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Vol 08 No 02

M 6.00

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Lesotho acts on shocking sanitary pads study

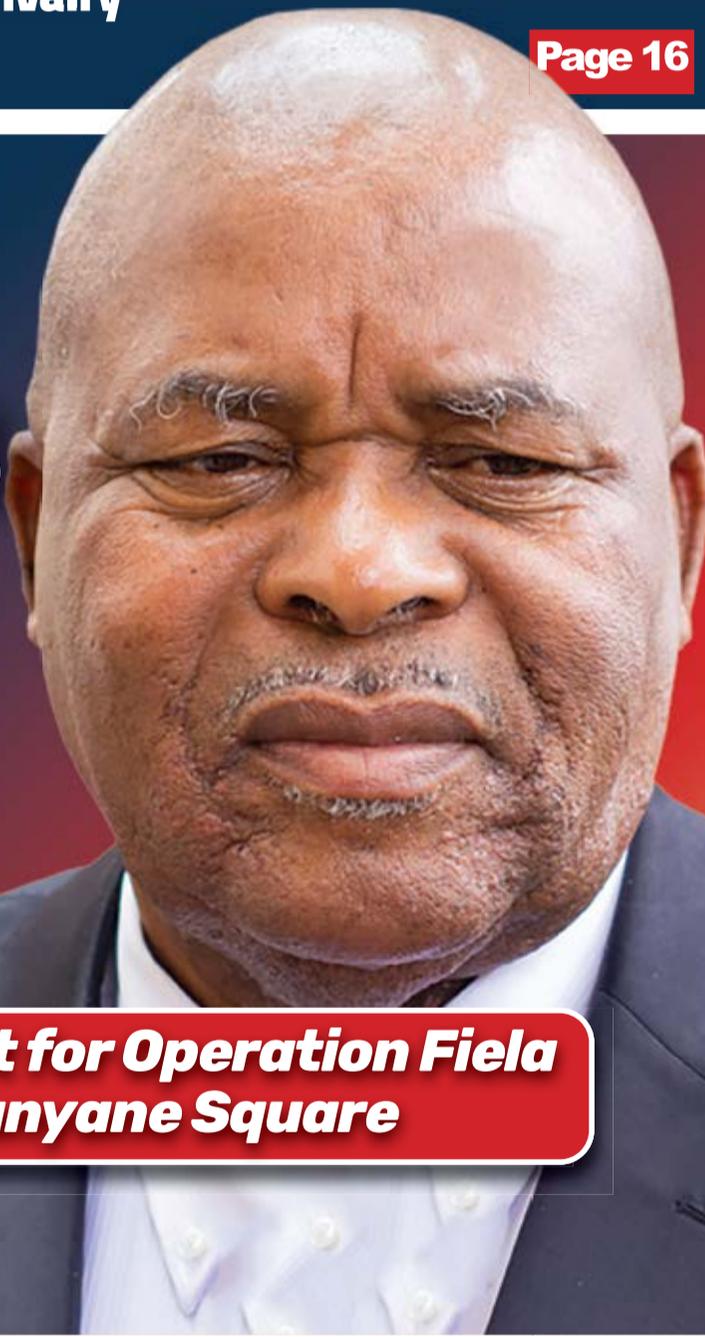
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Parliament recommends 3 PSs for Lephema's ministry

... Finds there was no budget for Operation Fiela and the upgrading of Makoanyane Square

Staff Reporter

Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police is too massive and dysfunctional to be run by one person, a hard-hitting parliamentary committee report has concluded.

The report warned that unchecked problems are fueling crime, delaying basic citizen services, and risking public financial mismanagement.

The Portfolio Committee on Economic and Development Cluster's Mid-Term Budget Review report for the 2025/2026 financial year exposes a ministry juggling everything from registering citizens and livestock, issuing passports and IDs, policing the country, managing borders, overseeing chiefs, handling land and housing, to running local councils, all under a single Chief Accounting Officer.

The committee noted: "The Ministry is too huge to be led by one Chief Accounting Officer." It demands that each department get its own dedicated Chief Accounting Officer to enforce real accountability.

The criticism comes amid mounting failures. Passport and identity document issuance remains plagued by delays, leaving thousands of Basotho unable to access jobs, travel, or basic rights, even as the ministry scrambles with extended hours and weekend openings in a desperate bid to catch up.

Worse still, illegal border crossings into South Africa have surged, directly linked by the committee to a sharp rise in transnational organised crime and rampant stock theft.

Porous borders allow livestock, vehicles, firearms, and contraband to flow unchecked, devastating rural livelihoods and feeding cross-border criminal networks that both Lesotho and South African authorities have repeatedly failed to dismantle despite years of talks.

The committee also noted that revenue collection was crippled because many councils still lack the necessary bylaws to gather even basic fees, from parking and building permits to land registrations.

The ministry has resorted to unauthorised

Minister of Local Government, Chieftainship and Police Lebona Lephema

budget shifts (virements) to fund unbudgeted items like "operation fiela" and refurbishing Makoanyane Square, moves the committee warns could breach the Public Financial Management Act and invite further fiscal chaos.

On the spending side, the ministry controls massive resources. A recurrent budget of nearly M1.9 billion, with 87 percent poured into urban roads, waste management, police stations, and road maintenance, and a capital injection of over M447 million for projects like bus terminals, rural roads, fire stations, and council funds.

However, the committee found, core delivery falters, including long-delayed rehabili-

tation of the main dump site, raising serious environmental and health alarms.

The committee recommended splitting of leadership for accountability, fast-tracking bylaws for revenue, halting risky virements, speeding up document issuance, and cracking down hard on illegal crossings before crime spirals further out of control.

"It is recommended that every department be afforded a Chief Accounting Officer," the report read.

Without immediate reform, the report implied, this overstretched ministry risks becoming a national liability rather than a guardian of law, order, and citizen services.

NICR staff in Mohale's Hoek protest night shift directive

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

A recent directive by the Ministry of Home Affairs requiring staff at the National Identity and Civil Registration (NICR) Systems Department in Mohale's Hoek to work night shifts has triggered resistance among employees.

Management says the measure is aimed at improving efficiency and reducing the backlog in passport applications by speeding up turnaround times. However, several staff members have formally challenged the decision, citing concerns over working conditions and a lack of clear communication.

Newsday has seen a letter dated 24 February 2026, addressed to Assistant Manager Lifutso Ramonaheng, in which the employees request formal clarification on the night shift arrangement. The staff members say they remain committed to their duties but seek an official written directive outlining the legal and administrative basis for the change.

"We respectfully submit this letter to seek formal clarification regarding the recent in-

struction requiring us to work night shifts," the letter reads in part. "To the best of our understanding, night work was not part of our original terms and conditions of service."

The employees are asking management to clarify overtime compensation arrangements, provide transport for late hours, and offer assurances regarding personal safety and the impact of the new schedule on their families.

The letter was signed by 16 employees: Mathe Lekholoane, Boitumelo Lesetla, Thabo Seleso, Molikoane Pheko, Tumo Thibiri, Lieketseng Mothamane, Limpho Mokoma, Rorisang Molefi, Lebohlang Mabele, Amelia Phangoa, Keketso Mohale, Mekoane Mothusi, Mohlokoane Mokati, Elelloang Matšoele, Pitso Ramaisa and Refiloe Mosola.

Responding on the same day, Ramonaheng said the implementation of night shifts was a collective management decision intended to enhance service delivery and operational efficiency. She indicated that she would escalate the staff's concerns to senior management.

On 25 February 2026, NICR District Manag-

er Advocate Matekoa Obed Sebapalo replied to the employees, stating that the decision to introduce night shifts had been taken collectively by management and would stand.

"The labour laws of this land warrant night shifts where and when necessary," Sebapalo wrote, adding that such arrangements were not new within the NICR and had previously been used to address backlogs.

He confirmed that night shifts would commence on 26 and 27 February 2026, as directed by team leaders. With effect from 2 March 2026, employees will work alternating shifts from 6:00am to 1:00pm and from 1:00pm to 6:00pm, for no more than three consecutive days per shift cycle.

Sebapalo further warned that absenteeism would be deducted from leave days and that defiance of the directive would be treated as insubordination.

Beyond the official correspondence, internal communications suggest heightened anxiety among staff. Employees say they frequently participate in outreach programmes

before returning to regular duties, increasing their workload. Some fear that performance evaluations and possible "show cause" letters may follow amid mounting pressure.

There are also concerns about operational challenges within the Verification and Authorisation office, which some staff members claim are affecting the quality of their work. Doubts have reportedly been raised about whether certain forms were properly verified or reached the Authorisation office.

Frustration appears to be growing, with one employee remarking that if production declines, management should "hire other people". Others have expressed fears that they may be penalised for errors, with some alleging that colleagues are setting them up for mistakes.

At the same time, some employees have urged their peers to remain diligent and avoid mistakes, signalling a desire to stabilise the situation and improve performance. There have also been calls for greater recognition and support for those assigned to night shifts.

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Thoboloko Ntšonyane

A new multi-country study has exposed troubling connections between alcohol consumption and gender-based violence (GBV) across four Southern African nations, with researchers warning that excessive drinking intensifies both the frequency and severity of violent incidents.

The report, titled "Examining Alcohol Availability and Gender Based Violence in Four Countries in Southern Africa: A Community-Centred Approach," was conducted in Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.

It reveals that alcohol-related harm extends far beyond individual drinkers to impact families, children, and entire communities.

Presenting the findings this week, lead researcher Dr Janine White from the Wits School of Public Health (WSPH) emphasised that a significant share of global deaths from interpersonal violence is attributed to alcohol use. She noted that alcohol plays a distinct role in escalating conflict, particularly within homes and intimate relationships.

"While alcohol is not the root cause of GBV, it intensifies risk, increases severity, and creates environments in which violence becomes more likely," Dr White said. "Most notably, women carry a disproportionate burden of these harms."

The study found that children in the region begin drinking as young as 10 to 14 years old. While women and children are more vulnerable to abuse, researchers noted that men are both perpetrators and victims of GBV.

Dr White reported that the Southern Africa region faces particular challenges with alcohol consumption patterns. "The region is characterised by concentrated heavy drinking among those who drink, and this is despite the moderate consumption at the population level," she explained.

The findings further reveal that "alcohol

Alcohol fuels GBV, worsens its severity: report

related harm extends well beyond individual drinkers. Families, children and [the] entire community feel effects. Alcohol contributes to preventable injuries, emotional strain, interpersonal conflict, financial pressures and neighbourhood insecurity."

Lesotho case study reveals widespread unlicensed alcohol sales

In Lesotho, where the study focused on Lithoteng in Maseru and Ha-Mokhotu in Berea, researchers documented alarming numbers of alcohol outlets operating without proper licenses.

In Lithoteng, researchers mapped 29 alcohol outlets. Of these, only 28 percent were licensed, while 59 percent were unlicensed, and 13 percent had uncertain licensing status. Most establishments allowed both on-site and off-site consumption, with 83 percent open seven days a week. Nearly a third (28 percent) operated until midnight, and seven percent remained open 24 hours daily.

In Berea, among 48 mapped outlets, 41 percent were licensed, 45 percent unlicensed, and 14 percent had uncertain licensing status. Approximately 60 percent operate daily, with 21 percent open 24 hours, all of which are licensed.

Tšeliso, a Lithoteng resident, expressed deep concern about outlets selling home-brewed beer and called for urgent legal reforms. He warned about young people increasingly engaging in alcohol and drug use, saying the situation is worsening.

Stakeholders across sectors agreed that without tougher policy enforcement and community action, alcohol-related GBV will continue threatening families in Lesotho.

Pontšo Tumisi of Mokhosi oa 'Mangoana stressed that fully implementing the national alcohol policy could help address these issues. "Without enforcement, communities will keep suffering from the effects of easy access to alcohol," she said.

Member of Parliament (MP) Mamello Phooko highlighted that women and girls face particular risks from alcohol misuse. She explained that high unemployment leaves many men feeling powerless, causing some to exert harmful control over women and girls "as a misguided way of coping."

Berea District Commanding Officer Senior Superintendent Kabelo Halala noted that the problems of alcohol abuse and GBV are more complicated than they appear. He said that while the Lesotho Mounted Police Service posts photos of people caught driving under the influence, the impact has lessened as many repeat offenders emerge and "people now treat it as a joke."

Youth voices and community concerns

Young people also shared their perspectives on the crisis. Teboho Phomane lamented the lack of parental support for children, explaining that this often leads young people into multigenerational and transactional relationships with those who fund flashy lifestyles.

Phomane urged parents to "always be pres-

ent for their children and to listen to their concerns, so they do not seek help elsewhere, which can be harmful." He suggested that even students who struggle academically should be supported in pursuing vocational training, noting there are many opportunities in that field.

Mokhotu Makhwanyane, Chair of Parliamentary Chairpersons, expressed concern over the findings and warned of political obstacles to reform. He revealed that some alcohol outlet owners finance politicians' campaigns and donations, "making it difficult for those in power to implement strict measures against the abuse of licenses and how these businesses operate."

According to Afrobarometer data, 58 percent of people surveyed in Lesotho believe women face the risk of being victimised for reporting GBV incidents. Across 39 African countries, 38 percent of respondents consider GBV either "somewhat common" or "very common" in their communities.

Afrobarometer has stated that GBV poses a significant threat to the nation, affecting both development and the economy. It is recognised as a major contributor to HIV transmission in Lesotho, where the prevalence rate stands at 23.2 percent, among the highest globally, according to the 2021 UNAIDS report.

Researchers conclude that addressing alcohol availability through comprehensive policy enforcement and community engagement is essential to reducing GBV and protecting vulnerable populations across the region.

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Star-studded lineup for Katse Tourism Festival

Staff Reporters

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has unveiled a tantalising teaser for the official lineup of the Katse Tourism Festival 2026, generating excitement across Lesotho and beyond for what promises to be a vibrant celebration of music, culture, and highland heritage.

The teaser, shared through LHDA channels and festival organisers, highlights a dynamic mix of local talent set to light up the iconic Katse Dam on 27-28 February 2026. Among the featured artists are Lesedi FM presenter and DJ Nyakallo Leine, also known as Ba2cada, gospel powerhouse Minister Spokes, Mavele and Tash, Thizozo, and renowned performer Selimo Thabane.

"The wait is over. The mountains have spoken. Here is a teaser of the official Katse Tourism Festival

Highlands. The festival aligns with broader efforts tied to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, marking its 40th anniversary in 2026, spotlighting the region's natural beauty, including Africa's second-largest double-curvature arch dam, at over 2,000 meters above sea level.

Past and current promotions emphasise a blend of traditional elements like mokhibo and mohobelo dance, local cuisine, handicrafts, and adventure activities, such as horse-riding, bike riding, boat cruises on the dam, and tours, alongside modern entertainment.

The event features a Cultural Fest on February 27 and the Main Fest on February 28, with a recommended traditional dress code to honour Morena Moshoeshe I, founder of the Basotho nation.

While the teaser spotlights these performers, additional names have surfaced in related promotions and full lineup reveals, including Ntate Stunna, Mdu Masilela, Wave Rhyder, Mekonko, Tsepo Mofokeng, DJ Gama, Hunky Dee, Victor Rapitse, Nyamatsana Ya Matsha, Uncle Fif, Tekano Le Sephaka, Tom and Afroturn Jazz Band, and Mitter and Mazda, suggesting an even broader roster of traditional, gospel, and contemporary acts.

Tickets are available via platforms like Ticketbox.co.ls, with options for general ad-

2026 line-up - ready to bring the spirit of the highlands to life at Katse Dam. 27-28 February 2026. Music. Culture. Community. Legacy. Come experience it," the announcement proclaimed, capturing the event's essence as a homecoming for Basotho pride and shared legacy.

The Katse

Tourism Festival, now in its fifth edition, is organised by the community-led Katse Dam Action Aid Community Forum with support from the LHDA. It has evolved from a modest cultural gathering since its inception in 2021 into a major annual platform promoting Basotho heritage, sustainable tourism, and community empowerment in the Lesotho

mission, VIP, camping, and add-ons like dam cruises and tours.

As excitement builds, the festival underscores growing momentum for cultural tourism in Lesotho, drawing visitors to experience the high-

lands' rhythms, voices, and breathtaking landscapes.

With the mountains calling, this 2026 edition is poised to deliver an unforgettable fusion of identity, entertainment, and community spirit.



Ba2cada



Ntate Stunna

Mochoboroane backpedals on VHWs salaries

Ntsoaki Motaung

The spark of hope for Lesotho's 8,000 village health workers (VHWs) has been extinguished by harsh fiscal reality.

In a stark reversal, Minister of Health Selibe Mochoboroane told Parliament's Social Cluster Portfolio Committee last Thursday that the government lacks funds to grant the workers' requested salary increase.

The admission marks a sharp departure from the minister's earlier promises.

In December 2022, during World AIDS Day at Bethany Health Centre, Mochoboroane pledged to resolve long-standing payment issues, assuring that VHWs would receive monthly salaries like other civil servants by April 2023.

He described them as the backbone of rural healthcare and said weekly meetings were under-way to fast-track their remuneration.

By 2026, that commitment appears to have faded. The core dispute centers on the wide gap between current stipends and living costs. After a nationwide strike in June 2025, VHWs demanded their monthly allowance rise from M800 to M2,200.

Ministry of Health's Principal Secretary (PS), 'Ma-neo Moliehi Ntene told the committee that the proposed hike would cost an additional M148 million.

While the Ministry's chief legal officer, advocate 'Masello Sello, suggested openness to negotiation based on a prior out-of-court settlement, Mochoboroane swiftly dashed hopes.

"Even though Sello says her bosses will sit down

to negotiate, there is nothing that her bosses can do," he stated bluntly. "A budget to give a salary hike to the village health workers is simply not available."

The stance has sparked sharp criticism from lawmakers, especially as other groups, such as traditional leaders, have seen their salary demands met in recent budgets.

The refusal is particularly alarming given VHWs' critical role in remote areas far from clinics. These 8,000 workers monitor chronic conditions like HIV/AIDS and TB, support maternal and prenatal care, and distribute basic medication to those unable to travel long distances.

Committee Chairman Mokhothu Makhalanyane stressed that this is more than a budget request. Makhalanyane said it is a legal obligation, backed by a court judgment favouring the workers.

Despite the Ministry acknowledging the settlement, a lack of political will and available funds has led to deadlock.

For VHWs who trek miles daily to save lives in Lesotho's most vulnerable communities, the long-promised civil servant status remains elusive.

VHW 'Maitumeleng Lenepa from Mapholaneng, Mokhotlong, expressed deep disappointment: "We are very disappointed that we have to endure the struggle of providing for our families with an M800 stipend while doing so much work. We do not only offer services to patients, in some cases, VHWs go beyond our duties and ensure some patients have something to eat before giving them medication. It means the little M800 we get also has to be shared with our patients."

IEC pledges stronger ties for elections

Seabata Mahao

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of Lesotho has reaffirmed its commitment to closer collaboration with stakeholders as it prepares for upcoming elections.

IEC Chairperson Dr John Maphephe made the remarks during a media briefing in Maseru on Tuesday. He said the Commission is actively engaging both independent and government institutions to discuss operational issues and ensure full readiness for the polls.

The meeting also introduced the newly appointed commissioners and helped build stronger partnerships ahead of the elections.

Dr Maphephe emphasised the importance of collaborating with the media, inviting journalists to share ideas on enhancing IEC operations and service delivery.

"One of our strategies is to maintain open dialogue and an impartial approach in our work with media institutions," he said.

The Chairperson noted ongoing cooperation with the Media Institute of Southern Africa Lesotho (MISA Lesotho) to fight misinformation, especially during election periods.

He appealed to journalists to maintain high professional standards in their reporting, while assuring them that the IEC will uphold its constitutional mandate to manage elections fairly and respect the media's independent role as a watchdog.

To boost public engagement, the IEC plans to expand voter education efforts. Dr Maphephe proposed introducing independent electoral studies in

secondary schools and higher learning institutions, which could also create job opportunities for Basotho youth by building expertise in a field with global demand.

Commission member Dr Chelete Monyane acknowledged low voter turnout as a key challenge, noting that the voters' register far exceeds the number of people who actually vote.

To close this gap, the Commission intends to incorporate digital platforms into voter registration and other electoral processes.

"We will also change our communication approach with the media and the public by disseminating information that will motivate Basotho to participate in large numbers during elections," Dr Monyane said.

A journalist from Moeletsi oa Basotho, Nthabeng Seithleko, urged the IEC to avoid favouritism in sharing information with media outlets, warning that such practices undermine trust.

She said current voter education efforts fall short, often leaving both journalists and the public confused about electoral processes.

Seithleko called for journalist training sessions, expanded outreach programs in towns and villages, and improved voter card services. She also advocated greater transparency in IEC operations, such as public briefings on staff study tours to explain their purpose and results.

To combat misinformation, she recommended reviving the practice of notifying the media when new political parties register, allowing journalists to better track and scrutinise parties' campaign promises.



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Thaba Tseka	12 - 13 March 2026	2	Motherland Guest House
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Newsday Business

CBL shifts focus from financial access to economic impact

Refiloe Molise

The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) is recalibrating its financial inclusion strategy, moving beyond simply ensuring access to banking services towards driving tangible economic impact, particularly among women-led businesses.

This shift was underscored during a Regional Joint Learning Programme on Alternative Finance Instruments for Women-led Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), hosted by the CBL in partnership with the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) at Lehakoe Recreation and Cultural Centre in Maseru.

The high-level gathering attracted policymakers, regulators, financial institutions, development partners and women entrepreneurs from 23 African countries. The focus was on innovative financing solutions that not only expand access to financial services, but also ensure that women-led enterprises contribute meaningfully to economic growth and job creation.

Speaking during the opening session, CBL's Director of Financial Institutions Supervision, Bafokeng Noosi, said Lesotho was honoured to be recognised by AFI for its progress in advancing financial inclusion, particularly for women.

"We are very happy to host this joint learning programme. The joint learning programme is an opportunity or a platform for the country to



The central bank of Lesotho (CBL) in collaboration with the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) officially launched the Joint learning Program on Alternative Finance instruments for women-led Macro, small and medium Ente

showcase to the world and to the members of AFI the amount of work that we have done and the results that we have achieved," Noosi said.

Lesotho joined AFI around 2014 and has since played an active role in shaping inclusive financial policies, particularly for small and vulnerable economies seeking equal representation on global platforms.

According to Noosi, the country has reached

approximately 90 percent financial inclusion, largely driven by digital financial services and supportive regulatory reforms. However, he stressed that access alone is no longer enough.

"Financial inclusion is no longer about access now. It is about ensuring that women, youths and the marginalised are playing a critical role in the economy, that there are better outcomes than just one having a bank account," he said.

Noosi emphasised that Lesotho's progress has been a collaborative effort involving multiple stakeholders across the public and private sectors.

"The achievements that we have seen as a country is not that of the Central Bank alone, it is that of all the stakeholders that we have travelled this journey with," he said.

On his part, AFI's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Alfred Hannig, who addressed the gathering virtually, described alternative finance instruments as essential for Africa's economic transformation, particularly in unlocking the potential of women entrepreneurs.

"Women entrepreneurs are critical to unlocking economic potential and advancing inclusive growth. Alternative finance instruments are not just technical add-ons. They are structural tools for economic transformation," Dr Hannig said.

He noted that despite improved access to financial services, women entrepreneurs still face structural barriers such as limited collateral, lack of formal credit history and high financing costs.

He urged policymakers to adopt innovative

solutions including credit guarantee schemes, marketplace lending and movable collateral-based lending to close the gender financing gap.

Also addressing the event, AFI's Head of Policy Management, Audrey Hove, said the programme was significant not only for Lesotho but for governments across Africa and beyond.

"We are really excited to be here in Lesotho, particularly for this important event which is being hosted by the Central Bank. We are looking at having discussions among regulators and policymakers on alternative finance instruments to support women MSMEs," he said.

She said representatives from 23 African countries had gathered to exchange ideas and practical solutions aimed at improving women's access, usage and the quality of financial services.

"We are very delighted that the Central Bank of Lesotho has agreed to bring together these leaders to have these conversations. The reason why we chose Lesotho particularly is because of the tremendous work that we have seen that Lesotho has made in advancing women MSMEs in terms of their access as well as usage of financial services," she said.

Hove added that peer learning remains one of AFI's flagship services, enabling countries to share experiences and implement proven, scalable solutions.

"One flagship service that we offer at AFI is that we learn from each other. Everyone comes to the table with ideas and with what they have implemented. Together, if we have these conversations, we can implement from these," she said.

She emphasised that inclusive economic strategies must place women at the centre.

"If we take along the women, who in many countries are the majority of the population, we have done our duty. We cannot talk about economic development, we cannot talk about economic growth, leaving women behind," Hove said.

The programme drew participation from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade, Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), Basotho Enterprises Development Corporation (BEDCO), commercial banks, microfinance institutions and women-led MSMEs, as well as development partners including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

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Press Forward Communications

Press Forward Communications Launches to Strengthen Corporate-Media Relations in Lesotho

Maseru, Lesotho: Wednesday, 25 February 2025 - Press Forward Communications, a public relations and media relations consultancy, has officially launched with a focused mandate to strengthen relationships between corporates and the media in Lesotho.

The firm was established in response to a persistent gap within the communications landscape, where engagement with media is often reactive or treated as secondary rather than strategic. Press Forward Communications seeks to reposition media relations as a central pillar of corporate reputation management and public engagement.

The founder, Thato Ramafu, brings professional experience from both the newsroom and corporate communications environments, having begun her career in media before moving into corporate PR role. This dual perspective informs the consultancy's approach, which is grounded in an understanding of newsroom realities as well as organisational pressures.

"Media professionals play a critical role in shaping how organisations are perceived," says Ramafu. "Sustainable public trust requires intentional, ethical and well-managed relationships between corporates and the media."

Corporates may at times hesitate to deepen engagement with media due to concerns about scrutiny or perceptions of impropriety. In other instances, limited engagement stems from operational demands. Many organisations operate within tight internal deadlines and performance targets, leaving little capacity to build and maintain deliberate media relationships. Press Forward Communications addresses both dynamics by acting as a structured intermediary, ensuring engagement remains professional, transparent and mutually beneficial.

A key focus of the consultancy is improving the practical experience of media practitioners during corporate activities and field assignments. Drawing from first-hand experience, Ramafu notes that logistical gaps such as late return travel and limited

support structures can place strain on journalists. The consultancy aims to introduce coordinated, ethical support systems that prioritise dignity, safety and professionalism without compromising editorial independence and safety.

In addition to media relations, Press Forward Communications recognises the increasing influence of digital creators within the public relations ecosystem. The consultancy will work to develop and position influencers as credible, strategically aligned brand partners. In the Lesotho context, where many influencers have significant reach but limited structured positioning, the firm intends to provide guidance on brand development, professional conduct and long-term value creation.

Press Forward Communications offers services including public relations strategy development, media relations management, media buying, media training, communications strategy design, influencer relations and project-based communications support for organisations requiring outsourced expertise. While its service offering is comprehensive, the consultancy's primary focus remains the strengthening of media relations as the foundation of responsible and effective communication.

The firm also signals its intention to collaborate with corporates, development partners and independent practitioners to advance industry standards and contribute to national development. By prioritising ethical engagement and structured partnership, Press Forward Communications aims to elevate the practice of public relations in Lesotho and beyond. Headquartered in Maseru and operates as a public relations and media relations consultancy committed to bridging institutional and media interests through strategic, balanced and principled communication.

For media enquiries, partnerships or further information, please contact:
Thato Ramafu on +266 5998 1038 Or at
tayramafu@gmail.com

Notice of Change of Address

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 82(3) of the Companies Act 2011, MNN Centre for Investigative Journalism is intending to change its registered office address from Transformation Resource Centre, No.1 Oak Tree Garden Qoaling Road, Old Europa Maseru Lesotho to House No.21 Ha-Mosalla Thaba-Bosiu Maseru Lesotho from the 11th February 2026.

The application to have the said registered office address changed, will be done with the register of Companies after the third publication of this notice.

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Newsday Health

Lesotho acts on shocking sanitary pads study



Feminine hygiene products picture used as an illustration of sanitary products for the sake of the story, not meaning this are the ones with hormone disruptive chemicals

Ntsoaki Motaung

The Ministry of Health in Lesotho, through the Lesotho Medicine Regulatory Authority (LeMeRA), has issued an official public notice addressing concerns over the safety of menstrual products available in the country.

This follows a recent peer-reviewed study by researchers at the University of the Free State (UFS) in South Africa, published in Sci-

ence of the Total Environment (February 2026), which detected endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in menstrual products sold in that market.

In the notice dated February 24, 2026, the Principal Secretary for Health confirmed that LeMeRA is closely monitoring the UFS research. The Ministry noted that several of the same brands analysed in the South African

study are also available in Lesotho, making the findings highly relevant to local consumers.

LeMeRA has launched its own internal review and investigation to assess the potential implications for public health in Lesotho. "The review process remains ongoing, and no final regulatory decisions have been made at this stage," the Ministry emphasised.

The authority is collaborating with the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) to obtain further scientific data. While the investigation proceeds, the Ministry urged the public to avoid premature conclusions and assured that additional updates will be shared as new information emerges.

The UFS study, led by a team including Professor Deon Visser (Head of the Department of Chemistry), analysed 16 brands of sanitary pads and seven (or eight, per some reports) types of pantyliners commonly sold in South Africa. Every product tested contained at least two EDCs from the targeted groups: phthalates, bisphenols (including BPA), and parabens.

Key findings included bisphenols detected in 100 percent of sanitary pads and 75 percent of pantyliners, parabens found in over 80 per-

cent of pads and 75 percent of pantyliners, and phthalates present in 100 percent of pantyliners and 50 percent of sanitary pads.

Notably, even products labeled as "organic" or "natural" contained these chemicals, likely due to migration during manufacturing, from adhesives, or from plastic packaging components.

EDCs can interfere with the body's hormonal systems. The vaginal mucosa is highly absorbent, allowing these substances to enter the bloodstream more readily than through regular skin. Long-term, repeated exposure, common over decades of menstrual product use, may contribute to hormonal disruptions, reproductive issues such as infertility or endometriosis, and potentially elevated risks of hormone-sensitive cancers, according to expert warnings.

While LeMeRA's investigation continues, health professionals recommend that concerned individuals consider menstrual products carrying independent safety certifications, such as OEKO-TEX Standard 100, which screens for harmful substances. Alternatives like certified organic options or reusable products may also be worth exploring, pending further official guidance from the authorities.



TSEBISO HO SECHABA

THUTO/THUPELO KA TLHOPHO BOCHA EA PHEPELO EA METSI MABALANE

Morero oa Phepele ea Metsi Mabalane – Mothati oa Bobeli (LLWDP II) o tsebisa sechaba sa libaka tse anngoeng ke Morero hore khoebo e bitsoang 4D Climate Solutions eleng Moeletsi, e ntse e potoloha le libaka tsa Morero ho fana ka thuto, ho ruta le ho hlokomelisa sechaba ka Tlhopho Bocha ea phepele ea metsi mabalane, e reretsoeng ho kenngoa tšebetsong ke 'muso oa Lesotho.

Ele karolo ea lenaneo lena, Moeletsi o ntse a:

- Tšoara likopano tsa sechaba le lipitso,
- Etsa likopano le Baetapele ba Sechaba (Marena, Makh'anselara),
- Akofisa mananeo a thuto le tlhokomeliso ea sechaba.

Sechaba se khothaletsoa ho nka karolo ka mafolofolo likopanong tsena molemong oa ho fumana kutloisiso e pharalletseng ka Molao oa Metsi o sisintsoeng le bohlokoa ba oona tsamaisong ea metsi Lesotho.

Morero oa Phepele ea Metsi Mabalane – Mothati oa Bobeli (LLWDP II) o tšehelitsoe ka lichelete ke 'muso Lesotho, Banka ea Lefatse, Banka ea Ntsetsopelo ea Europa le Mokhatlo oa Linaha tsa Europa (European Union).

4D Climate Solutions e ntse e tšoara lithupelo le lipitso libakeng tsa Leribe, Mafeteng le Mohale's Hoek, moo morero o ntseng o tsoela-pele teng. Sepheo ke ho fa sechaba le bohle ba amehang ka lintlha tse fuperoeng ke Tlhopho Bocha ena, sepheo sa eona le kamoo e tlo ama litšebeliso tsa metsi kateng mabalane.

Ho feta moo, o boetse o ntse a fetisa thuto ka mecha e fapaneng ea litaba, ho kenyeletsa:

- Liea-le-moea,
- Thelevishene ea Lesotho,
- Marang-rang (social media),
- Likoranta.



(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580 -LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: HORIZONTAL ALLIANCE OFFICER
REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO : PROJECT DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

- **Component 1. Promoting Climate Smart Agricultural Practices and Advisory Services.** This component aims at strengthening the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers to adjust and modify their production systems to minimize the potential future impacts from climate variability.
- **Component 2. Improving Agricultural Commercialization and Nutrition.** This component will build on Component 1 by addressing financial constraints in the agricultural sector so that the training and advisory services provided under Component 1 is complemented with much-needed financing to help the farming community undertake productive and profitable investments.
- **Component 3. Project Management, Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation** is responsible for: implementation and coordination, financial management and procurement, communication, visibility and awareness programs, environmental management and safeguards, and monitoring and evaluation.
- **Component 4. Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC).** This is a zero allocation to partially cover emergency response via implementation of key activities by the appropriate agencies to respond to the emergency.

DUTIES

The Horizontal Alliances Officer shall be responsible to the Project Director of the SADP2 Project Management Unit (PMU) and shall:

- Establish contact with the key stakeholders concerned with the implementation of the programme, determine their operations and priorities, and determine how the market linkage mechanisms to be included in sub component 2.1 would help facilitate more marketing of smallholder production.
- Based on the conclusions from the above consultation, develop the appropriate market linkages (such as agricultural trade fairs and round table meetings with farmer/farmer groups and traders/processors and specify in the operational manual the detailed requirements for each (including costing), the procedures and processes to follow and the information dissemination required to implement them.
- In consultation with the PMU team and with the Department of Marketing (MSBD-CM), spells out in the operational manual the steps and procedures for implementing the programme activity to upgrade the public market information system by improving information quality and services, through training, sub sector/commodity studies and enhancement of IT supported data and information exchange;
- Participate in the preparation of annual work plans and budget for the Implementation of SADP2 funded activities.
- Develop the approach to be used and processes involved in establishing a mentoring service that provides direct field support to producer groups and companies helping them to understand and adopt technologies in accordance with market requirements.
- Working with the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Manager and the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant, help specify the Monitoring and Evaluation requirements for the sub component.
- Manage and coordinate timely reports and acquittals on field work as required by SADP2.

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580 -LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: WATER RESOURCES AND IRRIGATION OFFICER

REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO : IRRIGATION SPECIALIST

BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Assistant Water Resource and Irrigation Officer will be responsible for support to implementing irrigation schemes projects within SADP II. This role involves an oversight of developing and implementing irrigation water budget for irrigators. The Assistant Specialist supports the design, implementation and operation and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

Water Resource and Irrigation Officer are responsible to:

- Contribute to the design, implementation and commissioning of irrigation infrastructure for the proposed irrigation projects
- Consultation and sensitization of farmers in the catchment area on irrigation scheme design options, and implications for construction and operations and maintenance of infrastructure and water management
- Provide an oversight and supervision for irrigation construction projects and issue interim and completion certificate
- Conduct feasibility study, topographic survey, develop contour maps and site identification and selection for proposed irrigation projects
- Provide capacity building to Ministry of Agriculture technical staff, irrigators and water users' associations on best irrigation water management practices
- Identify project stakeholders, develop stakeholder profile, stakeholder communication plans and develop stakeholder management plans to ensure effective communication among project stakeholders
- Design and prepare bills of quantities, participate in the evaluation of bids and selection of contractors for the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes projects

OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

Assistant Water Resource and Irrigation Officer is expected to deliver the following reports to the Irrigation Specialist of the following:

- Design, implementation and commissioning of irrigation infrastructure
- Consultation and sensitization of farmers in the catchment area on irrigation scheme design options, and implications for construction and operations and maintenance of infrastructure and water management
- An oversight and supervision for irrigation construction projects and issue interim and completion certificate
- Conduct on feasibility study, topographic survey, develop contour maps and site identification
- Provision of capacity building to Ministry of Agriculture technical staff, irrigators and water users' associations on best irrigation water management practices
- Identifying project stakeholders, develop stakeholder profile, stakeholder communication plans and develop stakeholder management plans to ensure effective communication among project stakeholders
- Design and prepare bills of quantities, participate in the evaluation of bids and

- Attend to any other duty delegated by project Director.
- Coordinate Gender Equality and Women Empowerment activities implemented by World Vision Lesotho under GAFSP funding.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIRED EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor of Marketing, Agribusiness, Commerce and/or Economics.
- 3 to 5 years professional experience in agricultural marketing and trade.
- In-depth knowledge of agriculture in Lesotho.
- Sesotho and English Fluency

SKILLS/ABILITIES

- Community leadership and mentoring skills, able to support, motivate and liaise effectively with community groups.
- Ability and experience in workshop facilitation and giving presentation in both formal and non-formal settings.
- Ability to develop training programs and lessons plans
- Excellent organizational and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and lead a team of communities.

CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION

- Contract duration is one year, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to condescendence by May 2027.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The client shall render the officer with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the officer to discharge his/her duties that is office space laptop/computer, landline telephone, and transport project-related duties.

The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their abilities. A pre-employment screening and background check will be done on all short-listed candidates. The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the project's portfolio. He/she must be willing to work in a team, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of action.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III paragraph 3.14 to 3.17 of THE WORLD BANK'S Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, Sixth Edition, February 2025, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in Procurement Regulations.

SUBMISSION**Information required from candidates.**

- Signed application letters stating **explicitly relevant qualifications and experience.**
- Provide current CV's (including telephone, email and contact details).
- Certified copies of educational certificates and transcripts.
- Provide names and contact details of three (3) contactable professional referees.
- Certified copy of an Identity Document (ID).

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

SUBMISSION: Interested candidates should deliver their applications to the address below not later than the 9th March 2026 at 16.00 hours.

Human Resources Department
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
 80 Constitution Road
 P.O. Box 24
 Maseru 100

- selection of contractors for the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes projects
- Compile all necessary reports required by the Irrigation Specialist.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in irrigation engineering, water engineering, agricultural engineering or related field;

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Minimum of five (5) years of proven experience in water resource management, with a focus on hydraulic infrastructure design and construction, operation and maintenance
- Demonstrated experience in construction projects management and construction contracts administration
- Experience with designing and supporting farmer-managed irrigation schemes (WUAs)

CLIENT ASSIGNMENT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS.

The Assistant Resource and Irrigation Officer will report to the Irrigation Specialist and report monthly reports.

CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION

- Contract duration is one year, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to condescendence by May 2027.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The client shall render the officer with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the officer to discharge his/her duties that is office space laptop/computer, landline telephone, and transport project-related duties.

The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their abilities. A pre-employment screening and background check will be done on all short-listed candidates. The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the project's portfolio. He/she must be willing to work in a team, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of action. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III paragraph 3.14 to 3.17 of THE WORLD BANK'S Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, Sixth Edition, February 2025, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in Procurement Regulations.

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 P.O. Box 24
 Maseru 100

**Kingdom of Lesotho****MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II****REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST****(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)**

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580 -LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROJECT FIELD OFFICER LERIBE

REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO : PROJECT DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Under direct supervision of the Project Manager, the Project Field Officer will be responsible for addressing the Project's Project implementation in their assigned districts for all activities of Component 1 and 2.

DUTIES

- a. Participate in the preparation of annual work plans and budget for the Implementation of SADP funded activities.
- b. Disseminate information and organize orientation session in the district to inform Districts officials, communities and other stakeholders of the objectives, Implementation modalities, progress and impact of the different project activities.
- c. For Sub-component 1.1 and Sub component 1.2, the PFO will collaborate with the PMU Climate Smart Agricultural Officer to support the implementations of the Climate Smart Agriculture technologies by providing information on the Project, facilitating linkages between Non-Governmental Organizations and farmers, and undertake the demonstrations and trials and field days.
- d. For Sub-Component 1.3 the PFO will help the PMU Irrigation Engineer to identify, design, award contracts to the international firms and implement the irrigation schemes to be rehabilitated and modernized. This is one of the core responsibilities of the PFO.
- e. For Sub-Component 1.4, The PFO will support the development of real time agro weather forecasting and marketing information system and their dissemination tools to improve farmers' long-term capacity for adopting climate Smart Agriculture technologies, managing weather shocks and climate risks, and sustaining agricultural production under changing climatic conditions.
- f. For sub-component 2.1, the PFO will support the formation of alliances for service and marketed related activities that are new as well as to strengthen the sustainable existing alliances.
- g. For Sub Component 2.2, the PFO will collaborate with the Grants Officer to target support to commercial and semi commercial off-takers (micro, small and medium agro enterprises) to drive their operations towards more lucrative domestic and export markets while at the same time providing smallholder farmers opportunities for increasing agricultural productivity and commercialization.
- h. Present the PMU at districts meetings, as delegated by the PMU Project Manager.
- i. Brief district administration on Project activities on a regular basis.

QUALIFICATION

- B.Sc in Agriculture, Agronomy or related discipline.

EXPERIENCE

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580 -LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROJECT FIELD OFFICER BEREA

REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO : PROJECT DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing and Qacha's Nek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Under direct supervision of the Project Manager, the Project Field Officer will be responsible for addressing the Project's Project implementation in their assigned districts for all activities of Component 1 and 2.

DUTIES

- a. Participate in the preparation of annual work plans and budget for the Implementation of SADP funded activities.
- b. Disseminate information and organize orientation session in the district to inform Districts officials, communities and other stakeholders of the objectives, Implementation modalities, progress and impact of the different project activities.
- c. For Sub-component 1.1 and Sub component 1.2, the PFO will collaborate with the PMU Climate Smart Agricultural Officer to support the implementations of the Climate Smart Agriculture technologies by providing information on the Project, facilitating linkages between Non-Governmental Organizations and farmers, and undertake the demonstrations and trials and field days.
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- g. For Sub Component 2.2, the PFO will collaborate with the Grants Officer to target support to commercial and semi commercial off-takers (micro, small and medium agro enterprises) to drive their operations towards more lucrative domestic and export markets while at the same time providing smallholder farmers opportunities for increasing agricultural productivity and commercialization.
- h. Present the PMU at districts meetings, as delegated by the PMU Project Manager.
- i. Brief district administration on Project activities on a regular basis.

QUALIFICATION

- B.Sc in Agriculture, Agronomy or related discipline.

EXPERIENCE

- 3 to 5 years of professional experience in Agricultural production

- 3 to 5 years of professional experience in Agricultural production
- In-depth knowledge of agriculture in Lesotho.
- Sesotho and English Fluency

Skills/Abilities

- Community leadership and mentoring skills, able to support, motivate and liaise effectively with community groups.
- Ability and experience in workshop facilitation and giving presentation in both formal and non-formal settings.
- Ability to develop training programs and lessons plans
- Excellent organisational and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and lead a team of communities.

CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION

- Contract duration is one year, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to condescendence by May 2027.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The client shall render the officer with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the officer to discharge his/her duties that is office space laptop/computer, landline telephone, and transport project-related duties.

The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their abilities. A pre-employment screening and background check will be done on all short-listed candidates. The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the project's portfolio. He/she must be willing to work in a team, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of action.

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SUBMISSION

Information required from candidates.

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- Certified copy of an Identity Document (ID).

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- In-depth knowledge of agriculture in Lesotho.
- Sesotho and English Fluency

Skills/Abilities

- Community leadership and mentoring skills, able to support, motivate and liaise effectively with community groups.
- Ability and experience in workshop facilitation and giving presentation in both formal and non-formal settings.
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SUBMISSION

Information required from candidates.

- Signed application letters stating **explicitly relevant qualifications and experience.**
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 Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
 80 Constitution Road
 P.O. Box 24
 Maseru 100

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580 -LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROJECT FIELD OFFICER MAFETENG
REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO : PROJECT DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Under direct supervision of the Project Manager, the Project Field Officer will be responsible for addressing the Project's Project implementation in their assigned districts for all activities of Component 1 and 2.

DUTIES

- a. Participate in the preparation of annual work plans and budget for the Implementation of SADP funded activities.
- b. Disseminate information and organize orientation session in the district to inform Districts officials, communities and other stakeholders of the objectives, Implementation modalities, progress and impact of the different project activities.
- c. For Sub-component 1.1 and Sub component 1.2, the PFO will collaborate with the PMU Climate Smart Agricultural Officer to support the implementations of the Climate Smart Agriculture technologies by providing information on the Project, facilitating linkages between Non-Governmental Organizations and farmers, and undertake the demonstrations and trials and field days.
- d. For Sub-Component 1.3 the PFO will help the PMU Irrigation Engineer to identify, design, award contracts to the international firms and implement the irrigation schemes to be rehabilitated and modernized. This is one of the core responsibilities of the PFO.
- e. For Sub-Component 1.4, The PFO will support the development of real time agro weather forecasting and marketing information system and their dissemination tools to improve farmers' long-term capacity for adopting climate Smart Agriculture technologies, managing weather shocks and climate risks, and sustaining agricultural production under changing climatic conditions.
- f. For sub-component 2.1, the PFO will support the formation of alliances for service and marketed related activities that are new as well as to strengthen the sustainable existing alliances.
- g. For Sub Component 2.2, the PFO will collaborate with the Grants Officer to target support to commercial and semi commercial off-takers (micro, small and medium agro enterprises) to drive their operations towards more lucrative domestic and export markets while at the same time providing smallholder farmers opportunities for increasing agricultural productivity and commercialization.
- h. Present the PMU at districts meetings, as delegated by the PMU Project Manager.
- i. Brief district administration on Project activities on a regular basis.

QUALIFICATION

- B.Sc in Agriculture, Agronomy or related discipline.

EXPERIENCE**(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)**

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580 -LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROJECT FIELD OFFICER THABA TSEKA

REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO : PROJECT DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Under direct supervision of the Project Manager, the Project Field Officer will be responsible for addressing the Project's Project implementation in their assigned districts for all activities of Component 1 and 2.

DUTIES

- a. Participate in the preparation of annual work plans and budget for the Implementation of SADP funded activities.
- b. Disseminate information and organize orientation session in the district to inform Districts officials, communities and other stakeholders of the objectives, Implementation modalities, progress and impact of the different project activities.
- c. For Sub-component 1.1 and Sub component 1.2, the PFO will collaborate with the PMU Climate Smart Agricultural Officer to support the implementations of the Climate Smart Agriculture technologies by providing information on the Project, facilitating linkages between Non-Governmental Organizations and farmers, and undertake the demonstrations and trials and field days.
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- e. For Sub-Component 1.4, The PFO will support the development of real time agro weather forecasting and marketing information system and their dissemination tools to improve farmers' long-term capacity for adopting climate Smart Agriculture technologies, managing weather shocks and climate risks, and sustaining agricultural production under changing climatic conditions.
- f. For sub-component 2.1, the PFO will support the formation of alliances for service and marketed related activities that are new as well as to strengthen the sustainable existing alliances.
- g. For Sub Component 2.2, the PFO will collaborate with the Grants Officer to target support to commercial and semi commercial off-takers (micro, small and medium agro enterprises) to drive their operations towards more lucrative domestic and export markets while at the same time providing smallholder farmers opportunities for increasing agricultural productivity and commercialization.
- h. Present the PMU at districts meetings, as delegated by the PMU Project Manager.
- i. Brief district administration on Project activities on a regular basis.

QUALIFICATION



Kingdom of Lesotho
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486

CREDIT NO: IDA-63580 -LS

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROJECT FIELD OFFICER MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICER

REFERENCE NO:

DURATION: 12 MONTHS

REPORTING TO: MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer shall be responsible to the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager of the SADP II Project Management Unit (PMU) and shall:

- Be responsible for day to day tracking and reporting all SADP activities.
- Using the existing system in place collect and consolidate data in all Project district.
- Assist in supervision of surveys, by providing information to the consultant(s) for carrying it out, ensure complimentary and utility of the information being assembled with the design of the M&E system and ensure that the results from the survey will provide the PMU with the necessary information to be able to assess the project's performance and impact on the project on the target groups;
- Ensure regular data entry in the system and avail it to PMU when needed.
- Produce reports and disseminate as required by PMU.
- Undertake regular visits in all project district for meeting beneficiaries to monitor and verify data collected and checking compliance with reporting requirements.
- Be actively involved in preparation of Annual Work plan and Budget (AWPB).
- Prepare monthly plans and submit for approval to Monitoring and Evaluation Manager.
- Assisting Monitoring and Evaluation Manager on any Monitoring and Evaluation functions from time to time when necessary.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIRED EXPERIENCE

- Degree in statistics, Economics or related discipline
- 1-2 years' work experience in monitoring and evaluation.

SKILLS/ABILITIES

- Be computer literate, especially in electronic spreadsheet, and other specialized accounting packages.
- Have a good working knowledge of analysing data.
- Have strong communication skills.
- Be fluent in both English and national language.

CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION

- Contract duration is one year, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to commence by May 2027.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The client shall render the officer with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the officer to discharge his/her duties that is office space laptop/computer, landline telephone, and transport project-related duties.

The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their abilities. A pre-employment screening and background check will be done on all short-listed candidates. The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the project's portfolio. He/she must be willing to work in a team, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of action. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III paragraph 3.14 to 3.17 of THE WORLD BANK'S Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, Sixth Edition, February 2025, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in Procurement Regulations.

SUBMISSION

Information required from candidates.

- Signed application letters stating **explicitly relevant qualifications and experience.**
- Provide current CV's (including telephone, email and contact details).
- Certified copies of educational certificates and transcripts.
- Provide names and contact details of three (3) contactable professional referees.
- Certified copy of an Identity Document (ID).

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

SUBMISSION: Interested candidates should deliver their applications to the address below not later than the **9th March 2026 at 16.00 hours.**

Human Resources Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
80 Constitution Road
P.O. Box 24
Maseru 100



NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANISATION

P.O.Box 1167
Mafeteng 900
Lesotho
Tel: (+266) 2270 0232
Fax: (+266) 2270 1340

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

IFB No. NDSO/BUDGETMANAGEMENTSYSTEM/2026/02

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF BUDGET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The National Drug Service Organization (NDSO) is the Central Medical Store for the Ministry of Health. It is mandated to **procure, store and distribute** Medicines, Medical Supplies and Laboratory Consumables for the Health Institutions in Lesotho. NDSO is legally gazette -Legal Notice Supplement No.4 to Gazette No.19 of the 2nd March 2007. NDSO has set aside the funds to finance the Supply and installation of Budget Management System needed within the Organization.

NDSO invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the:
Supply and Installation of a Budget Management System

PROCUREMENT METHOD

Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding** procedures in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2023.

AVAILABILITY OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS

A complete set of bidding documents in English is available for viewing at:

- At the NDSO Procurement Building, Mafeteng, Lesotho and
- From the NDSO website www.ndso.org.ls
- For further information, contact:

Procurement Manager

National Drug Service Organization

Main South One Road
Mafeteng 900, Lesotho

Tel: +266 222 15 300

Email: tenders@ndso.org.ls

BID SUBMISSION & OPENING

- Closing Date:** 27th March 2026 at 14:00 hrs
 - Bid Opening:** 27th March 2026 at 14:30 hrs
 - Venue:** NDSO Procurement Building Boardroom, Main South One Road, Mafeteng, Lesotho
- Late bids shall be rejected.

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486

CREDIT NO: IDA-63580 -LS

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

REFERENCE NO:

DURATION: 12 MONTHS

REPORTING TO: PROJECT DIRECTOR BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Under direct supervision of the Project Manager, the Procurement Specialist is responsible for coordinating, planning, execution and delivery of the Project procurement activities consistent with the agreed project Procurement arrangement with quality and efficiency. Function is based on World Bank's procurement regulations or Government of Lesotho's Public Procurement regulations and IFAD guidelines and procedures.

DUTIES

- In collaboration with other members of the PCU and implementing partners, prepare the rolling 18-month procurement plan for works, goods and services required by the project and submit same for approval by the PSC and World Bank along with the AWPB.
- Ensure the preparation and assembly of tender and contract documents for specific procurements according to Government and IFAD guidelines.
- Using the Bank's Standard procurement documents, prepare Bidding Documents and Request for Proposals (RFP), Request for Quotations, Letters of Invitations, clarifications/amendments to procurement documentation, minutes of the Evaluation Committees and negotiation meetings, Evaluation Reports, contract award decisions, etc. These should include standardized forms to be used for International and Local Shopping methods to conform to the Bank Procurement Rules & Procedures.
- In consultation with the Project Managers, prepare and update the project's Annual Procurement Plan and Budget detailing contract packages (including estimated cost) for goods, consultancy services and non-consulting services, the procurement/selection methods and processing times until completion of each procurement activity.
- In consultation with the relevant technical staffs of the organizations, coordinate the preparation of (Terms of Reference), technical specifications using standard documentation agreed with the Bank and organizations, and participate in evaluation of bids, expressions of interest for preparation of shortlists, pre-qualification of suppliers, etc., where necessary. The Consultant shall review Terms of Reference and specifications for completeness, consistency, and fairness, and if necessary, suggest amendments.
- Prepare tender notices and advertisements in appropriate national and international papers and websites as required.
- Participate in relevant tender committee meetings at the Lead Agency and assist with the preparation of committee reports.
- Review and advise on tender evaluation reports prepared by the districts and other implementing agencies and make necessary follow-up.
- Monitor and ensure timely responses to procurement questions raised by the Bank. For services, follow-up with the short-listed consultants, to ensure their participation in the selection exercise.
- Maintain procurement files containing high quality and readily available information for review by supervision missions.
- Maintain the contract register and regularly update the same with monitoring data on progress of all contracts.
- Advise the Project on processes for disposal of un-required stores and equipment including actual disposal in line with the Laws of the Country;
- Provide training and capacity building needs of procurement staff of the Project and other identified stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability of the procurement procedures, with a view of strengthening staff capacities and skills, filling skills gap and support institutional strengthening.
- Prepare draft and final contracts and ensure timely distribution of all relevant procurement and contract documents to relevant stakeholders;
- Ensure timely receipt of the goods and consultant's status reports, confirming accepta-



Kingdom of Lesotho
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

bility of the goods delivered, and acceptability of consultants reports as reviewed, and recommending payments to the service providers as they become due.

- Liaise with all relevant teams within the organizations with a view to prepare monthly, semi-annual, and annual procurement reports (or other periods as may be required) as inputs into the Project stakeholder reports to be submitted to donor partners, member countries, the Bank, and other relevant stakeholders. Regular monitoring of procurement across the Project and problem-solving as needed including regular updates on problems experienced and on changing needs for specific types of advice
- Provide training and capacity building needs of procurement staff of the Project and other identified stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability of the procurement procedures, with a view of strengthening staff capacities and skills, filling skills gap and support institutional strengthening.
- Assist in supervising contracts in accordance with the respective contract agreements including the processing of payments, physical inspection and testing, receipt, and transfer of the goods to the Client, submission of consultants' reports and closing of respective contracts.
- Draw the attention of the PD to potential or actual violation of contractual terms by contractors and service providers for appropriate sanctions.
- Participate in procurement audits and reviews of the Project.
- Undertake any other duties related to procurement management as may assigned by the PD.

QUALIFICATION

- Have a Bachelor's degree in Procurement, Law, Engineering, Commerce, Public Administration, Accounting, or any other related field. A post graduate qualification will be an added advantage.

EXPERIENCE

- Have a minimum of 8 years' experience dealing with procurement of civil works, goods, and services, and with the award of contracts for Government/donor funded projects.
- Have experience in preparing tender and contract documents for national and international competitive bidding.
- Have a comprehensive knowledge of Public Procurement Regulations, as well as procurement guidelines for IFAD and the World Bank.
- Be computer literate.
- Be fluent in both English and national language.
- Have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Skills/Abilities

- Knowledge of/experience with Bank/other international development organizations' procurement procedures would be an added advantage.
- Good knowledge of the institutional, technical, and commercial aspects of procurement worked as a procurement specialist in a donor financed project, capacity building in procurement, etc.
- Experience in delivering projects at international level.
- Demonstrated high experience in contract management at managerial level.
- Fluency in spoken English and ability to write lucid reports and documents in English is required.
- Strong organization skills and ability to work in a team-oriented, dynamic, and diverse environment.
- Proven track record in working effectively within multidisciplinary teams, recognize the value of sharing ideas, knowledge and information with others and takes personal re-

sponsibility for doing so.

- Excellent interpersonal skills, sound judgment, communication skills, training experience, ability to identify and resolve policy and operational constraints.
- Demonstrated computer skills, knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite especially, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously, set priorities, and work independently, or under minimum supervision.
- Demonstrated capacity for initiative and efficient decision making with competent analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Demonstrated competence by the level of timeliness and accuracy the individual displays in carrying out his/her role, personal energy and enthusiasm and willingness to exceed expectations in his/her role.
- Ability to plan and organize effectively and build alternative actions into plans, deploying resources effectively and reviewing priorities.
- A commitment to supporting counterpart staff to achieve the outcomes and objectives of the organizations.
- Recognition and respect of peers, and a demonstrated ability to interact effectively and collegially with peers at all levels.
- Demonstrated ability to make sound judgments on capacity issues that will require management referral and guidance.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a mentoring role.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate ideas and analyses clearly and tactfully, both orally and in writing.
- Demonstrated ability to assist and support the development of useful procurement processes and procedures effectively.
- Demonstrated ability to transfer skills and knowledge/ previous training or teaching experience is an advantage; and
- Demonstrated ability to adapt to challenges and changes in the workplace.

CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION

- Contract duration is one year, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to commence by May 2027.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
80 Constitution Road
P.O. Box 24
Maseru 100

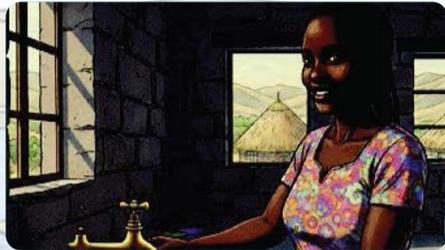
METSI A HLOEKILENG A TLA MOTSENG OO U PHELANG HO OONA

Morero oa Phepelo ea Metsi Mabalane – Mothati oa Bobeli (LLWDP II) o tsebisa sechaba sa libaka tse anngoeng ke Morero hore Kh'amphani ea 4D Climate Solutions eleng Moeletsi, e ntse e potoloha le libaka tsa Morero ho fana ka thuto, ho ruta le ho hlokomelisa sechaba ka Tlhopho Bocha ea phepelo ea metsi mabalane, e reretsoeng ho kenngoa tšebetsong ke 'muso oa Lesotho.

TŠEBELETSO E NCHA EA METSI E TLISA METSI A:



A hloekile: A bolokehileng ho thibela mafu.



A nolofatsang bophelo: U bula pompo ea hau, ha u sa lokela ho tsamaea leeto le lelelele ho ea pompong ea sechaba kapa selibeng.



A tšepahalang: A fumanehang le har'a komello, le litukiso li etsahalang kapele.



A theko e bobebe: Ha u sebelisa 5000L, utla lefella 1000L e nngoe le e nngoe M6.11 feela ka khoeli. Litjeo li phahama ho latela tšebeliso ea hau ea metsi.

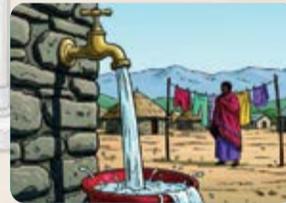
MATHATA A LITŠEBELETSO TSA KHALE TSA METSI KE A FE?

- Ha a hloekisoa, joale a ka u kulisa,
- Ha a tšepahale:
 - Pompo e ka robeha 'me ea se lokisoa,
 - A ka fela ka nako ea komello,
- Ha a nolofatse bophelo:
 - U lokela ho nka leeto ho a lata selibeng kapa
 - pompong ea sechaba.



BOIKARABELLO BA HAU KE BO FE?

1. Fokotsa (se ke ua sebelisa metsi a mangata ho hlatsoa)
2. Sebelisa Hape (sebelisa metsi a hlatsoitseng ho noesetsa lijalo tsa hau)
3. Lokisa moo metsi a rothang kapa ho lutla motseng oa hau
4. Lefella tšebeliso ea metsi bonyane khoeli le khoeli



SE BOLELANG HO UENA?

U ka kenya kopo ea khokelo ea metsi a fihlang ka peipi ntlong ea hau kapa, ua tsoela pele ho fumana metsi pompong ea sechaba kapa selibeng haeba li ntse li sebetsa.

HOBANENG TŠEBELETSO EA HO TLISA POMPO LEBALENG LA HAU E LOKELA HO LEFELLOA?

Metsi ke mahala, empa khokelo le bosebeletsi ba ho a tlisa nako tsohle abile a hloekile li hloka ho lefelloa hobane:



Letamo le aheloa hore metsi a fumanehe le ka linako tsa komello.



Ka nako ea tlhoekiso, ho sebelisoa mechini le lihlahisoa tse thusang hore metsi a bolokehe.



Ho hloka hlahla litjeo ho pompa metsi ka mechine le motlakase ho bopa marangrang a isang metsi malapeng.



Ho hiroa basebetsi bakeng sa tšebetso ea letsatsi le letsatsi le tukiso moo ho robehileng malapeng.

TEFISO EA TŠEBELETSO EA METSI E TLA TSAMAEA JOANG?

- **Ho hokeloa** peipe e boholo ba limitara tse 150 kapa ka tlase: **M1,620.00 – M4,860.00.**
- Limitara tse fetang 150 u tla fuoa litjeo ho loatela bohole ba sebaka.
- Mofani oa lits'ebeliso o tla bala mithara khoeli le khoeli,
- Litfiso tsa khoeli li latela tšebeliso ea hau ea metsi mekhahlelong ena:

Band A	0 – 5 kl	M6.10/ 1,000 litara
Band B	5 – 10 kl	M10.39 / 1,000 litara
Band C	10 – 15 kl	M18.29 / 1,000 litara
Band D	>15 kl	M25.24 / 1,000 litara

Ha u sebelisa ka holimo ho 5000L ka khoeli, u patala tjena khoeli le khoeli:

Band A	0 – 5 kl	M0.00
Band B	>5 – 10 kl	M49.18
Band C	>10 – 15 kl	M49.18
Band D	>15 kl	M49.18

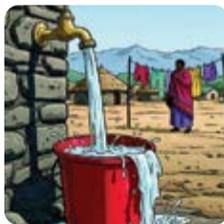
Mohlala oa litfiso tsa khoeli

160L ka letsatsi kapa linkho tsa 20L tse 8 ka letsatsi.

Tefiso ea khoeli: (Matsatsi 30 x 160L) **4800L/4,8kl x M 6.11 +**

Tefiso e tlamang + Lekhetso Kakaretso: M29.28 ka khoeli

SEO U LOKELANG HO SE ETSA TŠEBELISONG EA METSI



Seke oa siea u buletse pompo.



Se ke oa sebelisa metsi a mangata ho hlapa.



Tšella feela ka metsi a hlapileng kapa a hlatsoitseng.



Hlapa matsoho ha u tsoa ntloaneng.

BAKENG SA LITLHAKISETSO HOKAHANA LE LESOTHO LOWLANDS WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - PHASE II LINOMORONG TSE LATELANG: 266 6282 7550 (WhatsApp).

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Arts & Entertainment

Newsday

Mamello Rakotoane

The Lesotho-China Fellowship Collegiate recently marked a watershed moment in its history, hosting its fifth Annual Awards Giving Ceremony at its Sehlabeng Sa Thuathe premises.

The event was not just a prize-giving, but a celebration of an institution that is rapidly redefining educational excellence in Lesotho.

The ceremony honoured 47 top achievers who propelled the school to its most impressive academic performance to date. The atmosphere was electric, blending rigorous academic recognition with a rich cultural showcase featuring traditional dancers, renowned singers, and inspiring poetry.

The highlight of the festivities was the announcement of the school's record-breaking results. The institution achieved a 78.8% A-Level pass rate, the highest in its history, while AS-Level students secured a perfect 100% pass rate.

These figures underscore the school's progressive evolution towards a world-class center for Basotho learners. The school's principal 'Manthatsi Tikoane expressed profound pride in this new benchmark.

"This milestone represents not only the dedication of our students but also the unwavering commitment of our teaching staff and the supportive environment fostered by our entire school community," she stated.

The 47 honorees, consisting of 20 A-Level and 27 AS-Level students, received medals, certificates, and gifts. Special recognition was given to those who earned 'A' symbols in specific subjects, highlighting a mastery of complex disciplines.

The Collegiate has built a formidable reputation for producing graduates who thrive on the international stage. Many alumni are currently pursuing high-level careers and degrees across the globe, proving that the education provided at Sehlabeng Sa Thuathe is a passport to the world. To inspire the current cohort, Alumnus Bokang Majoro shared his journey of resilience.

"Every challenge you face is an opportunity to grow stronger. I stand here today because I refused to give up, and I believe each and every one of you has the same potential to achieve greatness. Never let anyone tell you that you cannot succeed. The path may be difficult, but the destination is worth every struggle," Majoro told the students.

The school's progress is mirrored by the growing support of the Basotho business community. A significant

Lesotho-China Fellowship school reaches new academic frontier



Top performing students of Lesotho-China Fellowship Collegiate

highlight was a M50,000 sponsorship presented by Bothata Mahlala of the Bothata Mahlala Development Foundation, for the top-performing student.

"This investment in our students is an investment in Lesotho's future. When we support education, we are building a stronger nation. I am proud to be associated with an institution that produces such exceptional young people, and I encourage other members of our community to follow suit," Mahlala noted.

Beyond the spreadsheets and percentages, the ceremony highlighted the school's commitment to "the whole child." By integrating arts and culture into the celebration, the Collegiate demonstrated that education is about nurturing creative minds as much as academic ones.

As the institution looks toward the future, Principal Tikoane remains focused on the long-term impact.

"This is a moment of great pride for our entire school community. Our students have proven that with dedication, hard work, and the right support system, anything is possible. We are committed to continuing this legacy of excellence and nurturing future leaders who will make significant contributions to Lesotho and the world," she added.

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LNOC hosts regional marketing forum

Refiloe Molise

Sports leaders from 10 Southern African countries gathered at Avani Maseru Hotel for the 2026 Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) Zone VI Regional Marketing Forum, hosted by the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC).

The forum carried a strong call to reposition sport as a strategic investment and to strengthen financial sustainability across the region.

LNOC's President Letsatsi Ntsibolane warmly welcomed delegates in their respective languages, symbolising unity among member countries including Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa and eSwatini.

"It is indeed my great honour to welcome you to Maseru, Lesotho for the ANOCA Zone VI Marketing Forum. Your presence here reflects our shared commitment to strengthening the sustainability, visibility and the impact of sport across Southern Africa," Ntsibolane said.

He told delegates that the forum comes at a critical time, as National Olympic Committees (NOCs) face growing pressure to deliver excellence in athlete development while dealing with financial constraints and rising stakeholder expectations.

"This forum focuses on strategic marketing, value-based partnerships and resource mobilisation. It speaks directly to the challenges that face us, but at the same time there are opportunities that we need to harness,"

he said.

Ntsibolane referred to Olympic Solidarity reports presented at the end of quadrennial cycles, noting that in 2014 Botswana led the continent in fully utilising available funds, while many other African nations failed to maximise such opportunities. He urged NOCs to take full advantage of existing funding mechanisms.

Quoting Olympic founder Pierre de Coubertin, he emphasised that sport has never been about competition alone.

"Sport is a powerful driver of social cohesion, youth empowerment, health promotion and economic opportunity. Our task is to position sport as a valued investment, one that attracts partners who share our vision for sustainable development," he said.

He further stressed that in the digital era, visibility is power and NOCs must harness social media, data analytics and digital storytelling to engage young people and attract sponsors. He added that marketing success must be built on trust, transparency and ethical leadership.

The ANOCA Zone VI leadership was represented by Thabani Gonye, President of the Zimbabwe Olympic Committee.

Zakhele Dlamini of the Southern Africa Confederation of Athletics (SACA) then delivered the keynote address and officially declared the forum open on behalf of ANOCA Zone VI.

"Across ANOCA Zone VI, our 10 National Olympic Committees operate in increasingly



Thabani Gonye, President of the Zimbabwe Olympic Committee, addresses delegates during the ANOCA Zone VI regional marketing forum hosted by the Lesotho National Olympic Committee at Avani Maseru Hotel

complex environments. Financial resources are constrained, expectations are rising and sustainability has become one of the most pressing challenges," Dlamini said.

He noted that many NOCs remain heavily dependent on Olympic Solidarity funding, while government support is limited in most countries. He outlined three key pillars by which NOCs are judged: elite athlete performance, strategic partnerships and governance.

"Marketing and resource mobilisation are the heart of the matter. They are the foundation on which everything we do is funded," he said.

Dlamini challenged delegates to move beyond simply explaining their activities to clearly communicating the value and measurable impact of their programmes to sponsors and development partners. He encouraged diversification of income streams, stronger branding and deeper regional cooperation.

Director of Sports Department in the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Thabo Ntsiki,

also addressed the forum, reaffirming government's commitment to sport development.

"As government, we reaffirm our commitment to the development of sport as a key pillar of national development. However, government alone cannot carry this responsibility. Collective investment is essential to fully realising the value of sport," Ntsiki said.

He urged delegates to use the forum to develop practical strategies that will transform how sport is marketed and funded in the region, stressing that partnerships with the private sector and development partners are crucial.

The two-day forum focused on strengthening marketing capacity, improving governance, leveraging digital platforms and building value-based partnerships.

By the close of deliberations, leaders agreed that stronger collaboration, innovation and accountability will be essential in securing a sustainable future for the Olympic movement across Southern Africa.

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A city on the run

Seabata Mahao

Running in Lesotho is fast becoming more than just a sport. It is becoming a lifestyle, a livelihood and a powerful vehicle for social connection.

From the community jogging clubs that gather at dawn in our villages to elite athletes on the international stage, the culture of running is surging. And this transformation is more evident in the heart of the capital city, Maseru.

Last Sunday, the fourth edition of the Nedbank Maseru City Run transformed Maseru into a vibrant sea of green, suggesting that road running is increasingly moving from the fringes and becoming a social urban activity.

The streets were painted green as a record-breaking crowd took off from the iconic Makoanyane Square, finishing amidst cheers at the Maseru Club. This year's edition attracted over 3,300 participants, more than double last year's 1,400 athletes.

This exponential growth firmly positions Maseru City Run not just as a race, but as the Kingdom's flagship marathon and a cornerstone of Maseru's social calendar.

The turnout reflected a cross-generational passion for the tarmac from children, Under-12s, Juniors, Veterans, Masters, and Grand Masters. In total, 3,308 runners officially crossed the timing mats, underscoring a rapid nationwide interest in fitness and road racing.

The event's prestige was bolstered by the participation of the Royal Family. Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso completed the 10km race, while Crown Prince Lerotholi

Seeiso tackled the 21km event. Princess Senate Seeiso also joined the festivities in the 5km category.

Government officials also joined in the action. Motlatsi Maqelepo, the Minister of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture completed the 10km alongside Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission's President, Baba Malephane.

"It is a great honour to see the Royal Family taking part in different categories, which shows the importance of sport in our society. This marathon is more than just a race, it is a driver of tourism and a positive boost to our economy," Maqelepo said.

He emphasised that growing regional participation strengthens Lesotho's economy and enhances its global profile.

The marathon is rapidly gaining traction beyond our borders, with over 300 runners traveling from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. Crucially, the 42.2km course is now a certified official qualifier for both the Comrades Marathon and the Two Oceans Marathon, elevating Maseru's status on the continental running calendar. Organisers are now eyeing the World Athletics Calendar to draw global elites to our high-altitude terrain.

Event organiser Tšotleho Tšoeute from Eventful Moments expressed pride in the execution of the race but reminded the growing community of novice runners to stay safe.

"Beginners need to start with the shortest time. They should rather start running for 15 minutes out and 15 minutes back to see where challenges come up, and increase the pace if



The fourth edition of Maseru City Run in action this past Sunday

need be," he advised.

Tšoeute further urged first-time runners to consult medical professionals before beginning training and emphasised the importance of proper running shoes and gradual progression to avoid injuries.

"Shoes are made for different purposes, so it is essential that the right type is used for running," he said.

One of the standout performers in the 42.2km race, Tšepo Ramashamole, admitted he had minimal preparation but used the race as a stepping stone toward the Two Oceans Marathon in Cape Town this April.

"I did not prepare enough for this race, but I wanted to challenge myself and get ready for the Two Oceans Marathon. I did not even consider the finishing time, as this was just prac-

tice," Ramashamole said.

He revealed that he had also competed in the Pirates Half Marathon the previous week, finishing third a tougher race that served as preparation for bigger ambitions.

The winners were as follows:

42km Men: KhoarahlaneSeutloali, Tšepo Ramashamole, and Tšepang Mokhethi.

42km Women: 'MathaboMapheelle, Re-filoeKhechane, and VelocityMaseko.

21km: 'MopenyaneLebelo, Kabelo Lesia, and Tšeliso Masiu.

10km Men: LebakengMorobane, Tšepo Mathibelle, and ThabisoRamaisa.

10km Women: LikeleliMajara, 'Mathakane Letsie, and ReitumetseThethana.

5km: male, PolakiMolao and female: Lineo-Moraba

Sports stars honoured



Kananelo Mokhele

The Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission (LSRC) recently honoured outstanding athletes and sports personalities during a glittering ceremony held in Maseru.

The annual event, known as the Lesotho Annual Sports Awards, recognises excellence across various sporting disciplines and has become a key fixture on the country's sporting calendar.

This year marked the fifth edition of the awards since their launch in 2017. The ceremony was temporarily suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic but has since returned with renewed energy and purpose.

Although countries participating in the AUSC Region 5 Games are expected to host their annual sports awards in November, Lesotho successfully appealed to the regional committee to stage its ceremony at a later

date.

Since their inception, winners have received trophies and cash prizes, with 20 recipients recognised in previous editions. This year, 15 categories were contested across different sporting codes. The winners will represent Lesotho at the Regional Annual Sports Awards at the continental level.

Speaking at the event, the Minister of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture, Motlatsi Maqelepo underscored the importance of recognising those who dedicate themselves to sport.

"Everyone who dedicates themselves to sport deserves recognition and encouragement to continue working hard," he said.

Maqelepo said as the nation celebrates its sporting heroes it is also rebuilding its future by nurturing young talent. He emphasised that the awards ceremony will remain an annual event, describing it as not only a celebration of sporting excellence but also of Basotho nation-

al pride.

"These awards recognise the dedication of athletes, coaches, and parents who have contributed to the development of each player. Sport in our country is not just entertainment; it is education, it boosts the economy, and it creates employment," he added.

The minister stressed that the sports sector should not be viewed as one that needs sympathy, but as one deserving significant investment to drive growth for the benefit of the Basotho nation.

In a major announcement, he revealed that the ministry plans to construct stadiums in three districts, Leribe, Butha-Buthe and Quthing provided the budget permits. The long-term goal, he said, is for each district to have its own stadium.

Baba Malephane, the LSRC's president described the fifth edition of the awards as a proud milestone, but acknowledged that more work still lies ahead.

"It is the responsibility of all sports associations to guide young people so they can become future stars," Malephane said.

He urged associations to submit more nominations, noting that although there are 36 sports associations in the country, less than half have had athletes receive awards. He emphasised the need for stronger collaboration to ensure broader representation across sporting codes.

Congratulating all nominees, Malephane said reaching the nomination stage alone was a significant achievement.

Among the winners was sports journalist Reitumetse Mabaleha from Match Day, who received the Sports Media Award. Speaking after the ceremony, Mabaleha expressed pride in the recognition.

"This award shows that there are people who recognise and appreciate the dedication of sports broadcasters in their work," she said, adding that the accolade belongs to all sports journalists, both men and women committed to reporting on sport in Lesotho.

Below is the full list of award winners:

- Junior Male Athlete with a Disability – Matla Lehata
- Junior Female Athlete with a Disability – Mamakhooa Lipakela
- Senior Male Athlete with a Disability – Thuto Liphoto
- Sportsman of the Year – Bafokeng Liphhalana
- Sportswoman of the Year – Mamosebetsi Sehlooho
- Volunteer of the Year – Nthabiseng Tsunyane
- Administrator/Coordinator of the Year – Teboho Letseka
- Coach of the Year – Itumeleng Qhoai
- Referee of the Year – Lipontšuo Le-kuba
- Sports Media Award – Reitumetse Mabaleha
- LSRC President's Award – Makoeke Mahanetsa
- Team of the Year – Lishoeshoe



Titans Bantu and Lioli renew rivalry

Seabata Mahao

All roads lead to Bambatha this weekend as Bantu FC and Lioli FC renew their long-standing rivalry in what promises to be the headline act of the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) triple header.

With the title race entering a decisive phase, the stakes could not be higher. Bantu sit third on the log with 38 points after 10 matches, while Lioli trail closely in fifth place on 37 points.

Only a single point separates the two bitter rivals, and both remain within touching distance of leaders Lijabatho and Lifofane, who are locked at the summit with 42 points apiece, separated only by goal difference.

Victory for Bantu would solidify their grip on third place and potentially open a three-point cushion should Matlama currently fourth on 37 points falter in their fixture.

The same arithmetic applies to Lioli. A win for them would see them leapfrog Bantu and strengthen their pursuit of the top two.

Such is the fine margin in this season's title race that a single misstep could prove fatal to championship ambitions. Both sides are four and five points adrift of the leaders, leaving little room for error.

Whenever Bantu and Lioli clash, fireworks are guaranteed. Bragging rights are firmly on the line in a fixture that has dominated football conversations throughout the week.

Their first-round meeting ended in a thrilling 2-2 draw. However, Lioli have had the upper hand in recent encounters, defeating Bantu twice last season 2-0 in the first round and 3-1 in the return leg.

Bantu will be desperate to halt that dominance. Adding intrigue to the contest is the presence of Motheo Mohapi, who

coached Lioli last season but now occupies the Bantu bench.

Across the technical area is the recently appointed Lioli mentor Halemakale Mahlaha, facing one of his sternest early tests as he seeks to steady the ship.

Lioli's recent form two wins and three draws in their last five matches reflects a side struggling for consistency. Draws against relegation-threatened Liphakoe and Manonyane dented their title defence, and last weekend's frustrating stalemate against Manonyane exposed vulnerabilities.

Bantu, meanwhile, fought back to secure a point against log-leaders Lijabatho in a 1-1 draw and also shared spoils with Lijabatho previously. Neither side heads into Saturday's showdown on the back of a win.

Much attention will focus on Bantu's new signing, Moeketsi Sekola, whose decisive contributions have earned Bantu valuable points even when performances have faltered. The South African's eye for goal could prove decisive once again.

Lioli, however, boast match-winners of their own in the form of veterans Litšephe-Marabe and MasoabiNkoto, who possess the creativity and attacking spark capable of unsettling Bantu's disciplined defensive structure.

The midfield battle is expected to be pivotal Bantu's organisation and tactical discipline tested against Lioli's pace and invention.

How effectively Lioli break down Bantu's shape, and how ruthlessly Bantu exploit spaces left in transition, may ultimately determine the outcome.

This fixture carries immense psychological weight. A win would significantly boost either side's title credentials, while defeat could severely dent hopes in what



Lioli Football Club squad 2025-2026



Bantu Football Club squad 2025-2026

is shaping up to be one of the tightest championship races in recent memory.

At the top, Lijabatho and Lifofane remain deadlocked on 42 points. Any slip-up from the chasing pack could widen the gap; conversely, victory for Bantu or Lioli would dramatically tighten the race.

Saturday's action at Bambatha begins at 12 noon with struggling Manonyane taking on Liphakoe in a relegation six-pointer, live on FIFA+. Manonyane are buoyed by their recent 1-1 draw against Lioli, a result that lifted them two points clear of both Maroala and Members. Only two points separate them from Liphakoe, making the clash critical in the survival battle.

At 14:00, Members face Matlama in another intriguing contest before the main event at 16:00 sees Bantu and Lioli go head-to-head, also live on FIFA+.

This marks the third triple-header initiative organised by the Premier League Management Committee (PLMC), aimed at boosting gate takings for clubs. PLMC spokesperson Moeketsi Ramakatsa noted that experience has shown double or triple headers generate stronger attendance compared to single fixtures.

Sunday Fixtures, the action continues on Sunday with:

- Lijabatho vs LDF (Morija, 16:00)**
- Majantja vs LCS (Sebatana Russell Technical Centre, 16:00)**
- LU FC vs LMPS (Ratjomose, 14:00) - Live on FIFA+**
- Machokha vs Lifofane (Ratjomose, 16:30) - Live on FIFA+**
- Linare vs Maroala (LCS Ground, 16:00)**

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