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Crisis at Maseru District Hospital

...Inside sources reveal neglect, mismanagement, and rising deaths at Lesotho's flagship health facility

...Over 100 preventable deaths have gone unaccounted for since June 2024

Staff Reporters

Once hailed as Lesotho's most modern public hospital, a beacon of hope for thousands of Basotho in need of quality healthcare, Maseru District Hospital, formerly Queen II, has descended into chaos, neglect, and human suffering.

A Newsday investigation, based on testimonies from multiple insiders, reveals a deepening crisis at the hospital. Instead of saving lives, insiders allege that more than 100 preventable deaths have gone unaccounted for since June 2024, the result of negligence, misdiagnosis, and management failure.

Constructed with funding from the Government of China and completed in 2023, Maseru District Hospital was designed to accommodate 200 beds and deliver advanced medical services, including specialised ophthalmology (eye care), intensive care, dialysis, CT scans, cancer treatment, and comprehensive care for both non-communicable and infectious diseases.

However, doctors, nurses, and administrative officers who spoke to Newsday under strict anonymity say the facility is far from operating as envisioned. They describe a broken system crippled by poor leadership, infighting among senior staff, and a workforce too disorganised to meet even basic patient needs.

An internal medical source painted a grim picture.

"The hospital is described as state-of-the-art in healthcare service and eye-specialised care, but between a lack of adequate doctors and incompetent nurses, we see far fewer patients than expected. Each doctor manages a maximum of 30 patients per day because of constant conflict between the matron and doctors from different departments," the source said, adding that attempts by management to hold regular meetings to resolve these disputes have repeatedly failed.

"After the hospital opened in June 2024, senior staff tried for six months to organise meetings, but the superintendent, Dr. Masupha, never showed up. Eventually, the meetings became redundant," the source continued.

They noted that with no oversight or pressure from the Ministry of Health, "it's now a free-for-all for anyone who works at the hospital."

A nurse from one of the clinical departments described severe disorganisation and uneven distribution of staff.

"There are wards overflowing with nurses doing nothing, while critical departments like ICU, Theatre, and the Eye Department run on just four to six nurses. When the matron assigns you to a unit, you don't move, even if doctors need urgent assistance," the nurse said.

This breakdown, the nurse noted, has had grave consequences, with some nurses reportedly exploiting the chaos to disregard doctors' instructions entirely.

"Everyone does as they please. Some nurses disappear mid-shift, leaving patients unattended. Others act as doctors, misdiagnosing patients and giving wrong treatment. It's a mess, and Basotho are paying the price," the nurse said.

Hospital insiders revealed that between June and October 2024, more than 100 deaths occurred due to negligence, poor communication, and avoidable medical errors.

"Those deaths are never investigated. Even when a few doctors raise the issue, the superintendent acts ignorant, and it's business as usual," one source said.

"If it were possible to access mortality data, you would see the scale of the problem, but even the data capturing is so flawed that nothing coming from here can be trusted."

Attempts by Newsday to obtain official hospital records were unsuccessful, as staff members insisted that such records are "intentionally withheld" to prevent scrutiny.

A senior administrator painted an equally dire picture of shortages in medical consumables and essential supplies, which have forced the hospital to postpone critical operations.

"Major surgeries have been pushed as far as 2027, and the waiting list keeps growing. We're told there's no money, so we don't have a choice," the source said.

The hospital reportedly received a M10 million budget allocation for the current financial year, yet staff claim the funds have barely covered basic operations.

The worsening conditions at Maseru District Hospital further expose the depth of Lesotho's collapsing health system. Laboratory samples sent for testing often return late, or not at all, due to supply shortages at the national lab, a separate but critical facili-



Maseru District Hospital

ty whose failures have deadly consequences.

Another insider said patients are often given ineffective medication.

"The pharmacy is almost always out of stock. Patients are given substitutes or drugs known not to work, simply because there are no supplies," the source added.

Despite being equipped with modern digital systems for patient management, staff reportedly continue to rely on manual data recording.

"They still register patients manually, and sometimes admitted patients are not labelled correctly. It is dangerous, it causes confusion and creates room for the wrong treatment to be administered," an administrative officer said.

This mismanagement, insiders allege, also extends to patient referrals. Maseru District Hospital, envisioned to reduce the need for foreign medical transfers, is now sending a growing number of patients back to Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital, often with the hope of eventual transfer to South Africa, effectively reviving the very financial burden the facility was meant to eliminate.

Attempts to obtain clarity on the mounting allegations were met with silence and fear, as several staff members declined to comment, citing concerns of victimisation. Others dismissed the inquiry as "meddling."

The hospital's Head of Ophthalmology and its only eye specialist, Dr. James Chan, confirmed that his department is under severe strain, with more than 1,000 patients currently waiting for surgery.

"We lack basic equipment and consumables to perform operations. My department receives more than 200 patients daily, but I can only see 30 because I'm doing three people's jobs," Dr. Chan said.

He described the situation as a growing crisis, adding that the Ophthalmology, ICU, and Emergency Services departments are among the hardest hit by staff shortages.

"Instead of focusing on diagnosis, I'm multitasking as an assistant and administrator. We're losing sight of our calling as medical practitioners — and it shows in the poor service we're giving to Basotho," he said, visibly frustrated.

According to Dr. Chan, poor communication and infighting between nursing leadership and medical staff have further crippled operations.

"I don't have enough nursing support. There's a lot of poor communication and management rift between the matron and doctors. We're supposed to get immediate assistance from nurses, but if the matron has issued a directive, they don't listen to doctors. We are disgruntled."

While he declined to comment directly on allegations of deaths caused by negligence, Dr. Chan acknowledged having treated patients who were misdiagnosed, calling the issue widespread.

"In departments like mine, where there's only one doctor on duty, nurses often go beyond their scope. Instead of limiting their work to checking vitals and recording patient details, they diagnose and prescribe treatment. Most times, they get it wrong, and it causes more harm to patients."

When asked about the frequency of management meetings, Dr. Chan said he could only speak for his department and referred Newsday to the hospital's superintendent, Dr. Masupha.

However, efforts to reach Dr. Masupha led instead to the Director of General Health Services, Dr. Makhoase Ranyali, who acknowledged receipt of Newsday's written questions.

Dr. Ranyali confirmed that the Ministry of Health would respond to the inquiries, but a week later, when Newsday followed up, she said the ministry would "like to have a sit-down" with the publication to explain the issues, though no date was confirmed.

She noted that the ministry was currently focused on the Measles and Rubella Supplementary Immunization Activity (MR-SIA), a public health campaign aimed at boosting childhood vaccination coverage, and could not specify when a meeting might take place.

Dr. Ranyali added that some of the issues had previously been addressed by Dr. Lucy Mapota-Masoabi, the Director of Clinical Services, though Newsday has not seen any formal public response or detailed report on the hospital's performance since it began operations.

When contacted, Health Minister Selibe Mochoboroane said he was in Quthing for the MR-SIA launch but promised to arrange for Dr. Masupha, the hospital superintendent, to respond directly. He also requested that the questions be sent to him.

At the time of going to print, Dr. Masupha had not made contact.

Newsday (+266) 2231 4267/ 5945 8983

Carlton Centre
3rd Floor
Room 302
Kingsway
Maseru

MANAGING EDITOR
Lerato Matheka
managingeditor@newsdayonline.co.ls

NEWS EDITOR
Kananelo Boloetse
editor@newsdayonline.co.ls

SUB EDITOR
Bereng Mpaki

NEWS ROOM
Nisoaki Motaung
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
X
@LsNewsday

INSTAGRAM
Newsday Lesotho

PRINTER
Thabure Media Group

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Press Release.

Termination of Agency Agreement Between LNIG Hollard Insure and Insurecare Insurance Brokers.

Maseru - Pursuant to Section 20 (1), (2), and (3)(d) and (e) of the Financial Consumer Protection Act of 2022, LNIG Hollard Insure wishes to inform mutual clients of Insurecare Insurance Brokers and Lesotho National General Insurance Company (trading as LNIG Hollard Insure) that the Agency Agreement between the two companies has been terminated.

Existing policyholders are advised to contact either LNIG Hollard Insure or Insurecare Insurance Brokers to confirm the status of their policies. This is to ensure that their insurance cover remains active and to avoid any unintended risk exposure.

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Unlicensed doctor scandal hits Maluti Adventist Hospital

Ntsoaki Motaung

A medical doctor from Madagascar, Dr. Jeremy Manuel, is reportedly working at Maluti Adventist Hospital without a license from the Lesotho Medical, Dental, and Pharmacy Council (LMDPC), according to sources close to the institution.

Allegations suggest that Dr. Manuel has been allowed to work at the hospital without the required documentation because he is a member of the Adventist Church.

Sources revealed that despite lacking a license from the LMDPC, Dr. Manuel has been attending to patients and performing critical medical procedures, including cesarean sections in the maternity ward.

"This is really the hospital's negligence, and they are putting the lives of Basotho at risk by allowing this behaviour," one source said.

Further investigation by this paper established that Dr. Manuel is not only practising as a doctor but also holds the position of Chief Medical Officer, a role that, according to insiders, requires verified academic and professional qualifications.

It is understood that Dr. Manuel applied for registration with the LMDPC about a year ago, but his application was rejected after he failed to meet the council's requirements to practice medicine in Lesotho.

The LMDPC's registration requirements for international practitioners include an EPIC



Maluti Adventist Hospital

report from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, a letter of employment or job offer in Lesotho, a good standing letter and practicing license from the applicant's home country, a passport, academic certificates and transcripts, and the required registration fee.

When contacted for comment, Dr. Kopang Mohalenyane, Vice President of the LMDPC, confirmed that Dr. Manuel had previously attempted to register but was unsuccessful.

"After he was unsuccessful, his issue was discussed, and both he and the hospital were advised that he could apply as a general practitioner, which would require him to be tested and evaluated based on his work experience. However, he did not pursue this option," Dr. Mohalenyane explained.

He added that after realising Dr. Manuel had not registered, the council inquired with the hospital, which informed them that the doctor had returned to Madagascar.

"We even visited the hospital to confirm his departure and did not find him there, so we believed he had left. But we are now surprised to learn he is still in the country and practicing," he said.

Dr. Mohalenyane stated that the Medical Council will investigate the matter, saying: "If these claims are true, both the doctor and the hospital will be held accountable and face legal consequences."

He further indicated that if the allegations are confirmed, the council plans to take legal action, which could include fines, imprisonment, or both, but emphasised that their pri-

ority is to have Dr. Manuel removed from the country.

"We are here to protect the lives of Basotho, and we won't allow anyone to do as they please," he declared.

He also noted that during a recent council visit, hospital staff denied that Dr. Manuel was the Chief Medical Officer, claiming the role was held by another locally registered doctor. However, the hospital's official website lists Dr. Manuel as the Chief Medical Officer.

Dr. Mohalenyane further revealed that the hospital has a history of employing unlicensed medical personnel, a practice that was previously more common even in government facilities.

"The council has since increased oversight, and such practices have decreased. Still, we will continue to safeguard the lives of Basotho," he said.

Maluti Adventist Hospital CEO, Thabang Pulumo, acknowledged that Dr. Manuel is indeed working at the hospital, both in management and as a doctor under supervision.

He confirmed that Dr. Manuel is not registered with the LMDPC but said the hospital has been working to address the issue.

"Since the situation remains unresolved, a decision has been made to send him back to the church headquarters, where he will stay until his issues are sorted out with the council, after which he may return," Pulumo said.

He explained that the difficulty with Dr. Manuel's registration stems from differences in medical training standards, especially concerning his specialty as a general surgeon, which the council does not currently recognise.

Pulumo added that Dr. Manuel was placed at the hospital by the church on a two-year contract, but is now returning to the church's headquarters.

"Currently, he is still in the country, finalising a few matters before he leaves," he said.

PAC grills RFP chairperson Kobeli over M6.5 million LNDC debt

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has come down hard on prominent businessman and Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) Chairperson Teboho Kobeli over a M6.5 million debt owed to the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC).

The Committee accused Kobeli of leveraging his political influence and proximity to power to shield his company, Duty-Free Sourcing Inc., from repaying the loan. The PAC established that the LNDC released the funds to the company following cabinet's intervention in 2023, despite the firm already being classified as a bad debtor.

According to the LNDC, the company had previously defaulted on its obligations.

Appearing before the PAC this week, Kobeli, who also serves as Executive Director of Duty-Free Sourcing Inc., acknowledged the M6.5 million debt, saying the loan was intended to help preserve 2,000 jobs at the factory.

However, PAC Chairperson 'Machabana Lemphane-Letsie pointed out that many of the factory's employees are actually paid through the government's youth apprenticeship programme under the Prime Minister's Office.

The committee also criticised a letter Kobeli wrote to the LNDC's interim CEO, describing it as "patronising."

In the letter, Kobeli acknowledged the debt, stating: "This is a firm acknowledgement of debt in the amount of M6,500,000.00 as stated in your letter of demand.... While we unconditionally admit that our company is in arrears, we also can ascertain that it is not in vain. The advance from your office has overwhelmingly made a huge impact on many



Teboho Kobeli

lives. Our company has created 2,000 permanent jobs for the destitute and secured enough orders to create 4,000 more permanent jobs in the next 18 months."

PAC members, however, questioned why the company had not yet settled the debt, despite Kobeli's written promise to pay it within six months, a deadline that falls this month.

In the same letter, Kobeli pleaded with the LNDC to delay referring the matter to its Legal Office, arguing that the company's financial challenges made immediate repayment impossible:

"Appointment of a mediator and referral of this matter to the legal office will not change our current financial position, but allowing

us a few more months will surely ensure that repayment of the outstanding balance is realised."

This statement provoked a strong reaction from PAC members, who accused Kobeli of benefitting from political privilege.

PAC member, Mokhothu Makhalanyane, who is also an RFP MP, said: "It is unfair to other Basotho who are not politically connected. They cannot easily access loans like you do to expand their businesses and hire more staff. I want you to help us and the government to recover the LNDC debt. Your actions must demonstrate that we are taking this government out of trouble."

In a letter addressed to Minister of Trade,

Industry and Business Development Mokhehi Shelile, LNDC Interim CEO Advocate Molise Ramaili reminded the minister that, following a Cabinet directive, the corporation advanced M10 million to Duty-Free Sourcing Inc. to fulfil orders in the United States. The loan was to be repaid within 12 months at five percent interest.

"The Company asked for a payment break from May 2024 to December 2024 and committed to settle the full amount on 31st January 2025. The Corporation afforded the Company a payment break as proposed, but the company has failed to honour its obligation," wrote Ramaili.

He added that a letter of demand was issued on February 6, 2025, warning that failure to pay would trigger mediation proceedings as per the loan agreement.

Companies' records show that Duty-Free Sourcing Inc. (Pty) Ltd was incorporated on November 13, 2023, with two shareholders, Wijara Rohana Kumara Kahadugoda and Chun Yu Chen, before Kobeli became a shareholder on 6 January 2025. He now holds 10,000 shares, while Kahadugoda holds 1,000 and Chen 9,000.

The committee questioned how Kobeli acquired his shares, accusing him of using political networks to "salvage" the company. When asked how much he paid for his stake, Kobeli told the committee he could not remember, drawing scepticism from members.

"Buying shares or making an investment is very memorable," remarked PAC member Dada Jooma, also of the RFP, implying that it was unlikely Kobeli had forgotten.

The committee instructed Kobeli to produce proof of payment for the shares. He was released to collect the documents but returned without them later in the day.



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Newsday Business

IMF urges Lesotho to set up stabilisation fund

Bereng Mpaki

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recommended for Lesotho to establish a comprehensive rules-based fiscal framework anchored by a stabilisation fund, for safeguarding from its volatile revenue streams and persistent expenditure pressures.

In its Selected Issues Paper titled Setting Up Fiscal Rules in Lesotho, IMF economists Qian-qian Zhang and Motseki Khiba outlined a strategic roadmap for fiscal discipline that could transform Lesotho's economic management and build resilience against external shocks.

IMF's Selected Issues Papers are prepared by IMF staff as background documentation for periodic consultations with member countries. Khiba is a senior economist at the Macroeconomic Policy Directorate of Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in Lesotho.

The recommendation to establish a prudent fiscal framework and a stabilisation fund comes on the back of recent fiscal surpluses of Lesotho spurred by improved Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts, and improved water royalty revenues from the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

The IMF argues that the shift would reduce Lesotho's reliance on SACU transfers and also present a unique opportunity to strengthen fiscal sustainability and support long-term growth.

The proposed fiscal framework centers on three key targets namely a debt ceiling of 60 per-

cent of GDP, a debt anchor of 50 percent of GDP, and a structural deficit target of 3 percent of GDP.

The IMF warned that Lesotho's current debt position, which declined from 61.5 percent of GDP in FY23/24 to 56.8 percent in FY24/25, leaves limited room for error. The debt sustainability analysis projects that by 2045, Lesotho's debt ratio would remain close to the ceiling, leaving little room for error.

"An elevated ceiling provides space for countercyclical policy and critical development investments, but sustaining a high level of debt places an added premium on strong fiscal management, careful prioritisation of spending, and prudent debt accumulation strategies.

"The authorities will need to ensure that any new debt is aligned with national development priorities, supported by robust project appraisal, and accompanied by sustained efforts to strengthen revenue mobilization and expenditure efficiency."

Another key innovation in the proposed framework is the call for a stabilisation fund to complement the fiscal rules.

"The authorities are strongly encouraged to swiftly operationalise a well-governed stabilisation fund, anchored by credible fiscal rules. With gross international reserves expected to surpass six months of import coverage in FY25/26, a level deemed appropriate for Lesotho, staff recommends fiscal surpluses be redirected toward reducing public debt. Reducing debt to 50 percent of GDP over the next five years would significantly lower the risk of a shift to high-risk of debt distress."

The fund would serve dual purposes through short-term stabilisation to smooth revenue volatility, and long-term investment to support growth-enhancing capital expenditure.

"The stabilisation component would serve to mitigate revenue volatility and support counter-cyclical fiscal policy, accumulating savings during periods of revenue windfalls and providing resources to finance temporary fiscal shortfalls during downturns," according to the IMF.

With gross international reserves expected to exceed six months of import coverage, deemed adequate for Lesotho, the IMF recommends redirecting fiscal surpluses toward debt reduction.

"Reducing debt to 50 percent of GDP over the next five years would significantly lower the risk of a shift to high-risk of debt distress."

The fund would require distinct asset allocation strategies for its two components. Stabilisation assets should be liquid and readily available to support the budget and invested in low-risk, highly liquid instruments. The investment component could pursue higher returns through diversified portfolios over a longer time horizon.

The IMF paper draws extensively on Chile's successful experience with fiscal rules and a stabilisation fund. Since 2001, Chile has demonstrated a strong track record of sound fiscal management through a structural balance rule that adjusts for copper price volatility.

"Chile successfully transitioned from high dependence on volatile copper revenues to a framework characterised by fiscal discipline, macroeconomic stability, and resilience to external shocks," the paper noted.

Econet M6 million festive campaign underway

Seabata Mahao

In a bid to strengthen customer loyalty and accelerate digital adoption in Lesotho, Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL), in collaboration with Sasai Econet Financial Services (SEFS), has officially launched its much-anticipated festive campaign, HoaKhonahala.

The campaign promises prizes worth up to M6 million, and runs from October 2025 to February 2026. It offers a wide range of rewards, including three brand-new Toyota Starlet vehicles, cash prizes, smartphones, Smart TVs, and instant cashback incentives.

Officiating the launch was Puleng 'Mathabo Masoabi, ETL's Acting General Manager of Marketing Communications and Customer Experience, and Moeketsi Mafereka, the General Manager at SEFS.

Masoabi emphasised that HoaKhonahala goes beyond mere giveaways, representing ETL's commitment to transforming Lesotho's digital economy.

"Through this campaign, Econet is not only rewarding our valued customers but also reaffirming our pledge to drive Lesotho's digital economy forward," she said.

"Every transaction and every connection through our network brings us closer to building a more inclusive and digitally empowered nation."

She further highlighted the importance of digital engagement and mobile financial services in promoting convenience, financial inclusion, and economic growth.

On his part, Mafereka echoed these sentiments, pointing to the strategic collaboration between ETL and SEFS as a catalyst for expanding access to digital financial solutions.

"Working hand-in-glove with ETL on this important campaign demonstrates a shared vision to empower Basotho through convenient, secure, and innovative digital financial services," he said.

The campaign is open to both new and existing customers. New customers can qualify by registering for EcoCash, EcoSure, or ETL mobile services and meeting the minimum transaction thresholds.

Existing customers can participate by purchasing exclusive campaign bundles and transacting on EcoCash services such as Pay Bill, Bank-to-Wallet, Send Money, and Merchant Payments.

Customers will also earn points and cashback throughout the campaign, the more they transact, the more rewards they receive. Points can later be redeemed for prizes, creating a continuous incentive for digital engagement.

To maximise reach, ETL and SEFS will take HóaKhonahala on a national roadshow, visiting all 10 districts of Lesotho over the next five months. The roadshow will include interactive customer engagements, with on-the-spot opportunities to win cash, airtime, and smartphones.

The campaign will be promoted across multiple platforms, including radio, social media, and in-store activations, with weekly updates and winner announcements shared via ETL's digital channels.

The launch featured live performances from top local artists such as Wave Ryder, Citizen LS, and Omali Themba, setting a lively tone for the campaign.

Lesotho's road financing model hailed as regional benchmark

...as Road Fund marks 30-year milestone

Seabata Mahao

The African Road Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA) Southern Africa Focal Group Representative, Stewart Malata of Malawi, lauded Lesotho for operating one of the region's oldest and most consistent road funds.

Speaking during Road Fund Lesotho's commemoration of its 30th anniversary, Malata described the Fund's endurance as a testament to the foresight of its founders and the strength of its governance.

"Lesotho's road financing model has set a regional benchmark," Malata said.

"Transparent, accountable, and resilient it is an example many nations are learning from."

Malata further called for deeper regional collaboration to future-proof infrastructure, highlighting the need for innovation, technology integration, and sustainable funding models in the face of growing pressures such as electric mobility and climate adaptation.

Speaking at the commemorative event in Maseru, Prime Minister Samuel Matekane reflected on the Fund's transformative impact over three decades, calling the celebration not just a nod to history but a recognition of its pivotal role in Lesotho's economic and social development.

"Good roads are not a luxury but a necessity.

They connect Basotho to healthcare, education, markets and opportunity. Roads are the arteries of development, and the Road Fund has been at the centre of keeping those arteries open," Matekane said.

The Prime Minister commended the Fund's consistent work in financing road maintenance, enhancing road safety, and collaborating with the Roads Directorate, Maseru City Council, and the Ministry of Local Government to deliver improved infrastructure nationwide.

However, he acknowledged that challenges remain. Issues like road degradation, potholes, and flood damage, intensified by climate change and urbanization, continue to press.

He reaffirmed the government's backing for the Fund, pledging support in three key priority areas: strengthening public-private partnerships and development collaboration, and ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of road financing.

He urged continued partnership between the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Road Fund to accelerate delivery and ensure long-term infrastructure resilience.

'Matšepang Sekhokoane, the Road Fund's Chief Executive Officer used the occasion to reflect on the Fund's evolution from its establishment in 1993 into a cornerstone of Lesotho's national development strategy.

"This anniversary is not only a celebration, but

a call to action. The Fund remains committed to transparency, efficiency, innovation, and sustainability principles that are more important than ever in the face of modern challenges," she said.

Sekhokoane noted the Fund's focus on responding to emerging needs such as climate resilience, digital transformation, and the global shift towards electric vehicles. She pledged to deepen the Fund's work in promoting road safety, technology adoption, and environmental stewardship.

She also expressed appreciation for the Board of Directors, staff, implementing partners, and regional bodies, including ARMFA, whose Southern Africa Focal Group representative was among the dignitaries at the event.

In a highlight of the event, Road Fund Lesotho handed over a mobile court to the National University of Lesotho (NUL), a practical initiative that merges infrastructure support with legal education.

The mobile court is intended to serve as a learning and outreach tool for law students, enabling practical training and expanding mobile justice services across the country.

Established in 1993, Road Fund Lesotho was founded to provide a sustainable and transparent financing mechanism for maintaining and improving the country's road infrastructure. Today, it stands as a model of innovation-driven public finance and a key enabler of national connectivity and growth.

NOTICE TO CHANGE COMPANY NAME

Notice is hereby given that Bokamoso HR Consulting (PTY)LTD is changing its name to Cornerstone Consulting Group (PTY)LTD.

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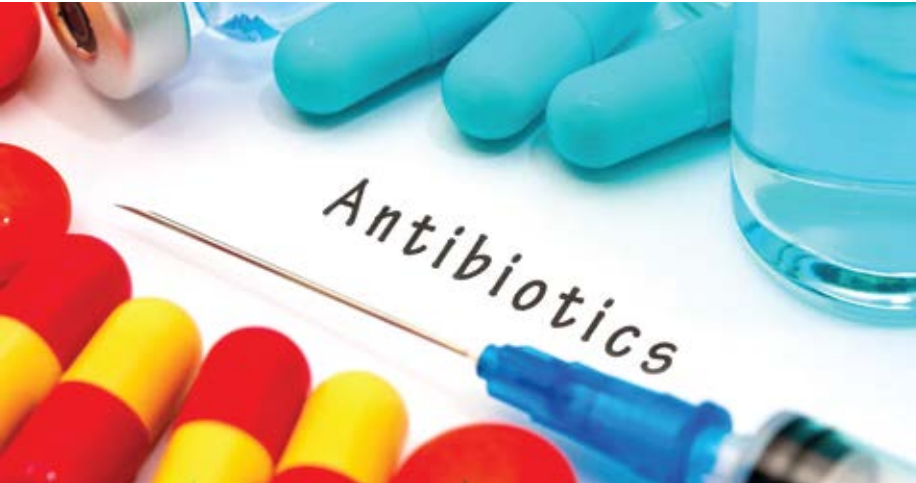
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Newsday
Health

Antimicrobial Resistance:
Growing concern for Lesotho
and the world



Ntsoaki Motaung

Although Lesotho is listed among countries without available data on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the Global Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Report 2025 recently published by the World Health Organisation (WHO), it is still considered one of the nations most severely affected by this global health threat.

According to Nteboheng Tjobe Maina, a pharmacist and AMR National Focal Point at the Ministry of Health, Lesotho has developed a National Action Plan (2021–2026) to monitor and report progress

on AMR at both regional and global levels.

“We also commemorate World Antimicrobial Awareness Week each year,” she said.

“We are highly affected because we are among the top 10 most affected countries globally, and second in Africa,” she disclosed.

Maina described antimicrobial resistance as a “hidden danger to human and animal health, and a threat to our future.”

She cited a 2019 study showing that more than 2,800 people in Lesotho died because antibiotics and other medicines no longer worked to treat in-

(GLASS) from over 100 countries, signals a growing global health emergency.

For the first time, the 2025 report provides resistance estimates across 22 antibiotics used against eight common bacterial pathogens, including *Acinetobacter* spp., *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Salmonella* spp., *Shigella* spp., *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

The report also reveals sharp regional differences. The WHO South-East Asia and Eastern Mediterranean Regions recorded the highest resistance levels, with one in three infections resistant to antibiotics.

In the African Region, one in five infections was resistant. The burden is especially high in areas with weak health systems that lack diagnostic and treatment capacity.

During the report’s launch on Thursday, WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus cautioned that: “Antimicrobial resistance is outpacing advances in modern medicine, threatening the health of families worldwide.”

He emphasised the urgent need for responsible antibiotic use, access to quality medicines and diagnostics, and innovation in treatment and testing technologies.

The WHO stressed that AMR remains one of the world’s most urgent health challenges and this undermines treatment effectiveness and puts millions of lives at risk.

To confront this threat, WHO launched GLASS in 2015. Country participation has grown from 25 in 2016 to 104 in 2023, yet 48 percent of countries did not submit data in 2023, and nearly half still lack systems capable of generating reliable information.

In 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a political declaration on AMR, calling for stronger health systems and the adoption of a One Health approach that addresses human, animal, and environmental health together.

fections.

“That’s more than deaths from cancer, diabetes, or pregnancy-related conditions,” she said. “Lesotho is now among the top 10 countries in the world and top 2 in Africa with the highest death rates linked to AMR.”

Maina noted that everyone contributes to the AMR crisis, often unknowingly, through practices such as taking antibiotics without a prescription or not completing the full treatment course, which allows microorganisms to survive and become stronger.

She added that the use of antimicrobials in animals or mixing them in animal feed without proper guidance also fuels the problem. In addition, consuming meat, milk, or eggs before the recommended withdrawal period can transfer resistant bacteria to humans, while buying antimicrobials from street vendors or unlicensed pharmacies exposes people to poor-quality or incorrect medicines.

The WHO 2025 report warns that 22 widely used antibiotics are showing increasing resistance in treating urinary tract, bloodstream, and gastrointestinal infections, as well as gonorrhoea.

One in six laboratory-confirmed bacterial infections worldwide in 2023 was resistant to antibiotic treatment.

Between 2018 and 2023, resistance increased in more than 40 percent of antibiotics tracked, with annual growth rates ranging from 5 to 15 percent. The data, collected through WHO’s Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System

Lesotho advances
towards its first-ever
cancer center

... Safety verification underway

Ntsoaki Motaung

Lesotho is moving closer to realising its first-ever Cancer Center, a development set to dramatically improve access to cancer treatment, as the Radiation Protection Agency (RPA) dedicates a full week to verifying the facility’s safety and design standards.

The RPA, the national body responsible for regulating the use of radiation, is currently hosting Dr. Vera Uushona from Namibia, an expert on assignment from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to provide critical support in the authorisation process.

During an exclusive media engagement on Wednesday, RPA officials, including CEO Mqekela Khesa and Manager of Inspection, Policy Development and Enforcement Mojalefa Sello, outlined the rigorous multi-stage licensing process required for such a facility.

Authorising a centre that uses high-level radiation is a complex procedure designed to ensure maximum safety for patients, staff, and the public. The licensing process is divided into three critical phases, starting with the verification of designs, calculations, and safety assessments.

“If they are okay, then we can issue the license to construct or begin the construction. This step ensures that the plans, including the thickness and de-

sign of the radiation shielding, meet national and international standards,” explained Sello.

The final phase takes place after construction, when the RPA verifies that walls and safety features are properly installed and that the equipment procured matches the specifications outlined in the initial designs.

“Once that is done and the RPA is convinced that everything is compliant, the commissioning license will be issued, ensuring people are protected,” Sello added.

CEO Khesa emphasised the importance of compliance during this initial review.

“This is the most critical stage. Licensing the wrong designs could result in a major disaster,” he warned. “Constructing without authorisation could force the facility to dismantle and start over if safety problems are identified — a costly and time-consuming setback.”

RPA officials acknowledged that a major challenge in their work has been limited understanding of radiation risks and the necessity of regulation, not only in medical facilities but also in sectors such as mining and road construction.

“People are still not fully aware of the risks associated with radiation,” Sello noted. Unlike standard hospitals, radiation-intensive facilities require specialised construction, including walls “twice or thrice as thick as those in regular buildings,” to safely contain radiation.



TENDER OPPORTUNITY

Invitation to tender for the supply and delivery of a bulk medical liquid oxygen transportation equipment unit to Lesotho

Reference: ITB/CHAI/LES01/25
Posting date: 10/10/2025
Closing date: 31/10/2025

The Government of Lesotho Ministry of Health is committed, through implementation of the National Medical Oxygen strategy and Scale-up Plan 2023 – 2028, to ensuring affordable and sustainable access to quality medical oxygen at all levels of care. This involves multi-partner efforts supporting operationalisation of the National Medical Oxygen Value Chain, including ensuring sustainable sourcing of Medical Liquid Oxygen (mLOX).

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) is an eight-year global project funded by the U.S Government. EpiC receives COVID-19 funding to prevent, prepare for, respond to and bolster health systems to address COVID-19 and reduce cases of re-emergence. In Lesotho, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) is implementing the EpiC Market Shaping Activity aimed at enabling the MoH to sustainably improve the affordability and availability of mLOX. Therefore, the Government of Lesotho Ministry of Health, with support from CHAI under EpiC Lesotho Market Shaping Activity funded by the U.S Government, is inviting interested and capable

vendors to submit bids for the supply of a bulk medical liquid oxygen transportation equipment unit as detailed in the specification package of this Invitation to Bid (ITB). When preparing your bid, please be guided by the product quantities, delivery location and technical specifications in Annex A and Annex B, and by the CHAI code of conduct and ethics for suppliers in Annex C.

Additional Information/Clarifications
Request for more information or clarifications via the email lesothoprocurement@clintonhealthaccess.org quoting “ITB/CHAI/LES01/25” in the subject line on or before 24/10/2025, 1pm SAST.

Deadline for the Submission of Proposals
On or before **12 midnight 31/10/2025** via the email lesothoprocurement@clintonhealthaccess.org quoting “ITB/CHAI/LES01/25” in the subject line. Should your submission be large and cannot be sent by email, send an email to request an upload link with the subject ‘Requesting upload link’ to lesothoprocurement@clintonhealthaccess.org on or before 29/10/2025, 1 pm SAST.

Submissions after the deadline will not be considered.

Lesotho's health system on life support

Two damning revelations published in this edition, the shocking presence of an unlicensed doctor at Maluti Adventist Hospital and the deepening crisis at Maseru District Hospital, paint a grim portrait of a health system in collapse. These are not mere administrative lapses. They are symptoms of a moral and institutional decay that has put the lives of Basotho in grave danger.

At Maluti Adventist Hospital, a doctor from Madagascar, Dr. Jeremy Manuel, has reportedly been practising medicine, performing critical procedures such as caesarean sections and serving as Chief Medical Officer, without a license from the Lesotho Medical, Dental, and Pharmacy Council (LMDPC). Evidence suggests that despite the council's clear rejection of his application a year ago, Dr. Manuel was allowed to continue working, allegedly protected by institutional ties to the Adventist Church.

What is most troubling is not just the violation of professional ethics, but the institutional complicity that made it possible. How does a medical institution, one trusted to uphold the sanctity of life, allow an unlicensed individual to conduct surgeries? How does the Ministry of Health, the statutory regulator, and the LMDPC fail to detect and immediately stop such malpractice? These questions go to the very heart of accountability and public safety in Lesotho's healthcare system.

Meanwhile, at Maseru District Hospital, the story is even more harrowing. Once celebrated as a symbol of progress, a modern, China-funded facility built to reduce foreign referrals and provide advanced medical care, the hospital has become a theatre of human suffering and bureaucratic collapse.

Newsday's investigation reveals allegations of more than 100 preventable deaths since June 2024, attributed to mismanagement, negligence, and professional infighting. Patients are reportedly misdiagnosed, nurses disregard doctors' instructions, critical departments like ICU and Theatre are short-staffed, and major surgeries have been postponed for years due to a lack of supplies.

Inside sources describe a hospital crippled by power struggles between medical and nursing leadership, an absentee superintendent, and a Ministry of Health seemingly detached from the crisis. With no reliable data systems, no accountability, and no oversight, lives are being lost in silence, and the very institution built to save Basotho has become a place where hope dies daily.

Taken together, these two scandals reflect a single truth, that Lesotho's healthcare system is on life support. The problem is not only about the shortage of doctors or resources. It is about a deeper failure of governance, ethics, and leadership, a rot that begins at the top and seeps into every ward, every desk, and every operating room.

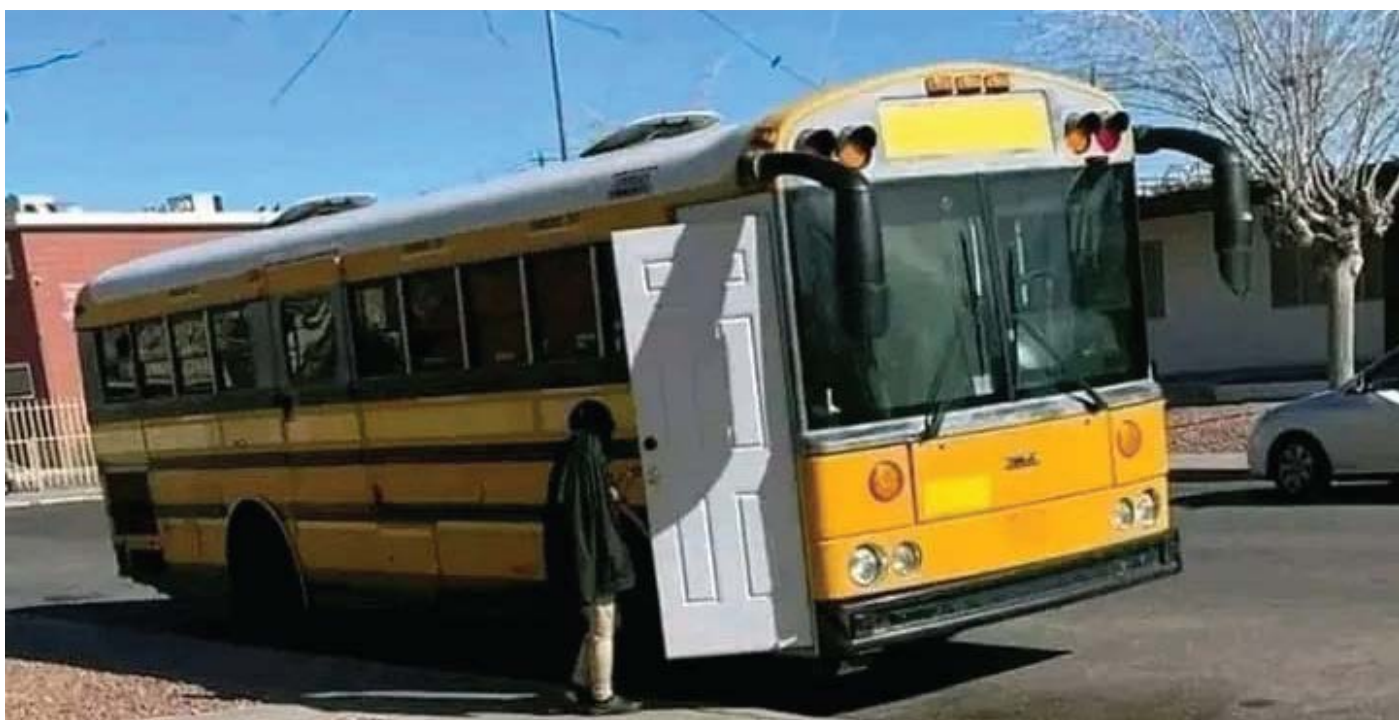
When unqualified individuals can perform surgery unchecked, and when over 100 deaths can occur without investigation or consequence, the issue is no longer about isolated mistakes. It is about a culture of impunity, a systemic acceptance of mediocrity and negligence. Hospitals are no longer functioning as institutions of healing; they are bureaucratic fiefdoms where accountability is an inconvenience and human life is expendable.

The Lesotho Medical, Dental, and Pharmacy Council must act decisively and transparently. It must ensure that unlicensed practitioners are immediately removed and that hospitals complicit in such acts face legal and regulatory consequences. The Ministry of Health must also confront its chronic inertia. It cannot continue to respond to public health scandals with silence, excuses, and shifting of blame. A nation that cannot guarantee safe medical care to its citizens is a nation in moral decline.

Moreover, Parliament and the Office of the Ombudsman must urgently launch inquiries into both cases. There must be independent audits of hospital management, personnel licensing, and mortality records. The public deserves to know how many lives have been lost, how many doctors are unqualified, and how millions in taxpayer money allocated for health are being used.

But beyond the investigations, Lesotho must have a deeper conversation about values, about what it means to govern in service of life, and not power. The health crisis exposes a government that has forgotten its duty to protect, and institutions that have lost their sense of purpose.

Every Mosotho life matters. Every preventable death is a national shame. And every act of negligence, from allowing an unlicensed doctor to operate, to ignoring cries from within collapsing hospitals, is a betrayal of public trust.



No Comment



Theko Tlebere

Common Concern

Why citizens continue to voice discontent about the government

Public dissatisfaction with the government has become a prevalent theme among many Basotho. Whether in taxis, around village fires, on social media, or during popular radio talk shows, individuals express their frustrations regarding leadership, corruption, and inadequate service delivery. This behaviour is not exclusive to Lesotho; it represents a universal response to the disparity between expectations and reality. However, in Lesotho, the intensity and persistence of these complaints point to a more profound issue, a crisis of trust between citizens and the state, underscoring the widening gap between expectations and experiences.

At its core, complaining stems from a sense of hope. Individuals voice their grievances because they believe in the possibility of improvement. A citizen who harbours no expectations will seldom feel compelled to complain. In Lesotho, however, hope has often been met with disappointment. Successive governments have pledged to provide jobs, enhance healthcare, ensure stable electricity, and establish effective local governance, yet these promises remain largely unfulfilled. When infrastructure projects are incomplete, hospitals lack essential medications and equipment, and youth unemployment is skyrocketing, complaints become the primary recourse for individuals who feel powerless within the existing system.

Social psychologists refer to this phenomenon as "learned helplessness." When citizens come to understand that voting, protesting, or engaging in civic dialogue rarely leads to meaningful change, they resort to complaints as a means of emotional survival. Complaining transforms into an outlet for frustration and serves as a reminder to those in power that the populace is observant and anticipates improvements. Thus, this behaviour is not inherently destructive; it can signify political engagement in a context where formal participation channels are weak or ineffective. In democratic societies, complaints serve as natural political feedback, reflecting the nation's anxieties, hopes, and frustrations.

Unfortunately, in Lesotho, this energy is often misinterpreted. When citizens express concerns about failing hospitals, corruption, or inefficiency, government officials frequently perceive these expressions as political attacks rather than authentic civ-

ic engagement. This defensive posture has become entrenched in our political culture. Questioning a minister's decision is often equated with opposing the ruling party, and advocating for improved services can be construed as disloyalty. This tenuous relationship between the government and the governed continues to erode public trust.

Much of this defensiveness is rooted in the structure of Lesotho's political system itself. Coalition governments tend to be fragile, prioritising survival over service delivery. People speak rapidly even before any policy can mature, even those who had a chance to make a difference are the loudest, and political instability resets development plans every time, leaving citizens feeling disillusioned. In such an environment, complaints arise not from animosity towards the government, but from a sense of invisibility. Their voices resonate in a vacuum where accountability mechanisms are weak, and institutions such as the Ombudsman or Parliament struggle to hold the executive accountable.

When formal feedback channels are obstructed, informal avenues such as radio shows, Facebook, and Twitter emerge as alternative public forums. To ensure that this culture of complaint meaningfully contributes to governance, both parties must evolve. Citizens should express their frustrations responsibly, grounding their complaints in factual information and refraining from personal attacks or the spread of misinformation. Simultaneously, the government must adopt a mindset of listening without defensiveness. Constructive criticism is not sabotage; when managed appropriately, it serves as a reflection for the government to assess its performance and legitimacy.

Countries that have successfully transformed citizen frustration into progress, such as Rwanda and Singapore, have institutionalised complaint management systems that treat public feedback as valuable data for policy enhancement rather than mere dissent. Lesotho can adopt a similar approach. Ministries should create transparent feedback platforms where citizens can submit complaints, receive responses, and track outcomes. Digital governance platforms could also be introduced to bridge the gap between citizens and policymakers. When citizens feel heard, they are less likely to

complain incessantly; conversely, when they feel ignored, complaints tend to proliferate.

However, the roots of ongoing public discontent in Lesotho are not exclusively political; they are also economic and structural. The nation's weak industrial base, limited job creation, and over-reliance on Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenue have fostered an atmosphere of stagnation. For young people, complaining often signifies a plea for opportunity in a country where degrees no longer guarantee employment, and migration has emerged as the most viable path to survival. When a society's economic system marginalises the majority, even the most eloquent government rhetoric can appear hollow. Thus, until economic justice and service delivery improve, public complaints will persist as a national language that must not be ignored by those in power.

To advance, both the government and citizens must rediscover the importance of dialogue. The government must listen without fear, and citizens must communicate with purpose rather than despair. Public media can play a transformative role by shifting the focus from sensationalism to solution-oriented journalism. Instead of amplifying anger, radio talk shows and newspapers can facilitate structured national conversations surrounding accountability and reform. Educational institutions should also emphasise civic education to help young people distinguish between destructive criticism and constructive engagement. Ultimately, people will continue to voice complaints about the government, and they should. Complaints are an integral aspect of democracy. They serve as a reminder to leaders that promises matter and that legitimacy must be reaffirmed daily through performance.

The challenge lies not in silencing complaints but in transforming them into dialogue, reform, and progress. A government that listens becomes stronger; a society that speaks responsibly becomes wiser. Lesotho's democracy is young, fragile, and full of potential. Its citizens are not adversaries of the state; they are participants in its evolution. If leaders learn to interpret public complaints not as attacks but as opportunities, the tone of national discourse will shift from despair to hope, from cynicism to collaboration. That transformation begins with one fundamental act: listening. The Future is **NOW!**



Can Basotho do to Matekane what Batswana did to Masisi?

Nkopane Mathibeli

“What is liberty without wisdom and without virtue?; it is the greatest of all possible evils for it is folly, vice and madness without tuition and restraint” – Edmund Burke (1729 – 1797)

Despite the age of this observation, its insightful relevance remains timeless, but most importantly, its wholesome appreciation is central if Basotho, like many other Africans, are to correctly determine the root of the almost believable assertion that representative democracy does not work in Africa. It is, however, working well in Botswana and a handful of other countries, as evidenced by tangible advancement. By working well, I do not merely mean the periodic circulation of political elites via elections, but that, coupled with cumulative economic gains made by each group, failing which a summary dismissal by the electorate is guaranteed. Is the Lesotho electorate there yet? Since its inception (1965), it has elected a total of ten regimes, but is there a demonstrable degree of wisdom and virtue in how it goes about doing so, or can we safely say, as Burke observed, that our political right of self-determination has degenerated into an orgy of folly, vice and madness? My intention with this piece is merely to lay a foundation on which to comparatively assess the political wisdom and virtue of both Botswana and Lesotho's electorate and government as a basis of our long-overdue introspection.

Matekane in perspective

Prime Minister Ntsoakoane Matekane's premiership was inaugurated on October 28, 2022. Today, it is only weeks away from its third anniversary when the man will be completing 60 percent of his first five-year term. What is becoming clearer everyday is that the advanced age of this term signals the imminence of the next election campaign. As Basotho march closer to yet another chance of making good with their votes, a seemingly simple but rather complex question is whether Matekane will, like Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana, Macky Sall of Senegal, Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana, and lately Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi, be part of the currently raging wave of one-term heads of state/government or not? As a prelude to answering it, I briefly outline the substance of national governance i.e. its politics or more appropriately, its political fibre as reflective in its demeanour or outward expression of intent. This is because every government is first and foremost, a political organism the basis of whose legitimacy and longevity is not only its inherent awareness of needs, concerns and aspirations of the people but also the capacity to satisfy such needs, address the concerns and actualise such aspirations.

It is for this reason alone that though heads of governments like Prime Minister Matekane have a host of advisors, their political advisors are irrefutably the cornerstones of their political fortunes. This is because, irrespective of whether a government's economic advisor may be the cream of the crop, his/her sound economic blueprint will never bear fruit if the political advice dispensed falls short of nurturing a collective political consciousness, central to which is the national interest. Let us look at Botswana for a perfect example in this regard; an example from which we may extrapolate Matekane's prospects.

Botswana, politics and nationhood

This example not only made us witnesses to the spectacular fall in Botswana of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) after fifty-eight years in power; it also presented two interest-

ing observations. The first was the unravelling of Sir Seretse Khama's prophecy revolving around the consequence of shifting away from the correct political configuration (so to speak). The second was the political state of mind (political & national consciousness) of Botswana's electorate and the inclination of its majority to at least participate in politics with a vote in favour of the national interest. Here is how, and first is Khama's prophecy. In the opening address of his party's conference on August 27, 1977, he said: "As a party, we have always been guided in our policies and actions by one supreme consideration: the national interest. This must continue to be our supreme consideration for the alternative is to render ourselves irrelevant even before we are booted out of office by the people of Botswana".

Although the rise of synthetic diamonds played a role in the economic decline of Botswana under the Masisi-led BDP, much of it was a direct outcome of his loss of the established political and policy direction through corruption, hence the party's fate. Of greater significance, there was the swift and history-making political response of the Batswana. Seemingly without a second thought, they not only revoked the BDP's long granted privilege of overseeing Botswana's governance and development trajectory, they made Masisi the only one-term president of Botswana thus far. This alone speaks to their enviable political consciousness and maturity both of which are direct spin offs of their collective consciousness as a nation. In spite of its (BDP) remarkable political legacy, Batswana did not hesitate to send it packing the moment its leader (Masisi) used it to commit two seemingly unforgivable sins in the political psyche of the Batswana: mishandling the economy and introducing hatred/vengeance into Botswana politics through his unfounded persecution of one of their own (Ian Khama). Can Basotho do the same to Matekane?

Matekane's political miscalculations

The answer to this question must logically be preceded by an outline of his misgivings which in turn must be placed against the political psyche of Basotho to determine their probable political response. The glaring reality is that viewed through a purely political lens, Matekane's premiership was from the onset, a rather worrying episode of gross political miscalculations many of which far outweigh those of Masisi. Given the gravity and speed with which his regime churned these miscalculations, only the worst three will do for the purpose of this piece. The first and most significant is that since his tenure began, Matekane has consistently faltered on political accountability as envisaged by question time in the national assembly, specifically by section 27 (Questions without notice) of the National Assembly standing orders. What makes it worse is that through what can best be described as clueless arrogance, his parliamentary majority was mobilised to block an amendment of the same section meant to ensure that he is at least notified beforehand. The ultimate end was to enable him to prepare his answers. What portion of the electorate finds this unaccountability politically delinquent?

The second significant political miscalcu-

lation on his part is his regime's unofficial "amendment" of section 4 of the Public Meetings and Processions Act (titled: conditions on meetings and processions). This it did by ordering the police to demand from applicants, proof of consent from whoever the procession is to deliver grievances; the absence of which nullifies the procession. Thus far, this unofficial amendment has effectively revoked the constitutional right to peaceful assembly. What portion of the electorate see this as politically delinquent? The third serious act of Matekane's political miscalculation is the arrest, on July 2, of the Member of Parliament and leader of Basotho Covenant Movement (Dr. T'sepo Lipholo) on what many see as a trumped up charge. Its basis is his alleged establishment and training (on a South African farm) a militia meant to forcefully return Lesotho's conquered territory.

Which way now?

Given the validity of such a historical dispossession of land coupled with the perennial policy/diplomatic hostility of South Africa to

Lesotho and most importantly, the denial by the South African Police Service of the existence of such a militia on any farm in the nine provinces it polices, what portion of Lesotho's electorate may just as was the case with Botswana's electorate, courtesy of the Masisi-Khama episode, feel that Matekane is unfoundedly vengeful on one of their own and so ought to go for not meeting Lipholo halfway by using the state to drive this issue to its logical conclusion? In conclusion, both our political psyche and national consciousness as Basotho are diametric opposites of those of Batswana because unlike them, more things divide than unite us courtesy of our fractured foundation of nationhood. How do we rectify this; can also nurturing a common consciousness and a political psyche rooted in the national interest work for us; as Basotho, do we have such inherent will and capacity or must we settle for the current reality that our independence is nothing but folly, vice and madness seemingly without tuition and restraint?



5th Floor, Right Wing, Post Office Building
Kingsway Road, Maseru

Notice of Expression of Interest for Provision of Recruitment Services

1. The **Lesotho Public Procurement Authority** has allocated/received funds from the Government of Lesotho to be used for the acquisition of the consultancy services described below.
2. The Entity now invites eligible consultants to submit sealed expressions of interest for professional support in the **recruitment and selection of staff for the Authority**
3. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they are eligible and possess the required qualifications to perform the services supported with relevant documentation.
4. The short listing criteria will include: The applicable selection method is **CQS**
 - A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management, or a related field. A Master's degree will be an added advantage.
 - At least 10 years of proven experience in recruitment and selection.
 - Demonstrated experience in providing similar services
 - Excellent knowledge of fair recruitment practices, applicable labour laws, and ethical standards.
5. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture to enhance their qualifications. The form of association, where applicable,

- should be indicated in the Expression of Interest.
6. Preference schemes shall apply when evaluating Request for Proposals from the shortlisted consultants.
 7. Interested eligible consultants may obtain further information at the address given below from **800hrs-1630hrs**
 8. Sealed Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below at or before **12:30hrs, 24th October 2025**.
Lesotho Public Procurement Authority
5th Floor, Right Wing, Post Office Building, Kingsway Road.
ntelom@lesothoprocurement.org.ls
 9. The notice of expression of interest and detailed TOR upon written request on the email above.

10. The planned Procurement schedule (Subject to changes) is as follows:

Activity	Date
a. Publication of Notice of Expression of Interest	10th October 2025
b. Closing date for receipt of Expression of Interest	24th October 2025
c. Evaluation of Expressions of Interest	31st October 2025
d. Display of shortlist	7th November 2025



TENDER NOTICE

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL RISK MITIGATION FOR DREDGING OF RASEBALA DAM IN MAFETENG
Reference: WASCO/SCM/10062025

Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) invites interested and qualified Individual Consultants to submit bids for ‘STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL RISK MITIGATION FOR DREDGING OF RASEBALA DAM IN MAFETENG’.

All interested bidders must be in possession of a proven track record and must be licensed for providing services of this nature.

All bidders must attach certified copies Company Registration Licenses, as the quotations without these documents shall be disqualified.

Interested bidders shall access Terms of Reference for the RFQ from WASCO Website: www.wasco.co.ls or through a request from supplychainmanagement@wasco.co.ls

Conditions:

- 1. Tender is free of charge and one envelope Request for Quotation (RFQ).
- 2. The price quoted in the bid must be in LSL (Lesotho Loti) and include all applicable taxes and duties.
- 3. The Quotes must be submitted in English.
- 4. Tenders received later than the mentioned deadline below and electronic tenders shall not be accepted.
- 5. Detailed tender packaging and labelling requirements in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) must be adhered to.
- 6. Bidders (bidding company directors or individual consultant) must be WASCO services debt free throughout bidding and duration of the contract; otherwise, non-adherence shall lead to **disqualification**.

7. Important dates:

Action	Date
Issue RFQ	17th October 2025 @ 09:00am
Final date to submit written questions only (email format)	24th October 2025
Distribution of questions and answers to all bidders (email format)	28th October 2025
Final date for submission of bidder quotations in response to the RFQ	3rd November 2025 @ 09:00am: WASCO Head Office, Technical Boardroom
Public opening of the quotes	3rd November 2025 @ 09:30am: WASCO Head Office, Technical Boardroom

- 8. All tenders should be delivered and deposited in the tender box situated at **WASCO Head Office, Technical Boardroom**, not later than the stated date above. The Quotations submission address is as shown below.

WASCO Head Office
P.O. Box 42
Industrial Area, (off Moshoeshoe Road)
Maseru, Lesotho 100

Tel : +266 222 621 511 ; +266 222 621 301 ; +266 622262132

Any queries concerning this tender should be addressed to the Supply Manager at this e-mail address: supplychainmanagement@wasco.co.ls. All queries and questions shall be attended in writing and submitted to the bidders who purchased the document.



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

VACANCY

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

POST NO.	POSITION	DEPARTMENT / FACULTY	DEADLINE
0921	Lecturer in Business Education	Language and Social Education / Education	14 November 2025

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

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

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

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



Vacancy Announcements

WFP is supporting the Government of Lesotho to implement a five-year Adaptation Fund project aimed at improving the adaptive capacity of vulnerable and food-insecure populations (IACoV phase II). A key component of this project is the effective implementation of climate change adaptation programme that enhances community resilience to chronic food insecurity and climate change impacts in Mafeteng, Quthing, Mohale's Hoek, and Thaba-Tseka districts. WFP therefore seeks applications for positions listed below for project implementation.

Title	External candidates link	Deadline
Programme Officer -SAMS (SC8)	https://wd3.myworkdaysite.com/recruiting/wfp/job_openings/job/Maseru-Lesotho-The-Kingdom-Of/Programme-Officer---SAMS_JR116789	25 October 2025
Administration Assistant (SC4)	https://wd3.myworkdaysite.com/recruiting/wfp/job_openings/job/Maseru-Lesotho-The-Kingdom-Of/Administration-SC-G_JR116719	
Communications Associate (SC6)	https://wd3.myworkdaysite.com/recruiting/wfp/job_openings/job/Maseru-Lesotho-The-Kingdom-Of/Communications-SC-G_JR116724	
Procurement Associate (SC6)	https://wd3.myworkdaysite.com/recruiting/wfp/job_openings/job/Maseru-Lesotho-The-Kingdom-Of/Procurement-Associate_JR116741	
Programme Associate-Knowledge Management (SC6)	https://wd3.myworkdaysite.com/recruiting/wfp/job_openings/job/Maseru-Lesotho-The-Kingdom-Of/Programme-Associate---Knowledge-Management_JR116795	
Programme Officer – Field Coordination (SC9)	https://wd3.myworkdaysite.com/recruiting/wfp/job_openings/job/Maseru-Lesotho-The-Kingdom-Of/Programme-Officer---Field-Coordination_JR116791	
Driver x 4 (SC2)	https://wd3.myworkdaysite.com/recruiting/wfp/job_openings/job/Maseru-Lesotho-The-Kingdom-Of/Driver-1_JR116743	

NB.: It's important to us to create an accessible, inclusive workplace for everyone, so please email global.inclusion@wfp.org if you are shortlisted and need any disability related adjustments for your interviews/test/technical assessment. Our reasonable accommodations team will then connect with you to confidentially discuss your options.



Vacancy Announcement

Title	External candidates link	Deadline
M & E Associate G6	https://wd3.myworkdaysite.com/recruiting/wfp/job_openings/job/Maseru-Lesotho-The-Kingdom-Of/M---E-Associate_JR116602-1	23 October 2025
IT Assistant SC5	https://wd3.myworkdaysite.com/recruiting/wfp/job_openings/job/Maseru-Lesotho-The-Kingdom-Of/IT-Assistant_JR116514-1	22 October 2025

NB.: It's important to us to create an accessible, inclusive workplace for everyone, so please email global.inclusion@wfp.org if you are shortlisted and need any disability related adjustments for your interviews/test/technical assessment. Our reasonable accommodations team will then connect with you to confidentially discuss your options.

EXPRESSSIONS OF INTEREST

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

ROADS DIRECTORATE (RD) is seeking expressions of interest from qualified companies and consultants to provide goods and services in the categories as shown below. This exercise is intended to assist Roads Directorate to get a better appreciation of registered companies that are operating in these areas of expertise and to update its vendor database.

Areas of services include:

- Road construction material such as asphalt, prime mix, cement, paint
- Road construction tools such as pickaxes, wheelbarrows, shovels, spades
- Road construction equipment such as rollers, compactors, waterbowzers, road marking equipment, concrete mixers
- Building Material such as crushed stone, meshwire, reinforcement
- Fuel and Lubricants such as coal, wood, paraffin, petrol, diesel
- Hardware (e.g. for electrical works, plumbing)
- Road construction laboratory equipment
- Air travel including, air tickets and related packages
- Management consulting services
- Corporate image consulting and promotional items
- Logistics services including customs clearance, freight forwarding etc
- Commercial security services
- Cleaning and Landscaping services
- ICT equipment, network cabling, ICT supplies and consumables
- Air conditioning and refrigeration
- Catering, events management and hotel and conferencing services
- Vehicle and property insurance
- Office equipment, furniture, stationery and other office supplies
- Water purification services
- Corporate wear and protective gear
- Maintenance of Motor and Plant Vehicle (eg Graders, Excavators, Rollers, Tipper trucks(Different Sizes) Water Tankers etc.

- Maintenance of Office Equipment
- Printing and Branding Services (for ID cards, flyers, posters, office documents etcetera)
- Advertising Agencies
- Road and Office Signage
- Stationery
- Sound System and PA System
- Supply and fitting of Carpets and Blinds
- Motor Towing Services
- Motor Panel Beating and Spray Painting
- Office Partitioning
- Electronics and Electrical Appliances
- Durable Tents (Hiring and/ selling)
- Supply and Maintenance of Fire Extinguishers
- Any other categories which not have been included here

For companies to qualify they must meet the following criteria (by proof of submissions):

- Must have a proven track record of service provision in Lesotho in their areas of expertise. A full company profile on a letter head detailing the registration, current physical address, services provided, similar assignments, references of previous assignments with contact details must be submitted.
- Must show financial viability of their businesses
- Registration licence/Business Identity and TAX Clearance certificate certified at source

If applicable, the Roads Directorate reserves the right to visit your facilities as part of the pre-qualification process to verify factors such as (but no limited to) existence of organisation, availability of goods on hand and operational framework.

Submissions through email with subject **“Expression of Interest for Supply of Goods, Works and Services”** should be addressed to Procurement Specialist, Roads Directorate. Submissions should be sent to the following emails manoelin@rd.org.ls cc: molefimt@rd.org.ls on or before **31st October 2025 at 12:00 noon**
Attention to: Procurement Specialist

 Roads Directorate

 @Roads_LS

 Road Directorate Lesotho

 Quality Roads, Improving Connectivity



MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFTAINSHIP, HOME-AFFAIRS AND POLICE
BEREA DISTRICT COUNCIL

INVITATION TO TENDER NO: BDC/D/01/2025/2026

The Ministry of Local Government & Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police (MoLGCHP) – Berea District Council has received funds from the Government of Lesotho and intends to apply these funds for **Water Supply Maintenance and Extension at Ha-Ts’oeunyane in Berea Urban Council**. Therefore, contractors who possess **Category C of Department of Rural Water Supply (DWRS)** are invited to tender for the above works for year ending 31st March 2026.

REGISTRATION OF THE TENDER DOCUMENT

Tender documents are available at Berea District Council (Procurement unit) at a non-refundable registration fee for participation amounting to **M2, 000.00** (Two Thousand Maloti Only) during working hours paid into the Standard Lesotho Bank a/c **No: 9080006362180** (Reference be Company’s name). The Stamped Bank Confirmation to be taken to Accounts office at **Berea Urban Council** for Receipt. Tender documents will be provided to the potential bidder upon provision of receipt from Accounts office by the District Council Procurement Unit.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

For Category C

Lot	Name of Council	Project Name	Category
1	Berea Urban Council	Water Supply Maintenance and Extension at Ha-Ts’oeunyane in Berea Urban Council	C

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Bid Security

Submission of 2% bid security from the bank or institution recognized by Central Bank of Lesotho.

Pre bid Meeting

Compulsory pre-bid meeting will be held on the **05th November 2025** at **Berea District Council’s** Board Room at **10:00 a.m.**

Site-visits

Site visit is compulsory on the same date after pre-bid meeting. Site visit is at the bidders expenses.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Bidders who do not comply with the following requirements will be disqualified:

- Relevant and valid Trader’s License
- Valid Tax Clearance Certificate
- Valid DRWS Certificate certified at source
- 2% bid security of a tendered price
- Compulsory Pre-tender meeting and Site visit (Certificate of Attendance)
- Company profile with clear **IBR Number**
- Notarized Power of Attorney will be needed in case of existing Joint Ventures, companies and societies
- Certificate of Incorporation and Company Extract on companies.
- Completed and stamped (suppliers stamp) Certificate of Bonafide
- Completed and stamped (suppliers stamp) statement of commitment

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Compliance to Tender Conditions
- Technical Capability (85%)
- Financial Capability (15%)

Tender Issuance and Submission

The issue date for this tender is 15th October 2025 and the closing date is 18th November 2025. Original documents of the tender responses are to be delivered to the tender box situated, **at Berea District Council, NOT LATER THAN 11:00 A.M on the 18th November 2025.** All tenders will be opened **on the same date at 11:30 a.m.** Sealed envelope or packaging bearing no identification of **bidder must be marked: WATER SUPPLY MAINTENANCE AND EXTENSION AT HA TŠOEUNYANE BEREA URBAN COUNCIL.** Tenders will be opened in the presence of bidders or representatives at 11:30 a.m. on the same day at Berea District Council’s boardroom.

For further information please contact +266 5718 3276 during office hours on or before 18th November 2025

Berea District Council also reserves the right to cancel the tenders before submission/opening of tenders, postpone the tender submission/opening date and to accept/reject any or all tenders. Berea District Council is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.



Road Fund

TENDER FOR SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND ERECTION OF PARK HOME STRUCTURES AND CUSTOMISED SHIPPING CONTAINERS
FOR ROAD FUND BORDER FACILITIES
Tender Reference Number: RF/2025/W01

1. Background and requirements:

The Road Fund Secretariat invites bids from suitably qualified companies and contractors with the capacity to supply, customise, deliver and erect shipping containers and park home structures for border gate facilities. The specifications are provided in Table 1 below:

Table 1:

Lot	Description of works	Type of works	Type of structure	Location
MOKHOTLONG				
1.	2 bedroomed residential	Construction of slab, customisation and erection of shipping container	Concrete slab and customised shipping container	Sani border gate, Mokhotlong
	Pit latrine	Excavation of pit and construction of latrine	Block work	
MAFETENG				
2.	Office space	Construction of slabs and erection of park home structure	Concrete slab and park home	Van Royen border gate, Mafeteng
MOHALE'S HOEK				
3.	Office space	Construction of slabs and erection of park home structure	Concrete slab and customization of existing shipping container	Makhaleng border gate, Mohale's Hoek
QACHA'S NEK				
4.	Office space	Construction of slab, customisation and erection of shipping container	Concrete slab and customised shipping container	Qacha's Nek border gate, Qacha's Nek

Contractors/suppliers are at liberty to bid for one lot/any combination of lots/all lots. However, each contractor shall submit only one Quotation for one lot/any combination of lots/all lots.

Evaluation will be carried out on a “lot by lot” basis. One contractor/supplier will be awarded maximum of 2

lots. More lots can be awarded if other contractors are non-compliant or whereby value for money won’t be realized from the offers of other contractors/suppliers.

2. Interested eligible contractors/suppliers may obtain a complete set of Tender Documents in English from the Road Fund Secretariat website: procurement@roadfund.org.ls.

3. Request for clarifications may be sent in writing to this email address: procurement@roadfund.org.ls not later than **5th November 2025**.

4. Bids must be delivered to the address (8) below; on or before **19th November 2025 at 11:00hrs**. Late bids will be rejected. Tenders will be opened in the presence of the Tenderers and/or their representatives who choose to attend in person at **Road Fund Secretariat Boardroom on the same date 19th November 2025 at 11:15hrs**. Telefax and Email Tenders will not be accepted. All bids must be accompanied by a **bid security of 2%** of the bid amount per lot, in the form Bank Guarantee valid for One hundred and twenty days (120).

5. In addition to the bid security mentioned above, it is mandatory for bidders to submit the following valid documents: (a) Tax Clearance Certificates; (b) Trader’s License, (c) Certificate of Bona Fide Bidding, (d) Ministry of Public Works registration certificate. **Non- compliance with these requirements may invalidate a bid.**

6. Qualifications requirements for award include amongst others per lot: (a) **business experience of not less than Five years in similar jobs**, (b) **successful completion of similar contracts of not less than a total of M600, 000.00 in the past Five years**, and (c) **evidence that the bidder/tenderer has capital or lines of credit of at least 50% of own bid amount** (d) **Other requirements of the tender document**. The margin of preference for local companies shall be applied during evaluation. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

7. A **mandatory bidder’s conference/site visit** will be held as per schedule herein attached as **Appendix 1** of the tender document.

8. The address referred to above for Bid Submission and Bid Opening is:
Road Fund Secretariat,
Former Department of Rural Roads Building, P.O. Box 14644,
Cnr Moshoeshoe & Senate Roads,
Industrial Area, Maseru, Lesotho

9. Bidders shall ensure that the envelopes/packages containing their bids are properly addressed as indicated under 8 above and are **CLEARLY MARKED “(Insert lot number) Construction of (insert description of works) at (insert location) – IFB No.: RF/2025/W1.**



Newsday Interview

I want to see results: new EU Ambassador Sunnergren

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

On October 2, 2025, Ambassador Mette Sunnergren of the European Union (EU) presented her letters of credence to His Majesty King Letsie III at the Royal Palace in Maseru. She succeeds Paola Amadei, whose tour of duty in Lesotho recently came to an end. A Swedish national, Sunnergren becomes the second woman and the 13th EU Ambassador to represent the EU in Lesotho since 1976.

A seasoned career diplomat, Lesotho marks her first posting as an EU Ambassador, following an extensive career representing Sweden. She has previously served in several African countries, including Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

In an exclusive interview with Newsday journalist Thoboloko Ntšonyane, Ambassador Sunnergren shared her aspirations, expressing a strong desire for tangible change and meaningful results. She also underscored her commitment to deepening EU-Lesotho relations and strengthening partnerships with other key stakeholders.

Below are excerpts from the interview.

Thoboloko Ntšonyane (TN): How has it been so far in these few weeks that you have been in Le-

sotho and assumed the role of EU Ambassador to Lesotho?

Mette Sunnergren

(MS): It has been

I came to join an incredible EU Delegation, and I really enjoy working with my colleagues.

They have been

I have also had some early interactions with government representatives, organisations, and individuals from civil society. Everyone has been so open and generous in sharing their knowledge and information, which has been very helpful, especially at this early stage. I'm still gathering all the pieces of the puzzle, but I know it will come together with time.

TN: What did you notice first about Lesotho and Basotho?

MS: My first impression, as soon as I got off the plane, was the spring flowers and the trees, it was so beautiful! And then, of course, the mountains. I think most people notice the mountains first, but I saw the trees, and they immediately put a smile on my face. The blooming spring made me feel like there was a new beginning here.

The second thing that struck me, as many people mention, is the iconic Basotho blankets. They are beautiful, and I love that people actually wear them, not just as symbols, but for warmth and style. I have seen herd-boys wearing them, a minister wearing it and looking so nice, it cuts across all levels of society. I already have two myself, haha!

TN: Please tell us a bit about yourself. Who is Ambassador Mette Sunnergren?

MS: Professionally, I have been a diplomat for many years, serving in my country's Foreign Ministry, Sweden. This is actually my first posting representing the European Union.

As a Swedish diplomat, I previous-

quite interesting, and the welcome I have received has been very warm. I struggled a little bit in the beginning with the cold weather, it was springtime, but it has been getting better and better as the temperatures rise.

super supportive and have helped me settle in. I have even had the opportunity to learn a few words in Sesotho. What has struck me most about the Delegation is the amazing team spirit, it has been fantastic.





Newsday Interview

ly served as Ambassador to three African countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and Mozambique. I have also served as Head of Cooperation and Deputy Head of Mission in a few countries, including Zimbabwe.

At some point, I felt ready to explore new opportunities, and the EU was a logical next step. I applied, and here I am. Most of my career has been spent abroad, and that is where I feel I can make the greatest contribution. I enjoy being close to the people I work with, whether as a diplomat or a development practitioner, and learning from new cultures and experiences. I never wanted to stay in one place forever; this career allows me to live that dream.

Privately, I am a mother of two sons who are still in school. Unfortunately, they are not with me here, one is in Mozambique, so he is not too far away, and the other is studying in Switzerland. Being a parent has probably taught me more about diplomacy than the profession itself, you negotiate, you make peace, you ensure cooperation even when there are disagreements. (laughs) I miss them a lot; it is a bit quiet at home without them.

Now I share my home with two cats, so I still have some company. I am also looking forward to visiting my family, my parents are still in Sweden, and those visits always give me a sense of belonging and connection.

As for who I am, I see myself as a doer. I like to see results. I want things to happen. Discussions and processes are necessary, of course, but at the end of the day, I want to see real change and transformation for the better, and to feel that I have been part of making that happen.

TN: Are there any particular hobbies that you enjoy, and which are those?

MS: I am quite a sporty person. I do some form of exercise every morning before going to the office, it is a great way to start the day and feel energised. On the rare days I skip it, I always feel like something is missing.

During weekends, I also stay active — I play tennis, and although I am not a golfer yet, I would love to learn. I enjoy hiking as well; I have already been on three hikes here in Lesotho. Just like in my home country, what I love is the freedom to move around and explore nature, it's really impressive.

For relaxation, I like to read and watch movies. It helps me to detach a little from my own realities and step into someone else's world for a while.

TN: What does the work of the EU Ambassador entail?

MS: First of all, I am the representative of the European Union in Lesotho. That means my work involves meetings, discussions, emails, and interactions with Basotho across dif-

ferent sectors. Now that I have presented my credentials, I can formally engage with the government, civil society, academia, the media — you name it.

In those engagements, we talk about EU priorities, needs, and the policies we would like to discuss and advance together.

Since most EU Member States do not have embassies in Lesotho, part of my role is also to support and coordinate them. I brief their representatives, facilitate their visits, and act as a bridge between Lesotho and those EU countries without a permanent diplomatic presence here.

Of course, diplomacy is not only about meetings, it also involves public diplomacy. Through social media and other channels, we share knowledge about the EU, what it stands for, and our partnerships in Lesotho. I also make sure that our EU Delegation here functions smoothly and that everyone can fulfil their respective mandates.

TN: As an ambassador representing the EU bloc, or your country, in what ways would you say your role is fulfilling? And beyond the rewards, what are some of the challenges you encounter in this role?

MS: I think one of the main challenges is that, as EU Ambassadors, we always want to do as much as possible, but so many things are beyond our direct control. We can promote ideas, share information, connect people, and encourage dialogue, but ultimately, decisions often rest with the private sector, governments, or other actors.

The most rewarding moments come when those efforts actually lead to results, when networking, briefings, and persistent discussions bear fruit. For example, when you see European businesses investing here, or when a partnership leads to tangible outcomes, that is incredibly fulfilling.

Another deeply rewarding part of the job is visiting communities and seeing real improvements, when you find running water where there was none before, or see electricity lines and solar panels bringing light to homes off the grid. Those are the moments that remind you why the work matters.

TN: Does the EU ensure that the voices of marginalised communities are represented in its programming decisions?

MS: We believe it is very important that, for each programme, there are consultations and engagements with local communities at some stage, especially with those who are meant to be the beneficiaries or directly involved in implementation. They must have a say in what is happening.

Consultations, information sharing, and the incorporation of community perspectives are essential during the implementation phase. Many of our partnerships are with local organisations, sometimes directly, sometimes

through implementing partners who work closely with communities or are themselves informed by them. These implementers understand the people, their environment, and how best to make initiatives work in their context.

Before we sign off on any programme, there are also needs assessments and research conducted by our stakeholder partners. These exercises require them to engage with those who will be affected, including marginalised groups and communities.

At a broader level, we operate within a human rights-based and inclusive development framework. These principles are not only written in our guidelines but are also integral to how we work. They ensure that development is both effective and respectful of the rights of those it aims to uplift.

During the later phases, monitoring and evaluation, it remains important to listen to the people around whom development is taking place. Another key aspect is capacity-building. Often, marginalised groups may find it difficult to express their needs or may feel uncomfortable doing so. Empowering them to articulate their priorities ensures their voices are genuinely heard and represented.

TN: How does the EU prioritise which sectors or areas receive more support and capacity strengthening?

MS: The EU operates under a Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP), which provides broad guidelines on the areas the EU intends to focus on in each partner country, including Lesotho. Within that framework, we work in collaboration with the Government of Lesotho, aligning our support with the country's own development plans.

We also hold consultations with stakeholders, conduct needs assessments, and take a holistic approach to ensure that our interventions align with national priorities and complement one another for sustainable development.

Currently, we are engaged in areas such as clean energy, the water sector, and infrastructure, both large and small-scale projects. These are linked with broader social and economic benefits for communities.

Additionally, we provide support for good governance, because we believe it forms the foundation for everything else, sustaining a peaceful, just, and prosperous society.

TN: In light of the rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape and significant changes in global politics, how do you plan to adapt EU programmes in Lesotho to remain effective and responsive to emerging challenges?

MS: It is true, we are living in a challenging world that is changing at a pace we are not entirely used to. One of the key challenges, even for the EU as a whole, is to remain a reliable and steadfast partner amidst this uncer-

tainty.

When it comes to supporting Lesotho, we believe the current directions of our cooperation and partnership programmes, particularly in renewable energy, climate adaptation, and resilience building, remain very relevant. These are steady, forward-looking areas, and even though the world is changing, these priorities provide a clear sense of direction.

Energy is a crucial sector. The goal is to help Lesotho become, if not fully energy self-sufficient, at least more independent and capable of producing enough for its own needs. Similarly, water is a major national resource, not only for generating royalties, but as a fundamental necessity for people's daily lives. So, our approach is holistic: ensuring that energy and water development are aligned and mutually reinforcing.

Another key area is domestic resource mobilisation. We have been discussing with the government how important it is to build efficient systems that can withstand global shocks. The ability to adapt and respond swiftly to changing circumstances is vital for any nation, and we want to be a strong partner in helping Lesotho strengthen that capacity.

The EU also has great potential as a trade partner. Global trade dynamics are shifting, for example, with the recent tariffs introduced by the US posing challenges for some industries in this region. We hope that the EU's Economic Partnership Agreement with SADC countries will serve as a strong platform for enhanced trade relations.

Of course, agreements alone are not enough, private companies won't just come automatically. We must actively promote Lesotho in Europe and encourage investment. Attracting more private sector collaboration is one way we can help mitigate external challenges. This also aligns with the EU's Global Gateway strategy, which seeks to foster sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships across the world.

TN: What do you hope to accomplish during your tenure that will leave a lasting impact?

MS: One of the things I am passionate about is women empowerment. The anti-gender-based violence, women empowerment, child marriage- to combat those ills in society. If I can leave Lesotho knowing that I have been part of engaging more men that fight to have men as champions of gender equality, men speaking about respect for their wives, their daughters, all the women around them in order to have more women engaged because it is a fight that women can fight alone. The men need to be engaged. So that is something I would like to work on. Through our programming we have partnerships with the non-governmental organisations and ongoing interactions with the stakeholders.



Arts & Entertainment

Newsday

Sjizzle makes triumphant return to the studio

Chris Theko

One of Lesotho's most celebrated music producers, Neo Thakeli, popularly known as Sjizzle, has officially made his long-awaited return to the music production studio after a five-year hiatus.

Famous for his signature tagline "If Sjizzle got the beat," the trailblazing producer was among the first to make trap music fashionable in Lesotho, shaped a generation of artists and ushered in a new era for the local music scene.

His early collaborations with household names such as Jiji F, KOL Productions, and KI in the early 2010s cemented his reputation as a creative visionary and pioneer.

In an exclusive interview with Newsday this week, Sjizzle confirmed that he is back doing what he loves most, making beats and redefining the sound of Lesotho once again.

"I am fully back and will be putting out some work soon. It's been a few months now of working on logistics and testing things in the studio," he said.

According to Sjizzle, his time away from music was never intentional. Instead, it was shaped by a mix of personal and global cir-



cumstances.

"I took a trip to visit my mother in Botha-Bothe, and family matters kept me there longer than expected. Then COVID-19 hit, and I had to venture into other things," he

explained.

When he finally returned to Maseru in 2021 with hopes of rebuilding his production career, tragedy struck again, his hard drive, containing years of beats, samples, and project files, was destroyed.

"That incident really discouraged me," he recalled. "The person I took it to for repairs damaged it beyond recovery. Losing all my work was heart-breaking."

Still, words of encouragement from some of Lesotho's most respected artists reignited his creative spark.

"I started getting messages from legends like Budaza, Sir Schaba, and Papazee telling me the music wasn't the same without me," he shared.

The turning point came when he stumbled upon a Strictly Lesotho Music Facebook post where fans fondly reminisced about his early contributions.

"Reading the comments, I realised people still remembered and appreciated my work. That's when I knew I had to come back," he said.

During his early career, Sjizzle helped define the sound of modern Lesotho hip-hop. He produced Gee Flaggs' album MIA and Juvy's hit single Se Ke Ile featuring Sam

and Bible Verse, among several other popular tracks. His sound, a distinctive fusion of crisp drums, melodic synths, and infectious basslines, became a blueprint for many emerging producers.

Now, after years of reflection and growth, he says he returns more focused and business-savvy than ever.

"I'm more skilled and wiser now. I have studied not only sound production but also how to sustain longevity in the music business," he said.

To mark his comeback, Sjizzle entered and won the LNIG Hollard Hit Factory Producer's Competition, beating stiff competition from renowned producers such as Shev Shengu and DJ Masilo.

"I saw the competition just as I was finding my feet and decided to enter. The pressure was intense because I was up against big names — Shev, who produced Lekholo la Banna, and DJ Masilo, known for his amapiano hits. Winning reminded me that I still got it, even after all this time," he said.

With his return, fans can expect a fusion of nostalgia and innovation as Sjizzle reconnects with both veteran and rising artists. His comeback signifies not just the revival of a beloved producer, but a story of resilience, rediscovery, and creative rebirth.

Because when Sjizzle got the beat, Lesotho listens, and this time, he's back to make it louder than ever.

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Likuena conclude bittersweet World Cup campaign

Seabata Mahao

The national football team, Likuena, wrapped up their 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign on a bittersweet note claiming a dramatic 1-0 victory over Zimbabwe, while collecting a historic 12 points, their best-ever tally in World Cup qualifying history despite their exit.

In a tense and hard-fought encounter, Likuena managed to hold off a determined Zimbabwean side, securing the crucial closing win to finish fourth in Group C with 12 points, a record haul that marked significant progress for the Mountain Kingdom, even as qualification remained out of reach.

The campaign saw them win three matches, draw three, and lose four, representing their most competitive World Cup qualifying run to date.

After a shaky start in Limpopo, South Africa, where Zimbabwe dominated possession and created multiple scoring opportunities, Likuena's head coach, Leslie Notši, made key tactical adjustments at halftime that turned the tide.

"We did not start the first half well. Zimbabwe put us under pressure, and we gave them too much room," Notši admitted.

"But we adjusted our tactics, attacked behind their defensive line, and it paid off. I am proud of the players for sticking to the plan."

Lesotho's resilience in defense proved decisive, as the backline stood firm against late Zimbabwean attacks, preserving the narrow lead and ensuring the campaign ended on a winning note.

Zimbabwe's coach Michael Nees expressed disappointment after the match, citing missed chances and poor decision-making in front of goal.

"It is painful to lose in the dying minutes, especially after dominating large portions of the game. We created the chances but failed to convert them. Not having Knowledge Musona upfront definitely hurt us we lacked a finisher." Nees said.

He added that the team was still rebuilding and would need better preparation and sharper attacking options ahead of their upcoming AFCON qualifiers.

Team captain Sekhoane Moerane praised his squad's composure and effort, noting that they expected a fierce battle from Zimbabwe after their first-leg victory earlier in the campaign.

"We knew they would come hard. We beat



Likuena in action against Zimbabwe

them in the first leg, and revenge was on their minds. But credit to the boys, we stayed focused and stuck to our game plan. Thanks to our fans and the coaching staff for believing in us, even during tough times," Moerane said.

Notši also reflected positively on the overall campaign, highlighting the development of key players and the team's growing maturity, crucial factors in achieving the unprecedented 12-point total.

"There is plenty to build on. Some of our younger players gained confidence and showed they're ready to step up."

The record 12 points represent a significant leap forward for Lesotho football, surpassing all previous World Cup qualifying campaigns and suggesting the national team is on an upward trajectory despite missing out on the ultimate prize.

With a stronger foundation, growing confidence among the squad, and a record that proves they can compete at this level, Lesotho now turns its attention to future international fixtures, including preparations for the 2025 AFCON qualifiers.

Bantu, Lifofane clash ends in pulsating draw

Seabata Mahao

Bantu Football Club were held to an entertaining 2-2 draw by Lifofane FC on Wednesday in a thrilling encounter that could have seen either side go top of the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) table with a win.

The match was a rescheduled fixture after the original tie was abandoned in September due to bad weather. Both teams remain level on seven

goal, seemingly putting the match beyond Liphakoe's reach.

Liphakoe's coach Dumane Lethakha admitted that his side struggled to adjust to Bantu's tactical changes.

"We had prepared specifically for their usual right back, who is a dangerous winger. Unfortunately, he only came on in the second half when our players were already fatigued," Lethakha explained.

Despite the result, Lethakha expressed satisfaction with his team's performance, noting visible improvement compared to previous outings.

Bantu head coach Motheo Mohapi was pleased



points, having played four matches each.

Wednesday's stalemate followed Bantu's 2-0 victory over Liphakoe FC, while Lifofane were coming off a hard-fought 3-2 win against Members FC over the weekend.

Bantu had appeared to reignite their title push with their previous win, but Lifofane once again halted their momentum.

In their weekend clash against Liphakoe, Bantu dominated possession and showed attacking intent from the outset, while Liphakoe maintained a disciplined defensive structure. The best chance of the half fell to Bantu's Sboniso Mahlangu, who failed to convert from inside the box after finding himself well-positioned to score.

After the break, Bantu intensified their attacks, particularly down the wings, a tactic that soon paid off. Ten minutes into the second half, Sebata Letlatsa broke the deadlock with a composed finish after a well-executed move that caught Liphakoe's defence off guard.

Bantu doubled their lead in the 73rd minute following a defensive mix-up that resulted in an own

with his team's second-half display.

"The first half did not go as planned, we lacked attacking rhythm," Mohapi said.

"We decided to increase the tempo by introducing our winger, Itumeleng Falene, and that change worked well."

Mohapi emphasised that his strategy was to stretch Liphakoe's compact defence by using width and maintaining a high tempo, particularly in the closing stages.

"My priority as a coach is to make sure Bantu plays winning football that excites our supporters," he added. "Any player who fails to execute what we agree on during training will sit out."

The result keeps both sides within striking distance of the league leaders as the competition intensifies early in the campaign.

Weekend Vodacom Premier League Results:
LU FC 1-1 Manonyane FC
Lifofane FC 3-2 Members FC
Bantu FC 2-0 Liphakoe FC
Majantja FC 4-1 Machokha FC
LMPS FC 2-1 Maroala FC

Likatola clinch historic win against Eswatini

Seabata Mahao

The national rugby team, affectionately known as Likatola, recently registered their first official international victory after storming to a dominant 37-12 triumph over Eswatini's Sizee in the BOLESWA Tri-Nations Cup.

The match, held at Mejametalana Airwing base in Maseru, marked Lesotho's maiden win since being officially recognised by World Rugby, a historic milestone that makes the victory even more significant for the country's fast-growing rugby scene.

The fixture was part of the BOLESWA Tri-Nations Cup, a regional tournament launched in Botswana last year to strengthen rugby ties between Botswana, Lesotho, and Eswatini.

However, this year's edition saw only two of the three nations participate, following Botswana's withdrawal, a development that did little to dampen the energy on the pitch or in the stands.

An impressive crowd of Basotho supporters, clad in blue and white, filled the venue, a clear sign of rugby's growing popularity in Lesotho.

From the opening moments, Likatola displayed sharp focus and high intensity, dominating both possession and territory. Their relentless pressure overwhelmed Eswatini's defence, and by halftime, the hosts held a commanding 27-0 lead in what was shaping up to be a perfect start to life as an officially recognised rugby nation.

Eswatini's Sizeze came out stronger in the second half, showing admirable resilience. They tightened their defence and clawed back two well-earned tries, but Lesotho remained in control, closing out the match with discipline and flair to seal a convincing 37-12 maiden victory.

In a post-match interview, Likatola's head

coach Khauhelo Raphepheng was pleased with the team's performance but remained grounded in his assessment.

"This was my first official match as head coach of the national team. My primary goal was not necessarily the scoreline it was about preparing the players and implementing a new playing style," said Raphepheng.

He noted that the team had initially prepared for Botswana, and had to quickly adapt when the format changed. He credited his players for their form and adaptability, highlighting that selection was purely based on performance, a sign of a maturing talent pool in the country.

However, Raphepheng also pointed to ongoing challenges with coordination between the national federation and local clubs.

"I have already raised these issues with the leadership. We need better collaboration to move forward and ensure consistent growth."

Eswatini's captain Mcondisi Shongwe was gracious in defeat, acknowledging the strength and momentum of the home side.

"We knew coming to Lesotho we would face a strong side. They played smart rugby and capitalised early. When they score first, they are very difficult to stop," he said.

Despite the loss, he applauded the warm hospitality and called for continued efforts to strengthen rugby ties across the BOLESWA region, praising Lesotho's recent admission to World Rugby as a positive step for the region.

With this maiden victory, Likatola earn valuable points in the African Rugby Rankings, and further establish themselves as a rising force in regional rugby. The next edition of the BOLESWA Cup is set for Eswatini in 2026, where hopes are high that Botswana will return to complete the tri-nation rivalry.





PACKAGE:

- T - SHIRT
- INSURANCE
- GOODY BAG
- RACE BIB
- MEDAL

22 FEB 2026
MASERU, LESOTHO

42.2KM | 21.1KM | 10KM
5KM | 1.6KM | AEROBICS

START: MAKOANYANE SQUARE
FINISH: MASERU CLUB

NORMAL REGISTRATIONS:
1ST JULY - 31ST OCTOBER 2025

	LOCAL	INTERNATIONAL
1.6KM	M285.00	M385.00
5KM	M325.00	M425.00
10KM	M355.00	M455.00
21.1KM	M395.00	M495.00
42.2KM	M435.00	M535.00
AEROBICS	M265.00	M365.00

PAYMENTS (EVENTFUL MOMENTS):



OFFLINE REGISTRATION STEPS:

- 01** PAY WITH NEDBANK/MPESA/ ECOCASH.
- 02** SEND PROOF OF PAYMENT TO 62 500 225 VIA WHATSAPP.
- 03** COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORM.
- 04** RECEIVE REGISTRATION NUMBER.

 +266 62 500 225  +266 58 315 471

 info@eventfulmoments.co.ls

 @maserucityrun

 Metcach Building, Room 137F, Maseru



Maseru City Run eyes international recognition



Seabata Mahao

Maseru City Run is on track to put Lesotho on the global athletics map as it taking concrete steps towards international recognition.

The race has officially begun the process of certifying its routes under the guidance of Norrie Williamson, a World Athletics Grade A course measurer and one of the most respected authorities in global long-distance running.

Williamson, a Scottish-born endurance expert now based in South Africa, brings with him decades of experience as an ultra-distance runner, coach, author, and course measurer.

His precision and technical expertise have shaped many of the world's leading marathons, and now, he is lending that same mastery to the streets of Maseru.

With his guidance, the Maseru City Run's 42.2km marathon, 21.1km half marathon, 10km, 5km, and 1.6km fun run routes are being measured to meet international standards.

This professional certification

paves the way for the race's inclusion in the World Athletics Calendar, which would make it a qualifying event for prestigious ultramarathons such as the Comrades Marathon and Two Oceans Marathon in South Africa, both of which attract large numbers of Basotho runners each year.

Organisers of the event, Eventful Moments, said the measurement exercise marks a major milestone in their vision of transforming the Maseru City Run into one of Africa's premier road races.

They also extended their appreciation to the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) traffic division for its critical support in ensuring safety and smooth coordination during the process.

On the developments building up for the next race, the organisers said more than 600 runners have already registered the 2026 edition of the Maseru City Run, slated for February 22.

There already 25 elite athletes and 97 international participants to date. With the numbers steadily climbing, participation is expected to reach a

record-breaking 4,000 people across different activities.

The event's line-up will include the 42.2km full marathon, 21.1km half marathon, 10km and 5km races, a 1.6km fun run, and a special 5km walk to celebrate Lesotho's 60th Independence Anniversary, featuring senior citizens and other community groups.

Beyond chasing medals and personal bests, this year's event carries a renewed commitment to athlete safety and well-being. Every registered runner will now be covered by accident insurance for the first time, while the medical team has been expanded to ensure quick response and on-site care during the race.

Monthly Sunday training sessions continue to build excitement and readiness among participants. These sessions, which include fitness and wellness discussions, have become an important part of preparing runners for race day. The next one is scheduled for Sunday, November 9, and is open to all.

Behind the scenes, a strong Local Organising Committee (LOC), bring-

ing together representatives from the corporate sector, tourism industry, Maseru City Council, LMPS, medical professionals, the Maseru Athletics Academy, and the media, is ensuring that the event meets world-class standards.

This multi-sectoral approach also boosts local business, hospitality, and city pride, turning the Maseru City Run into more than just a race: it's a celebration of the capital's energy and community spirit. Still, organisers admit there are hurdles.

"One of our biggest challenges is the Basotho culture of registering late. Most people wait until the last minute to pay, and this makes planning difficult," said a representative of Eventful Moments.

He said traffic management also remains a concern, as thousands of runners will be competing through the city centre.

In a nod to sustainability, organisers have also secured sponsorship for a water sachet production machine, which will reduce plastic waste while keeping hydration stations well-supplied.



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