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News

**Maqutu faces possible charges
amid procurement controversy**

Page 3

News

**Ex ambassador blasts poor leadership
for Lesotho's stalled progress**

Page 4

SESOTHO MEDIA IN DUAL IDENTITY STORM



Page 2

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Staff Reporter

The legitimacy of Sesotho Media and Development (SM&D) is facing mounting questions after revelations that it has been operating under two separate legal identities, as both a trust and a society, a situation that could raise compliance and governance concerns.

While SM&D presents itself as a non-profit civil society organisation dedicated to using film and media to spark dialogue, challenge social attitudes, and promote human rights, documents seen by Newsday reveal the organisation is registered as both a trust and a society.

“Sesotho Media & Development registered under no 26188 in the deeds registry, Maseru under the Deed Registry Act 1967, on the 13th July 2000,” according to one of its constitutions.

Under section 3, titled Trusteeship, the constitution states that “only such persons may become trustees who belong to the society and subscribe to the aims and objects.”

“All the affairs and business of the society shall be managed and controlled by trustees, who shall have full powers to carry out objects of the society as hencebefore provided and who shall also hold the society’s funds for the application of income and/or capital thereof for the promotion of the society’s business, provided that every act or decision of the trustees shall accord with aims and objects of the society,” the constitution read.

“On dissolution of this society, all the assets and funds remaining after the payment of the creditors of the society will be distributed to the other societies upon the recommendation of the trustees,” it added.

Sesotho Media & Development “registered under No. 2021/269 in the Societies Register, Maseru, under the Societies Act 1966, on the 28th June 2021,” according to another constitution.

“Membership and employment in the organisation will be open to patriotic female or male persons of any sexual orientation from any background,” it added.

While the Deeds Registry Act 1967 governs the registration of trusts and related entities, the Societies Act 1966 applies to member-

Sesotho Media in dual identity storm



ship-based associations.

Operating under both at once could potentially enable selective compliance with obligations under each law.

Multiple sources familiar with SM&D’s operations told Newsday the dual registration is not a simple administrative overlap but a deliberate strategy to navigate different funding and governance requirements when applying for grants.

The timing of the second registration is notable. On 28 April 2021, just two months before SM&D was registered under the Societies Act, the delegation of the European Union (EU) to Lesotho had announced that: “Sesotho Media has partnered with She-Hive Association to implement an action that seeks to address the violation of human rights by members of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS).

The objective of the €750,000 (about M15

million) project, according to the EU, was to create platforms for meaningful joint consultations linking the public, police and civil society organisations in identifying and documenting human rights abuse challenges involving the LMPS.

The EU said the intervention would create safe spaces or platforms for joint consultative discussions aimed at unmuting or breaking the silence around the violation of Human Rights by LMPS.

“Bearing in mind that the action aims at strengthening greater involvement of local CSOs and the public in Security Sector Reforms, this intervention will build inclusive conflict resolution mechanisms and capacity of various stakeholders, notably the public, including marginalised groups, CSOs and LMPS, to jointly address violations of Human Rights,” the EU said.

In September 2021, the project was launched, and the local media reported that it was awarded under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) with a contribution to the tune of €750 000 (about M15 million), signed on February 16, 2021.

The four-year initiative, signed in February 2021 and launched in September that year, was set to run from 2021 to 2025 across six of Lesotho’s ten districts.

When approached for comment, SM&D’s Executive Director, ‘Mamolefe Petlane, said: “The organisation is currently transitioning from a trust to a society, with amendments underway. We anticipate convening the AGM by the end of the year. Until then, Sesotho Media remains a registered non-profit trust. This is to ensure that all legal and governance requirements under the new constitution are complied with.”

Asked directly whether SM&D is currently registered as both a trust and a society, Petlane responded: “SM&D is a non-profit making organisation registered under the laws of Lesotho.”

On its website, Sesotho Media & Development states that it was established in 1999 by the esteemed international filmmaker Mr. Don Edkins, and has been predominantly supported by Bread for the World (BfW).

The website also states that throughout its 24-year history, SM&D has evolved beyond its initial core focus on addressing HIV/AIDS-related challenges.

“It has broadened its scope to encompass a comprehensive array of critical issues, including but not limited to gender equality, child marriages, human trafficking, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), child labor, gender-based violence, climate change, digitalization, human rights, economic and social justice, and sustainable development.”

America slams Lesotho over arbitrary arrests, killings

Staff Reporter

Arbitrary arrest and detention remain pressing human rights concerns in Lesotho, according to the United States State Department’s long-awaited 2024 human rights report, released on Tuesday.

The report cited several recent incidents, including the detention of Kakaretso Tsatsi, Molemo Mosunyane, Retšelisitsoe Moeti, and Tsehla by the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) from October 7–8, for alleged illegal firearms possession. The detainees were later released after authorities failed to recover the weapons.

America said lengthy pre-trial detention remains a major problem, with pre-trial detainees accounting for 28 percent of the prison population. In some cases, the period of pre-trial detention equaled or exceeded the

maximum sentence for the alleged crime.

“Pre-trial detention sometimes lasted for years due to judicial staffing shortages, trial postponements requested by unprepared prosecutors, unavailability of legal counsel, inadequate forensic capacity, or negligence,” the report stated.

While Lesotho’s constitution and law prohibit arbitrary arrest and detention and guarantee the right to challenge the lawfulness of detention in court, the report noted that media documented numerous violations, including a ruling by High Court Judge ‘Maseforo Mahase declaring that the LDF lacked jurisdiction to arrest or detain suspects.

“The law required police to obtain an arrest warrant from a magistrate based on sufficient evidence prior to making an arrest on criminal grounds. Police were also required by law to inform suspects of the charges against them

at the time of arrest and present suspects in court within 48 hours,” the report said.

“Authorities did not always abide by the 48-hour rule. Suspects were prohibited from being held in pretrial detention for more than 60 days unless considered flight risks or threats to witnesses. The law also provided for bail, which authorities granted regularly.”

The report also criticised Lesotho for extrajudicial killings. In September, the LDF reported killing Nete Makhabane and Lejone Mopoko during an operation to confiscate illegal firearms in Ha Lebesa village, Berea District. An autopsy revealed that Makhabane died from broken ribs and damaged lungs.

“LDF Commander Letsoela announced a formal investigation in a September 25 press conference. The country’s ombudsperson was also conducting an investigation,” the report stated.

The 2024 report follows a period of revisions described by U.S. administration officials as efforts to “streamline” the report, which covers human rights events in roughly 200 countries. A note accompanying the reports indicated they had been “adjusted” to align with the administration’s executive orders.

Critics have noted that the 2024 edition omits references to LGBTQ discrimination and significantly reduces coverage of issues such as gender-based violence, government corruption, systemic racial or ethnic discrimination, and child abuse or sexual exploitation.

Mandated by Congress, these annual reports have long served as a critical resource for U.S. policymakers, human rights organisations, foreign governments, and judicial bodies, informing decisions on arms sales, court proceedings, and serving as a U.S.-led check on government abuses worldwide.

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Maqutu faces possible charges amid procurement controversy

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The fate of Advocate Mpaiphele Maqutu, Director of Elections at the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), will be revealed next week as authorities decide whether to take legal action against him.

Maqutu has meanwhile formally demanded urgent intervention from the Commissioner of Police, Borotho Matsoso, over the ongoing investigation into allegations against him.

Acting Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Advocate Lehlanako Mofilikoane told this publication this week that her office will communicate its decision to police next Wednesday, confirming whether Maqutu will face charges.

The case has been under scrutiny since June, when police forwarded the docket to the DPP.

The allegations concern Maqutu’s alleged procurement of paper bags worth M57,000 without following proper procurement regulations. The bags, intended as tokens of appreciation for officials attending the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC countries (ECF-SADC) from March 24–28 at Thaba Bosiu Cultural Village, were distributed during a high-profile regional meeting hosted by IEC Lesotho.

Participating countries included South Africa, Mozambique, DR Congo, Tanzania, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and Eswatini.

In a letter to Commissioner Matsoso on May 27 this year, Maqutu sharply criticised the Commercial Crime Court Unit (CCCU) of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) for what he called “prolonged and disruptive” investiga-



tions.

“By notice of this letter, the Office of the Commissioner of Police is herein requested to address a matter which has escalated to a point of raising operational concerns in the administration of the IEC in its discharge of duties in a

manner that is free from favour and prejudice,” Maqutu said.

“The management of the Commission under the Director of Elections is extremely concerned by the conduct of the LMPS, CCCU, which pur-

ports to be investigating the procurement of paper bags valued at around M57,000. It has been close to two months that IEC staff are called for weekly interviews with no end in sight,” he added.

Maqutu also invoked Section 66(c) of the Constitution, which states: “The Electoral Commission shall not in the performance of its functions be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.”

While insisting that the IEC has no intentions of interfering with ongoing investigations, he said the conduct of the CCCU was causing huge disruptions to the IEC’s daily operations “and can now be interpreted as a means of instilling fear and intimidation on the employees and management of the Commission, which in turn can have a bearing on the independence of the IEC to discharge its mandate freely.”

Maqutu said what was surprising was that during the 2023 Local Government Elections, in Kueneng in the Berea district, a ballot box went missing under the watch and care of, among others, the LMPS, but no evidence of any investigation equating to the ‘paper bag’ investigation had taken place.

“Additionally, in Kubake, the polling kit was taken from the polling station to the home of a candidate by police officers contrary to the rules of engagement in the conduct of elections, but no report/investigation of any kind on the said matter has been made,” he said.

“I trust that your office will look into this matter, and urge the CCU to conclude its investigation so as to take up the issue of the missing ballot box, among others.”

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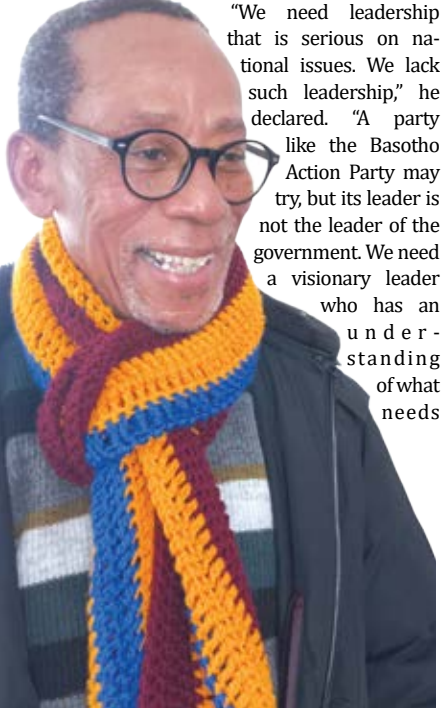
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Ex ambassador blasts poor leadership for Lesotho's stalled progress

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Former Ambassador to Ireland and Scandinavian countries S'khulumi Ntsoaole has delivered a scathing critique of successive Lesotho governments, accusing them of weak leadership, lack of accountability, and a chronic failure to seize opportunities that could have propelled the nation's development.

Speaking in an exclusive interview, Ntsoaole who has served as Ambassador to Ireland and the Scandinavian countries over the past six years, a Minister of Trade and Industry, and in senior political roles, warned that the country's stagnant progress is a direct result of leadership that prioritises personal gain over national interest.



"We need leadership that is serious on national issues. We lack such leadership," he declared. "A party like the Basotho Action Party may try, but its leader is not the leader of the government. We need a visionary leader who has an understanding of what needs

to happen."

Losing a friend in Ireland
Ntsoaole, who represented Lesotho in Ireland, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, says his diplomatic posting offered him a unique vantage point to assess the nation's potential and weaknesses.

"When you look at your country from an outside vantage point, it feels like you are seeing the country from above. You are able to see its strengths and shortcomings," he reflected.

He believes Lesotho is blessed with more natural endowments than many small nations, yet has consistently failed to harness them for the benefit of its people. One of the most painful examples, he says, is the collapse of the country's special relationship with Ireland, a country historically inclined to support Lesotho because of shared struggles against powerful neighbours.

"The Irish have had Lesotho in their hearts since 1975 when they mounted an embassy here. But we failed to capitalise on this," he lamented.

The tipping point, according to Ntsoaole, was Lesotho's inability to meet accountability standards.

"They said, 'We have been helping you since 1975 but you fail to account when we ask you to, and there is no need to be helping you.' So we lost our friend Ireland."

Even when he invited the government to visit Ireland to strengthen ties, there was no response, Ntsoaole alleged.

"Instead they were visiting nearby countries, and I would engage the Irish government and they would say, 'We hear you, but where are your principals?'"

He noted that the only high-level visit came last year during His Majesty's tour to promote renewable energy initiatives, by which time, his own diplomatic term had already lapsed.

Six years for nothing
Ntsoaole's diplomatic tour lasted six years, yet he describes it as a wasted opportunity.

"Six years, six years for nothing. The items we brought home were left until they collapsed." While he does not regret his appointment, "Personally I benefitted, although I had wanted Basotho to benefit," he is clear that the nation missed a critical chance to secure development partnerships.

Back home, Ntsoaole has taken up a leadership role within the Basotho Action Party's (BAP) executive committee, responsible for foreign affairs. He says discipline in politics is crucial: "It is not doing as one pleases but appreciating that the nation is hungry and is looking up to you. So many people join politics for self-enrichment."

The AGOA lifeline and its risks
Shifting to trade policy, Ntsoaole warned that Lesotho's over-reliance on the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is dangerous, especially given the lack of capacity to sustain textile exports without it. AGOA, a US law that allows certain African countries to export apparel duty-free to the US, was renewed in 2015 partly thanks to Ntsoaole's lobbying efforts as Minister of Trade.

"I raised the issue of AGOA's impending expiration in Ethiopia, and to my surprise, many African Ministers appeared casual about it," he recalled. Supported by then South African Trade Minister Rob Davies, Ntsoaole was chosen to travel to Washington, D.C., with counterparts from Gabon and Mauritius to make the case before Congress. Their efforts succeeded, securing a ten-year extension.

However, Ntsoaole stresses that AGOA can be revoked at any time and has not been used to build long-term capacity. "Our countries struggle to mature in business because we only have factory shells, water, and electricity, which are insufficient under WTO standards. This means African countries, including Lesotho, cannot compete globally."

He says AGOA was a chance to acquire machinery, skills, and design capabilities—but Lesotho failed to negotiate these benefits. "We did not negotiate for skills transfer, perhaps deliberately. There is a mentality of 'let's keep them hungry so that they will vote for us.'"

Slave wages in the 21st century
For Ntsoaole, one of the most glaring failures is

the state of the textile industry, which employs thousands yet leaves most workers in poverty.

"It cannot be that when people earn M2,000 per month, they are considered to be working. They have been made to feel as if they are working, but that is a slave wage. How much is electricity? What about rent and other expenses? They are not truly working; that is slavery in the 21st century."

He argues that low wages suppress domestic demand, making it impossible to grow a self-sustaining market.

"We lack consumption capacity because of low wages. We do not know how to consume our products as Americans do theirs, because they have the buying power due to higher salaries. Even their social security grants exceed what a paid employee earns in Lesotho."

The missed regional market
Ntsoaole believes Lesotho's fixation on distant markets like the U.S. has prevented it from taking advantage of regional opportunities.

"We had hoped that by now we would have gradually moved away from AGOA by strengthening the regional market, which comprises approximately 300 million people across all SADC countries. This market is sufficient to meet our needs, but we lack the capacity to consume because of low wages."

He said the path forward lies in building production capacity within SADC, then expanding to other African blocs before competing globally. "We are talking about a market of 1.2 billion people. America has a population of 320 million, yet they consume more than our entire continent combined. Therefore, we should negotiate truthfully as SADC or as a continent."

Colonial mentality and the need for unity
At the heart of Ntsoaole's critique is what he calls a "colonial mentality" that still shapes African politics and trade.

"It seems we are held back by a colonial mentality, as we are all looking to America instead of engaging with one another."

He says that until African nations negotiate collectively and prioritise regional integration, they will remain vulnerable to the whims of foreign powers.

While he acknowledges the enormity of the challenge, Ntsoaole insists change is possible. "Yes, there is hope to change the status quo, but it requires the SADC bloc or the continent as a whole to act together."

"We need a visionary leader who understands what needs to happen. Leadership is not about enriching yourself while the nation starves. It is about discipline, accountability, and the courage to negotiate for the benefit of your people," he concluded.

Teacher John and T – Connect Lesotho's drive to unlock global opportunities through online teaching

Keiso Mohloboli

Lesotho faces a challenging unemployment crisis. Despite graduating thousands of youths annually from universities and colleges, the promise of employment remains elusive.

According to recent statistics, the unemployment rate in Lesotho hovers around 25-27 percent, a figure that paints a stark reality of wasted potential and frustrated ambitions.

The bleak picture is further underscored by the budget speech presented before the National Assembly in recent years, where government officials acknowledged that job creation has lagged behind the growing number of graduates.

Many youths find themselves "hunting for jobs" without success, leaving them vulnerable to poverty, despair, and the loss of hope for a brighter future.

However, a new beacon of hope is shining through in Lesotho, thanks to innovative initiatives led by visionary young leaders like Tlotliso Motebang, popularly known as "Teacher John". Through his dedication, skill, and passion, Teacher John exemplifies how young Lesotho citizens can harness the power of the internet to forge successful careers beyond local limitations.

With the strategic support of Starlink Business by T-Connect Lesotho, an organisation committed to bridging the digital divide and creating opportunities for Lesotho's youths, Teacher John is transforming lives across the country.

Teacher John's journey is both inspiring and instructive. As one of Lesotho's many talented youths who once graphed on the margins of unemployment, he shares, "I was hungry — not just physically, but also for success. Like many of my friends and

fellow graduates, I felt left behind because opportunities in Lesotho are limited. That hunger drove me to look beyond borders." His breakthrough came when he decided to learn how to teach English online and get certified.

Today, Teacher John has mentored 728 aspiring TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) online teachers. More than 500 of his mentees are actively earning, with monthly incomes ranging from USD 100 to USD 1,500. His masterclass has become a movement, inspiring youths across Lesotho to see the internet as a gateway to global employment.

"Online teaching gave me a new lease on life," Teacher John remarks. "It showed me how I could access international markets and create a sustainable income. Now, I want to share that opportunity with other young people in Lesotho."

His initiative embodies the core belief that youth unemployment is not an insurmountable obstacle but an opportunity for innovative thinking and empowerment. With the right mentorship, skills, and digital access, Lesotho's young people can participate in the global economy rather than be left behind.

How T-Connect Lesotho is Changing the Game
Recognising the significant impact of Teacher John's work and the potential of online employment, T-Connect Lesotho has partnered with him as part of a wider mission to create connectivity and digital literacy among the youth. The company is committed to providing Lesotho's young people with the tools they need to succeed in remote work and online teaching.

T-Connect Lesotho's efforts include: organising Masterclasses and District Tours: Teacher John's masterclass will embark on a nationwide tour,

reaching most remote areas of the country and community centres across Lesotho, spreading awareness and skills needed for online English teaching.

Providing Technology and Internet Access: T-Connect works to improve digital infrastructure, ensuring that youth from all regions, including remote areas, can participate in online education and employment.

Mentorship and Skill Development Programmes: The company connects youths with influencers, mentors, and industry experts to build confidence, skills, and global networks.

"Our goal is simple," says T-Connect's Group CEO Advocate Phelane Phomane. "We aim to give Lesotho's youth the connectivity and skills to access online jobs, participate actively in the global market, and ultimately, change their lives."

Teaching English online presents a unique avenue for economic empowerment. It sidesteps challenges such as local unemployment and underemployment, offering a flexible, high-paying, and scalable source of income. The demand for English teachers on international platforms like VIPKid, iTutorGroup, and Cambly has surged, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated remote work.

Increased Earnings: Teachers can earn from USD 100 to USD 1,500 monthly depending on experience and hours worked.

Flexibility and Location Independence: Teachers can work from home, rural areas, or anywhere with internet access.

Skill Development: Teachers improve their communication, digital literacy, and cultural exchange skills.

Global Market Participation: Youths gain access to international clients and markets, broadening

horizons.

Teacher John emphasises, "Getting certified to teach English online is straightforward. Our masterclass simplifies the process, providing lessons on certification, platform registration, classroom management, and marketing yourself internationally. We are opening doors that most youths in Lesotho never knew were there."

Unemployment in Lesotho affects not only economic growth but also the well-being and future of young people. When youths are unemployed, they are more likely to face social issues such as crime, drug abuse, and mental health challenges. The failure to create enough jobs leaves many youths despondent, questioning their worth and future prospects.

"Unemployment is like a silent thief," Teacher John notes. "It steals aspirations and potential. But through online work and digital skills, we can reclaim that potential and build a brighter Lesotho."

By embracing digital literacy and remote work opportunities, Lesotho can break this cycle of unemployment. The internet is a leveller, providing access to the world's job market, regardless of local economic constraints.

T-Connect Lesotho believes that youths are the future leaders. By empowering them with the right skills and opportunities, they can drive national development and social change. The partnership with Teacher John is just one step towards this vision. His success story serves as a template for millions who are craving opportunities but lack the resources.

"We need to change the mindset," Teacher John advocates. "With the internet, our youth can become global teachers, entrepreneurs, and innovators. They do not have to wait for local jobs—they can create their own futures."

Lesotho's youth are resilient, talented, and full of potential. The unemployment crisis is a challenge, but it is also an opportunity for innovation, collaboration, and digital empowerment. Through initiatives like Teacher John's masterclass, supported by T-Connect Lesotho, the country can begin to turn the tide.

By investing in digital literacy, connectivity, and mentorship, Lesotho is paving a pathway for its young people to succeed in a global economy. As Teacher John passionately affirms, "Our future is online. We just need the tools and belief to seize it."

Safeguarding Livelihoods, Driving Competitiveness

LNDC’s Commitment to Lesotho’s Manufacturing Sector



Lesotho’s textile and apparel industry remains a critical driver of jobs and exports

Lesotho’s textile and apparel industry stands at a crossroads

Uncertainty over the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the imposition of a 15% U.S. tariff on Lesotho’s exports have placed intense pressure on manufacturers. Several major exporters have had to cut jobs as orders from the U.S. slow down.

While awaiting the U.S. decision on AGOA, the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) is working tirelessly to safeguard livelihoods, strengthen competitiveness, and open new market opportunities for Basotho-made products.

Diversifying Beyond the U.S

Through strategic buyer linkages and participation in trade fairs, LNDC is helping textile and apparel companies tap into the SACU market as a gateway to the African market under the AfCFTA, as well as the UK, EU, and other international markets.

Global Trade Engagements

At Expo 2025 Osaka, leads have already been generated, linking potential buyers with Lesotho producers. Backed by the Regional Value Chains Lesotho (RVCL+) project – co-funded by the EU and German Government and implemented by GIZ – Basotho-led enterprises have gained exposure at high-profile events such as the Middle East Organic and Natural Expo, Allfashion Sourcing, SADC Industrialization Week and Afrika-Tage Wien in Austria.



Our mission is to keep Lesotho competitive in a fast-changing global trade environment while protecting livelihoods

Looking Ahead

LNDC is spearheading preparations for Lesotho's participation at the 2025 Intra-Africa Trade Fair (IATF) – a prime platform to showcase products, attract investment, and forge partnerships across Africa.

We remain steadfast in supporting Lesotho’s manufacturing sector, nurturing industrialists, and positioning the country as a competitive player in regional and global value chains.

Eye on our Industrialists

Jonsson Workwear:
Connecting Workers to the Digital World

At LNDC, we celebrate industrial partners who not only create jobs, but also invest in the growth and wellbeing of their people. Jonsson Workwear’s Hello Connect campaign is a prime example, giving thousands of employees at its Jonsson Manufacturing Lesotho (JML) facilities access to affordable smartphones, bridging the digital gap, and opening doors to learning, communication, and opportunity. From discounted devices with salary-friendly payment plans to free workplace Wi-Fi, the initiative aims at transforming how employees connect and learn both inside and outside the workplace. 2776 employees have already signed up, underscoring the power of technology to drive inclusion and upliftment. We commend JML for making digital access part of their commitment to building a better life for their employees.





Newsday

Business

Jonsson Workwear launches 'Hello Connect' campaign

Staff Reporter

Jonsson Workwear has launched its Hello Connect campaign at Jonsson Manufacturing Lesotho (JML), giving employees easier and more affordable access to smartphones to support learning, communication, and digital engagement.

The campaign, announced at the end of July, equips JML staff with new Mobicel smartphones, complete with a once-off airtime allowance, accessories, and a 12-month warranty.

"By providing teams across JML with access to smartphones at a significantly reduced cost, the business supports its workforce by strengthening connection at every level – whether it's through the Jonsson CommUnity internal communications app, Workforce app or the Jonsson Learn app," the company said in a statement.

"With smartphones playing an increasingly vital role in accessing these essential workplace platforms, the company recognised that not all employees have access to a suitable device," it added.

Devices are offered at a discounted price and can be paid off over 12 months via salary deductions. Employees using the phones for



work purposes also gain access to the company's Wi-Fi network, removing additional data costs.

"Whether it is staying informed through our internal communication app or using our on-line learning platform, the Hello Connect campaign is built on creating opportunities," said Nick Jonsson, CEO of Jonsson Workwear.

The initiative forms part of Jonsson Workwear's broader vision of building a better life for all. It complements existing JML efforts, including on-site healthcare, a staff feeding scheme, and community support programmes, such as food aid provided during Lesotho's drought and food crisis in 2024.

The campaign provides employees with access to essential workplace platforms, including the Jonsson CommUnity internal communications app, Workforce app, and Jonsson Learn app, supporting both connection and learning.

Over 2,776 JML employees have signed up for the programme, underscoring the demand for technology that enables participation in the company's ongoing digital transformation.

Together with JML's existing people, and development-focused programmes, Hello Connect is designed to create a lasting, meaningful impact both within the company and in surrounding communities.

Seabata Mahao

Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) and its philanthropic arm, HigherLife Foundation Lesotho have stepped in with a M1.24 million lifeline to rescue 439 Grade 11 learners from the brink of educational exclusion.

The learners, spread across 167 schools in all ten districts, faced the real possibility of missing their final year examinations due to unpaid fees. Their situation became dire when support from the USAID-funded Mothers2Mothers programme came to an end.

Answering an urgent appeal from the Ministry of Education and Training, ETL handed over the full amount needed to the Examinations Council of Lesotho (ECOL), ensuring the students' uninterrupted access to their 2025 examinations.

During a recent handover ceremony in Maseru, ETL's CEO Dennis Plaatjies described the gesture as more than just financial aid.

"This payment is a declaration of belief in the potential of every learner. It is a commitment to access, equity, and dignity in education. At Econet, we believe that no child

Econet rescues stranded learners with M1.24 million lifeline

should be left behind," Plaatjies said.

The beneficiaries, many from economically vulnerable households, had previously relied on external donor assistance to stay in school. With looming exams and no other financial backing in sight, their academic futures were at serious risk.

HigherLife Foundation's intervention forms part of its broader mission to support educational access for underprivileged Basotho children. Since its inception, the Foundation has made notable investments in scholarships, high school tuition, and tertiary education support.

Last year alone, ETL and HigherLife invest-

ed over M8 million in education-focused Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives.

Their sustained efforts also contributed significantly to unlocking a M43.9 million Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Multiplier Grant aimed at strengthening education systems and improving learning outcomes in Lesotho.

"We see ourselves not as the source, but as the bridge. And that bridge is made possible by our customers every recharge, every subscription, every EcoCash transaction helps us show up where it matters most," Plaatjies added.

On his part, the Minister of Education and Training Professor Ntoi Rapapa lauded the intervention, calling it a "critical turning point" for learners who were on the brink of dropping out.

"This support comes at a time when many families are facing immense economic challenges," he said. Without it, these learners would have missed their final Grade 11 exams, effectively derailing their educational

paths."

Professor Rapapa praised HigherLife Foundation for responding swiftly to his public appeal earlier this year, noting that this is not the first time the organisation has stood shoulder to shoulder with the Ministry.

"You have consistently supported our efforts, reaching even the most remote corners of our country. Your contributions help make our education system more inclusive and equitable. This is an investment in the nation's future," the Minister said.

Setlaba Phalatsi from the Ministry of Social Development, Youth, and Gender echoed the sentiments, describing the donation as a beacon of hope.

"This is more than just a cheque. It is a commitment to our youth and to a better future for Lesotho," he said.

HigherLife Foundation also announced that it would soon unveil 10 new recipients of the Moshoeshoe I Scholarship, bringing the total number of scholars under the programme to 40 since its launch in 2022.



Econet and HigherLife Foundation save the day for 439 grade 11 learners

NOTICE OF LOST CONSTITUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that intend to apply for a certified copy of a registered Constitution of the Liphakoe Football Club under registration number 2019/161.

All persons having objection to the issue of the said copy are requested to lodge them in Writing to the Registrar General within three weeks from the last publication of the notice.

Address

The Registrar General Ministry of Justice and Law Africa House, Government Complex P.O. Box 33 Maseru 100

Applicant

NKOMANE MOSOLA, C/O Letseka Construction Borokhoaneng Maseru Tel: +266 62787719/56180180



Lesotho faces world’s highest TB rates, rising diabetes deaths

Ntsoaki Motaung

Lesotho is grappling with some of the most severe health challenges in the world, including the highest rate of new tuberculosis cases globally, the highest suicide mortality rate in Africa, and maternal deaths far above national and global targets, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The country recorded an estimated 650 new TB cases per 100,000 people in 2021, with more than 60 percent of cases in 2020 occurring among females aged 15–24. HIV prevalence remains among the world’s highest at 21 percent, with more women than men infected.

On maternal health, Lesotho’s 2017 maternal mortality ratio stood at 544 deaths per 100,000 live births, higher than the African regional average of 525. While 65 percent of women aged 15–49 use contraception, 16 percent still have an unmet need, and incomplete abortions were the top reason for inpatient admissions in 2020.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are also on the rise. Between 2009 and 2019, deaths from diabetes increased more than for any other condition, while the probability of dying from the four major NCDs between ages 30 and 69 reached 42.7 percent, the highest in the African Region. Mental health concerns are acute; Lesotho recorded 72.4 suicides per 100,000 people in 2019, the highest suicide rate in Africa.

These statistics are contained in the recently published WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) 2024–2027, aimed at reducing maternal and child deaths, combating communicable and noncommunicable diseases, and strengthening the country’s health systems.

The strategy, covering the period 2024–2027, sets clear targets aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Lesotho’s national health

priorities. It addresses urgent issues such as high maternal mortality, adolescent health, intimate partner violence, HIV, tuberculosis, and the growing burden of lifestyle-related diseases.

In reproductive, maternal, neonatal, adolescent, and child health, WHO says it will support efforts to cut maternal deaths to fewer than 75 per 100,000 live births and reduce under-five mortality to 25 per 1,000 live births. This will include scaling up sexual and reproductive health services, improving management of childhood illnesses, expanding vaccination coverage, and engaging adolescents in health decision-making.

Measures will also include strengthening responses to sexual and gender-based violence, enhancing disease surveillance for vaccine-preventable illnesses, and promoting “Reach Every Child” and “Reach Every District” approaches in health service delivery.

The CCS emphasises tackling both communicable and noncommunicable diseases. WHO indicates that it will work with the Ministry of Health to expand HIV services to underserved populations, improve tuberculosis and HIV research, and address the social determinants of health through stronger collaboration between government, private

sector, and civil society.

For noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), the plan calls for new policies and legislation targeting major risk factors, strengthening research capacity, and improving access to essential NCD services. It also proposes reviving the formal engagement of traditional healers to enhance community-based health service provision.

WHO says the strategy is designed to ensure better coordination between health actors in Lesotho, mobilise resources, and guide investments in priority health areas.

“WHO is fully committed to implementing CCS 4 through collaborative efforts with all stakeholders. CCS 4 will be jointly monitored by the Ministry of Health and WHO throughout its implementation and any adjustment needed will be made to respond to emerging needs,” said Dr Innocent Bright Nuwagira, WHO Country Representative in Lesotho.

“We look forward to further strengthening the partnership between WHO and the Kingdom of Lesotho,” Dr Nuwagira added.

“The Ministry of Health welcomes the Country Cooperation Strategy 2024–2027, which is aligned with the WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2025 (GPW 13),” said Minister of Health, Selibe Mochoboroane.

Mochoboroane said the strategy paves the way for a new level of collaboration that is strategically focused, results-oriented and built on longstanding partnerships.

“I wish to pledge the support of the Ministry of Health to ensure the implementation of WHO’s Country Cooperation Strategy 2024–2027 towards achieving good health and well-being for all people in the Kingdom of Lesotho,” he said.

The plan will run until 2027, with progress measured against a range of indicators, including SDG targets on maternal and child health, HIV, NCD mortality, and violence against women.



How early antenatal care protects new lives

Ntsoaki Motaung

Twenty-three-year-old Thato Khampepe has defied the odds, delivering a healthy, HIV-negative baby despite living with the virus herself, a milestone she credits to the Ministry of Health’s Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme. Khampepe’s journey began in 2019, when she tested positive for HIV during a routine check-up. She recalls the moment as life-changing but says her family’s unwavering support kept her strong.

“They have been very supportive since I found out about my positive status,” she said. “They have never discriminated against me or stigmatised me. They support me through everything and even remind me about my check-ups.”

In 2023, Khampepe discovered she was

pregnant and immediately began Antenatal Care (ANC). Determined to protect her baby, she followed every instruction from her healthcare provider.

Her son, now 19 months old, was given preventative medication Nevirapine at birth and CTX at six months. The result: he remains HIV-negative.

“It was a happy moment for me to deliver an HIV-negative baby,” Khampepe said. “I believe it is always possible for a positive mother to have a negative baby if they listen to their healthcare provider’s instructions.”

She urged other HIV-positive women not to lose hope.

“There is nothing wrong with having a baby when you are positive, as long as you and your baby are protected,” she said.

Khampepe’s story highlights the promise of

Group Antenatal Care (Group ANC), a model the Ministry of Health is piloting to improve maternal and child health outcomes.

Unlike traditional one-on-one visits, Group ANC brings pregnant women together to share experiences, learn, and support each other.

“We give them that autonomy to even come up with the topics to be discussed during visits, and they are able to talk more,” said Mafusi Mokone, Senior PMTCT Advisor. “Some groups even create WhatsApp and Facebook groups to stay connected after clinic visits.”

The concept, first introduced in the United States in 1990 and recognised by the WHO in 2016, aims to create “positive pregnancy experiences” and encourage women to seek care early and regularly.

According to Mokone, Lesotho’s adoption of the Group ANC model was born out of a clear

need to address critical gaps in its maternal health services.

The country’s health officials recognised several bottlenecks that were hindering progress.

“One of the biggest issues is late ANC attendance. Currently, only 53 percent of pregnant mothers attend their first ANC services during the crucial first trimester. This is a significant problem because early care is essential for monitoring the health of both mother and baby, and for starting HIV prevention treatments as soon as possible,” she said.

She added that another major concern is the low number of follow-up visits.

“A shocking 26 percent of women who attend ANC do not return for their subsequent visits. This lack of retention means they often fall off their treatment plans, which can put them and their babies at risk,” she said.

Mokone raised concern that the country is also grappling with a high rate of home deliveries, indicating that, in 2023 alone, a staggering 1,343 women delivered their babies at home.

“This is incredibly dangerous, as it means mothers and newborns are not receiving the immediate medical attention they might need,” she said.

Silence breeds speculation: 10th constitutional amendment

The recent passage of the 10th Amendment to the Constitution Bill by the parliament should have been a moment for national reflection, dialogue, and clarity. However, it has become yet another example of how critical governance processes in this country are shrouded in opacity, leaving citizens uncertain and prompting rampant speculation about the Bill's status.

Reports that the Bill may have been sent to the King for assent have fueled questions, yet no official confirmation or communication has been provided by the National Assembly or relevant authorities.

If Lesotho is indeed a democratic sovereign kingdom, as enshrined in Section 1 of the Constitution, citizens have the right to know the steps their government is taking in matters of national significance. The Constitution does not merely confer sovereignty on the state, it also vests ultimate authority in the people. Any legislative action that fundamentally changes the supreme law of the land should, therefore, be accompanied by transparency, timely communication, and public engagement.

Unfortunately, the pattern in Lesotho continues to be one of silence. By failing to inform the nation, Parliament has allowed speculation to fill the vacuum. Citizens are left guessing about whether the Bill has been presented to the King, whether it has been assented to, or whether further procedural steps are pending. This lack of clarity undermines trust in the legislative process and raises broader questions about the commitment of political leaders to constitutionalism, accountability, and democratic norms.

The role of Parliament is not merely to pass laws behind closed doors; it is to serve as a conduit between the people and the state. Citizens must have access to accurate, timely information about legislative processes, especially when those processes affect the very framework of governance. By remaining silent, the National Assembly fails in its duty to uphold transparency, leaving the public in a state of uncertainty that threatens confidence in democratic institutions.

This lack of transparency has tangible consequences. When citizens cannot verify the status of a constitutional amendment, rumours, misinformation, and political speculation thrive. The result is not informed debate, but confusion and cynicism, conditions that weaken the fabric of democracy and erode the legitimacy of constitutional processes. In a society grappling with political tensions and historical governance challenges, such opacity is particularly damaging.

The leaders must remember that the health of a democracy is measured not only by the passage of laws but by the openness of the process and the engagement of citizens. The 10th Amendment, if it fundamentally alters entrenched provisions of the Constitution, demands not only procedural rigour but also public explanation and accountability. Citizens have a right to understand what changes are being made, why they are necessary, and how they will affect the exercise of power and protection of rights.

It is therefore imperative that the National Assembly break its silence immediately, formally communicate the status of the 10th Amendment, and provide clear guidance to the public on next steps. In Lesotho, democracy cannot thrive on secrecy or ambiguity; it requires information, clarity, and a shared understanding of the law.

Silence is not neutrality; in matters of constitutional change, silence is a breach of trust. Lesotho cannot claim to be a sovereign democratic kingdom while its people are left in the dark about the most fundamental legal developments affecting their governance. Transparency is not optional, it is a constitutional and moral imperative.



No Comment



Theko Tlebere

Common Concern

Why are we importing bricks? A wake-up call for the government and LNDC

On a recent trip back from Bethlehem, South Africa, I was overcome with anger and dismay. As I crossed back into Lesotho, I counted more than ten trucks hauling concrete bricks into our country, bricks manufactured just a few kilometres away in Bethlehem. Those familiar with the road from Fouriesburg into Bethlehem will know the plant I am talking about. A massive industrial site sits proudly on the left-hand side of the road, churning out thousands of concrete bricks daily. As I passed it again this week, I couldn't help but wonder: why does Lesotho not have something like this? Why are we not producing our own bricks at scale? More importantly, why is the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) not aggressively investing in such enterprises?

It is moments like these that expose the deep contradictions in our national development agenda. Our leaders promise jobs, 70,000 of them, in the case of Prime Minister Sam Matekane's recent pledge. Yet we continue to outsource opportunities that should be creating employment for Basotho. Importing concrete bricks is not just an economic transaction; it is a missed opportunity to stimulate local industry, create hundreds of jobs, and support youth empowerment through practical, scalable projects.

Established to spearhead industrial and commercial development in Lesotho, the LNDC has a clear mandate: to promote, facilitate, and support domestic and foreign investments that drive employment and economic growth. Yet, it seems the Corporation has fallen into the trap of facilitating only high-end or foreign-led ventures, while ignoring basic but high-impact sectors like construction materials manufacturing. Whoever becomes the CEO of LNDC should shake things up and assist Basotho with creating high-volume enterprises. Ntate Matekane, you have a great weapon in LNDC, only if you direct them to focus on sim-

ple products like concrete bricks, which will be in demand until I build my own house.

There is absolutely no reason why LNDC cannot build or support the establishment of a concrete brick manufacturing plant in Lesotho. The technology is not complex. The demand is constant. The raw materials are largely available. What is needed is leadership, investment, and a commitment to reduce Lesotho's trade deficit by replacing imports with locally manufactured goods.

Moreover, this is not just about bricks. It's about what those bricks represent. Every truck that crosses the border carrying construction materials is a symbol of jobs lost, potential stifled, and economic dependency reinforced. Our country is crying out for employment, especially for young people. The private sector is stagnant. The public sector is bloated. And yet we allow low-hanging fruits like construction materials to slip right through our fingers.

The Youth Apprenticeship Programme (YAP), introduced as part of the government's broader economic strategy, is a welcome intervention. But it remains a drop in the ocean. While it provides short-term placements and some training, it does not fundamentally restructure the economy to absorb young people into long-term, productive employment. And if I were still a youth, the demand for more jobs would be my daily song until I am heard, but since I am just an old youth, I will shout until someone in those offices in Maseru hears me.

What we need are scalable, value-creating projects rooted in sectors with proven demand, construction, agriculture, manufacturing, and green energy. Supporting Basotho to own and run a concrete brick plant is not only feasible; it is also economically sound. With government infrastructure projects always on the go and private construction steadily in-

creasing, the market exists. What's lacking is the will to act.

Ntate Matekane, it is a known fact that you and your cronies rose to power on a platform of innovation and entrepreneurship. It is time to direct that same energy into transforming our development institutions. LNDC cannot continue as a passive facilitator of investment. Kanneite! We can't keep knowing LNDC for supporting only textile industries, we have seen that. LNDC needs to become a proactive agent of national transformation identifying sectors, incubating businesses, and scaling domestic production.

We cannot speak of sovereignty while we import everything from eggs to bricks. We cannot speak of economic revival while our youths remain idle, watching trucks pass them by with jobs that should have been theirs. And we certainly cannot speak of transformation if our development institutions remain reactive, waiting for proposals instead of charting a bold new path.

This is a call to the Government of Lesotho and the LNDC to rethink their approach to job creation. We cannot afford to ignore industries that are within our reach. Supporting a Basotho-owned concrete brick plant, whether through concessional financing, land provision, or technical support, should be one of many urgent interventions.

Let us stop outsourcing our potential. Let us empower our young people not just with promises, but with plants, production lines, and paychecks. The time has come for LNDC to wake up from its bureaucratic slumber and rise to the occasion. If 70,000 jobs promise to be more than just political rhetoric, we must begin to act like a country serious about industrialisation and job creation. That begins with stopping the trucks at the border, not with policy, but with production. The Future is Now!



A crisis demands action, not just announcements

Theko Tlebere

When the Prime Minister of Lesotho, Ntsokoane Samuel Matekane, stood before hundreds of young people in Maseru in June and declared youth unemployment a national crisis, it sent a strong and hopeful message across the country. For the first time, the government not only acknowledged the devastating impact of joblessness on Basotho youth but also committed to responding with emergency measures under the **Disaster Management Act of 1997**.

This declaration, made under a legislative framework typically reserved for natural disasters, was not merely symbolic. It was followed by an ambitious promise: to create approximately 60,000 jobs, beginning on July 1, 2024. Government has since reported that close to 3,000 youth have already been engaged, a commendable early milestone. Yet, as we move deeper into August, one cannot help but observe a disconnect. The urgency of the declaration has not been matched by the tempo of implementation. Instead of a visible, coordinated national emergency response, we see fragmented updates, continued international travel by government officials, and growing uncertainty among young people about when and how they will benefit from this promise. So the question arises: **Are we acting like a country in crisis?**

Some argue in political circles and even legal forums that youth unemployment cannot be classified as a national disaster. But such views are neither here nor there. According to Section 2 of the Disaster Management Act of 1997, a disaster is defined as any “occasion, instance or event” for which, in the Prime Minister’s judgment, exceptional government intervention is needed to save lives, protect property and public health and safety, or to prevent or mitigate the threat of a catastrophe. This is not limited to floods, droughts, or epidemics. The law is deliberately broad to allow the government to respond to complex crises that threaten the well-being of the nation including economic ones. In fact, the power to declare a state of disaster is vested in the Prime Minister under Section 3, upon advice from the Disaster Management Board. Once declared, the law grants the government sweeping powers to act with urgency and coordination across ministries and sectors.

Youth unemployment with its links to poverty, mental health, substance abuse, crime, gender inequality, and rural-urban migration fits this description. It is a structural emergency, one that risks

undermining the social fabric and future productivity of the entire country.

Importantly, the Act does not only allow for declarations. It creates a governance framework for action. Once a crisis is declared, the Act mandates that a National Disaster Management Plan be developed, followed by targeted Disaster Relief and Recovery Plans. These documents should reflect not only the causes and consequences of the crisis but also outline time-bound, resourced, and accountable interventions. Furthermore, the law calls for the establishment of a National Disaster Relief Task Force, composed of ministers relevant to the declared crisis, in this case, including those responsible for labour, youth, finance, development planning, education, and trade.

The Disaster Management Authority and its Board are also given a key coordinating role. They are tasked with mobilising the necessary resources, monitoring implementation, and ensuring transparency. District-level Disaster Management Teams are similarly responsible for translating national plans into localised actions. These institutions are not theoretical; they exist. What is required is their immediate activation, adapted to the unique features of the youth unemployment crisis.

To be clear, this is not simply a legal or administrative challenge. It is a question of mindset. When governments respond to droughts or floods, we often see swift reallocation of resources, activation of emergency command centres, and daily briefings. Ministries align their efforts, international travel slows down, and budgets are restructured. In short, business-as-usual is suspended. This is what acting like a country in crisis looks like.

Unfortunately, we are not seeing this level of coordination or disruption in Lesotho’s response to youth unemployment. There is no central dashboard tracking progress on job creation. There is no publicly visible task force ensuring that ministries work in sync. There is little clarity for young people on where to go, how to apply, or what opportunities are available in their districts. Meanwhile, the frequency of international trips by government officials gives the impression that this crisis has not fundamentally altered the conduct of the government, even though, legally, it should.

A truly responsive approach would include a centralised Youth Employment Command Centre housed within the Prime Minister’s Office. This centre would consolidate data from across ministries, districts, and development part-

ners, and provide regular public updates on jobs created, training programmes launched, and beneficiaries reached. It would coordinate district-level employment plans and promote accountability by publishing weekly reports. Parliament should also be actively engaged, receiving regular briefings and exercising its oversight role to ensure the budget and policy focus reflect the declared crisis.

Let me be clear, this is not an attack on the Executive. It is a policy-based appeal to translate bold declarations into bold action. The Prime Minister has done something courageous by framing youth unemployment as a national emergency. Now, the rest of the government, from Cabinet to local authorities, must rise to the challenge and govern accordingly.

We must not treat this moment as just another political announcement. It is an opportunity to reset how we think about national crises, not just as physical disasters but also as socio-economic threats

that demand coordinated, cross-sectoral responses. The tools exist. The law supports them. The people are ready. What remains is for our leaders to match the weight of their words with the force of their will. The future is NOW!

Editorial note:

This opinion conflates the legal definitions of *disaster* and *emergency* under the Disaster Management Act of 1997.

For clarity, the Act defines a *disaster* as a progressive or sudden, widespread or localised, natural or man-made event, including not only prevalent drought but also heavy snowfalls, severe frosts, hailstorms, tornadoes, landslides, mudslides, floods, serious widespread fires and major air or road traffic accidents.

An *emergency* is defined as any occasion, instance or event for which, in the determination of the Prime Minister, exceptional assistance from the government is needed to supplement national, district, community or individual actions to save lives, protect property and public health and safety or to prevent or mitigate the threat of a catastrophe or extreme hazard in any part of Lesotho.

Youth unemployment has been declared a disaster, not an emergency. These are two distinct legal terms.



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

VACANCY

The National University of Lesotho invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the following posts:

POST NO.	POSITION	DEPARTMENT / FACULTY	DEADLINE
2328	Demonstrator	Mathematics and Computer Science / Science & Technology	03 September 2025

For full job description please refer to NUL Website: www.nul.ls or visit our HR Office at Roma for a hard copy. Please quote the post number you are applying for. For further clarifications call +266 22340247 or +266 22340601 ext 3842/3844.

In your application letter, include the names and contact details of your three (3) referees

Please combine covering letter, CV, certificates, Identity Document/Passport and email them in read only PDF file, if not, will be disqualified. All applications should be emailed to thr@nul.ls and addressed to:

Director - Human Resources
National University of Lesotho
Roma 180 - Lesotho



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



Government of Lesotho
Tender Notice
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSIONER OF WATER

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Groundwater Hydrocensus in Lesotho (Lot 1)

Introduction
Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) through its Department of Water Affairs received funds from Government of Lesotho to procure consultant for the execution of a Groundwater Hydro-census activity nationwide, (Lot1) and River Longitudinal profile and Cross-Sectional Surveys, and River Ratings within the three main Catchments. (Lot2)
Therefore invites qualified and experienced consultancy firms to submit their proposal for the execution of a Groundwater Hydro-census activity nationwide and River Longitudinal profile and Cross-Sectional Surveys, and River Ratings within the three main Catchments.

Scope of Work for Groundwater Hydro-census activity
The scope of work includes identification, verification, characterization and capturing groundwater monitoring points (boreholes and springs) and individuals geolocation. SECTION B: Objectives This project aims to: - Collect and update information on groundwater sources. - Establish a comprehensive digital registry of all identified groundwater point

Objectives
This project aims to: - Collect and update information on groundwater sources. - Establish a comprehensive digital registry of all identified groundwater points. - Support planning for groundwater monitoring and management

- Scope of Work**
The successful bidder will be expected to undertake the following:
- i. Desktop Review and Preparation - Review existing hydrogeological maps, borehole data, and spring inventories. - Identify target areas for field verification and census.
 - ii. Field Data Collection (Hydrocensus) Locate and verify existing groundwater sources: - Boreholes (equipped/unequipped) - Springs (protected/unprotected) - Groundwater monitoring points (e.g., piezometers) - Record GPS coordinates (in decimal degrees), physical characteristics, spring yield tests (where possible), usage type, status (functional/nonfunctional), and ownership. - Conduct basic water quality testing insitu water quality testing. - Water sample collection for analysis at DWA laboratory
 - iii. Community and Stakeholder Engagement - The consultant is expected to work with all Local Authorities/Community Councils during the execution of the project. - Ensure community knowledge of water resources management is incorporated.
 - iv. Database Development and Integration - Design and populate a geospatial database (compatible with the existing systems) and maps - Submit data in formats agreed upon (e.g. shapefiles, etc.)

River Longitudinal profile and Cross-Sectional Surveys, and River Ratings within the three main Catchments. (Lot2)
Objectives of the Assignment
The main objective of this consultancy is to conduct detailed hydrometric surveys, develop updated cross-sectional and longitudinal profiles of selected rivers, and generate reliable river rating curves to improve discharge estimation at excising gauging stations as well as for proposed gauging sites.

- Scope of Work**
The consultancy will undertake the following tasks:
- 3.1 Preliminary Assessment and Planning**
- 3.1.1 Review existing hydrological data, station records, and previous survey reports.
 - 3.1.2 Select Priority Rivers and stations in collaboration with DWA.
 - 3.1.3 Prepare a detailed work plan, Gantt charts, including methodology, logistics, and timeline.
- 3.2 Field Surveys**
- 3.2.1 Conduct cross-sectional surveys at each selected gauging station using standard

- equipment (e.g., Total Station, Real-Time Kinematic Global Positioning System (RTK-GPS), and Acoustic Doppler Current Profile (ADCP)).
 - 3.2.2 Perform longitudinal surveys covering approximately 1–2 km upstream and downstream from the station to capture reach variability.
 - 3.2.3 Identify hydraulic controls, floodplain characteristics, and obstructions.
 - 3.3 River Rating Development**
 - 3.3.1 Conduct manual discharge measurements at different flow levels where possible.
 - 3.3.2 Compile historical stage-discharge data for curve fitting.
 - 3.3.3 Develop or revise rating curves using appropriate hydraulic and statistical methods (e.g., power law regression, Manning’s equation, HEC-RAS modelling).
 - 3.4 Capacity Building**
 - 3.4.1 Provide training to DWA staff on hydrometric survey techniques and rating curve development.
 - 3.4.2 Prepare simplified field protocols and survey manuals.
 - 3.5 Reporting**
 - 3.5.1 Submit a comprehensive technical report with:
 - 3.5.1.1.1 Survey data (coordinates, elevations, river profiles)
 - 3.5.1.1.2 Rating curves and discharge equations
 - 3.5.1.1.3 Methodology, assumptions, and recommendations
 - 3.5.1.1.4 GIS data PDF format highly appreciated including excel sheets
 - 3.5.1.1.5 Maintenance and monitoring guidance
- Interested firms must provide all necessary information and credentials including, technical and financial Proposals , More details about this RFP will be found in the Terms of Reference.
Applications may be addressed to;
The Procurement Unit, Ministry of Natural Resources, Bokamoso Business Suit, Orpen Road, and Opposite Centre for Accounting Studies Maseru.
Tel: 27325160
- Terms of Reference Issuance and Submission**
The Terms of Reference document is issued on the 08 August 2025, and closes on the 17 September 2025 at 10:00am. The closing date for collecting document is Friday 8 September 2025, at 4:00pm. To register for this RFP, Consultancy Firms have to pay a non-refundable fee of M500 to Department of Rural Water Supply Head Office (DRWS), Accounts Office from Friday 08 August, 2025 until Monday 8 September, 2025. -----The method of payment is cash. Consultancy firms must produce the receipt obtained from accounts section, to procurement Unit at the (DRWS) in order to receive the documents.
The MNR therefore invites competent consultancy firms to compete for this RFP.
- RFP Opening**
RFP documents will be opened by the Ministry of Natural Resources Procurement Committee on the 17 September, 2025 at 10:30am in the presence of bidders or their representatives who wish to attend at the following address: Ministry of Natural Resources, Bokamoso House, Orpen Road, and Opposite Centre for Accounting Studies Maseru
- Clarifications and Contacts**
All questions and clarifications relating to this RFP should be directed to The Procurement Unit, Ministry of Natural Resources, Bokamoso House, Orpen Road, and Opposite Centre for Accounting Studies Maseru. Tel: 27325160



OPPORTUNITY

Sentebale hereby invites suitably qualified and competent Basotho to apply for the vacant position of Driver for Mokhotlong.

Job purpose

The Driver will effectively be responsible for the overall transport requirements of the organization within the districts of operation of both peoples and materials as required

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the Director Finance and Admin, the Driver shall be responsible for the following duties and responsibilities:

- Drives vehicles safely for the transport of authorised personnel
- Collects urgent purchases from local suppliers as requested.
- Takes care of the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicles, check oil, water, battery, brakes, tires, etc.; perform minor repairs and arranges for other repairs and ensures that vehicle is kept clean and comprehensively insured
- Design, maintain a simple computerized tracking tool for all requisitions and share the status report with head Finance and Admin monthly to manage / monitor progress of each activity
- Logs fuel consumption, maintenance, official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil changes, greasing, etc
- Ensures that the steps required by rules and regulations are taken in case of accident
- Applies good judgment in the context of assignments given.
- Performs other duties as assigned

Qualifications and experience

- Minimum Qualification – Junior Cer-



tificate

- 5 years' experience as driver
- Clean driving record
- Ability to communicate in English and Sesotho.
- Basic Knowledge of automative maintenance procedures
- Availability and willingness to travel around Lesotho with overnight stays; and be assigned to stay in other districts
- A valid driver's licence

Attributes

- Adherence and knowledge of health, child protection, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and education issues;
- Excellent record of working children and young people. No past allegations of SEA;
- Excellent analytical skills with ability to detect and report inconsistencies
- Strong interpersonal skills with sensitivity to issues of cultural diversity
- Solid sense of personal ethics and integrity, good judgement, and passion for the mission of Sentebale
- Ability to function with mature judgement, tact and diplomacy ensuring that Sentebale Policies and procedures are consistently complied with at all times.

Application letters including a detailed CV, two reference letters and certified copies of relevant qualifications should be submitted to:

email address: ls.careers@sentebale.org

Closing date for submission of applications is Friday 29th August 2025

Disclaimer: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted



Kingdom of Lesotho
Invitation for Bids

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Nutrition

Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Machinery Spare Parts.

1. The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho intends to improve agricultural service delivery. Therefore, part of the proceeds will be utilized on eligible payments resulting from the procurement of the above.
2. The Principal Secretary now invites sealed bids from interested bidders with relevant trader's licences for the **Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Machinery Spare Parts.**

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the following address:

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

3. A complete set of bidding document may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **(M5,000.00) Five Thousand Maloti only.** The method of payment must be payable at Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. Bidding documents will be available from **05th August 2025.**
4. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 04th September 2025 at 12:00 noon. Late bids will be rejected. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **M20, 000.00** in the form of a bank guarantee or irrevocable/assurance letter of credit valid for thirty (30) days beyond the validity of the bid. As appears in the bid data sheet.
5. It is mandatory for bidders to submit the

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

6. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **14:00hrs on Thursday, 04th September, 2025** at the address given below:

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

7. Bidders shall ensure that the envelopes containing their bids are properly addressed as indicated under ITB above and are clearly marked **"Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Machinery Spare Parts."** GOL/G003/2025/26.

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

Procurement Manager



Government of Lesotho

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

TENDER NOTICE

Tender number: **MTIBD /001/2025-2026**

The Ministry of Trade and Industry invites tenders from suitably registered Security Firms for provision of security services required at its premises at the Ministry of Trade and Industry Headquarters LNDC and Maputsoe, all armed security guards that will be contracted for the next three financial years; 2025/2026, 2026/2027, 2027/2028.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Provide proven means of communication, e.g. Security Guards must have a two-way radio and cell phones.
2. The personnel of the prospective successful company must be fully armed with guns for all offices' premises.
3. Show that it has adequate (at least one vehicle) capacity for efficient and effective mode of transport that would enable them to attend to emergencies
4. Attach Police (LIMPS) certified copies of valid licenced firearms
5. The security personnel must wear uniform at all times, day and night
6. The security firm should take full responsibility for any theft or damage to Trade, Industry, and Business Development property arising out of the negligence of its personnel.
7. Provide certified copy of proof of insurance covering the Company's employees.
8. The security firm must have a minimum experience of three years in operation.
9. Provide at least three reference letters from recent clientele.
10. Completed certificate of attendance
11. The Security personnel should be able to read, write and speak Sesotho and English

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of a valid Tax Clearance Certificate
2. Certified (at source) copy of Registration certificate
3. Certified (at source) copy of VAT registration
4. Certified (at source) copy of Two-way radio licence from Lesotho Communications Authority.

Completed tender documents written in English will be obtainable from the Procurement office at Level 2,

during working hours. The tender document will be available from **18th August 2025 to 31st August 2025.** Site inspection will be conducted from the following dates;

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
MTIBD headquarters - LNDC Maseru	02/09/2025	11 :00am
MTIBD -Maputsoe - Maputsoe	03/09/2025	11:30am

Tenders must be submitted in **four (4) copies** and **one (1) original** in a sealed envelope, bearing no identification of the bidder, must be deposited in the Ministry's Tender Box placed on the 2nd floor, LNDC, Shoprite Building Kingsway, Maseru in a sealed envelope marked **"PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT"** on or before **11:00 am on 19 th September 2025.** No electronic copies will be permitted. Late tenders will not be accepted. Tenders will be opened on the same date, **12th September 2025 at 11:30am** in the boardroom of the Ministry at 2nd floor, Shoprite Building, LNDC, Kingsway Street, Maseru.

Interested bidders are expected to be legally registered and to comply with their tax obligations. To prove compliance, they must attach valid certified copies of registration certificate and valid tax clearance and traders licence. Source tax will be deducted. All prices charged should include VAT where applicable.

The Government of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders for reasons that may be advanced.

All tenders must be delivered to:
The Secretary of Tender Panel
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development
Level 2, Shoprite Building, LNDC
Kingsway Street, Maseru



Lesotho

INVITATION TO TENDER
MoLGCHAP 13/2025/2026

The Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police invites tenders from building contractors legally registered with the Ministry of Public Works (category B and C) for the renovation of Police Headquarters building, other Police Stations and staff houses for the financial year 2025/2026.

1. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1.1 Bidders are expected to use bid forms provided by the Department of Police for uniformity. Bidders who do not use the form will be **disqualified**.
- 1.2 Prices should include all relevant costs, e.g. Transport costs, VAT included. The acceptance of any tender will not necessarily be based on the lowest price.
- 1.3 Bidders are advised to stick to specification; no extra points will be awarded for bonus specification.
- 1.4 Tender documents must be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission.
- 1.5 Bidders must quote for **all** items in a category. Bidders who do not quote for all items in a category shall be **disqualified**.
- 1.6 Bidders must attach the certificate of bona fide tendering, stamped and signed.
- 1.7 Bidders should attach original copy for prove of payment receipt.
- 1.8 Mandatory site inspection is expected from all prospective bidders. Failure will result in **disqualification**.

2. THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

- 2.1 Bidders must outline a clear cost estimate for the renovations in the forms provided by the LMPS.
- 2.2 Bidders must reflect competence in the construction / renovations. (Bidders should attach a reference letter of previous work of construction or renovations)

NB: Department of Police will not take any responsibility for the damages and injuries incurred during these renovations.
The Department of Police reserves the right to inspect works during renovations.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

Cat no.	Project name	Category	Bid security	Non-refundable tender fee	Compulsory site inspection	Time
CAT 1	proposed renovation of Police Headquarters	B	M50, 000.00	M2,000.00	21 AUGUST 2025	1000hrs
CAT 2	proposed renovation of Maseru Central Police Station	B	M50, 000.00	M2,000.00	21 AUGUST 2025	1400hrs
CAT 3	proposed renovation of Mabote Police Station	C	M50, 000.00	M2,000.00	22 AUGUST 2025	1030hrs
CAT 4	proposed renovation of Berea Police Station	C	M50, 000.00	M2,000.00	26 AUGUST 2025	1400hrs

CAT 5	proposed renovation of Quthing Police Station	C	M50, 000.00	M2,000.00	27 AUGUST 2025	1030hrs
CAT 6	proposed renovation of Qacha's Nek Police Station	C	M50, 000.00	M2,000.00	28 AUGUST 2025	1100hrs

NB: The project is expected to be completed within the period of four (4) months after the contract signing

5.1 MALPRACTICE

Response from prospective bidders will be rejected if the bidder is found to have engaged in any malpractice action involving any of the staff of the Department of Police.

Detailed tender document is available at Procurement Unit, from **15th August 2025** at Maseru (**Police Head Quarters**) on **Monday to Friday from 0800hrs to 1530hrs** at a **non-refundable fee of M2,000.00** for Categories payable at Police Headquarters Revenue Office, 1st floor.

SUBMISSION

All Tenderers should deposit their original tenders with four copies in Tender Box situated at Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police Moposo Building, Fifth Floor, Procurement Office Room P.O. Box 113 Maseru 100, **not later than 23rd September 2025 on or before 1030hrs.** Please note that **LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Tenders will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at 1100hrs on the same day at the **Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police Moposo Building, Fifth Floor, Boardroom.** Tenders bearing no identification of the bidder must be in sealed form and clearly marked **"Renovation of Police Headquarters building, other Police Stations and staff houses for the financial year 2025/2026 for the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police."**

N/B

Clearly state a place of preference and its category, after labelling the tender submission.

FOR EXAMPLE

"Renovation of Police Headquarters building, other Police Stations and staff houses for the financial year 2025/2026 for the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police." Mabote Police Station CAT 3

The Government of Lesotho – Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tenders, which does not comply with terms and conditions. All prospective bidders are expected to be in compliance with their tax obligations.

For clarifications on this tender, please contact the procurement Unit in writing on the address and contacts below;

The Procurement Unit
Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs & Police
P.O Box 113
Maseru
Email address: procurelmops@gmail.com
TEL: 22326674/22321461





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Cityzeen LS breaks records with ‘Hohle ke Lesotho’

... First local song to hit 1 million YouTube views in under 6 months

Fusi Hlaoli

In a landmark moment for Lesotho’s music scene, local artist Cityzeen LS has made history with his patriotic anthem Hohle ke Lesotho, which has surpassed 1 million views on YouTube in less than half a year.

It is the first locally published song to reach such a milestone in such a short time, marking a significant breakthrough for home-grown talent and cultural pride.

Uploaded on February 20, 2025, the song celebrates the beauty, resilience, and pride of Lesotho, resonating deeply with audiences both at home and in the diaspora.

Its rapid rise to viral status is not only a personal triumph for Cityzeen but also a national achievement that places the Mountain Kingdom’s music industry firmly on the digital map.

“This is such an honour, especially with it being my first song as a solo artist,” Cityzeen said in an interview after the news broke. “It’s bigger than me, it is about putting Lesotho on the global stage. I made this song from a place of love for my country, and to see it embraced like this means everything.”

While other stars like Malome Vector (Dumelang) and Ntate Stunna (Ke Thata) have achieved impressive YouTube viewership, Cityzeen’s success stands out for its organic,

entirely local impact. Without the backing of South African record labels, Hohle ke Lesotho was produced, filmed, and promoted by a team based entirely in Lesotho.

In an industry often overshadowed by South Africa’s massive entertainment market, this milestone signals a shift, proof that Basotho creatives can produce work that res-

onates far and wide without compromising their identity or language.

According to Sothokids Agency, the artist’s management: “This achievement places Cityzeen in a rare league of Lesotho-born artists to hit such numbers. What sets this moment apart is its home-grown essence. Hohle ke Lesotho created,



ed, and popularised entirely within the country, serving as a powerful anthem of national pride.”

The track’s rise is not just a win for Cityzeen, but for all local content creators navigating an industry with limited infrastructure and resources. With its unapologetically Basotho sound and imagery, the song has connected with listeners as both a musical hit and a cultural statement.

“When I recorded the song, the lyrics came instantly,” Cityzeen recalled. “I didn’t expect it to blow up this fast. Now there’s pressure to release the music video soon and to work even harder on upcoming songs.”

Born Tšepo Mokhachane, Cityzeen has been building his reputation in Lesotho’s music landscape for over a decade, blending traditional Basotho rhythms with modern Afropop and hip hop, and earning a loyal following through consistency and authentic storytelling.

As of August 14, 2025, Hohle ke Lesotho had garnered over 1,032,000 views, accumulating thousands more each day. The track has also been featured on regional playlists, radio stations, and international African music blogs.

The milestone has sparked calls for greater investment in Lesotho’s creative industries – from music and film to digital marketing – to ensure that successes like this become more common.

Looking ahead, Cityzeen is already working on new projects and has hinted at collaborations with other local artists to elevate the Basotho sound further.

“We have opened the door,” he said. “Now we need to make sure it stays open for everyone else.”

Corporate
Challenge
2025



Ticket Price:
M3 400

Team of 5
Venue: Maseru Mall
03 - Oct - 2025



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'To The King' gospel show to uplift Maseru

Fusi Hlaoli

The 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre will come alive with the sound of praise on 23 August when Nthabiseng Florah Makhanya 'Mapitse, known to her fans as Nthabiseng Florah, hosts the Lesotho edition of the highly anticipated "To The King Live Recording."

Presented by Lanco Media House, the event promises to be an unforgettable night of worship, inspiration, and unity for gospel lovers across the Mountain Kingdom and beyond.

Speaking to Newsday, Nthabiseng shared the heartfelt story behind the event's name.

"I was torn between calling it 'About the King' or 'For the King,'" she recalled.

"But I realised it is not about me, it is To the King. God is using me as a vessel to create a platform for Himself. The aim is to bring his people to him, to let them cast their burdens, struggles, pain, and gratitude



at His feet."

She referenced the Bible verse, "Cast all your burdens to me because I, the Lord, care for you," explaining that this scripture perfectly captures the essence of the gathering.

This year's "To The King" will have two editions: the first in Lesotho and the second in South Africa on 16 December 2025. Nthabiseng said the Lesotho edition is particularly special because it marks a homecoming for her as a Mosotho.

"Ke Mosotho oa Lesotho la Basotho," she said proudly. "Hosting this event in my country warms my heart. God did not position me here without a purpose, and I believe this is part of that calling."

The event will not only celebrate local talent but also connect Lesotho to the wider gospel community in Southern Africa. The star-studded line-up includes Lesotho's own Minister Spokes and Rorisang Motsamai, alongside South African gospel powerhouses Robrina Manyaga, Tsiko Mal, Newie,

Tumi B, and Courage Munangiwa, as well as Eswatini's Bafundzie Mavuso.

With this blend of local and international acts, audiences can expect a night of dynamic performances and heartfelt ministry.

In addition to hosting, Nthabiseng will use the evening to record and debut brand new songs, many of which will be heard for the first time on that stage.

"It is not about the performance. I want people to live knowing there is a God in heaven who loves and cares for them. My hope is that they go home different, spiritually and physically and knowing that God can change their lives."

She ended with an invitation rooted in a beloved Sesotho hymn, "Se teng seliba sa mali" (There is a fountain filled with blood), urging everyone to come to the "well" regardless of their situation.

"Whether you are in pain or at peace, come and experience the goodness of God," she said.

Mojarane vies for Mister Tourism Africa International 2025 glory

Fusi Hlaoli

Lesotho is set to shine on the continental stage as Mr. NUL 2024, Rorisang Mojarane, prepares to represent the Kingdom at the prestigious Mister Tourism Africa International 2025 competition.

The event will be held in October in Joes, Nigeria, bringing together contestants from 35 African nations, all vying for the title of the continent's tourism ambassador.

Mojarane's passion for pageantry began in 2018, but it was South Africa's Zozibini Tunzi's historic Miss Universe victory in 2019 that truly ignited his determination.

Tunzi's powerful message, "I want children to look at me and see my face, and I want to see their faces reflected in mine," deeply resonated with him, inspiring a vision of becoming a role model for young people, particularly in Lesotho.

His breakthrough came in 2024 when he was crowned First Prince at the King of Globe competition, a milestone that cemented his



reputation in the pageant world.

But for Mojarane, pageantry has always been more than a pursuit of titles and fame, it is a platform to address meaningful issues, with a focus on human rights and the growth of Lesotho's tourism industry.

As Mister Tourism Africa International seeks a leader to champion Africa's cultural and natural heritage, Mojarane is determined

to use the spotlight to advocate for safe, sustainable, and inclusive tourism in Lesotho.

"I want to use this platform to advocate for the rights of tourists in the tourism sector. Lesotho has so much to offer, but we need to make sure visitors have a secure and enjoyable experience," Mojarane told Newsday.

Currently a law student at the National University of Lesotho, Mojarane has the ac-

ademic grounding to tackle the legal and ethical aspects of tourism development. He hopes to influence policies that protect tourists while empowering local communities whose livelihoods depend on the sector.

While he acknowledges that the path to international pageantry is demanding, he remains steadfast in his mission.

"The challenges of engaging in pageantry are real, but I stand for the Basotho people and for Lesotho. I want to showcase our traditions, our history, and our potential to the world," he said.

Lesotho's entertainment and pageantry industries have been gaining momentum, with young talents like Mojarane helping to drive this growth.

His participation in Mister Tourism Africa International is not just about competing for a crown, it is about elevating Lesotho's profile, promoting its tourism potential, and advocating for a sector that can contribute significantly to the country's economy.

If he succeeds in Nigeria, Mojarane will not only bring home a continental title but also carry forward his mission to ensure that Lesotho's story, of beauty, heritage, and opportunity, is told to the world.

Smowkey Nyembe leaves audiences in stitches at comedy show

Chris Theko

The Victory Hall was alive with laughter last Saturday as the Home Grown Comedy Show took centre stage, celebrating Women's Day and marking 14 years in comedy for Lesotho's own Masapo Mpti.

While the evening delivered strong performances from a range of acts, it was Soweto-born headliner Smowkey Nyembe who stole the spotlight, blending his trademark kasi-style humour with candid reflections on the comedy industry.

Nyembe, whose real name is Mbongiseni Nyembe, has graced major comedy stages including the Johannesburg International Comedy Festival, Tshwane Comedy Fest, Arts Alive Festival, 99% Zulu Comedy, 99% Xhosa Comedy, Soweto Comedy Festival, Ekurhuleni Comedy & Soul Experience, Platinum Comedy Special, and Soweto Music Festival.

He has also hosted events featuring some of South Africa's top artists. His career began with a debut at Premium Comedy Nyts in 2010 and an appearance on Mzansi *Magic's Opening Guys*.

Since then, his achievements have includ-



ed a Savanna Comics' Choice Award nomination (Non-English category), starring in the film *S'popile*, serving as resident host for Polokwane Comedy Nights and Morula Sun Comedy Nights, and closing the 2014 South African Traditional Music Awards to a standing ovation. On television, he has host-

ed Kasi Music TV and presented *SoweTop 10* on Soweto TV.

Speaking to Newsday after his high-energy set, Nyembe described the evolving state of the comedy scene.

"There are ups and downs," he said. "The ups are that comedy is now everywhere, corporates, weddings, gala events, people want someone to entertain and break the ice. The downside is that there are so many of us doing it now that it's becoming cheap. When you book me, I ask for M3000, but you say no, you can get someone else for M2000. Those cheap guys are essentially destroying our artform."

Despite such challenges, Nyembe emphasised comedy's enduring value.

"Laughter is the best medicine. There's no cure for the soul like laughter, and I classify myself and my colleagues as therapists, not just comedians. Some people came to this show not holding hands, now, after the show, they're hugging. We fix relationships as well," he said with a smile.

Nyembe also spoke openly about the mental health struggles comedians face, referencing the tragic death of award-winning South African actor and comedian Ebenhaezer Dibakwane earlier this year.

"We are dark souls, especially us stand-up comedians, because we can find the funny in dark situations while making everyone else happy. But we also need coaching and therapy ourselves, unfortunately, a doctor does not cure himself."

On the rise of social media comedians, Nyembe took a balanced view.

"I don't see them as competition. Once they get up on stage, it's different, there's no pause, record, and edit; it's just live. There's nothing wrong with them trying to make a living."

For him, collaboration is central to the craft.

"It's a brotherhood movement. We should be working together and supporting each other. That's why I didn't think twice about accepting the invitation to celebrate my brother Bones."

The Home Grown Comedy Show also showcased a mix of local and regional talent, including Leotoana, Cura Bathong, Mora Mobu, Uncle Fif, El Part El, Botswana's Roy, and musical performances by Origin Musiq. South African entertainer Rasta Eye n Eye served as MC.

Nyembe's set left the audience roaring with laughter, and reflecting on his insights. The night proved not only comedy's ability to entertain, but also its power to heal and connect.

Mosala’s Kick4Life journey

Seabata Mahao

In the heart of Lesotho’s football community, few stories resonate as deeply as that of Mats’eliso Mosala a rising star whose journey from Malumeng’s dusty fields to the bright lights of the Lesotho Women’s Super League is as inspiring as it is transformative.

Now a key player for Kick4Life’s senior women’s team, Mosala’s success is a shining testament to what resilience, opportunity, and support can achieve.

Born in Malumeng, Mafeteng, Mosala faced hardship early in life. After losing her mother at just seven years old, she moved to Maseru to live with her uncle. There, she completed her primary education before returning to Mafeteng in 2012 to begin high school where football, influenced by her cousins, began to capture her heart.

Her competitive career kicked off in 2014 and ran through to 2016. Although she paused to focus on her early tertiary education, the beautiful game never left her mind. Watching the Women’s Super League kept her connected, and in 2019, her path would change forever when she made the bold decision to pursue football again this time with Kick4Life.

“I was really inspired by Kick4Life’s style of play,” she recalled.

“I saw players who truly understood the game. And I knew this was the one team that offered real opportunities, even the chance to go abroad that motivated me.”



Mats’eliso Mosala, a defender in the senior women’s team

Joining the club in March 2019, Mosala officially signed in August that same year. Over the next few seasons, she honed her craft, proving her versatility in multiple defensive roles. In 2023, she broke into the starting eleven and has since cemented her place, primarily as a strong and reliable Centre back.

Her efforts culminated in a triumphant 2024/25 season when she helped lead Kick4Life to a Lesotho Women’s Super League championship her greatest football achievement yet. With eyes now set on the upcoming Women’s Champions League COSAFA Zonal Qualifiers in Johannesburg later this month,

her momentum continues to build.

“It has been a season of growth for me,” she reflects. “I was not getting much game time before, but when I got my chance, I promised myself I’d make the most of it.”

But Mosala’s story is not just about football. Her personal and professional development off the pitch has been equally remarkable, thanks to Kick4Life’s Fit4WorkAndPlay programme an initiative that blends sport with career training and mentorship.

After graduating from Limkokwing University in 2021 with an associate degree in Hotel Management, she embraced opportunities within Kick4Life’s social enterprises. Starting at the Front Desk in 2020, she has since served as an administrator for the No.7 restaurant, worked Front of House, and is now gaining experience as a trainee chef.

“Kick4Life has helped me so much. The work experience, the stipend it is helped me get by, and now my CV looks stronger than ever. In a time when jobs are hard to come by, that support means everything,” she said.

As Mosala prepares to represent Lesotho in Johannesburg from August 22–31, she stands as a beacon of what’s possible when talent meets opportunity. Her story is a reminder that the game of football is more than goals and glory it is a pathway to purpose, personal growth, and a better future.

At Kick4Life, the mission is clear: develop not just great players, but great people. And in Mosala, that mission finds one of its brightest examples yet.

Comrades Marathon participants celebrated

Seabata Mahao

A spirit of pride and celebration filled the air on Sunday as Eventful Moments, organisers of the Maseru City Run, hosted a special award ceremony to honour Basotho athletes who participated in the 2024 Comrades Marathon.

The event, held in Maseru, marked the third consecutive year that Basotho runners who take part in high-profile international races such as the Comrades Marathon, Two Oceans Marathon, and Soweto Marathon have been formally recognised for their efforts and dedication.

This year, 61 Basotho runners braved the gruelling 89-kilometre Comrades Marathon, one of the world’s most prestigious ultramarathons.

Fifty-six of them received awards from Eventful Moments, comprising 52 men and only four women, highlighting a significant gender gap in participation.

While no Lesotho athlete finishing in the top 10 overall this year, the event served as a platform to acknowledge excellence across all categories. The top 10 Basotho performers received gold medals, the next 30 were awarded silver, and the remaining athletes earned bronze medals for their commendable finishes.

Notably, Lebelo Nkoka stood out by securing fifth place in the men’s 40–49 age group with a time of 5:43:31.

Eventful Moments’ Managing Director, Tsoinyane Rapapa, addressed the attendees, emphasising the value of recognition in motivating athletes.

“We have noticed that athletes often feel fulfilled when their efforts are acknowledged after participating in major marathons. That’s why we took this step to celebrate everyone who represented us,” he said.

In addition to medals, all recipients were granted free entry into the upcoming Maseru City Run, as part of a broader goal to inspire increased local participation and nurture talent.

“Our goal is to make this an annual event and attract more sponsors to support and grow athletics in the country. Running not only improves health but also contributes to economic growth and job creation,” Rapapa said.

He also praised past performances, noting Teboho Sello’s impressive eighth-place finish in the 2024 Comrades Marathon, where he clocked 5:36:11—a performance that continues to inspire emerging athletes.

Speaking on behalf of the honourees, veteran runner Peete Maphephe expressed heartfelt gratitude for the recognition and used the moment to advocate for greater pre-race support for Basotho runners.

“We are calling on everyone to take this as an example and organise more races locally, so we can benefit from the talent we have,” he said.

Maphephe also underlined the role of sports in community development, peace-building, and economic empowerment, encouraging both government and private sector stakeholders to invest in local athletics.

“Sports unite us and provide opportunities. With better support, we can compete at the highest levels and transform lives,” he concluded.

As Lesotho currently ranks third in Africa for marathon participation, the sentiment from both organisers and athletes is clear: with continued support, recognition, and development of local races, Basotho runners can aim even higher on the global stage.

Maile begins US chapter with a bang

Seabata Mahao

Kick4Life Academy’s rising star, Paseka Maile, has officially embarked on an exciting new journey in the United States (US) after safely arriving and settling at Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia, Kentucky.

The 20-year-old footballer and scholar began his college career with a bang this past weekend, scoring on his debut for the Blue Raiders in a pre-season match against Louisville.

Maile came on as a second-half substitute and wasted no time in making his mark, finding the back of the net in his very first outing. The goal marked not only a personal milestone but also a proud moment for the Kick4Life community and football fans across Lesotho.

Speaking from Kentucky, Maile expressed his gratitude, “I am very happy and thankful to Kick4Life for making this dream a reality.”

His emotional words echoed sentiments he first shared during a packed press conference held at Kick4Life headquarters in June this year, where his move to the US was officially announced.

Maile has secured a prestigious scholarship to study for a four-year Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and Management while representing Lindsey Wilson College in NAIA-level soccer.

He now joins a growing group of Kick4Life alumni making strides internationally, including Seabata Tsemame and Thabo Mahlaha, who are currently studying and playing at Freed-Hardeman University.

The scholarship makes Maile the 17th student-athlete from Kick4Life to earn an international opportunity, a testament to the Academy’s mission of using sport to transform lives.



Kick4Life Academy’s very own Paseka Maile

His journey from the A Division League to the U-20 and senior national squads, and now to U.S. college soccer, continues to serve as a beacon of hope for aspiring young athletes across the Mountain Kingdom.

Paseka’s rapid rise has captured the imagination of fans nationwide. A regular in the ranks of Likuena and a standout performer in the domestic league, his progress is being closely followed by the football fraternity.

With education and elite-level football now on his plate, Maile is determined to make the most of this opportunity both on and off the pitch.

His story is not just one of talent, but of perseverance, community support, and the power of combining sport and education. As he begins this new chapter, the nation watches with pride and anticipation for what lies ahead.



FIFA officials assess Setsoto progress



Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) recently hosted a delegation from FIFA's Regional Office in Johannesburg, comprising David Fani and Christine Gama, who visited Setsoto Stadium to assess renovation progress.

The stadium remains suspended by FIFA and CAF for failing to meet international standards since 2021, and this development has forced all official FIFA matches by Lesotho's national teams and local clubs to be played on foreign soil.

During their visit, the FIFA officials also met with LeFA's President Advocate Salemane Phafane (KC) to discuss broader football infrastructure projects.

These included upgrades to LeFA's three Technical Centres and the Talent Development Scheme Programme in Leribe, where 33 young boys are balancing football training with academic studies.

Meanwhile, Vodacom Premier League

(VPL) champions Lioli FC are set for a much-anticipated return to continental football in the 2025/26 CAF Champions League (CCL).

The draw has paired Tse Nala with South African giants Orlando Pirates in the preliminary round, a challenging fixture against one of Southern Africa's most successful clubs.

The two-legged clash will be played between September 19-21 (first leg) and September 26-28 (second leg). The winner will progress to the second preliminary round to face either Sudanese powerhouse El Merreikh or a yet-to-be-confirmed club from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The group stage kicks off on November 21, with the knockout phase starting on March 13, 2026.

Despite the daunting draw, Lioli can take comfort in CAF's confirmation that clubs eliminated in either of the first two preliminary rounds will receive M1.8 million in logistical support, vital financial assistance for teams with limited resources.

Lioli last featured in the CAF Champions League in 2017, when they were eliminated in the preliminary round by Zimbabwe's CAPS United.

This year's campaign however, comes with added challenges. Setsoto Stadium remains suspended by CAF for failing to meet international standards, meaning Lioli cannot host home matches there. LeFA has proposed the Toyota Stadium in Bloemfontein, South Africa, as an alternative venue, pending CAF approval.

Setsoto's long-overdue renovations are currently underway, with the government projecting completion by October 2026.

LeFA's partnership with FIFA remains strong under President Gianni Infantino, who visited Lesotho in 2021. Advocate Phafane's recent election to the FIFA Governance, Audit, and Compliance Committee at the 75th FIFA Congress in Paraguay further cements Lesotho's growing profile in international football governance.

For newly appointed Lioli coach Bongani

Maseko, the task is clear: guide the Teyateyaneng-based side beyond the preliminary stage for the first time in history. "I think we have to build on what is already there, win more trophies, and do well at CAF, that is our aim. We have to defend the title," Maseko said, expressing confidence in his squad's prospects.

Lioli have bolstered their ranks with key signings from rivals Bantu FC, including Litšepe Marabe, Hlompho Kalake, and Tšoanelo Koetle, transfers expected to boost both squad depth and morale.

To sharpen their preparations, the team will compete in the Alliance Challenge at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena on August 16, before travelling to Namibia for a four-nation champions mini-league tournament from August 23-24.

With the draw set and preparations underway, all eyes are on Lioli as they take on one of Africa's finest. Whether they advance or not, their return to continental competition is a major milestone for Lesotho football.



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