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M3.4 BILLION SPENT WITHOUT APPROVAL

... 'Urgent' six months later, parliament asked to rubber-stamp the expenditure

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M3.4 billion spent without approval

... 'Urgent' six months later, parliament asked to rubber-stamp the expenditure

Ntsoaki Motaung

The government has admitted to spending more than M3.4 billion without prior approval in the last financial year and is now asking parliament to retroactively legalise the expenditure.

Last week, Finance and Development Planning Minister Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane tabled the *Supplementary Appropriation (2024/2025) Bill, 2025*. The Bill seeks approval for M3,452,226,578.44, already withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund, to cover unbudgeted recurrent and capital expenses for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

According to the Bill, M539 million was advanced from the Contingencies Fund, which had initially been capitalised at M300 million and later topped up by M328 million through reallocation.

M1.18 billion was raised through Treasury Bonds to finance projects including the construction of the Petroleum Fund Headquarters, Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC) operations, subventions to the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) for 'Muela Hydropower Works, Mohale access roads, the Oxbow Hydro II Project, settlement of government arrears, and a loan to the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) to pay Eskom.

M784 million was allocated under centralised items for salaries, arrears, youth and public works programmes, support for the Lesotho Millennium Development Agency (LMDA), official travel, and "critical initiatives" in agriculture, education, and security.

On the capital side, M180.9 million was shifted within the existing budget to prioritise key investments, while M65.1 million from the

Contingencies Fund was used for electricity connections and road projects.

Donor disbursements worth M372.4 million, initially unbudgeted, were also channelled into development projects.

The Constitution of Lesotho requires that no money be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund unless authorised by parliament through an appropriation law.

However, it makes provision for supplementary estimates or statements of excess when government spending exceeds approved allocations or when new needs arise mid-year.

The Bill was, according to the government, introduced in accordance with section 112 (3) (a) and (b) and section 114 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of Lesotho.

When the Bill was tabled, Democratic Congress (DC) leader Mathibeli Mokhothu immediately stood on a point of order, questioning whether it was proper for a supplementary appropriation bill of the previous financial year to be introduced in the next.

Mokhothu implied that the Constitution was violated by spending first and seeking approval months later. The Speaker of the National Assembly, Tlohang Sekhamane, reserved his ruling on the matter.

On the surface, the bill appears to be a routine exercise of financial housekeeping, aligning past expenditures with parliamentary authority. However, the Constitution of Lesotho sets out clear conditions under which the government may spend money in advance of appropriation.

Section 114 establishes the Contingencies Fund and permits the Minister of Finance to make advances only where an urgent and un-



The Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr. Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane

foreseen need arises for which no other provision exists. More importantly, the Constitution directs that where such advances are made, a supplementary estimate and appropriation bill must be presented "as soon as possible" to replace the amount withdrawn.

It reads: "Parliament may make provision for the establishment of a Contingencies Fund and for authorising the Minister for the time being responsible for finance, if satisfied that there has arisen an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which no other provision exists, to make advances from that Fund to meet that need."

It adds: "Where any advance is made from the Contingencies Fund, a supplementary estimate shall be presented and a supplementary Appropriation bill shall be introduced as soon as possible for the purpose of replacing the amount so advanced."

This is where the government's actions appear constitutionally questionable. The 2024/2025 financial year ended on 31 March 2025. Yet the bill was only presented to parliament in September 2025.

More than six months had elapsed, during which the money had already been spent without legislative oversight. The unavoidable question is whether such a delay can genuinely be considered "as soon as possible," as demanded by the Constitution.

Equally troubling is the nature of the expenditures themselves. Constitutionally, the Contingencies Fund is reserved for unforeseen

and urgent needs.

However, many of the listed expenditures, construction of a headquarters building, clearance of arrears, subventions to parastatals, and even official travel, do not readily qualify as unforeseen.

These are recurring or planned commitments that should ordinarily be included in the annual budget, rather than financed under the guise of emergency spending.

The effect of this practice is twofold. First, it weakens parliamentary oversight by allowing the executive to spend first and seek approval later, long after the financial year has closed.

Second, it undermines the constitutional principle of accountability in public finance, where the power of the purse is vested in parliament on behalf of the people.

Furthermore, the sheer size of the supplementary bill relative to the national budget suggests that government has normalised overspending on a massive scale.

A supplementary bill of over M3.4 billion cannot credibly be presented as a mere adjustment as it represents a significant reconfiguration of national finances, conducted outside parliament's scrutiny until long after the fact.

To put this into perspective, Lesotho's annual national budget usually averages around M27 to M30 billion. The supplementary bill therefore represents more than 10 percent of the entire national budget, a staggering figure to be presented after the money has already been spent.

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The attempt by All Basotho Convention (ABC) proportional representation (PR) MP, Montoeli Masoetsa, to table a motion seeking improved salaries and incentives for judges has been blocked by Speaker of the National Assembly, Tlohang Sekhamane.

Masoetsa's motion proposed that judges' remuneration be enhanced to attract senior lawyers and top legal minds to the bench. He argued that many experienced legal practitioners avoid applying for judgeships because they earn significantly more in private practice.

Currently, judges' salaries are statutory under the High Court Act of 1978, and they earn the same as ministers and the Speaker of the National Assembly. Calls to review judicial remuneration are not new; in 2010, retired Judge Semapo Peete told the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) that better pay would attract and retain competent judicial officers, thereby strengthening the judiciary.

Sekhamane declined Masoetsa's request, citing Standing Orders which prohibit motions with direct financial implications unless introduced by a Minister on behalf of Cabinet.

"Upon examination of this Motion, I find that it has direct and indisputable financial implications. A bill that provides for the remuneration

Speaker blocks motion to raise judges' salaries



Judges procession during the High Court opening in 2023, file picture

of judges will unquestionably entail budgeting for that purpose," the Speaker ruled.

He added: "Your Motion has thus not been approved because it directly breaches Standing Order No. 20 (1)(b)."

That provision bars motions which would

impose or alter taxation, increase charges on the Consolidated Fund, or authorise payments from public funds without Cabinet's recommendation.

Masoetsa contested the ruling, claiming unfair treatment. He argued that another mo-

tion with financial implications had previously been allowed in parliament, moved by Itumeleng Rantsho, MP for Likotsi No.36.

Rantsho's motion urged government to implement the Performance Management Policy, including incentives for civil servants who excel in their duties. Cabinet adopted the policy last year, providing guidelines for rewarding high-performing civil servants.

"The wage bill is higher, the performance system is slow. How will this country advance if we don't give a chance to committed civil servants to stand out?" Rantsho said when motivating his motion.

Masoetsa insisted that if Rantsho's motion, which potentially affects thousands of civil servants, was permitted, his own, limited to judges, should have been allowed.

But Sekhamane dismissed the comparison, ruling that Rantsho's motion did not carry direct financial implications since rewards could take non-monetary forms such as time off.

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Mokhothu demands withdrawal of M3.4 billion spending bill

Ntsoaki Motaung

Leader of Opposition, Mathibeli Mokhothu, has launched a scathing attack on the government’s attempt to table the Supplementary Appropriation (2024/2025) Bill, 2025, branding it “out of order, irregular, unconstitutional” and demanding its immediate withdrawal from Parliament.

In a strongly worded letter to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Tlohang Sekhamaane, dated September 17, 2025, Mokhothu protested against the Bill, which seeks to retrospectively authorise more than M3.4 billion in expenditures already incurred during the 2024/2025 financial year.

He warned that the move was a blatant violation of the Constitution and the Public Financial Management and Accountability Act (PFMAA) of 2011.

“On Wednesday 10/09/2025 I rose on a point of order respectfully registering a formal protest against the tabling of the Supplementary Appropriation (2024/2025) Bill, 2025 which purports to regularise expenditures already incurred during the financial year 2024/2025, and to deem such withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund as if they had lawful authority from the beginning of April 2024,” Mokhothu wrote.

He explained that he wrote the letter to reinforce his point of order, which the Speaker has not yet ruled upon.

Quoting section 110 of the Constitution, he reminded Parliament that “all revenues must be paid into the Consolidated Fund and no money may be withdrawn except as authorised by law.” He added that section 113 provides the exception, allowing limited ex-



penditure in advance of appropriation.

“Supplementary estimate is a precursor to a bill and not itself a spending authority and Supplementary Appropriation bill is not a curative tool or mechanism nor advance au-

thority in Lesotho’s public finance spending,” he argued.

He stressed that supplementary expenditure “cannot be incurred first and only later be legalised. It must receive parliamentary

approval beforehand, save for section 113 advances.”

Citing the PFMAA, 2011, Mokhothu said the law reaffirms that no expenditure may be incurred without prior parliamentary approval. He added that where excess expenditure has already occurred, “section 114(2) of the Constitution requires presentation to Parliament and validation through an Excess Appropriation Act, which is a curative mechanism—not advance authority.”

“The Supplementary Appropriation (2024/2025) Bill, 2025, seeks to retrospectively authorise withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund amounting to M3,452,226,578.44. Such retrospective regularisation is constitutionally unsound and exposes both Ministers and accounting officers to accountability consequences,” he warned.

In his closing, Mokhothu urged the Speaker to take a decisive stand.

“The tabling of this Bill is out of order. It contravenes sections 110–114 of the Constitution and the PFMAA, as it attempts to retroactively legalise unauthorised expenditures. The proper remedy where spending has occurred in excess is through an Excess Appropriation Act, not by deeming prior unlawful withdrawals as if they were duly authorised,” he wrote.

He concluded: “I therefore respectfully submit that the Supplementary Appropriation (2024/2025) Bill, 2025, be declared as out of order, irregular, unconstitutional and be withdrawn from the house, and that the Speaker directs the Government to follow the proper constitutional and legal procedures for validating excess expenditure.”

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Mammoth Health evicted as collapse deepens

... Workers left in the dark



Staff Reporters

Mammoth Health was this week evicted from its rented offices at Ha Hoohlo, Maseru, allegedly over unpaid rentals, deepening the crisis engulfing the controversial medical aid provider. Staff members who spoke to Newsday on

condition of anonymity said management has yet to communicate with them about the latest developments. A notice pinned to the gate reads: “Notice to all healthcare professionals. The Board of Healthcare Funders has been informed of the closure of Mammoth Health. To ensure continued support and services, all Practice Code Numbering System (PCNS) Applications will now be handled by our partners, Metropolitan Health, and Vitality Health... We regret any inconvenience and thank

you for your understanding.” Shocked workers said this was the first time they were hearing of the closure. “So, they decided to close without informing us, after refusing to retrench us so that we could not access credit life benefits from the banks,” one said.

Efforts to get a comment from acting CEO S Mangela Molumeli were unsuccessful as her phone rang unanswered. The eviction marks a dramatic turn in a saga already raising alarm over possible regulatory failure. Earlier this month, Newsday reported that the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) refused to answer direct questions about apparent violations of the law by Mammoth Health and its parent, Zenith Horizon Insurance. Despite lacking a CBL licence, Mammoth has long been collecting public contributions, a practice outlawed under Section 11(4) of the Financial Institutions Act, 2012. Meanwhile, Zenith, licensed and regulated by CBL, reportedly owns about 70 percent of Mammoth, in clear tension with Section 28(14) of the Act, which bars financial institutions from holding shares in other undertakings without explicit approval. CBL has stonewalled repeated queries, insisting it is “prohibited by law” from commenting on regulated entities. Its silence has only fuelled suspicion that crime is unfolding in plain sight, under the very institution tasked with stopping it. Insiders allege Zenith’s 2023–2024 takeover of Mammoth hastened its collapse rather than rescuing it. Staff went unpaid for months, some resigned to access pensions, others saw accounts frozen or property threatened. Allegations of conflicts of interest and collusion with another medical aid scheme have further clouded the affair.

LCS boss challenges rights groups to probe Lipholo’s welfare



LCS Acting Commissioner Matingoe Phamotse

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Acting Commissioner of the Lesotho Correctional Service (LCS), Matingoe Phamotse, has thrown down the gauntlet, urging human rights organisations, INTERPOL, and journalists to investigate the treatment of Member of Parliament (MP) Tšepo Lipholo, who is currently awaiting trial in custody. Phamotse said the LCS was prepared to demonstrate transparency and accountability in the face of what he called “baseless accusations” about Lipholo’s alleged ill-treatment. “It is unfortunate that there have been misleading reports by the media, whether print, electronic, or social media, including those who have concealed their identity,” Phamotse said. He dismissed as false claims that corrections officers beat or tried to kill the outspoken legislator. This follows reports that Lipholo was assaulted by officers and that attempts were made on his life by releasing lethal gas in his cell. Phamotse said he personally visited the inmate after the reports emerged.

“I asked him if he had been beaten, and he denied it,” he said. He added that the allegations triggered a flurry of visits, including from opposition and government MPs, as well as the Minister of Law and Justice, Richard Ramoetsi, who held an audience with Lipholo. Lipholo was arrested on July 2, 2025, and has remained in custody since. His bail application was rejected by the High Court, which described him as a flight risk given the seriousness of his charges. Initially charged with sedition and insulting the Royal Family, the state has since added treason charges against him under sections 76 (2)(b), 5(a) and (b), and 109 of the Penal Code Act, No. 6 of 2010. Judge Fumane Khabo, in refusing bail, ruled: “On the evidence tendered the court finds the Petitioner to be charged with such a serious offence that if he is released pending trial, he might flee, rendering him a flight risk. A conspectus of considerations such as flight riskiness, absence of extradition arrangements, and the seriousness of the charge leaves this court no alternative but to refuse bail.” Despite the mounting charges, Phamotse said Lipholo was receiving medical attention. “Even today [Thursday], he complained of a toothache,” he told reporters, noting that the MP had been treated at the LCS health facility and on several occasions taken to external medical facilities. He confirmed that Lipholo’s family had also brought in their own doctor to examine him. The acting Commissioner further revealed that, at Lipholo’s request through his lawyers, he has been transferred to a “top of the range” facility, which the LCS approved. In March this year, Newsday reported that Lipholo had ignited controversy with a peti-

tion claiming that every Lesotho government since independence in 1966 has been a puppet regime controlled by Pretoria, South Africa. A full copy of the petition, obtained by Newsday, accused successive administrations, including the current one led by Prime Minister Ntsokoane Samuel Matekane, of bowing to South African influence, thwarting efforts to reclaim what Lipholo calls the “Conquered Territory” of Basotho. This territory, lost to colonial and Boer encroachments decades ago, includes the entire Free State province and parts of other South African provinces. Lipholo alleged that this puppetry explains why Lesotho has never fought to restore these lands, as allegedly mandated by the United Nations (UN) resolutions. His campaign hinges on a historical grievance dating back to the 1800s, when Basotho lands were reduced through wars with Boer settlers and British colonial agreements. The 1869 Convention of Aliwal North formalised these losses and ceded vast territories to what is now South Africa. When Lesotho gained independence from Britain in 1966, it inherited these diminished borders, a decision reinforced by the Organisation of African Unity’s (OAU) 1963 pledge to respect colonial boundaries. Lipholo’s petition, reportedly submitted to the UN General Assembly and Security Council earlier this year, invokes UN Resolutions which he says urged Britain to address Basotho land claims before independence, a call he says was ignored, leaving the issue unresolved. His claims echo long-standing nationalist sentiments among some Basotho groups who believe that Lesotho should reclaim its pre-colonial boundaries, a stance that underpins the sedition and treason charges he now faces.

RSL deepens ties with media

Seabata Mahao

Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) has strengthened its partnership with media professionals in a bid to foster more informed, transparent reporting, especially around taxation, economic policy and private sector incentives. The move is part of a broader strategy to align public understanding with Lesotho’s economic transformation agenda, attract investment, and support job creation. This commitment was underscored this week during a two-day capacity-building workshop for media practitioners held at the RSL Academy in Maseru from September 16–17. The training brought together journalists from various media houses and focused on business, finance and taxation reporting. RSL’s aim is to ensure that media coverage of fiscal policy is accurate, well-contextualised and able to contribute meaningfully to public discourse. Facilitator Mzimkhulu Sithetho explained that building the capacity of reporters in topics like tax law, revenue collection, and financial regulation helps ensure responsible, credible coverage. “This workshop aims to develop a strong cadre of journalists who are not only skilled in business reporting but who also play a catalytic role in promoting national economic growth and development through informed and accurate journalism,” said Sithetho. Also speaking was Letsatsi Sepiriti, Head of Marketing and Client Education at RSL, who opened the event officially on behalf of the Commissioner General. Sepiriti highlighted the vital role media plays in shaping public understanding of economic policy. “The media is a powerful force in shaping public understanding of economic policy. Enhancing journalistic capacity in this area will go a long way in ensuring accountability, transparency, and informed public discourse,” he said. Meanwhile, at the workshop, RSL’s Client Educator Mohapi Motenalapi reiterated that companies operating in those sectors benefit from a reduced corporate tax rate of 10 percent, compared with the standard 25 percent rate applied to other sectors. “Under our current tax framework, businesses in manufacturing and agriculture benefit from a reduced corporate tax rate of just 10 percent. This is significantly lower than the standard 25 percent rate applied to other sectors and is aimed at stimulating economic activity and job creation,” Motenalapi said. Motenalapi noted that these incentives have already spurred investment in Lesotho’s textile, agricultural, and commercial farming sectors. He emphasised that these tax breaks not only encourage new enterprises but also help deepen the national tax base as more businesses formalize their structures and comply with tax obligations. The workshop also delved into the key revenue collection mechanisms RSL uses: employer-based systems such as “Pay As You Earn” (PAYE) and withholding tax; customs and excise; self-assessment frameworks; and tax compliance. This technical content, paired with case studies and practical exercises, was especially welcomed by reporters who said it boosted their ability to cover stories that go beyond surface-level economic headlines. The RSL was created by an Act of Parliament in 2001 and has been operational since 2003. Its mandate is to assess, collect, and remit public revenue to the government of Lesotho.

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Newsday Business

Alliance Insurance strengthens public safety for residents

Seabata Mahao

Tucked deep in the rugged mountains of Leribe district, the remote village of Ha Palama is not the kind of place where corporate head-lines are usually made.

The journey there, along narrow gravel roads navigable only by sturdy 4x4 vehicles, paints a vivid picture of the isolation that has long defined the community's daily life.

But, last Friday, the village came alive with rare celebration and renewed hope, as Alliance Insurance officially handed over a brand-new police post to replace the crumbling, decades-old structure that had been the face of law enforcement in the area.

The handover, carried out under Alliance's corporate social responsibility efforts was far more than a ceremonial ribbon-cutting. It was a moment that stitched together community aspiration, corporate responsibility, and national development in a powerful narrative of progress.

For years, the Palama Police Post had been a modest, deteriorating structure, one that offered little dignity to the officers stationed there, and even less assurance to the residents who depended on them.

Cramped rooms, leaky roofs, and limited facilities were the daily reality. Officers often struggled to respond quickly to crimes or emergencies, hindered not just by distance but by inadequate working conditions.

To the community, this meant a sense of vulnerability, slow response times, limited visibility of law enforcement, and a nagging fear that safety was a privilege reserved for those in towns and cities.



New Police Post at Ha-Palama village

The gleaming new structure now standing in Ha Palama turns that narrative on its head. With modern design, functional workspaces, and an emphasis on accessibility, the police post is a statement that says safety, dignity, and service delivery matter, even in the country's most remote corners.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Alliance Insurance's Financial Director, Mohapinyane Taole, highlighted the spirit behind the project.

"This marks not merely the transfer of bricks and mortar, but the realisation of a shared vision, a modern, secure, and humane workplace that empowers our officers to serve the public with efficiency, integrity, and compassion," Taole said.

He stressed that the initiative was not charity, but a reinvestment in the very communities that had supported Alliance's growth over the years.

"Alliance Insurance exists because of the people. Through Invest Back Initiative, we make sure that our growth translates into tangible benefits for communities," he added.

For the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) management, the new facility represents a lifeline.

Borotho Matsoso, the Commissioner of Police expressed heartfelt appreciation, stating that the new office is perhaps the greatest gift the Palama Police have received since establishing operations in the area.

"This building is more than just an office; it is a beacon of safety. It gives our officers the proper environment to serve and gives the community renewed confidence that their safety matters," Matsoso said.

On their part, the Ha Palama residents, who have long felt cut off from the mainstream of national development, found the moment was

deeply personal.

Community member 'Malerato Pulumo captured their collective relief and joy over the new police offices in their midst.

"For us, this is a blessing. Having a proper police post nearby means quicker response times, less crime, and more peace of mind. We are truly grateful to Alliance Insurance for remembering our community."

The day ended with singing, ululations, and the pride of a people who now feel safer, more visible, and more connected to the rest of the country.

The Palama Police Post is part of a broader story of how Lesotho's corporate sector is beginning to reimagine its role in society. Alliance's Invest Back Initiative has extended support to education, healthcare, and rural infrastructure in other parts of the country, signaling a long-term commitment to grassroots development.

ESTATE NOTICE

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

ESTATE LATE SERUFE ELIZABETH SENKOTO E860/2025

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon surviving spouse, all heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court in Maseru on TUESDAY 07th OCTOBER 2025 at 10:00am for the purpose of:

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

Dated at Maseru on this 13th day of May 2025.

Master of the High Court
Magistrate Court

Old Prosecutors Office
Maseru



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NOTICE OF LOST LEASE

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply for a certified copy of a registered **Title Deed /Lease** to immovable property registered Under NO 13284-190 on the 12th / July /1989 in favour of THABANG MAPHANA.....in respect of Every right or interest on and to the building (s) and other developments express or implied in certain plot NO.13284-190...situated at .. MOTIMPOSO MASERU URBAN AREA..on Plan NO.13284 As held by the Chief Surveyor. All persons having objection to the issue of the said copy are requested to lodge such in writing to the Land Registrar within three weeks from the last publication of the notice.

ADDRESS: APPLICANT'S NAMES AND ADDRESS
LAND Registrar THABANG ALBERT MAPHAHA

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Land administration Authority
Lerotholi Road

P.O.Box 11856
Maseru 100
Contract numbers:59422128

ESTATE NOTICE

NOTICE LATE JUSTICE CHRISMAS MABASO B100/25

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon all heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend before the Master of the High Court at the office of the Master of the High Court in the Butha-Buthe district, near the District Administration office, on the 16th SEPTEMBER 2025 at 11AM.

Proposing some person/persons to be appointed by the master as the executor dative.

DATED AT BUTHA-BUTHE ON THIS 22nd AUGUST 2025

**MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT OFFICES
BUTHA-BUTHE**

**BEHIND PASSPORT OFFICE BUILDING
OPPOSITE POST OFFICE,
BUTHA-BUTHE**

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act

ESTATE LATE MOTHIBELI AND MASELLOANE MALATALIANA E/L KE/17/2025

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon all heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased persons to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court in THABA-TSEKA (TIM office buildings) on the 15th October 2025 at 11:00 am for purpose of:

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

Dated at Thaba-Tseka this 15th day of September 2025

M.T NTS'ONYANA (Mr.)

**ASSISTANT MASTER OF THE HIGH
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ESTATE NOTICE

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

ESTATE LATE MAMAKHABANE THEKO E1350/2025

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No. 2 of 2024 calling upon all heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court in Maseru on **MONDAY, 13th OCTOBER 2025 at 10:00 am** for the purpose of:

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

Dated at Maseru on this 27th AUGUST 2025.

Master of the High Court
Magistrate Court

Old Prosecutors Office
Maseru

ESTATE NOTICE

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

ESTATE LATE MANKHAHLE APAPHIA MAJARA E1321/2025

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No. 2 of 2024 calling upon surviving spouse, all heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court in Maseru on **MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2025 at 09:00am** for the purpose of:

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

Dated at Maseru on this 21st AUGUST 2025.

Master of the High Court
Magistrate Court

Old Prosecutors Office
Maseru



Home-grown school meals face challenges in highlands

Ntsoaki Motaung

The World Food Programme (WFP) has released its State of School Feeding *Worldwide 2024* report, highlighting Lesotho as a case study for deepening its multisectoral commitment to home-grown school feeding through an updated policy framework.

According to the report, Lesotho strengthened its dedication to school meals in 2023 by reviewing the National School Feeding Policy to enhance collaboration across sectors and prioritise home-grown approaches.

The revised policy was approved in 2024, building on the country's first policy issued in 2014.

"It reflects a vision of a sustainable programme that ensures nutritious daily meals to learners using locally sourced food, implemented entirely by national actors," the report states.

A key feature of the policy is its focus on creating stable markets for local farmers and stimulating rural economies.

The report states that by positioning school meals as a driver of development and human capital, Lesotho demonstrates how coordinated policy, local food systems and advocacy can catalyse transformative change.

Implementation challenges

However, in an interview with Newsday this week, Chief Education Officer for Primary Education, Thuto Ntšekhe, said the

home-grown school feeding initiative still faces major hurdles, particularly in Lesotho's mountainous and hard-to-reach areas.

Ntšekhe explained that, under the ministry's guiding menu, schools are expected to serve fresh vegetables and eggs. "It is a problem to get them for remote primary schools," Ntšekhe said, noting that eggs often arrive cracked and vegetables perished due to the long distances and transport challenges.

To address this, she called for stronger support for smallholder farmers from stakeholder ministries such as Agriculture, Food Security and Marketing.

"If local communities can come together and produce these products next to the schools, they will also boost their economy. As the ministry, we are ready with the menu, and it can be adjusted to go hand in hand with their production, but they have to be consistent," she said.

Ntšekhe stressed that the school feeding programme provides a reliable and guaranteed market: "We just want someone who will be reliable, provide quality products consistently."

Scale of the programme

Currently, more than 282,000 children in public reception and primary schools benefit from school meals, along with an additional 50,000 children in early childhood care and development (ECCD) centres.

Children in ECCD centres receive two

meals a day, breakfast and lunch, while primary school learners are given lunch only. Vulnerable schools receive breakfast as well, and before long-term school closures, such as the winter break, the most vulnerable children are given food packages from stock that cannot be stored until schools reopen.

She added that while USAID previously supported 36,000 children, the agency has since cut its funding. "The impact is that there is no money coming from USAID, but currently the children are still taken care of because the food was already there when the funding was cut," Ntšekhe said.

The Ministry of Finance is now assisting to keep the programme running, including paying cooks. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), which had been the implementing partner of the home-grown school feeding pilot in Semonkong, Thaba-Tseka and Mochotlong, has withdrawn.

"With CRS no longer in the field, we will not be able to learn to the fullest how best to take over and implement the initiative nationwide," Ntšekhe explained. "But we are going to have a meeting where they will hand over to us and discuss how best we can move forward."

Global picture

Globally, the WFP report shows that nearly 80 million more children are now receiving school meals through government-led programmes than in 2020, a 20 percent increase that brings the total to at

least 466 million children.

Progress is most notable in low-income countries, where the number of children receiving meals has grown by 60 percent in just two years. Africa is leading the surge, with an additional 20 million children now fed through national programmes, including in Kenya, Madagascar, Ethiopia and Rwanda.

"School meals are so much more than just a plate of nutritious food," said WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain. "For the vulnerable children who receive them, they are a pathway out of poverty and into a new world of learning and opportunity. Governments, especially in low- and middle-income countries, are showing real leadership by prioritising school meal programmes. They are one of the smartest, most cost-effective investments a nation can make."

The report also finds that global funding for school meals has more than doubled, rising from US\$43 billion in 2020 to US\$84 billion in 2024, with 99 percent now coming from national budgets. This marks a significant shift away from foreign aid towards domestic financing. Still, funding in low-income countries remains limited compared to the scale of need.

The report is published just ahead of the second School Meals Coalition Global Summit in Brazil on 18-19 September, where global leaders will assess progress and mobilise further action.

Lesotho launches Child-Friendly Communities Initiative

Ntsoaki Motaung

On Wednesday, Lesotho marked World Patient Safety Day with a powerful new commitment to its youngest citizens, launching the Child-Friendly Communities Initiative, a national movement under the call to action, "#E Seng Ka Ngoana".

The event, held in Mafeteng, brought together government officials, health partners, and community members to reaffirm the nation's dedication to ensuring safe and quality healthcare for all children.

The theme for World Patient Safety Day 2025, "Safe Care for Every Newborn and Every Child," resonated deeply with the day's events, highlighting the unique risks faced by children due to their rapid growth and evolving health needs.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Representative, Dr Innocent Nuwagira, stated that in Africa, poor-quality care accounts for a significant percentage of both maternal and neonatal deaths.

He emphasised that Lesotho is no exception, facing high maternal and neonatal mortality rates that demand urgent action on patient safety.

Nuwagira urged countries to raise awareness of safety risks in pediatric care, mobilise health professionals and civil society, empow-



er caregivers, and invest in research to address these issues.

He mentioned the strengthening of infec-

tion prevention and control programs, the implementation of Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response guidelines, and the

adoption of innovative digital solutions like the

The UNICEF Country Representative, Deepak Bhaskaran echoed these concerns, stating that in Lesotho, many deaths among newborns and young children are preventable and result from delays in accessing care, sub-optimal service quality, and missed immunisation opportunities.

He emphasised that patient safety is not just a technical issue but a fundamental human right, and for children, it is "non-negotiable".

The UNICEF Representative declared that achieving the vision of child-friendly communities requires a "whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach".

The Minister of Health, Selibe Mochoboroane, officially launched the Child-Friendly Communities Initiative, describing it as a "social contract with the children of Lesotho".

The Minister explained that a child-friendly community is one where every child's basic rights, including access to healthcare, birth registration, nutrition, clean water, education, and protection are not luxuries but are guaranteed.

He emphasised that the well-being of children is "not negotiable" and that the initiative is committed to prioritising children in all planning, budgeting, and service delivery.

Mochoboroane stated that the success of the initiative and the transformation of the system demand strong collaboration across all sectors, as "no single ministry, no single actor can do this alone".

Overspending without approval threatens parliamentary authority

The revelation that the government of Lesotho spent over M3.4 billion without prior parliamentary approval is more than a fiscal concern. It is a stark test of the country's commitment to the rule of law. At the heart of this matter lies a simple but profound principle enshrined in the Constitution: the power of the purse belongs to Parliament, not the executive.

Section 112 of the Constitution is unambiguously states that all revenues must be paid into the Consolidated Fund, and no money may be withdrawn except as authorised by law. Sections 113 and 114 allow very limited, conditional exceptions, chiefly advances from the Contingencies Fund in cases of unforeseen and urgent need, with the express requirement that supplementary estimates be presented to Parliament "as soon as possible."

The facts, however, paint a troubling picture. More than six months elapsed after the close of the 2024/2025 financial year before the Supplementary Appropriation Bill was tabled. During this period, billions of maloti had already been spent on projects that included salaries, official travel, construction of a new headquarters building, arrears settlements, and subventions to parastatals.

Few, if any, of these expenditures can credibly be described as "urgent" or "unforeseen." In other words, a constitutional mechanism designed for emergency use appears to have been stretched to normalise routine overspending.

This practice strikes at the very foundation of parliamentary oversight. By spending first and seeking approval later, the executive effectively sidelines the legislature and weakens the constitutional principle that government is accountable to the people through their elected representatives. When the supplementary bill covers more than 10 percent of the annual national budget, over M3.4 billion in a budget averaging M27–30 billion, the scale of executive overreach becomes alarming.

The opposition's response, led by Mathibeli Mokhothu, is rooted in this principle of legality and accountability. Mokhothu is right to question the constitutionality of retroactively seeking approval for expenditures already made.

The Constitution and the Public Financial Management and Accountability Act (PFMAA) provide remedies for excess spending, but these remedies are procedural and curative, not a licence to bypass parliamentary authority. Retrospective "regularisation" of such massive spending undermines both constitutional governance and public trust.

The government may argue that these measures were necessary to maintain essential services and fund ongoing projects. But necessity cannot override the Constitution. The rule of law demands that even urgent needs be balanced against parliamentary control and legal procedure. Accountability is not a luxury; it is a non-negotiable requirement for democratic governance.

Lesotho's institutions now face a critical choice. Parliament, through its Speaker, must assert its authority and ensure that constitutional processes are respected. Failure to do so risks normalising a culture where the executive treats the Consolidated Fund as a discretionary slush fund, with legality applied only after the fact.

In the final analysis, this is not merely a question of numbers or fiscal housekeeping, it is a question of principle. The Constitution exists to prevent exactly this kind of arbitrary exercise of power.

Upholding it is not a political option; it is a duty. Retrospective ratification of unapproved spending may be expedient in the short term, but it sets a dangerous precedent for the erosion of parliamentary oversight and the rule of law in Lesotho.

If Lesotho is to maintain a government accountable to its people, Parliament must insist that no money should ever leave the Consolidated Fund without lawful authority. Anything less is a compromise on the very constitutional order that guarantees democracy itself.



No Comment



Kananelo Boloetse

Common Concern

Surnames, identity, and the right to choose

Earlier this month, South Africa's Constitutional Court delivered a unanimous judgment in a case confirming the invalidity of provisions in the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1992 that prevented husbands from assuming their wives' surnames or hyphenating them after marriage.

The ruling, authored by Justice Leona Theron, addressed applications from two couples: Henry van der Merwe, who sought to take his wife Jana Jordaan's surname, and Andreas Nicolas Bornman, who wanted to hyphenate his surname with that of his wife, Jess Donnelly-Bornman.

These couples had previously succeeded in the Free State High Court in 2024, which declared the law unconstitutional on grounds of gender discrimination.

The Court traced the law's origins to colonial and apartheid-era influ-

ences, noting that pre-colonial African customs often allowed women to retain their birth names and children to take maternal clan names, but European colonizers and Roman-Dutch law imposed the patriarchal norm of wives adopting husbands' surnames.

This created an asymmetry where only women could easily change surnames upon marriage, while men required "good and sufficient reason" approval from the Director-General of Home Affairs, which was rarely granted for spousal reasons. The judgment held that section 26(1)(a)–(c) of the Act and related regulations unfairly discriminated on the basis of gender, violating section 9(3) of the Constitution, which guarantees equality.

It emphasised that the restriction perpetuated harmful stereotypes and served no legitimate purpose in

modern South Africa. As a remedy, the Court suspended the declaration of invalidity for 24 months to allow Parliament to amend the legislation, while issuing an interim "reading-in" order to permit both spouses, regardless of gender, to apply for surname changes post-marriage, using gender-neutral language inspired by the Civil Union Act.

The ministers of Home Affairs and Justice did not oppose the application, acknowledging the law's outdated nature. This decision advances gender equality in line with South Africa's post-apartheid constitutional values.

Some men reacted with anger to this judgment as if it made it mandatory for husbands to adopt their wives' surnames.

But that is not the case. The judgment does not force anyone into an-

othing, it simply affirms choice. If a husband wishes to take his wife’s surname, the law should not stand in the way. That is all. Whether Kananelo Boloetse, or any other commentator for that matter, feels strongly one way or the other is beside the point.

It is none of our business because ultimately, it is a matter of preference and personal identity.

Then yesterday morning, I received a long, emotional message from my niece. She wrote: “I want to change my surname. I want to start using my mother’s surname because I think I gave your brother multiple chances to show up for me, and he did not. I am tired now. He has been absent for a very long time, and it is my time to be absent.”

I could hear the pain of rejection, the fatigue of trying, and the quiet rebellion of someone claiming agency over her life.

I responded and told her: “I hear what you are saying, and I understand why this weighs heavily on you. At the same time, your name and surname are central to your identity. If your goal is to distance yourself from your father, that can be done in many ways without necessarily changing your name.

“That said, this is ultimately your decision. You have clearly carried disappointment and made efforts

that were not reciprocated. You have every right to choose what gives you peace. My view is simply that healing doesn’t always require changing who you are. But whatever you decide, I will respect and support your choice.”

That conversation has stayed with me. It reminded me that many children carry surnames they would not choose for themselves if they had been given the chance. The decisions about what surname a child receives are often made in moments of conflict, shame, or tradition, without ever asking whether the child, when grown, will be happy with it.

For instance, when a child is born out of wedlock, the maternal family may insist the child take the mother’s surname because the father did not marry their daughter or pay damages. They argue that the father has no claim, so the child belongs to them. But no one pauses to ask: Will this decision serve the best interests of the child in the long run?

Years later, when the child grows up and wishes to take their father’s surname, tensions explode. The maternal relatives lash out, saying the child is ungrateful, that after they raised them while the father was absent, the child now wants to honour the very man who neglected them. Painful words are spoken, wounds are deepened. But if we are honest,

the child was denied their father’s surname in the first place because of unpaid damages, not because anyone truly considered the child’s future sense of identity.

On the other hand, some children are given their father’s surname for the opposite reason: to protect the mother from embarrassment, to make it seem as if the child was not born out of wedlock, or to signal that the father accepted responsibility. But when the child grows up and realises that their father played no role in raising them, bitterness sets in. They feel the weight of carrying the name of someone who never carried them.

These dilemmas show us that surnames are more than labels, they are entangled with belonging, legitimacy, dignity, and memory. And yet, children rarely get to decide for themselves.

I believe that as a society, we should begin to allow young adults, when they reach the age of 18, to freely decide what surname they want to carry into adulthood. At 18, a person is considered mature enough to vote, to marry, even to go to war; surely, they should also be allowed to choose their name. This is about agency, about letting people define their own identities rather than being trapped by decisions made before they could

speak for themselves. Of course, there are practical questions. By 18, a person already has a surname on their birth certificate, school records, and national exams. Changing it might create bureaucratic complications. But should bureaucracy outweigh a person’s right to self-definition? I don’t believe so. Systems can adjust; lives should not be trapped.

Ultimately, this conversation is not just about law or tradition. It is about recognising that names carry history, but history should not be a prison. We cannot undo the past, but we can give people the tools to shape their own future.

A surname should not be a sentence handed down at birth, it should be a choice, a declaration of belonging, a statement of identity. Some of us may proudly carry the names we inherited. Others may find those names heavy with absence, conflict, or betrayal. Both realities are valid.

And so, just as the courts affirmed that husbands should be free to choose whether or not to take their wives’ surnames, we too must broaden this principle of freedom. At 18, every young person should stand at the threshold of adulthood with the right to decide: *What name will I carry into the world? Whose legacy will I honour? How will I define myself?*



Government of Lesotho
THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (MOE)

INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)

FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY-DUTY PHOTOCOPIER MACHINE

ITT NO: MOE/ADMIN/1-2025/2026
DATE: 4 SEPTEMBER,2025

- The Ministry of Energy hereby invites tenders from eligible and qualified Bidders for the supply and delivery of one Heavy Duty Photocopier Machine. The specifications are provided in the bidding document.
- A complete set of bidding documents, in English, may be purchased on the submission of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand (2000.00) Maloti** or its equivalent in any convertible currency, net of all bank charges from the **Procurement Unit, Ministry of Energy (MOE) Government Complex, Africa House 3rd Floor**. The method of payment will be by bank transfer/deposit only, payable at Central Bank of Lesotho, Account Name Main Revenue Epicor 10, Account Number 0101403715016, Reference Ministry of Energy sale of Tender document. The proof of payment must be taken to MOE Accounts Office at **Sekhametsi Building, 2nd Floor, Kingsway Maseru** where a receipt will be issued. The receipt should then be submitted to the Procurement Office where the bidding documents shall be obtained.**The Tender documents will be obtainable from the 15th September 2025 to 9th October, 2025**
- Mandatory Documents**
 - Copy of valid Tax Clearance Certificate (certified at source).
 - Copy of Value Added Tax (VAT)

- Registration Certificate (certified at source).
- Copy of valid Trader's License.
 - Company/Business Profile.
 - Reference letters from recent institutions served in the past two (2years)
 - Bid Security
 - Minimum experience of contracts of a similar nature and magnitude executed within the last two (2) years) support with one (1) copy of contract or purchase order).
 - Evidence of financial capacity (credit line from registered financial institution and audited accounts statement from registered Institution)
 - Completed certificate of bona fide tendering.
- Sealed tenders bearing no identification of the tenderers and marked as follows **“SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY-DUTY PHOTOCOPIER MACHINE”** must be deposited in the tender box situated at the Foyer at the Ministry’s Head Quarters, Government Complex, Africa House 3rd Floor. The closing date for submission of tenders is on/or before the **23rd October 2025**. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected.
 - Tenders will be opened in the presence of the tenderers’ representatives who may choose to attend in person on the **23th October,2025 at 14:30hrs**. Tenders shall be submitted in one **(1) original and four (4) copies** in a sealed envelope.



Job Detail

Job Type
Classification
Permanent

Job Title
Promoter

Reporting to
Manager: Sales Operations

Department
Sales

Site
Premier Lesotho Bakery

How to Apply
Interested candidates are encouraged to apply through our email: hr.lesotho@premierfmcg.com
Documents should be sent together (Application, CV, and qualifications) on one email.

Alternatively, applications can be delivered at Blue Ribbon Offices, Thetsane Industrial, Maseru.

Closing Date

26 September 2025

Should you not receive a reply within a month from your application, please treat as unsuccessful.

Internal & External Advert: Promoter

Job Purpose

- To fulfil the role of a product and brand promoter who will be responsible for below line promotion activities for example instore, pro-mobile, brand campaigns, product launches and events.

Key Responsibility:

- Increase brand awareness by showcasing Premier Lesotho Bakery products to potential customers in line with the brand positioning
- Improve Sales
- Build brand trust
- Optimize customer interactions /product presentation.
- To ensure full maintain and improve customer service levels as part of the extended Bakery Sales team.
- To support effective instore merchandising in collaboration with relevant merchandiser.

Skill and Attributes Required

Stock control principle	Merchandising according to plan
Customer relationship building	Persuading and influencing
Product demonstration skills	Basic reporting
Personal hygiene requirement	Good communication skills
	Basic etiquette

Qualifications and Experience

- LGCSE/COSC
- Previous experience working in retail/ promotions
- Merchandiser (6 - 12 months) Desirable
- Attention to detail
- Able to travel
- Able to work a flexible schedule

Preferred:

- Knowledge of MS Office/ Excel
- Experience using smartphones and tablets

Other Requirements

- Pressurized environment
- May have to deal with customer complaints
- 6-day position which may require to work Saturdays, Sundays, Public Holidays or as per operational requirements
- Ability to work in a team environment to achieve daily deadlines

"Premier FMCG is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to Employment Equity and transformation. We encourage applications from all qualified individuals regardless of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability. By submitting your application, you consent to the processing of your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI Act) of South Africa. We will only use your personal information for recruitment purposes and will keep it confidential in accordance with our privacy policy."





We are honoured to announce that for the fifth consecutive year, Sentebale GAP Funeral Services has been awarded the prestigious PMR Africa Diamond Arrow Award as the number one funeral services provider in Lesotho.

This recognition received in the highest category, symbolizes not only our commitment to unmatched service excellence but also our dedication to contributing to the growth and development of the nation's economy

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our clients, partners and employees, whose unwavering support and trust have made this achievement possible. Your believe in us fuels our passion to continue providing the best funeral services and support when it matters.

Thank you for helping us set the standard for quality, compassion and care.

If you are not with us, you are not with the best.





LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER COMMISSION

TENDER NOTICE

PROVISION OF ANNUAL EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES FOR THREE FINANCIAL YEARS (2025/26, 2026/27, and 2027/28)

The Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC), established under the 1986 Treaty between the Governments of Lesotho and South Africa, is responsible for overseeing the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), advising both governments, and serving as a communication channel beyond the LHWP.

LHWC invites bids from reputable firms registered in Lesotho and South Africa for the provision of Annual External Audit Services for three consecutive financial years ending **31st March 2026, 31st March 2027, and 31st March 2028.**

Submission of Bids

Sealed bids, clearly marked **“Tender for the Provision of LHWC Annual External Audit Services (2026–2028)”**, with no identifying details of the bidder on the envelope, should be delivered to:

Commission Secretary
Lesotho Highlands Water Commission
5th Floor, Standard Lesotho Bank Tower
Maseru 100, Lesotho
Bidders from South Africa should courier their bids to the above address.
Submission Deadline: 30th September 2025, no later than noon (local time).

Eligibility and Requirements

Interested bidders must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be a registered and accredited auditing firm in Lesotho or South Africa.
- Demonstrate experience in conducting external audits for similar organizations.
- Comply with relevant international auditing and accounting standards.
- Provide company registration documents, professional certifications, and three (3) references from previous clients.

Enquiries
For further information or clarifications, please contact: sec@lhwc.org.ls



EXPRESSION OF INTERST

- The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)** invites registered companies and interested individuals for short term hire of vehicles. The database of vehicles will be used for the period of **three (3) years.**

BIDDING DOCUMENT
Document is obtainable from Procurement Unit Second Floor Election House during working hours from 09:00am to 4:00pm.

SPECIFICATIONS OF REQUIRED VEHICLES

 1. Double Cab 4*4
 2. Double Cab 4*2
 3. SUV's
 4. Quantum
 5. 22-seater buses
 6. 60-70 seater buses/coaches
 7. Drop-side trucks 10 Tons
 8. Box truck 10 Tons
 9. Double Cab 4*4 (Mamokoto)

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

 - Provided Individual/ Company details form should be filled.
 - Attach valid **relevant** Trading License.
 - Attach valid copy of Tax Clearance (Both companies & individuals).
 - Companies intending to work with individuals must provide an agreement signed by both parties together with the vehicle's documents. (*APPLIES TO FLEET COMPANY*)
 - Attach a certified copy of National ID and IEC Registration Card/Number of the Owner or Company owners.
 - All vehicles should have a fire extinguisher.
 - Attach certified copies of registration certificates/blue cards of vehicles.
 - Attach certified copies of insurance certificates from insurance companies registered with Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) not insurance brokers, for all categories of vehicles (insured with passenger liability).
 - The vehicle will be replaced on the condition that it is involved in accident and declared ride-off. The replacement vehicle must of the same model and features.
 - Vehicle Owners must specify one district desired for work (application for more than one district will result in disqualification).
- All required documents must be submitted
 - The owner has to fuel the vehicle and provide a driver.
 - IEC has a right to deploy vehicles to any district if need arises
 - IEC uses Government of Lesotho Rates
 - Vehicles will be hired on a monthly basis.
 - Vehicle must be roadworthy
 - Vehicle must have the following:
 - Canopy
 - Valid Fitness
 - Valid permits
 - First Aid
 - Tools (Wheel spanner and Jack, triangle*2, spare wheel)
 - The tyres must in good conditions
 - Provide the envelope clearing marked **“TYPE OF VEHICLE AND NAME OF DISTRICT”** containing Original and four copies.

Important information to companies or individuals in the Districts level:

- The envelopes for Expression of Interest can be delivered at all IEC District Offices.
- The closing date at District level is on **Wednesday 25th September 2025 at 16:00pm.**
- The envelopes from District Offices, should reach Head Quarters Maseru before 12:00pm on **Friday 26th September 2025.**

Sealed documents bearing no identification of the companies/individuals should be deposited in the tender box at the Election House, Ground Floor, Corner Maluti and Caledon Road Maseru West **On or before 12:00 pm Friday 25th September 2025** and will be opened on the same date at **14:00hours.** Envelopes should be clearly marked: **“Type of vehicle (e.g. 4x4 Double Cab) and name of district (e.g. Maseru)”**.

For further information, relating to the above information please contact,

The Procurement Unit
Independent Electoral Commission
Election House
2nd Floor
Corner Maluti and Caledon Road
Maseru West
Tel: +266 – 22 314991/59019086
Email: tenders@iec.org.ls

The Independent Electoral Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders

NB:



LESOTHO COMPETITIVENESS AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION (CAFI) PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

“ADVERTISEMENT”

CONSULTING SERVICES - INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT (IC) SELECTION

Country : Lesotho
Project Name : Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) Project
Credit No. : 7169-LS
Assignment Title: Internal Auditor
Reference No.: CAFI-WB-0086

The Government of Lesotho has received credit from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank to implement the Lesotho Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development through the CAFI PMU, now invites interested individuals to indicate their interest in the assignment. Interested individuals should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience for the assignment.

The selection criteria will be based on the following information, inter alia:

- ▶ A relevant degree in accounting, finance, business administration, or a related field.
- ▶ Professional certification is highly desirable.
- ▶ A minimum of 5 years of experience in internal auditing, with a preference for experience in donor-funded projects.
- ▶ Strong knowledge of financial management practices, internal control frameworks, and risk assessment methodologies.
- ▶ Excellent analytical, communication, and interpersonal skills.
- ▶ Ability to work independently and collaboratively within a team environment.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained

at the address given below and at the following website: www.cafi.org.ls. Interested candidates are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) and Curriculum Vitae (CV) together with educational certificates to the address below.

The attention of interested candidates is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” February 2025 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

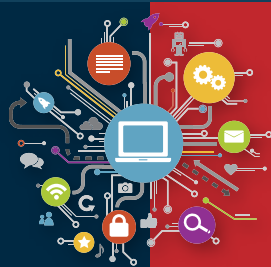
A candidate will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection method set out in Procurement Regulations.

**Further information can be obtained at the address below during of-
fice hours [08h00 to 16h30 local time].**

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form, in sealed envelopes labelled **“ Internal Auditor”** to the address below in person or by e-mail on or before **Friday, 26 September 2025 at 14h00.** E-mail submissions should be sent to imohejane@cafi.org.ls cc nleutsoa@cafi.org.ls and ltsoinyane@cafi.org.ls as a single attachment.

Managing Director
Lesotho Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion Project
1st Floor ‘Matanki House
P.O. Box 747,
Maseru 100
Lesotho
Tel.: (+266) 22 315 100

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



Newsday Technology

Explained: Google's investment in Africa's AI infrastructure

Kitty Wheeler

Google has invested billions in Africa's AI infrastructure and education system to close the skills gap, boost connectivity and unlock vast economic growth

Google is placing a substantial bet on Africa's digital evolution.

The search and cloud computing giant is investing in the continent's infrastructure strategy, recognising the immense potential of a region where the youth population is projected to double to more than 830 million by 2050.

James Manyika, Google's Senior Vice President (SVP) for research, labs, technology and society, is bringing his personal insights to this initiative.

The executive, who began his career studying neural networks as an engineering student in Zimbabwe, understands both the technical challenges and the transformative potential at stake.

"With AI, collectively we have the chance to democratise access from the start, ensuring that the digital divide doesn't become an AI divide," he explains.

So what is unique about this investment and what does it mean for the AI industry?

The role of subsea cable networks for AI expansion

The strategy reflects Google's recognition that early investment in African AI capabilities could yield significant returns as the continent's young

population matures.

Google has already surpassed its initial US\$1bn commitment to African connectivity, delivering measurable results.

The company's infrastructure investments have enabled 100 million Africans to access the internet for the first time.

The centrepiece of Google's latest announcement involves four strategic subsea cable connectivity hubs positioned across Africa's northern, southern, eastern and western regions.

This infrastructure development forms part of the broader Africa Connect programme, which includes the existing Equiano cable along the western seaboard and Umoja, the first direct fibre optic connection between Africa and Australia.

Debbie Weinstein, Google's President for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA), emphasises the economic implications of this connectivity expansion.

The infrastructure will "create new digital corridors, deepen international resilience and spur significant economic growth," she says.

The economic impact projections are substantial.

Google's analysis suggests the Equiano cable alone will contribute US\$11.1bn to Nigeria's GDP, US\$5.8bn to South Africa's and US\$290m to Namibia's economy this year.

These figures show the tangible economic

benefits that accompany improved digital infrastructure.

The cable network supports Google's cloud computing operations, including the Johannesburg-based Google Cloud region that serves the entire continent.

This infrastructure enables Google to offer its Gemini large language model (LLM) through Google Distributed Cloud, providing businesses and developers with enhanced security and reliability for AI applications.

Google's educational initiative to target the skills development gap

Recognising that infrastructure alone cannot drive AI adoption, Google is addressing the continent's skills gap through targeted educational initiatives.

The company will provide free one-year subscriptions to its Gemini AI Pro plan for college students aged 18 and older across eight African countries: Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The Pro subscription includes Deep Research capabilities that generate research reports from multiple web sources – and access to Gemini 2.5 Pro for coding assistance and content creation.

Students will also benefit from Guided Learning functionality, which serves as an AI-powered learning companion.

Debbie views this educational component as

particularly significant, noting that these tools are "directly empowering them to address local challenges."

This focus on local problem-solving reflects Google's understanding that successful AI implementation requires solutions tailored to regional needs and conditions.

Google's training initiatives extend beyond student access.

The company has provided digital skills training to 7 million Africans and aims to reach an additional 3 million students, young people and teachers by 2030.

Supporting this effort, Google is allocating more than US\$17m in funding to African universities and research institutions over the past four years, with plans for an additional US\$9m investment in the coming year.

Language accessibility represents another critical component of Google's African strategy.

The company expanded Google Translate to include 110 new languages last year, incorporating more than 30 African languages.

Future plans call for expanding datasets and voice models to cover more than 50 African languages, with 24 open speech datasets scheduled for publication next year.

"Google is committed to making the promise of AI a reality for people and businesses across Africa," James concludes.

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Morena Sway makes triumphant return with Koababa

... Announces new partnership with AfroMedia

Chris Theko

After months away from the limelight, celebrated musician Morena Sway is making a powerful return this Friday with the release of his latest single, Koababa.

The track marks both a comeback and a new era, as the artist unveils a fresh partnership with AfroMedia, an emerging creative and promotional company in the region.

For fans, beyond being a song, Koababa is also a statement of growth and reinvention.

"I believe everything happens in God's timing. I took a step back to reflect, grow, and refine my sound. During that time, I was also working on building myself spiritually and creatively," he said.

"Koababa came at the perfect moment because I felt ready to share something that's both true to who I am and powerful enough to reintroduce Morena Sway to the world. The song represents a fresh chapter, not just musically but also in my life as a whole," he added.

Since his early days in the industry, Morena Sway has been known for heartfelt storytelling in his music. But with Koababa, he says listeners can expect a more refined, globally influenced sound.

"Definitely, my music has changed over time. In the beginning, it leaned more towards raw emotion and storytelling, but now I have found a balance be-



Morena Sway

tween authenticity and modern sound. I am blending Afrobeat, Amapiano, and R&B influences to create a signature style that's both global and deeply rooted in who I am. The growth is in the maturity of the sound and the confidence in my delivery."

At its heart, the new single is a love story, but with a unique twist.

"Koababa is a love story with a twist, it's about the fear that sometimes comes with love. The word Ko-

ababa means fear in love. It's about those moments when love is so intense it feels almost frightening, because you're vulnerable, exposed, and yet completely drawn in. I want fans to connect with that honesty, to know that love is beautiful, but it's also real and raw. I hope it becomes the soundtrack for people who are in love, scared to love, or learning to trust love again," he explained.

Friday's launch also brings a significant an-

nouncement: a new working relationship with AfroMedia, an emerging creative and promotional company in the region. For Morena Sway, this is more than just a partnership, it's a milestone in his career.

"Partnering with AfroMedia is a huge milestone. They understand my vision and are committed to pushing African music to global stages. This partnership gives me the platform, resources, and network to position Koababa not just as a local hit but as a record that can travel across borders. It's also about creating a sustainable career model where my music, brand, and artistry can grow beyond just one release."

With digital platforms reshaping how artists connect with their audiences, Morena Sway sees opportunity rather than challenge. "I see the changes as opportunities. Digital platforms allow us to connect directly with fans and reach new markets without limitations. My approach is to stay true to my sound while making it relevant to the global market. I'm also big on visuals, storytelling, and engaging content because fans today want the full experience, not just the song."

And while Koababa is the focus for now, fans can rest assured it's only the beginning. "Koababa is just the beginning. Fans can expect more singles, exciting collaborations, and eventually a full body of work that captures where I am musically. Performances are also on the way because I want people to experience the energy of my music live. My goal is to build a legacy where every release, every show, and every project adds to the story of Morena Sway."

As he prepares to share Koababa with the world, Morena Sway leaves fans with a heartfelt promise: "With Koababa, I'm not just releasing a song, I'm opening a new chapter. To my fans: this is our journey together, and the best is yet to come."

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Refiloe Makoae to represent Lesotho at Miss Cosmo in Vietnam

Chris Theko

The Miss Lesotho Organisation has confirmed that reigning queen Refiloe Makoae will represent the Mountain Kingdom at the Miss Cosmo 2025 international pageant, scheduled for December 20 in Vietnam.

The announcement comes after the organisation made the difficult decision to forgo hosting the Miss Lesotho 2025 edition, citing financial constraints. Instead of staging the annual competition, the organisation will channel its limited resources into preparing and supporting Makoae on the global stage.

For years, the Miss Lesotho pageant has served as one of the country’s leading platforms for empowering young Basotho women, fostering cultural exchange, and elevating Lesotho’s profile in the international pageant industry. But rising costs and sponsorship challenges have made it impossible to hold the national event this year.

Miss Lesotho Director, ‘Mabahlakoana Mosola, described the move as strategic yet difficult, aimed at ensuring Lesotho does not lose its voice internationally.

“It was not an easy decision to pause the 2025 edition of our national competition,” Mosola said.

“However, we believe it is important that Lesotho is represented internationally, even in challenging times. Refiloe has already proven herself as a true ambassador for our nation, and we are proud to support her journey to Vietnam. Our focus is on quality representation, and this step allows us to channel all our efforts towards that goal.”

The Miss Cosmo international pageant has in recent years risen to become one of



the world’s most dynamic beauty platforms, bringing together contestants from across the globe.

It celebrates cultural identity, global diversity, and women’s empowerment while offering participants invaluable opportunities for international networking and exposure.

For Lesotho, participation at this level goes beyond beauty—it is about affirming the country’s presence on the global stage and sharing its unique cultural story.

For Makoae, the opportunity is both a privilege and a responsibility. Speaking after the announcement, she expressed deep gratitude to the Miss Lesotho Organisation and to Basotho for their unwavering support since she won the crown last year.

“I am deeply humbled by the trust placed in me to represent Lesotho at Miss Cosmo 2025,” Makoae said. “This is more than just a personal journey—it is a chance to share our culture, our resilience, and the beauty of our people with the world. I am determined to make Lesotho proud, and I am working hard to prepare for the competition.”

Makoae revealed that preparations are already underway, including fitness training, personal development sessions, wardrobe planning, and the development of advocacy projects close to her heart.

“Every moment I spend preparing is dedicated to the people of Lesotho. I want the world to see who we are, not only through beauty but through our values, our warmth, and our ability to inspire,” she added.

The Miss Lesotho Organisation emphasised that while this year’s local edition has been paused, the long-term vision remains

to strengthen the pageant, attract more sponsors, and create sustainable opportunities for future contestants.

Mosola reaffirmed the organisation’s commitment: “Our mission is to grow the Miss Lesotho brand, to ensure it continues to empower young women and showcase Lesotho to the world. This pause is temporary, our vision is long-term.”

“This is not the end but a moment to realign our strategies. Our dream is to continue providing young Basotho women with platforms that empower them and open doors to international opportunities,” she said.

As Makoae prepares to fly the national flag high in Vietnam, the organization is expected to announce details of her official send-off and ways in which Basotho can support her journey.

Her participation ensures that Lesotho remains visible on the global pageant stage, despite the absence of a national competition this year. For many, Refiloe’s journey symbolises resilience, adaptation, and the determination to keep Lesotho’s voice alive internationally, even in challenging times.

Fifi, originally from Thaba Bosiu - where the great King Moshoeshoe I established his fortress, is a 25-year-old Bachelor of Arts in Organisational Psychology, working in Strategic Partnerships & Public Relations.

She will be Lesotho’s first representative at the second edition of Miss Cosmo, which was originally founded in 2024.

She is a former football player and recreational endurance athlete, enjoying hiking and jogging in her free time outside the pageant and fashion scenes. She’s a former Miss Maseru and the reigning Miss Lesotho.

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Bantu lands massive M2.16m boost from Naledi

Seabata Mahao

Bantu Football Club has scored a major win by securing a M2.16 million sponsorship deal with Naledi Funeral Planners.

The three-year partnership is expected to strengthen the club's ambitions both domestically and on the continental stage.

The deal, officially announced during a press conference held at the Black Swan, represents a renewal of the longstanding relationship between two respected institutions in Lesotho.

Valued at M720,000 per year, the sponsorship is a substantial investment in one of the country's most successful and widely supported football clubs.

Naledi Funeral Planners' Chief Executive Officer, MoseboMoseou, hailed Bantu as a brand that has grown beyond football and into a unifying force for communities.

"Bantu is a growing brand," Moseou said. "Even though I do not attend many matches, I was deeply touched by the spirit I witnessed in Mantšonyane during the People's Cup. The passion and loyalty of Bantu supporters showed me what this club means to the people."

He added that Naledi's commitment to the partnership reflects its belief in supporting initiatives that uplift Basotho and foster national pride.

"Bantu is more than just a football club; it is a beacon of unity and purpose."

For Bantu, the sponsorship could not have come at a better time, according to club president, John Leuta.

Leuta described the renewed partnership as a lifeline in a football environment plagued by financial struggles.

"Football may be the most loved sport in Lesotho, but it is woefully under-supported



Bantu Football Club has scored a major victory off the field, securing a lucrative M2.16 million sponsorship deal with Naledi Funeral Planners

financially. This sponsorship allows us to breathe easier and focus on what matters most, developing talent, competing at the highest levels, and representing Lesotho with pride," Leuta explained.

Leuta revealed that Bantu runs on an annual budget of about M4.2 million, with roughly 70 percent spent on player and staff salaries. The Naledi sponsorship, he said, will ease the club's financial pressures

while providing stability to plan for long-term growth.

The timing of the deal is also crucial as the new season has just begun, and Bantu has its sights set not only on maintaining its dominance in the VPL but also on making an impact in continental competitions. With improved financial backing, the club hopes to strengthen its playing squad and expand youth development programs.

"This partnership gives us the momentum we need going into a demanding season. It is a signal of belief not just in our club, but in the power of football to bring people together and change lives," he said.

The renewed alliance also sends a broader message to the corporate sector in Lesotho: supporting sport is not just charity but a meaningful investment in national identity and community cohesion.

Lifofane finally lands sponsorship deal

Seabata Mahao

A six-year wait for sponsorship is finally over for Lifofane Football Club after the Botha-Bothe-based side secured a kit sponsorship deal with LNIG Hollard for the 2025/26 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) season.

The sponsorship is expected to provide crucial support to Lifofane, strengthening the team's ability to compete at the highest level of domestic football. Beyond the field, LNIG Hollard hopes the investment will inspire young people to dream bigger and pursue their ambitions.

The partnership was announced during the official opening of the company's new office in Botha-Bothe, highlighting LNIG Hollard's commitment to both business growth and community development.

Speaking at the launch, LNIG Hollard Chief Executive Officer, Mpho Vumbukani, said the twin initiatives, the sponsorship and the new office, reflect a broader vision that balances expansion with social responsibility.

"Opening a new office in Botha-Bothe is about accessibility and convenience. We want to ensure that our clients no longer have to struggle to reach us, but instead



find our services right where they are," Vumbukani said.

"At the same time, our investment in the Premier League is about empowering youth, inspiring communities, and showing that insurance is more than policies, it is about building futures."

Vumbukani also explained the company's

decision to support a top-flight side.

"The Premier League is the highest level of football in Lesotho, and it gives us a platform to reach, inspire, and uplift more people. By investing here, we hope to strengthen the league, motivate players, and spark pride in communities who follow the game passionately."

As part of its growth strategy, LNIG Hollard has reaffirmed its commitment to aligning business goals with positive social impact.

"Community is very important to us. Whether through insurance, sports, or social projects, LNIG Hollard will always look for ways to add value to the lives of Basotho," added Vumbukani.

The new Botha-Bothe branch will bring LNIG Hollard's services closer to local residents and neighboring communities, ensuring easier access to insurance products and quicker service delivery. For many, this development will eliminate the need to travel long distances to Maseru for policy inquiries and claims processing.

Letšolo Maliehe, the club president welcomed the sponsorship with pride and relief, noting the long wait for such support.

"For us to have reached this agreement with LNIG Hollard is a big milestone because it has been well over six years without a sponsor for the Lifofane. Our partnership with one of the biggest companies in the country makes us proud and happy. We believe the difference they have brought will push us to more success, especially as we are already working hard to compete and stay in the Premier League," Maliehe said.



Weak domestic league blamed for Likuena struggles

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho national team head coach, Makhetha Leslie Notši, has claimed that Likuena's struggles in the FIFA World Cup qualifiers are closely tied to the poor quality of the domestic league.

His comments follow heavy back-to-back defeats that have left the team's campaign in jeopardy. Likuena were thrashed 3-0 by South Africa at Toyota Stadium in Bloemfontein before going down 4-0 to Benin in Ivory Coast.

The results leave Lesotho in fifth place in Group C with just six points, far behind leaders South Africa on 17 and Benin on 14.

Addressing journalists this week, Notši expressed disappointment with the results but praised the players' commitment.

"I would not say I am satisfied, but I do acknowledge the effort and commitment shown by the players in representing their country," he said.

"We started off strong, but it became increasingly clear that things would get tougher as the campaign progressed."

He said the deeper problem lies in the structural weaknesses of Lesotho's football ecosystem, especially the domestic league.

"Many of our players come from

local clubs, and the standard of our league reflects the quality of our national team. It is much harder to select players

when the level of competition they face regularly is not high. In contrast, our opponents

often field players who are used

leagues." Notši acknowledged that preparations for this campaign had improved compared to previous years, thanks to a stronger technical setup and new assistant coaches. But the underlying issue of league quality, he noted, continues to undermine progress.

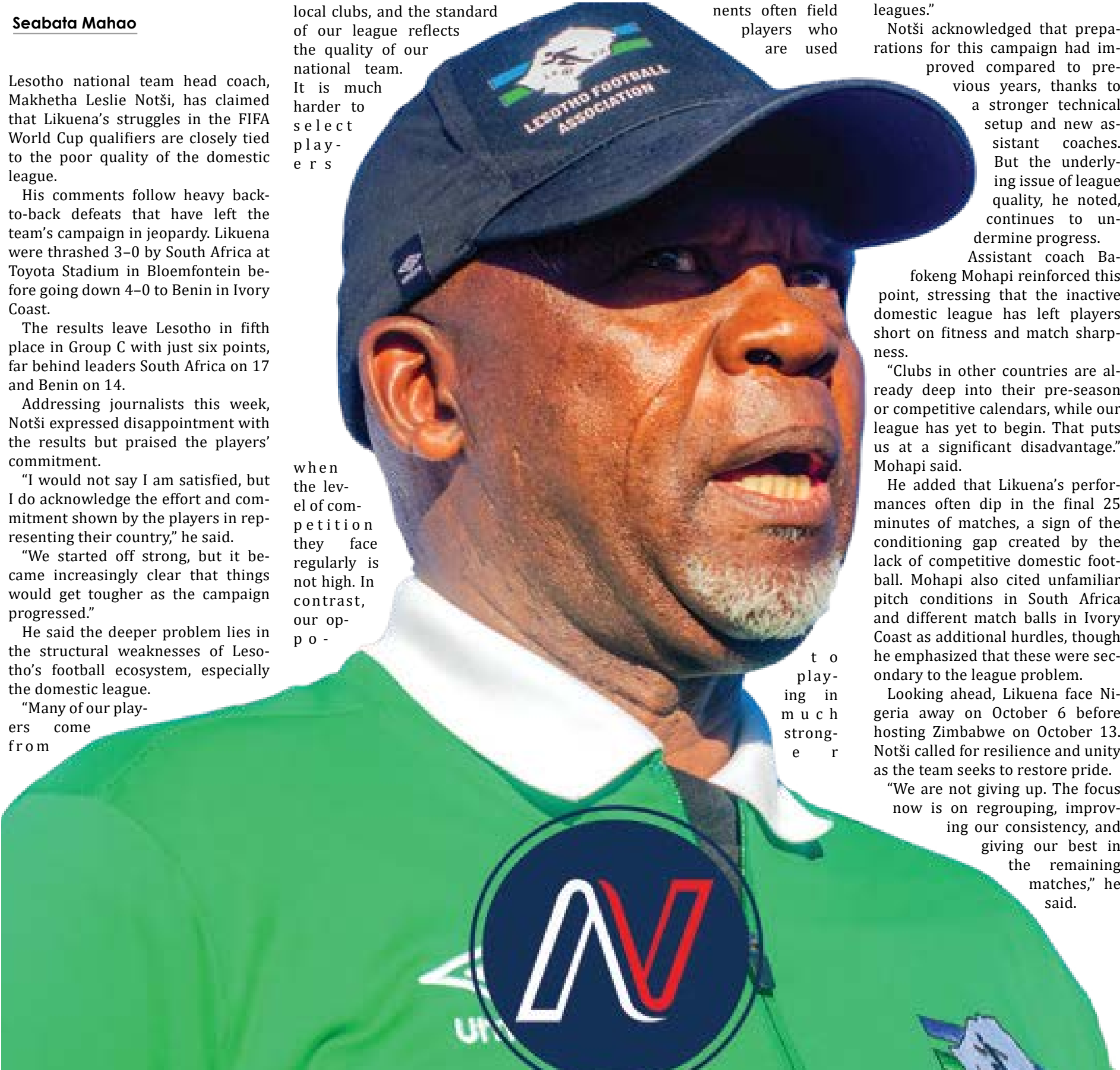
Assistant coach Bafokeng Mohapi reinforced this point, stressing that the inactive domestic league has left players short on fitness and match sharpness.

"Clubs in other countries are already deep into their pre-season or competitive calendars, while our league has yet to begin. That puts us at a significant disadvantage," Mohapi said.

He added that Likuena's performances often dip in the final 25 minutes of matches, a sign of the conditioning gap created by the lack of competitive domestic football. Mohapi also cited unfamiliar pitch conditions in South Africa and different match balls in Ivory Coast as additional hurdles, though he emphasized that these were secondary to the league problem.

Looking ahead, Likuena face Nigeria away on October 6 before hosting Zimbabwe on October 13. Notši called for resilience and unity as the team seeks to restore pride.

"We are not giving up. The focus now is on regrouping, improving our consistency, and giving our best in the remaining matches," he said.



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