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) probes the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) amid allegations of incompetence and corruption.

Phapano, who has faced sustained criticism, remains in office as PS. Matekane's seemingly nonchalant stance has led sources within the Ministry of Environment to fear their own saga will end the same way – a minister fired, a PS protected, and a prime minister who appears indifferent.

Matekane's silence on the matter, some say, speaks louder than words.

# RFP MP faces fraud charges over land scam

## Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) Member of Parliament for Thaba-Moea No. 73, Lejone Puseletso, has been formally charged with fraud, accused of orchestrating a land scam that allegedly swindled multiple individuals out of hundreds of thousands of maloti.

Puseletso appeared before the Maseru Magistrate's Court on Wednesday, facing charges under Section 109 of the Penal Code Act No. 8 of 2010 and Section 83(1)(a)(b)(c) of the Land Act. The charges stem from alleged criminal conduct committed between January 2021, before he became a lawmaker, and March 2024.

According to court documents, Puseletso is accused of selling parcels of land he did not legally own, allegedly deceiving five different buyers into purchasing the same site at Ha-Makhoathi, despite lacking a valid Form C (the legal document that proves land ownership).

The charge sheet outlines that the 46-year-old MP sold the disputed plot to, Julius Mashale for M50,000, Lijeng Rapoli for M25,000, 'Mamohau Rosalia Ntlatlapo for M45,000, 'Mamoeti Sello for M45,000, and Lebohang Shale for M75,000.

In total, he allegedly pocketed M380,000 from the fraudulent sales.

"In that upon or about the 29th day of October 2021, at or near Ha-Makhoathi in the district of Maseru, the said accused unlawfully and with intent to defraud made a false statement orally and in writing that he had a piece of land at Ha-Makhoathi and sold it for M25,000.00. As a result of this misrepresentation, Lijeng Rapoli paid the stated amount," reads part of the charge sheet.

The alleged scam extended beyond individual buyers. Puseletso is also accused of defrauding Light of Life International Ministries and its representative, Dinga Peter Mokonyana, of M140,000.

The fraudulent transaction reportedly took



MP Lejone Puseletso (Picture credit- National Assembly)

place between 16 September 2021 and 31 January 2022 for a site at Khubelu, Ha-Abia.

Pleading for bail on his behalf, his lawyer, Advocate M.V. Tšoeu, argued that he is not a flight risk. Advocate Tšoeu emphasised that, as a sitting MP, he is committed to standing trial. He also highlighted that the accused's wife currently works in Ireland, and he has children studying at the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and Lerotholi Polytechnic (LP). Additionally, he cares for his ailing mother and a handicapped brother.

The court granted bail set at M3,000 for each charge and imposed sureties of M20,000 and M30,000 respectively.

Puseletso is scheduled to make another court appearance on 5th August. The case was heard before Magistrate Itumeleng Letsika and prosecuted by Tsietsi Hlaele.

He is not the only RFP lawmaker under a legal cloud. Peka No. 17 MP, Mohopoli Monokoane, is facing separate corruption charges related to a controversial fertilizer transportation tender.



# IEC trio begs for encore

## Thoboloko Ntšonyane

With their five-year term nearing its end, the trio at the helm of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has launched a quiet campaign for a second term.

Chairman Mphasa Mokhochane, alongside fellow commissioners Tšoeu Petlane and Dr. Karaboa Mokobocho-Mohlakoana, have formally submitted letters of motivation for reappointment, effectively knocking on the door of the Government Secretary (GS), hats in hand, seeking an extension.

But as they lobby behind closed doors, the machinery of succession is already in motion, and it may be moving without them.

A letter from GS Teboho 'Malisebo 'Mokela to the Clerk of the National Assembly, Advocate Lebohang Maema KC, has set the wheels turning for the selection of new commissioners.

Political parties have been requested to submit fresh nominations, in accordance with Section 66 of the Constitution, which mandates the Council of State to invite political parties to jointly submit at least five names for consideration.

"We are in receipt of the attached Savingram from the Office of the Government Secretary requesting our office to facilitate the forwarding of the attachments to all Leaders of Political Parties," read a memo penned by Maema to the Chief Whip of the National Assembly.

Established by section 66 of the Constitution, IEC is charged with the mandate of conducting elections, demarcation of constituencies amongst other roles.

IEC Commissioners are appointed by the King on the advice of the Council of State for the five year period and may be reappointed.

"There shall continue to be an Independent



Electoral Commission consisting of a chairman and two members, who shall be appointed by the King acting in accordance with the advice of the Council of State."

The process for nominating the Commissioners is guided by section 66 (a)(4) of the Constitution.

"For the purpose of enabling the Council of State to select the names of persons to be submitted to the King under subsection (3), the Council shall request all registered political parties in accordance with the procedure agreed by them to jointly propose to the Council within a period of thirty days from the date specified by the Council, a list of not less than five names."

This development presents a striking juxtaposition. While the current commissioners

plead their case for continuity, the constitutional process for renewal appears to signal an institutional preference for new blood.

In his motivation letter, Mokhochane reminds the Council of State of the vacuum he found upon taking office in December 2020, a time when the Commission had been left rudderless for too long. He warns that history could repeat itself if the appointment process falters.

"I was appointed on the 14th of December 2020 as the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and that first term of employment contract will be coming to an end on the 14th December 2025. When I joined the IEC in December 2020, I found that my predecessors had long been out of office. The status of not having a Commission for a long time had left

the institution in a vulnerable and unprecedented situation," he wrote.

"This time around, I have a vivid feeling that sad history will repeat itself. I take the opportunity to submit my application to the Council of State as an indication that I have a desire to be offered further engagement, to participate in my second and final term as a member of the Commission for the Independent Electoral Commission," he added.

Dr. Mokobocho-Mohlakoana emphasised institutional memory and the need for continuity, arguing that her continued presence would help steer ongoing electoral reforms to a successful conclusion.

Petlane, meanwhile, pointed to the delimitation of constituencies and other technical accomplishments as markers of their effective leadership.

But the trio's legacy is not without blemish.

The Commission came under fire following the 2022 general elections when it bungled the allocation of proportional representation (PR) seats, a blunder that forced a humiliating return to the courts.

The IEC had erroneously awarded seats to members of the Democratic Congress (DC) and the Alliance of Democrats (AD), when in fact they belonged to the United for Change (UFC), Basotho National Party (BNP), Basotho Patriotic Party (BPP), and the Lesotho People's Congress (LPC) alliance.

The error was eventually rectified, with the rightful MPs sworn in: 'Masetota Leshota (BNP), Mohlominyane Tota (UFC), Rev. Paul Masiu (LPC alliance), and Tefo Mapesela (BPP). Their replacements, Maletsema Letsoepa and Katleho Mosotho (DC), and Lebohang Mochaba and Morapeli Motoboli (AD), were shown the door.

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# A nation struggling, and women paying the price

... How desperate job seekers from Lesotho fall into trafficking rings

**Ntsoaki Motaung**

In Lesotho, where unemployment rates continue to rise, desperation is driving many people, especially women, into the arms of traffickers who promise jobs and a better life in South Africa. What they often find instead are conditions of exploitation, abuse, and survival in the shadows.

Women are the primary targets. They are lured with promises of factory jobs in places like Newcastle and Durban in South Africa. The recruiters prey on those lining up daily in Lesotho's industrial areas, waiting for any opportunity. Some of the women already have jobs but are enticed by promises of better pay, housing, and working conditions.

But these are lies, designed to trap.

## The story of 'Matumelo

In 2022, after losing her factory job in Maseru due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 'Matumelo (not her real name) became one of thousands of Basotho desperate to find work. Rather than sit at home, she began queueing outside factories in hopes of being rehired. That is where she met a smooth-talking Mosotho man who claimed to have connections with factories in Newcastle, South Africa.

At first, she did not believe him. But as the weeks dragged on and her situation worsened, she began to listen. The man made grand promises, good pay, accommodation, and transport, all taken care of. "I thought about my children," she said. "They needed to eat, go to school. I felt I had no choice."

Eventually, she decided to go, with her husband reluctantly agreeing.

On a Friday, with only a few belongings, she boarded a 22-seater van with others heading to South Africa. At the Maputsoe border, they crossed illegally, escorted by a woman claiming to be a police officer and several "Lirurubele," known for helping people cross unlawfully. Each person paid M50 for the crossing.

"We spent the night on the road," she recalled. "We arrived in Durban around 3am and were told to hand over our IDs."

## A nightmare begins

They were taken to a building resembling a factory but denied entry, allegedly because a Chinese employer had been killed there by Basotho workers. They were redirected to another factory where the nightmare began.

The building reeked. The room they were taken to was dark, cramped, and filthy, with a toilet beside the kitchen. Rats scurried freely. Exhausted, they slept sitting upright, surrounded by luggage and fear.

In the morning, a woman already working there laughed when she saw them. "You will see," she told them. "You are about to go through what we did." That



was their first warning.

The so-called managers arrived later. One of them was a Mosotho woman. They offered no food or water. Only certain people were chosen for work. 'Matumelo and one other woman were left behind. "They told me they did not know what to do with me because the machine I said I could operate wasn't available," she said.

"The workers worked tirelessly, sometimes until 1:00 AM before they were allowed to rest," 'Matumelo recalled.

When night fell, she and another woman asked where they were supposed to sleep. The answer was blunt. They were told that they would have to sleep on chairs. Only those who arrived with friends or family could sleep side by side.

With no beds or blankets, they lay across tables and on the cold, hard floor, covering themselves with whatever clothing they had brought from home.

Days passed without being offered food or even water. Eventually, they pooled what little money they had and managed to buy two loaves of bread to share among themselves.

By Sunday, the man who had recruited them in Lesotho finally arrived. Frustrated and furious, 'Matumelo confronted him. "It seems like you were sent to destroy our lives," she told him.

He assured them things would improve, but nothing changed.

As their desperation grew, some factory workers who had been there longer began sharing scraps of their own food. Still, it was not enough. Some could not even take life-saving medication due to the hunger.

The physical toll was quickly becoming unbearable. In her second week at the factory, 'Matumelo's health deteriorated drastically. She lost the ability to speak and could not feel the left side of her body.

She believed the decline was triggered not just by hunger, but also by the degrading environment. People had sex openly, anywhere, at any time. Women, especially new arrivals, were under pressure to survive however they could. Many turned to sex work.

"Even on Saturdays, when we finished

work early, they would leave to drink and sell sex in the streets," she said. "They told me to stay behind and wait for them."

As her condition worsened, she was finally taken to a clinic. At the first, she was turned away because she was a Mosotho. At the next clinic, she received care. There, she met a South African who spoke Sesotho.

She was put on a drip and treated until she started recovering. But when she returned to the factory and asked to go home, her request was refused. Her identification document had been confiscated, and the managers insisted she could not leave until she repaid her transport costs from Lesotho.

Stuck once again in inhumane conditions, her health took another sharp decline. Fortunately, she managed to contact her brother in Johannesburg, who sent her R1,000 for transport.

Then came more distressing news that her child had been admitted to the hospital back in Lesotho. Overwhelmed by the stress, she collapsed and was rushed to the hospital once more.

Upon her release, the factory finally let her go. With her ID in hand, she made her way back home.

She crossed the Maputsoe border bridge and found a police officer. She explained everything. After spending the night in Maputsoe, she was helped with transport to Mafeteng, where her child was still hospitalised.

## A path to healing

Ashamed, traumatised, and emotionally broken, 'Matumelo could barely face anyone. But in Mafeteng, a police officer connected her with Beautiful Dreams Society, a local NGO that supports survivors of trafficking.

They arranged for her to see doctors, who helped restore her physical health. Counseling sessions followed. Slowly, she began to recover emotionally.

Beautiful Dreams Society later linked her with World Vision Lesotho through the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (PPHR) project, funded by the European Union. She was given a sewing machine and fabric to start her own cloth-

ing business, a skill she already had.

Today, she's rebuilding her life.

## A national crisis

'Matumelo's story is not unique. According to Lerato Nkhetše, Executive Director of the Migrant Worker Association of Lesotho, many Basotho are caught in similar situations, especially in factories and farms across South Africa.

"They work hard but don't see the benefits," Nkhetše said. He spoke during a media training on Trafficking in Persons organised by the Ministry of Local Government and supported by Skillshare Lesotho.

Lesotho's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (2011) defines trafficking as the recruitment, transport, harbouring, or receipt of persons for exploitation, including forced labour, prostitution, and organ removal.

## Warning signs of trafficking

According to World Vision, trafficking is often driven by the intent to cause suffering and gain from a victim's vulnerability. Methods of exploitation include prostitution, slavery, and organ harvesting.

Common signs that someone may be a victim of trafficking include being forced to work against their will, being unable to leave their workplace, and showing signs of restricted freedom of movement. Victims may also appear fearful or anxious, feel constantly watched, or endure abuse and threats directed at themselves or their families.

They are often subjected to dangerous or exploitative working conditions, live under the constant threat of violence, and may be pressured to accept obligations under false pretenses.

Many victims also lack trust in legal institutions, are threatened with arrest or deportation, and are afraid to reveal their immigration status. Frequently, their identity documents, such as passports or national IDs, are confiscated and held by their traffickers.

## Lesotho's standing and government efforts

Lesotho remains a Tier 2 country in the 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report by the United States Department of State. This classification means the country does not fully meet the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, but it is making notable efforts toward compliance.

The report highlights some progress. The government increased funding to the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) Anti-Trafficking and Migrant Control (ATMC) Unit, from M100,000 (\$5,430) in 2022 to M135,000 (\$7,330) in 2023.

The ATMC also maintained five specialised focal points, each with three to four investigators, in Botha-Bothe, Leribe, Mafeteng, Mphahlele's Hoek, and Maseru.

However, protection efforts have declined. In the most recent reporting period, the government identified and referred nine trafficking victims to care services, six victims of sex trafficking, two of labour trafficking, and one victim of unspecified trafficking.

This represents a significant drop from the 25 victims identified and referred in the previous year.

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- Econet App
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- E-commerce pioneering (EcoMart)





# Lesotho moves to streamline trade with digital single window platform

Staff Reporter

In a major stride toward simplifying cross-border trade and improving the ease of doing business, the government is making significant headway in implementing the Lesotho National Single Window (LNSW), a digital platform designed to harmonise and digitise trade procedures.

This reform aligns with Article 10.4 of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)'s Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which Lesotho ratified in 2016.

It aims to reduce the administrative burden on traders and improve the efficiency of imports and exports by creating a centralised platform where all trade-related permits, licenses, and certificates can be processed electronically.

Momentum for the project surged this week with the official handover of information and communication technology (ICT) equipment worth M4 million to ten government agencies that are being integrated into the system.

The equipment, provided under the World Bank-supported Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) Project, includes 52 laptops, 50 desktops, 37 printers, 37 routers, 37 UPS units, 37 wall-mount racks, and six servers.

Spearheaded by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development, the LNSW is a flagship component of Lesotho's digital transformation agenda.

Once fully operational, it will allow traders to apply for and receive the necessary documentation to import or export goods without having to physically visit multiple offices.

The platform is expected to reduce border delays, cut transaction costs, improve compliance, and promote transparency and efficiency across the board.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Palesa Matobako, said the handover marked more than just the distribution of equipment; it represented a concrete step toward a more efficient trade environment.



"The handover of equipment to our key implementing agencies today signifies more than the mere distribution of resources; it stands as a powerful testament to our collective strides toward realising the Lesotho National Single Window," Matobako said.

"This pivotal reform embodies the Ministry's dedication to simplifying cross-border procedures and strengthening Lesotho's trade competitiveness," she added.

She indicated that through the CAFI Project, the Ministry has worked to ensure that trade-related institutions are adequately equipped to participate in the digital transformation. The reform is expected to enhance transparency, operational efficiency, and compliance within the trade system.

Chaba Mokuku, the Managing Director of the CAFI Project, noted that the government's digital trade reform journey began even earlier, in March 2014, with the launch of the Trade Information Portal.

He said in June 2022, a pilot phase was successfully completed under the Second Private Sector Competitiveness (PSC) Project, connecting the One-Stop Business Facilitation Centre (OBFC), responsible for business registration and trade licensing, and the Lesotho Revenue Authority (now Revenue Services Lesotho), responsible for customs clearance and revenue collection.

Despite disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and tight deadlines under the PSC Project, Mokuku praised the technical teams and oversight bodies for successfully delivering the pilot phase.

He confirmed that the next phase will integrate ten additional agencies into the system by February 2026. Equipment distributed this week is meant to prepare those agencies for integration, and by September this year, Revenue Services Lesotho will assume full operational management of the platform.

"Our goal is clear: by February 2026, ten additional government agencies will be fully integrated into the platform. Today, we take a concrete step toward that goal. The Project Management Unit of the CAFI Project is officially handing over ICT equipment to these agencies representing a wide range of regulatory and trade-related functions," Mokuku said.

Mokuku further indicated that the system would empower small and medium enterprises, which often lack the capacity to navigate complex trade regulations, by making licensing and documentation more accessible and predictable.

Once fully operational, the Single Window will offer a unified digital platform for all trade-related applications, significantly reduce clearance times and transaction costs, and eliminate bureaucratic inefficiencies.

He added that this reform is not just a technological upgrade but a critical tool to enhance national competitiveness. It is expected to boost Lesotho's trade performance, increase export volumes, strengthen coordination among regulatory bodies, and position the country as a regional leader in trade facilitation.

The LNSW will also integrate with the customs management system, allowing traders to reference licenses and permits digitally, rather than attaching scanned documents to customs declarations. This will further accelerate border clearance, cut costs, and improve transparency.

The beneficiary trade-related agencies include:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition - for import/export permits of controlled commodities;
- Department of Livestock and Fisheries - for veterinary permits; Department of Agricultural Research - for plant import permits and phytosanitary certificates;
- Lesotho Dairy Board - for dairy trade permits;
- Ministry of Health (Environmental Health & Pharmaceuticals) - for certificates related to food safety, medicines, narcotics, and medical devices;
- Ministry of Natural Resources - Department of Mines - for mineral export permits;
- Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police - for firearm and explosive permits, and regional police clearances;
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport - Department of Traffic - for cross-border road transport permits; and
- Ministry of Sports, Tourism, Arts and Culture - for alcohol import permits.

## PostBank simplifies access to finance for teachers

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho PostBank has formed a strategic partnership with the Lesotho Association of Teachers (LAT) in a major initiative aimed at improving access to financial services for educators across the country.

The agreement, signed on Thursday, is expected to broaden teachers' access to personal and home loans, investment options, and improved banking services specifically tailored to meet their unique needs.

Speaking at the event, Lineo Masupha, Lesotho PostBank's Head of Sales, highlighted the importance of financial inclusion for teachers and reaffirmed the bank's broader vision for sustainable financial empowerment.

"In Lesotho PostBank, we do not just talk about loans without talking about savings and investments," said Masupha.

"This partnership is our commitment to changing the lives of teachers. It is our way of recognising their critical role in shaping the nation."

Under the partnership, LAT members will benefit from a range of customised banking solutions, including personal, car, and home loans with preferential terms, as well as targeted savings and investment tools to promote better financial planning.

On his part, the LAT's Secretary General Letsatsi Ntsibolane expressed enthusiasm about the partnership and its potential impact on the association's members.

"This is still a small company with huge aspirations. We realised that teachers come to us, but we cannot always meet their financial needs. We did not want to lose them, so we sought a strong partnership, and found it in PostBank," Ntsibolane said.

Ntsibolane also noted that many teachers are already lined up to benefit from the initiative, now that the agreement is in effect. He clarified that LAT Financial Services and Lesotho PostBank, while appearing as competitors, will collaborate closely to offer complementary support to teachers.

The partnership is also anticipated to increase LAT membership, as more educators are expected to join the organisation to access these enhanced financial services.

Delivering the keynote address, Lesotho PostBank's CEO, Mopeli Mokhachane, emphasised the bank's long-standing commitment to the education sector and the foundational role that education plays in national development.


"We cannot ignore matters of education while fully aware that it is education that has brought us to where we are today. As a person, I truly love education, because I am who I am because of education," Mokhachane said.

Mokhachane reaffirmed that PostBank's support for education goes beyond teachers, extending to parents and students as well, through initiatives such as school fee support and student awards. He also called on LAT to play an active role in promoting financial literacy among students.

"The biggest support we can offer is to raise a nation that understands the value of money," he concluded.




Lesotho PostBank's CEO Mopeli Mokhachane



**NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANIZATION**

GENERAL DOCUMENT

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

**NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANISATION**

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The closing date for applications is Friday 01st August 2025 at 16H30

**ESTATE NOTICE**

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

**ESTATE LATE NAPO JOSHUA MAJARA E1007/2025**

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024, calling upon the surviving spouse, their heirs, legatees, and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court at the office of the Master of the High Court, in Maseru on **TUESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER 2025 at 9:00 am** for the purpose of:

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

Dated at Maseru this 18th June 2025

Master of the High Court Office

Magistrate Court Building  
Maseru



Phatlalatso ea Sechaba

Tumello ea ntšetsopele ea khaho ea Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project Phase II for Zones 2 and 3 (Ha Lesiamo, Hlotse, Tsikoane and Maputsoe)

Ho etsoa tsebiso ea hore Lekala la Tikoloho le Meru ka Lefapha la Tikoloho le fane ka ntšetsopele ea tumello (**Extension of Record of Decision (RoD)**) ea khako ea Morero oa Phepelo ea Metsi Mabalane a Lesotho Mokhahlelo oa Bobeli tikolo-hong ea Bobeli le ea Boraro (Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project Phase II – Zones 2 and 3) ka la **9 Phupu 2025**. Khakho ea Morero e ntseng e tsoela pele e etsoa ka mekhahlelo e latelang:

- **LLWDPII/W/05 – Khaho ea marang-rang a lipeipi tsa metsi Hlotse, Khanyane and Ha ‘Lesiamo**
  1. Mararang-rang a lipeipi a bolelele ba 390 km
  2. Khokelo ea Malapa a sekete le makholo a mahlano (1,500)
  3. Litsi tse pompang metsi tse supileng (7)
  4. Tokiso ea lipeipi tse senyehile
- **LLWDPII/W/06 – Khaho ea marang-rang a lipeipi tsa metsi Maputsoe, Tsikoane and Mpharane**
  1. Mararang-rang a lipeipi a bolelele ba 150 km
  2. Khokelo ea Malapa a sekete le makholo a mabeli (1,200)
  3. Litsi tse pompang metsi tse robeli (8)
  4. Tokiso ea lipeipi tse senyehileng

**Qingjian Group (CNQC)** e ntse e etsa khaho ea LLWDPII/W/05 and LLWDPII/W/06 e qalileng ka **12, Tlhakubele 2024**.

- **LLWDPII/W/04 – Khaho ea Makuka le Lipeipi tse Kholo tsa Metsi**
  1. Makuka a mane (4 x Reservoirs) a boholo ba 14.95 MI
  2. Lipeipi tse kholo tsa bolele ba 27.7 km
  3. Setsi se le seng (1) se pompang metsi
  4. Lichambara
  5. SCADA

**UNIK Botswana Construction Engineering (UNIK)** e ntse e etsa khaho ea **LLWDPII/W/04** e qalileng ka la **7 Motšeanong 2024**.

- **LWDPII/W/03a Ho Rala le ho Aha Marang-rang a Lipei tse Kholo, Setsi sa Tlhoekiso ea Metsi, Makuka, Setsi sa ho kha metsi ka Nokeng ea Hlotse**
  1. Setsi sa ho kha metsi ka nokeng ea Hlotse
  2. Setsi sa tlhoekiso ea metsi
  3. Makuka a mane

Mosebetsi o na o etsoa ke **China International Water & Electric. Corp (CWE)** me o qalile ka la 16 Loetse 2024.

Tumello ea Khaho (Record of Decision)

Tumello ea khaho e tla ba tšebetsong lilemo tse peli ho tloha letsatsi leo e fanoeng ka eona. Ho latela Molao oa Tikoloho oa Selemo sa 2008, karolo ea 25(5), mang le mang a nang le khanyetso a ka lebisa tletlebo ea hae ka mongolo ho Mookameli oa Lefapha la Tikolo ho rapalatsa mabaka a ka etsang hore a hlahlobe qeto eo, ka hare ho matsatsi a mashome a mararo (30), a phatlalatso ena. Maikutlo kapa litletlebo li ka Lebisoa atereseng e latelang

Mookameli  
Department of Environment  
Ministry of Environment and Forestry  
Floor 7  
Post Office Building  
Kingsway Street  
P.O. Box 10993  
Maseru 100  
Lesotho



## Prime Minister Matekane must act

It is now painfully clear that the Ministry of Environment and Forestry is in crisis. The ongoing turmoil within the ministry has not only compromised its ability to function effectively but has also raised serious questions about leadership, governance, and accountability at the highest levels.

Reports of an irreparably broken working relationship between the Minister and the Principal Secretary have surfaced repeatedly, painting a picture of dysfunction and internal strife that threatens to cripple a ministry critical to Lesotho's future.

While the details of the conflict are complex and both sides have voiced grievances, what is indisputable is that the ministry is not operating as it should. Senior officials have lodged formal complaints. Parliamentary oversight committees have been informed. The Minister has called for change.

However, the stalemate endures, unresolved, festering, and increasingly damaging.

The responsibility for resolving such a crisis ultimately rests with the Prime Minister: Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane, as the country's leader, must demonstrate the kind of decisive leadership that Lesotho's governance so urgently needs.

He is charged not only with appointing ministers and senior officials but with ensuring they can work together effectively to serve the public interest. In this case, where the working relationship between key leaders in a vital ministry has clearly broken down, failure to act is no longer an option.

A Prime Minister who understands the demands of good governance would have intervened decisively long ago, whether that means replacing the Principal Secretary, the Minister, or facilitating an effective mediation to restore functionality. Indecision or inaction only prolongs the crisis and sends a message that internal conflict and dysfunction can be tolerated.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry plays an essential role in protecting Lesotho's natural resources, combating climate change, and managing forests and biodiversity, tasks that are critical to national development and the wellbeing of future generations. It is unacceptable that this ministry be allowed to descend into paralysis.

There is a very real and dangerous precedent unfolding in Lesotho: the Ministry of Energy. That ministry has been mired in controversy for years, plagued by scandal, mismanagement, leadership disputes, and corruption allegations. The consequences of this dysfunction have been catastrophic, contributing to stalled projects, and public distrust.

We must not allow the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to follow the same downward path. The stakes are simply too high. The environment is a shared national heritage, and mismanagement here threatens not only current livelihoods but the legacy left to those who come after us.

Prime Minister Matekane's silence and apparent inaction on this issue so far is deeply concerning. Leadership is not only about celebrating successes but also about confronting challenges head-on and making difficult decisions. Basotho expect and deserve a government that can manage its own house, that acts swiftly when internal conflicts jeopardise the delivery of essential services.

It is time for the Prime Minister to act. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry must be stabilised and restored to a state of order and productivity. Whether this requires removing the Principal Secretary, the Minister, or both, or employing other remedial measures, the decision must be made promptly and clearly.

Anything less risks allowing this critical ministry to become yet another example of governance failure, a "Ministry of Energy" in the making, where dysfunction is normalised, accountability is ignored, and public trust is eroded.

In South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa is often criticised for his tendency to establish commissions of inquiry whenever a major problem arises. While this approach has its flaws and can sometimes be seen as delaying direct action, at least it reflects a willingness to confront issues publicly and seek solutions.

By contrast, Prime Minister Matekane's response to mounting crises is silence and apparent inaction. Basotho deserve a leader who takes tangible steps to resolve problems. Leadership demands decisiveness.



No Comment



**Opinion** Newsday

# Labour Force Survey ode to invisibility: When “leaving no one behind” is just folklore

**Bokang Bane**

As Queer WorX, we speak not as statisticians or labour market experts, but as advocates and concerned citizens dedicated to ensuring that all Basotho are counted and recognised. We acknowledge the effort involved in producing national reports, such as the Labour Force Survey, and we respect the expertise of the Bureau of Statistics in that work. However, from our perspective, as a community-driven organisation focused on economic inclusion, certain patterns and silences in the data stand out.

We observe these silences not through a technical lens, but through the realities of the queer Basotho we work with: young people seeking jobs, entrepreneurs excluded from opportunities, and workers navigating discrimination. We understand enough to know that when entire identities are not reflected in national surveys, it has real consequences for whether they are included in policies, programmes, and support systems.

The 2024 Labour Force Survey (LFS) presents a sobering picture of Lesotho's labour market realities, but it also highlights a deeper, persistent flaw in our national data system: the lack of inclusive gender representation.

When Queer WorX speaks about economic inclusion, we speak as citizens rendered invisible in Lesotho's development agenda. Our core mission is to champion economic inclusion, particularly the LGBTQI+ community. Economic inclusion is not an abstract theory; it is a lived urgency. A significant part of this advocacy involves ensuring robust data disaggregation and gender mainstreaming in national re-

ports. It is with this lens that we approach the recently released 2024 LFS.

LFS proudly reports disaggregated data across sex, age, marital status, and education, thoroughly breaking down population distribution, working-age demographics, employment, earnings, and unemployment. Yet every table, chart, and figure in these 172 pages frames Basotho citizens exclusively in binary terms (male/female).

This systematic omission of individuals with diverse gender identities and sexual orientations constitutes more than a technical oversight; it is an act of erasure. By rendering gender and sexual minorities invisible, the report obscures their unique economic participation and challenges.

Consequently, the analysis fails to capture the intersecting layers of exclusion, where sexual/gender identity compounds socioeconomic marginalisation, perpetuating real economic harm against queer Basotho.

This statistical erasure directly contradicts our stated commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the mandate to 'leave no one behind' and advance gender equality. How can we reconcile this pledge with the systematic exclusion of citizens whose realities transcend the male/female binary?

When entire communities remain invisible across every metric, from labour force participation and unemployment rates to educational attainment and earnings disparities, the report's otherwise detailed analysis of social and economic factors becomes fundamentally incomplete. It fails to even acknowledge the existence, let alone the economic experiences, of transgender, non-binary, gender non-con-

forming, or intersex Basotho.

This profound limitation cripples our understanding of the workforce's true diversity. Consequently, policymakers, planners, and international partners lack the critical data needed to design genuinely inclusive economic interventions. How can we effectively address unemployment, underemployment, or informal labour for all Basotho if we refuse to count all Basotho?

Lesotho's working-age population is reported at over 1.5 million. But how many of them are LGBTQI+? How many queer individuals are trapped in informal, underpaid sectors due to systemic discrimination? How many are unemployed, not because of a lack of skills, but because their identities are not welcome in the workplace? The LFS cannot answer these questions, because it never asked them.

The report states that Lesotho's active youth labour force population was 373,313 in 2024, meaning 373,313 young people aged roughly 15–35 years were actively participating in the economy, either working or looking for work. Gender-diverse youth are part of that workforce in real life, yet they are invisible in official statistics and, by extension, in economic policies and programmes.

If Lesotho is serious about addressing youth unemployment or supporting entrepreneurship, it must count all young people, including those outside binary gender categories. When a country's largest and most active labour segment is measured using incomplete categories, it not only misses numbers but also misses real people, real needs, and real opportu-

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CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 8...

nities for growth.

This is not merely an academic concern; it has tangible, detrimental impacts on economic inclusion. When data collection fails to capture the full spectrum of gender identities, the unique challenges and contributions of LGBTIQ+ Basotho in the labour force remain unseen. How can we formulate effective policies for “decent work for all” if a significant portion of “all” is not counted, not categorised, and therefore, not considered in policy formulation?

The mission of the Bureau of Statistics to produce “accurate, timely, reliable, culturally relevant and intentionally comparable statistical data for evidence-based planning, decision making, research, policy, program formulation and monitoring and evaluation to satisfy the needs of users and producers” falls short when it comes to the LGBTIQ+ community.

... and this is not a matter of statistical convenience.

It is a political choice. Data defines who is counted, who is seen, and ultimately, who is served. If there is no data on Basotho who identify as LGBTIQ+, how can policies address our unemployment rates, workplace discrimination, or economic exclusion?

What makes this silence even more striking is the state’s ability to collect disaggregated data when it chooses. In the health sector, particularly around HIV, data exists on men who have sex with men (MSM), and other so-called “key populations.” But these labels are often framed through a pathologising, risk-focused lens that reduces LGBTIQ+ people to sexual behaviour rather than acknowledging us as full human beings with natural relationships, aspirations, and contributions.

This fragmented recognition masterfully sustains a convenient fiction: that LGBTIQ+ Basotho exist solely as disease vectors for public health bulletins, never as actual workers, entrepreneurs, artists, professionals, or innovators.

How efficient! It perfectly fuels our social and economic exclusion, blissfully ignoring the tedious reality that we do participate in Lesotho’s workforce (assuming we are graciously allowed employment), we do pay taxes (provided, of course, we miraculously possess the means despite systemic barriers), and we even dare to create jobs (if the hallowed ‘equal opportunities’ ever materialise beyond press releases).

We even build families (if the law, in its infinite wisdom, deigns to recognise our relationships, ha!). Yes, we contribute, persistently, visibly, and undeniably, even as the law and official statistics generously offer us the courtesy of invisibility.

Lesotho’s economy cannot thrive if entire segments of its population remain invisible in official statistics. We need national surveys that respect gender diversity, as per international best practices, including inclusive gender identity questions and options beyond binary markers.

The first step to inclusion is recognition. Without that, “leave no one behind” risks becoming little more than folklore, a story we tell ourselves, a folklore repeated in

policy documents, but never fully realised in the lived experiences of queer Basotho.

From a feminist economics lens, this omission is not just discriminatory; it is inefficient. Human capital theory and the capabilities approach are clear: national growth requires recognising all talent. Excluding LGBTIQ+ Basotho from data and plans is not merely a human rights violation; it is an active waste of human capital, stifling Lesotho’s economic potential.

Our policy frameworks perform a cruel magic trick: pledging ‘inclusion’ while erasing queer realities. The NSDP II trumpets ‘inclusive growth’ yet ignores how SOGIE-specific vulnerabilities, like the fear of reporting violence documented by the ICJ, directly fuel unemployment. While the Constitution promises equality, legislative gaps leave LGBTIQ+ Basotho exposed to violence and discrimination.

The hypocrisy deepens. The NSDP II demands ‘disaggregated data’ as a pillar of ‘leaving no one behind’ and aims to close gender indicator gaps. Yet, it wilfully exempts SOGIE, trapping ‘gender’ in a male/female binary. Its vision of a “participatory, demand-driven” statistical system rings hollow when transgender, non-binary, and intersex citizens remain uncounted.

Look at the NFIS II: It envisions a “dynamic, inclusive financial sector” enabling “all Basotho,” links to SDG 5 on gender equality, and promises to address gender and vulnerability across all working groups.” It champions digital IDs and e-KYC as keys to inclusion. Yet, it remains stunningly blind to how biometric systems alienate gender-nonconforming citizens. These are not just incomplete documents; they are blueprints for exclusion and discrimination, masquerading as policy.

For Queer WorX, grounded in the lived realities of our community, we believe gender mainstreaming and inclusive data are not academic luxuries; they are foundations of economic justice. The absence of inclusive data means the continued exclusion of queer people from employment statistics, earnings estimates, and social protection programs. In essence, it institutionalises invisibility.

Worse, it enables systems like biometric ID and digital KYC to alienate gender-nonconforming citizens, locking them out of financial inclusion, healthcare, and formal employment when legal gender markers do not reflect their identity. This institutionalised invisibility must end.

To dismantle this systemic exclusion, future surveys must be inclusive by design. We demand concrete, interconnected action: The Bureau of Statistics must overhaul labour surveys to explicitly include non-binary, transgender, and gender-diverse identities in demographic and economic data collection.

Simultaneously, the government must establish accessible legal gender recognition procedures, ensuring gender markers on official IDs reflect lived realities, a fundamental prerequisite for equitable access to services. This demands intentional dignity in systems: enumerators require rigorous training in ethical, confidential data collection, and digital ID infrastructure (including biometrics and e-KYC) must be reformed to accommodate diverse gender markers; failure here

renders the promise of ‘inclusive finance’ a cruel joke.

Finally, enact a national gender mainstreaming policy explicitly protecting LG-BTIQ+ populations, mandating inclusion across labour, finance, education, and social welfare sectors, with accessible legal gender recognition embedded as a core component of this framework.

Lesotho cannot afford to treat gender diversity as an afterthought or a taboo. Queer WorX calls on the Bureau of Statistics, policymakers, and development partners to mainstream gender diversity in labour statistics. Visibility is not just dignity. It is also smart economics. Inclusion in national data is inclusion in national development.

To move from folklore to lived reality, Lesotho must act with deliberate purpose to ensure that all its people are counted, seen, and included. It is not enough to express commitment to “leave no one behind” in speeches or development frameworks if the systems that count and serve the nation continue to erase entire communities.


The Bureau of Statistics must revise its labour force survey and other national instruments to integrate gender diversity questions that go beyond the male/female binary. This is not unprecedented; international standards from the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation already provide clear guidance

on such practices. Collaboration plays a vital role. Community organisations such as Queer WorX, alongside other LGBTIQ+ and human rights organisations, stand ready to partner with government agencies to offer technical expertise and bridge trust gaps that often leave marginalised groups hesitant to engage with official processes.

Lesotho must move towards adopting a national gender mainstreaming policy that explicitly includes LGBTIQ+ populations. Such a policy would provide a formal framework to ensure all sectors, from labour to education, social welfare to economic development, recognise and plan for the full diversity of Basotho citizens.

Lastly, inclusion must be made transparent and accountable. It is no longer enough to state intentions without clear follow-through. Measurable indicators within Lesotho’s National Strategic Development Plan and SDG reporting must explicitly track gender diversity in economic participation and labour force data, making sure that all Basotho are truly counted and considered.

Leaving no one behind requires more than a slogan. It requires systems that actively reflect and respond to all identities. Counting every Basotho, in all their diversity, is where true inclusion begins. Leaving no one behind must be more than folklore. It must be deliberate, measurable, and actionable.



Kingdom of Lesotho

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition

Invitation for Bids

**Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Reagents, Consumables, Equipment, Biosafety and Biosecurity.**

1. 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.

2. The Principal Secretary now invites sealed bids from interested bidders with relevant trader's licences for the **Supply & Delivery of Laboratory Reagents, Consumables, Equipment, Biosafety and Biosecurity.**

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the following address:

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

3. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **(M5,000.00) Five Thousand Maloti only.** The method of payment must be payable at Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. Bidding document will be available from **01st July 2025.**

4. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **07th August 2025 at 12:00 noon.** Late bids will be rejected. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **M20, 000.00** in the form of a bank guarantee or irrevocable/assurance letter of credit valid for thirty (30) days beyond the validity of the bid. As appears in the bid data sheet.

5. It is mandatory for bidders to submit the following valid documents: (a) Tax Clearance Certificates; (b) Trader's License, (c) Certificate of Bona Fide Bidding, (d) Bid Security and (e) a completed bid form. These documents [especially (a) and (b)] shall either be originals or certified copies from the source. **Non-compliance with this requirement may invalidate a bid.**

6. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **14:00hrs on Thursday, 07th August, 2025** at the address given below:

**Board Room  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition  
Corner Constitution & Linare Roads,  
Maseru 100, Lesotho.**

7. Bidders shall ensure that the envelopes containing their bids are properly addressed as indicated under ITB above and are clearly marked **"Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Reagents, Consumables, Equipment, Biosafety and Biosecurity"** **GOL/ G002/2025/26.**

**Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition also reserves the right to cancel the tender before submission or opening of the tenders, postpone the tender submission or opening date and accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.**

**Procurement Manager**





PUBLIC NOTICE

Record of Decision on the Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project Phase II for Zones 2 and 3 (Ha Lesiamo, Hlotse, Tsikoane and Maputsoe)

Notice is hereby given that the Ministry of Environment and Forestry through the Department of Environment issued an extension of the **Record of Decision (RoD)** on the **9th July 2025** authorizing continuation of on-going construction of the Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project Phase II (LLWDP II) in Zones 2 and 3. The Project infrastructure authorised under the RoD comprise of the following work Packages:

1. LLWDPII/W/05 – Construction of Distribution Network at Hlotse, Khanyane and Ha ‘Lesiamo

The work includes the construction of water distribution networks for Hlotse town, as well as Khanyane and Ha Lesiamo villages. The infrastructure includes approximately:

- 390 km of water distribution pipelines ranging in size between DN63 to DN450 uPVC.
- 1,500 house connections,
- 7 concrete break pressure tanks including pressure reducing valve chambers, and 15 zonal isolation valve and flow meter stations.
- Work also include removal of parts of the existing network and/or cutting off of parts of the existing network.

2. LLWDPII/W/06 – Construction of Distribution Network at Maputsoe, Tsikoane and Mpharane

The construction of distribution system and associated infrastructure associated infrastructure for Maputsoe, Mpharane & Tsikoane includes approximately:

- 150 km of water distribution pipelines ranging in size between DN63 to DN630 uPVC.
- 1,200 house connections,
- concrete break pressure tanks including pressure reducing valve chambers, and 8 zonal isolation valve and flow meter stations.
- Work also include removal of parts of the existing network and/or cutting off of parts of the existing network.

**Qingjian Group (CNQC)** has been engaged to implement both LLWDPII/W/05 and LLWDPII/W/06 work packages and commenced March 12, 2024.

3. LLWDPII/W/04 – Construction of the Transmission Systems & Reservoirs

The construction of the transmission system and reservoirs includes:

- 4 x Reservoirs - Total capacity of 14.95 MI
- 4 x Pipelines - ± 23.0 km x DN450 to DN850 Steel & ± 4.7 km x DN110 to DN200 uPVC
- 1 x Pump Station – Q = 20 m3/h @ H = 75m, 1 Duty: 1 Standby
- All associated valve chambers – isolation valves, air valves, scour valves, flow meters, control valves & pipe junctions
- SCADA System

This work package is implemented by **UNIK Botswana Construction Engineering (UNIK)** and commenced May 7, 2024.

4. LWDPII/W/03a Design & Construction of River Intake - Raw Water Pumps & Water Treatment Works, Transmissions, Reservoirs and Pumping station

The infrastructure to be constructed includes the following:

- Intake Works
- Raw water Rising Main and Pump Station
- WTW
- Khanyane Rising Main (TR1)
- Ha Lesiamo Rising Main (TR8)
- Khanyane Command Reservoir (Z2R1)
- Ha Lesiamo Reservoir (Z2R21)

This work package is implemented by **China International Water & Electric. Corp (CWE)** and commenced September 16, 2024.

Record of Decision

The Record of Decision is valid for two years from the date of issuance and authorises the Project. In terms of the Environment Act 10 of 2008, Section 25(5), any person, may request in writing, setting forth the reasons for their request that, the Director, Department of Environment reconsiders his decision within 30 days of this notification. Their request may be submitted directly to the Director, Department of Environment using the contact information below:

The Director  
Department of Environment  
Ministry of Environment and Forestry  
Floor 7  
Post Office Building  
Kingsway Street  
P.O. Box 10993  
Maseru 100  
Lesotho



# Re-Advert-Letter of Invitation for Prequalification (IFP)

## Construction of the new Tebelling Bridge across the Senqu River at Thabana-Ts’oana (White-Hill) in Qacha’s Nek Ref No. RD/PS/I/TC/2025/2026

- The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho through the Roads Directorate intends to **construct a new bridge and road across the Senqu River at Thabana-Tso’ana (White Hill) and Tebelling (Ref No. RD/PS/I/TC/2025/2026)**
  - The Roads Directorate is inviting proposals from suitably qualified Civil Engineering Construction, local and international contractors, categorized by the Roads Directorate under **Category A**. International companies that are not categorized by the Roads Directorate are required to pay a non-refundable registration fee of **Twenty Thousand Maloti (M20,000.00)**. The payment details are specified in clause 6 below. Contractors with ongoing projects that have exceeded their completion time by more than 50% are not eligible to bid.
  - The scope of the Work comprising the Construction of the bridge and road is as follows: -
    - An 8-span bridge with main spans of 32 m and 35 m above riverbed level
    - 6.8 km surfaced approach roads
    - Retaining walls
- The Employer proposes to award the Contract in **November 2025**, and the Time of Completion of the project is set at 24 months.
- A **non-compulsory** site inspection commencing at **10:00hrs**, and whose assembly point is located at White Hill (Ha Sehapa) Qacha’s Nek (coordinates: 30°03’25.1”S, 28°28’28.5”E) has been organized for **Friday, 08th of August 2025**. Prospective bidders may attend at their own risk and non-reimbursable cost.
  - The Proposals must be accompanied by **1 original, 3 copies** and a **soft copy in a memory stick** of each required document as per the “Instructions to Tenderers”. The original and all copies of the tender documents shall be clearly marked “original” or “copy”. The original and all copies of the Tender Documents shall be placed in a sealed envelope clearly marked bearing no identification of the Bidder and marked as follows **“Construction of the new Tebelling Bridge across the Senqu River at Thabana-Ts’oana (White-Hill) in Qacha’s Nek Ref No. RD/PS/I/TC/2025/2026** must be deposited in the Tender Box at **Roads Directorate, Ground Floor, Room G11, Near the Procurement Section, Corner Senate and Lepoqo Streets, Industrial Area** and addressed to Roads Directorate at the above address, to be received on or before **10:00 hrs, Thursday, 21st August**

- 2025.** Bids will be opened on the same day at **10:30hrs** by the Roads Directorate’s Tender Board, in the presence of the Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend. **Late Bids will be rejected.**
- Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures specified in the pre-qualification 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.**
  - Late pre-qualification documents or evidence of mailing pre-qualification telefaxed or emailed pre-qualification documents will not be acceptable. The Employer is not bound to pre-qualify all or any of the applicants.
  - The currency applicable for the contracts shall be Lesotho Loti. **A valid Tax Clearance Certificate certified at source and a valid Trader’s License certified at source.**
  - Any correspondence regarding this Proposal shall be addressed to:  
**Postal Address: -**  
**Roads Directorate**  
Procurement Section  
P.O. Box 194  
Maseru 100  
Lesotho  
Telephone: +266 22229000/52229000  
Email: [manoelin@rd.org.ls](mailto:manoelin@rd.org.ls) ; cc: [marek@rd.org.ls](mailto:marek@rd.org.ls); [mahiritonaf@rd.org.ls](mailto:mahiritonaf@rd.org.ls); [moqobelam@rd.org.ls](mailto:moqobelam@rd.org.ls)  
**Physical Address:-**  
Procurement Section, Ground Floor (Room 11)  
Roads Directorate  
Corner Senate and Lepoqo Streets  
Industrial Area (Opposite Brown’s Cash and Carry)

**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



Ministry of Agriculture, Food  
Security and Nutrition  
WaMCoP  
P.O. Box 24  
Maseru 100



### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (Individual Consultants)

LESOTHO  
**WOOL AND MOHAIR VALUE CHAIN COMPETITIVENESS PROJECT**  
**Assignment title:** Productive Alliances Consultancy  
**Reference no.:** LSO-200003942-0065-CS-ICS  
The *Government of Lesotho* has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the recruitment of consulting services provided by an individual consultant as part of the post of Productive Alliances Consultancy.  
The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD’s approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD’s rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project.

The consulting services (“the services”) include improving the three strategic supply chains through productive alliance approach. The assignment is expected to take two months (eight weeks in total). The applicant consultant will work under the supervision of the WaMCoP PCU with support from the DOM, DLS and IFAD, the selected consultant will be responsible for the sets of deliverables above.

This request for expressions of interest (REOI) follows the general procurement notice that appeared on Lesotho Times on 1 May 2025 and on The Reporter on 2 May 2025.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to IFAD’s Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy and the Revised IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption its Activities and Operations. The latter sets forth IFAD’s provisions on prohibited practices. IFAD further strives to ensure a safe working environment free of harassment, including sexual harassment, and free of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in its activities and operations as detailed in its IFAD Policy to Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. By entering in this document, you certify to have read, understood, and agreed to be bound by the Privacy Policy of IFAD.

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- No member of the client’s board of directors or current employees of the client (whether part time, or full time, paid or unpaid, in leave status, etc.) shall be proposed or work as, or on behalf of, any consultant.
- Except as provided in sub-clause 8.6(d), no current employees of the government shall work as consultants or as personnel under their own ministries, departments or agencies.
- Recruiting former client or government employees to perform services for their former ministries, departments or agencies is acceptable provided no conflict of interest exists.
- If a consultant proposes any government employee as personnel in their technical proposal, such personnel must have written certification from the government confirming that: (i) they will be on leave without pay from the time of their official proposal submission and will remain on leave without pay until the end of their assignment with the consultant and they are allowed to work full-time outside of their previous official position; or (ii) they will resign or retire from government employment on or prior to the contract award date. Under no circumstances shall any individuals described in (i) and (ii) be responsible for approving the implementation of this contract. Such certification shall be provided to the client by the consultant as part of its technical proposal.
- In the case where a consultant seeks to engage the services of any person falling under ITC sub-clauses 8.6(a) – 8.6(d), who may have left the client within a period of less than twelve (12) months of the date of this RFP, it must obtain a written “no-objection” from the client

for the inclusion of such a person, prior to the consultant’s submission of its proposal.

The Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project now invites eligible Individual consultants (“consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services in the form of a curriculum vitae (CV). A consultant will be selected in accordance with the individual consultant selection (ICS) method set out in IFAD’ Project Procurement Handbook that can be accessed via the IFAD website at [www.ifad.org/project-procurement](http://www.ifad.org/project-procurement). Interviews **will not** conducted be conducted as part of the selection process.

**The shortlisting criteria are:**

- Minimum of Master’s Degree in Agribusiness/Agricultural Economics/Social Sciences/Business Development or related field.
- At least five years’ relevant experiences in working with productive alliances/ collaborative arrangements within a wide range of industries, especially agricultural.
- Three years’ experience in conducting Productive Alliance trainings
- Experience in developing PA for wool and mohair will be an added advantage for the consultant
- The consultant should have a proven track record of building capacity of staff on the development and implementation of Productive Alliances
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of regulatory frameworks, technologies and market requirements, and of the entrepreneurial and management skills

Any request for clarification on this REOI should be sent via e-mail to the address below no later than **12:00hrs on 28 July 2025, Lesotho time**. The client will provide responses to all clarification requests by **16:00hrs on 30 July 2025, Lesotho time**. Expressions of interest in the form of curriculum vitae (CV) must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail or by e-mail) by **12:00hrs on 01 August 2025, Lesotho time**.

Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project  
Attn: Procurement and Contracts Manager  
P.O. Box 24  
Department of Livestock Services  
Old Airport Road, Moshoeshoe II

e-mail: [mlejota-thakong@wamcop.org.ls](mailto:mlejota-thakong@wamcop.org.ls) and cc: [mtau@wamcop.org.ls](mailto:mtau@wamcop.org.ls)

1. The policy is accessible at <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/41942012>.  
2. The policy is accessible at [www.ifad.org/anticorruption\\_policy](https://www.ifad.org/anticorruption_policy).  
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The infographic features a colorful background with abstract shapes and a large heart. At the top right is the LsNewsday logo, a stylized 'N' inside a circle. Below it, the text 'With Us,' is written in a playful, bubbly font. The main headline reads 'Hybrid is the New Normal' in a large, bold, serif font, followed by the sub-headline 'Get your copy Physically or Digitally' in a smaller, italicized serif font. A dark blue horizontal bar contains five social media icons: Facebook, X, WhatsApp, Email, and a website icon. Below this bar are five vertical bars, each representing a different platform. Each bar has a specific color and contains the following information: the platform name, the user handle or URL, the number of likes/followers/subscribers/pageviews, the number of impressions or reach, a checkmark icon, and a circular progress indicator showing a percentage. The platforms and their data are: Facebook (green bar, 18.9k Likes, Over 1.3M Page reach, 95%), X (blue bar, 7.4k Followers, Over 100k X impressions, 80%), WhatsApp (orange bar, URL: https://chat.whatsapp.com/FHvwwDUYx3e7y8rj7KJjxL7fbclid, 27K subscribers, 50%), Email (red bar, URL: marketing@newsdayonline.co.ls, 4.3k subscribers, 65%), and Website (grey bar, URL: www.newsdayonline.co.ls, 55K pageviews, 5.6k Unique Pageviews, 70%). At the bottom, the text 'Join the Growing Community' is written in a cursive script.

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# SirNic CCXVI breaks his silence with ‘Almost Never’

...A story of survival, faith & second chances

Chris Theko

After nearly eight years of silence, celebrated lyricist SirNic CCXVI has returned to the music scene with *Almost Never*, a gripping, seven-track EP that marks not only a musical comeback, but a profound personal rebirth.

Known for his sharp lyricism and soul-baring storytelling, SirNic last released music in 2017. As time passed, many wondered if the artist who once carved a niche with his poetic delivery would ever return.

Now, he is back, and not just to entertain, but to testify.

*Almost Never* isn't a typical comeback. It is a deeply personal, vulnerable body of work born from trauma, transformation, and spiritual reflection. Its title is no metaphor. It stems from a devastating car accident in 2021 that nearly took the artist's life, and his voice.

"*Almost Never* is a prayer in reverse. A quiet scream from the edge of a moment. A confession dressed in resilience," SirNic shares.

In an exclusive interview with this publication, he explained that his return to music wasn't entirely his decision.



"I don't even think it was up to me, honestly," he said. "I have always believed that God handles the when and how. So I stopped trying to force it and just waited for the signs. And they came, quietly, consistently."

Those signs came in the form of messages from fans, unexpected encouragement, and strangers stopping him in the street to ask when he would release new music. What they did not know was how close the answer had come to being "never."

In 2021, SirNic survived a horrific car crash that left both of his legs broken and permanently altered his vision.

"I almost did not make it to this moment. I almost did not get to watch my daughter grow. I almost did not get to love again. I al-

most was not even here," he reflected.

For four months, he was bedridden, dependent on others for the smallest tasks. The physical stillness, though agonising, became a space for spiritual awakening.

"If you know me, you know how much I hate needing help. But that is where I was, flat on my back, depending on people just to make it through the day."

High on painkillers and grappling with trauma, SirNic began writing again. One of the first songs born from that space was *Make a Move*, a track he calls the hardest to write.

"I could not walk. I did not know if I ever would again. That fear was real," he said. "Then I started thinking about my daughter. She is got my whole heart. I heard that on the night of the accident, she was asking where I was. Like something in her spirit told her I was not okay."

That moment broke him, but also birthed the clarity and drive that now define *Almost Never*. Music became his healing, and the EP his confession.

"Every track I wrote during that time was me putting myself back together," he said. "That healing journey was not just bones and bruises, it was spiritual, mental, emotional."

While vulnerability has always been a theme in SirNic's work, *Almost Never* takes it to new depths. And returning to such emotional exposure after so many years felt, surprisingly, right.

"With the music, I just put it out there. I let it speak. Whoever it is meant for, they will catch it," he said. "The wildest thing? People do not see it as a weakness. They see it as art. They appreciate the pain."

Sonically, the project thrives on the collab-

orative energy between SirNic and two producers: Lesotho's Taks Beats, his long-time creative partner, and Icelandic producer Thor Björgvinsson, whose atmospheric sound adds haunting depth.

"Just brothers making music," SirNic said. "I would send weird-sounding voice notes, just ideas of what I was hearing in my head, and they brought them to life."

Despite the emotional weight of the project, SirNic said quitting music was never an option.

"This is a gift. A weapon from God and my ancestors. I don't take that lightly. Creating, building, expressing, it makes me feel alive," he said. "And the way the music connects with people? The way it hits hearts, shifts moods, brings healing? You cannot put a price on that."

Asked how he knew the project was complete, SirNic replied with certainty:

"I knew from the jump I wanted it to be seven tracks. That was the plan. That is where *Almost Never* begins and ends. But trust me, I have still got a lot more to share. Like Nipsey would say, 'The Marathon Continues.'"

More than just music, *Almost Never* is a call to action, for himself and for anyone who has ever felt stuck, silenced, or sidelined by life's storms.

"Tomorrow is not promised. So whatever you gotta do, do it today," he urges. "Make that move, even if it shakes you. Even if they look at you like you lost your mind. You're the threat. Not them."

With the silence now broken, *Almost Never* stands as a reminder: survival is not just about staying alive, it is about choosing to live. Loudly. Fully. Fearlessly.

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# Lesotho, India forge digital ties

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho has taken a major step toward accelerating its digital transformation through the signing of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of India on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

The agreement, signed on Monday in Maseru by the Minister of Information, Communication, Science, Technology and Innovation, Nthathi Moorosi, and India's Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Pabitra Margherita, the agreement sets the stage for a new era of cooperation focused on the exchange of digital technologies and expertise.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Moorosi described the agreement as a significant milestone in the long-standing diplomatic ties between Lesotho and India, which date back to 1971.

"Today, as we sign this Memorandum of Understanding, we celebrate over five decades of vibrant diplomatic relations between Lesotho and India," she said.

"This partnership has evolved beyond trade and military training, embracing values of transparency, development, and South-South cooperation."

Among others, the MoU includes deployment of India Stack – a suite of open-source digital platforms that have transformed public service delivery in India. Lesotho is expected to benefit from the adoption and adaptation of these digital tools, which include DigiLocker and digital ID systems that offer secure access to government services and digital certificates.



The MoU also paves the way for IT capacity building, enabling Lesotho to leverage India's experience in large-scale digital transformation. Lesotho aims to use the partnership to boost digital literacy, modernise public administration, and equip institutions with advanced technologies.

"As we align with international standards to maintain the confidence of our multilateral partners, let this agreement inspire sustainable progress and mutual prosperity for our people," Moorosi said.

She noted that the collaboration would

particularly benefit youth, entrepreneurs, and public institutions by creating a more competitive digital economy, fostering innovation, and improving service delivery through responsive and inclusive digital systems.

"We are particularly excited about the opportunities this collaboration presents for our youth, entrepreneurs, and institutions. Together, these advancements will strengthen Lesotho's digital economy, improve competitiveness, and enhance the quality of life through inclusive and trans-

parent digital solutions," Moorosi added.

On his part, India's Minister Pabitra Margherita reaffirmed India's commitment to supporting Lesotho's development and emphasised the importance of shared democratic values and South-South cooperation.

"Our relationship is deeply rooted in democracy and a shared vision for progress. We are eager to expand cooperation in agriculture, healthcare, tourism, infrastructure, and renewable energy," Margherita said.

He also highlighted India's ongoing support through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, which will facilitate the exchange of technical expertise and training in digital technologies tailored to Lesotho's needs.

The Director General of ICT in Lesotho, Thapeli Tjabane, welcomed the MoU as a strategic move that aligns with the country's broader development goals.

"This agreement is a critical tool for formalising partnerships between government, educational institutions, and development stakeholders," Tjabane said. "It aligns with our National Strategic Development Plan II, particularly the objectives of digital transformation and public sector efficiency."

Tjabane stressed the importance of closing the digital divide through improved access to digital education and skills training.

"This partnership will drive national capacity building, enable digital literacy, and provide institutions with the necessary technology to thrive," Tjabane concluded. "Through this framework, we are laying the groundwork for a digitally empowered society."

# Mokhotlong youth demand urgent access to health services

Ntsoaki Motaung

Young people in Mokhotlong are calling for urgent interventions to address early and unintended pregnancies, child marriage, and school dropouts, issues they say are rooted in poverty, abuse, and a lack of access to essential health services and life skills education.

Their demands were the central focus of a recent youth dialogue held to commemorate World Population Day under the theme: "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world."

The participants painted a grim picture of life in their rural, mountainous communities, where young girls, some as young as 12, are married off or engage in unsafe sexual relationships with older men for survival, often resulting in unintended pregnancies.

Boys, too, are vulnerable in these environments, facing high risks in the absence of protective structures.

During the dialogue, youth called on the Ministry of Education to strengthen the teaching of Life Skills in schools, stressing that it must be treated as a core subject, not an afterthought.

They also urged the Ministry of Health to consider deploying mobile clinics to schools to provide youth-friendly services such as HIV testing, counselling, and access to contraceptives without judgment.

The call for mobile health services comes as Mokhotlong, home to nearly 100,000 people, relies on just one hospital and a handful of clinics, many of which are difficult to reach due to the district's rugged terrain.

Youth participants also appealed to the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS)



to engage communities through proactive crime prevention and education, rather than only responding during arrests.

Another plea was directed at parents, urging them to stop withdrawing children from school for domestic work or arranged marriages. The youth reaffirmed their right to education, emphasising that early marriage and child labour deprive them of a better future.

Research presented during the event by Mokone Mokokoane from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning revealed that Mokhotlong has one of the highest rates of early and unintended pregnancies in Lesotho, one of the reasons the district was selected to host this year's World Population Day commemoration.

The initiative is part of efforts to implement the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II) and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Speaking at the event, Dr. Mosa Tlahali, the District Medical Officer, urged traditional leaders, parents, and communities to respect and protect the reproductive rights of young people.

Innocent Modisaotsile, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Representative to Lesotho, echoed this message, stating that this year's theme reflects UNFPA's commitment to empowering young people to make informed decisions about their bodies and futures.

As part of the commemoration, UNFPA facilitated a three-day training session on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for adolescents in Mokhotlong. The sessions covered critical topics such as sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention, and young people's rights.

One participant, Lemema Lebajoa, expressed concern about the high number of teenage pregnancies in his village, linking them to poverty and unequal power dynamics with older men.

Lebajoa pledged to challenge myths he had once believed, including the misconception that circumcision prevents HIV.

Another participant, Pulane Mothebe-soane, shared her personal story of falling pregnant at 16. She stressed the need for access to accurate information and the courage to say no to unsafe sex. "We must choose

education over child marriage," Mothebe-soane said.

UNFPA National Program Analyst, 'Maseretse Ratia, said the training was designed to empower adolescents with accurate knowledge and awareness of available services.

Ratia confirmed that young participants shared real-life experiences of abuse and early childbearing, stories that aligned with national data.

According to the latest reports by UNFPA, the situation facing young people in Lesotho is deeply concerning. Thirteen percent of youth aged 15 to 24 had their first sexual experience before the age of 15, an alarming trend driven by limited sexuality education, entrenched cultural norms, and frequent shortages of contraceptives.

Among adolescent girls aged 15 to 19, 17 percent have already begun childbearing, with 19 percent of these pregnancies classified as unintended.

Child marriage remains a pressing issue, affecting 19 percent of girls in the country, while adolescents and young people account for a staggering 35.4 percent of all new HIV infections.

Equally troubling is the prevalence of gender-based violence, with 48 percent of adolescent girls and young women reporting having experienced some form of abuse.

The consequences of these challenges are reflected starkly in education statistics. Thirty-seven percent of school dropouts are linked to early pregnancy and child marriage, with 14.9 percent attributed specifically to unintended pregnancies.

In addition, 22 percent of girls are forced to miss school because they lack access to menstrual hygiene products, an often overlooked but critical barrier to education.



# End of the road for national cricket side

Seabata Mahao

The national women’s cricket team of Lesotho has suffered a third consecutive defeat at the ongoing ICC Women’s T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier Division Two tournament currently underway in Gaborone, Botswana.

After opening their Group A campaign with a heavy 10-wicket loss to Rwanda, the team fell to Cameroon by 55 runs in their second match, and then endured a crushing 106-run defeat to Malawi. These results highlight the continued struggles of Team Lesotho on the international stage.

Their fixture against Mozambique, scheduled for today, is a chance to salvage pride. However, the team is already out of contention for a place in the next round.

Head coach Dzikamai Alexander Mavhiko has expressed deep concern over the team’s ongoing poor performances, attributing them to the chronic lack of investment and support for cricket development in Lesotho.

“Things have not gone well. We have lost all our matches so far,” Mavhiko admitted. “But despite the results, there are encouraging improvements in the way our girls are conducting themselves during games.”

The tournament, which began on 20 July, serves as the qualification stage for the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup, scheduled to take place from 12 June to 5 July 2026. But for Lesotho, whose campaign now risks ending winless, the gap in quality and preparation compared to other nations has been stark.

“These countries, like Rwanda, are far ahead of us. Their preparations alone speak volumes about what they are aiming to achieve. They have proper infrastructure and solid development pathways,” Mavhiko said.

He was especially candid about the team’s loss to Cameroon, a side still relatively new to the international cricket scene.

“Cameroon outplayed us, especially in batting. That shows we still have a lot of



work to do in that area,” he added.

Mavhiko warned that without urgent action to build cricket from the grassroots level, the future of the sport in Lesotho remains bleak.

“Our structures are not supportive of development. If nothing is done now, there will be no progress in the years to come. The game will die a natural death. Once the current crop of players phases out, there will be no one to take over,” he cautioned.

Lesotho’s next Group A match against Mozambique is set for today. With three defeats already in the bag, the team is mathematically out of the race for a place in Division One.

That stage will feature stronger teams including Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania,

Uganda, and Zimbabwe, and is scheduled to take place in Namibia from 31 August to 6 September 2025.

A failure to record a win in this year’s qualifiers would mirror their previous campaign in the 2023 ICC Women’s T20 World Cup Africa Qualifiers, also held in Botswana, where Lesotho exited without securing a single victory.

# Badminton enthusiasts upbeat

Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) has concluded a two-week training programme targeting both athletes and management staff of the national training centre.

The programme, which was officially closed last Friday, represents a significant stride in the LNOC’s ongoing efforts to develop sports talent in the country, with a special focus on badminton.

It aimed to enhance athletes’ development at both national and international levels, while also identifying and nurturing emerging talent from the grassroots. The initiative forms part of LNOC’s broader strategy to integrate various sporting disciplines into a comprehensive athlete development framework.

Representing the participants, badminton trainee Phetho Lithathane expressed gratitude for the opportunity.

“The training has been incredibly beneficial for us, and we are eager to apply the skills and techniques we’ve learned to help grow the sport of badminton in Lesotho,” Lithathane said.

Lithathane further emphasised the importance of sharing the newly acquired knowledge with others, aiming to expand badminton’s popularity and reach across the country.

“It is our responsibility to spread what we’ve learned to others, so that badminton and other emerging sports can thrive here in Lesotho,” he concluded.

Badminion coach Ahmed Reda commended the LNOC for its efforts and noted the enthusiasm of local athletes.



“This has been a truly intensive and rewarding experience. I am optimistic about the potential of Lesotho’s athletes, and I look forward to contributing to their growth and success in the future,” Reda remarked.

LNOC’s President, Letsatsi Ntsibolane, underscored the value of such training initiatives in preparing athletes for international competition.

“Training like this is essential for ensuring that our athletes are properly developed, not just focusing on those already established, but also cultivating new talent that will represent Lesotho globally in the future,” said Ntsibolane. “Our mission is to empower athletes so they can excel not only at home but also on international platforms.”

Parallel to the athletes’ training, a one-week session for management staff was also

held. This aspect of the programme aimed to improve administrative systems within the national training centre and contribute to the overall development of sport in Lesotho. The LNOC is striving to build a sustainable framework that supports both athletes and sports administrators.

“Improving the systems and structures that support athletes is just as crucial as developing the athletes themselves. By strengthening the infrastructure around sports, we can ensure that our athletes are given every opportunity to succeed.”

A key element of the LNOC’s long-term plan includes establishing new training centres in various districts to decentralise access to coaching and development programmes. These centres are expected to play a pivotal role in preparing athletes for major competitions, including the 2032

Olympic Games in Australia.

“The long-term goal is to have athletes ready for the 2032 Olympic Games in Australia. We want our athletes to be not just participants, but competitive contenders on the global stage,” said Ntsibolane.

The Commissioner of the National Training Centre, Letlaka Banyane, also expressed appreciation for the LNOC’s initiatives, highlighting the importance of involving seasoned professionals in talent development.

“I believe the work done so far has laid a solid foundation for the development of sports management in the country. We are confident that we will soon have a generation of professionals, both men and women, who will be equipped to manage and guide Lesotho’s athletes to international success,” said Banyane.





# Financial boost for district football



## Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) has announced a major financial boost for District Football Associations (DIFAs), doubling their annual subsidy from M100,000 to M200,000.

Described as a game-changer for football development across the country, the announcement was made by LeFA President Advocate Salemane Phafane during a media briefing held at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena on Wednesday, July 23.

Phafane revealed that the decision was approved by LeFA's National Executive Committee (NEC) during a meeting held the previous night.

"Most of our DIFAs are struggling. Some are based in remote areas, while others are in urban zones with a high concentration of teams.

It became clear to us that the previous allocation was inadequate," said Phafane.

He explained that over the past three years, LeFA has been mobilising additional resources to strengthen district football structures. The new allocation brings the total annual budget for all 10 DIFAs to M2 million.

"This capital injection should bring change, not just for youth development but also for club administration. We've noticed that many clubs still struggle with basic football rules and administration," Phafane added, underlining the importance of strong grassroots systems.

In a separate announcement, Phafane confirmed that Majantja FC head coach Bafokeng Mohapi has been appointed assistant coach of the senior national team, Likuena. He replaces Bob Mafoso, who stepped down to pursue a new coaching opportunity in Na-

mibia.

A veteran tactician, Mohapi previously coached the national Under-20 team, the Makonayane XI. His appointment was recommended by LeFA Technical Director Caswell Moru and approved by the association's Executive Committee.

Phafane said the national team's technical structure will continue to be strengthened, following recent disappointing results at the COSAFA Cup.

"We were not happy with how the team performed, and we made that clear to Coach Notši. Poor performances will not be tolerated," he said.

Likuena, who reached the COSAFA Cup final in 2023, have failed to progress beyond the group stages in the past two editions, raising concerns within LeFA and drawing criticism from supporters.

In another significant development, Phafane announced that all of Likuena's upcoming home matches will now be played in South Africa's Free State province. The decision is aimed at attracting larger Basotho crowds and improving team morale as the squad prepares to resume its 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifying campaign.

Likuena will face South Africa in September, followed by a fixture against Benin later in the month. They will wrap up their qualification campaign with crucial home matches against continental giants Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

As LeFA pushes forward with its mission to professionalise and decentralise football development in Lesotho, the increased funding for DIFAs and national team restructuring reflect a renewed focus on accountability and performance at every level of the game.



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