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Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Association of Private Security Companies has sounded the alarm over what it describes as crippling structural problems threatening the survival of the industry, placing the blame squarely on delayed and partial payments by government entities.

The association's chairperson, Mike Nkuatsana, said private security firms are required to pay hefty annual licence fees and comply with strict regulatory requirements, yet are pushed to the brink of collapse by chronic non-payment, especially on government contracts.

His remarks come amid mounting complaints from security officers who accuse some companies of delayed salaries, underpayment and poor working conditions. While acknowledging these grievances, Nkuatsana said the sector has been infiltrated by "bad actors" whose conduct should not be used to condemn the entire industry.

"Even when companies are contracted by government, payments take unreasonably long to be processed," Nkuatsana said. "In some cases, companies are only paid for a few months of work already performed. This forces them to scramble for survival."

He said the local private security industry is further disadvantaged by what he described as a lack of protection against international competitors, adding that local companies are increasingly locked out of lucrative tenders.

"We are experiencing unfair competition," he said, claiming that some institutions, including banks he declined to name, systematically exclude local firms from tender processes. As a result, some companies no longer bother to tender at all.

Nkuatsana also alleged that nepotism has taken root in the sector, claiming that certain security companies enjoy preferential treatment due to their links with politically connected individuals, including ministers. These claims could not be independently verified by the publication at the time of going to print.

He noted that high unemployment continues to push many Basotho into the private security sector, often under difficult conditions that breed conflict and instability in the workplace.

Nkuatsana further criticised the industry's lack of representation at the Wages Board under the Ministry of Labour, describing private security as one of the lowest-paid sectors in the country despite its risks and responsibilities.

Although the Private Security Officers Act of 2002 provides for a regulatory board, Nkuatsana said many disputes bypass the Private Security Board and end up in court. He stressed that security officers are legally required to hold certificates and register with the board, yet enforcement remains weak.

He also raised concern over the installation of alarms and CCTV systems, saying this work falls within the mandate of licensed security companies, but is effectively unregulated due to gaps in the law.

Security companies take aim at government

- **Blame late government payments for low wages**
- **Allege firms with links to ministers enjoy preferential treatment**



While conceding that some companies have mistreated workers and faced consequences, Nkuatsana said the association distances itself from such practices.

"As an association, we do not defend exploitation," he said.

Another association member, Teboho Molapo, said companies' ability to pay incentives or improve working conditions is directly tied to timely payments from clients.

"The life of a security company depends on payments from clients," Molapo said, adding that incentives and benefits are determined by contractual agreements.

Nkuatsana said there is currently no law stipulating a minimum wage for security officers, a gap he said leaves workers vulnerable to exploitation.

"We will not abandon this industry," he said. "In other countries, it functions properly. We want to put it in order."

He added that most companies that delay payments to workers are those contracted by the government.

The government, however, could not provide a specific timeframe for settling outstanding payments to service providers. Ministry of Finance Assistant Information Officer, Keneue Mojaki, said payment delays may arise from several factors and

that Treasury processes payments only after invoices are submitted, audited and approved by contracting ministries.

"If invoices are incorrect, Treasury queries them," Mojaki said, adding that while some payments are processed within 30 days, others may take up to 90 days depending on the contract.

Responding to allegations of politically linked companies, the association's secretary, Tlali Tlali, said compiling such a list would be difficult, but confirmed that the association has scheduled a meeting next Wednesday for affected companies to present their cases.

He further cited nepotism, alleging that some companies enjoy an advantage due to their connections with the government of the day. Thus the publication had not verified his allegations at the time of going to print last night when he alleged that some security companies are owned by Ministers he could not divulge their names.

Nkuatsana noted that due to the high unemployment rate, many people seek jobs in the private security sector. However, he warned that conflicts often arise when people work together under difficult conditions.

He also lamented the industry's lack of representation at the Wages Board, which falls under the Ministry of Labour, saying the private security

sector remains one of the lowest-paid industries.

The Private Security Officers Act of 2002 provides for a board that oversees the industry. However, Nkuatsana said most complaints are not taken to the Private Security Board for resolution. Instead, disputes often end up in the courts.

He said security officers are required by law to hold certificates and register with the Private Security Officers Board in order to comply with regulations.

Nkuatsana also raised concern about the installation of alarms and CCTV systems, saying this falls under the mandate of security companies, yet the law is silent on the matter, allowing anyone to undertake such work.

He conceded that some companies have ill-treated their workers and have since faced consequences.

"As an association, we distance ourselves from such companies," he said.

A member of the association, Teboho Molapo, said even where companies wish to provide incentives, this depends on how promptly clients pay them.

"The life of a security company depends on payments from clients," he said, adding that incentives are determined by agreements with those who hire security companies.

Nkuatsana added that some companies provide food and transport allowances, but this is also based on agreements with clients. He said security officers' wages are not fixed and depend on tender agreements.

Molapo said clients do not determine how much security officers are paid, as this is set by security companies. However, he noted that some companies are forced to compromise and settle for the bare minimum.

Tlali said the association is working with the Ministry of Education and Training on an education programme aimed at professionalising the sector and ensuring officers meet minimum qualifications. He added that a draft law has been prepared which, if passed, would require all security officers to be vetted by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

He said the current law prohibits security officers from wearing berets and highlighted the high cost of compliance, noting that a full uniform costs about M2,500, while a pump-action firearm costs roughly M20,000.

Tlali also criticised weak inspections and said the association is engaging the Ministry of Labour to prevent wages as low as M1,200. According to the 2025/2026 gazetted minimum wages, workers in sectors such as manufacturing, retail and hospitality earn no less than M2,700.

This publication established that some security companies pay officers as little as M700.

Tlali advised aggrieved officers to approach the Directorate of Dispute Prevention and Resolution (DDPR), while also noting cases where officers abandon their posts and disappear with company uniforms.

Ramoeletsi hits back over Kenya fraud link

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Minister of Law and Justice Richard Ramoeletsi has criticised Kenyan publications for what he described as unfair and unprofessional reporting after they linked him to a 22-year-old man detained in Kenya over an alleged mobile money fraud case.

Ramoeletsi said the reports were published without first seeking his comment, a lapse he said amounted to a disservice to him as a public office bearer. He also criticised Newsday for republishing the story for local readers without first giving him an opportunity to respond.

"It is wrong to publish a story without first engaging me, as you know me. You are doing me a disservice," the Minister said.

While rejecting the manner in which the story was handled, Ramoeletsi did not dispute the existence of a family relationship with the suspect, Samuel Ngungi Hlutwa. He clarified, however, that Hlutwa is his brother's grandson, not his own, and accused the Kenyan publications of deliberately

targeting him because of his prominence as a public figure.

The minister further explained that Hlutwa's father is Peter Hlutwa, a businessman of Kenyan origin based in Maseru, and said it was the father who took the young man to Kenya for his studies.

When contacted yesterday, Peter Hlutwa said he was not ready to comment publicly on the matter before ending the call. He did not deny that Samuel is his son.

The remarks come amid reports from Kenyan media that Samuel Ngungi Hlutwa, described as "the grandson of Lesotho's Minister for Law and Justice", was arrested last week and is being held at Athi River Police Station in connection with an alleged mobile money fraud involving about Sh60,000 (about M7,500).

According to Kenyan police, the case stems from a complaint by a woman who reported that money was transferred from her account after she received a call from an unknown person. Investigators traced the transaction to a phone number registered to a



woman believed to be associated with Hlutwa, who has since gone missing.

Police then examined the mobile phone used in the transaction and, through its IMEI number, established that the device had changed hands and was now in Hlutwa's possession, leading to his arrest.

Further questions arose over Hlutwa's identity and nationality. He was reportedly born in Lesotho to a Kenyan father and a Mosotho mother and holds dual citizenship. He moved to Kenya in 2022 to study aviation.

However, when booked at Athi River Police Station, police records reportedly listed him only as a Kenyan Kikuyu male, without indicating his foreign

nationality.

The omission, according to Kenyan media, initially caused confusion, with separate inquiries reportedly launched into the disappearance of a foreign national. His identity and dual citizenship were only clarified after relatives traced him to the police station.

Hlutwa appeared before a Kenyan court on Monday, 19 January, where police applied for a seven-day detention order to allow further investigations. The magistrate granted the request, citing concerns that he may have acted in concert with the missing female suspect. He is under investigation for obtaining money by false pretences and conspiracy to commit a felony.

Athi River Sub-County Police Commander David Kandie said the suspect did not disclose his foreign citizenship at the time of arrest, adding that police would act in accordance with court directions as investigations continue.

Separately, Ramoeletsi has reportedly alleged that police officers demanded money in exchange for Hlutwa's release. The allegation has not been publicly responded to by Kenyan police and remains unverified.

Hlutwa remains in custody, with the matter expected to return to court next week.

Newsday (+266) 2231 4267 / 5945 8983

Carlton Centre
3rd Floor
Room 302
Kingsway
Maseru

PUBLISHER
Newsday Media (Pty) (Ltd)
Maseru

MANAGING EDITOR
Lerato Matheka
managingeditor@newsdayonline.co.ls

NEWS EDITOR
Kananelo Boloetse
editor@newsdayonline.co.ls

SUB EDITOR
Bereng Mpaki

NEWS ROOM
Ntsoaki Motaung
Sebata Mahao
Thoboloko Ntšonyane

CONTRIBUTORS
Theko Tlebere
Motsamai Mokojo

PRODUCTION
Bolokang Mahlo
Bataung Monaheng

VIDEOGRAPHER
Tumelo Taole

DISTRIBUTION
Lehlohonolo Mantsoe

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

WEBSITE
www.newsdayonline.co.ls

FACEBOOK
Newsday Newspaper LS
X
@LsNewsday

INSTAGRAM
Newsday Lesotho

PRINTER
Thabure Media Group

Parliament petitioned over gaps in maternity leave law

Ntsoaki Motaung

A local public health specialist, Mamonica Mokhesi, has submitted a formal petition to the National Assembly calling for urgent amendments to Lesotho's Labour Act of 2024, arguing that the current maternity leave provisions fail to adequately protect women who experience medical complications such as premature birth or stillbirth.

In her petition, Mokhesi contends that while the Labour Act represents progress in strengthening maternity protection, it contains critical gaps that leave some women without sufficient time for physical recovery and emotional healing.

Under the current law, maternity leave is divided into two components: leave taken before birth and leave taken after delivery.

Section 191 requires a pregnant worker to notify her employer of her anticipated confinement by submitting a medical certificate indicating that delivery is likely to occur within seven weeks. Upon receipt of such notice, the employer must permit the worker to stop working until confinement and may not allow her to return to work until seven weeks after delivery.

The law further requires that within seven days after giving birth, a worker must submit a medical certificate confirming the date of confinement.

Mokhesi, however, argues that this framework fails women who give birth earlier than expected. According to the petition, mothers who deliver prematurely often lose the entire pre-birth portion of their maternity leave.

"In practice, women who deliver prematurely receive only the post-delivery portion of leave," the petition states. "Much of that time is frequently spent in hospital or attending to neonatal care, leaving the mother with little or no time for her own physical and emotional recovery once she



Mamonica-Mokhesi-Makhozonke

returns home."

The petition also raises concern over Section 191(7) of the Labour Act, which grants only three weeks of maternity leave to women who experience a stillbirth.

"A worker is entitled to three weeks maternity leave upon birth of a still born," the law provides.

Mokhesi argues that this provision is medically and ethically problematic.

From a health perspective, she notes, the physical impact of childbirth on a woman's body is largely the same regardless of whether the baby is born alive or stillborn. In addition, the psychological trauma of losing a child, she says, cannot reasonably be addressed within a three-week recovery period.

"Women must never be punished by law for loss, trauma, or medical complications," Mokhesi stated in her appeal to the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The petition calls on parliament to review and

amend the Labour Act to ensure that mothers receive their full statutory maternity leave even when a baby is born prematurely; that women who experience stillbirth are entitled to the same length of leave as those with live births; and that the law explicitly recognises premature delivery and stillbirth as conditions requiring full medical and psychological protection.

Mokhesi also urges lawmakers to align Lesotho's labour laws with international human rights and labour standards, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and relevant International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions.

She argues that by failing to provide adequate recovery time for women who suffer pregnancy loss or medical complications, the current law may unintentionally discriminate against women based on their medical outcomes. Such discrimination, she says, runs counter to constitutional principles of dignity and humane treatment.

The petition is currently before the Office of the Clerk and the Speaker of the National Assembly for consideration. If accepted, it could trigger a significant legislative review, potentially reshaping maternity protection in Lesotho and making workplaces more responsive to the realities faced by mothers.

Mokhesi's advocacy is supported by international legal frameworks that Lesotho has committed itself to uphold. CEDAW, often described as the international bill of rights for women, prohibits discrimination based on women's reproductive roles and requires states to provide maternity protection that safeguards both employment and health. The petition argues that offering reduced leave for stillbirths may place Lesotho at odds with these standards.

The ILO's Maternity Protection Convention (No. 183) sets a global minimum of 14 weeks of maternity leave and emphasises that maternity leave is primarily a health measure. International best practice, reflected in ILO guidance, recommends that where a birth occurs prematurely, any leave not taken before delivery should be added to the post-birth period to ensure adequate recovery.

Labour unions have also engaged with the issue. The National Clothing Textile and Allied Workers Union (NACTWU) has indicated openness to supporting the petition. Deputy Secretary General Tsépang Nyakanyaka Makakole said the union would be willing to back Mokhesi's advocacy and contribute to shaping proposals for reform.

"If Mokhesi reached out to the workers' unions, we would give her support during this advocacy and share ideas on how best this issue can be approached," Makakole said.

He cautioned, however, that the original intent of the law must be considered. According to Makakole, pre-birth leave is currently viewed as a protective measure against strenuous work, while post-birth leave is seen as time for child-care. On the issue of stillbirth, he suggested that a more medically guided approach may be necessary.

"They will need to go back to the doctors who will determine if there is necessity for women to be given more leave days after assessing their condition," he said.

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LHDA at the centre as Lesotho launches International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists



Staff Reporters

Lesotho on Wednesday launched the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) at Thaba-Phatšoa in Mokhotlong, with the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) taking centre stage as a key driver of rangeland rehabilitation in the country's highlands.

The launch, officiated by the Minister of Environment and Forestry, Letsema Adontši, highlighted the growing role of LHDA in restoring degraded rangelands, strengthening pastoral livelihoods and safeguarding water catchments critical to Lesotho's national development.

Proceedings began with brush control activities, a practical demonstration of rangeland restoration methods championed by LHDA.

The activity underscored the link between healthy rangelands, climate resilience and sustainable grazing systems in the highlands, where livestock farming remains a primary source of livelihood.

Thaba-Phatšoa was deliberately chosen as the launch site to showcase the impact of LHDA-led interventions.

Since 2024, LHDA has rehabilitated 864 hectares in the area through brush con-

trol and the construction of infiltration pits, measures that reduce soil erosion, enhance water infiltration and promote the regeneration of palatable grasses.

The site forms part of the Sehong-hong River catchment, making LHDA's work strategically important for the long-term water security of the Polihali Dam.

By stabilising soils and improving vegetation cover, the rangeland rehabilitation programme contributes directly to protecting water quality and sustaining water yields from the catchment.

Beyond Thaba-Phatšoa, LHDA's rangeland restoration programme in Mokhotlong now covers 13 sub-catchments, reflecting a landscape-scale approach to environmental management.

The programme integrates ecological restoration with community participation, reinforcing livelihoods while strengthening fragile mountain ecosystems.

Speaking at the event, the significance

of LHDA's work was repeatedly emphasised as an example of how infrastructure-linked environmental programmes can deliver broader development outcomes, including climate adaptation, food security and ecosystem protection.

Globally, the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly at its 76th session, with 2026 designated as the year of celebration. The initiative was spearheaded by Mongolia and supported by 60 UN Member States. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) is leading the observance, in collaboration with governments, civil society and development partners.

The IYRP seeks to draw global attention to the critical role that rangelands and pastoralists play in food security, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. Under the banner #IYRP2026, the initiative calls for increased and responsible investment in

the pastoral sector, as well as policies tailored to the realities of pastoral systems.

Key among these are policies that secure pastoralists' access to land and natural resources, support livestock mobility, and recognise customary and inclusive governance systems. The initiative also advocates for greater investment in rangeland management, ecosystem restoration, animal health services and fair, equitable value chains for pastoral products.

Beyond policy reform, the International Year aims to promote inclusive dialogue and collaboration among governments, communities, researchers and the private sector to improve pastoral livelihoods and ensure sustainable rangeland management.

Rangelands cover vast portions of the world's land surface and support millions of people, particularly in dryland and mountain regions like Lesotho's highlands.

Properly managed, they hold significant potential to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including those related to poverty reduction, food security, climate action and life on land.



Lesotho's flawed AGOA lobbying misses ultimate step

Bereng Mpaki

Lesotho's lobbying campaign for the renewal of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has made visible inroads within the United States (US) Congress, but a glaring and potentially costly gap has emerged: the apparent failure by authorities to directly engage the one office that ultimately determines the fate of the legislation, the US President.

While Lesotho government officials led by the Trade, Industry and Business Development Minister Mokhethi Shelile, have combed Washington meeting lawmakers and senior officials to drum up support for the AGOA Extension Act, the campaign appears to have fallen short of the final and most decisive stage of the US legislative process.

The AGOA Extension Act (H.R. 6500) proposes extending trade preferences through December 31, 2028, granting continued duty-free access to the US market for most exports from eligible sub-Saharan African countries. Currently, 32 countries qualify for AGOA benefits.

The bill also seeks to extend customs user fees and merchandise processing fees through December 31, 2031, ensuring continuity in the administration of US trade imports.

Once passed by both chambers of US Congress, the bill must still be signed into law by the US President, a step that Lesotho's lobbying efforts have so far failed to meaningfully address.

This omission is particularly striking given that the presidency is currently held by Donald Trump, a leader widely regarded as unpredictable and transactional in his approach to trade policy.

But to date there has been no official report on either Prime Minister Samuel Matekane or Shelile having had any direct engagement with President Trump aimed at securing his support for the AGOA renewal.

Shelile recently travelled to the United States as part of a broader African push to lobby for AGOA's extension, holding meetings with members of the US Congress and other government authorities.

The objective was to persuade lawmakers



to support the so-called AGOA Extension Act, which seeks to prolong the trade preference scheme that underpins Lesotho's textile and apparel exports to the US market.

Those efforts would appear to have yielded some success as only last week, the US House of Representatives approved a three-year extension of AGOA by an overwhelming 339–54 vote, renewing optimism across Africa that the programme, which has anchored US–Africa trade relations for more than two decades, will not be allowed to lapse.

However, the bill must still pass through the US Senate and then be presented to the President for assent. It is at this final juncture that the weakness of Lesotho's lobbying strategy becomes most apparent. Without explicit presidential buy-in, all prior gains remain vulnerable.

In the US system, the President plays a constitutionally entrenched gate-keeping role in the law-making process. Once a bill has passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate, it is transmitted to the President, who may sign it into law, allow it to become law without a signature, or veto it outright.

A presidential veto can only be overturned by a two-thirds majority in both chambers of Congress, a threshold that is notoriously difficult to achieve, even for broadly supported legislation.

This means that regardless of how favourable the votes in Congress may be, the AGOA Extension Act can still be derailed at the final step. This would spell bad news for Lesotho, whose economy is deeply exposed to the out-

come.

Upon his return to Maseru this week, Shelile acknowledged the uncertainty surrounding the President's role, conceding that there are no guarantees the bill will ultimately be signed into law.

"We have no control on whether President Trump will not oppose the bill, however we are encouraged by the fact that he was the one who gave the go ahead to the chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives to draft the bill," Shelile said.

"President Trump has the final say on whether to signed off the bill or oppose it," he added.

While the Minister's remarks underline an awareness of presidential authority, they also indirectly highlight the absence of a direct strategy to influence President Trump.

Shelile explained that during their stay in the US, his delegation worked alongside other major AGOA beneficiary countries namely Madagascar, Mauritius and Tanzania, under the Textile Five (T5) grouping to lobby more than 30 US lawmakers.

"We are expecting the US Senate to vote on AGOA before the end of this month, bearing no unforeseen circumstances, where if it is passed, will go before President who will consider it to become a law," Shelile said.

He said the calibre of lawmakers engaged, particularly those serving on the Senate Finance Committee, gave him confidence that the bill would clear the upper chamber.

"We are optimistic and expect it to pass before the US Senate given the amount of lobby-

ing meetings with the caliber of people that we met. They include legislators from the relevant Finance Committee of the Senate among others."

Lesotho, can ill afford to lose AGOA, whose renewal would be an economic lifeline of sorts. Lesotho's textile and apparel industry has for years been anchored on duty-free access to the US market. The prolonged uncertainty surrounding AGOA's renewal has already taken a heavy toll.

Lingering uncertainty over factory job cuts

Since questions over AGOA's expiry emerged ahead of mid-2025, several textile factories exporting to the US have either closed or significantly downsized operations. Investors have adopted a wait-and-see approach, reluctant to commit capital without clarity on future market access.

At the height of AGOA, Lesotho's US-exporting factories were estimated to employ up to 40 000 workers, the majority of them women. That number has now fallen sharply to about 12 000, with the social and economic consequences reverberating through households and communities.

Bearing these in mind, the absence of a clear strategy to engage the US President is difficult to ignore. Should the bill reach the Oval Office without sustained diplomatic pressure or assurances, Lesotho risks watching years of congressional lobbying unravel at the stroke of a pen.

AGOA challenge a blessing in disguise for market diversification

Shelile has, however, sought to frame the AGOA uncertainty as an opportunity for diversification. He noted that while employment in US-focused factories has declined, new markets have begun to open elsewhere.

Over the past two years, the Minister has overseen the reopening of at least 13 factories now exporting garments to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) market. As a result, Lesotho's export profile has shifted, with exports to the US declining from significantly.

Meanwhile, despite not being in a position to divulge further details, the US Embassy in Maseru informed this publication that the prospective Act under review could significantly differ from the past Act to reflect the US's current direction of trade.

"The Trump Administration is supportive of a short-term extension of AGOA in order to modernise and align the program with the President's America First Trade Policy," the Embassy said this week.

NUL professor charged with corruption and fraud



direct or indirect interest in Orbitalis (Pty) Ltd, a company which the NUL Innovation Hub, through CAFI funding, proposed to support. He is accused of failing to disclose his interest in the company while participating in the decision-making process that led to his business being nominated for and awarded the funding.

"In doing so, the accused knowingly failed to disclose the nature of his interest and participated in the proceedings of the NUL Innovation Hub relating to CAFI funding, thus contravening the provisions of the Act," reads the

charge sheet.

George is also charged under section 68(1) read with section 109 of the Penal Code Act No. 6 of 2012. The DCEO alleges that he acted unlawfully and with intent to defraud by engaging another individual, Reitumetse Khoabane, to present a business proposal for Orbitalis (Pty) Ltd to the NUL Innovation Hub and CAFI, while concealing the fact that he was the founder and shareholder of the company.

According to the prosecution, George was required to declare a conflict of interest by dis-

closing his ownership of Orbitalis (Pty) Ltd to both the NUL Innovation Hub and CAFI. The awarding of the M129,000 seed funding is said to have been to the detriment of both institutions.

In 2024, this publication reported that the NUL Innovation Hub was under investigation by the DCEO over alleged mismanagement of funds. At the centre of those investigations was the possible mismanagement of M1.9 million received from CAFI in 2023 to incubate business start-ups.

George has been granted bail of M15,000, which the DCEO did not oppose. In motivating for bail, his lawyer, Advocate Tebello Putsoane, told the court that the accused is a lecturer at NUL, is unlikely to abscond, has school-going children and is a family man. The court further ordered him to secure a surety of M50,000.

The matter is before Magistrate Nkhethoa Molapo and is being prosecuted by Advocate 'Mampepuoa Mofoka. Prof George has been remanded to 27 January 2026.

The case continues.



Newsday Business

M1.4 billion for Ha-Matlali–Mosenekeng–Lebakeng road upgrade

Seabata Mahao and Tumelo Ramotšoane

The Roads Directorate is set to roll out the Ha-Matlali to Mosenekeng and Lebakeng Road Upgrade Project, a major infrastructure initiative expected to significantly improve access, safety and socio-economic conditions in the remote districts of Qacha's Nek and Thaba Tseka.

The project will see an approximately 45-kilometre stretch of road upgraded to bitumen standard and was officially announced by the Roads Directorate Director General, Teboho Mokhoane.

The road links Ha-Matlali, Mosenekeng and Lebakeng to Qacha's Nek town via the A4 Road and also includes the construction of a 1.4-kilometre access road to Melikane Combined School.

Mokhoane said the road is currently an un-engineered gravel surface that terminates at the Lebakeng Clinic parking area, making travel difficult and often dangerous, especially during the rainy season.

Once completed, the upgraded route will be classified as a Secondary Connector Road, aimed at improving access to rural and hard-to-reach communities while strengthening connectivity between districts.

"The project will be implemented over a period of 48 months at a total cost of M1.4 billion, inclusive of VAT and contingencies," Mokhoane said.

According to the Roads Directorate, the project is expected to benefit about 1,777 households, serving an estimated population of 8,652 people. Improved access to education and health services is among the key anticipated benefits, with the road serving Melikane Combined School, several primary schools in the area, Melikane and Libobeng clinics, and Qacha's Nek Hospital.



The Roads Directorate is set to roll out the Ha-Matlali to Mosenekeng and Lebakeng Road Upgrade Project

likane Combined School, several primary schools in the area, Melikane and Libobeng clinics, and Qacha's Nek Hospital.

Project Country Manager Cao Xuefey described the road upgrade as a critical infrastructure investment for Qacha's Nek district.

He said the contractor is fully committed to delivering the project in line with contractual obligations, applicable standards and local requirements.

"We look forward to working closely with the em-

ployer and all stakeholders to ensure the successful and timely implementation of this project," he said.

Beyond improving access to social services, the upgraded road is expected to stimulate economic activity by enhancing market access for wool and mohair farmers, enabling year-round use of the Lebakeng Airstrip and facilitating the movement of goods and services.

The improved connectivity is also anticipated to boost tourism activities such as hiking, mountain

biking, 4x4 trails, pony trekking and eco-tourism in the scenic highlands of Qacha's Nek.

Key components of the project include the construction of four bridges across the Tsoelike, Lijabatho, Melikane and Senqu rivers, as well as improved drainage systems, road signage, traffic markings, bus bays and road reserve markers.

Safety, environmental and social concerns will be addressed through appropriate road design, enhanced drainage and the construction of a bridge across the Senqu River, which has long posed a challenge for communities seeking access to health services.

The project forms part of the Roads Directorate's broader strategic plan to improve road conditions across the country.

Established under the Roads Directorate Act No. 16 of 2010, the Directorate is responsible for managing approximately 6,005 kilometres of Lesotho's road network. Current assessments indicate that while most paved roads are in fair condition, unpaved roads remain in a very poor state, underscoring the need for large-scale upgrades.

The Ha-Matlali to Mosenekeng and Lebakeng Road is among several strategic projects aimed at ensuring all districts are connected by paved roads and fully integrated into the national transport network.

Once completed, the project is expected to enhance accessibility, improve safety, strengthen service delivery and promote regional integration, while contributing to poverty reduction in one of Lesotho's most remote and historically underserved areas.

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Notice to change Company Name

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

All persons having objection to the name change are hereby requested to lodge such objection in writing to the Ministry of Trade and Industry at the Registrar of Companies.

NOTICE OF COMPANY DEREGISTRATION

The Notice is hereby made that, **TRADE VIEW (PTY) LTD (57904)** is being deregistered with the Register of Companies Lesotho.

Any objection to this matter should be forwarded the following address:

REGISTER OF COMPANIES

MASERU

LESOOTHO

Contacts +266-22326647

NOTICE OF COMPANY DEREGISTRATION

The Notice is hereby made that, **APPLE WOOD (PTY) LTD (57902)** is being deregistered with the Register of Companies Lesotho.

Any objection to this matter should be forwarded the following address:

REGISTER OF COMPANIES

MASERU

LESOOTHO

Contacts +266-22326647

NOTICE OF COMPANY DEREGISTRATION

The Notice is hereby made that, **STAR PROPERTY (PTY) LTD (57905)** is being deregistered with the Register of Companies Lesotho.

Any objection to this matter should be forwarded the following address:

REGISTER OF COMPANIES

MASERU

LESOOTHO

Contacts +266-22326647

NOTICE OF COMPANY DEREGISTRATION

The Notice is hereby made that, **EXPRESS MODELLING (PTY) LTD (57908)** is being deregistered with the Register of Companies Lesotho.

Any objection to this matter should be forwarded the following address:

REGISTER OF COMPANIES

MASERU

LESOOTHO

Contacts +266-22326647

NOTICE OF COMPANY DEREGISTRATION

The Notice is hereby made that, **GOLDEN ENTERPRISES PTY LTD** is being deregistered with the Register of Companies Lesotho.

Any objection to this matter should be forwarded the following address:

REGISTER OF COMPANIES

MASERU

LESOOTHO

Contacts +266-22326647

NOTICE OF COMPANY DEREGISTRATION

The Notice is hereby made that, **MASERU 101 (PTY) LTD (57906)** is being deregistered with the Register of Companies Lesotho.

Any objection to this matter should be forwarded the following address:

REGISTER OF COMPANIES

MASERU

LESOOTHO

Contacts +266-22326647

Between the kraal and the clinic: The silent struggle of Lesotho herdboys

Ntsoaki Motaung

The wind up there in the mountains of Thaba Tseka cuts like a blade.

It finds every gap in your blanket, every crack in the stone wall of the hut, and reminds you that you are alone with animals that do not care whether you live or die.

That is the life of a herdboy in a hard-to-reach place. Days bleed into nights. You count sheep instead of friends.

And if you are carrying HIV in your blood, the loneliness can turn lethal.

One young man's experience lays bare these challenges. A recent agriculture graduate from the Lesotho Agriculture College (LAC) with ambitions to start his own farm, he prefers to remain anonymous to protect his privacy.

In October 2024, he celebrated his graduation, full of hope. By January 2025, that pride had collapsed into the familiar reality facing many young Basotho, no job, no income, and the slow burn of despair.

He had to leave his family and head to Maseru in search of work, hoping for a shop job, anything to get started.

"I told my mother I could not afford to stay at home without money," he recalled.

After weeks of fruitless job hunting in the city, he spotted a Facebook post advertising a herdboy position in Thaba-Tseka. Desperate for income to fund his future, he accepted the role and relocated to a remote cattle post to manage a flock of 146 sheep.

The job provided steady pay, but a serious health crisis soon emerged. The young man is HIV-positive and relies on antiretroviral therapy (ART). When he left home abruptly, he failed to obtain a transfer letter from his previous clinic to continue treatment seamlessly.

By June 2025, his medication supply ran out. He informed his employer, who took possession of his medical booklet and promised to collect the drugs on his behalf. However, the boss explicitly forbade him from leaving the post to visit the clinic himself, citing the risk of losing sheep without supervision.

For seven to eight months, he went without life-saving treatment. Physically, he felt stable for much of that time, but the psychological toll was immense.

"I was worried this thing was damaging me slowly, and it would only show when



Illustration.. A lone herder looks out over the vast, remote highlands of Lesotho. For many living in these hard-to-reach areas, the distance to the nearest health facility remains a major barrier to consistent

I wouldn't even be able to move a finger," he said.

"On the other hand, my fear was that I would be shouted at when I reached the health facility to start taking medication again."

This fear of judgment from healthcare workers is widespread. Many patients, including herdboys, avoid clinics after missing doses due to stigma or scolding, even when circumstances like distance or lack of transport are to blame.

"Before I became a herdboy, I would spend a week without medication because I had no transport, and when I finally went, I would be shouted at regardless of my explanation," he added.

The combination of an unsympathetic employer, who prioritised livestock over employee well-being, and systemic fears of reprimand kept him from care for nearly a year.

He eventually quit the job.

Now back within reach of health services, the young graduate is speaking out, not just about his own ordeal, but about the thousands of herdboys scattered across Lesotho's mountains, living beyond the practical reach of the systems meant to protect them.

He believes healthcare must adapt to reality on the ground. Clinics, he said, should actively follow up on missed refills instead of waiting for patients to return in shame.

Health workers should be supported to reach cattle posts, on horseback if nec-

essary, at least once every three months. Most of all, he said, care must replace criticism.

"Counselling brings people back to treatment," he said. "Shouting pushes them away."

Despite anxiety about restarting ART and potential mistreatment at the clinic, he is determined to prioritise his health. "I need the courage to prioritise my health no matter the challenge or disgrace," he said.

He vowed never to return to herding, citing employers' disregard for workers' welfare, and is refocusing on his agricultural education to build a business closer to accessible services.

This incident was not merely a personal hardship. It involved potential legal violations.

Lesotho's Constitution (1993, as amended) under Section 7 guarantees freedom of movement, entitling every person to move freely throughout the country and reside where they choose. No employer can lawfully restrict an employee's access to healthcare by preventing them from leaving a worksite.

Withholding the medical booklet and denying time off for treatment may also contravene protections against forced labour under Section 9.

The recently enacted Labour Act of 2024 consolidates labour rights, promoting fair practices and worker welfare, while the Occupational Safety and Health Act requires employers to maintain a healthy

work environment, obligations that include not obstructing access to essential medical care.

Lesotho's "Test and Treat" HIV strategy commits the health system to initiating treatment immediately upon diagnosis and supporting lifelong adherence. As a SADC member, the country is bound by the SADC Protocol on Health (1999), whose objectives in Article 3 include promoting and coordinating activities to improve health, with emphasis on equitable access for vulnerable groups in remote areas.

The Lesotho National Farmers' Union (LENAFU) has said that such treatment of herdboys is unacceptable.

"It is not right for the livestock owner to deny the herdboy life-saving medication by preventing them from going to health facilities," said Executive Director Khotso Lepheana.

Lepheana noted, however, that employment relationships should be clear from the outset. "It is the responsibility of the herder to disclose all relevant information, including health issues, during discussions on terms and conditions of work."

For its members, LENAFU offers mediation, and where that fails, support in referring cases to the police.

Broader efforts are underway to bridge the gap between kraals and clinics. Help Lesotho's Herd Boy Program, a six-month initiative in districts like Thaba-Tseka, delivers peer-led health education and psychosocial support to address the mental and physical strains of mountain isolation.

The Lesotho Nutrition and Health System Strengthening Project (LNHSSP), backed by the World Bank, has formed Herd Boy Clubs where peer educators bring health and nutrition information directly to herding sites.

Mobile clinics from organisations like SolidarMed and the Lesotho Planned Parenthood Association (LPPA) reach remote villages in areas such as Botha-Bothe and Mokhotlong, offering HIV testing, treatment refills, and other services.

In the most inaccessible regions, the Lesotho Flying Doctor Service deploys medical teams via small aircraft to dirt airstrips every few weeks for vaccines, medications, and consultations.

These interventions matter, but they are not yet enough.



How the country moves — and why new governments are set up to fail

Tšeliso Moroke

Why are newly elected governments prevented from introducing systems that reflect their manifesto, governing philosophy, and leadership style?

This is not a theoretical question. It is the central fault line of Lesotho's governance crisis.

We hear that political institutions ensure stability, continuity, and good governance, that they curb abuse of power, protect democracy, and enable orderly government. Yet election after election, the result is the same: stalled reforms, recycled elites, policy paralysis, and a country lurching from crisis to crisis.

The uncomfortable truth: political institutions are not neutral referees but active players. They determine who governs, how power is exercised, which decisions are possible, and which reforms die at birth. These institutions have become the decisive factor in whether a government succeeds or fails.

Our constitutional and political framework rigidly defines who has authority, who controls resources, and who can block change. In theory, this is meant to prevent tyranny. In practice, it has created a system in which elected leaders bear responsibility without real power, while unelected or entrenched actors wield power without accountability.

This is where our national problem begins.

Systems do not exist in abstraction. They are designed, interpreted, and enforced by people. Over time, those people form networks, political, bureaucratic, and economic, that benefit

from the status quo. These networks learn how to survive leadership changes. They outlast prime ministers. They outlive political parties. They wait out reformers.

That is why even leaders who come into office with good intentions inevitably stumble.

When the current Prime Minister was still Prime Minister-elect, he was asked how he intended to govern. His answer was blunt: "I am going to run it like a business."

That statement was not careless but revealing. It showed a leader who, even before taking office, knew the system couldn't deliver different results. It reflected an understanding that our governance system lacks efficiency, accountability, performance measurement, and cost discipline.

But the system does not reward such thinking.

Once in office, the Prime Minister faced a familiar reality: the system resists reform. Campaign promises collide with entrenched procedures. Party manifestos lose power to inherited rules. Even modest changes face institutional pushback.

The system dictates what is "possible," long before Parliament debates or the Cabinet decides.

How, then, do we judge leadership fairly? Can we assess a Prime Minister solely on campaign promises when the system coerces him into abandoning them—when he must govern through structures designed by previous orders, and deviation from tradition is framed as

recklessness rather than reform?

The system did not allow him or his Cabinet to implement the reforms envisioned. Attempts to rationalise resources, change administrative culture, or disrupt privileges met resistance. Concessions were achieved only where they did not threaten entrenched interests.

Eventually, he did what the system expects of every newcomer: learn the old rules to survive. And survival, in Lesotho's politics, often requires recycling old politicians. The very individuals voters hoped to move beyond return as "advisers," "experienced hands," or coalition necessities. They teach the ropes. They know the loopholes. They understand where power truly lies.

The result is tragically predictable.

The old guard—beneficiaries of a broken system—are back in charge. Their politics is driven not by development or renewal, but by positioning, access, and protection. They are managers of decline, thriving not through vision but through adaptability to dysfunction.

This is not an accident. The system rewards those who exploit it and punishes those who challenge it.

Yet our Constitution tells another story. It vests sovereignty in the people and establishes the government to serve the public interest. It mandates accountability and responsiveness. Parliament should oversee. The Executive should govern within the law. Institutions are meant to enable—not obstruct—democracy.

Somewhere between constitutional principle and political practice, we lost the plot.

To make this administration meaningful, we must act decisively. Reclaim the original mandate by demanding both government accountability and structural change. Insist on real reform—rooted in transparency, integrity, and measurable progress—not just symbolic gestures.

This requires two difficult but necessary commitments.

First, harness the Prime Minister's business acumen. Running government "like a business" means discipline, performance management, value for money, and consequences for failure—not privatising the state or ignoring social obligations.

Second, confront the reality that the system is captured. Reform cannot depend solely on personalities. Institutions must be recalibrated so innovation is possible without political suicide, and rules must incentivise performance rather than paralysis.

This is not what Basotho voted for: a new administration trapped in old habits, reform slowed to a crawl, and hope diluted by "this is how things are done."

We must break the cycle. Demand reform and hold leaders accountable, so Lesotho can finally move forward.

If we continue to confuse institutional rigidity with stability, we will keep changing leaders without changing outcomes. The country will continue to move—but only in circles.

LDF Bootcamp: The question of discipline, morality and rape allegations

Liteboho Motšekalle

Over time, I have come to learn and accept that Basotho National Party (BNP) leader and Member of Parliament (MP) Honourable Machesetsa Mofomobe possesses a deep well of intelligence on any national affairs of this country and the skeletons of elites. Dislike him or not, often what he reveals is factual and makes him a strong opposition. His recent revelation is about accusations of rape levelled against the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), of which it has confessed to the incident occurring during a youth bootcamp. This has ignited a strong public discussion on social media. Whereas some people express their doubt in LDF to implant discipline and morals into the young generation, proponents defend the initiative, arguing that the physical rigour is beneficial for children. In fact, a parent indicated that her son, who has been to it, appreciates mostly this element of the program.

Nonetheless, these deliberations cannot be separated from LDF's profound violent history and their refusal to be held accountable. Though being democratically elected, Lesotho's Prime Ministers and political leaders consistently seek their legitimacy from the military. None has illustrated the political willingness to reconfigure the precarious tradition of cosying up with the army bosses. It is a

measured relationship that massively benefits the Prime Minister in clinging to power, but a short-sighted pact that begets a perennially rogue army and a violent political climate for this country.

Since its inception, the LDF has been a rogue security agency that rejects transparency and accountability. It has been entangled in the web of its politicisation and militarisation of politics. It has a history of deviating from primary roles to fuel coup d'états, army mutinies, violent political party conflicts and human rights violations, further inviting the intervention of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on several occasions. The most recent episode of this is the 2014 to 2017 crisis. In this period, the currently jailed Lieutenant General Tlali Kamoli was at loggerheads with the then incumbent Prime Minister Motsoahae Thomas Thabane and his brutally assassinated successor posthumously Lieutenant General Maaparankoe Mahao.

At the core of the dispute, it was his expulsion as LDF Commander as well as his ingratiating himself with some political elites. LDF became extremely instrumental for political elites to dodge accountability, as the then incumbent Deputy Prime Minister, Motheoja Metsing, famously put it, the army put their

"neck on the block" for them.

During this series of violent mayhem, scholar and my former lecturer, Dr Tlohang Letsie, produced a satisfactorily brilliant and detailed action research titled, Demilitarising The Mountain Kingdom: An Action Research Project In Lesotho. While I find Dr Letsie's research plausible, not far-fetched and absolutely indispensable reckoning we are an enclave of South Africa, Lesotho will never have a robust dialogue and proceed to demilitarise because of the power bromance between prime ministers and army commanders. It is the prime impediment to our demilitarisation path.

In the context that we will not demilitarise, the LDF Bootcamp is an initiative in the right direction for LDF as an institution to integrate itself into society. Of course, LDF is still marred by the accusations of meting violence upon civilians, corruption scandals, embezzlement of bootcamp funds, and latest being the rape of children in the bootcamp. To some people, these are enough reasons to discard the LDF Youth Bootcamp.

The young generation is adrift and lacks role models and mentors. Our societal structures are dismantled due to economic hardships. Families and community structures

have cracks, and the people who they are supposed to emulate are unavailable. Education is rendered valueless by the proliferating unemployment of graduates, and also adults glorify alcohol and clubbing, adversely influencing the young people.

In my view, I contend that the discipline and moralisation aim cannot entirely be outsourced to LDF; however, the bootcamp does have the potential to slightly fill some gap that currently exists by disciplining, educating and instilling some values and principles into the youth. It can also give them motivation, clarity and a distinctive perspective about their plans. For this project to have a reflective impact on the youth, both the society and LDF must devote themselves to the truest transformation. Our society must evolve beyond patriarchy toward humanity for all genders. And consequently, LDF as an institution must reform for this program to outlive the sitting bosses, be institutionalised and liberate itself from Gender Based-Violence (GBV) occurrences. It must approach sociopolitical and economic afflictions of our country with different lenses and proscribe violence as an instant response, always. It must learn to hold itself accountable and be transparent. Because so far, the LDF's response to this rape incident is appalling.

Venezuela's fate and South Africa's correct but vulnerable global posture

"I believe that there is greater power in the world than the evil power of military force of nuclear bombs, but we adopted non-violence out of our helplessness. If we had the atom bomb, we would have used it against the British"
- Mahatma Gandhi (1869 - 1948)

Nkopane Mathibeli

A year before he died and only a month before India became independent, Gandhi, a staunch advocate of non-violence, was at last cornered into making this very surprising admission. In one of his forever frank talks about episodes of his life, he tells of a statement from one of his confidants, a man he had mentored and who was both a reputable Sanskrit scholar and Hindu high priest (Hathibhai Shastri); "I remember him telling me that non-violence was only to be regarded as an ideal because it is not realisable in this world". This, he says, made him realise that though Shastri loved him dearly, he regarded him as a deluded fool. Ghandi thereafter admitted that his own advocacy for non-violence was not out of conviction or foolishness, but the lack of means to manufacture nuclear weapons. With the means mobilised after independence, India began its nuclear weapons programme in 1967. Today, it is the sixth of only nine nuclear powers in the world with a total of 180 nuclear warheads. Seven years after its first nuclear weapon test (1974), the then Pakistani Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was inspired to say: "We will go hungry, we will even eat grass, but we will get an atom bomb of our own. We have no other choice". Today, Pakistan has 10 nuclear warheads fewer than India. The rest of the nuclear powers by the size of their arsenal are Russia (5,459); USA (5,177); China (600); France (290); United Kingdom (225); Israel (90), and North Korea (50).

Why talk of nuclear weapons?

My reason for the foregoing account about Ghandi, Hathibhai Shastri, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and nuclear weapons is simple. It is to lay the foundation for a point of view that, since the unrestrained access to Venezuelan oil is the primary reason for its fall into the hands of the White House (not drug peddling), the primary factor that emboldened the USA to act as it did is that Venezuela is not armed with nuclear weapons. It therefore goes without saying that, inasmuch as South Africa's global political posture is correct, it is vulnerable to a similar fate because, just like Venezuela, it is without nuclear weapons. This is an old and cold truth of the geopolitical order. More so because since Russia's Special Military Operation (SMO) into Ukraine (24 February 2022), the world is seemingly in a second phase of the Cold War; itself an unforgiving circuit of realpolitik, which in turn single-handedly intensified the race towards stockpiling nuclear weapons. Just as Bismarck described the turbulent times of state formation in Germany as times in which "the great questions of the day are not settled by speeches and majority decisions but by iron and blood," so is the barefaced period marked by the abduction of President Maduro by Trump. Unfortunately, South Africa is not in a state to protect and promote its position, hence why, contrary to this unwritten rule of realpolitik, it attempted a loud-mouthed but spectacularly futile intervention on behalf of the Palestinians through the ICJ. It has now settled for condemnation through a press release on behalf of the people of Venezuela. But what



is South Africa's position, and why is it correct?

The S in BRICS

BRICS is the single most potent front against the global economic and political domination of the USA; nothing more, nothing less. This dominance of the USA is facilitated by its most successful creation, the global system of political and economic governance – the United Nations system. This domination is specifically facilitated by the UN's specialised agencies (the IMF and the World Bank), effectively making the USA the global centre of economic and, thereby, political power. When this front (BRIC) was conceptualised as part of a purely economic analysis for an academic paper by Jim O'Neill in 2001, South Africa was not factored in. This was six years before Brazil, Russia, India and China even thought or began talks on this potentially mighty entity. However, only a year after it was formally established, South Africa was invited to be a full member in December 2010. This explains why BRIC became BRICS. That invitation alone speaks to the strategic importance of South Africa to the long game of countering the USA's abuse of its seemingly limitless power. By virtue of joining BRICS, South Africa boldly proclaimed its opposition to the global tyranny of the USA and fearlessly asserted its discretion in determining its global alliances. On this background, it is important to note that the primary purpose of BRICS has never been to destroy the USA but to counter its entitlement as the self-appointed economic and political policeman of the world. This was a correct move to make, and South Africa was equally correct to position itself as an African voice in such a bloc. To highlight how the USA forced the hand of these countries in this regard, it is equally important to outline the selfish origins of its bad attitude that BRICS was established to counter.

USA and the Grand Area

For many years after its independence from Britain, the USA was just an ordinary country (in no way a global power) trying to find its place in the world through legitimate commerce. It, of course, did engage in a few wars with other countries, but none had imperial intentions. Many were fought either to protect its merchant ships or commercial interests. It is therefore safe to say that in its early years, it religiously subscribed to and was vocal about

the principle of non-interference. In his inaugural address, its 3rd president (Thomas Jefferson: 1801 - 1809) set the tone by stating that the USA only seeks "Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations—entangling alliances with none". A much refined version of this foreign policy position, which also happens to be the most violated, was stated by the 6th president (Quincy Adams: 1825 - 1829) when he said, "The United States does not go around the world looking for monsters to destroy; she is a well-wisher of freedom and independence to all".

This principle was first violated by the 26th president (Theodore Roosevelt: 1901 - 1909). Just as Trump plans to take over the oil wells of Venezuela so that China does not do so, he took over the customs houses of the Dominican Republic to safeguard them from a British takeover. It was, however, during the presidency of his cousin (Franklin D. Roosevelt: 1933 - 1945) that a concept which completely divorced the USA from the principle of non-interference was born. They called it the grand area, and it was the outcome of the intercourse of corporate and political interests led by a think tank called the Council on Foreign

Relations (CFR). According to the thinking in the CFR, the grand area is the geographical area across the globe necessary for the productive functioning of the economy of the USA. It includes the United Kingdom, the British Commonwealth, the British Empire, the Dutch East Indies, China, and Japan. From then on, the USA has done all in its might to control this area, and South Africa is part of it.

Porous, Defenceless & Vulnerable

Unfortunately, South Africa is currently a mess in a constant downward spiral. For a start, the state of illegal immigration paints a very grim picture of how porous its land borders are. Secondly, the allegations made by KZN police commissioner of the country's crime intelligence, the police, the judiciary and political class being controlled for the benefit of a drug cartel show a country completely defenceless against its own domestically born and bred criminals. Worst of all, barely two months ago, the Chief of the South African Navy (Vice Admiral Monde Lobese) publicly condemned the government's chronic and seemingly systemic underfunding of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). He also described this underfunding as unpatriotic by demonstrating how it disables the army, navy and air force to be in a state of readiness. This effectively makes SANDF too compromised to protect the country from external threats. Just as was the case with Venezuela, the biggest element in this background of South Africa's vulnerability despite holding a correct global posture is that it also does not have nuclear weapons. Fortunately for it, it still has about 600kg of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) from its apartheid era nuclear weapons programme; enough to make a couple of nuclear warheads. In the current state of geopolitics, where the great questions of the day are not settled by speeches and majority decisions but by iron and blood, it is no longer a question of whether to proceed in that direction but how quickly that must happen. Or is there any other choice?



GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO
 District Procurement Unit - Mohale's Hoek

TENDER NOTICE

Tender #: FC-26-MOA/01

District Procurement Unit Mohale's Hoek hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified and registered security companies, for provision of 24hrs security services in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Mohale's Hoek, for the fiscal year 2026/2027.

Tender documents will be obtainable at Ministry of Agriculture and food Security Mohale's Hoek, at a non-refundable fee of M2000.00

Work Description: Supply of security services: Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition- Mohale's Hoek

Bidders' qualification:

To tender for the proposed contract, bidders must be companies WHO have registered with Ministry of Home Affairs and Public Safety and Parliamentary Affairs.

The closing time and date for the receipt of tenders is 10:00hrs, on the 17th February 2026. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 12:05 noon in the presence of Tenderers or their representatives.



NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANISATION

P O Box 1167
Mafeteng 900
Lesotho
Tel: (+266) 2221 5300
Fax: (+266) 2270 1340

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MEDICAL DEVICES

Tender No.: NDSO/MED/2026/01
Date of Publication: 20 January 2026

1.0 The National Drug Service Organization (NDSO) is a Trading Account for the Ministry of Health in Lesotho. It is mandated to procure, store and distribute Medicines, Medical Supplies and Laboratory Consumables for Health Institutions in Lesotho. NDSO was legally established through Gazette Supplement No. 4 to Gazette No. 19 of 02 March 2007. Funds allocated to Government Hospitals are used by NDSO to procure Medicines, Medical Supplies and Medical Devices from eligible suppliers through tendering methods of procurement.

2.0 The National Drug Service Organization invites bids for the **Supply and Delivery of Medical Devices** under a **24-month contract**, as specified in the Schedule of Requirements contained in the bidding documents.

3.0 Bids are invited only from **Medical Devices pre-qualified bidders** as indicated in the bidding documents.

4.0 Bidding shall be conducted through **Open International Competitive Tendering** procedures in accordance with the **Public Procurement Act, 2023**.

5.0 Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from **08:00 to 16:30 hours**, Monday to Friday, except public holidays, at the address below or on the NDSO website www.ndso.org.ls.

6.0 A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased upon payment of a **non-refundable fee of LSL 1,000.00** (or equivalent in ZAR or USD 60.00). Payment shall be made by Telegraphic Transfer to the bank account provided in the bidding documents. **Electronic copies shall be provided free of charge.**

7.0 Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **14:00 hours on 05th March 2026**. All bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security of Two Percent (2%)** of the total bid price. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids shall be opened at **14:30 hours on 05th March 2026**.

8.0 The address for inspection, purchase, submission and opening of bids is:
National Drug Service Organization
Procurement Building (Next to Golden Hotel)
Mafeteng 900, Lesotho
Email: tenders@ndso.org.ls
Tel: +266 2221 5300



NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANISATION

P O Box 1167
Mafeteng 900
Lesotho
Tel: (+266) 2221 5300
Fax: (+266) 2270 1340

NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANISATION (NDSO)

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

Date of Issue: 15th January 2026

The National Drug Service Organisation (NDSO) invites **interested and eligible suppliers** to submit quotations for the following procurement, funded by the **Global Fund**:

1. Supply and delivery of Oxygen Analyzers

RFQ Reference: NDSO/OXYGENANALYZERS/2026/01/GF

Closing Date & Time: 29th January 2026, 16:30

Interested suppliers may visit www.ndso.org.ls for detailed requirements and evaluation criteria.

Quotations must be submitted via email to:
tenders@ndso.org.ls Cc: sebofit@ndso.org.ls

Late submissions will not be considered.



Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Handyman

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) invites applications from suitably qualified and reliable individuals for the position of Handyman. The successful candidate will support the upkeep, functionality, and safety of LeFA facilities and assets.

The position reports directly to the Facilities and Assets Manager.

Key Responsibilities

The Handyman will:

- Perform routine maintenance and minor repairs across LeFA facilities.
- Conduct basic carpentry, plumbing, painting, and electrical tasks within scope of competence.
- Assist in the upkeep of buildings, grounds, and equipment.
- Support the Facilities and Assets Manager in inspections and maintenance planning.
- Respond to repair requests promptly and professionally.
- Ensure safe use of tools, equipment, and materials.
- Maintain cleanliness and order in maintenance areas and workshops.
- Assist with logistical tasks, including movement of equipment and event setup.

Minimum Requirements

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Recognised Trade Certificate in a technical field (e.g., carpentry, plumbing, electrical, building maintenance).
- Valid Driver's Licence (mandatory).

- Demonstrated experience performing minor repairs and routine maintenance.
- Ability to work independently and follow instructions.
- Strong reliability, honesty, and attention to detail.
- Basic understanding of workplace safety practices.

Added Advantages

- Experience working in facility maintenance or asset management.
- Ability to operate maintenance tools and small machinery.
- Experience in a sports facility environment.

Contract Type

- Fixed-term contract, renewable based on performance and organisational needs.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit:

- A detailed CV
- Certified copies of qualifications
- A cover letter outlining suitability for the role
- Contact details of two referees

Applications must be emailed to: ntate-mohapi@yahoo.co.uk OR ntatemohapi@lefa.co.ls

Deadline: **28th January 2026**

LeFA is an equal opportunity employer.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



LEROOTHOLI POLYTECHNIC

INVITATION TO TENDER

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS

Lerotholi Polytechnic hereby invites locally registered, eligible companies to submit bids for supply and delivery of laptop computers. Bidding documents can be obtained from the Procurement Office for a non-refundable fee of **Three Thousand Maloti Only (M 3000.00)**. Sealed bids, **Original and four copies of bid documents bearing no identification of a tender and clearly marked "Tender No. LP/ADM/01/2026 For Supply and delivery of laptop and Desktops computers"** must be deposited in the Tender Box situated in Administration II Foyer, on or before 12 Feb 2026 at 12:30pm.

Tenders will be opened the same date at 1400hrs at the Administration I Block Conference room, in the presence of the tenderers who choose to attend or their representatives. Bidding documents must be accompanied by a bid security amounting to 2% of the Bid Price. Additional requirements and instructions are as specified in the tender document.

All bidders must attach copies of:

- Valid Trader's license.
- Valid Tax Clearance Certificate.
- Certificate of incorporation where applicable.
- VAT Registration Certificate where applicable.

Interested bidders should make payments at the following:

- MPesa: **14096**; Pay Merchant & Fees, Pay School Fees, Ref: Company Name
- Ecocash: **52629**; Pay Merchant; Pay Fees; Ref: Company Name

Banking Details:

Account Number: **9080003510146**
Account Type: **Business Current Account**
Account Name: **Lerotholi Polytechnic**
Branch Name and Code: **City; 060667**
Swift Code: **SBICLSMX**
Bank Name: **Standard Lesotho Bank**
Reference: **Company Name**

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours: 0800hrs-1700hrs:
Procurement Office
Lerotholi Polytechnic
P.O. Box 16
Maseru
Email: procurement@lp.ac.ls
Tel: 22324402



Specific Procurement Notice

Request for Bids

Small Works

(Two-Envelope Bidding Process)

Procurement of:

DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTOR FOR

SEAKA IRRIGATION SCHEME QUTHING DISTRICT, LESOTHO

Employer: Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, SADP II Project

Project: Tsikoane Irrigation Scheme

Contract title: Design-Build of Seaka Irrigation Scheme

Country: Lesotho

Loan No. /Credit No. / Grant No.: P165228

RFB No: LS-MAFS-530022-CW-RFB

Issued on: 24th December 2025

1. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, SADP II Project has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the SADP II Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Design-Build of Tsikoane Irrigation Scheme.
2. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, SADP II now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Design-Build of Tsikoane Irrigation Scheme, construction period Four months, Seaka, Quthing No margin of preference applicable, etc.] .
3. Bidding will be conducted through **open international competitive procurement** using Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers February 2025 Procurement Regulations edition as per legal agreement ("Procurement Regulations")", and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition,

SADP II Project, and procurement@sadpii.org.ls and inspect the bidding document during office hours 0800 to 16:30 hours or download the bid document at the address given below ; <https://www.sadpii.org.ls/procurement/>

5. Bids must be delivered to the address below [state address at the end of this RFB] on or before **30th January 2026 at 12:00hrs**. Electronic bidding **will not** be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL BID", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below [state address at the end of this RFB] on [Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Livestock offices SADP II, Mosheshoe II Maseru 14:00hrs and 30th January 2026]. All envelopes marked "FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Employer until the second public Bid opening.
6. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of LSL400,000.00.
7. The address(es) referred to above is :

Procurement Office

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Livestock offices, SADP II Project, Mosheshoe II
P.O.Box 24, Maseru 100, Lesotho
procurement@sadpii.org.ls, +266 22312578

www.sadpii.co.ls



Specific Procurement Notice

Request for Bids

Small Works

(Two-Envelope Bidding Process)

Procurement of:

DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTOR FOR

TSIKOANE IRRIGATION SCHEME LERIBE DISTRICT, LESOTHO

Employer: Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, SADP II Project

Project: Tsikoane Irrigation Scheme

Contract title: Design-Build of Tsikoane Irrigation Scheme

Country: Lesotho

Loan No. /Credit No. / Grant No.: P165228

RFB No: LS-MAFS-530019-CW-RFB

Issued on: 24th December 2025

1. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, SADP II Project has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the SADP II Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Design-Build of Tsikoane Irrigation Scheme.
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P.O.Box 24, Maseru 100, Lesotho
procurement@sadpii.org.ls, +266 22312578
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Mr Raliengoane; +26658015256, Ms Thabana; +26658752620 or Mr T'sabo; +26662300414

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Chris Mokolatsie
Mbeki in Maseru: More Than a Tribute

Last week, in Maseru, former President of the Republic of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, delivered a memorial lecture to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the passing of His Majesty King Moshoeshoe II. Delivered on 14 January 2026 under the title *A Tribute to Exemplary African Leadership Which Africa Needs!*, the lecture was notable not only for its commemorative intent, namely a ceremonial reflection on a departed monarch, His Majesty King Moshoeshoe II. Underlying the entire lecture, one detected a common theme, namely the historical question of Lesotho's relationship with colonial-era South Africa and post-apartheid South Africa.

In this sense, the lecture was a profound historical and political intervention that re-centred, implicitly and deliberately and unapologetically, one of the most sensitive, emotive, and persistently avoided questions in Basotho public discourse: what should be the future relationship between Lesotho and its neighbour, South Africa, today in the post-apartheid era? The lecture left lingering political and historical questions that Basotho society, for a long time, have avoided and preferred to keep unresolved, if not entirely unspoken.

Beyond the "Tenth Province" Myth

For many years now, this question has existed in the public imagination only in caricatured form, most commonly reduced to the deliberately provocative suggestion of Lesotho becoming South Africa's "tenth province." While this framing may generate social-media clicks and provoke emotional reactions, it trivialises a matter of profound historical, political, and moral consequence. It obscures rather than illuminates the real issues at stake. What is required now is a sober, deliberate, and well-thought-out public discourse. Such framing, while effective as political theatre and social-media entertainment, does little to advance serious reflection. It substitutes spectacle for analysis and outrage for understanding. Yet the persistence of the trope itself is revealing. It suggests not that the question is frivolous, but that it remains unresolved—and unresolved questions have a habit of returning. What is required now is a sober, deliberate, and well-thought-out public discourse on the matter.

What Mbeki's lecture accomplished, perhaps unintentionally but unmistakably, was to re-centre this question within a longer historical frame, one that predates both apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa, and indeed the modern nation-state itself. In doing so, it challenges Basotho

Beyond the Comfort of Silence: Lesotho, South Africa, and an Unfinished Question

to reconsider not only their future, but their past—and the assumptions through which that past has been interpreted.

Memory, Sacrifice, and the Heart of Lesotho

At the heart of the debate lie two broad and opposing positions among Basotho. On the one hand are those whom I shall, for the purposes of this discussion, call nationalists. Their argument is rooted in a powerful and emotionally resonant historical narrative: that Lesotho was forged through the blood, sweat, and sacrifice of the Basotho people. Lesotho is the historical product of struggle and political ingenuity under the leadership of King Moshoeshoe I. Surrounded by hostile forces, imperial Britain, Boer expansionism, and the violence of the nineteenth-century regional order, Moshoeshoe secured, through diplomacy and resistance, a political space and sovereignty within which the Basotho survived as a people and the territorial foundations of the nation we inhabit today.

From this perspective, any discussion of political union between Lesotho and South Africa as two independent modern states is read as a repudiation of Moshoeshoe's achievement, if not a moral transgression. It is dismissed as bohlabaphie—a betrayal not only of the founder, but of the historical suffering through which Basotho nationhood was forged. This position, championed by the likes of Ntate Moorosi Moshoeshoe of Naka la Mohlomi, carries emotional force, and its persistence is understandable. Nations are sustained as much by memory as by material conditions. This position cannot and should not be dismissed lightly. Nations are built not only on borders and institutions, but on memory, sacrifice, and shared meaning. To underestimate the emotional and symbolic power of sovereignty is to misunderstand the foundations of Basotho nationalism itself.

On the other hand, stand the unionists, or pragmatists, and realists who argue that history and reality, when examined honestly and without romanticism, point not to isolation but to deeper integration, cooperation, and possibly even political unity between the two countries. This view,

less emotionally mobilised but no less historically grounded, argues that this nationalist reading may be incomplete. Proponents of this view, among them respected thinkers such as Ntate Pali Lehohla, argue that Moshoeshoe I was not a nationalist in the modern sense, but a regional political actor whose strategic imagination extended well beyond the boundaries of present-day Lesotho.

It is this interpretation that Mbeki's lecture implicitly advances. Central to this argument is a re-reading of King Moshoeshoe I himself, not as a narrow nationalist in the modern sense, but as a sophisticated regional thinker who understood Lesotho within the broader political geography of Southern Africa. As Mbeki's lecture compellingly demonstrates, Moshoeshoe did not conceive of Lesotho as an end in itself. Rather, Lesotho, as a protectorate and later as a state, was understood as a contingent political space within a wider Southern African struggle. As Mbeki observes: "The Protectorate could not be an end in itself, but as part of a wider African project of resistance, solidarity, and liberation."

Tsohang bana ba Thaba Bosiu

As the lecture reminds us, in the poetic call 'Tsohang bana ba Thaba Bosiu', this was not an imposition on the Basotho but an affirmation of a role which King Moshoeshoe I himself understood and accepted that Lesotho, then a "Protectorate, could not be an end in itself, but a liberated area further to advance the struggle for the total liberation of both Lesotho and all its neighbourhood." This assertion is deeply unsettling to conventional nationalist narratives. It suggests that Moshoeshoe's vision was fundamentally outward-looking, and that Lesotho was never meant to exist as an isolated mountain enclave, detached from the fate of the region. Rather, it was conceived as a liberated African space with responsibilities beyond its own borders.

History offers further support for this interpretation. The bonds between Lesotho and South Africa, of culture, labour, language, kinship, and resistance, are far deeper and stronger than many contemporary Basotho public intellectuals are

willing to acknowledge. From the migrant labour system to shared struggles against colonialism and apartheid, the lives of Basotho and South Africans have long been intertwined in ways that defy neat and rigid national boundaries, which is why I have argued for the abolition of the border between the two countries as a starting point.

Politically, too, this interconnectedness is unmistakable. His Majesty King Letsie II played a prominent role in the early establishment of the African National Congress (ANC), then representing Africans from as far afield as present-day Zambia. The same ANC has governed South Africa for over three decades and remains the ruling party today, albeit in a coalition arrangement. If this shared political lineage does not constitute fertile ground for serious reflection about the future relationship between Lesotho and South Africa, it is difficult to imagine what would. Major General Motsi was brought into power largely by the support of Pretoria.

Closer to home, the pattern persists. When King Moshoeshoe II was accused by Chief Leabua Jonathan of political interference, he reportedly responded by insisting on the necessity of respecting a tradition established by Moshoeshoe I himself: that Lesotho must always discharge its responsibility to the peoples of Southern Africa as a liberated area. Once again, Lesotho is framed not as an inward-looking micro-state, but as part of a broader African political and moral community.

Facing the Unfinished Question Together

None of this is to argue that political union with South Africa is inevitable, but whether or not, given our history and reality, this is desirable. The question is not whether Lesotho should disappear into South Africa. It is whether Basotho are prepared to engage honestly with an unfinished historical relationship—one that continues to shape their political and economic realities, whether acknowledged or not.

If Moshoeshoe cherished a great alliance of African peoples to resist their separate conquest, then perhaps honouring his legacy today requires not defensive isolation, but courageous re-thinking. If his vision was indeed one of regional solidarity rather than insular sovereignty, then fidelity to his legacy may require intellectual courage rather than ritual invocation. It requires a willingness to think beyond inherited slogans and to confront the realities of power, dependency, and possibility in Southern Africa as it exists today. To do that effectively, we need to liberate ourselves from historically impoverished prevailing terms of debate, independence versus absorption, sovereignty versus betrayal.

What Mbeki's lecture compels us to recognise is that Lesotho's relationship with South Africa has never been simple, nor has it ever been settled. To pretend otherwise is to retreat into comforting myths. The challenge facing Basotho today is not whether to defend Moshoeshoe's legacy, but how to interpret it responsibly under contemporary conditions.

In that sense, Mbeki's lecture was less a commemoration than an invitation. Whether Basotho accept it remains to be seen.

Part 2: Lesotho's journey to reform: What we expected vs. what we got with Act No. 2 of 2025

Theko Tlebere
...Continuation

Earlier this month, we reflected on Lesotho's reform process, beginning with the 2014 political turmoil that led to the establishment of the National Reforms Authority (NRA). The NRA was created to address political instability and promote a stable, democratic state. It was tasked with drafting reforms for long-term change. However, the journey has been complex. Despite initial optimism for swift reforms, significant obstacles arose, leading to major revisions of the original NRA Omnibus Bill, resulting in Act No. 2 of 2025.

I expressed concerns about whether the final Act reflects the vision from the initial consultations, highlighting the need for Basotho to assess the Act's implications and hold their leaders accountable for its implementation. Additionally, I discussed the NRA's role in Lesotho's reform efforts, including its structure, objectives, and key responsibilities related to legal and institutional reform, peace, and national unity. This week, I will compare the NRA Omnibus Bill to the final legislation and analyse its potential impact on governance in Lesotho.

The NRA Omnibus Bill encompassed numerous provisions aimed at reforming Lesotho's governance structures. Among the most significant were:

Floor-Crossing Provisions: One of the most debated aspects of the bill was the proposal permitting Members of Parliament (MPs) to "cross the floor" and change parties after serving three years in Parliament. While this provision aimed to promote political fluidity and align MPs with parties that more accurately reflected their beliefs, critics perceived it as a potential source of increased political instability, particularly during a period when coalition governments were already precarious.

Age of Majority: The bill proposed lowering the age of majority to 18, thereby classifying individuals under this age as minors. This modification aimed to align with international standards concerning children's rights and to promote youth participation in the national political process.

Official Languages: A significant provision in the bill recognised isiXhosa and isiPhuthi as official languages, alongside Sesotho and English. This initiative aimed to enhance inclusivity by acknowledging the linguistic diversity of the Basotho people and ensuring equitable access to governmental and judicial processes.

Prime Minister's Tenure: The Omnibus Bill proposed substantial changes to the office of the Prime Minister, including a two-term limit. This measure sought to encourage political renewal and prevent the concentration of power in a single individual, which has contributed to instability in Lesotho's recent political history.

Impeachment and Oversight: The bill also introduced mechanisms for the impeachment of the Prime Minister, establishing a constitutional process for the removal of a Prime Minister based on specific grounds. Additionally, it enhanced parliamentary oversight, granting Parliament greater authority to scrutinise executive actions, approve international treaties, and manage public debt.

Transition to Act No. 2 of 2025: Key Changes

While the NRA Omnibus Bill was a crucial step in Lesotho's political evolution, its provisions underwent significant revisions before becoming Act No. 2 of 2025. The final law, passed in 2025, reflects a synthesis of the original proposals and necessary compromises to accommodate various stakeholders, including political parties, civil society, and traditional institutions.

Key Features of Act No. 2 of 2025

Floor-Crossing: One of the most significant changes between the bill and the final law was the floor-crossing provision. In the Omnibus Bill, floor-crossing was permitted after three years in Parliament. However, in the final Act, this provision was greatly restricted. The Act permits only constituency MPs to cross the floor, and only under specific conditions. If an MP crosses the floor outside the designated period, they must vacate their seat, triggering a by-election. This adjustment directly addresses concerns that the original proposal could destabilise the already fragile political landscape.

Prime Minister's Tenure: The limitation on the Prime Minister's tenure to two terms remained in the Act, but with added safeguards. The Act introduces measures to restrict the Prime Minister's power to prorogue Parliament. Previously, the Prime Minister could unilaterally halt parliamentary proceedings, effectively suspending the democratic process. Now, the Prime Minister can only recommend prorogation for a maximum of fourteen days, requiring approval from the Council of State for any further extensions.

Official Languages: The recognition of isiXhosa and isiPhuthi as official languages was retained in the Act. Furthermore, the Act expands this commitment by ensuring that sign language is included in official communications, reinforcing the country's dedication to inclusivity for all citizens, including those with disabilities.

Public Accountability: The Act advanced parliamentary service reforms by establishing the Parliamentary Service Commission as an independent body overseeing parliamentary staff and operations. This change enables Parliament to operate autonomously, free from executive influence, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability.

Human Rights and Anti-Corruption: A significant aspect of the Act is the establishment of a Human Rights Commission and a Lesotho Anti-Corruption and Ethics Commission, both endowed with enhanced independence from the executive branch. These commissions are tasked with ensuring that public officials adhere to ethical standards and providing citizens with a mechanism to report human rights violations.

National Security and Devolution: The Act also introduced vital amendments pertaining to national security, transitioning the disciplined forces into National Security Agencies and creating an independent Security Sector Inspectorate. This reform addresses concerns regarding state militarisation and augments civilian oversight of security forces. Additionally, the Act implements devolution measures, granting greater autonomy to local government and establishing frameworks for district councils and the city of Maseru to exert increased control over local governance. The Future is NOW!

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Econet teams up with LeDunia app to revolutionise cross-border access

Staff Reporter

Telecommunications powerhouse, Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) has expanded its digital services with the launch of the LeDunia Phone App, a virtual phone solution that allows customers to access all core mobile services anywhere in the world using an internet connection like they are back home in Lesotho.

The LeDunia Phone App enables Econet subscribers to make and receive calls, send SMS messages and access USSD services using their existing Econet mobile number, even when outside traditional network coverage or travelling abroad, like they are sitting back home in Lesotho. Services work over Wi-Fi or mobile data, allowing customers to remain connected without relying solely on roaming.

Unlike conventional over-the-top calling applications, the LeDunia Phone App maintains the quality, reliability and billing integrity associated with the Econet network, while extending these services beyond physical borders.

Commenting on the development, ETL's Acting General Manager – Products and Services, Ketja Nhlapo, said the innovation reflects changing customer lifestyles and communication needs.

"Our customers are increasingly mobile – travelling, working remotely and living across borders – yet they still want seamless access to their home network services," Nhlapo said.

"The LeDunia Phone App ensures that wherever our customers are, their Econet number goes with them, delivering the same



Mr Ketja Nhlapo - ETL Acting GM - Products and Services

trusted voice and messaging experience without interruption."

Nhlapo said the process of getting started on the platform had been designed to be simple and user-friendly.

"Our customer can download the app using a secure this link <https://ledunia.com/u/a/v2/invite/32neRQoCBQ8c> or scan QR code, register with their existing Econet number, verify their identity, and can immediately begin making and receiving calls using internet

connectivity," he said.

"Once activated, the service can be switched on or off at the user's convenience, giving customers full control over how and when they use it." Switching the App ON or OFF requires a customer to be connected to the Internet, whether via WiFi or normal internet connection.

The App offers a familiar phone-like interface and supports calls to any mobile number, meaning recipients do not need to have the ap-

plication installed. Users can also switch seamlessly between the traditional mobile network and the app, ensuring continuity of service when network coverage fluctuates.

According to Mr Nhlapo, the solution is particularly beneficial for customers who experience limited network coverage or face high roaming costs when travelling internationally. By leveraging internet connectivity, the App provides a more cost-effective alternative while allowing subscribers to retain their existing mobile numbers.

He added that the launch forms part of Econet's broader strategy to evolve beyond traditional telecommunications.

"This step is part of our journey to transform into a digital services company," Mr Nhlapo said.

"Partnering with LeDunia strengthens our offering by enhancing customer experience, extending our reach beyond borders, and opening new opportunities for service innovation and enhanced customer experience."

In addition to calling and messaging, the LeDunia Phone App includes all the currently accessible value-added features available on Econet Lesotho such as flexible calling bundles, call forwarding and voicemail-to-text functionality. Econet says the platform will continue to evolve, with additional premium features and bundled offerings planned as customer adoption grows.

The LeDunia Phone App is currently available via a direct download link, with wider availability expected as the service scales.

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Tsoamotse's rise from Kick4Life development to Majantja's first team

Seabata Mahao

Kick4Life's reputation for producing disciplined and well-rounded footballers has once again been underlined following goalkeeper Katiso Tsoamotse's permanent move to Vodacom Premier League (VPL) side Majantja FC.

The soft-spoken shot-stopper, a graduate of the Kick4Life Academy, completed his transfer in January 2026, midway through the 2025/26 season. The move marks a significant milestone in a career shaped by patience, resilience and a clear sense of purpose.

Tsoamotse joined Kick4Life in 2019 and steadily built a reputation as a dependable presence between the posts. His breakthrough came in 2021 when he featured prominently for Kick4Life Juventude in the B-Division, playing a key role in the team's promotion to the A-Division.

In a decision that highlighted both maturity and long-term vision, the goalkeeper stepped away from competitive football between 2022 and 2024 to focus on his studies. The move closely aligned with Kick4Life's development philosophy, which prioritises education and personal growth alongside footballing excellence.

His return to competitive action came in January 2025 after securing a loan move to Manonyane FC for the second half of the 2024/25 season. That stint in the Vodacom Premier League proved pivotal, providing Tsoamotse with valuable top-flight exposure and an opportunity to demonstrate his composure, shot-stopping ability and growing authority in goal.

Majantja FC were sufficiently impressed to act decisively during the January transfer window, securing his services on a permanent basis. Kick4Life has since congratulated Tsoamotse, describing his journey as a true reflection of the academy's commitment to nurturing "dedicated and talented players both on and off the pitch".

Tsoamotse's transfer is among several notable moves during a busy January window, as Vodacom Premier League clubs position themselves for the decisive second half of the season.

Lioli FC are believed to be in advanced talks with two attacking players as they look to sustain their title challenge, while Matlama FC have confirmed the return of a former midfielder from South Africa to reinforce their midfield options. Bantu FC, meanwhile, are reportedly scanning the market for defensive reinforcements fol-



Goalkeeper Katiso Tsoamotse

lowing injuries to key players.

Elsewhere, Maroala FC and Lioli FC have reached an agreement over compensation for the transfer of defender Khothalang Mokete. Initially valued at M45,000 due to his progression with Maroala from the B-Division to the Premier League, the two clubs eventually settled on a package worth M20,000 plus football training kits. Mokete has since signed a two-year contract with the reigning champions.

Lesotho Correctional Service FC have terminated the contract of defender Mabite Tšotetsi after just six months, while Machokha FC striker Thabiso Makhooane has announced his retirement from professional football after securing an academic position outside the sport. Makhooane enjoyed a distinguished career, having represented Linare, Lioli and Machokha FC.

Maroala FC have also been active in the market, with Tanki Seoli headlining their January signings, alongside Thato Khetheng, Melato Sekopo and Moeketsi Mohapi, as the club strengthens its squad for the second round of the campaign. Tšotetsi had recently returned to Lesotho Correctional Service FC from Manonyane after several years with the Tloutle Valley Boys, where he played a key role in solidifying their defence.

For Tsoamotse, however, the focus is firmly on establishing himself at Majantja and proving that Kick4Life's blend of education and football development can produce players ready for the demands of Lesotho's top flight.

All systems go for Maseru's first night marathon

Seabata Mahao

The Mountain Runners Athletics Club has confirmed that all preparations are complete for the inaugural Run MSU by Night Half Marathon, a unique night-time road race set for Friday, 23 January 2026, at Maqoanyane Square in Maseru.

The organisers told Newsday Sports that everything is firmly in place to deliver a smooth, safe and memorable event that will combine fitness, community engagement and public safety, as runners and walkers take to the capital's streets under floodlights.

The race will get underway just before midnight at 11:59pm and will feature three categories designed to accommodate both competitive athletes and recreational participants. These include a 5km walk/run, a 10km run and the flagship 21km half marathon.

Held under the theme "Let's run together for safer streets," the event aims to promote visibility and safety at night while encouraging broader participation in road running.

To support this objective, the organisers have ensured that all registered participants will receive reflective straps and hydration packs, underscoring their readiness and focus on runner welfare.

The organisers have also confirmed that logistical arrangements, including registration systems and payment platforms, are fully operational. Entry fees are set at M100 for Mountain Runners members and M120 for non-members, with payments accepted via M-Pesa (60358) and EcoCash (88117).

Registration closed on 21 January 2026, to allow organisers sufficient time to finalise race-day preparations.

The event has attracted strong support from partners and sponsors, further reinforcing its readiness. The marathon is powered by Mountain Kingdom Drops, Lehae Funerals, and Theo's Body Massage

and Foot Reflexology Spa, among others.

Speaking to this publication, event organiser Thabo Mosebekoa said preparations were well advanced and the response from the running community had been highly encouraging, signalling confidence in the organisers' capacity to stage the race successfully.

"The marathon will have a positive impact on the country's security, which in turn will contribute to economic growth by attracting more investment opportunities," Mosebekoa said.

"It will also put Lesotho on the map as one of the countries engaging in developments such as night sporting activities."

Mosebekoa revealed that more than 550 social runners have already registered for the event, with at least one participant travelling from Zimbabwe, highlighting the race's growing regional appeal.

He also confirmed that a representative from the District Administrator's (DA) office will be in attendance, adding official backing to the event.

Security arrangements have been finalised, with organisers assuring participants and the public that a strong security presence will be deployed along all race routes to guarantee safety for runners, volunteers and spectators alike.

Coordination with relevant authorities has been completed to ensure smooth traffic management and crowd control throughout the night.

Beyond the race itself, the organisers see the event as an opportunity to inspire wider community participation in sport.

Mosebekoa noted that one of the key objectives is to encourage social runners and young people to embrace athletics and other sporting codes, fostering a culture of healthy and active living, all under the night sky.

Run MSU by Night
½ marathon

23 JAN 2026

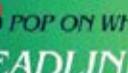
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4th Edition

22 FEB 2026
MASERU, LESOTHO

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

START: MAKOANYANE SQUARE
FINISH: MASERU CLUB

LATE REGISTRATIONS WITH PACKAGE: 4TH - 31ST JAN 2026

	LOCAL	INTERNATIONAL
1.6KM	M345.00	M445.00
5KM	M385.00	M485.00
10KM	M415.00	M515.00
21.1KM	M445.00	M545.00
42.2KM	M495.00	M595.00
AEROBICS	M315.00	M415.00

PAYMENTS (EVENTFUL MOMENTS):
1199 0280 934 15471 EcoCash 69202

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Hunt for Likuena coach gathers pace

Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) has taken a significant step towards appointing a new head coach for the senior national team, Likuena, after confirming that interviews for the position began this week.

In a statement dated January 21, 2025, LeFA disclosed that the recruitment process officially commenced on Thursday, January 22, with shortlisted candidates undergoing interviews conducted by a diverse and experienced panel.

The panel comprises members of the LeFA Technical Committee, the LeFA Technical Director, and representatives from the Lesotho Football Coaches Association.

"To accommodate both local and international applicants, the interviews commenced with in-person sessions for locally based coaches on Thursday, while virtual interviews for coaches in the diaspora were conducted on

Friday," the statement read.

A total of seven coaches have been shortlisted in the race to take over the reins of Likuena, following the departure of former head coach Leslie Notši three months ago. LeFA has indicated that the appointment process will be concluded swiftly, with a new head coach expected to be in place by February 1, effectively ending a period of uncertainty surrounding the national team's technical leadership.

The vacancy has attracted strong interest from both local and international coaches. Among the notable local candidates are LMPS FC head coach HalemakaleMahlaha, Matlama FC interim coach Thabile Secker, Lijabatho FC head coach James Madidilane, and Linare FC tactician JabulaniMendu. Former Bantu FC head coach Abram Moeketsi Mongoya is also in contention, while BonganiMaseko, who



Bambatha Tsita Sports Arena

parted ways with Lioli FC in December 2025, has likewise entered the race.

Whoever is appointed will face an immediate and demanding task. Likuena are scheduled to play a crucial Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) preliminary round tie against Seychelles in March, contested over two legs. The first leg will be played away from home, placing early emphasis on tactical organisation, mental

composure, and the importance of securing an away goal should tie-breaking regulations come into play.

With time not on their side, LeFA's choice of head coach will be critical—not only in stabilising the national team but also in ensuring that Likuena remain competitive on the continental stage as AFCON qualification hangs in the balance.

es to boost athlete development, tourism and regional integration.

Infrastructure development will underpin these initiatives, including collaboration in upgrading stadiums, training facilities, museums, cultural centres and the proposed Maseru Massacre Memorial Centre. Maqelepo added that Lesotho is working towards signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Arts and Culture with South Africa in March this year to ensure sustained cooperation.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Peace Mabe, said both countries agreed to fast-track the signing of agreements on Arts, Culture and Heritage, and to re-energise the implementation of the MoU on Sports and Recreation.

"We further agreed on five areas of collaboration, including building human capacity in sports, arts, culture and heritage, jointly celebrating Lesotho's 60th anniversary of independence, and spearheading joint programmes towards the finalisation of the Rapokolane High Altitude Centre for the benefit of athletes from both countries and Africa," Mabe said.

She also called on South Africans to participate in the upcoming Moshoeshoe Walk, during which the two ministries will sign the Memorandum of Agreement on Arts, Culture and Heritage.

Mabe concluded that the visit reaffirmed the shared commitment of Lesotho and South Africa to honouring liberation sacrifices, preserving shared heritage and strengthening bilateral relations grounded in solidarity, mutual respect and a common history.

Setsoto Stadium turf installation gains momentum

Seabata Mahao

There is renewed optimism for Lesotho's sporting fraternity following confirmation by the Minister of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture, Motlatsoi Maqelepo, that significant progress is being made at Setsoto Stadium, where the installation of artificial turf and the renovation of stadium facilities are underway.

Speaking to journalists in Maseru this week on strengthening bilateral relations between Lesotho and South Africa in the areas of sports, arts and culture, Maqelepo said a locally procured and accredited contractor is currently working on the playground layout and landscaping around the stadium.

"The contractor who is licensed and accredited was procured to pave the way for the main contractors. Adel Grass, the company responsible for the turf installation, is set to arrive in Maseru this week and they promised to take no longer than a month working on the installation," Maqelepo said.

He explained that the ministry's immediate focus is to complete the playground before moving on to the renovation of the stadium facilities, stressing the urgency of making Setsoto fully operational.

"Our intention is to see the playground completed so that we can move to the renovations of the stadium facilities. We want the

stadium to start functioning fully as soon as possible as we have seen that there are already athletics games being played as it is, and there are going to be more athletics games hosted in March, so we need to be ready," he added.

Maqelepo further emphasised the need for Lesotho to have international-standard and technical stadiums to enable the country to compete with other African nations in hosting continental and global sporting events.

"So many African countries are bidding to host different sporting activities happening on the continent and globally. I want Lesotho, through the Lesotho Sports and Recreation Committee (LSRC), to also participate, but we can only do that if we improve our facilities," he said.

The minister revealed that previous attempts to revamp the Rapokolane Sports Facility were unsuccessful after contractors failed to meet required standards, prompting the ministry to seek assistance from South Africa.

"The Ministry tried two times to get the right contractors for the revamping of Rapokolane Sports Facility but they failed to meet the



standard requirements, hence we have asked our counterpart in the Republic of South Africa to assist us. I asked her to let her department assist LSRC in planning this so we can have more facilities, not only Setsoto Stadium, in order to host sporting activities at home," Maqelepo explained.

Beyond infrastructure, Maqelepo highlighted that bilateral engagement between Lesotho and South Africa is future-oriented, anchored in sports, arts, culture and heritage as tools for social cohesion, economic development and people-to-people relations.

"Sports cooperation forms another critical pillar of our bilateral relations. We seek to strengthen exchange programmes for athletes and coaches, share best practices in sports development, and revive community sports structures," he said.

Special emphasis will be placed on the Rapokolane High Altitude Training Facility, which Maqelepo described as a unique opportunity for elite athlete preparation and regional excellence. He also noted plans to develop water sports such as rowing and canoeing, leveraging Lesotho's abundant water resources.



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