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Ntsoaki Motaung

The Principal Secretary of Environment and Forestry, 'Maphakamile Xingwana, is once again at the centre of controversy after issuing conflicting communications about her absence from office, one to the Government Secretary (GS) and another to her own ministry, leaving senior officials, including her minister, confused.

In a letter dated August 21, 2025, Xingwana formally requested permission from GS Teboho 'Mokela to be out of the country from September 8 to 10 to attend the Second Africa Climate Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

She said her deputy, Apesi Ratšele, would act in her position.

"The government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, will host the second Africa Climate Summit from the 8th to the 10th September 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme 'Accelerating Global Climate Solutions and Financing for Africa's Resilience and Green Development"."

She explained that the Summit is designed to tackle Africa's pressing climate challeng-



travel and daily subsistence allowance for the delegation will be partially covered by the government, while the rest is being externally sourced.

"Therefore, authority to attend the above-mentioned Summit is requested. Please be informed that the Deputy Principal Secretary, Mr. Apesi Ratšele will be acting in my office while I will be out of the office on official duties," she said.

She added that Lesotho's delegation would include herself, Dr Teke Ramotubei (Director of Lesotho Meteorological Services), Mokoena France (Principal Meteorologist), and 'Marealeboha Boutu (Meteorologist).

The letter, endorsed by Minister Letsema Adontši on August 25 and approved by the GS on August 27, clearly indicated a three-day ab-

But just two days later, on August 29, Xingwana circulated an internal memo to ministry directors and heads of departments, informing them she would be away on "other official duties" from September 1 to 12, and that, instead of Ratšele, her office would be overseen by Nkuebe Lerotholi, Director of Soil and Water.

"Please note that I will be on other official duties from 1st to 12th September 2025. Director Soil and Water, Mr. Nkuebe Lerotholi, will therefore perform duties to the Office of the Principal Secretary. Your usual advanced cooperation

and support is noted." The contradictory correspondence has sown confusion in the ministry. Senior officials told Newsday the minister himself was left in the dark.

'Mokela told Newsday yesterday that she was not aware of the PS's internal communication to ministry officials, explaining that such interoffice memos are not ordinarily shared with her office.

PS's absence sparks confusion and chaos

She said she only deals with correspondence directly exchanged between herself and PSs, but stressed that even those remain internal government communications she could not publicly comment on.

Pressed on whether she knew the PS's whereabouts, 'Mokela offered only: "She is performing public duties."

The contradictory correspondence has sown confusion in the ministry. Senior officials told Newsday the minister himself was left in

'Mokela told Newsday yesterday that she was not aware of the PS's communication to the ministry's officials, indicating that it was an interoffice communication which, under normal circumstances, she cannot be privy to.

She indicated that she was aware of the communications from PSs to herself and from herself to the PSs but emphasised that even such was internal government communication which she cannot comment on publicly.

Asked specifically if she knew where the PS was, she said: "She is performing public duties."

The controversy comes barely two months after Newsday reported that the ministry was "teetering on the brink of collapse" under what insiders described as a reign of terror by Xing-

Her leadership was characterised as "erratic, authoritarian, and unaccountable", plunging one of the country's most critical ministries into dysfunction and fear.

In a formal complaint to GS 'Mokela, senior officials, whose identities are known to Newsday, accused the PS of unilateral decision-making, blatant disregard for procedure, and intolerance for dissent. Morale, they said, had plummeted, and operations were near

Among the most damning allegations was that Xingwana had hoarded four government vehicles for personal use, despite being entitled to only one. Sources said the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism and Land Cluster was alerted to the abuse but failed to act.

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

Committee chair Moeketsi Motšoane denied ignoring the complaints but admitted the ministry faced "many problems" requiring urgent resolution. "We are seized with these matters, and they will be resolved," he told Newsday in

The seeds of the crisis date back to July 2024, when Minister Adontši himself wrote to both the GS and Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane, formally requesting Xingwana's re-

"I humbly request your office to change the PS I am working with now, Mrs. 'Maphakamile Xingwana," Adontši wrote, citing her obstructionist behaviour, including barring directors from accessing his office without her permis-

"This leads to me not getting any feedback or necessary information on anything being done in the ministry," he said. "The majority of staff complain about her making it hard for them to fulfil their tasks because she delays or at times does not authorise documents."

More than a year later, the minister's pleas have gone unheeded. Instead, the crisis has deepened, with Xingwana's latest contradictory absence leaving the ministry rudderless and more divided.

Staff Reporter

The Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) has secured a court order to attach the assets of the Lesotho Housing and Land Development Corporation (LHLDC) over a tax debt exceeding M35 million.

According to the order, LHLDC owes RSL a total of M35,722,995.38 in unpaid taxes, with the debt accruing interest at a staggering 22 percent annually.

The order authorises RSL to seize LHLDC's movable assets, and if those prove insufficient, its immovable assets may also be attached and sold. LHLDC has been given 14 days to settle the debt, failing which RSL will execute the order and auction the assets publicly to recover the outstanding amount.

"It is therefore to authorise you to attach, remove, and take into your custody or possession the movable goods of Lesotho Housing and Land Development Corporation and if insufficient attach the immovable property of the Lesotho Housing and Land development Corporation and of the same cause to be realised by public auction in the sum of M35,722,995.38 together with your costs of this execution and pay to the RSL the aforesaid sum of M35,722,995.38 and return to this court what you have done by virtue thereof," reads the order to the sheriff of the Magistrate

RSL attaches Lesotho Housing assets over M35 million tax debt



LHLDC is a state-owned enterprise established under the Lesotho Housing and Land Development Corporation Order No. 12 of 1988, following the merger of the Lower Income Housing Company (LEHCO-OP) and the Lesotho Housing Corporation (LHC).

The corporation falls under the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship, which holds a 75 percent stake, while the remaining 25 percent is owned by the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC).

This latest move underscores RSL's hardening stance on tax defaulters, even among government-owned companies. Just last month, RSL obtained a similar order against Loti Brick, another state enterprise, for unpaid taxes amounting to M7,401,813.03.

ewsday (+266) 2231 4267/ 5945 8983

Carlton Centre 3rd Floor **Room 302** Kingsway Maseru

PUBLISHER Newsday Media (Pty) (Ltd) Maseru

MANAGING EDITOR Lerato Matheka managingeditor@newsdayonline.co.ls

Kananelo Boloetse editor@newsdayonline.co.ls **SUB EDITOR** Bereng Mpaki

NEWS ROOM Ntsoaki Motauna Seabata Mahao Thoboloko Ntšonyane **CONTRIBUTORS** Theko Tlebere Motsamai Mokotjo

PRODUCTION Bolokang Mahlo Bataung Monaheng

VIDEOGRAPHER Tumelo Taole

DISTRIBUTION Lehlohonolo Mantsoe

MARKETING Tefah Sello Tumelo Ramotsoane marketing@newsdayonline.co.ls

WEBSITE www.newsdayonline.co.ls **FACEBOOK Newsday Newspaper LS** @LsNewsday

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Is crime happening under CBL's nose?

Staff Reporter

The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), custodian of financial stability and guardian of the public's money, is refusing to answer direct questions about what appear to be blatant violations of the law, pure criminality, by Zenith Horizon Insurance and its controversial subsidiary, Mamoth Health.

Instead of clarifying whether it has approved, investigated, or penalised these arrangements, the Bank has chosen silence. This is fuelling suspicion that crime may be happening in plain sight, under the very institution mandated to stop it.

Section 11(4) of the Financial Institutions Act, 2012, could not be clearer. It states that no unlicensed entity may accept deposits from the public.

"A person, other than a licensed deposit-taking institution, shall not accept any deposits from the public."

It further warns: "Any person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (4) commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to either or both penalties provided in the First Schedule (10 years imprisonment or M500,000 fine)."

However, Newsday has confirmed that Mamoth Health, which has no CBL licence, continues to collect contributions from members of the public as if it were a financial institution.

Zenith Horizon Insurance, which is licensed by the central bank, is said to own and manage Mamoth. That ownership structure alone raises the spectre of serious illegality, but the CBL will not say whether it has



intervened.

Section 28(14) of the same Act prohibits financial institutions from holding shares in another undertaking, except under narrow, explicitly approved circumstances.

The law provides: "A financial institution shall not directly or indirectly, acquire or hold any part of the share capital of any financial, commercial, agricultural, industrial or other undertaking except such share-holdings as a financial institution may acquire in the course of the satisfaction of debts due to it, which share-holdings shall, however, be disposed of at the earliest suitable moment and not later than a date at which such disposition may occur without incurring a loss, as the Commissioner may approve and, in any

case, within 2 years of their acquisition at the latest, this period may be extended for a period of up to one year by approval of the Commissioner."

Despite this, Zenith reportedly owns around 70 percent of Mamoth.

When asked if Zenith had sought and obtained approval from the Commissioner, and if not, why it has not taken enforcement action, the bank did not answer.

The Act does more than prohibit corporate misconduct; it also holds directors and officers personally liable for contraventions, with penalties that could lead to prosecution.

"A person who contravenes the provisions of this section commits an offence and, on conviction, shall be liable to a penalty

of either or both penalties provided in the First Schedule (two years imprisonment or M40,000 fine)."

It continues: "Provided that where the person found guilty of such offence is a body corporate, the term of imprisonment set out in the third column of the First Schedule (two years imprisonment) shall apply to any director, officer, or person responsible for carrying out any contravention of such provisions."

Yet the CBL, when pressed on whether Zenith Horizon's executives, including its CEO, could face liability, declined to confirm if investigations are even underway.

In response to Newsday's detailed questions, the CBL issued only this: "The Bank is prohibited by the law from disclosing information relating to the affairs of a regulated entity and is therefore unable to comment further."

Last week Newsday reported that Zenith Horizon, a regulated insurer under direct CBL supervision, had apparently gone rogue, acquiring a majority stake in Mamoth Insurance/Medical Aid around 2023–2024 and assuming management control.

Instead of rescuing the troubled health insurer, multiple insiders allege Zenith's involvement hastened Mamoth's collapse. Staff went unpaid for months, some were forced to resign just to access their pensions, and others faced frozen bank accounts or the threat of losing property.

Allegations also point to conflicts of interest, with Zenith's ties to another medical aid scheme raising concerns of collusion and the deliberate weakening of competition in Lesotho's medical aid sector.

Even when the Ministry of Trade sought to intervene, sources say Zenith blocked the move, promising to rescue Mamoth itself, a promise that never materialised.

The company now sits insolvent, employees abandoned, and the public left to wonder whether the regulator was complicit, complacent, or simply asleep.



Workers to march for AGOA renewal, **US tariff reversal**

Bereng Mpaki

Lesotho's textile and garment industry workers are preparing to take to the streets in a lastditch effort to protect thousands of jobs threatened by global trade uncertainty.

A coalition of trade unions yesterday announced plans to petition both the Government of Lesotho and the United States to renew the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and reverse new U.S. tariffs on Lesotho's textile exports.

The unions, Independent Democratic Union of Lesotho (IDUL), United Textile Employees (UNITE), Lesotho Workers Association (LEWA), National Clothing, Textile and Allied Workers Union (NACTWU), and the Construction, Mining, Quarrying and Allied Workers (CMQ), said urgent action is needed as AGOA's expiration date looms.

The current trade concession is set to end in September 2025, and with no certainty about its renewal, factories are already scaling back

Addressing journalist at a press briefing, the unions described AGOA as "the backbone of Lesotho's textile exports and job creation."



They warned that the uncertainty has already led to reduced export orders and some factory

"We call on the Government of Lesotho and U.S. legislators to urgently secure an extension of AGOA under fair and inclusive terms," the unions said.

"The extension is vital for economic growth, job creation, and preventing job losses for Basotho. Without it, the country faces economic instability and a potential collapse of its key export industry. Our workers must not be collateral damage in global trade negotiations."

The textile industry remains Lesotho's largest private sector employer. Trade and Industry Minister Mokhethi Shelile warned in April of "disastrous consequences" if AGOA lapses. According to his ministry, 11 factories currently serve the U.S. market, employing more than 12,000 Basotho workers, most of them women.

Alongside the uncertainty over AGOA, the unions are also protesting against the imposition of new U.S. tariffs on Lesotho's exports. Goods entering the U.S. from Lesotho are now subject to duties of up to 15 percent, a policy the unions say is already devastating factories.

"The imposition of punitive U.S. tariffs, up to 15%, has devastated our textile sector, leading to mass layoffs and factory shutdowns. These tariffs disproportionately harm women and youth particularly in the textile industry, who make up the majority of the garment workforce.

"This leads to widespread economic hardship, reduced local spending, and necessitates drastic government action to mitigate the effects of job losses and provide support for affected communities."

They added that families dependent on lowwage factory jobs are struggling to afford basic needs such as rent and food.

The Private Sector Foundation of Lesotho (PSFL) echoed these concerns in July, warning that U.S. tariffs, originally proposed at 50 percent but now implemented at 15 percent, could reduce Lesotho's export orders by as much as 30 percent.

Minister Shelile has also recently expressed frustration, noting that continued trade with the U.S. is becoming unsustainable under the current tariff regime, adding that the government has made repeated efforts to negotiate tariff relief with U.S. authorities.

In addition to trade issues, the unions plan to raise concerns about violations of workers' rights in the textile sector. They highlighted the case of Quantum Apparel, accusing the company of intimidating employees, imposing lockouts, and denying them the right to freely associate.

"Workers at Quantum Apparel have faced intimidation, lockouts, and denial of their right to freely associate and organise. This company is violating a fundamental right guaranteed by the constitution and international agreements.

"Without freedom of association, workers are unable to form collective bodies to advocate for better wages, working conditions, and other rights, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation."

The unions are calling for the immediate reinstatement of affected workers, recognition of union representation, and strict enforcement of labor laws.

"We will not be silent while our people suffer. We call on government, industry, and international partners to act now. Decent work is not a privilege, it is a right."

Although they are yet to secure a permit authorising the march from Lesotho Mounted Police Service, the unions plan to stage it on September 17 this year.

Destitute Mafeteng High School left

... as water relief bypasses students

high and dry

Ntsoaki Motaung

A humanitarian effort to bring water relief to drought-stricken schools in Mafeteng has been met with both gratitude and disappointment.

While one school celebrates a new water source, another feels left high and dry.

In February 2025, Newsday highlighted the severe water crisis affecting Mafeteng town and surrounding villages, including schools such as Mafeteng High School and St John's A.C.L. High School.

Following the report, Sechaba Milling Company announced plans to install boreholes in the most affected schools, inviting the public to suggest which schools should receive aid. Both Mafeteng High and St John's were popular choices, and the company confirmed site visits to both institutions.

The outcomes, however, have diverged sharply. While St John's High School now has a sustainable water supply, Mafeteng High



School's principal, Ramahetlana 'Matli, told Newsday on Tuesday during a follow-up visit to the school that they were promised help but received nothing.

'Matli said that after the initial visit, Sechaba Milling Company failed to communicate. When he finally reached out, he was told the company would no longer help because the school's enrollment of 326 students was below their 500-student threshold.

"They told me they were no longer going to help because our school roll is lower than 500," Matli said. "What was left in my mind as a question was, 'Is it okay for school children to suffer because they are not many?"

Matli is concerned about the upcoming summer season, fearing his students will face the same water challenges as before.

Meanwhile, St John's High School Principal, Tumo Moshesha, confirmed to this publication on Tuesday that Sechaba Milling Company had followed through on its promise.

The borehole has significantly reduced the school's water bill, dropping from M10,000 to

"They have really helped us, and we have nothing to worry about," Moshesha stated.

However, the school is now facing a new problem as the pump is believed to be blocked

Moshesha explained that he has reported the issue to Sechaba Milling Company, and he is actively seeking a solution, even considering taking the pump to Bloemfontein, South Africa, for maintenance.

Bofihla Nneko, on behalf of Sechaba Milling Company, on Thursday, said the company was always willing to assist when there is a crisis, and the Mafeteng water crisis prompted them to do something, and then they decided they could start by helping schools.

The minimum budget for assisting St John's High School was M25,000.

Nnneko indicated that with St John's High School, the company resuscitated an already existing borehole, provided a tank and assisted with the connection.

"For Mafeteng High School, after our analysis was realised, their school roll was very low and did not allow us to assist when looking at our principles. We decided to put the project on hold," he said.

He indicated that Sechaba Milling Company is committed to helping communities in crisis, and they are reviewing to look into where they will extend a helping hand should Mafeteng experience the same crisis in future.

LMS forecasts wette summer as

Ntsoaki Motaung

Farmers and residents across Lesotho are looking toward the coming months with a sense of cautious optimism, as the Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) has released a promising preliminary forecast for the 2025/26 rainfall season.

The outlook, issued on Wednesday, suggests a heightened likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall between October and February, a welcome change after recent climate-related challenges.

The forecast is shaped by a significant shift in a global climate pattern known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

This is one of the most powerful natural phenomena on Earth, second only to the seasonal cycle driven by the Earth's orbit. ENSO has three phases: El Niño (warmer-than-average ocean temperatures in the Pacific), La Niña (cooler-than-average temperatures), and a neutral phase.

The report from the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) indicates that the current neutral ENSO conditions are expected to transition into a weak La Niña phase, starting as early as October and lasting through March 2026.

For Southern Africa, a La Niña event is typically associated with increased rainfall and cooler conditions.

This is the main reason why the LMS is predicting a wetter season for Lesotho. The preliminary forecast suggests a gradual progression toward these wetter conditions.

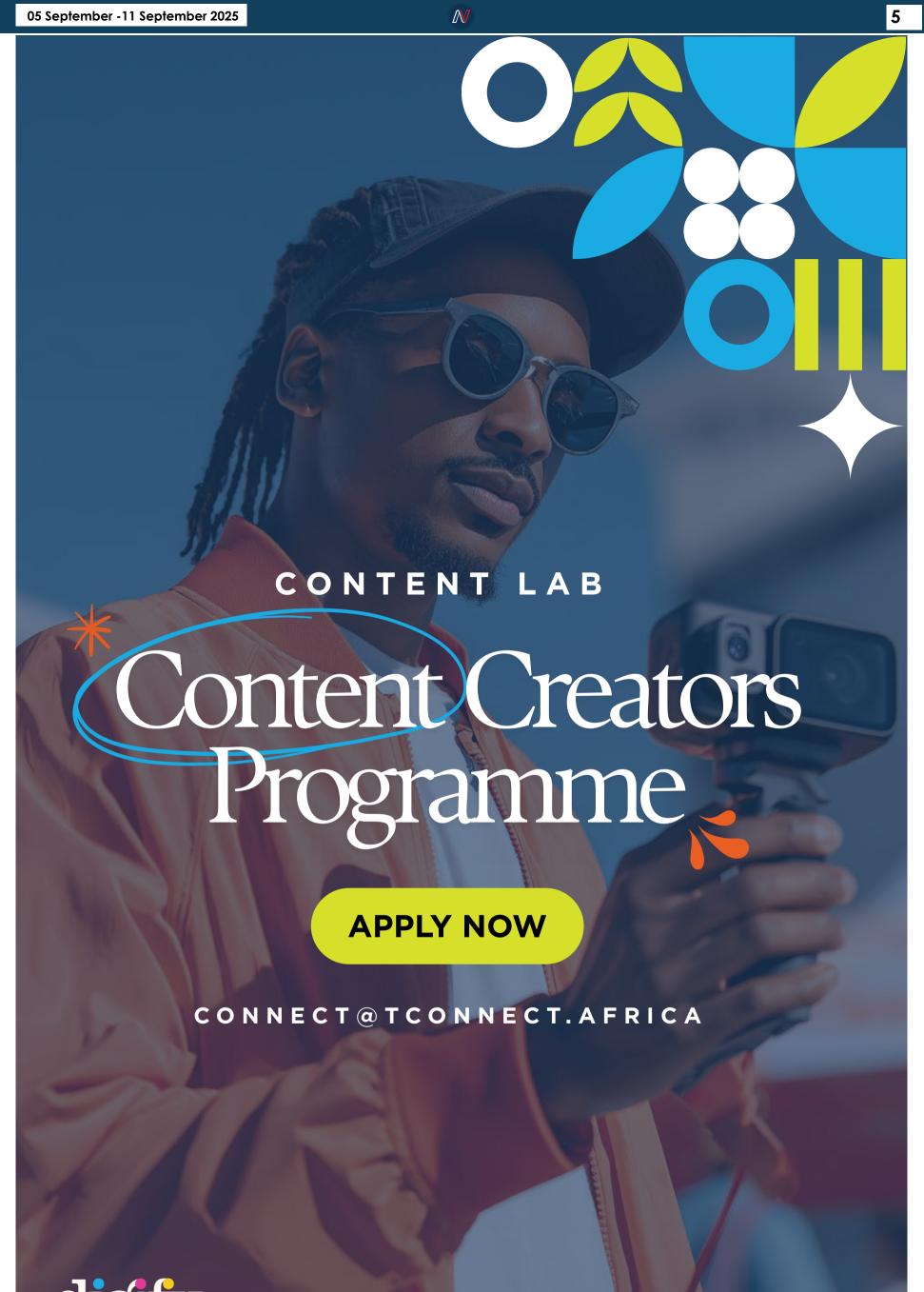
The first three months, from October to December, are most likely to receive rainfall within the normal range. However, as the heart of summer approaches, a shift is anticipated, with a higher probability of above-normal rainfall during the December-January-February period.

This detailed prediction is a result of advanced meteorological science. The LMS report specifies that the forecast was generated by statistically "downscaling" data from a system called the North American Multi-Model

Ensemble (NMME).

The NMME is a collaborative climate forecasting project that combines data from several sophisticated climate models from various research centres in North America. By using a multi-model approach, scientists are able to produce more accurate and reliable forecasts.

The Lesotho Meteorological Services used this data as a base, along with historical rainfall records from 1991 to 2020, to train and calibrate its local forecasting model. The model, a powerful system called the Python Climate Predictability Tool (PyCPT), utilised specific inputs like predicted sea surface temperatures from July to make its final determi-





T-CONNECT

Newsday

EcoCash moves over M8 billion in 2024



Dennies Plaatjies

Staff Reporter

Just last year, more than M8 billion flowed through EcoCash, according to Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dennis Plaatjies.

Speaking at ETL's Digital Expo 2025 cocktail dinner, attended by Prime Minister Ntsokoane Sam Matekane and Minister of Information, Communication, Science, Technology and Innovation Nthati Moorosi at Maseru Mall last Friday, Plaatjies said EcoCash has become the heartbeat of financial inclusion in Lesotho.

"Our other big story is financial inclusion. Through EcoCash Spache-Fono and EcoSure Rebolokehile, we've transformed the way money flows in Lesotho. Just last year alone, more than M8 billion moved through Eco-Cash," he said.

"That's not just a number. That's school fees being paid on time. That's families sending money safely to loved ones. That's small businesses growing and creating jobs," he added.

He stressed that EcoCash Agents and Merchants must not be overlooked, describing them as "ordinary Basotho running businesses, serving their communities, and making a living through the EcoCash ecosystem."

"Every transaction is a story of empowerment," Plaatjies said.

The CEO also pointed to Econet's growing

focus on micro, small and medium enterprises

"Small businesses are the backbone of the economy, and that's why we're building solutions especially for them," he said. "Take our recently launched EcoTicket, for example a platform that allows you to buy tickets for events. It comes at an exciting time as our entertainment and creative industries continue to grow. Econet Lecholi is already listed on the platform, and many more events will follow."

He also highlighted EcoMart, ETL's online marketplace designed to bring small businesses into the digital space. "Additionally, we offer web development services and WiFi Plus for Business. That's how we are giving MSMEs the tools to compete, thrive, and scale."

On connectivity, Plaatjies said Econet had made "bold moves" to expand Lesotho's digital backbone.

"5G is now live across all major towns, fibre connects 9 of our 10 districts, with Thaba-Tseka next in line, and today, every single Econet tower across Lesotho is LTE-enabled," he said.

But for him, this is not just about speed.

"It's about giving a child in Mokhotlong the same online learning opportunities as a child in Maseru. It's about making sure a farmer in Quthing can use digital tools to access weather information, market prices, and mobile payments. It's about creating equal opportunity no matter where you live."

"When we invest in fibre, LTE, and 5G, we are investing in inclusion, and in Lesotho's digital economy," he said.

Staff Reporter

The government has officially launched the Lesotho National Single Window (LNSW), ushering in a new era of digital trade facilitation.

From 1 September 2025, all certificates, licences, and permits for imports and exports under the Ministry of Agriculture, the Lesotho National Dairy Board, and other participating agencies are processed exclusively through the LNSW platform at www.lnsw.gov.ls.

Led by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development, the LNSW streamlines applications across multiple agencies, allow real-time tracking of permits, cut processing times and costs, and promote transparency in trade.

It is intended to reduce border delays, improve compliance, and strengthen efficiency across the country's trade processes. However, its operationalisation means that manual applications will no longer be accepted.

The reform aligns with Article 10.4 of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement, ratified by Lesotho in 2016. It provides a centralised platform where traders can process all trade-related permits, licences, and certificates electronically, eliminating the need to visit multiple offices.

"The Government of Lesotho successfully launched the Lesotho National Single Window (LNSW) on 29 August 2025 in Maseru," a statement from the Ministry said.

In July 2025, government agencies set to be integrated into the platform received information and communication technology (ICT) equipment worth M4 million, procured under the World Bank-supported Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) Project. The consignment included laptops, desktops, printers, servers, routers, and backup power systems.

The Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Palesa Matobako, said the handover was more than a distribution of equipment, describing it as a milestone toward a more efficient and transparent trade environment. She emphasised that the reform reflects the Ministry's commitment to simplifying cross-border procedures and enhancing Lesotho's compet-

Chaba Mokuku, CAFI's Project Manager, noted that the digital reform journey began in 2014 with the launch of the Trade Information Portal, followed by a pilot Single Window phase in 2022.

That phase connected the One-Stop Business Facilitation Centre (responsible for business registration and licensing) with the Lesotho Revenue Authority, now Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL), which handled customs clearance. Despite COVID-19 disruptions, the pilot was successfully completed.

Now that the LNSW is in operation, RSL has assumed full operational management of the platform. The next milestone, scheduled for

New trace Palitatio

February 2026, will see ten additional government agencies fully integrated into the system. Mokuku noted that the Single Window will particularly benefit small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which often struggle with the complexity of trade regulations, by making documentation more predictable and acces-

Once fully operational, the platform will integrate directly with the customs management system. Traders will be able to reference licences and permits digitally rather than uploading scanned copies, a shift expected to speed up border clearance, lower costs, and increase transparency.

Agencies already lined up for integration

- Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition - import/export permits for controlled commodities;
- Department of Livestock and Fisheries

- veterinary permits;
- Department of Agricultural Research - plant import permits and phytosanitary certificates;
- Lesotho Dairy Board dairy trade per-
- Ministry of Health certificates for food safety, medicines, narcotics, and medical devices;
- Ministry of Natural Resources (Department of Mines) - mineral export permits;
- Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police - firearm and explosives permits, regional police clearances;
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport (Department of Traffic) - cross-border transport permits; and
- Ministry of Sports, Tourism, Arts and Culture - alcohol import permits.

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 37 of the Administration 0f 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 0f 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



Interviewsday Interview

Prof Fajana on transforming Lesotho's premier university

When **Prof Olusola Isaac Fajana** assumed the role of Vice-Chancellor at the National University of Lesotho (NUL) in 2021, he inherited a university grappling with financial strain, aging infrastructure, and tense industrial relations. Four years later, Newsday's Thoboloko Ntšonyane spoke with him about the strides made in stabilising and modernising the institution.

Thoboloko Ntšonyane (TN): Since your appointment as the Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Lesotho (NUL) how has the journey been?

Prof Olusola Isaac Fajana (Prof Fajana): I was brought into the office of Vice-Chancellor of the NUL in August 2021. The journey has been full of experiences that were both challenging and inspiring.

TN: What challenge/s did you find unsettling and how have you addressed those issues?

Prof Fajana: Funding, old and dilapidating infrastructure and industrial relations were three of the most significant challenges, and all these collectively threatened the peace and stability of the university for about two of the four years I have spent at NUL.

Funding: the size of the subvention from the government continued to be very low even at the time of this interview. Permission has not been granted to increase fees possibly because of the fear that increased fees will close access of the citizens to higher education. Even development partners are manifesting donor fatigue – donations to NUL in recent times have reduced considerably. We have introduced austerity measures to reduce costs, and have put a moratorium on employment, and have not filled positions that were vacant for two or more years; a method of natural attrition. All our stakeholders have responded with a high level of uneasy understanding.

Old and dilapidating infrastructure: this challenge, which is still persisting, arises from the funding challenge. We had issues with information communication technology: inadequate bandwidth for internet connectivity, breaking cables, and the likes. The situation has changed but there is still room for improvement.

Industrial relations: the attitude to work was mostly poor and very slow. Staffers were working strictly according to rules or only within their job descriptions. The morale was low on account of poor salaries and perceived corruption leading to strike actions by staff and students. Staff turnover was very high especially among the high skilled professors. To mitigate this industrial relations challenge, I applied the soft approach which involved personally hosting seminars and workshops among senior management. The topics included: detoxifying a politicized environment, costs and benefits of strike actions, among others. I ensured staff whose salaries were wrongly placed were corrected, ensured the workers union had a recognition agreement with management, and ensured that inflation adjusters were annually implemented. Calls for promotion were made for academic staff and promotion criteria for non-academic staff were formulated and approved. The performance management system was revised and its processing for Council approval is well advanced.

The agitations against leaders of the institution that came from the NUL Community (a very formidable pressure group) have reduced considerably. The NUL is today peaceful and stable.

TN: How far have you come with the plans



you set out to achieve, and how do you assess your performance?

Prof Fajana: My priority plan was to write the fourth Strategic Plan (2024-2029). This was done over a period of two years, a time long enough to allow deeper ownership of the plan by our stakeholders. The plan was approved by the University Council in December 2023. Excellent progress has been reported for the first year of the implementation of the plan. Three aspects of the life of NUL that are being recalibrated and embedded in the Plan are - quality, relevance and visibility. Guided by this plan, I would give a performance assessment to myself that is largely in the positive with impacts in all areas of the mandate of the university: research, teaching, community service, innovation and industrialization.

TN: Amongst the priorities you had outlined when you assumed this position was the repurpose the Institute of Extra-Mural Studies by introducing the Business School which would be hosted in the city. How far have you gone in realising this goal?

Prof Fajana: Arguably, the Institute of Extra-Mural Studies is the Maseru city campus of the National University of Lesotho. The plan to make IEMS a Business School is well advanced with collaborations from a number of our partnering institutions within and outside the SADC. Furthermore, IEMS continues to serve as the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) arm of the NUL contributing towards the realisation of the Business School and online learning. Support had been received from the Commonwealth of Learning to strengthen the university to become a Centre of Excellence in Technologically Enhanced Learning through our Centre for Teaching and Learning. TN: The NUL community has previously

expressed concerns about the manual registration process, especially since this could be conducted online. What is your response to this issue, and what plans do you have in place to transition to an online registration system moving forward?

Prof Fajana: Online application had just been newly operational at the NUL when I came onboard. At that time, the school system was old and incapable of full-online registration, only partial was achieved. The Integrated school system (ITS) has now been upgraded from v3.0 to v4.1 with greater functionalities, including full online applications and registration. The

upgrade was resource intensive but worth the expense.

TN: Recent media reports have highlighted concerns regarding the misuse of Artificial Intelligence by students at the university. It is alleged that some students rely on AI to produce their work instead of engaging their cognitive abilities. In light of these challenges, what policies and measures are currently in place to address this issue as well as capacitating the lecturers with resources that will enable them to spot AI produced work?

Prof Fajana: One of the core institutional values driving our Strategic Plan (2024-2029) is integrity. The scenario you painted are a reality in all educational institutions around the world: the abuse of AI by students is quite real and alarming globally. To check this trend at the NUL, we orientate our students into the core values of the institution on arrival. We have emplaced an intellectual property policy, a plagiarism policy

and we have procured and deployed the Turnitin software to check and calculate the originality index in our students' assignments and dissertations or theses as appropriate.

TN: NUL has for long depended on government subsidy and tuition fees, and sometimes this has not proven sustainable in the long run as the university has had its fair share of financial constraints. What have you done or what are you currently doing to ensure that the university diversify its income generation streams for it to achieve its goals?

Prof Fajana: Seeking conference support (successful mostly in the Library), introduction of short learning programmes, partnerships for joint programmes and research, better placement of investments, setting up of policies and processes for fundraising are measures taken or in the pipeline. These measures may have the potential to instigate some relief in the longer run. But they are unable to address squarely the immediate challenges. Thus, the Council has set up a lobbying mechanism to get the government to give a special bail-out fund to revitalise the business process of the institution and give the products the desired quality.

TN: Could you please provide insights into the university's research funding? We wish to know how much in percentage increase in research funding have you implemented since you took office.

Prof Fajana: Research project reporting has come up on the agenda of the university in recent times. The reports will be made available as soon as possible. But for now, I can say that the NUL as a research driven institution has made much impact in the lives of Basotho, contributing significantly to the achievement of national development goals (NSDP II) in terms of energy needs, improved agricultural produce, quality assurance of qualifications at the lower levels, legal research, medical outreach in cancer treatment, etc.

To be continued in next week's issue.



Senqu Bridge nears completion

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The long-anticipated Senqu Bridge in Mokhotlong is inching closer to completion, with the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) announcing that the towering structure will be ready by February 2026, a few months later than its initial November 2025 deadline.

By the end of July 2025, construction stood at 86 percent complete, with the bridge already commanding attention as a monumental feat of engineering.

Stretching 825 meters in length and rising 90 meters high, the Senqu Bridge will not only be the tallest in Lesotho, but also the tallest bridge on the African continent. Supported by 15 piers ranging from 15 to 90 meters, the bridge is designed to last over a century.

The Senqu Bridge is one of three bridges being built under Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), alongside the Mabunyane and Khubelu bridges, constructed at a combined cost of M500

The Sengu Bridge alone comes at a staggering M2.3 billion.

According to the Resident Chief Engineer Louis Joubert of Zutari, Senqu Bridge lifespan is over 100 years. Zutari has been engaged as the consultant of the three



bridges. Joubert said when Polihali Dam is full, its water will rise up to five meters of the bridge's highest point.

He mentioned that it will also feature a pedestrian walkway, which will be barricaded to prevent people from jumping into the water to commit suicide. The bridge design started in 2018, and the contract for the construction was awarded in November 2022 and the actual construction took place in April 2023.

The Chief Resident Engineer said about six months were lost also due to strike and during the initial phase of the construction. The LHDA stated that if this bridge would not have been constructed, it would be difficult for the people of Mokhotlong to access the town.

The Polihali reservoir, located in the valleys and tributary catchments of the Sengu, Khubelu, Mokhotlong, Moremoholo, and Sehong-hong rivers, will be created by the construction of the Polihali Dam. It is going to cover a surface area of about 5,000 hec-

About 1 300 people had been employed, and now there are reportedly 800 people on the site, the number which is expected to dwindle as much of the work will be done by machinery.

The LHDA has awarded the contract for building the Senqu Bridge to the WRES Sengu Bridge Joint Venture. The WRES Joint Venture includes companies from South Africa, Lesotho, and other countries, as required by the Phase II Agreement.

The main partners are Webuild S.p.A. from Italy, Raubex Construction (Pty) Ltd from South Africa, Enza Construction (Pty) Ltd from South Africa, and Sigma Construction (Pty) Ltd from Lesotho. The subcontractors are EXR Construction (Pty) Ltd from South Africa, Gleitbau-Gesellschaft from Austria, Post Tensioning and Structural Solutions (Pty) Ltd from South Africa, and Freyssinet International et Cie from

The bridge design has taken into account the long, cold, and harsh winter conditions of the Mokhotlong highlands. The two bridges, Mabunyane and Khubelu bridges have been built at a cost of M500 million.

The supervising consultant, Resident Engineer Junno Van der Merve, assured that the progress is going well, and they are expected to be completed soon.

"Experience and expertise are crucial in delivering a sophisticated, technically challenging project of this kind, which will be a first for the LHWP and Lesotho. With its unique features, the Senqu Bridge will not only form part of the safe and efficient road infrastructure network constructed under Phase II but will be a major tourist attraction contributing to long term benefits in stimulating sustainable economic growth," said Ntsoli Maiketso, the Phase II Divisional Manager.

Polihali-Katse water transfer tunnel hits major milestones

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has announced steady progress in the construction of the Polihali Transfer Tunnel, a colossal undertaking that will channel water by gravity from the Polihali Reservoir to the Katse Reservoir under Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

Valued at just over M9 billion, this critical infrastructure project is being executed by Kopano Ke Matla Joint Venture (KKM JV) as the contractor, with Metsi a Senqu-Khubelu Consultants (MSKC JV) serving as engineers and supervising consultants.

MSKC Project Manager Freddie Laas has confirmed that several key components are either complete or approaching completion, marking significant strides in one of southern Africa's most ambitious water projects.

As of August 2025, he said the Polihali access adit, measuring 1,485 metres, is now 100 percent complete, marking a milestone in the project. The Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), which is heading towards Katse, has been completed with its 360 metres long, achieving 47.13 percent completion.

Meanwhile, the Polihali Connecting Tunnel has reached 31.8 percent completion at 1,178.78 metres long. According to the Project Manager, the Lower Intake Tunnel Lining is also nearing completion, with 350 metres long completed and almost complete with a 96.7 percent completion status.

Laas mentioned that the Katse TBM Adit has progressed to 1,041 metres long, achieving 68 percent completion, while the



Katse Access Adit is at 76.3 percent comfollowed by the upper intake tunnel breakpletion with 1,694 metres long completed. The Katse Gallery has reached 88 percent completion.

He highlighted that the main water tunnel construction is set to commence soon. This project will involve two TBMs, each driving 17.2 km and meeting halfway. The Katse TBM drive is expected to start at the end of 2025, while the Polihali TBM is scheduled to begin drilling in early 2026.

Taking stock of the achievements, Laas stated that the project has witnessed several significant achievements. Amongst them was the breakthrough of the lower intake tunnel which occurred on 5th August 2024

through taking place on the 19th August

The Polihali gate shaft pilot hole was completed by 26th August 2024 with raise boring following on 4th September 2024. Another milestone he said was also reached on 10th April 2025, when the Polihali gate shaft drill and blast breakthrough successfully connected the two intakes.

January 15, 2025 saw the launch of the Katse TBM, and was named 'Khoiti-ea-'Ngoaha-Kholo 2 (KENK2) a move that marked a major step forward, and the delivery of the Polihali TBM components was completed by 9th August 2025. The completion of the

Polihali Lower Intake tunnel concrete lining and the Polihali Access Adit has paved the way for the assembly of the TBM cham-

It is further reported that in addition to the tunnelling construction progress, the project has established essential site facilities including the construction of access roads, camps, and offices, as well as fully functioning wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and sewer treatment plants (STPs). The project has also seen the development of laboratory buildings, batch plants, segment manufacturing plants, quarry development, crusher plants, and explosives magazines.

Farmers reap rewards of LHDA partnership in Mokhotlong

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Farmers in Mokhotlong are celebrating a bumper harvest from their joint farming initiative with the Lesotho Highlands Depressed that they have gained resilience through their partnership with the LHDA. "We are now engaged in commercial farming. Our families and those of our neighbours have improved. We can send our

produce.

can sustain their lives in the future." Mahamo also mentioned that the LHDA assists them in securing markets for their

understand the benefits of farming so they

For his part, Realeboha Lebetla called on the LHDA to help them scale up their production and increase their capacity.

Boitumelo 'Mote, a Crop Production Officer, stated that they cultivated potatoes and maize in collaboration with farmers for sale. She mentioned that 40 acres of land were planted with potatoes, although the harvest was not satisfactory. They produced 1,490 bags of potatoes, which were sold for M99,340.

The maize was planted on 15.4 acres, yielding three varieties of yellow maize, and they experienced a good harvest, producing 78 bags of 70 kg each.

However, she noted that sales were low, as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) had previously provided potato seeds to farmers in Mokhotlong. They harvested 1,800 kg bags of potatoes, which

were sold for M81,000. "We want to leave the farmers as sustainable as they can," she emphasised.

LHDA stated that this farming project involves both those affected by the project and those who are not. They also engage community members for short-term work during the farming and harvesting seasons. Casual workers are paid M3,420 per month to remove invasive species, which hinder the growth of other plants. These include pasalina montana (rapeisi) and chrysocoma celiata (sehalahala).

The LHDA has also supported communities through various agricultural activities, including chicken rearing and egg production.

It has further rehabilitated areas under brush control, engaging over 1,400 beneficiaries and disbursing M41 million to them in wages. Approximately 178 hectares of land have been rehabilitated, 66 gabions constructed, and 4,137 indigenous trees planted.



ment Authority (LHDA), saying the partnership has transformed their livelihoods and strengthened community resilience.

The scheme operates on a 70-30 profit-sharing model, with 70 percent of proceeds going to the community and 30 percent to LHDA, and has enabled farmers to grow maize and potatoes at a scale they had never achieved before.

'Marethabile Motula, one of the beneficiary farmers, praised the partnership, stating that they had not enjoyed such a harvest before the LHDA came on board. Last year, Motula mentioned that they received a donation of 42 bags of potatoes, which were shared among six farmers.

She noted that they now take their proceeds to the bank and that they are no longer experiencing famine as farmers in Mokhotlong under the Sekokong Potatoes Association.

Another farmer, 'Mathabo Mahamo, ex-



M154 Million paid to communities displaced by Polihali Dam construction

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

At least M154 million has so far been disbursed to communities uprooted by the construction of the Polihali Dam under Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

The project, a cornerstone of Lesotho's water export deal with South Africa, will channel water from the Polihali reservoir to Katse, then onwards to the Ash River outfall in Clarens, ultimately quenching Gauteng's growing water demands.

Once completed, Polihali will add 2,325 million cubic metres of storage, boosting the scheme's supply capacity from 780 to 1,270 million cubic metres annually.

But this massive engineering feat has come at a heavy social cost. According to Mothoalo Chabalala, who oversees compensation for Phase II, more than 5,020 hectares of land have been acquired, displacing around 270 households in Mok-

The LHWP treaty obliges Lesotho and South Africa to safeguard the environment and protect affected communities. Yet, for many villagers, the transformation has been wrenching: ancestral land lost, fields submerged, and livelihoods

To cushion the blow, the Lesotho High-

lands Development Authority (LHDA) has rolled out both cash and non-financial compensation. Residents can choose between lump-sum payments, monthly stipends, or grain supplies.

Training initiatives have also been introduced to build alternative livelihoods: so far, 223 people have received training in trades like bricklaying and carpentry, while more than 1,800 others have undergone skills testing and accreditation.

"We want to move from restoration to improvement of livelihoods," said Chabalala, stressing LHDA's intention to ensure communities do not emerge poorer from the project.

Meanwhile, the LHDA bursary programme has awarded 16 scholarships worth over M4.1 million since 2018, with 70 percent going to Basotho students and the rest to South Africans. Additionally, 82 graduates are enrolled in the Young Professionals Programme, a key pipeline for developing expertise, though only 91 percent are Basotho, raising questions about how much local communities will truly benefit long term.

Despite these efforts, concerns linger over whether financial payouts and training schemes can truly replace the deep cultural and economic value of the land surrendered to the dam.



COMPETITIVENESS AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTERES

"ADVERTISEMENT"

(CONSULTING SERVICES- FIRM SELECTION)

Country : Lesotho

Project Name : Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) Project

Credit No. : 7169-LS

Assignment Title: Consulting Services for Revitalization of the Lesotho

Textile and Apparel Sector (RLTAS)

RFP Number CAFI-WB-0085

Reference No. : LS-MTI-507915-CS-QCBS

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR REVITALIZATION OF THE LESOTHO TEXTILE **AND APPAREL SECTOR (RLTAS)**

The Government of Lesotho has received a 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 consulting services ("the Services") include the services for Revitalization of the Lesotho Textile and Apparel Sector (RLTAS) and the assignment is to be implemented over a period of twenty-four (24) months.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development through CAFI Project Management Unit (PMU) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (brochures including the name of the country in which the firm is registered; experience of projects related to the assignment, including brief descriptions of most recent relevant assignments showing location, client, costs and staff involved, etc.).

The short-listing criteria are: (a) quality of submission; (b) core business and years in business; (c) experience of a firm on similar assignments (relevant experience); (d) technical and managerial capability of the firm; (e) firm's experience working in developing countries especially in the SADC region; and (f) for international firms, potential association with local consulting firms.

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 .

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.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract if selected.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

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

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form, in sealed envelopes labelled " CONSULTING SERVICES FOR REVITALIZATION OF THE LESOTHO TEXTILE AND APPAREL SECTOR (RLTAS) (RPF NO: CAFI-WB-0085)" with the name of the firm on the reverse side of the envelope, to the address below in person or by mail on or before Friday, September 05, 2025 at 16h00. E-mail submissions should be sent to tmohejane@ cafi.org.ls with a copy to Inthunya@cafi.org.ls.

The Managing Director

Lesotho Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion Project

1st Floor 'Matanki House

P.O. Box 747.

Maseru 100

Lesotho

Tel.: (+266) 22 315 100



TERMS OF REFERENCE **ENGAGEMENT OF EMPLOYEE WELLNESS SPECIALIST**

The Land Administration Authority (LAA) is an Agency of the Government of Lesotho, under the Minister of Local Government and Chieftainship. The LAA was established as an autonomous government body by the Land Administration Authority Act No. 9 of 2010 to reduce land transaction costs as well as turnaround time for registration of the transactions. More specifically, the LAA administers the lease-holding land system (leasehold title, grant of consents for transactions and keep all land holding records) administers the land deeds registration system administers cadastral surveys and all national spatial data provides dispute resolution services for land matters and advises the Minister of Local Government and Chieftainship and the Government of Lesotho on land administration laws and policies

Engagement of Employee Wellness Specialist

The LAA is seeking to services of Wellness Specialist to assist in the implementation, and management of its comprehensive employee wellness program that promotes the health and well-being of our employees.

The employee wellness program for the LAA aims to foster a positive work environment, reduce stress, improve employee engagement and improve overall productivity. It is further intents to provide the financial health, psychological, and social wellness

The primary objective of this engagement is to improve the mental and emotional health of employees by executing and managing a tailored wellness program that includes preventive healthcare, mental health support and healthy lifestyle promotion.

The Wellness Specialist will be responsible for the following:

Program Design & Implementation:

Assess employee mental health needs and interests.

- ·Develop a comprehensive mental health program tailored to the specific needs of the workforce.
- ·Provide recommendations for wellness activities.
- ·Coordinate the execution of mental health program activities and events.

Health and Wellness Assessments:

·Conduct surveys, focus groups, or interviews to gather insights on employee wellness needs ·Analyze employee health trends and provide actionable insights to the management team. ·Provide group counselling services for LAA staff.

·Provide individual counselling sessions for staff on referral

Monitoring & Evaluation:

·Develop a system for tracking employee participation and feedback

Measure the success of the wellness program through surveys, interviews, and health outcomes. ·Provide regular progress reports to management.

Duration of Engagement

The Employee Wellness Specialist will be engaged for initial period of one (1) years with possibility of extension for one more year.

The Employee Wellness Specialist is expected to deliver the following:

·A detailed employee wellness program plan entailing all aspects namely mental health support

·Provide monthly reports on program participation, activities conducted and overall progress.

·Evaluation report on the lessons of the wellness program after a period of six (6) mont

The Consultant OR any of the key team members must possess the following qualifications: ·Master's Degree in Counselling Psychology or Clinical Psychology.

•Proven experience in designing and implementing wellness (mental health programs),

within a corporate environment.

·Proof of registration with the Medical Council of Lesotho.

·Strong communication and presentation skills.

Ability to assess employee needs and tailor solutions accordingly. Certification(s) in wellness coaching, health promotion, or related fields

(optional but preferred).

Reporting & Supervision

The Employee Wellness Program Specialist will report to the Human Resources and Administration Manager (HRAM) and will coordinate all activities with the Human Resources Officer, Regular

check-ins will occur to ensure the program is aligned with the company's objectives.

All proposal offers received shall be evaluated based on the following phase out approach:

•Phase one: Compliance to the terms of reference and conditions of the proposal. Failure to meet any of the conditions of the proposal will automatically disqualify your proposal on this phase

•Phase two: Preference points on specific goals as follows.

Technical Criteria	80
Approach/Methodology to the excise.	40
Ability to meet objectives.	40
Finances	20
TOTAL	100
Price (Vat included)	
The Financial Proposal must be inclusive of VAT.	

Financial proposal ·Well and thoroughly itemised costs for the implementation of the project

·Most recent audited financial statements

Confidentiality & Data Protection

The Employee Wellness Program Specialist shall ensure the confidentiality of all sensitive employee information obtained during the course of the engagement, including but not limited to health sments, survey data, and personal details.

Interested candidates should submit the following documents:

·Resume/CV of resource persons

·Proposal for the wellness program (including methodology, estimated timelines, and costs). •Three references letters from previous employers or clients.

The bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked as confidential and for the attention of Tender for Employee Wellness Program - Bids must be deposited in the Tender Box located in Maseru:

Land Administration Authority (LAA), Lerotholi Road Maseru. It remains the onus of the service provider to ensure that their Tender Offer reaches the LAA office no later than the closing date and time

Closing date and time: 22nd September 2025 at 12:00 NOON.

Opening date and time: 22nd September 2025 at 12:30 NOON. No late bids will be accepted.

10. For procurement matters, please contact:

- Ms. Rethabile Sebatane
- Administration Officer
 - rethabile.sebatane@laa.org.ls
 - +266 2221 4100 / 128/164



TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 2026 PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS Tender Reference Number: RF/2025/G04

1. Background and requirements:

The Road Fund Secretariat invites proposals from suitably qualified companies with the capacity to design, supply and deliver 2026 Calendars, Diaries and Notebooks. The specifications are provided in table 1 below:

Table 1:

Item Number	Item description	Quantity	Lot number
1.	A2 Desk Planner Calendar	400	1
2.	A5 Desk Tent Calendar	400	1
3.	A2 Wall Calendar	2000	1
4.	A4 Customised Diaries	250	2
5.	A5 Customised Notebooks	250	2

Bidders are liberty to bid for any lot or both lots.

Other requirements

- Bidders must be compliant with their tax and licensing obligations; hence a valid and relevant company Tax Clearance and a valid and relevant Trader's License/Business Identity card must be submitted;
- Bidders are expected to deliver within a maximum period of **Four (4) weeks** from receiving the official purchase order;
- All bids must be accompanied by bid security of 2% of bidder's own bid amount and must be in the form of a bank guarantee.
- 2. Request for Clarifications: Request for clarifications may be send in writing to procurement@roadfund.org.ls on or before 26th September 2025.
- 3. Detailed tender document is available at the Road Fund website www.roadfund.org.ls

Submission:

Sealed bids clearly marked "Supply and deliver 2026 promotional materials Ref: RF/2025/G04" bearing no identification of the bidder should be deposited in the tender box located at the reception area at the address in clause 4 below; on or before Friday, 3rd October 2025 at 15:00 hrs. Public tender opening will be held on the same day at 15:15 hrs. The address referred to for submission and opening of bids is as indicated in clause 4 below.

4.The address referred to in clause 3 above for bid submission and opening is: Road Fund offices located at Former Department of Rural Roads Building, Corner Moshoeshoe & Senate Roads, Industrial Area, Maseru.



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



TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF WALL MOUNT BANNER Tender Reference Number: RF/2025/G03

1. Background and requirements:

The Road Fund Secretariat invites proposals from suitably qualified companies with the capacity to supply and install a Wall Mount Banner. The Banner is to be used to cover a building, the specification is provided below:

Table 1:

Item Number	Item description	Quantity
1	Wall Mount Banner (30m x 12m)	1

Other requirements:

- Bidders must be compliant with their tax and licensing obligations; hence a valid and relevant company Tax Clearance and a valid and relevant Trader's License/Business Identity card must be submitted;
- Bidders are expected to deliver within a maximum period of **Four (4) weeks** from receiving the official purchase order;
- \bullet All bids must be accompanied by bid security of 2% of bidder's own bid amount and must be in the form of a bank guarantee.
- 2. Mandatory site visit and bidders' conference: A combined mandatory site visit and bidders' conference will be held at 11:00am on the 11th September 2025 at Road Fund offices located at Former Department of Rural Roads Building, Corner Moshoeshoe & Senate Roads, Industrial Area, Maseru.
- **3. Request for Clarifications:** Request for clarifications may be send in writing to procurement@roadfund.org.ls on or before **26th September 2025**.
- 4. Detailed tender document is available at the Road Fund website www.roadfund.org.ls

Submission

Sealed bids clearly marked "Supply and installation of Wall Mount Banner Ref: RF/2025/G03" bearing no identification of the bidder should be deposited in the tender box located at the reception area at the address in clause 5 below; on or before Friday, 3rd October 2025 at 15:00 hrs. Public tender opening will be held on the same day at 15:15 hrs. The address referred to for submission and opening of bids is as indicated in clause 2.

PETROLEUM FUND. ()



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES (PF/RFP/2025/2026-06)

The Petroleum Fund (referred herein as the Fund) is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, which was established through Legal Notice No. 96 of 1997 under the Finance Order of 1988.

The organisation is further delegated, under the Fuel and Services Control (Delegation Notice) Number 32 of 2021, the powers to set the price and time at which Petroleum Products may be adjusted. It is managed by the Board of Directors, while day-to-day activities are administered by the Secretariat, headed by the Chief Executive Officer, and its operations are guided by the Lesotho (Petroleum Fund) Regulations of 2021.

The Fund invites proposals from suitably qualified and experienced Property Management firms to manage the Petroleum Fund Headquarters and ensure the efficient and cost-effective operations, maintenance, safety and security, marketing and management of sublease agreements.

Interested, eligible bidders may obtain the Terms of Reference upon payment of a non-refundable fee of M1000.00 into the Fund's bank account below:

Bank Name: – Nedbank Account Holder: – Petroleum Fund Account No: 021000028317 Branch: Kingsway The tender documents will be available at the Petroleum Fund offices from **Friday, 22nd August 2025**.

Interested Service Providers are required to attend a compulsory pre-bid meeting on the 9th of September 2025 at 10:00 hrs at the Petroleum Fund offices. Requests for clarifications should be made in writing on or before 14:00hrs on Thursday, the 11th of September 2025, to the following e-mail address: supplier@petroleum.org.ls.

The Proposals must be submitted in sealed packages clearly marked 'PF/RFP/2025/2026-06 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES', containing Technical Proposals and Financial Proposals sealed in separate envelopes. The deadline for submission of proposals is Thursday, the 25th of September 2025, by 12:00hrs, to be followed by a public opening of Technical Proposals at 12:15hrs on the same day. Hard copy proposals must be delivered

Hard copy proposals must be delivered to the following address:

Petroleum Fund LCCI Building Orpen Road, Old Europa Maseru 100

Tel. (+266) 22312137

Online submissions may be made by sending encrypted Technical and Financial proposals to supplier@petroleum.org.ls by the set deadline.



Al Digital Shift Conference set for Sept 29 in Maseru

Staff Reporter

The AI Digital Shift Conference, supported by Newsday Media, will take place at the American Corner, State Library in Maseru on September 29, 2025.

The conference will bring together business leaders, tech innovators, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and digital transformation enthusiasts.

"Whether you are a startup founder, corporate executive, government official, or AI researcher, this event is designed for anyone looking to leverage AI and digital solutions to drive growth, innovation, and impact in Lesotho and beyond," said the conference host,

Siphiwe Mabusela.

Lesotho's journey in technology adoption has been gradual but significant. Over the past decade, mobile telephony and internet access have expanded rapidly, laying the groundwork for digital innovation.

While AI is still in its early stages locally, sectors such as banking, telecommunications, and insurance are beginning to explore AI-powered solutions to improve efficiency, enhance service delivery, and reach new markets.

In comparison with other countries in the Southern African region, Lesotho is at a developmental crossroads. South Africa and Botswana have made significant strides in AI adoption, with startups and large companies leveraging machine learning and automation to enhance productivity and drive innovation.

Namibia and Zimbabwe, meanwhile, are exploring AI in public service delivery and education. Lesotho's young, tech-savvy population presents a unique opportunity for the country to accelerate AI adoption and carve a niche in the regional digital economy.

Mabusela described the AI Digital Shift Conference as Lesotho's premier event on AI, digital transformation, and business innovation.

The conference will feature expert-led

keynotes, panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities, offering actionable insights and cutting-edge solutions to help businesses and industries navigate the digital future.

"Gain exclusive insights from top industry experts, discover AI-driven business solutions, and connect with decision-makers shaping the digital economy," Mabusela added.

"Whether you aim to stay ahead of industry trends, adopt AI for business growth, or explore new opportunities in digital transformation, this conference is your gateway to the future of innovation," he concluded.





















Ministry makes promises after Sothokids' global triumph

Chris Theko

The Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture has responded to public criticism over its handling of Sothokids Culture Agency's participation in the prestigious Festivals du Sud Tour, acknowledging gaps in support while pledging to strengthen cultural diplomacy going forward.

This follows the recent struggles of the youth-led agency, while representing Lesotho abroad without meaningful government backing.

Their journey won standing ovations in Europe, a cultural award in France, and features in international media, but also exposed shortcomings in how Lesotho supports its creative sector.

Speaking at a recent press briefing in Maseru, Minister Motlatsi Maqelepo and Acting Director of the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC), Mamello Morojele, used the occasion of a welcome ceremony for Sothokids to both celebrate the group's success and admit that government institutions had fallen short.

Maqelepo praised Sothokids for showcasing Lesotho's cultural heritage on a global stage despite limited resources.

"We are proud of the young Basotho who represented the Kingdom abroad. Their work at the Festivals du Sud Tour has not only showcased our traditions but also opened doors for Lesotho to be recognized in global cultural circles," he said.

The Minister also admitted that the government's logistical and moral support had been inadequate.

"It is true that in this particular case, there may have been missteps in communication. Particularly



the challenge is that the resources are limited, all the logistics are funded through a budget provided for that financial year.

"The ministry was not fully engaged prior to the budget in the planning of Sothokids' participation. Moving forward, we are looking at mechanisms to ensure such opportunities are not missed," he said.

Maqelepo further noted that the creative industry has historically been under-prioritised compared to other sectors.

"There is a big challenge facing our sector of the creative industry which is being left far behind as there are sectors that are more prioritised than the creative industry. My job has been to make my colleagues in cabinet, along with your help as creatives, see that this sector has the potential to improve livelihoods, especially for young people," he said.

Echoing the minister's sentiments, LTDC's acting

Director Mamello Morojele admitted the shortcomings while stressing the importance of cultural initiatives in promoting Lesotho internationally.

"Last year we took Sothokids to Durban for the Africa Tourism Indaba and that has been one of the ways we have engaged and supported this incredible group and we believe there is still more to be achieved together. Even though this time we may have fell short of supporting financially, it was still our wish to contribute," she said.

"From a tourism perspective, such events are golden opportunities. We acknowledge that we could have partnered more effectively with Sothokids to use their tour as a platform to market Lesotho abroad," Morojele added.

Both the Minister and LTDC pledged to put structures in place to ensure similar lapses do not recur. Plans include developing a formal partnership framework that will enable cultural groups repre-

senting Lesotho overseas to access logistical and financial support.

"We acknowledge that we have missed an opportunity in this regard and the only thing we can do now going forward is to have strategies in place that allow us to collaborate better with not only Sothokids but all the other groups that promote Lesotho internationally.

"This incident is a learning curve for all of us. If Lesotho is to compete globally, we must recognise and empower our cultural ambassadors," Morojele said.

In response to questions about whether Sothokids would receive government backing for their 2026 invitation to the Festivals du Sud, Maqelepo stopped short of a concrete financial pledge but assured that reforms are underway.

"Our resources are limited, but we will explore ways of offering both logistical and moral support. We cannot allow opportunities to showcase Lesotho to slip away due to lack of coordination," he said.

He went further to indicate a willingness to commit resources: "Sothokids next year if you can still accept the invitation to the festival, my ministry guarantees that we will provide funding for food and other things for you. We acknowledge again that you have lost a lot of money and I am here saying let's make them ambassadors of tourism. The money amounting to hundred thousand they have used in this trip, how can they get it back?"

The press briefing closed with gestures of appreciation as the ministry and LTDC presented personalised gifts to members of the group, in recognition of their role as cultural ambassadors of the Mountain Kingdom.





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Mohale shines at the 3rd Annual Women Take Lead Summit

Chris Theko

The 3rd Annual Women Take Lead Summit 2025, hosted by Actor Spaces, was more than a gathering of South Africa's leading women in film, television, and theatre, it was a powerful declaration that women are reclaiming their rightful place in African storytelling.

Held on 29 August at Artistry in Sandton, the one-day event blended dialogue, screenings, art, and networking, drawing some of the continent's most influential voices in the creative sector.

Among them was Lesotho-born actress Matšeliso Mohale, whose presence underscored the summit's spirit of unity and collaboration across borders, the experience carried both personal and professional meaning for Mohale.

"Being part of regional summits like the Women Take Lead Summit is incredibly important to me, both personally and professionally, as a Lesotho-born actress," she said.

"On a personal level, it is an opportunity to represent my country and show that women from Lesotho can be leaders and voices in the creative industry. Professionally, these summits are vital for networking and collaboration. They provide a platform to build relationships with filmmakers, producers, and fellow actors from across the region," she added.

Actor Spaces Co-Founder and host Felicia Naiwa Sithebe described Mohale's participation as emblematic of the movement's mission.

"I was introduced to the incredible Matšeliso Mohale by the legendary Ntate Jerry Mofokeng wa Makhetha about a month ago, and from the moment we connected, I was moved by her passion and commitment to uplifting our people through story.



"Having Matšeliso accept this invitation is more than an honour, it is a powerful affirmation of our shared vision: to collaborate, to learn from one another, and to build a sustainable, empowered creative industry for Africans."

This year's theme, "Suited in Greatness," celebrated belonging and empowerment. Felicia explained: "This year's focus was on belonging, ensuring that every woman who stepped into the space felt seen, heard, and truly believed that she belonged in the room.

"Among peers, collaborators, and industry leaders, each woman was reminded that she

has something deeply valuable to contribute to the future of the creative industries, whether in front of or behind the screen or stage."

The summit programme was as vibrant as its theme. It featured a moving poem by Khosikhadi Mmatlala waMudau, a Threading a Character masterclass by Sheli Masondo (powered by Bomb Production), and film screenings of Balaclava (directed by Kagiso Sam Leburu) and Indlu Yenkonyo (directed by Khule Mayisa & Thozama Busakwe), followed by interactive Q&A sessions. An art exhibition by Serena Moodley Anderson explored themes of identity and memory.

For Mohale, one of the most impactful moments was a panel on low-budget filmmaking.

"A moment that stood out was a panel discussion over two zero-budget films, where those ladies spoke about how they produced those amazing stories. This resonated deeply with me because it highlights the power of taking initiative and being proactive. I have applied this by not just waiting for auditions but by actively developing my own projects such as The Mirror and Endurance. My goal is to create authentic stories that reflect our culture and experiences, and, in the process, create more roles and opportunities not just for myself but for other actors in Lesotho."

The afternoon's Debate & Dialogue session proved another highlight, with industry veterans Shoki Mmola, Rami Chuene, Hlengiwe Lushaba Madlala, and Lorcia Cooper-Kumalo tackling the question of whether the acting industry truly supports women. The discussion resonated deeply with Mohale and many attendees, reinforcing the urgency of solidarity across the continent.

Felicia reminded participants that unity lies

at the summit's core.

"As Africans, borders should never be barriers. We are one, united by our heritage, our values, and our ways of life. Collaboration is not a choice; it's a necessity, a vital step toward sharing skills, experiences, and fostering cultural exchange that enables us to stand confidently on global platforms. Together, we can go further. Together, we rise."

Speaking directly to young women in Lesotho, Mohale said: "Your voice and your story are your greatest assets. Don't let the perceived lack of opportunities or resources stop you. Start small and start where you are. Use the resources you have, even your phone, to create. Build your skills through masterclasses, tutorials, or by studying great films and performances. The journey will be challenging, but it is possible. Every great actress, director, or writer started somewhere. Your passion and resilience will help you break through. Pele ke moo re eang, ebile hohle ke Lesotho etsoe our landscape ke motla-o-tutsoe."

The event was elevated by the support of Audi Centre Braamfontein, which treated guests to chauffeured rides and premium test drives, adding a touch of elegance to the day.

With the overwhelming success of the 2025 edition, Actor Spaces reaffirmed its mission to spotlight women driving Africa's creative industries. For Lesotho, Mohale's presence served as proof that Basotho women are not only part of the global conversation but are shaping it.

"The more women take centre stage, the closer we move toward a world of happiness and holistic wellness. Her softness is not weakness; it is strength. It is the future," Felicia concluded.



Ramokongoana slows down for the year

Seabata Mahao

Long-distance running sensation, Tebello Ramokongoana, has officially wrapped up his competitive season after a year marked by world-class performances and historic achievements.

In an exclusive interview with Newsday Sports, Ramokongoana's coach, James McKirdy, confirmed that the 28-year-old Olympian will not take part in any more global races this year.

"We are taking the rest of the year off," said McK-

"Four marathons in a 12-month period, all topeight finishes, all focus races. The time for rest is

Ramokongoana's most recent triumph came last Sunday at the TCS Sydney Marathon, in Australia where he shocked the global running fraternity with a third-place finish in a blistering 2:06:47. The podium spot earned him a bronze medal and a cash prize

Upon his return to Lesotho on Wednesday, the star athlete received a hero's welcome, beginning with a convoy from Moshoeshoe I International Airport to the Lesotho National Olympics Committee (LNOC) headquarters for reception and celebra-

The Sydney Marathon, part of the prestigious Abbott World Marathon Majors, featured a world-class field. Ethiopia's Hailemariam Kiros Kebede claimed victory in 2:06:06, followed closely by compatriot Addisu Gobena Aga in 2:06:16.

This latest medal capped a phenomenal year for Ramokongoana, who finished second at the Xiamen Marathon with a national record, took eighth in the Boston Marathon, secured third in Sydney to win his first World Major Marathon medal, and placed seventh at the Paris 2024 Olympics, achievements that earned him multiple World Athletics honours.

McKirdy stressed that the decision to rest is a strategic move to protect his athlete's long-term career.

"It was a very long year of marathons and to try to race another would be a mistake. Tebello's efforts mark another stepping stone for the people of Lesotho. It is not a bar of success, but rather a vision of what could be."

Looking ahead, McKirdy revealed that Ramokongoana may take up non-competitive pacing duties in Cape Town later this year, focused on race development rather than competition.

The bigger target, however, is clear: qualification for the 2027 World Championships in Beijing, China.



Tebello Ramakongoana's welcome ceremony post Sydney Marathon

"We will be selective in our focus of a next marathon. It's possible we race an international half marathon in late 2025, but the bigger picture remains

As Ramokongoana takes a well-earned break, Lesotho's other athletes are making their mark. At the 2025 Hollywoodbets Durban 10km Run on Saturday, 19-year-old Kamohelo Mofolo stormed to victory in 27:57, smashing the course record of 28:01 set by South Africa's Kabelo Mulaudzi in 2023.

The teenager's performance earned him M37,500

and marked a huge improvement on his third-place finish last year in 28:09.

Not to be outdone, Olympian Neheng Khatala produced a brilliant run in the women's race, clocking 31:43 to set a new Lesotho national record. She secured second place and took home M30,000 in prize

Together, these performances highlight the growing momentum of Lesotho's athletics, as both seasoned and emerging stars continue to lift the nation's flag onto global podiums.

Linare ends barren run with Ramela cup glory warned that the coming season will be fiercely con-

Seabata Mahao

Linare Football Club have finally shaken close to a decade of heartache and reclaimed their place in the spotlight after recently clinching the Ramela and Associates Tournament crown, a triumph that could mark the rebirth of one of Lesotho's sleeping

The Leribe-based outfit, starved of silverware for what felt like an eternity, edged Bantu FC 5-4 on penalties in a tense final at a jam-packed DIFA Maputsoe Stadium last Sunday.

For years Linare's loyal supporters endured banter being thrown their way by other clubs' supporters as the team seemed to spurn every trophy opportunity that came their way. It is believed that the last time Linare lifted a cup was in 2015.

And now this victory should feel like more than just a cup win, but a glimpse of future glory and hope that under their new South African mentor. Jabulani Mendu, the club's hibernation might finally

"This is a result of hard work and understanding our roles," Mendu said, visibly moved after his side's breakthrough. "Even without Thato Sefoli, who is away on national duty, the team stepped up."



The championship match itself was a gritty chess game. Bantu, brimming with attacking flair, could not break down Linare's disciplined rearguard marshalled by the tournament's standout performer, Tieho Ntulo.

With veteran Mabuti Potloane pulling strings

in midfield and goalkeeper Ntsane Molise proving unshakable between the posts, Linare carried themselves with the poise of a team rediscovering its pedigree.

For Mendu, this win is not the final destination but the first step towards a greater mission, as he

"Teams have strengthened during the pre-season, and we have been testing ourselves in friendlies against top sides. The squad is shaping up well."

The two-day tournament itself was a celebration of local football, drawing four Premier League clubs and four A-Division League hopefuls. Linare's road to glory began with a narrow but spirited victory over arch-rivals Lioli, before their nerve and tactical discipline carried them all the way to the title, along with a handsome M150,000 purse.

Bantu, runners-up on the day, pocketed M75,000, while Matlama and Lioli settled for M40,000 each.

Tse Tala's (The Greens) did not just end with the trophy, but they also swept the individual player accolades too. Molise was named Best Goalkeeper, Ntulo Player of the Tournament, while Bantu's Motse Khiba claimed Top Scorer honours.

The Vodacom Premier League season kicks off on September 13, and all eyes will be on Linare as they take on Manonyane in what could be the beginning of a remarkable new chapter for the Leribe giants.

Despite their defeat to Linare, Bantu's coach Motheo 'Six to Six' Mohapi found solace in the progress of his evolving squad.

"We created many chances, but we were not clinical enough. We have studied Linare closely from the Alliance Challenge and their match against Lioli. and we had a plan. Unfortunately, we just fell short in the shootout," he said.

Inter-CHAL sports festival set to unite healthcare workers

Seabata Mahao

The Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL) will once again bring together healthcare workers from across the country for its annual Inter-CHAL Tournament, running from September 26 to 28 this year.

The 2025 edition will be hosted by Scott Hospital in Morija. Launched in 2016 by CHAL clinic staff, the tournament was designed as more than just a sporting event, but as a retreat where healthcare workers could ease work-related stress, strengthen collaboration, and foster unity across facilities.

Backed from the start by CHAL, the initiative has since grown into one of the most anticipated fixtures on the association's calendar.

The event annually rotates among CHAL institutions, with past hosts including Paray Mission Hospital in Thaba-Tseka (2016), Tebellong Hospital in Qacha's Nek (2017), Seboche Hospital in Bu-



Tebellong Hospital Inter-CHAL Tournament in 2024

tha-Buthe (2018), St. James Hospital in Mantšonvane (2022), St. Joseph Hospital in Roma (2023), and Tebellong Hospital again in 2024.

This year's edition will be coordinated by Scott Hospital in partnership with CHAL. Tournament organiser Mojalefa Thebe confirmed that all eight CHAL hospitals and their 71 affiliated clinics have been invited to take part, with more than 800 participants expected.

"This is more than just a tournament," Thebe ex-

"It is a retreat, a way to relieve stress, share ideas, and build camaraderie through sports and conver-

Activities will begin with the arrival of guests on September 25, followed by the official opening ceremony the next day. Competition will then get underway across a range of sporting codes, including football, volleyball, netball, athletics, tug of war, and indoor pool games.

Beyond the action on the field, evenings will be dedicated to music and entertainment, offering participants an opportunity to socialise and unwind.

Despite financial challenges, organisers remain determined to stage a memorable event. With no corporate sponsors secured, each CHAL hospital and clinic has contributed M2,500 towards costs. The money will go towards medals and trophies,

"CHAL helped us with trophies during the early vears, but since Covid-19, we've been self-funding. Still, we are grateful that CHAL has stepped in this year to assist Scott Hospital with medals and trophies." Thebe said.

Security and safety remain a priority. The organisers have engaged the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), National Security Services (NSS), and Scott Hospital's security team to oversee operations. First aid stations will also be set up across

Invitations have been extended to key dignitaries, including the Minister of Health, the Principal Chief, the Member of Parliament for Matsieng, and the District Administrator of Maseru.

"This year, we are expecting it to be bigger and better. It is all about recreation, retreat, and socialism. The goal is for everyone to leave Morija feeling refreshed and more connected." Thebe concluded.







Likuena fans cautioned amid ncorrect tickets circulation

Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) has urged fans to exercise caution when purchasing tickets for tonight's eagerly awaited 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifier between Lesotho's Likuena and South Africa's Bafana Bafana at Toyota Stadium in Bloemfontein.

The warning follows reports of fake tickets circulating at some outlets following a confusion regarding the change of the venue for the crunch encounter.

Earlier this week, LeFA confirmed that Toyota Stadium had been officially cleared by FIFA after earlier concerns about the pitch. Initially, FIFA had recommended moving the game to Dr Petrus Molemela Stadium.

However, following swift corrective measures by stadium authorities and successful engagements with LeFA, Toyota Stadium was reinstated as the official venue.

In a statement, LeFA advised supporters to ensure their physical tickets clearly state the fixture as Lesotho vs South Africa, not South Africa vs Nigeria, which is for a completely different match.

On Tuesday, LeFA announced that the stadium had passed FIFA's inspection, paving the way for the fixture to take place as scheduled at 1800 hours tonight. Likuena left Maseru for Bloemfontein on Tuesday to enter final prepara-



From left, the Goalkeeper of Likuena, Sekhoane Moerane, the Marketing and Communication Officer of LeFA, and the Head Coach of Likuena, Leslie Nots'i

tions for the Group C encounter.

During a media briefing ahead of the team's departure, LeFA's Head of Marketing and Communications Mikia Kalati expressed optimism and determination.

"We are ready to face Bafana-Bafana and we want to win that game for Basotho," Kalati declared. "All our star players are fit and rearing to go. The spirit in the camp is high."

On his part, Likuena's head coach Leslie Notši echoed the same confidence, noting that the squad has been blending locally based players with those arriving from abroad.

He confirmed that the team had played a warm-up friendly against Marumo Gallants to fine-tune their preparations.

"We used the Gallants game to assess our strengths and weaknesses, and I am content with the team's readiness," said

One major talking point ahead of the clash has been the absence of Lioli FC players in the final squad. Notši explained that the decision, reached in

consultation with Lioli's coach Bongani Maseko, was influenced by the club's upcoming CAF Champions League fixtures.

"We had to make a tough call. While we would have loved to have Lioli players, we understand the importance of their CAF campaign. LeFA has invested in both teams," Notši explained.

Moreover, three Lijabatho players, defender Mohlomi Makhetha and strikers Khaketla Matamane and Teboho Masuoane, were also omitted from the final list despite making the provisional

The reasons for their exclusion remain unclear. Another surprise omission was Linare's midfielder Teboho Letsema, who had impressed at the recent Ramela Football Spectacular.

Nonetheless, Likuena will be boosted by the return of experienced striker Motebang Sera, currently playing for Venda FC in South Africa. His presence is expected to be key in this high-stakes

Former Kaizer Chiefs development midfielder Lebohang Lesako, now with Casric FC, has also been called up and is in line to feature tonight after training with the team.

Likuena are currently sitting in position five with six points from the same number of games in the Group C log, while their opponents, SA, are in pole position with 13 points from six games.

Makatile jets off to Rwanda

Seabata Mahao

Cycling star Kabelo Makatile this week departed for Rwanda to join a threeweek high-performance training camp in preparation for the historic 2025 UCI Road World Championships.

The championships, scheduled for September 21-28 in Kigali, will be staged in Africa for the very first time, making it a landmark event on the global cycling calendar.

Makatile, who last raced in the Nedbank Cycle Challenge in Namibia in April, told Newsday Sports that the camp offers him a crucial chance to sharpen his form and adjust ahead of the competition.

"I will be leaving early for the championships to enter into a pre-event camp in Rwanda," Makatile said in an exclusive interview.

The training camp is part of a joint initiative by the International Cycling Union (UCI) and the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA). It brings together some of the continent's top cyclists, with the programme launched in June 2022 to help African riders prepare for the 2025 World Championships.

"I hope the camp will help me to acclimate and have better training with other riders from across the continent," Makatile said.

"Again, all through the winter season I have been training here at home without serious intensive races, and it will be helpful if I get one while in Rwanda before the championships."



Cycling star Kabelo Makatile departs for Rwanda

Although limited by the lack of competitive races in recent months, the 26-year-old remains upbeat. He has been working consistently on home soil to maintain his form and fitness for the biggest stage of his career so far.

"I am doing all I can here at home to get myself ready and represent the country well. It is a great achievement to compete in world championships, especially because this is the first time Africa will host it. I want to do well and motivate upcoming riders," he said.

Makatile's inclusion in the Rwanda camp highlights his growing reputation as one of the region's top cycling prospects. Supported by the UCI-ANOCA programme, he now joins a select group of African riders gearing up to make history on home ground.



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