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M1 million for Deputy Prime Minister's Brazil trip

Deputy Prime Minister Nthomeng Majara

Staff Reporter

The government has spent a staggering M528 million from the Contingencies Fund since the financial year began on April 1, 2025, and is now approving another M1,087,468 for the Deputy Prime Minister Nthomeng Majara's upcoming trip to Brazil, funds meant strictly for emergencies.

A document from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, dated October 31, 2025, authorises an advance from the Contingencies Fund to cover Justice Majara's participation in the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Brazil, where she is expected to represent Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane.

The document, signed by the Principal Secretary (PS) on October 30 and the Minister of Finance and Development Planning the following day, describes the trip as an "urgent and unforeseen" expenditure, the standard justification required under Section 114 of the Constitution of Lesotho, which governs the use of the Contingency Fund.

"Whereas it has become necessary in the interest of the Public Service to incur certain urgent and unforeseen expenditure not provided for in the estimates, authority to expend the amount specified in the schedule below is sought until such time as a supplementary estimate of the sum required can be laid before Parliament in terms of Section 114(2) of the Constitution," the document reads.

"...Advance required: M1,087,468. Reasons: Additional funding is required to support the Deputy Prime Minister's participation in the 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Brazil, where the DPM will be representing the Prime Minister."

But the facts tell a different story. COP30 has been on the global calendar for years. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) confirmed Brazil as the host country, specifically Belém, Pará, on May 18, 2023.

The decision was publicly announced by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on May 26, 2023, during a press event in Brasília alongside Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira and Pará Governor Helder Barbalho.

It was later ratified by consensus at the COP28 plenary in Dubai on December 13, 2023.

In other words, this event is neither unforeseen nor urgent, and critics say calling it such is an abuse of constitutional safeguards designed for genuine emergencies such as natural disasters, pandemics, or national crises.

The Contingency Fund, created under Section 114(1) of the Constitution, allows the Minister of Finance to authorise expenditure "if satisfied that there has arisen an urgent and unforeseen need" for spending where no other provision exists.

However, the same section demands that every advance from the fund must be followed by a supplementary estimate and a supplementary appropriation bill, to be tabled in Parliament "as soon as possible" to replace the withdrawn amount.

That has not been done.

Section 114 explicitly states: "Parliament may make provision for the establishment of a Contingencies Fund and for authorising the Minister for the time being responsible for finance, if satisfied that there has arisen an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which no other provision exists, to make advances from that Fund to meet that need.

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

Despite hundreds of millions being spent, no supplementary appropriation bills have been presented to Parliament. This means Parliament, the body constitutionally entrusted with controlling public funds, has been completely bypassed, while the executive continues to raid the Contingency Fund unchecked.

According to the figures in the document, the Contingency Fund was allocated M955,684,354 for the 2025/26 financial year. Of that, M528,824,258 has already been spent, leaving M426,860,096 in the account.

This level of spending, just seven months into the financial year, suggests the government has turned the Contingency Fund into a slush fund, a financial backdoor to bankroll politically convenient or discretionary expenditures under the guise of "urgency."

The pattern is becoming familiar. In the past, funds from the Contingency Fund have been used to finance ministerial trips, vehicles, and even celebrations, all under "urgent and unforeseen" pretences.

Each time, there is little to no follow-up from Parliament, and no transparency about how or when the amounts are reimbursed to the Fund.

Lesotho's Constitution gives Parliament the power of the purse, but recent trends show that power slipping steadily into the hands of the executive, shielded by bureaucratic justifications and procedural silence.

In September this year, Newsday reported that the government had admitted to spending more than M3.4 billion without prior approval in the last financial year.

This publication further reported that the government was now asking parliament to retroactively legalise the expenditure.

This was after Finance and Development Planning Minister Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane tabled the Supplementary Appropriation (2024/2025) Bill, 2025.

The Bill seeks approval for M3,452,226,578.44, already withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund, to cover unbudgeted recurrent and capital expenses for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

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

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

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

On the capital side, M180.9 million was shifted within the existing budget to prioritise key investments, while M65.1 million from the Contingencies Fund was used for electricity connections and road projects.

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

The decision to finance the Deputy Prime Minister's trip through emergency funds also comes at a time when Lesotho faces worsening economic pressures: a drought-induced food crisis, rising unemployment, and struggling social services.

Observers warn that if Parliament continues to abdicate its oversight role, Lesotho could soon face a full-blown fiscal crisis, one where laws meant to protect public money are reduced to meaningless text.

For now, the Contingencies Fund, established as a safeguard against genuine emergencies, appears to be anything but.

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Matekane turns up heat on Moteane over Royal Palace

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane has put the Minister of Public Works and Transport, Matjato Moteane, under intense pressure to complete the long-delayed Royal Palace project – or face dismissal.

Newsday has learnt that the PM has made it clear that the project's completion is non-negotiable and has warned Moteane that his job is on the line if the palace remains unfinished.

"The Prime Minister wants this project completed and Their Majesties to move in," Moteane said in an exclusive interview this week. "He's made it clear that failure is not an option."

The completion of the long-stalled palace, which began in 2008 and was originally meant to be ready for His Majesty King Letsie III's 50th birthday in 2013, forms part of Moteane's performance contract. More than a decade later, the site remains a costly monument to government inefficiency, a half-finished structure marred by mismanagement, cost overruns, and neglect.

According to the Auditor-General's report, the project has consumed over M350 million so far, with overruns of more than M74 million and shocking overpayments of up to 3,000 percent on some contracts.

The report revealed that Palace Architects (Pty) Ltd, Makeka Design Lab, Lethola Cost Associates, Aurecon, Dyelec, and LSP Construction (Pty) Ltd were among contractors that benefitted from inflated payments.

Lethola Cost Associates' contract skyrocketed from M826,160 to M25.5 million, a 3,000 percent increase. Aurecon's contract rose from M1.4 million to M13.9 million, an 840 percent increase.

LSP Construction's original M136 million contract ballooned to M354 million, a 120 percent increase.

The audit also exposed widespread construction defects, including damaged timber floors, cracked tiles, broken glass panes, leaking drainpipes, and peeling paint. Out of 107 construction items inspected, 56 percent failed to meet design standards.

Auditor-General 'Mathabo Makenete warned that the main building requires structural integrity tests before it can be safely occupied.

Minister Moteane admitted the current state of the project is "embarrassing and shameful."

"My job is to make sure the Royal Palace is completed," he said. "The Cabinet has instructed me to do that. I feel pain, as a professional and as a politician. Service delivery has been appalling. We were playing games with the project. Things went bad from day one."

He added that if the project fails to move forward within the next 15 months, he risks losing his job.

"I am waiting for the Procurement Authority's response," he said. "If it were up to me, I would start tomorrow."

Moteane blamed years of poor management, weak oversight, and political interference for the project's collapse. "Towards the end, the project became a gold mine for somebody. Costs have run amok," he said.

The Minister confirmed that he has written to contractors flagged by the Auditor-General to demand repayment of overpaid funds, but they have refused to comply. He said the matter has been reported to the Attorney-General for legal action.

However, Moteane has yet to take disciplinary action against ministry officials implicated in the audit report for mismanagement and procurement failures. Asked when he would act, he could not provide a timeline.

"They started a project they did not know how to run, or did not care to," he said. "It became a free-for-all."

In August, the government introduced the Public Procurement Regulations, 2025, under the Public Procurement Act, 2023, aimed at tightening accountability, improving transparency, and curbing the kind of abuse that plagued the Royal Palace project.

The new rules empower the Central Tender Board to handle all high-value contracts and require committees to avoid conflicts of interest and keep detailed procurement records. The regulations also introduce sanctions and blacklisting for suppliers or officials involved in corruption.

Moteane has previously faced calls for his dismissal from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) over procurement irregularities at Moshoeshoe I International Airport.

Last week, during a Cabinet retreat in Mohale's Hoek, ministers were reminded by the Prime Minister to deliver on their outstanding commitments.

MPs observe uneven progress in sexuality education implementation

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

A recent study tour by Members of Parliament (MPs) has brought to light both the achievements and ongoing challenges in implementing Lesotho's Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programme.

The country has made notable progress in tackling key issues such as student absenteeism and drop-out rates. By integrating life skills and sexual health education into the school curriculum, many institutions are now fostering more inclusive and supportive learning environments that help young people stay engaged in their studies.

In districts such as Leribe, where support from organisations like the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been particularly strong, positive outcomes are becoming increasingly visible, according to teachers.

The implementation of the Life Skills-Based Sexuality Education (LBSE) curriculum has helped students develop a clearer understanding of their rights and responsibilities concerning sexual and reproductive health.

Educators report that this growing awareness has contributed to higher attendance rates, as learners now feel more confident discussing sensitive topics without fear of stigma.

As part of efforts to strengthen youth education, Members of Parliament (MPs) under the Social Cluster and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) committees conducted visits to schools in the Leribe and Mafeteng districts.

Supported by the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), the visits aimed to assess the impact of the newly introduced LBSE curriculum. The programme replaces the former Life Skills Education (LSE) subject, aligning with recent national curriculum reforms.

During their visits, MPs noted that Leribe had benefited substantially from UNESCO's assistance in implementing LBSE. This partnership has accelerated progress in sexual health education, equipping students with practical knowledge and life skills to address personal and social challenges.

Teachers reported that the initiatives have created a more open and inclusive learning environment, one where students feel empowered to engage in informed decision-making and candid discussions about sexuality and health.

Conversely, the situation in Mafeteng painted a contrasting picture. Schools in this district continue to struggle, largely due to the absence of external support. Without assistance from organisations such as UNESCO, teachers expressed deep concern about the challenges of implementing and sustaining the Life-Skills Based Sexuality Education (LBSE) curriculum.

Many educators in Mafeteng have not received formal LBSE training, which limits their confidence and ability to deliver lessons effectively. In most schools, only one trained teacher is responsible for the subject, leading to inconsistent delivery and gaps in students' understanding of key sexual and reproductive health issues.

Socioeconomic barriers further compound these challenges. A number of students, particularly girls, are unable to afford basic menstrual hygiene products, which affects their attendance and overall well-being. The lack of strong support systems, including partnerships with health facilities and comprehensive teacher training, has weakened the effectiveness of the programme in the district.

MPs noted that these difficulties undermine educational progress and the well-being of learners, who remain vulnerable without adequate resources and institutional backing.

Despite these disparities, the study tour found that Leribe continues to make tangible progress in implementing the LBSE curriculum. Discussions with teachers and students reflected a growing understanding of sexual health topics and an environment that supports open dialogue.

However, lingering challenges such as societal stigma and misinformation persist, which educators cautioned could erode progress if not addressed through sustained support.

It was recommended that for the LBSE programme to succeed nationwide, a systematic and equitable approach be adopted, particularly to strengthen implementation in under-resourced districts like Mafeteng.

Itumeleng Rantsho, Chairperson of the SDGs Committee, underscored the importance of ensuring that both girls and boys receive equal support. She reaffirmed Parliament's oversight role in monitoring the implementation of education and health-related policies.

In Leribe, during visits to schools such as Mahobong High School, St. Phillips High School, and Linotsing High School, principals reported a notable decline in absenteeism and drop-out rates. Teachers at these schools share responsibility for teaching LBSE, which has helped maintain continuity.

Tieho Moeketsi, Principal of Mahobong High School, said that while the shortage of trained teachers remains a challenge, the school has recorded significant improvements in student engagement.

Principals from St. Phillips and Linotsing confirmed similar trends, citing increased participation in classroom discussions and productive collaborations with local health facilities as signs of progress.

It was also reported that at Grade 11 level, the Life-Skills Based Sexuality Education (LBSE) curriculum requires students to conduct research projects. Teachers stressed the importance of guiding learners through each stage of the research process, though they cited time constraints as a major challenge.

Many educators said they often meet students on weekends or after school hours to provide additional support. The approach, they explained, is community-based, allowing students to engage with real-life issues affecting their surroundings.

Teachers further reported that incidents of bullying are minimal, noting that any cases raised by students have been promptly addressed.

At Linotsing High School, Principal 'Masekoai Mathaha acknowledged that while some boys have attended initiation schools, they have still managed to complete their studies successfully. She commended initiation instructors for ensuring that only learners of legal age participate in the traditional practice.

MPs also heard that students who became parents while still in school have been encouraged and supported to return to their studies, a positive sign of the programme's impact on inclusivity and retention.

Schools further reported maintaining strong working relationships with nearby healthcare facilities and the police, which has improved coordination in addressing health and safety issues affecting learners.

While progress in districts like Leribe is commendable, MPs acknowledged that significant challenges remain in achieving equitable access to effective sexual health education nationwide. They emphasised the need for a unified national approach, one that pools resources and promotes the sharing of best practices to ensure all young people are equipped with the knowledge and skills essential for their health and future.

Teachers expressed appreciation for the MPs' site visits, noting that follow-up action will be crucial. They underscored that lawmakers have the authority to advocate for stronger policies and adequate resourcing, bridging gaps in educational equality. Such efforts align with Lesotho's national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and Goal 4 (Quality Education).

According to the Education for All Global Monitoring Report, every US$1 invested in education and youth skills in developing countries yields a return of US$10–15 in economic growth, reinforcing the importance of continued investment in programmes like LBSE.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reports that improving the physical, sexual, and mental health of adolescents aged 10–19 years, at a cost of just US$4.60 per person per year, could yield tenfold economic benefits by preventing more than 12 million adolescent deaths and over 30 million unintended pregnancies globally.

There is growing consensus that governments and development partners must prioritise investment in adolescent development, particularly through sexual and reproductive health services, education, and skills training. Advocates argue that empowering young people in these areas will produce a generation capable of driving economic transformation and positioning Lesotho for sustainable growth.

According to Dr. Lejone Marole, Chief Officer of Secondary Education at the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), the Life-Skills Based Sexuality Education (LBSE) curriculum is now offered across all grades. However, he noted that unintended pregnancies and child marriages remain persistent challenges, indicating that more work is needed to translate policy into measurable outcomes.

To strengthen the national response, the Cabinet last year approved the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy Policy, aimed at advancing sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) among learners.

Dr. Marole also pointed to ongoing obstacles, including limited access to adolescent-friendly health services, particularly in remote and hard-to-reach areas, as well as insufficient coordination and resources for implementing interventions. He added that cultural and social barriers continue to restrict open dialogue and limit the uptake of SRHR services, further complicating the effective rollout of the LBSE programme.

Thaba-Tseka grandmother finds joy in her new home

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

After years of hardship and loss, an 86-year-old grandmother from Thaba-Tseka has finally found peace and laughter in her new home.

During a recent visit to the district, Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane handed over 19 newly built houses to families affected by natural disasters. The initiative, led by the Disaster Management Authority (DMA), aims to restore dignity and stability to households that lost their homes to heavy rains and strong winds.

Among the recipients was 'Mapuseletso Tšiu, who could not hide her joy and gratitude. After the floods destroyed her home three years ago, she endured a long period of displacement and uncertainty. Each of the new houses, costing about M150,000, represents more than just shelter; it is a promise of renewed hope for families like hers.

Tšiu recalls vividly how violent storms swept through Ha-Tšiu, tearing down her home and scattering her few possessions. Left with nothing, she moved in with relatives, only to lose more belongings along the way. The experience was especially painful for her three-year-old great-granddaughter, who struggled to understand why they could not return home.

"It was a difficult time," she said softly. "Everything I had built over the years was gone. I had to start all over again."

For three long years, she lived with the emotional scars of that loss. The memories of the storm and the sense of helplessness it brought continued to haunt her. However, through it all, her determination never wavered. She drew strength from her faith, her community, and the hope that one day life would change.

That day finally came. One sunny morning, she received a call from the DMA informing her that she would be getting a new home. The journey to that moment had not been easy, but when she stepped into her new house for the first time, the weight of the past began to lift.

Her new home, wired for electricity, is more than she ever dreamed possible.

"I never thought I'd see the day," she exclaimed, tears of joy glistening in her eyes.

As she and her great-granddaughter walked through the freshly painted rooms, the child's laughter filled the space, echoing a sense of renewal and freedom that had long been missing from their lives.

For 'Mapuseletso, the new house is not just a structure of bricks and mortar; it is a symbol of resilience. Each day, she looks forward to connecting with electricity and fully settling in, believing that light, both literal and spiritual, has finally returned to her life.

However, as she reflects on her journey, she cannot forget the despair she once felt when her pleas for help went unanswered.

"At the time, I just wanted my belongings to be protected," she said. "But our local leaders turned a blind eye. Still, I am grateful. What matters most is that we survived, and that my home, though new, carries the spirit of the one I lost."

Business indigenisation regulations finally enforced

Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development will stop renewing traders' licenses for reserved business activities operated by foreign nationals from December 2025, marking a significant shift toward promoting micro, small to medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Lesotho.

The enforcement will proceed only when local entrepreneurs are ready to assume control of existing foreign-owned businesses, ensuring economic continuity and protecting jobs. This will be piloted in Maseru, Leribe, and Mafeteng before nationwide possible expansion.

This development comes five years after the Business Licensing and Registration Regulations were first published in August 2020. Regulation 34 of these regulations explicitly prohibits non-citizens from operating certain business activities.

The reserved business categories span multiple sectors. In transport and logistics, restrictions apply to international road freight, domestic road transport, motor dealerships, and clearing agents. Real estate agencies and warehousing activities are also exclusively reserved for Basotho citizens.

Retail operations face extensive restrictions, including household fuel sales, bottled gas, and coal distribution. Fast food services without full restaurant facilities, hairdressing, beauty treatment, and motor vehicle maintenance and repairs are all reserved for local entrepreneurs.

Agricultural activities reserved for citizens include raising horses, sheep, goats, swine, pigs, and poultry, along with the sale of livestock and livestock products. Tour operator services and landscaping activities are similarly restricted.

The retail sector faces the most comprehensive reservations. These include stall and market sales of food, beverages, tobacco, textiles, clothing, footwear, and cultural goods. Specialised stores selling health-related products, animal feeds, medicines, chemicals, bread, confectionery, and motor vehicle parts must be locally owned. Vehicle and motorcycle repairs, hire services, and related accessories sales are also reserved.

Additional restricted activities encompass bars selling alcoholic beverages (including off-sales, shebeens, and public bars), unprocessed meat and seafood retail, fruit and vegetable sales and cultivation, and prepared meat outlets without full restaurant services.

Specialised stores for petroleum products, hardware, paints, glass, second-hand goods, cosmetics, and beauty supplies are exclusively for Basotho entrepreneurs.

Service sector reservations include mobile food services, photocopying, document preparation, general plumbing, construction activities, laundry services, footwear and clothing repairs, watch repairs, and metal waste or scrap sales.

"We will stop renewing the traders licenses for reserved business activities owned by foreign nationals, and we have already informed such owners," said Ministry of Trade spokesperson Lihaelo Nkaota.

She said they have also informed business associations to alert their members to get ready to move into the reserved businesses. She explained that implementation was delayed because the regulations could not apply to businesses registered before their publication. They would only take effect when those businesses sought license renewals.

The Ministry also used this period to assess the potential economic impact of abrupt enforcement. Nkaota confirmed the market is now ready for implementation, with particular encouragement for local entrepreneurs to establish supermarkets and capitalise on these regulations.

Meanwhile, the private sector has expressed frustration over the protracted delay as the principal law, the Business Licensing and Registration Act of 2019, became officially operational in 2020.

"It is surprising that they are only implementing the regulations now when their principal act became operarional in 2020," said Thabo Qhesi, CEO of the Private Sector Foundation of Lesotho (PSFL).

Nkaota said part of the reason for the delay was to afford indigenous citizens some time to get ready to venture into those reserved activities.

"We want to ensure that there is no vacuum when the foreign operators exit, so this means we will only stop license renewals when there are local entrepreneurs to step in."

Preliminary Ministry inspections conducted in 2024 in Maseru's central business district revealed concerning statistics. Foreign-owned enterprises generate 80 percent of retail sector jobs, presenting significant employment risks if these firms close without local replacements ready.

Strikingly, only 18 percent of locally-owned businesses operate in sectors actually reserved for Basotho, exposing a substantial gap in the country's indigenisation efforts.

Following the survey, Minister of Trade and Industry Mokhethi Shelile reported progress to the National Assembly, announcing further inspections in Leribe and Mafeteng before presenting a comprehensive report.

"The key findings of these inspections are consistent with the hypothesis that Lesotho's commercial space is dominated by foreign owned businesses," Shelile said.

Of 106 retail businesses inspected, 80 were foreign-owned, accounting for 90 percent of jobs in the retail sector, he said.

"Our audit also found that 61 percent of the businesses in the reserved category were owned by foreign nationals, leaving only 18.46 percent for Basotho-owned businesses," he told the House.

Shelile noted that 13 businesses belonged to naturalised citizens, with potentially more to be added as some claimed to be producing documentation.

The Minister acknowledged the potential negative consequences of full Regulation 34 implementation, which has sparked debate since the law took effect.

Confusion over delayed enforcement prompted the National Assembly in March to direct the Ministry to expedite implementation within 30 days. Shelile responded that the Ministry needed time to assess consequences of abrupt enforcement.

"The task team concluded that the sudden implementation of the reservation list, commonly referred to as Section 34, could disrupt market conditions, affect employment, and impact the supply of goods and services," he explained.

"It was necessary to investigate the proportion of foreign-owned businesses in the reserved category, their contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) and employment, and to develop mitigation measures and a transition plan," he said.

Chiefs slam inheritance law for eroding Basotho culture

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Principal Chiefs have accused the government of sidelining them in the making of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act, 2024, saying the new law tramples on Basotho customs and has sparked growing family conflicts across the country.

Speaking in the Senate this week, Principal Chief of Leribe Joel Motšoene said the law was pushed through without proper consultations with traditional leaders, who are the custodians of Basotho culture and heritage.

"The chiefs have been shut out," Motšoene told the House. "This law compromises our cultural fabric and diminishes the value of customary practices that have guided inheritance for generations."

He said the law was rushed and should have been widely debated to avoid "throwing the baby out with the bath water."

Motšoene asked the Minister of Justice and Law, Richard Ramoeletsi, whether he was aware that the Act had already caused a spike in inheritance disputes, and pressed him to explain what measures the Ministry was taking to protect vulnerable family members such as widows and orphans.

He also demanded to know if the government planned to amend the law to remove ambiguities that fuel family conflicts.

The law was among the reforms demanded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) of the United States before approving the $300 million Compact II grant, which was matched by $22.5 million from the Lesotho government.

The Compact, worth a total of $322.5 million (about M6 billion), is expected to create 90,000 jobs over five years. The law was passed alongside the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Labour Act earlier this year.

The Administration of Estates and Inheritance Bill was rejected by the Senate last year for lack of consultations but was later pushed through by the National Assembly, despite objections that it repeals Basotho customary law as contained in the Laws of Lerotholi.

Responding in the Senate this week, Minister Ramoeletsi said his Ministry was not aware of any significant rise in family conflicts linked to the new Act. He explained that inheritance disputes are to be referred to the Master of the High Court for review, and that office has not reported an increase in case volumes.

He added that the Ministry is applying the Children's Act in conjunction with the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act to handle inheritance-related matters, and that public awareness campaigns have already been rolled out in both urban and rural areas, including Botha-Bothe, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, Mohale's Hoek, Mafeteng, Maseru, and Mokhotlong.

He assured the House that amendments to the law are being prepared to address lingering issues.

But Motšoene said the problem was deeper, citing cases where the Master's Office demands marriage certificates from couples married in the 1950s, which makes processing estates difficult.

Principal Chief of Ha-'Mamathe Sempe Khabasheane Masupha also slammed the law, saying chiefs' inputs were ignored. The Minister admitted that not all submissions were included when the law was drafted.

Supporters of the Act, however, insist it is a progressive step that ensures fairness and gender equality, giving women and children equal inheritance rights alongside men.

Newsday Business

EcoCash powers Lesotho's quiet cashless revolution

Seabata Mahao

A quiet but powerful transformation is taking place across Lesotho's financial landscape, as SasaiEconet Financial Services (SEFS), a subsidiary of Econet Telecom Lesotho, drives the country toward a cashless economy through its flagship EcoCash platform.

From the busy streets of Maseru to the remote corners of Mohale's Hoek, more businesses are adopting digital payment systems. This growing shift reflects increasing confidence in financial technology and a national move toward safer, faster, and more inclusive financial transactions.

One of the enterprises leading this transformation is Matsoso Butchery, a thriving business in Mohale's Hoek co-managed by entrepreneur Matšepo Mafoso. Alongside its sister company, e-Chicken Restaurant, the butchery has relied on EcoCash Merchant Services for more than five years to process payments for meat products and meals.

"EcoCash has truly transformed how we do business," Mafoso says proudly.

"It saves time, improves safety, and makes operations smoother. Our customers love the convenience, and we no longer handle large amounts of cash. Going cashless is the future every Mosotho should embrace."

Mafoso's success story embodies SEFS's broader mission of financial inclusion. Through EcoCash, SEFS is bridging the gap between the informal and formal sectors by providing individuals and enterprises with access to secure and efficient digital financial solutions.

One notable success story comes from Mohale's Hoek, where Mafoso Butchery co-managed by entrepreneur Matšepo Mafoso has become a beacon of the cashless movement.

"EcoCash is more than just a payment tool, it is a catalyst for economic participation," explains Moeketsi Mafereka, General Manager of SEFS.

"We are empowering small and medium enterprises by providing platforms to manage transactions, pay suppliers, and process salaries through services like EcoCash Payroll. It is a major step forward from the old system of paying wages in envelopes."

Mafereka notes that SEFS's strategy is closely aligned with Econet Lesotho's efforts to expand high-speed connectivity across the country.

"Connectivity and financial inclusion go hand in hand. Our goal is to ensure that every Mosotho can transact safely, efficiently, and with dignity."

Across Lesotho, the EcoCash network of merchants and agents continues to expand, offering customers the ability to send and receive money, make payments, and access other financial services with ease. This digital ecosystem has brought with it a host of benefits, from improved record-keeping and business discipline to greater financial security and growth potential.

For business owners like Mafoso, digital finance has opened new doors, allowing them to operate with greater flexibility and control. Her experience demonstrates how accessible fintech can transform even the most traditional sectors, making them more resilient and competitive in a changing economy.

Lesotho, SA launch joint time release study to boost trade efficiency

Lungile Maseela

Lesotho and South Africa yesterday launched the End-to-End Time Release Study (TRS) Report 2025 in Maseru, marking a significant milestone in efforts to improve trade efficiency between the neighboring nations.

The launch event brought together government officials, customs authorities, and trade partners from both countries to unveil findings that will guide future border modernisation initiatives.

The TRS employs a World Customs Organisation (WCO) methodology to measure the time required for goods clearance at border crossings.

The comprehensive study forms part of the WCO's Accelerate Trade Facilitation Programme, with funding support from UK International Development (UKID) and the World Bank Group through the CAFI Project.

'Malineo Seboholi, Chairperson of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, welcomed the South African delegation and emphasised the study's importance.

"Today's event marks a milestone in our continuing efforts to enhance trade facilitation and promote better border management," she stated.

Seboholi highlighted that the project completion demonstrates the strong partnership between the two nations, reflecting their shared commitment to evidence-based trade policies and border reforms.

"For Lesotho, as a landlocked country, trade facilitation is not a choice but a necessity. Efficient and predictable border processes are fundamental to reducing the cost of doing business, enhancing export competitiveness, and ensuring that small and medium-sized enterprises participate effectively in regional and global trade," she said.

Rakokoana Makoa, Acting Commissioner General of Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL), connected the initiative to the organisation's strategic vision.

"This moment is particularly significant for the RSL as it aligns with our 2024–2027 strategy, Lesokoana, loosely translated as A Relay. Central to this strategy is our focused pursuit of operational efficiency, ensuring that our systems, processes, and services are modern, agile, and responsive to the needs of traders and travelers," he said.

He noted the initiative reinforces commitment to the WCO Trade Facilitation Agreement and supports coordinated border management efforts among SACU member states.

Martine Sobey, UK High Commissioner, described the UK's support as a strategic investment in Southern Africa's trade future. "The TRS is about unlocking opportunities," she said.

CAFI's Managing Director, Chaba Mokuku, emphasised that the study's recommendations will be actively implemented rather than shelved, supporting tangible economic growth.

The event concluded with the formal signing and handover of the TRS Report 2025 among RSL, SARS, and the Border Management Authority (BMA).

The report's findings will now guide customs clearance improvements, border modernization projects, and enhanced regional trade integration, ultimately strengthening economic ties between Lesotho and South Africa.

Newsday Health

Medical Council under fire over doctor's alleged sexual assault case

Ntsoaki Motaung Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho Medical, Dental, and Pharmacy Council (LMDPC) is facing serious accusations of neglecting to investigate a complaint lodged against a medical doctor, Dr. Dede Kalombo, who stands accused of sexually assaulting a young woman.

According to the survivor's sister, she discovered in 2023 that her younger sibling had allegedly been repeatedly assaulted by Dr. Kalombo, her former partner, who had close access to their family.

She told Newsday that the sexual abuse began in 2020 when the survivor was only 15 years old and continued for three consecutive years. The ordeal came to light after the survivor's boyfriend noticed a change in her behaviour toward the doctor and questioned her about it.

"In 2023, we discovered this issue because my sister's boyfriend saw a change in her behaviour towards the doctor, which raised his eyebrows. He started questioning her, and that is when she opened up and said the suspect had been sexually assaulting her since 2020. This happened for three consecutive years," she explained.

A case was opened with the police, and Dr. Kalombo was charged and allegedly initially denied bail. However, the family was shocked to learn that he had been released from custody a few days later without any formal notification.

Following his release, the sister submitted a formal complaint to the LMDPC on February 19, 2024, but says the council has yet to respond.

She also revealed that the accused's lawyer contacted her, offering compensation, an offer she declined, saying she would respond through her own lawyer. Subsequent attempts by her lawyer to reach the accused's counsel were unsuccessful, and when she called Dr. Kalombo directly, he promised to return her call but never did.

Frustrated by the Medical Council's silence, the sister sought help from the Police Complaints Authority, which advised her to follow up on the court proceedings. She later learned that the matter was still before the courts.

The Lesotho Medical, Dental, and Pharmacy Council (LMDPC)

The family's main concern is what they describe as the Medical Council's inaction, which they fear reflects a lack of seriousness in addressing the allegations.

Dr. Kalombo is currently employed at Scott Hospital in Morija, having resigned from St. Joseph's Hospital after the allegations surfaced.

"We are afraid that there may be other victims of his," the sister said.

When contacted, the Medical Superintendent at Scott Hospital, Dr. Ngoy Wa Banza, said he was unaware of any ongoing case against Dr. Kalombo. He admitted the hospital hired him without conducting a background check, adding that his previous employer had not disclosed any such concerns.

The President of the LMDPC, Dr. Lelimo, also told Newsday that he did not recall receiving any complaint against Dr. Kalombo.

"Now that I do not remember it, that limits us from establishing what we are currently doing about it, but I cannot remember it," he said. "Even if I did, I would not discuss the details with the media."

Court records confirm that the matter was initially filed in Maseru Children's Court in 2023 due to the survivor's age at the time of the alleged offences. It was later transferred to the Maseru Magistrate Court in 2024 under case number CR13/24.

Officials at the Maseru Magistrate Court confirmed to Newsday that the case is part-heard, meaning proceedings are ongoing before Magistrate McPherson and have not yet been concluded. They added that while no charge sheet is available at this stage, Dr. Kalombo is facing charges of sexual assault.

When contacted for comment, Dr. Kalombo confirmed that a case involving him is before the Maseru Magistrate Court but declined to comment further.

"I cannot comment on this issue because anything I say will be used against me in a court of law. Please speak to my lawyer if there is anything regarding the case," he said before ending the call.

Theko Tlebere

Common Concern

Teeth or Testimony? Why Lesotho's Public Accounts Committee must do more than bark

In Lesotho's political landscape, few institutions are as praised in principle yet dismissed in practice as the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Established to hold government ministries accountable for public spending, the PAC serves as Parliament's watchdog. However, many Basotho perceive it as a toothless dog vocal during hearings but ineffective when the media attention fades. This perception is not unfounded; as Lesotho undertakes reforms, this week's article seeks to explore how the PAC must move beyond mere bark.

The PAC is responsible for examining the Auditor-General's reports, questioning public officials about irregularities, and recommending corrective actions. The Constitution, the Audit Act of 2016, and the Public Financial Management and Accountability Act of 2011 empower it to "send for persons, papers, and records." However, what happens after the hearings, which often involve outbursts, apologies, and polite assurances? Usually, the answer is nothing.

In theory, the PAC should be one of the most influential committees in Parliament. In practice, its authority stops where enforcement begins. While it can expose misconduct, it lacks the power to impose penalties. If a ministry misuses public funds, the PAC can only recommend that the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) or the police investigate further. The committee itself cannot recover funds or prosecute wrongdoers, leaving accountability reliant on other institutions, a tenuous arrangement in Lesotho.

The PAC submits its reports to Parliament, but there are no laws requiring the executive to respond within a specific time frame, nor is there a system to track whether ministries address identified issues. This results in a cycle of exposure without resolution and public drama without consequences.

Additionally, there are concerns about objectivity. Globally, Public Accounts Committees are typically chaired by opposition members to reduce political bias. In Lesotho, this is mandated by the Standing Orders, but the fact that such chairpersons are elected by the majority party raises questions about impartiality and erodes public trust. Citizens often view the committee not as a guardian of accountability but as a political tool to embarrass opponents or shield allies.

To enhance objectivity, the PAC should be professionalised. It requires a dedicated team of financial analysts, legal experts, and researchers to assist Members of Parliament (MPs) in interpreting audit findings. Without this technical support, hearings may devolve into political theatre rather than rigorous evidence-based scrutiny.

Lesotho is not unique in facing these challenges. Many parliaments across the SADC region are working to improve their PACs. For instance, Mozambique offers valuable lessons. Its oversight system operates in two layers: the Tribunal Administrativo, the Supreme Audit Institution, which audits the government's annual accounts and submits a report to Parliament. A specialised parliamentary body, the Plan and Budget Commission, then conducts hearings, interrogates ministers, and issues resolutions based on the findings.

The distinction lies in structure and follow-up. Mozambique's laws establish clear timelines: the executive must submit its accounts within six months after the fiscal year; the Tribunal has ninety days to conduct the audit; and Parliament must discuss and adopt recommendations within a set time frame. Moreover, the process is transparent, featuring live broadcasts of hearings, online publication of reports, and opportunities for civil society to participate or comment. The Tribunal also possesses limited quasi-judicial powers; it can issue rulings on financial liability and mandate the recovery of misused funds, thereby enhancing the impact of its findings. Furthermore, Parliament maintains a public recommendation-tracking matrix that records which ministries have implemented reforms and which have not.

While Mozambique faces its own challenges with corruption and delayed audits, its system exemplifies that oversight can be systematic rather than merely symbolic.

If Lesotho is serious about fiscal accountability, it must progress beyond merely exposing scandals to enforcing solutions. The first step is to ensure that the PAC is led by an opposition member who can withstand partisan pressures, as is standard in many Westminster-style democracies. Such leadership bolsters independence and conveys that the committee's mission is national rather than partisan.

The second step is to require that every ministry formally respond to PAC reports within a defined time frame, perhaps sixty days, detailing the actions taken to rectify irregularities. The third step is to improve visibility by creating a public digital dashboard that tracks which recommendations have been implemented, which are pending, and which have been ignored.

The fourth step involves professionalising the PAC's operations by providing it with permanent researchers, economists, and accountants who can help members understand complex financial statements, transforming hearings from political spectacles into genuine accountability sessions.

Lastly, there must be institutionalised collaboration among the PAC, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG), and the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) through a memorandum of understanding that ensures automatic referral and follow-up on serious audit findings.

These reforms are not radical; they represent practical steps that would transform the PAC from a ceremonial body into an effective mechanism for protecting public resources. Additionally, they would enhance the visibility of the PAC's work to citizens who fund government programs with their taxes. Transparency is the most powerful antidote to corruption. When the public can see not just who has been questioned, but what has been resolved, trust in Parliament and democracy strengthens.

The PAC is often seen as a forum for political posturing. However, if used effectively, it can become one of democracy's strongest tools. It reminds Parliament that public funds belong to the people, not to ministries, politicians, or bureaucrats. In a country where every loti counts, and where hospitals lack medicine and schools lack books, financial accountability is essential for survival.

The PAC should not merely bark at corruption; it should actively work to stop it. This requires not only a louder voice but sharper teeth. Lesotho's Constitution grants Parliament the power to hold the executive accountable; what remains is the political will to utilise it. When the PAC transitions from merely offering testimony to achieving tangible results, from exposure to enforcement, Basotho will finally recognise it for what it was intended to be: not a dog without teeth but a watchdog ready to bite when the nation's resources are at risk. The future is **NOW!**

Lesotho's health care is becoming a state-sponsored human rights violation through neglect

Lerato Matheka

Across the pages of the *Lesotho Times, Newsday Newspaper, Public Eye and The Reporter*, a consistent and devastating picture is painted, the public health system of Lesotho is no longer merely under strain. It is failing the very people it was designed to serve.

What we are witnessing as a nation is not a collection of isolated incidents but the systematic collapse of care, dignity and human rights in the hospital corridors of a nation that entrusted its protection to the state.

The *Newsday* investigation into the Maseru District Hospital was startling: a facility meant to represent a new dawn in Lesotho's healthcare, instead revealed more than 100 preventable deaths, rampant misdiagnosis, toxic queues, broken diagnostics, staff stretched to the brink and leadership seemingly absent.

Patients and their families were left in limbo while the promise of "modern hospital" echoed hollow yet those responsible to offer answers simply ignored questions and acted busy to care. In the *Lesotho Times*, the newspaper's luck to present both the complaints from whistle-blowers, staff insiders and concerned doctors, and the official response from the ministry, confirmed the Newsday investigation and further exposed a tension between lived reality and political narrative.

As the *Public Eye* returns from the wards of the Berea Hospital, the imagery is bleak: soiled linens, broken laundry machines, infectious and general waste mixed indiscriminately, staff morale plummeting, patients forced to wait, suffer and even death occurring. Yet the issue is still treated as corridors hearsay.

In *The Reporter's* coverage one reads of a ministry failing to collect revenue, failing to maintain oversight, failing to even ensure that basic supplies reach clinics and hospitals, yet still affirmed in its pronouncements, unbowed by the evidence it is confronted with.

And in the *Sunday Express* — via its coverage of the Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital, readers learned of creeping privatisation inside what is meant to be the national referral hospital, a move that threatens to further weaken access for ordinary Basotho, and deepen the divide between those who can pay and those who rely on state care.

This is not a crisis of funding alone.

It is a crisis of leadership, of priorities and of human rights.

The health minister, Selibe Mochoboroane, occupies the office that carries the most fundamental duty of government, to safeguard life and dignity. Yet the official posture has been defensive, political, and even dismissive.

Reports of death and neglect are characterised as "ambitious doctor agendas" or "media hype."

The minister has the temerity to question ground-level sources, to cast those who daily witness mistreatment of patients as actors in political drama, while comfortably stationed in an office removing himself from pain and queues.

Let us confront the numbers. The ministry's allocation for 2024/25 stood at approximately M3.4 billion. For 2025/26, it dropped to around M3.1 billion.

These figures alone are not the issue, the issue is what these hundreds of millions of Maloti were meant to purchase: human lives, doctors in wards, machines in theatres, clean beds, functioning referrals and hope. And yet, the evidence from every corner of the country is that care is slipping, dignity is being trampled and patients are increasingly at risk.

When the minister stands up and denounces a doctor's allegations as "self-serving", we must ask: *why would a physician risk career and reputation to make false allegations when the hospitals he walks through each day bear the scars of neglect?*

When the minister touts new policy initiatives while hospitals operate in decay, we must ask: *who is he serving? The patients, or the politics?*

In the past three years, under this government, the health ministry has received the lion's share of budget among ministries because what could be more essential than life-saving services? Yet we see that the ministry's revenue collection is in disarray.

The committee on the Social Cluster discovered in 2023/24 that revenue targets had collapsed with only about M5.7 million collected against a target of nearly M30 million. The missed target was pointed to internal financial mismanagement, an issue which whistle blowers are decrying. The same ministry cannot account for its own income streams, how can it account for the lives of Basotho whom it is charged to serve?

Continues

It is not enough to murmur about "prioritising primary healthcare" while hospitals in major districts fall apart. It is not enough to celebrate new budgets while beds lie idle, laundry machines broken, waste unmanaged and the sick left waiting. The right to health is not a slogan. It is enshrined in international human rights frameworks, and by every moral measure, the government has failed its people.

The role of the minister is not to hold press conferences or take desired interviews and shift blame and belittling the truth of people who see the pain on a daily.

His role is to walk into the hospitals, ask the nurses why they reuse gloves, ask the patients why they arrived at the emergency ward and found no doctor, demand answers from those who build hospitals but leave them non-functional. Instead, what we see is an office that deflects, that questions the messenger, which interprets symptoms of collapse as political manoeuvres.

One must demand: show us the patients who waited 48 hours, show us the records of "preventable deaths", explain the broken machines, account for the missing doctors, detail the inactive rice-beds of health infrastructure. Because when those institutions meant to preserve life become theatres of suffering, we are no longer talking about "service delivery failure", we are talking about state-sponsored human rights violation through neglect.

Basotho elected this government into power, they entrusted it with their lives, their mothers and children, their ageing citizens.

What they are receiving is rhetoric, budgets, press releases and hospitals that look like warehouses of despair.

The minister's conviction that there is no crisis seems not simply mistaken, but morally vacuous in the face of credible reporting, interviews and testimonials from patients and staff.

For three years the ministry that should embody humanity and care has become a platform for human rights abuse displayed through service collapse, through neglect, through the refusal to see the worst of what is happening inside hospital walls. When hospitals are places where hope goes to die, the government must answer. Not tomorrow. Not after we launch another initiative. Now.

And for the minister, let this be clear; POLITICAL SURVIVAL IS CHEAP COMPARED TO A MOTHER SAVED, A CHILD TREATED IN TIME, A LIFE PRESERVED.

If you have a budget, spend it on saving lives not saving faces. If you hold an office, use it to walk the wards, to sit by the bedside, to listen to the sick and to act on the evidence. Because when you ignore the cries of your people, you betray them.

This is not a plea. This is a demand: Basotho deserve no less than health, dignity and life. If you cannot deliver them, step aside.

Newsday Opinion

The immorality of Lesotho's banking fees: A nation held hostage by its own banks

Dr Chris Mokolatsie argues that Lesotho's banking system is exploiting the poor — and that government must act to restore financial dignity.

Dr Chris Mokolatsie

I had two exasperating conversations recently that left me both angry and deeply saddened. The topic? The quiet but relentless extortionate bank fees Basotho are subjected to by the few monopolistic local Banks, and as if that is not painful enough for locals, their relatives outside the country likewise suffer a similar nightmare and extortion when sending little hard-earned cash home to support their loved ones in Lesotho.

The first conversation was with a close relative in Maseru, and another with a friend of mine here in the United Kingdom. Both spoke with frustration about something that has become an open secret in Lesotho and among many Basotho outside the country: the extortionate fees local banks charge for ATM withdrawals and other such bogus fees, and that perennial nightmare of international money transfer to relatives and family in Lesotho.

Apparently, a simple transaction of M5,000 in Maseru costs M379 in withdrawal fees. Let that sink in: M379. I am not sure how much that is worth in Lesotho these days, but here in the United Kingdom, that translates to £16.46, enough to buy a family's groceries for a few days or pay for several taxi rides across Maseru. Even worse, in some places, such as TY Shopping Centre, customers face a withdrawal limit of M5,000 per transaction. So, imagine transferring M11,000 to pay for building materials only to lose M120 in fees simply to access your own money — your own money! For ordinary Basotho struggling to build homes, pay school fees, or feed their families, this is not just inconvenient; it is cruel.

Banks that bleed the poor

Lesotho's banking system, it seems, has perfected the art of bleeding the poor. These are not service fees; they are instruments of economic punishment. Each withdrawal, transfer, and inquiry is a toll charged on the mere act of participating in the modern economy. The tragedy is that many Basotho have no choice. Our financial sector is dominated by a few banking institutions that act more like monopolies than service providers. When all the major banks charge similar fees, it ceases to be competition; it becomes collusion under the banner of legality.

Meanwhile, Basotho diaspora, working tirelessly in South Africa, the UK, and beyond, face their own financial wounds. For every M5,000 sent home, a substantial M242.00 portion disappears into the wider banking abyss in the form of third-party international money transfer fees, in some case on top of excessive local withdrawal costs.

This situation has been exacerbated by recent changes introduced in 2024, where low-value electronic funds transfers (EFTs), debit, and credit payments made between the Common Monetary Area (CMA) countries — namely Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa — are now treated as cross-border transactions and subjected to greater due diligence requirements. What this means in practice is that even small, everyday transfers whether it's €20.00 from Europe, or £15.00 from the UK or $30.00 from the US, to loved ones and family of friends to buy paraffin, or motlakase or meet other basic needs like school fees for kids and uniforms for siblings, all these transactions phoofo, now face the same bureaucratic and financial hurdles once reserved for large international payments. The poor are paying more to move less. The result? The remittances that sustain families are being eroded by financial intuitions' collusion and monopolistic greed disguised as financial "policy" to combat international money laundering.

The lost potential of remittances

There is another dimension to this story that the Central Bank of Lesotho seems to ignore: the huge role that remittances play in injecting foreign currency into a struggling economy like Lesotho's.

For a small country like ours, the central bank should not be making it harder for Basotho abroad and outside the country to send money home to family and relative— it should be making it easier. The easier it is to send money, the more individuals will be inclined to make more money transfers and more likely frequent and to many more people, as we know in countries like Lesotho, one economically active family member often supports not just their immediate family but the larger community of extended family of relatives, friends even neighbours. Small amounts though these transaction may be — whether $10, £12, or €25 — when send frequently and to an ever widening pool of family, relatives and friends, the cumulative effect when converted into Maloti to the local economy is enormous. Gradually, families have more spending power — which benefits not only individuals but also the broader economy and the national fiscus. These modest individual transfers inject liquidity into the economy, strengthening local purchasing power, and in turn supports small businesses. Every remittance, however small, is a small step of individuals into economic development and a giant micro-investment step by Basotho Diaspora collectively in Lesotho's future and participation into the economy. To obstruct it with red tape and punitive fees as the current financial regulatory regime is not just bad policy; it is self-sabotage, and short sightedness.

An ethical failure

At its core, this is not simply a financial issue — it is an ethical one. The question is not whether banks have the right to charge fees, but whether they have the moral right to exploit citizens so openly. When withdrawing one's own money becomes a luxury, when families lose a week's food budget to transaction charges, and when the poor pay more to access less — that is not economics, it is exploitation. And when the government stands by in silence, it becomes complicit in that exploitation. We have reached a point where banking in Lesotho has become a punishment for being poor. The system rewards wealth and penalises survival.

It is time for the Government of Lesotho and the Central Bank in particular to act decisively on the side of customers not banks. The government for its part has both a legal and moral obligation to protect its citizens from corporate excess but introducing legislations abolishing the day light robbery of all ATM withdrawal and inquiry fees that Banks charge, and elimination of interbank service charges when customers use ATMs belonging to different banks.

For Basotho outside the country the government must work with relevant financial institutions locally and in the region and lobby for outright reversal of the September 2024 decision to treat remittance to family and relatives as cross border transfers needing greater money laundering scrutiny, which only serves to cripple Basotho in the diaspora.

This is not radicalism — it is justice. The banks operate within our borders, make profits from our people, and owe a duty of care to the same communities that sustain them.

A call for financial dignity

Lesotho cannot continue to tolerate a banking system that preys on the vulnerable while enriching a few. Access to one's own money should be a right, not a revenue stream for multinational corporations.

The time has come to restore financial dignity to Basotho. The government must stop protecting banks and start protecting citizens. Because the moral test of any nation is not how it treats its wealthy, but how it defends its poor from the powerful.

Until then, every M379 fee on a M5,000 withdrawal will stand as proof — that in Lesotho, even poverty has a price tag.

WFP World Food Programme

VACANCY

Title	External candidates link	Deadline
Management Services Associate -G6	https://wd3.myworkdaysite.com/recruiting/wfp/job_openings/job/Maseru-Lesotho-The-Kingdom-Of/Management-Services-Associate_JR116638-1	12 November 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.

Kingdom of Lesotho

LESOTHO LOWLANDS WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASE III

Everyone Needs Water

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES-FIRM SELECTION)

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS AND PILOT FAECAL SLUDGE MANAGEMENT TREATMENT FACILITY

Project : **Lesotho Lowlands Water Development and Sanitation Project III**
Project ID No.: **P-LS-E00-008**
Loan No.: **2100150043397**
Ref No.: **LS-LLWDPIII- 00301-CS-CQS**
Date: **23rd October 2025**

1. The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho has received a Loan financing from the African Development Fund (ADF) towards the cost of the Lesotho Lowlands Water Development and Sanitation Project Phase III (LLWDSP III) and intends to apply part of the agreed amount of this loan to payments under the contract for Consultancy services for the construction supervision of distribution networks and a pilot Faecal Sludge Management treatment Facility.

2. The services included under this project are to carry out is :

Construction supervision of distribution networks and pilot faecal sludge treatment facility including service reservoirs and all the related works within the selected project area or settlements.

3. The Ministry of Natural Resources - Department of Water now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing consultancy services as summarized in 2 above. Interested Consultants must provide information indicating that they have ten (10) years of demonstrable experience in construction supervision of water distribution networks and three (3) years for feacal sludge management treatment facility. They should also show that they have successfully carried out and completed at least five water supply projects similar or bigger in nature and scope, and at least two feacal sludge management treatment units in the past five years in developing countries. (Brochures, names and contact details of organizations for which the consultant has completed similar assignment, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.)

4. The Consultant shall indicate the most recent successful performances (at least five projects) accompanied by a certificate of completion issued by the client. In addition, they must demonstrate experience in FIDIC (Red book) contract of works for civil engineering construction. Consultants may constitute Joint Ventures to enhance their chances of qualification. The Client will provide available data to the Consultant, and the Consultant will undertake the assignments with highest integrity to ensure that the project objectives are met.

The consultancy services will be carried out within a period of Eighteen (18) calendar months.

5. Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with Consultant Qualification Selection method (CQS) set out in the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations", dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at http://www.afdb.org.

6. Interested firms may obtain clarifications if any by email to the Procurement Specialist at ramaqelef@llwdp3.org.ls cc makhaolam@llwdp3.org.ls or can come to the office from 8:00am -16:45hrs.

7. Expressions of interest of not more than fifty A4 pages must be hand delivered or sent by courier to the address below by 11:00hrs local time on or before 17th November 2025 **and mention "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS AND PILOT FEACAL SLUDGE MANAGEMENT TREATMENT FACILITY".**

Att: Mamathe Makhaola (Mrs)
Project Manager
Lesotho Lowlands Water Development and Sanitation Project Phase III
LNDC Development House, Block D, Level 9
Constitution Rd, Maseru 100.
Lesotho.

Kingdom of Lesotho
National Assembly of Lesotho

Request for Expression of Interest

Provision of Consulting Services for Conducting an assessment, development and supervision of a five-year maintenance and renovation plan for the national assembly of Lesotho building

The National Assembly Building is a national asset of great significance, housing critical parliamentary operations. Over the years, the building has experienced wear and deterioration requiring major refurbishment, painting, and renovation to preserve its structural integrity and maintain functionality. With this National Assembly wishes to engage eligible consulting firms to make **assessment, development and supervision of a five-year maintenance and renovation plan for the national assembly of Lesotho building**

Eligible firms are required to meet the following requirements:

a. Valid Trading License and/or business identity card
b. Valid Tax Clearance Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate (where applicable)
c. Certificate of incorporation and company extract detailing ownership and business operations together with identity documents of shareholders

The Clerk to the National Assembly now invites eligible **Consulting Firms or Engineering firms** ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are; qualifications and expertise, experience, team composition, financial capacity and understanding of the project brief approach and methodology for undertaking the assignment, proof of professional registration with relevant engineering councils or regulatory bodies and References from previous clients for similar work. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

Further information (including detailed Terms of Reference (TOR)) can be obtained at the address below during office hours (i.e. 08hr00 to 16hr00).

Expressions of interest must be delivered to procurement unit tender box on or before to the address below (in person and by e-mail) by **04th November 2025 at 12:30am**.

Procurement Unit, National Assembly P. O. Box 190 Parliament Building Top Mplilo Hill Maseru 100, Lesotho. Tel (+266) 22323035. Attention:(Email: malehakoe.mokone@gov.ls and mareamohetsoe.letoane@gov .ls

All the submissions shall be properly addressed as indicated above and clearly marked thus on the envelope: **"Expression of Interest for the assessment, development and supervision of a five-year maintenance and renovation plan for the national assembly of Lesotho building".**

Kingdom of Lesotho

INIVITATION TO TENDER (ITT) TENDER REF. NO: NA TENDER NO.3 OF 2025/26

THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND CONFIGURATION OF WIFI ACCESS POINTS AND NETWORK SWITCHES LOT 1, AND SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTO AND VIDEO CAMERAS FOR PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS AND SIX PTZ CAMERAS FOR COMMITTEE ROOMS LOT 2 AND DISPLAY SCREENS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LOT 3

The National Assembly of Lesotho invites qualified and reputable suppliers to submit tenders for the following:

1. Lot 1: Supply, installation, and configuration of Wi-Fi access points and network switches.
2. Lot 2: Supply and delivery of professional photo and video camera and for parliamentary proceedings and six (6) PTZ cameras for **committee rooms**.
3. Lot 3: Supply and installation of display screens for the National Assembly.

Interested and eligible bidders may obtain the tender documents from the Procurement Office, National Assembly of Lesotho, during working hours (08:30am – 16:00 pm) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of M 2 000.00.

SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

1. Sealed tenders clearly marked "Tender for the Supply, Installation and Configuration of Wi-Fi Access Points and Network Switches, and Supply and Delivery of Professional photo and video Cameras and Display Screens for the National Assembly" must be deposited in the Tender Box located at the Procurement Office, National Assembly of Lesotho, on or before 19th December 2025 at 10hr00. Late submissions will not be accepted.
2. Opening of the bid documents will be on the 19th December 2025 at 10hr15hr at National Assembly premises. Interested bidders are invited the bid opening. Only one representative from a bidder may attend
3. There will be a **MANDATORY** site visit at National Assembly premises on the 13th November 2025 at 10hr00
4. The tender submission should be addressed to Procurement Unit, National Assembly P. O. Box 190 Parliament Building Top Mplilo Hill Maseru 100, Lesotho. Tel (+266) 22323035. For enquiries: (Email: malehakoe.mokone@gov.ls and botseba.sesinyi@gov.ls

All the submissions shall be properly addressed as indicated above and clearly marked thus on the envelope: **"THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND CONFIGURATION OF WIFI ACCESS POINTS AND NETWORK SWITCHES LOT 1, AND SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTO AND VIDEO CAMERAS FOR PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS AND SIX PTZ CAMERAS FOR COMMITTEE ROOMS LOT 2 AND DISPLAY SCREENS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LOT 3"**.

Arts & Entertainment
Newsday

Meet Maja ka Thata, a young rap group reimagining local Hip-Hop

Fusi Hlaoli

A fresh movement is taking shape in Lesotho's music scene, led by a group of young artists determined to reconnect hip-hop with Basotho identity and everyday reality.

The group, known as Maja ka Thata, was formed in September this year and has already begun drawing significant attention from local listeners and even South African creatives through their powerful Sesotho-driven rap performances shared on social media.

The group was founded by Kopano Mphunyetsane, popularly known as Reghar, who traces his musical journey back to his early days in Ha Seleso. Like many young artists in the country, he began rapping and singing in English, experimenting with freestyle sessions and studio recordings.

However, he soon noticed that using English created a barrier between him and his listeners, who struggled to connect deeply with his message.

In an interview with Newsday, he explained that the turning point came when he realised that music is most impactful when it speaks directly to the people it is made for.

"I saw that if the music is not in our home language, people do not really feel it. So I decided to express myself in Sesotho because it is who we are," he said.

From this realisation grew the idea of forming a group of artists who would not only record music together but also inspire each other, push creatively, and build something rooted in Lesotho's cultural identity.

He envisioned a team made up of serious, committed individuals who viewed music as a craft, not just entertainment.

"In music, we do not need motivation, we need drive," he emphasised.

Responding to a public call he made on social media, several artists reached out, leading to the formation of Maja ka Thata.

The group now consists of Reghar, the founder and lead artist; Matlotlo Masitha, known as Reflex Nats, a rapper celebrated for his futuristic lyrical delivery; Darlest Tee, initially known for English rap but later surprising the group with powerful Sesotho verses; Kopano Lipholo, known as Kaip, a rapper with a distinct voice and bilingual versatility; and Busa Hlalele, the producer and sound engineer responsible for shaping the group's musical identity.

Reghar recalls already knowing Reflex Nats from studio sessions and admiring his passion and vision. His introduction to Darlest Tee came with hesitation, as Darlest was known mostly for English rap.

However, once they began recording together, Darlest delivered Sesotho verses with intensity and fire, blending seamlessly into the group's identity. Kaip joined after a conversation in which Reghar recognised the strength and uniqueness of his voice.

Initially, the group grappled with balancing English and Sesotho rap styles. But rather than forcing uniformity, they allowed the music to guide them, and the natural blend of languages became one of their defining strengths.

To introduce themselves to the masses, Maja ka Thata chose a distinctive approach, releasing video episodes structured as performance cyphers instead of immediately dropping singles or albums. Their first episode, shared mainly on TikTok, gained rapid traction after being promoted by Strictly Lesotho Music, a digital platform dedicated to showcasing local talent.

The episode received impressive engagement, even catching the attention of South African celebrities who expressed interest in their work.

So far, the group has released two episodes and is preparing to drop Episode 3 soon. Their plan is to produce eight episodes in total before officially releasing music projects such as singles, EPs, and albums.

Despite their early success, the group acknowledges the challenges faced by musicians in Lesotho, including limited platforms for selling music, financial constraints, and a lack of sustainable industry support.

They remain optimistic and grateful for the support they have received so far, particularly from Vision Marketing Agency for filming their work and Strictly Lesotho Music for helping them reach a wider audience.

Going forward, Maja ka Thata envisions significant growth over the next two years, releasing more music, performing on bigger stages, and representing Sesotho hip-hop on regional platforms.

One of their immediate aspirations is to perform at Sesotho Fashioneng this December, an event that aligns closely with their identity and artistic message.

The group's motto captures their spirit and purpose: "Maja ka thata, Maja samo, Maja sohle sao thala ka hara sebae sa 'mino."

Hotspot Cypher ignites American Corner

Chris Theko

The American Corner in the State Library buzzed with electric energy as Hotspot Cypher delivered yet another powerful showcase of Lesotho's emerging hip-hop and creative talent.

The event, hosted on October 31 in partnership with Kurru Sound, drew artists, producers, parents, and music lovers together to celebrate the country's evolving soundscape.

What began as a simple gathering of young creatives has developed into a dynamic platform propelling artists toward greater visibility. According to organisers, this is only the beginning.

Hotspot Cypher co-founder and curator Matšili Thamae said the initiative was born from a desire to expand artists' exposure and connect them to wider audiences.

"When we listen to a project and feel more people should know about you, we push you," Thamae said.

"We are basically a connection for artists and potential consumers. We bring together different organs to help build the industry and the next superstars."

Over the past six to seven years, Hotspot has helped nurture several musicians who have since grown into some of Lesotho's most recognisable names.

"We identified them when no one was seeing them, and suddenly they became big superstars. The system has also inspired many upcoming artists who lacked the confidence to showcase their talents," he added.

Thamae explained that the selection of performers and producers is a deliberate, ongoing process, with the team keeping a close eye on digital platforms to discover new talent.

"There is always something happening online. When we see something we like, we reach out. We mainly get positive feedback. Once we connect, we start working, it becomes an incubation process," he noted.

This cypher edition featured a vibrant lineup of producers including Elly on the Beat, MJ Elphy, Vibeboy Beatz, Boyfriends Beats, i-Slake Doty, Rence Tracks, and Zeus iSmoke. Performing artists included Jobo, Subtle Flex, Kiddiana, Blaze Shatta Queen, Jwoker, The M.B.A, Mothapo oa Loti, Emchurch, Attii Zee, 'Mamatšeliso, Okida, Vestah Dah Original, Keneuoe, and Separola, guided by MCs Fanta and Matsill.

The event combined a new cypher screening with an album listening session, where attendees enjoyed exclusive tracks from the upcoming Hotspot project. Although rain forced the postponement of the originally planned balcony setup, the show continued indoors, an adjustment Thamae said ultimately worked in their favour.

"Everything went exactly how we wanted. People are starting to get exactly what we are trying to do," he reflected.

One standout moment was the support shown by family members of some performers.

"Seeing parents come out in support was humbling. It gives us a pat on the back, especially when we have moments of self-doubt," Thamae said.

Hotspot Cypher has built a strong reputation as a connector in the local arts sector, collaborating with brands, creatives, and partners to develop new experiences.

"We have had so many collaborations, even hard to pinpoint. We are currently finalising a 20-track Hotspot Cypher album. We have worked with big brands, gaming platforms, DAEMAN, Headlines on Hotspot Thursday, and artists we have worked with have gone on to win awards." Thamae said.

The movement has also grown beyond music, extending its influence into creative fields such as photography and digital media. He said the team is preparing for major expansion across the country.

"Once you start, you automatically start thinking of what is next. We have a nationwide tour planned, new content to roll out, and hope to explore more collaborations, including with corporate partners," he explained.

Last Friday's edition also marked a milestone partnership with American Corner Maseru, a collaboration the team sees as a blueprint for future partnerships.

From scouting hidden talent online to providing platforms for performance, mentorship, and exposure, Hotspot Cypher continues to carve space for a new generation of Basotho musicians.

Its growing influence is not only shaping careers but also building community, boosting creative confidence, and strengthening the foundation of Lesotho's modern music culture.

The Sothohop legend Skebza D, who attended the event, praised the organisers and curators for their dedication.

"It is truly a treat to get to watch an album launch with experienced and skilled artists who are all there with the common goal of giving us superb music of the highest quality and giving the fans not only a night to remember, but everlasting memories.

"Hotspot has come so far, and it has been mad consistent. I got to learn so much from the live sessions and got to hear the album for the first time... live, before a lotta people," Skebza said after the event.

Kick4Life women extend their rampant league form

Seabata Mahao

Kick4Life Senior Women underlined their dominance in the 2025 Lesotho Women's Super League with yet another emphatic victory with a 6–0 demolition of Villa Ladies last Sunday, at the PTC Ground.

The defending champions remain unbeaten after four matches, having scored an incredible 19 goals without conceding. Their flawless record keeps them top of the table, level on 12 points with LDF Ladies but ahead on goal difference.

The match was a statement of intent from the title holders, who have begun their campaign in blistering form as they look determined to retain their crown.

Last season's top scorer, Tholoana Tšoaeli, set the tone early, opening the scoring in the 14th minute with her first goal of the season. Two minutes later, Lerato Tšoinyana doubled the advantage, before new signing Boiketlo Molise extended the lead to 3–0 in the 18th minute, giving Kick4Life a comfortable cushion at halftime.

The second half saw more attacking fireworks, with Lerato 'Dona' Tšoinyana producing a masterclass. She struck again in the 50th minute and completed her hat-trick just eight minutes later, taking her personal tally to seven goals in four games.

An injury to Tšoaeli prompted the introduction of Nyakallo Taole, who wasted no time in making her presence felt, sealing the 6–0 rout with a fine finish in the 79th minute.

Kick4Life's ruthless display reinforced their position as the team to beat. Head coach [Insert Coach's Name if known] praised his side's discipline and attacking flair, describing the victory as "a statement performance."

Elsewhere, LDF Ladies FC maintained their own unbeaten record with a 4–0 win over Bokamoso C Ladies, showcasing their trademark passing game and solid defence. Lijabatho Ladies FC edged FC Stoko 1–0 in a tightly contested battle, while Berea Ladies and Mphaki HS Ladies both earned 2–0 wins over Mawes Ladies and LMPS Ladies respectively.

Speaking after the match, Kick4Life Women's Coach Elizabeth Yelimala reflected on her team's performance and the factors behind their success.

"We used our strength up front to break through Villa's defense early. That goal gave us the confidence to regroup and move the ball faster between midfield and attack, which really opened up the game," Yelimala said.

She highlighted the importance of international exposure, noting that their CAF Women's Champions League experience showcased Kick4Life's potential to compete and eventually excel at a higher level.

Yelimala added that competing internationally boosts the standard of domestic football, helping develop stronger, more competitive teams in Lesotho. Looking ahead, she expressed confidence in Kick4Life's ability to defend their title.

Kick4Life Senior Women continued their remarkable start to the 2025 Lesotho Women's Super League season with a commanding 6–0 victory over Villa Ladies on Sunday

Warriors beat Liqhomane in fiery rugby contest


Maseru Warriors reignited their Lesotho Rugby League campaign with an emphatic 34–22 victory over Liqhomane in a fiercely contested match at Mabote Beavers Ground on Saturday.

Seabata Mahao

Maseru Warriors reignited their Lesotho Rugby League campaign with a commanding 34–22 victory over Liqhomane in a recent fiercely contested clash at the Mabote Beavers Ground.

The encounter, played as part of the second week of the second leg of the Econet Telecom Lesotho–sponsored Rugby League last Saturday, showcased top-tier local rugby as teams continue their battle for supremacy in what has become one of the league's most competitive seasons yet.

Coming off a 46–29 defeat to Lesotho Rugby Academy in their previous outing, the Warriors entered the fixture determined to bounce back, and they did so in emphatic fashion. Liqhomane, meanwhile, struggled to recover from their own recent 37–12 loss to Mabote Beavers and found themselves under pressure from the onset.

Both sides started with intensity and physicality, but it was the Warriors who took control of key phases, capitalising on Liqhomane's defensive errors to secure a well-deserved victory and avenge their earlier-season loss.

Speaking after the match, Maseru Warriors' representative Morapeli Motaung praised his team's preparation and focus.

"Our preparation was intense, and the boys showed great commitment going into this match against Liqhomane," Motaung said.

"It was a tough game, but everything went according to plan," he added.

Motaung also reflected on the team's early-season struggles, including losing players to work and school commitments and the lack of a permanent training ground.

"We have now secured a field and a few new players. Training together consistently has helped us identify our weaknesses and improve our structure." he added

Motaung said the win has boosted team morale as the Warriors continue their climb up the league table.

"Liqhomane is a strong side that's been competing closely with Mabote Beavers for the top spot, so this win gives us confidence. We'll go back to training with renewed motivation for the next game."

Attempts to reach Liqhomane's coach for comment were not successful.

Elsewhere in the weekend's league action, Mabote Beavers maintained their momentum with a 24–14 victory over NUL Spears, while Lesotho Rugby Academy continued their impressive run by thrashing Mabita Gorillas 52–15.

Next, Maseru Warriors will face Mabita Gorillas as Liqhomane look to regroup ahead of their meeting with NUL Spears.

Current Top Teams: Mabote Beavers, Lesotho Rugby Academy, Liqhomane, and Maseru Warriors.

Weekend Results: Maseru Warriors 34–22 Liqhomane, Mabote Beavers 24–14 NUL Spears, Lesotho Rugby Academy 52–15 Mabita Gorillas.

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Lioli face resurgent LCS in Super Sunday clash

LCS FC in premier league action with Matlama FC

Seabata Mahao

Defending Vodacom Premier League (VPL) champions Lioli FC will face a stern test this weekend when they come up against an in-form LCS FC side in what promises to be one of the most thrilling encounters of the season.

The clash headlines a rare Super Sunday triple header at Bambatha Sports Arena. The day's action will kick off with an anticipated showdown between LMPS FC and the revitalised Linare FC, before LU FC taking on a wounded Bantu FC side desperate to rediscover their spark in the second fixture.

The curtain will come down with the big one, where Lioli will lock horns with LCS. Affectionately known as Masheshena, LCS come into the encounter in high spirits after a remarkable 3–0 victory over Matlama FC in their previous outing at the same venue.

The correctional service side showed grit, discipline, and patience before launching a late attacking surge that stunned the capital giants.

In sharp contrast, Lioli have struggled for consistency in recent weeks. The Teyateyaneng-based outfit are winless in two matches, having drawn 0–0 with LMPS FC last weekend following a shock 1–0 loss to league debutants Maroala FC.

Coach Bongani Maseko will be keen to see his charges rediscover the attacking sharpness that defined their championship run last season.

LCS's victory over Matlama was sparked by a late brace from striker Lisema Lebokollane, whose composure and movement proved decisive. After a tense first half dominated by Matlama's possession play, Masheshena came alive in the closing stages, punishing their opponents' defensive lapses to seal all three points.

Lebokollane broke the deadlock in the 83rd minute, coolly slotting home to silence the Matlama supporters. Four minutes later, he struck again with a clinical finish following a swift counter-attack.

Matlama's misery was compounded deep into stoppage time when defender Lekhetho Mohai, under pressure from a cross, headed the ball into his own net, sealing a 3–0 defeat.

The result lifted LCS to second place on the log with 13 points, just behind leaders Majantja FC, while Matlama slid to 10th position with only nine points from seven games.

After the match, Matlama coach Shalane Lehohla expressed frustration with his team's profligacy in front of goal.

"We created plenty of chances early on but did not take them. In the second half, we lost our energy and focus. Our defense did not perform to the level we expected, and that cost us," Lehohla said.

He admitted that his tactical changes, bringing on Charlie Hlalele and Molefe Thatho to boost the attack, did not yield the intended results.

"It is frustrating because we controlled much of the game, yet we have nothing to show for it," he said.

LCS's coach Leslie Makhetha Notši, on the other hand, was full of praise for his team's discipline and tactical execution.

"We knew Matlama are a strong side that like to dominate possession. Our plan was to defend well, stay patient, and hit them when the opportunity came and that's exactly what we did," said Notši.

He revealed that his side had identified weaknesses in Matlama's right flank and exploited them to great effect.

"We saw some weaknesses on Matlama's right flank and told the boys to exploit that area. That is where our first goal came from. Now we will analyse the match, fix a few things, and prepare for the next one." Notši explained.

Past weekend results:

November 1, 2025: Majantja FC 3–2 Bantu FC; LDF FC 2–1 Lifofane FC; Lijabatho FC 3–0 Manonyane FC.

November 2, 2025: LCS FC 3–0 Matlama FC; Linare FC 4–1 LU FC; Maroala FC 1–1 Liphakoe FC; Machokha FC 1–0 Members FC; Lioli FC 0–0 LMPS FC.