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'No proof that soldiers planned killings together'

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The High Court has questioned the credibility of a key prosecution claim that a meeting was held at the Military Intelligence (MI) headquarters to plan the murders of three men in 2017.

The case involves ten members of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) accused of murder, conspiracy, and unlawful detention.

Presiding Judge Moroke Mokhesi highlighted inconsistencies in witness testimony, particularly from Captain Litsietsi Monyeke, who alleged that a meeting at LDF headquarters on 14 May 2017 included orders to kill the victims.

However, evidence showed that some purported attendees were in South Africa at the time, undermining the prosecution's narrative.

"It also becomes apparent in the ensuing discussion that it is doubtful that a meeting was held at MI headquarters where a plan was hatched to kill the suspects," read the judgement.

"Under cross-examination, PW11 (Captain Litsietsi Monyeke) was confronted with the evidence of Senior Inspector Khatleli (PW1) which is to the effect that on 14 May 2017, from 0800hrs to 1600hrs all the investigators, including PW11, were at Pitso Ground conducting interviews on the suspects until they knocked off at 1600hrs.

"PW27 (Liphoso) also confirmed under cross-examination that the investigators conducted interviews from 0800hrs until after 1600hrs when they all knocked off," the judgement further read.

The judge indicated that, despite these contradictions, the Crown did not call as witnesses the individuals who are alleged to have been in that meeting to corroborate Monyeke's version.

He further mentioned that Monyeke further told the court that when he left the meeting at MI headquarters on 14 May 2017, he went straight to Makoanya barracks, but when he was confronted with Khatleli's evidence that he was at Pitso Ground from 08:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. he changed tack and said he could have gone back to Pitso Ground after the meeting.

"The application in terms of Section 175(3) of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act 1981 in respect of A1 (Rapele Mphaki), A2 (Pitso Ramoepana), A4



Judge Moroke Mokhesi

(Mahlehle Moeletsi), A5 Mahlomola Mokhoali), A6 (Nthathakane Motanyane), A7 (Motsoane Machai), A8 (Liphapang Se-fako) and A9 (Nemase Faso) succeeds, and these accused are discharged on all counts against them in terms of the same section," read the judgement.

Only two accused, Lekhooa Moepi (Accused 3) and Tieho Tikiso (Accused 10), will stand trial for murder and unlawful detention.

"The application in terms of Section 175(3) of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act 1981 in respects of A3 fails in respect of the following counts:

(a) Three counts of murder of Lekhoele Noko, Molise Pakela and Khothatso Makibinyane.

(b) One count of unlawful detention of Lekhoele Noko," the judgement read.

It added: "The application in terms of Section 175(3) of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act 1981 in respect of A10 fails in respect of the following counts:

(a) Three counts of murder of Lekhoele Noko, Molise Pakela and Khothatso Makibinyane," the judgement read.

The Crown alleges that all the accused are guilty of murdering three men, Khothatso Makibinyane, Lekhoele Noko, and Molise Pakela, in violation of Section 40(1), read with Sections 26(1) and 40(2) of the Penal Code Act, 2010 (Act No. 6 of 2012).

It is alleged that on or about 16 May 2017, near Setibing in the district of Maseru, the accused acted together with a shared intention to unlawfully and intentionally kill the three men by strangling them and disposing of their bodies in Mohale Dam.

The deaths are said to have resulted from the actions or omissions of the accused.

In the alternative, the Crown alleges that all the accused conspired to murder the three men, in violation of Section 25, read with Sections 40(1) and 40(2) of the Penal Code.

This conspiracy is alleged to have occurred around mid-May 2017, at or near Ha-Ratjomose, Setibing, or other unspecified locations in Maseru district. The accused are said to have acted unlawfully and intentionally in forming this conspiracy, which ultimately led to the deaths.

The Crown further alleges, as a second alternative, that Accused 1 and Accused 2 incited the murders, in violation of Section 23(1), read with Sections 40(1), 23(2), 23(3), and 40(2) of the Penal Code.

They are accused of counselling, procuring, or encouraging Accused 3 to 10 to commit the murders in or around mid-May 2017, at or near Ha-Ratjomose, Setibing, or other places unknown to the Crown.

As a third alternative, the Crown alleges that Mphaki and Ramoepana, who held senior positions within the LDF Military

Intelligence, issued unlawful orders to Moepi and Tikiso to murder the three men.

This charge falls under Section 18(1), read with Sections 40(1) and 40(2) of the Penal Code. The alleged orders were issued around mid-May 2017 at Ha-Ratjomose, Setibing, or other unknown locations in Maseru.

The Crown also charges all the accused with unlawful detention of the three victims, in violation of Section 47(2) read with Section 109 of the Penal Code.

It is alleged that in mid-May 2017, in Maseru district, the accused acted together with a common purpose to detain the victims unlawfully, with the intention of inflicting serious bodily harm or causing their deaths.

The case stems from the disappearance and deaths of three men, Makibinyane, Noko, an Pakela, whose bodies were later discovered in Mohale Dam.

The events trace back to a tragic incident on 13 May 2017 at the Maseru Border Post, where a group of armed Famo music gang members, returning from a funeral, caused a violent disturbance.

When a member of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Military Intelligence (MI) tried to intervene, he was shot. A second MI officer, who attempted to assist, was fatally shot, and a street vendor was also killed in the crossfire.

A third MI officer was seriously injured but survived after a long hospital stay.

At the time, Accused 3, Moepi, was stationed at the border post as an MI operative. Six suspects linked to the shooting were arrested and questioned by the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) in one of the interview rooms at Maseru Bridge.

In response to the incident, a joint investigation team was formed comprising members of the LMPS and the LDF. The team, led by Senior Inspector Khatleli from the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) based at Pitso Ground Police Station, operated from that location throughout the inquiry.

Following their release from police custody, three of the suspects were later found dead, their bodies dumped in Mohale Dam.

The prosecution relied heavily on circumstantial evidence, including pointing-outs by some of the accused. However, the judge found that such evidence, on its own, was insufficient to establish guilt beyond

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Lesotho's cost of healthy diet soars by 46%

... Healthy eating in Lesotho now costs more than in any Southern African country

Staff Reporter

Lesotho now has the highest cost of a healthy diet in Southern Africa, and among the highest on the African continent, according to the newly released 2025 edition of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report. The report, jointly published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), UNICEF, WHO, IFAD, and WFP, shows that by 2024, the cost of a healthy diet in Lesotho reached US\$5.24 per person per day (measured in purchasing power parity dollars). This marks a staggering 46 percent increase from 2017, when the cost stood at \$3.59. Lesotho's figure is higher than all other countries in Southern Africa, including Namibia (\$4.67), Eswatini (\$4.21), Botswana (\$4.21), and South Africa, which had the lowest in the subregion at \$3.89. Across Africa, only a few countries have a cost of healthy eating higher than Lesotho's. They are Egypt (\$6.38), South Sudan (\$8.39), and Mauritania (\$5.40). Lesotho's cost is even higher than the continental average, which stands at \$4.41, and above the average for low-income countries globally. Monitoring the affordability of healthy diets, according to the report, is essential for informing policies aimed at improving food security and nutritional outcomes, thereby contributing to the achievement of SDG Targets 2.1 and 2.2.

The cost of a healthy diet (CoHD) for each country is an estimate of the minimum cost of acquiring a healthy diet, defined as a diet comprising a variety of locally available foods that meet energy and most nutrient requirements. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 analyses the root causes of recent food price inflation and its impact on global food security and nutrition. It specifically investigates how rising food prices have affected consumers' disposable income and their ability to access food. The report also explores the effects of inflation across different food groups and examines changes in the affordability of healthy diets. Additionally, it highlights successful policy responses at the country level, identifying practical solutions to address the twin challenges of rising food prices and increasing levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. This 2025 edition provides policymakers with a suite of policies necessary for addressing food price inflation while advancing global progress towards ending hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and making healthy diets affordable for all. "Food prices rose throughout 2023 and 2024, pushing up the average cost of a healthy diet globally to 4.46 purchasing power parity (PPP) dollars per person per day, up from 4.30 PPP dollars in 2023 and 4.01 PPP dollars in 2022," the report read.

"Despite the increase in food prices over 2024, the number of people unable to afford a healthy diet in the world fell from 2.76 billion in 2019 to 2.60 billion in 2024, fuelled by an economic recovery from the pandemic that has, nevertheless, been uneven across regions and country income groups," it added. In recent years, the percentage and the number of people unable to afford a healthy diet decreased significantly in Asia and marginally in Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Europe, and Oceania. In Africa, on the other hand, the percentage rose from 64.1 percent in 2019 to 66.6 percent in 2024, corresponding to an increase in the numbers from 864 million to 1 billion. The unequal recovery is even more evident across country income groups. The number of people unable to afford a healthy diet in low-income countries has been steadily increasing since 2017, whereas in upper-middle- and high-income countries, the number has been declining since 2020," the report read. "In lower-middle-income countries, the number decreased from 2020 to 2024, but this improvement is mainly explained by the significant decrease in unaffordability in India," it added. In countries like Lesotho, where unemployment is high and poverty levels are staggering, the rising cost of a healthy diet means that a significant portion of the population cannot afford

nutritious food. The immediate impact of unaffordable nutrition is increased food insecurity. Families are often forced to reduce portion sizes, skip meals, or substitute nutritious foods with cheaper, calorie-dense but nutrient-poor alternatives. This contributes to rising levels of malnutrition, especially among children and pregnant women, leading to conditions such as stunting, anemia, and low birth weight. The long-term effects are equally concerning, as malnutrition during early childhood can impair cognitive development and reduce educational outcomes, undermining the potential of future generations. Health systems are also deeply affected. Poor diets are associated with a growing burden of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. These illnesses strain public health resources, reduce workforce productivity, and increase household vulnerability as families are pushed into debt trying to manage chronic conditions. In a country already under pressure to meet basic healthcare demands, this creates an unsustainable cycle of poverty and illness. Moreover, the rising cost of a healthy diet exacerbates inequality. While wealthier households may absorb food price increases with minimal disruption, poorer communities are pushed further to the margins. This deepens existing social divides and increases the risk of social unrest, particularly in contexts where government support is limited or ineffective. The economic implications are far-reaching. A population that cannot afford to eat well cannot be expected to learn effectively, work productively, or contribute meaningfully to national development.

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Financial Services

National Assembly rejects Senate proposal for 3% budget allocation

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The National Assembly has rejected a proposal by the Senate to allocate three percent of the national budget to Parliament, citing concerns over the financial strain it would place on the national fiscus.

The proposal was included in the 10th Amendment to the Constitution Bill and would have guaranteed Parliament a fixed share of the national budget. However, Minister of Justice and Law, Richard Ramoetsi, urged MPs to vote against the amendment.

"Entrenching a percentage of the national budget for Parliament could cause many problems for our country," Ramoetsi warned. "I therefore plead with you not to accept this amendment allocating three percent of the national budget to Parliament."

With the 2025/2026 national budget set at M33.6 billion, adopting the proposed amendment would have meant M1.008 billion allocated to Parliament next year, assuming the



The National Assembly

total budget remains unchanged.

Basotho Patriotic Party (BPP) leader, Tefo Mapesela, argued that such an allocation would be too heavy a burden on public finances. Similarly, Matala Constituency MP Dr Tšeli-

so Moroke emphasised that Parliament must not be seen as prioritising itself over the people it serves. He suggested that the proposed funds could be better used for development initiatives across the country.

Despite rejecting the Senate's proposal, the National Assembly did not offer an alternative approach. Last year, the same proposal was debated at length, and MPs had called for the development of a formula to guide Parliament's budget allocation. However, it appears that no such formula has been adopted since.

Meanwhile, proportional representation MP Montoeli Masoetsa of the opposition All Basotho Convention (ABC) expressed frustration over the chronic underfunding of parliamentary committees. He argued that a lack of resources hampers the committees' ability to effectively carry out their oversight roles.

Earlier this week, Basotho Action Party (BAP) leader Nqosa Mahao told journalists that the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was preparing to conduct an oversight visit to HDM Company in QwaQwa, South Africa. The visit aims to investigate allegations that the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) purchased a four-core cable in violation of procurement procedures. The probe is part of ongoing efforts to address irregularities and alleged procurement malpractice at the state-owned utility.

There have also been instances in recent years where MPs were unable to attend regional and international parliamentary meetings due to budget constraints. In 2024, for example, the President of the Pan-African Parliament had to cover logistics for Lesotho's delegation, as the local Parliament lacked the necessary funds.

BAP speaks out on ill-treatment of Basotho in SA

... Calls for new bilateral framework based on Ireland-UK model



Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Basotho Action Party (BAP) has called for a new framework to strengthen diplomatic and socio-economic ties between Lesotho and South Africa. The party argues that, as an enclave entirely surrounded by South Africa, Lesotho should prioritise structured, mutually beneficial bilateral arrangements with its only neighbour.

Speaking to journalists earlier this week, BAP leader Professor Nqosa Mahao advocated for the adoption of the "Ireland-UK model" as a blueprint for enhancing cooperation between Lesotho and South Africa.

This call comes amid growing concerns over the treatment of Basotho in South Africa, particularly in the healthcare sector. Reports have emerged of South African citizens forcibly removing undocumented foreign nation-

als from public hospital queues, demanding they produce legal documents to access services.

Mahao highlighted the increasing vulnerability of Basotho migrants, many of whom travel to South Africa seeking economic opportunities due to limited prospects at home, only to face discrimination and exclusion.

He criticised the Lesotho government for what he described as its slow and muted response to the plight of its citizens abroad. As an example of effective diplomatic intervention, Mahao cited a case in which Botswana intervened on behalf of one of its nationals arrested in Malaysia on drug charges, urging due process and humane treatment.

In Parliament on Monday, Mahao raised a point of order under Standing Order No. 29, which allows the suspension of proceedings to

deliberate on a matter of national importance. He sought an urgent debate on the reported persecution of Basotho in South Africa. However, Speaker Tlohang Sekhamane dismissed the motion, stating that Mahao must first provide evidence of these abuses, particularly those allegedly committed by members of Operation Dudula, the Patriotic Alliance, and other anti-immigrant groups.

Two days later, on Wednesday, the Speaker agreed to suspend proceedings for an hour to review the matter, including legal advice on how the National Assembly should address it.

South African anti-immigrant activists argue that undocumented migrants place undue strain on the country's healthcare system. However, Mahao countered that denying migrants access to healthcare is a violation of international law and South Africa's own Constitution.

"Section 27 of the South African Constitution guarantees everyone the right to access healthcare services, including reproductive healthcare, and it clearly states that no one may be refused emergency medical treatment," Mahao said.

The Constitution's Bill of Rights enshrines equality, dignity, and freedom for all individuals in the country, regardless of citizenship status. "Migrants are protected under these rights, including the right to life, security, access to information, and just administrative action," he stressed.

The BAP leader criticised the Lesotho government's alleged failure to engage the South African government on these violations. "We are taken aback by the silence of our government," he said.

Mahao also questioned the effectiveness of the Bi-National Commission (BNC), which was convened in April to address key issues such as immigration, security, capacity-building, and the welfare of citizens in both countries. He said it remains unclear what, if anything, resulted from that meeting.

He referred to relaxed border arrangements in other Southern African countries, for example, where citizens of Botswana and Namibia or Zimbabwe and Zambia are reportedly allowed to cross borders using national identity

cards. He said such measures could ease the burden on Basotho travelling to South Africa for essential services.

Mahao revealed that the previous Joint Bilateral Commission on Cooperation (JBCC), which preceded the BNC, had directed officials to study the Ireland-UK model and report back to ministers. However, he lamented that the directive appears to have been ignored.

He warned that unless the government takes deliberate steps to improve its engagement with South Africa, Basotho citizens will continue to suffer.

Understanding the Ireland-UK model

The Ireland-UK model, also known as the Common Travel Area (CTA), allows citizens of both countries to live, work, and access services in either jurisdiction without immigration restrictions. The CTA predates both countries' EU memberships and has remained in place post-Brexit.

Under this framework, Irish and British citizens enjoy equal access to healthcare, social services, education, and housing. They can also vote in each other's parliamentary elections. Notably, the 1998 Good Friday Agreement allows individuals born in Northern Ireland to identify as Irish, British, or both, with the right to corresponding citizenship recognised in international law.

In July 2025, the UK introduced the British Nationality (Irish Citizens) Act 2024, which streamlines the process for Irish citizens to acquire British citizenship without needing to take the English or Life in the UK tests. This move further strengthens reciprocal rights and demonstrates an ongoing commitment to deep, cooperative ties.

BAP believes that a similar arrangement could enhance the lives of Basotho migrants in South Africa while fostering stronger political and economic cooperation.

Professor Mahao concluded by recalling the historic solidarity Lesotho showed during the liberation struggles of its neighbours. He indicated that at the National University of Lesotho (NUL), 21 percent of student intake was reserved for young people from countries such as South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe.

Apology and Correction

In our previous edition of Newsday published on Friday, August 1, 2025, we erroneously referred to the Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project Phase II (LLWDP-II) Project Manager as **Makotoko Lerotholi**. The correct name is **Mathealira Lerotholi**.

We sincerely apologise for the error and any confusion it may have caused. Newsday remains committed to accuracy and regrets the oversight.

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Newsday Business

CBL cuts interest rates to stimulate economy

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's economy is showing signs of modest recovery, but the outlook remains fragile amid global trade policy uncertainty and persistent structural challenges.

This was the key message delivered by the Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), Dr Maluke Letete, during a media briefing following the 114th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held in Maseru.

According to Dr Letete, the economic uptick recorded in May was driven by stronger private consumption and steady performance in the manufacturing sector, particularly textile exports to South Africa.

However, he warned that this recovery remains vulnerable to both external and domestic risks.

"Downside risks to the outlook include weakening external demand, increasing trade costs, the winding down of donor-funded programmes such as Compact II, and continued headwinds in the mining sector," he said.

In a move aimed at bolstering domestic economic activity, the MPC announced a 25-basis-point reduction in the CBL policy rate, from 7.00 to 6.75 per cent per annum.

This rate cut is intended to encourage borrowing, investment, and consumer spending in the face of subdued inflation and a weak growth environment.

Dr Letete noted that the decision to lower the policy rate was made carefully, taking into account the need to maintain monetary stability.

"We remain fully committed to the fixed exchange rate regime, which continues to anchor Lesotho's monetary and price stability framework," he stated.

The rate cut aligns with similar monetary easing in the region, notably by the South African Reserve Bank (SARB), and reflects confidence in the current inflation outlook.

Inflation eased to 4.3 per cent in June 2025, aided by declining global oil prices and a stronger loti against the US dollar.

Although inflation is expected to remain contained in the near term, potential risks from imported inflation, especially from South Africa, remain on the radar.

On the fiscal side, Lesotho recorded a budget deficit of 4.4 per cent of GDP



in May. Government revenue, excluding receipts from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), held steady, while spending dropped due to cuts in grants and capital investment. Meanwhile, public debt declined slightly to 54.8 percent of GDP.

Rising SACU receipts and robust textile exports also pushed Lesotho's Net International Reserves (NIR) up by US\$50.95 million, reaching US\$1.12 billion by July 22, 2025.

Globally, the economic environment remains uncertain due to geopolitical tensions and volatile trade dynamics. Despite this, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised its global growth projection for 2025 upward to 3.0 per cent, citing stronger trade flows and fiscal

support.

In the region, South Africa is expected to rebound from weak GDP growth in the first quarter, with improved performance anticipated in the second quarter. Stable inflation in South Africa has also allowed for an accommodative monetary policy.

Alongside the policy rate cut, the CBL raised its NIR target floor from M14.75 billion to M14.93 billion, reaffirming its

commitment to safeguarding the fixed exchange rate peg with the South African rand.

The apex bank assured that it would continue to monitor key indicators, including inflation, SACU revenue, fiscal dynamics, and South Africa's monetary policy stance, and stands ready to act if risks to price or exchange rate stability increase.

TSEBISO!!! TSEBISO!!! TSEBISO!!!

Mona ke tsebisoe ea hore re le litho tsa Basotho Liberation Movement (BLM) re lahlehetsoe ke tokomane ea rona ea molao motheo oa mokhatlo. Nomoro ea ngoliso ke 2019/22.

'Me re kopa mang kappa ea ka tholang molao theo kappa e aka bang le khanyetso ea litaba tsena a itlalehe liater-eseng tsena, nakong ea libeke tse tharo kamora phatlalatso ena.

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Newsday
Health

Weak data systems jeopardise progress on HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B elimination

Ntsoaki Motaung

A critical gap in health data documentation and the absence of robust data systems are threatening Lesotho’s progress in eliminating the vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B.

This concern was a central theme during the dissemination of the *Triple Elimination of Vertical Transmission National Strategic Plan* held on Tuesday this week.

The issue was strongly underscored by UNAIDS Country Director, Pepukai Chikukwa, who called for a dedicated and urgent intervention focused solely on strengthening data systems.

“I feel it’s a conversation we have had for a very long time,” Chikukwa said. “While frontline workers are doing commendable work, that effort can go unrecognised and unmeasured if documentation is incomplete

or missing.”

She pointed out that documentation challenges have persisted even during times when health programs were operating at full capacity, not only during recent periods of disruption.

“When the programs were in full swing, these were still the challenges we talked about,” she added.

Chikukwa emphasised the need for a “very special session” within the Ministry of Health to address data gaps directly. “Nothing else. Just around data,” she said, urging a focused and structured approach to fix the longstanding problem.

Beyond recognition, the absence of reliable data has broader implications for accountability and international validation. “It is unfortunate when the extra effort put in by healthcare workers goes unrecognised because of this missing link in documenta-

tion,” Chikukwa noted.

While she acknowledged occasional challenges in the supply of test kits for syphilis and hepatitis B, she stressed that even when all other components are functioning, failure to complete registers and report data accurately represents a “critical failure.”

A Ministry of Health official echoed this concern, citing a troubling example from Paray Hospital, where ART initiation data for pregnant women was found to be grossly underreported due to documentation lapses.

Dr Mangose Sithole from the Ministry’s Family Health Division also raised alarms around the Early Infant Testing programme. “Children are being tested, but the documentation is missing somehow,” she said, pointing to a significant disconnect between service delivery and official reporting.

Participants in the meeting stressed that

while Lesotho has made commendable progress in its Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme, the absence of a functional and integrated data system could jeopardise future efforts to validate and sustain elimination.

One participant summarised the risk clearly. The participant said: “If we do not have our data system put together properly, while we implement the programme very successfully, we might not have the system to generate the desired evidence that we are doing something good.”

The data required spans epidemiological trends, service delivery outcomes, child health, and broader health system metrics, all of which must be integrated to demonstrate effective vertical transmission prevention.

The call from health leaders was clear that no matter how effective the clinical interventions are, without proper documentation and data systems, the country risks falling short of both its national goals and international commitments.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT - CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The **Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO)** is a public utility established under the Water and Sewerage Company (Proprietary) Limited (Establishment and Vesting) Act of 2010. WASCO is responsible for providing potable water supply and wastewater services across urban and peri-urban areas of Lesotho. The Company’s mandate is critical to national development, health, economic growth, and environmental sustainability.

As WASCO enters a transformative period marked by sector reforms, climate change pressures, financial sustainability imperatives, and rising customer expectations, we are seeking a visionary and results-driven Chief Executive to lead the company in delivering on its 2025–2030 Strategic Plan.

All qualified **Basotho applicants** are invited to apply by submitting their CVs and certified academic qualifications **on or before 15 August 2025** to:

■ wascocreuitment@wasco.co.ls or hand-deliver to WASCO Head Office, Maseru.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Strategic Leadership & Sector Transformation**
 - Drive execution of WASCO’s 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, focusing on utility transformation, operational resilience, and service coverage expansion.
 - Provide visionary leadership to steer WASCO through sector reform engagements with the Government and the regulator (LEWA).
 - Ensure WASCO aligns with national development plans and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 6.
- Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Reduction & Service Reliability**
 - Champion innovative and cross-functional approaches to reduce NRW, including community engagement, technology adoption, and infrastructure management.
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- Operational Sustainability & Infrastructure Investment**
 - Oversee the delivery of capital projects, infrastructure rehabilitation, and climate-resilient water and sanitation systems.
 - Strengthen asset management, preventative maintenance, and service continuity under increasing environmental stressors.
- Organisational Culture & Human Capital Development**
 - Lead the transformation of WASCO into a performance-driven and people-centred utility.
 - Oversee development and implementation of HR strategies that build staff capacity, morale, and service excellence.
 - Create a culture of integrity, innovation, accountability, and wellness across all levels.
- Customer Focus & Public Confidence**
 - Enhance customer experience and stakeholder trust through improved responsiveness, outreach, and brand visibility.
 - Strengthen communication strategies to manage public expectations, complaints, and

- feedback mechanisms.
- Financial Viability & Revenue Enhancement**
 - Drive financial sustainability by implementing cost recovery, tariff structuring, and operational budgeting reforms.
 - Oversee prudent financial management, debt servicing, and investor confidence.
 - Governance, Risk & Compliance**
 - Ensure full compliance with corporate governance frameworks, legal obligations, and performance targets set by the Board and regulators.
 - Mitigate risks and build organisational resilience to external shocks including economic downturns and climate events.
 - Stakeholder Engagement & National Partnerships**
 - Strengthen institutional relationships with the Ministry of Natural Resources, LEWA, LHDA, donors, communities, and private sector players.
 - Represent WASCO in national forums, regional water bodies, and donor-funded project steering committees.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering (Civil, Water, Mechanical, Electrical or Environmental).
- A Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) or Public Administration (MPA) is a strong added advantage.
- At least 10 years of senior executive leadership in a utility, infrastructure, or public-sector organisation, with a proven track record of transformation and results.
- Experience in water or wastewater management, utility reform, or large-scale public-private partnerships is highly desirable.

KEY COMPETENCIES AND ATTRIBUTES

- Deep understanding of urban water utility operations, infrastructure lifecycle, and customer service models.
- Strategic thinking, political acumen, and change leadership capacity.
- Strong knowledge of regulatory frameworks, governance, and compliance in the public enterprise environment.
- Financial management, commercial acumen, investment planning, and resource mobilisation skills.
- Exceptional communication, negotiation, and stakeholder engagement skills.
- Integrity, transparency, emotional intelligence, and ability to lead through uncertainty and complexity.

This is a unique opportunity to lead WASCO into a new era of relevance, impact, and sustainability.



In an effort to help farmers overcome the impacts of climate change which have direct effect on their lives and livelihoods in general, SMARTD together with communities in this six months had been implementing various solutions which can help improve farm productivity and households' income thus building better resilience of farm households. Among the interventions implemented with SMARTD target beneficiaries in this reporting period we can mention the following:

Irrigation schemes: Farmers interested in irrigation systems normally approach SMARTD for assistance in surveying and implementing such systems. In October 2024, one male farmer from Ha-Ntoane by the name of Kotelo Mokhu in the new operational area approached SMARTD for assistance in irrigation. Survey was made and materials procured. Tank was build and pipes fitted. In this reporting period, this system is up and functional as this farmer is now irrigating his crops when drought spells are experienced. He had planted cabbage and turnip for income and is now generating income from his produce. He planted two varieties of cabbage (184 heads of Optima cabbage and 594 heads of Cape spitz).

Field day: Prior to planting potatoes in Ts'enekeng, farmers' fields were tested using a guiding tool from the department of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to ensure that the field soil types is suitable for planting potatoes. This tool is user friendly and can be used by farmers. Issues around soil type, soil structure, soil pH, soil depth, Soil organic matter, water-logging and levels of soil erosion were looked into. After soil testing and confirming suitability of the soil from different fields for potato planting, then seed potato were distributed among farmers with qualifying fields and among established Farmer Field Schools (FFS). In this intervention, farmers made lines where they used kraal manure, lines of chemical fertilizer and lines where these two fertilizers are combined. Upon germination, then a field day was organized and carried out by Ts'enekeng farmers under the support of SMARTD to showcase their interventions.

Improvement of farmers' livestock: As part of general husbandry of farmers' livestock, a training workshop was organized and carried out for 19 farmers from Qabane (SMARTD new operational area). Topics covered included animal health, animal nutrition and the general husbandry of animals. After the theoretical training, participants were taken to SMARTD stalls to learn about the qualities of best bred Merino sheep.



An annual event of Merino sheep and Angora goats show was organized and carried out in March this year. This time the hosting association was Patlong Breeders Association. It was in this event where the best reared merino sheep and angora goats were displayed by farmers from the five breeder associations supported by SMARTD and they compete amongst themselves. Mr. Mosoeu Busa from Patlong Breeder Association won the champion price of the best reared merino ram, Mr. Rorisang Marotholi from Rutehang Lihooi Breeder Association won the first price of the best reared merino ewe while Mr. Mpho Senone won the first price of the best reared angora goat buck. This event had become a platform where farmers share knowledge and skills in merino sheep and angora goats breeding and their general management, and also helps farmers prepare their breeds for the national small livestock show. Prior to SMARTD annual show, farmers from different breeder associations will be assisted in selecting breeds which will participate in this event. Farmers in operational area are also being assisted with animal medication to ensure good health of their livestock. In this reporting period a total of 384 animals which include cattle, sheep goats, horses, donkeys, pigs and dogs had been treated for different diseases to include internal and external parasites, blue tongue and sheep scab. These animals belong to 50 farmers.

Wetlands restoration and celebration of World wetlands day: SMARTD together with Ha-Tlhaku community worked on the wetland identified in the past years for restoration. This wetland was marked and community livestock owners, herders, local authorities all came to agreement that this area will be freed from grazing to allow water borne species to regenerate. This resulted into this year's world wetlands day being celebrated in this community since this wetland is showing fairly good signs of recovery. According to the community, increase in water volumes and quality, multiplication of water borne species are amongst the recovery signs of this wetland. Due to these recovery signs observed, SMARTD together with Ha-Tlhaku community decided that world wetlands day will be celebrated in this community. On the 6th February world wetlands day event was carried out. This event was commemorated by the presence of ward chief from Quthing district, representation of the department of water affairs, Quthing District Administrator, representatives of the department of range, representatives of local NGOs (ReNOKA) and school children. This annual event had become a platform where all concerned development practitioners are being invited to join efforts in raising awareness amongst communities on the vital role wetlands play for the people and the planet. SMARTD had realized the need to reverse the rapid loss of wetlands and together with communities reverse the situation by encouraging actions to conserve and restore wetlands.

Establishment of SMARTD gene bank: SMARTD liaised with the national and regional gene banks for scientific description of the required equipment and possible suppliers to initiate their aspiration to start a local gene bank at SMARTD premises. Through the process, SMARTD managed to procure a chest freezer, plastic sealer, aluminum foil bags and petri dishes from one supplier in South Africa as most of the gene bank equipment is no available locally and this on its own had caused a delay in procuring these equipment during the first year of our current operational phase. SMARTD is in the process of procuring other equipment which the procurement process is anticipated to come to an end at the end of the second year of implementation.



Trainings: In enhancing the adaptive and livelihood skills of our communities in the phase of the changing climate, training workshops were organized and carried out in this reporting period. These trainings include training on Fodder/cover crop production, agroforestry practices, trainings on income generating projects to include training on fruit drying, Aloe Vaseline making and fruit juice, training on sustainable agriculture and training on Farmer Field School (FFS) establishment and training on social inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Fodder/cover crops training was organized and carried out for 18 farmers from the new areas of Qabane. The training touched on various types of green manure including cover crops, appropriate planting practices, linkages between cover crops and environmental protection (especially for managing essential soil nutrients, soil erosion, rangelands rehabilitation and carbon sequestration), cover crops as fodder, ration preparation for feed supplements, fodder and ration storage. The training entailed sustainable agriculture practices for producing cover crops; thereby highlighting conservation agriculture principles and management keys. A demonstration was set-out for planting teff.

17 farmers from Ha-Tlhaku and Ts'enekeng were trained in FFS establishment. This initiative resulted in formation of 3 FFS in Ha-Tlhaku and 2 in Ts'enekeng. A total of 40 farmers from Qabane and Ha-Tlhaku attended a training workshop on vegetable production under sustainable agricultural practices. The key thematic areas covered in this training include: holistic approach for thriving crop production, vegetable production calendar, companion cropping, plot design for vegetable production (keyhole gardens, trench gardens, Conservation Agriculture plots, raised beds plot), water and nutrient use efficiency for vegetables. The training also covered weed, disease and pest management for vegetables.

33 female farmers from Qabane and Ha-Phafoli, 37 from Ha-Tlhaku and Qabane and 35 farmers from Qabane and Ha-Tlhaku attended aloe Vaseline, fruit drying and fruit juice workshops respectively. The aim of these trainings is to equip farmers with skills for generating extra income for their households. Topic around financial management and record keeping are discussed in such workshops.

On the 6th – 10th April a training workshop on fruit tree management and agroforestry was conducted for farmers from Qabane, Ha-Phafoli and Ha-Tlhaku. 29 farmers attended this training. This training is a preparation for the up-coming tree planting season where these farmers will be supported with fruit trees for planting for income generation in the long term. Topics covered in this training include: seedling production to be propagated, types of propagation, benefits of trees, pruning, fruit tree diseases and their treatment, agroforestry and its importance in food production. After the training, participants were taken for a study tour to in Maseru to an orchard farm of self-driven farmer who is having varieties of fruit trees. This farmer is now selling fruits, propagated fruit tree seedlings and recently one of the best quality wine produced in Lesotho by this farmer.



As part of ensuring that communities have a role to play in social inclusion of vulnerable groups, a training workshop was organized and carried out for councilors, chiefs and village health workers from Qabane and Ha-Tlhaku. A total of 19 participants took part in this workshop. Topics covered were mostly based on the laws which protects children in Lesotho. This included their rights (rights to education and health, right of opinion and right to parental property). Participants were urged to take action whenever they see these rights violated. They were reminded that animals are not children's responsibilities thus they need to go to school. Child labor and child marriage were issues discussed and which communities need to avoid at all cost. SMARTD was supported by the department of Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU) of the Sekake police station in facilitating this workshop.

Seed policy dialogue: A well-controlled seed system that addresses all value chain knots play a vital role towards the nation's food security. It is therefore necessary to set controls for quality assurance hence why national seed policy was developed. SMARTD in partnership with the Department of Agricultural Research, organized and carried out a seed policy dialogue with farmers, extension agents and SMARTD field staff. This session aimed at exploring the extent to which the policy was relevant to their context and highlighted farmers' needs and challenges which are to be addressed when the policy is amended in 2026. Through interaction with participants and other national and international stakeholders, a loophole was recognized in the policy that seeds produced by farmers not observing the parameters of formal certified seed production are not being included in the seed policy even though they are very handy and beneficial to most farmers. It is in this regard that such seeds will be included in the policy under informal seed sector where they will be certified under quality declared seeds in collaboration with engaged institutions.

Staff capacity building: Capacity building workshop was organized and carried out for SMARTD staff on food processing and preservation. This workshop was facilitated by Boriba Foods. The objective here was to help staff to be in a position to help farmers preserve excess of their organic products for later use to avoid wastage. The following food products were preserved during this training workshop: canned vegetable carry, canned meat, canned dry beans, canned green beans, bottled chilli sauce, tomato sauce, biltong and chicken Polony. Prior to practical food processing, theory on what is preservation, principles of preservation, methods of canning, and canning equipment were discussed with participants.

Sustainable agriculture and crop diversity for improvement of households nutrition and pest control: In SMARTD old operational areas, farmers from Khomong and Ha-Setofolo had been visited. It was observed during this field visits that key principles of conservation agriculture and its management keys are being adhered to by farmers. Lead farmer at Ha-Setofolo had recruited 4 new youth farmers into conservation agriculture practices. This had increased the number of farmers producing food using conservation agriculture to 18 in this village while it remains at 10 at Khomong. All farmers in these two villages testified to uphold to



the principles of conservation agriculture. After harvesting they start working on their soils in preparation for the next planting. They apply kraal manure for soil cover and this helps improve soil fertility which at the later stages of decomposition improves soil organic matter and buffers pH. Kraal manure also improves soil aggregates for better plant growth conditions with explicit results on sandy and clayey soils. 4 farmers from this villages had gone a step further by compost tea to their crops. These farmers highly recommend compost tea and attested to continue applying it. Farmers in these villages worked towards diversifying their crop production for nutrition purposes on their keyhole plots and their homestead gardens. The most preferred include three varieties of pumpkin (tycoon, white fairytale, zucchini), tomatoes, onion, cabbage, spinach, mustard, green pepper and raddishes where each household planted at least 3 crops from the this list.

Farmer Field School (FFS) Training of Trainers workshop: SMARTD in collaboration with their BSF-5 partners in Zimbabwe Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT) held a four day training of trainers workshop on establishment and management of farmer Field Schools. This training was facilitated by CTDT where 8 SMARTD field staff, 7 government extension staff and 4 young scientists from the National University of Lesotho participated in this training. The main objective of this training was to help participants to be in a position to facilitate and empower farmers with knowledge and skills to make them experts in their own field; to sharpen farmers' ability to make critical and informed decisions that render their farming profitable and sustainable; and to sensitize farmers in new ways of thinking and problem solving.

Topics covered in this training includes the following:

- Introduction to FFS principles and philosophy
- School setup and management
- Training methodologies and learning processes
- Monitoring and evaluation (M & E) framework
- Scaling up FFS to impact larger areas

After the training, practical session was held at Ha-Tlhaku where FFS tools were executed for establishing FFS objectives. Then a planners session was also initiated by Ts'enekeng extension agents brainstorming on the series of activities that should complement FFS and the plan will be discussed among relevant stakeholders for implementation. This training was essentially valuable for SMARTD in implementation of FFS/Mini research stations. SMARTD also observed high value by engaging relevant stakeholders for sustainability purposes beyond SMARTD project phase.

Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA) 2nd Scientific Conference: APPSA being



part of SMARTD network in development, organized a three-day scientific conference held at Manthabiseng Convention Centre in Maseru where SMARTD formed part of this event through display and presentation on locally adaptive seeds and the experiences on climate resilient plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and community seed banking. This conference held under the theme "Investing in Agricultural Research for Sustainable Economic in the SADC Region", brought together over 200 participants including scientists, policymakers, farmers, private sector representative, and development partners across Southern Africa and beyond. This event aimed at reaffirming the critical role of agricultural research and innovation in catalyzing sustainable economic growth across the SADC region. The conference served as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, policy dialogue and showcasing of innovative technologies aimed at enhancing productivity, climate resilience and food and nutrition security. **Distribution of seed potato:** SMARTD procured 4000kg of Mondial variety seed potato and distributed among five Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and individual farmers from Ts'enekeng and Ha-Tlhaku to plant for multiplication, income generation and for household consumption. This intervention benefited 62 smallholder farmers. These seeds had been planted on a 3.66ha of land. Upon follow-up of planted areas, between 85% - 90% germination rate was observed in most of the areas. Farmers in different FFS had their FFS objectives varying from spacing, organic and chemical soil fertilization. At Qabane three groups of 14 farmers from Ha-Joppo, Ha-Morema and Ha-Ntoane had each been given 125kg of the same variety of potatoes to establish demonstration plots and observe their performance using different soil fertility practices. For the villages, Ha-Joppo and Ha-Ntoane, farmers wanted to explore the of implications improving fertility, buffering soil pH, and insects and pest control on potato seeds. They established comparison plots of 6 lines each, where 2 lines were planted with application of 250g kraal manure and 250g ash at each planting station, the next 2 lines were planted with the application of 250g of kraal manure only and the last 2 lines were planted potatoes without any fertility. The hypothesis is that kraal manure will improve fertility whereas ash will buffer pH as well as control pest like millipedes.





MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFTAINSHIP AFFAIRS
THABA-TSEKA DISTRICT COUNCIL. P.O BOX 206
THABA-TSEKA 550

TENDER NOTICE NO: TTDC/MoLGCHAP/ 3 of 2025/2026
24TH JULY 2025

The Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home- Affairs and Police (MoLGCHAP) has been mandated to promote effective and sustainable management of land, housing and Urban Development in Lesotho as provided for under relevant legislation and government policies.

In pursuit of this objective MoLGCHAP intends to undertake construction of gravel roads in rural areas across the country with the following objectives:

- To provide cost effective infrastructural development in rural areas;
- To improve access in rural roads;
- To enhance socio- economic development.

District Council Thaba-Tseka invites interested Lesotho registered companies to submit their tenders for **DRILLING AND BLASTING SERVICES** for road widening and side drains at **Mantsonyane- Chooko, Ramabetha- Phuleng, Mokoto Matsaile and Mateu Methalaneng.**

A set tender document costs a non-refundable value of **M2, 500.00 (Two thousand Five Hundred Maloti only)** payable at Urban Council Accounts Office opposite Post Bank. Tender documents are obtainable at the Procurement Office Thaba-Tseka (opposite Education Offices).

Sealed bids in an envelope one (1) original and four (4) hard copies) bearing no identification of the tenderer, should be marked **TENDER FOR DRILLING AND BLASTING SERVICES.**

The envelope should be deposited on or before 03/09/2025 at 10: 00 am. In the tender box at the District council office Thaba Tseka. Late tenders will not be accepted. Tenders will be opened at 10:30 am on the same day in the presence of tenderers or their representatives.

Compulsory site inspection will be conducted on the 12-14/08/2025 respectively. All the bidders must cater for their transport and assemble at Thaba-Tseka District Council at 8:30 am. All queries and clarifications should be addressed in writing to the Secretary, Procurement Unit, Thaba– Tseka District Council on or before 22/08/2025 to matselisofmoshe@hotmail.com.

Thaba Tseka District Council reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.



Revenue Services
Lesotho

TENDER NOTICE:

‘Supply and Delivery of Information Communication Technology (ICT) Equipment’

Tendering: Reference: RSL/BE/ SCM/ 01/08/2025

The Revenue Services Lesotho invites interested and qualified suppliers/ companies to submit proposals for **“Supply and Delivery of Information Communication Technology (ICT) Equipment”**. The bidder must be ready to provide the required services upon the award of the tender. All potential Bidders must be in possession of a proven track record and must be licensed for providing services of this nature.

All bidders must attach certified copies of valid Tax Clearance Certificates, company registration licenses, copy of shareholding certificates, and the most recent annual financial statements for RSL to assess the financial strength and capability of the bidder to carry out the assignment. Bids without these required minimum documents shall be disqualified.

The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) document indicating all requirements and specifications shall, upon request, be sent through email from the **11th August 2025 @ 10:00 am**. Interested entities shall contact Supply Chain Management office **through the email** stated below.

Terms and Conditions:

1. Tender documents will be available at a non-refundable tender deposit of **M500.00**.
2. The price quoted in the Bids must be in Maloti/Rand and must include all applicable taxes and duties.
3. The Bids must be submitted not later

- than **12:00 hours** on the **9th September 2025** and they shall be opened same day at **12:30 hours**.
4. Tenders received later than the above-mentioned deadline shall not be accepted.
 5. Non- electronic tenders **shall not be accepted**; and
 6. Detailed tender packaging and labelling requirements in the Request for Proposal (RFP) must be adhered to or this shall lead to **disqualification**.

1. Important indicative dates:

Action	Date
Issue RFP	11 August 2025
Pre bid meeting (virtual)	26 August 2025 @1000
Final date to submit written questions only (email format)	29 August 2025 @1700
Distribution of questions and answers to all bidders (email format)	2 September 2025
Final date for submission of Bidder proposals in response to the RFP	9 September 2025 @1200hrs
Public opening of the bids	9 September @1230hrs

All tenders/ queries must be addressed to: The Secretary – Tender Adjudication Committee Revenue Services Lesotho at this e-mail address: supplychainmanagement@rsl.org.ls



Maseru, Lesotho AUGUST 6,2025

Invitation for Bids

Re: Procurement of Energy Efficient Cook Stoves for Ultra Poor

Ref No: LSO-2000002340-0163-G-ICB

1. The Government of Lesotho has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods (ROLL) and intends to apply part of the financing for the purchase of these goods. 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 ROLL project.
2. The Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods includes ensuring that rural communities adopt transformational practices for regenerated landscapes & sustainable livelihoods. The expected outputs are reduction of environmental degradation and improved livelihoods of participating communities. The duration of the project is eight years and it is implemented in six districts (Butha-Buthe, Leribe,Berea, Thaba Tseka, Qacha’snek and Quthing)
3. **This IFB follows the general procurement notice that appeared on national newspapers, Newsday on the 25 April 2025, Public Eye on 18 April 2025 and one international newspaper, mail and guardian on the 23 May 2025.**
4. The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities (“bidders”) for the provision of Energy Efficient Cook Stoves for Ultra Poor. More details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of requirements in this bidding document.
5. This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to the restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully deliver the goods and related services.
6. The goods and related services, and the contract expected to be awarded, are divided into the following lots:

LOTS	DISTRICT	QUANTITIES
LOT 1	Berea	500
LOT 2	Leribe	500
LOT 3	Butha-Buthe	500

LOT 4	Thaba Tseka	500
LOT 5	Qachasnek	500
LOT 6	Quthing	500

1. Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) method, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in accordance with the IFAD procurement handbook which is provided on the IFAD website <https://www.ifad.org>. The ICB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award. **Full bidding document can be accessed by sending an email to:procurement.roll@gov.ls**
2. Please note that a pre-bid conference **will not** be held as described in the bid data sheet BDS, Section II of the bidding document.
3. Bids must be delivered to the address below and in the manner specified in the BDS ITB 25 no later than **13 October 2025 at 10:00 a.m** local time

Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods
Post Office Building, Level 7
P.O.BOX 92, MASERU
E-mail:procurement.roll@gov.ls and copy to morakanyane.mafatle@gov.ls

4. Bidders should be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstances and will be returned unopened to the bidder. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (as required) in the manner and amount specified in the bid data sheet.
5. Please note that electronic bids **shall not** be accepted as defined in ITB BDS 25.

Yours sincerely,

Procurement Manager
Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods
P.O.BOX 92 MASERU
procurement.roll@gov.ls





Kingdom of Lesotho
Ministry of Health
(Firm Selection)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, UPGRADING, AND RENOVATION OF FOUR (4) HEALTH FACILITIES IN RURAL LESOTHO.

RFP/QCBS/MOH/2025/26-06
First Date of Issue: 01-07-2025

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Health, on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho, invites qualified, experienced, and reputable consulting firms or consortia to submit technical and financial proposals for conducting feasibility studies for the following health facilities:

- a. Construction of a New Health Centre at Senqunyane, Berea District
- b. Construction of a New Health Centre at Ketane, Mophale's Hoek District

These feasibility studies are aimed at informing infrastructure investments that support Lesotho's national health development goals, improve access to primary health care, and contribute to the realization of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Scope of Work

The assignment involves:

- Technical, environmental, and economic viability assessments;
- Health service demand analysis and infrastructure planning;
- Environmental and Social Impact Screening (ESIA);
- Development of site-specific investment plans and implementation frameworks.

3. Eligibility Criteria

This RFP is open to national and international consulting firms or joint ventures that meet the following criteria:

- At least 10 years of experience in conducting multidisciplinary feasibility studies in the health or social infrastructure sector;
- A proven record of delivering at least three (3) comparable assignments in similar rural or developing contexts;

- Demonstrated financial stability, qualified personnel, and the ability to work in remotely located and topographically challenging environments.
- Local participation is encouraged, and preference will be given to consortia that include Lesotho based experts or firms.

4. Enquiries & Further Information

Clarifications may be requested in writing by email to the following addresses no later than
25th August, 2025: satbhssles@gmail.com cc:mot-sukunyanemolise@gmail.com.

5. Selection Criteria

- Selection Method: Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) and only bidders whose technical proposal has scored 70% and above will be invited for Financial Proposal Opening.
- Proposal Format: Technical & Financial Proposals to be submitted in separate sealed envelopes. Technical Proposal 4 hard copies & 1 soft copy in Flash Disk (Word documents Converted to PDF).
- Proposal Document: Free, fill the bidding document request form.
- Submission Deadline: **12th September 2025 at 11:00hour (Lesotho Time).**
- Submission Venue: Ministry of Health Procurement Office, Maseru.

6. Proposal Submission

All proposals must be written in English and properly completed. Proposals must be hand delivered to the address below. Proposals submitted via email will not be considered.

**Attention: Procurement Manager
Ministry of Health, Corner Constitutional and Linare Road
Maseru, Lesotho**

The Ministry of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any proposals without obligation to award the contract.



Ministry of Public Works and Transport
P.O. Box 24
Maseru 100
Lesotho

August, 2025

Letter of Invitation

1. The Principal Secretary for Public works and Transport now invites sealed bids from interested bidders to provide the following service: **Cleaning Service for department of Moshoeshoe 1 International Airport in the Ministry of public Works and Transport.** More details on the services are provided in the bidding document.
2. The technical proposal shall clearly demonstrate your understanding of the expected outputs, your proposed approach to the services involved, necessary equipment, your comments on the Scope of Work, your relevant experience, and you will be expected to provide detailed and updated curricula vitae for the proposed key personnel for carrying out the assignment. The financial proposal should clearly reflect the breakdown of your fees and all other associated costs for carrying out the assignment.
3. A Service Provider will be selected in accordance with the current Procurement Act, 2023, and the procedures described in the RFPA firm/company will be selected under the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method as stipulated in this Request for Proposals (RFP).
4. Detailed RFP which comprises the following documents, is available at the **Department of Traffic and Transport, Old Traffic Department Building. Next to St Catherine's High School for the bidders who will attend the site visit and provide their email addresses.**

Section 1 - Letter of Invitation
Section 2 - Information to Consultants
Section 3 - Technical Proposal - Standard Forms
Section 4 - Financial Proposal - Standard Forms
Section 5 - Terms of Reference
Section 6 - Form of Contract.

5. Your sealed proposals should be submitted at the following address by 12:00 noon on September 2nd, 2025, and will be opened on the same day at 12:30 p.m:

The Tender Box of the Ministry is situated at the Foyer, on the First Floor of Public Works and Transport Building, Corner Senate Road & Lepoqo

Road, Industrial Area, Maseru, Opposite Browns Wholesale.

6. The submissions should be clearly marked: **"Provision of Cleaning Service for department of Moshoeshoe 1 International Airport"-GOL/NCS 02/2025-26"**. It is the Service Providers' responsibility to ensure that their proposals are received on or before the closing date.
7. The selection criteria shall take both technical quality and costs into consideration to determine the overall preferred Service Provider. Therefore, it should be noted that technical proposals will be opened first and evaluated and only those companies attaining the technical scores above the minimum pass mark will qualify for financial proposals opening and evaluation.
8. Interested Service Providers from different firms may submit as an association or partnerships or joint ventures provided, they submit a letter of intent signed by all parties with a clear indication of the representative of such association or partnership or joint venture.
9. Mandatory site visit shall be held at **Moshoeshoe 1 International Airport on the 12th August; 2025 at 10:30 am, All bidders must wear reflective vests and bring the valid National ID or Driver's license.**
10. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport also reserves the right to cancel the tenders before the submission or opening of tenders, postpone the tender submission/opening date and accept or reject any or all tenders. The ministry is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.
11. The numbers of copies to be submitted are one (1) original and four (4) copies. It is Mandatory to submit all legal documents such as Traders License, Tax Clearance, Vat Certificate (where applicable) they should be certified at source.

Procurement Unit

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



About Us

Botho University (BU) is an ISO 9001-2015 certified organization, it was established in Botswana 1997 and has rapidly evolved over the years to become a leading multidisciplinary high quality tertiary education provider in the SADC region. Botho University is a dynamic university implementing new programmes that are new and relevant to the country. The University mission is to provide quality education and produce globally employable and entrepreneurial graduates.

We are seeking a dynamic and experienced Principal Officer – Human Resources to lead and manage the full spectrum of HR functions at our Lesotho Campus. This is a key leadership role responsible for driving HR strategy, operations, and compliance in alignment with institutional goals and values.

1. Principal Officer – Human Resources - Ref 25HRM002MSU

Qualifications & Experience

- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management, Industrial Psychology, or related field (Master's degree is an added advantage).
- Minimum of 5 years' progressive HR experience, with at least 2 years at a supervisory or managerial level.
- Strong knowledge of labour legislation and HR best practices in the Lesotho or SADC region.
- Excellent interpersonal, leadership, and communication skills.
- High level of integrity, discretion, and professionalism.

key Responsibilities

- Lead all HR operations on campus, including recruitment, onboarding, employee relations, performance management, training and development, and policy implementation.
- Provide strategic HR advice and support to campus management and staff.
- Oversee compliance with employment legislation and institutional policies.
- Champion staff welfare initiatives, engagement activities, and grievance resolution.

- Manage payroll inputs, leave administration, and employee benefits.
- Coordinate disciplinary procedures, staff appraisals, and development planning.
- Serve as the key liaison between the campus and Head Office on all HR matters.

To apply for these vacancies please follow the link below:
<https://bothouniversity.breezy.hr/>

The last day for the submission of applications is Saturday, August 16th, 2025.

Please note that only applications who meet requirements will be accepted. Short-listing of candidates will be based on academic qualifications, relevant experience, and general disposition. Only the shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview.

BOTSWANA Gaborone Campus: Tel: +267 391 9999 Fax: +267 3187858 Botho Education Park, Kgale, Gaborone, Botswana
LESOTHO Maseru Campus: Tel: +266 2224 7500 / 6231 3521 Ha Pena-Pena, Green City, Maseru
ESWATINI Manzini Campus: Tel: +268 2505 2288 Fax: +268 2505 2299 Riverstone Mall, First Floor, Manzini, Eswatini
NAMIBIA Ongwediva Campus: Tel: +264 65 230227 / 230228 RF3296, Mandume Ndemufayo Street, Maroela Mall, Ongwediva, Namibia
BOTHO UNIVERSITY ONLINE Botho University, Gaborone, Botswana Tel: +267 3635 477 / 459



LESOTHO FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

REQUEST FOR POPOSALS: EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

Background and Introduction

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) is an autonomous administrator and custodian of football in the Kingdom of Lesotho. LeFA is a member of the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) globally, and member of the Confederation of African Football Associations (CAF) on the continent and Council of Southern African Associations (COSAFA) in the Southern African Region. LeFA is operating in a highly regulated environment that requires it to uphold highest level of integrity and ethical standards that engender trust in all its operations.

In keeping with the best corporate governance standards, auditing standards and the regulatory requirements LeFA is required to engage different external auditors after every four years to comply with the principle of independence and ensure reality on the work of external auditors.

Therefore, LeFA wishes to invite all the qualified and competent audit firms in Lesotho to submit their expression of interests to provide external audit services in accordance with the terms as stipulated below.

Objective

The objective of the association is to find and engage a qualified audit firm to undertake annual statutory audit and report to the National Executive Committee and other stakeholders for the next four years starting from the financial year-ending 31st December 2025

Submission Requirements:

- i. The audit firm should be a registered member of the Lesotho Institution of Accountants (LIA), possesses a valid tax certificate and valid practicing certificates for the engagement partners.
- ii. The Audit firm must demonstrate experience in the audit of Non-Profit-making Organizations as well as that of its key engagement personnel.
- iii. The key audit team will comprise, at least:
 - a) An engagement partner – indicate number of years of experience in auditing, and specifically public interest entities and in addition, he/she should be a member of the LIA;
 - b) A quality review partner – indicate number of years of experience in auditing and professional qualifications
 - c) Audit Manager(s) with relevant audit expertise, appropriate qualifications and of experience, including membership of LIA.
- iv. Proposal must be submitted together with a breakdown of fee structure and three reference letters

Modes of submission: The proposals must be submitted via email to accounts@lefa.co.ls / lethoasas@lefa.co.ls or hand delivered to Lesotho Football Association, Bambatha Ts'ita Sport Arena, Old Polo Ground, Maseru. **Date of submission:** 15th August 2025, 16:00hrs.

The infographic features a colorful background with abstract shapes and a large heart. At the top right is the Newsday logo. Below it, the text "With Us," is in a stylized font. The main headline "Hybrid is the New Normal" is in large, bold, red letters, followed by the sub-headline "Get your copy Physically or Digitally" in a smaller, italicized red font. A dark blue bar contains icons for Facebook, X (Twitter), WhatsApp, Email, and a website icon. Below this bar are five vertical bars, each representing a different platform or metric. Each bar has a checkmark icon and a circular progress indicator at the bottom.

Platform/Metric	Value	Progress (%)
Newsday Newspaper Is	18.9k Likes Over 1.3M Page reach	95%
@LsNewsday	7.4k Followers Over 100k X impressions	80%
WhatsApp Chat	27K subscribers	50%
Marketing@newsdayonline.co.ls	4.3k subscribers	65%
www.newsdayonline.co.ls	55K pageviews 5.6k Unique Pageviews	70%

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The logo for Premier features a stylized sunburst icon above the word "Premier". Below it, the tagline "Growing Together" is written in a smaller font. Further down, the number "200" is displayed in a large, bold font, with "Growing Together Since 1824" written in a small font underneath.

A collection of Champion Toffees products, including boxes of Butter Milk, Cola, and Original, and a bag of 100's.

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The original energy sweet.

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The taste of FUN

Five bags of Manhattan products: Marshmallows, Pops, Candy, Milk Bottles, and a bag of assorted sweets.



Arts
Entertainment

Newsday

Thato Toeba wins 2025 FNB art prize

Staff Reporter

In a landmark moment for Lesotho's growing art scene, multidisciplinary artist Thato Toeba has been named the winner of the 2025 FNB Art Prize, becoming the latest addition to a prestigious list of African creatives recognised by the continent's leading contemporary art fair, FNB Art Joburg.

Announced this week, the 15th iteration of the FNB Art Prize celebrates Toeba's "quiet force" and conceptually rich visual language that, according to the prize jury, set them apart in a competitive field.

"Thato Toeba's practice holds a quiet force," read the jury statement. "Their use of collage and assemblage is both deliberate and layered, allowing for a visual language that is conceptually clear and materially rich... What set Toeba apart was the clarity of vision, the formal maturity of the work and the considered pace of their trajectory."

Born in Maseru in 1990, Toeba is an artist, lawyer, and social sciences researcher whose work with mixed-media photo-montage and assemblage interrogates black life, representation, and history.

With academic roots in law (an LL.M. from Humboldt University, Berlin) and a current two-year residency at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam nearing completion, Toeba's artistic trajectory has been anything but conventional.

"This means a lot to me," said Toeba following the announcement. "When I started five years ago, I felt very insecure about whether I am an artist or not. This is a very affirming answer to that. Coming from Lesotho where we are still trying to build an art ecosystem; I think this is such an important and powerful affirmation of what we are doing. For my practice it is such a momentous mark of an end to my beginnings."

The award includes a cash prize and a solo exhibition at the Johannesburg Art Gallery in 2026, which houses the largest art collection on the continent.

Toeba first drew significant attention in 2023 with Phate lia Lekana, their debut solo exhibition at Stevenson Johannesburg, under the gallery's STAGE initiative.

Their work has since appeared in group exhibitions across South Africa and Lesotho, including Today I Wish to

Talk to Your Dreams (Mount Nelson, Cape Town), Where Do I Begin (Stevenson, Cape Town), and Propelling Otherness (Morija Museum, Maseru).

"What makes Toeba's practice stand out today is how intentional it is," said Mandla Sibeko, Managing Director of FNB Art Joburg. "In a time when quick visuals and surface-level messages are everywhere, their work takes another route. It is careful, considered, and honest about complexity."

Faye Mfikwe, FNB Chief Marketing Officer, echoed the sentiment, framing the win as a win not just for the artist but for the continent: "We congratulate Thato Toeba on winning the coveted 2025 FNB Art Prize. Awarding the FNB Art Prize remains a way for us to showcase our commitment to supporting and growing the creative economy across the continent."

As FNB Art Joburg celebrates its 18th year, Toeba joins a lineage of previous winners, including Dada Khanyisa, Lady Skollie, Haroon Gunn-Salie, and Kudzanai Chiurai, a group of artists known for their bold narratives and innovative practices.



Corporate
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Team of 5
Venue: Maseru Mall
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Uncle Donze to host 2nd Edition of Lesotho Art Fair

Chris Theko

Lesotho's vibrant creative scene is once again set to take center stage as renowned pencil artist Uncle Donze prepares to host the highly anticipated 2nd Edition of the Lesotho Art Fair.

The event is to be held in partnership with the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC) and Selemo Sa Basotho, is scheduled for Sunday, 10 August 2025, at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre and promises to be a colourful celebration of Basotho art, culture, and innovation.

The Lesotho Art Fair has grown into one of the country's most prominent platforms for visual artists, designers, performers, and cultural entrepreneurs.

This year's edition will bring together both emerging and established creatives for a full-day exhibition and showcase that will include live painting, traditional music and dance, fashion parades, photography, crafts, and food stalls.

Speaking about the origins of the Art Fair, Uncle Donze shared that the idea was born after attending the prestigious Investec Cape Town Art Fair. "I saw how powerful such a platform was in promoting creativity," he said. "And I thought, why not bring this to Lesotho? I believed it could spark interest, create opportunities, and promote art and creativity within our own country."

The journey to establishing the Art Fair has



not been without its challenges. "It was the first event of its kind in Lesotho, so of course there were hurdles," Donze admitted. "But the turnout for the first edition was surprisingly promising, and that gave me the motivation to continue with a second and now a third edition."

More than just an exhibition, the Lesotho Art Fair aims to create a sustainable creative

economy in the country. "Lesotho is a country with a lot of untapped creativity," Donze emphasised. "We need platforms like this to showcase Basotho's artistic talent. It also inspires upcoming artists, showing them that their work matters."

The event is also strategically supported by LTDC, aligning with its goal to promote cultural tourism as a key pillar of economic

development. By merging art with tourism, the Art Fair highlights the country's unique identity and positions it as a creative destination in the region.

Donze believes that the creative industry could play a transformative role in Lesotho's socio-economic development. "The industry has huge potential," he said. "With the right support and more initiatives like this fair, it can help reduce unemployment and even generate revenue. Art fairs also create networking opportunities among artists, galleries, collectors, and stakeholders, opening doors for growth and collaboration."

The involvement of Selemo Sa Basotho adds a cultural depth to the event, ensuring that while the fair celebrates modern creativity, it remains rooted in tradition. Visitors can look forward to traditional storytelling sessions, performances in cultural attire, and indigenous food experiences.

Uncle Donze closed with a message to young aspiring artists: "Keep going. Keep creating. There's space for your work, your story, your perspective. The art world is not just for the elite, it's for everyone with a voice, and I encourage young artists to take up space and use every opportunity that comes their way."

With its unique blend of cultural pride and artistic innovation, the 2nd Lesotho Art Fair is set to be a landmark event that continues to empower artists, attract attention, and build a thriving creative community in the Mountain Kingdom.

Revamped Corporate Challenge aims for more fun

Seabata Mahao

Premier corporate showdown, the Corporate Challenge, returns on October 3 to mark its 10th anniversary, and will for the first time feature a fully-fledged after-party celebration to wrap up on a high note.

With the organisers promising a wider range of high-octane activities than ever before, the event aims to celebrate a decade of fostering collaboration, creativity, and friendly competition among the country's leading companies.

Organised annually by Liopelo Events and staged on the grounds of Maseru Mall, the Corporate Challenge has developed into one of the most anticipated events on Lesotho's corporate calendar.

This year's edition is being hailed not just as another competition, but as a landmark celebration of teamwork, networking, and professional development.

"We are pulling out all the stops this year. It will be bigger and better, befitting the significance of this anniversary," said Liopelo Events Director, Dr 'Mamphono Khaketla, in an interview.

"We have listened to our participants and introduced exciting features that will elevate the experience for everyone involved."

Among the standout additions is an exclusive VIP section tailored for senior executives and management teams across different industries.

"This premium area aims to provide a more comfortable and exclusive environment for high-level networking. It aligns with our broader goal of fostering stronger business relationships and strategic collaboration among industry leaders," Dr Kha-



ketla said.

The VIP zone is expected to become a key networking hub where executives can exchange ideas in a relaxed yet professional setting, adding more value beyond the day's

competitive activities.

Also new this year is a celebratory after-party, a long-requested feature from past participants. While final arrangements are being made in consultation with Maseru Mall,

the after-party is envisioned as a festive conclusion to the day, giving teams a chance to unwind and socialise.

"The after-party is meant to bring the corporate community together in a more casual, social environment," Dr Khaketla noted. "It is the perfect way to celebrate a day of hard work, teamwork, and achievement."

With an entry fee of just M3,400 per team, companies are already signing up quickly to secure one of the limited slots. Each team consists of five members, who will compete in a series of activities designed to test physical agility, mental sharpness, and group coordination.

Over the years, the event has attracted participants from sectors such as finance, telecommunications, manufacturing, and government. Its unique blend of sports, team-building games, and skill-based challenges has made it a go-to platform for improving morale, fostering cohesion, and promoting brand visibility in a fun and engaging setting.

From humble beginnings to becoming a national corporate staple, the Corporate Challenge continues to grow in size and stature.

Liopelo Events has consistently raised the bar each year, and this 10th edition is poised to reinforce its reputation as Lesotho's premier platform for corporate engagement and community building.

Registration is now open, and with excitement building across the country, Dr Khaketla had one final message: "This is the year to show up. Let us celebrate 10 years of corporate excellence together."

New soccer tournament unveiled

Seabata Mahao

As part of the 60th birthday celebrations of Bishop David Ramela, the Ramela Foundation, in collaboration with Ramela and Associates, has launched the Ramela Football Spectacular, an eight-team tournament that will feature clubs from Lesotho's premier league and A-Division League.

The much-anticipated two-day event is set for August 30 and 31 at the DIFA Ground in Maputsoe, with the Foundation investing M500,000 to ensure its successful staging.

According to organisers, the competition will feature two pools, namely Pool A, consisting of four A-Division teams, and Pool B, consisting of four Premier League teams.

Both groups will compete in a round-robin format. However, only Pool B will conclude with a final to determine the tournament winner, while Pool A teams will not contest a final match.

Of the eight participating teams, five are sponsored by Ramela and Associates: Linare, Litšilo, Butha-Buthe Warriors, CCX, and Members FC. Premier

League powerhouses Matlama, Lioli, and Bantu join the competition as special invitees.

"This is to quench the football thirst during the off-season and to rekindle the football fever. It's also a way to continue improving players' lives," said Ramela Foundation's spokesperson Sello Hatang.

Hatang noted this will be the second sporting event held in honour of Bishop Ramela's birthday. The first, a horse racing competition held in March, has already been designated an annual event. However, no decision has yet been made on whether the football tournament will also become a permanent fixture.

The Foundation has pledged significant financial support to benefit both players and the broader community.

Each A-Division team will receive M10,000 in participation fees and an additional M10,000 from gate takings, amounting to M20,000 per team. Premier League clubs will compete for higher prizes, M150,000 for winners, M75,000 for Runners-up, and M40,000 each for Semi-finalists.



"A portion of the gate takings will go to the participating teams, and another percentage will be given back to the community. This is not a profit-making initiative," Hatang emphasised.

On his part, Bishop Ramela described the tournament as part of a broader mission to elevate Lesotho's image through impactful initiatives.

"Our goal is to restore this country and uplift it. Sport is one of the ways to unite and inspire. I urge Basotho to come out in numbers and support this event," he said.

With a mix of top-tier football and communi-

ty-driven objectives, the Ramela Football Spectacular promises to be a standout event in Lesotho's off-season calendar, celebrating the unifying and transformative power of sport.

Match Schedule: Ramela Football Spectacular
Saturday, August 30 – DIFA Ground, Maputsoe
10:00 – Litšilo vs Butha-Buthe Warriors
12:00 – Linare vs Lioli
14:00 – Bantu vs Matlama
Sunday, August 31
12:00 – CCX vs Members
14:00 – Pool B (Premier League) Final

Khatala shatters national 10km record in another inspired outing

Seabata Mahao

Female long-distance sensation 'Neheng Khatala, solidified her place among the country's sporting icons after smashing the national 10-kilometre record at the recent prestigious Totalsports Women's Race in Durban, South Africa.

Khatala clocked an impressive 31:05, blending power and precision to carve her name into Lesotho's athletics history.

However, despite her record-breaking run, Khatala only managed a fourth-place finish in a highly competitive race featuring some of Africa's top talents.

Kenya's Christine Njoki took first place with a blistering 30:14, setting a new all-comers' record for the Durban event.

Yet, it was Khatala's performance that resonated deeply back in the Mountain Kingdom, stirring national pride.

"It was a moment of immense joy and gratitude," Khatala told Newsday Sports in an emotional post-race interview.

"All the hard work, sacrifice, and discipline poured into my training culminated in that race," she added. The 32-year-old Olympian said her performance held meaning beyond personal achievement.

"I was running not only for myself but for all the young girls back home in Lesotho. I hope they see what is possible with determination and commit-



ment," she said.

Khatala's strategy was a lesson in patience and execution. She held back at the start, conserving energy while the front pack surged ahead, then gradually picked up her pace to finish strong.

"With such a strong field, staying calm and focused was key. I aimed to remain relaxed during the early kilometers and gradually build rhythm as the

race progressed."

Her preparation was equally deliberate, focused on consistent training, disciplined recovery, and a strict nutrition plan. Tailored speed-endurance sessions rounded off her race buildup.

"This race was a critical test of my readiness, and I followed my training plan meticulously. It paid off in a big way."

Khatala's feat has been celebrated as a major milestone for Lesotho athletics.

Nkoebe Makhalemele, Public Relations Officer of the Federation of Athletics Lesotho (FAL), described the performance as historic.

"Neheng's achievement is a proud moment for Lesotho athletics," he said. "She has already qualified for the upcoming World Championships in Japan this September, making her the only athlete from our country to secure a spot at this prestigious global event."

Makhalemele also pointed to the rise of other promising athletes, including Tebello Ramakon-goana, who is preparing to represent Lesotho in Australia.

With her focus now shifting to the marathon at the World Championships, Khatala is ramping up preparations. Known for her endurance and sharp racing instincts over the 42.2km distance, she is expected to be a strong contender.

"I believe there is still much more I can achieve," she said. "This record is just the beginning. I am excited for the challenges and opportunities ahead."

From the gravel roads of Ha-Monaheng to the world stage, Khatala's journey is one of grit, vision, and unwavering commitment.

"Your background does not define your future," she told aspiring athletes. "With hard work, faith, and discipline, it is possible to rise from even the most rural villages to compete on the biggest stages in the world."

Staff Reporter

In a heartwarming display of service above self, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Maseiso Mohato Seeiso spent her winter university break not in rest and leisure, but volunteering as a sports psychology trainee at Kick4Life.

From June 2 to July 29, the Princess brought more than a royal presence to the sport-for-development organisation.

She offered empathy, purpose, and a deep curiosity about the human experience, applying her academic studies to real-life challenges faced by young athletes.

Currently pursuing a degree in Sports Psychology at the University of Stirling in Scotland, her placement at Kick4Life marked her first hands-on experience in the field. What began as a university requirement soon blossomed into something far more impactful.

Through group workshops and one-on-one sessions, Princess 'Maseiso emerged as a thoughtful listener and committed guide, opening up conversations around confidence, mental resilience, and emotional well-being.

"She brought compassion, curiosity, and commitment to every session," the organisation said in a statement. Kick4Life further indicated that her presence was more than just symbolic, but transformative.

The Princess chose Kick4Life not only because of her family's longstanding support for the organisation, but also due to its alignment with her aca-

Princess adds royal touch to Kick4Life



demical interests. While she once considered careers in sports management, her true passion emerged in the psychological side of performance, and it showed.

Staff and players described her approach as refreshingly human. Rather than begin with formal assessments, she took time to understand each player's life beyond football. These open conversations often uncovered shared struggles with confidence, identity, and pressure.

"She really took time to understand us as people,

not just athletes," said Reitumetse Namane, a player from Kick4Life's women's team.

"Meeting and learning from Her Royal Highness was an honour I never dreamed of. Her sessions truly shifted my mindset, especially on the importance of mental health and approaching each game with purpose. She encouraged us to lead by example, both on and off the field."

Through these interactions, Princess 'Maseiso worked to equip players with tools for building resilience, self-belief, and focus, skills essential both on

the pitch and in life. For her, the placement proved equally transformative.

"It was my first time doing one-on-one sessions," she shared with Kick4Life staff.

"I discovered not only what sports psychology looks like in practice, but how deeply meaningful and necessary it is. I have gained confidence in connecting with people, something I did not feel strong in before."

She left a lasting impression with her key message: mental fitness is just as important as physical training, especially in high-pressure environments. Her advice to seek support early, manage expectations, and maintain joy in the game resonated strongly with young players.

As her placement concluded, Princess 'Maseiso expressed a sincere desire to return after completing her studies, to continue supporting youth development and help grow sports psychology in Lesotho, a field still in its infancy in the region. For Kick4Life, her involvement was more than symbolic.

"She did not merely observe. She participated, contributed, and connected. Her impact will be felt for a long time to come," said a staff member.

In an era where mental health is finally taking its rightful place in the world of sport, Princess 'Maseiso's contribution stands as a powerful blend of royal duty and progressive leadership, a beacon of hope for the next generation of Basotho athletes.



Lioli, Kick4Life gear for CAF



Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's football scene is set to shine on the continental stage as two of its top clubs, Lioli FC and Kick4Life, prepare to represent the country in upcoming Confederation of African Football (CAF) tournaments scheduled for August and September.

In a major boost for the local game, Lioli FC, reigning champions of the Lesotho Premier League, will compete in the CAF Champions League. Fixture details and opponents are expected to be confirmed by CAF in the coming weeks.

On the women's front, Kick4Life will participate in the CAF Women's Champions League qualifiers, where they have been drawn alongside Gaborone United of Botswana and Young Buffaloes of Eswatini.

The matches will take place from August 22 to 31 at the AW Muller Stadium in Johannesburg. Kick4Life head coach Teboho Takisi expressed both excitement and focus ahead of the campaign.

"What we need right now is to study our opponents and analyse which areas we need to strengthen in our preparation," said Takisi.

"We must be a disciplined team, understand our goals, and have confidence that we can win and move forward. Football is not an individual sport, it requires team effort and collective spirit."

He added that the team has already started refining its tactics, especially in defence and attack.

"Scoring as many points as possible in the group stage will be key. The ex-

perience gained in such competitions is invaluable for both individual and team growth."

Meanwhile, Lesotho's Under-17 national team, Team Bahlabani, is gearing up for the COSAFA U-17 qualifiers, scheduled for September 11 to 20 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The team is placed in Group C alongside Angola, Botswana, and Mauritius.

According to Mikia Kalati, Communications Officer at the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA), these international tournaments are essential for developing local talent.

"These qualifiers for the AFCON tournaments are important because they provide players with a platform to market themselves internationally," Kalati

said.

He noted that the U-15 development squad, which serves as the feeder for the U-17 team, has been actively preparing and recently returned from a friendly tour in Botswana, where they recorded one win and one loss. Team Bahlabani is set to enter a weekend training camp ahead of their departure for Zimbabwe.

Kalati also highlighted the positive social impact of increased international participation.

"Football is growing rapidly in the country, and we're seeing more local teams participating in international competitions. This growth is not just about sport, it is also creating job opportunities and helping steer young people away from crime."

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