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M12 MONTHLY ALLOWANCE FOR WORKERS AT MOHLOMI HOSPITAL



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• **Nurses hired on probationary terms in 2018 remain unconfirmed 8 years later**

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M12 monthly allowance for workers at Mohlomi Hospital

- **Ombudsman describes it as an insult**
- **Nurses hired on probationary terms in 2018 remain unconfirmed 8 years later**

Ntsoaki Motaung

The ceilings are collapsing. The showers have no doors. Eighty-four men live in a unit built for thirty-five.

And for eight years, nurses have waited, on probation, without benefits, without certainty, while the state pays them a monthly risk allowance that cannot buy a single loaf of bread.

These are not fragments from a forgotten war zone.

They are the findings of the Ombudsman's Special Follow-Up Report on Mohlomi Mental Hospital, released on Tuesday this week.

Three years after the original inspection laid bare the "deplorable conditions" at Lesotho's only psychiatric hospital, the Office of the Ombudsman has returned to find not progress, but regression.

"This follow-up report is therefore issued with a heavy heart but an unwavering resolve," wrote advocate Tlotliso Polaki, the Ombudsman. "It documents not progress, but regression. It records not reform, but resistance."

Of the ninety-seven recommendations made in 2023, only twelve have been fully implemented. Seventy remain untouched.

M12.00 per month: "A mockery" that has become an insult

In the forensic unit, Lesotho Correctional Services (LCS) officers and nurses work side by side, managing patients described as "highly violent and aggressive." They face physical injury, psychological trauma, and the constant threat of attack. For this, the state compensates them with an allowance that has not changed in years.

"The risk allowance of M12.00 per month, noted in 2023 as 'a mockery,' remains unchanged," the report states. "Three years of inflation have rendered this allowance even more meaningless."

The report calculates the real value: "This amount, which would purchase approximately one loaf of bread, is an insult to staff who risk physical injury daily."



Advocate Tlotliso Polaki

One nurse interviewed for the 2023 report had her spectacles broken by a patient. She received no compensation. The recommendation that a clear policy on compensation be developed "has not been implemented." Staff who suffer losses due to patient violence receive nothing.

"The risk allowance of M12.00 per month, noted in 2023 as requiring review, remains unchanged," the report repeats with weary precision. The Ombudsman now recommends it be increased to between M300 and M500 per month, a twenty-five-fold increase that still barely reflects the danger of the work.

Nurses on probation since 2018

Perhaps no finding better captures the systemic inertia than the fate of the nursing staff.

"Nurses hired on probationary terms since 2018 remain on probation eight years later," the report reveals. "They cannot access benefits such as study leave, and their future remains uncertain. This uncertainty affects their performance and commitment."

Eight years. The entirety of primary education plus one year in secondary education. And still, these nurses wait for confirmation that may never come.

The report is unsparing in its chronology: "The eight-year probationary status of nurses hired in 2018" is listed as evidence of a Ministry characterised by "inertia rather than action."

One senior nursing officer, Mrs 'Mantso Maholi-Rampeta, works alone at the hospital, and she is due to retire in March 2026. The two senior nursing officer positions noted as vacant in 2023 remain vacant. Staff acting in these positions serve without acting allowances, despite a recommendation that they be paid.

"Acting staff not compensated," the report notes bluntly in its implementation table.

The Ministry of Health acknowledges the problem. A new Human Resources Officer has been appointed to resolve "bottlenecks in staff recruitment and confirmation." But progress is stalled by a Ministry of Finance hiring freeze "aimed at managing the national wage bill."

"Many staff officers remain on probation since 2018, and it is only now that the HR is working on confirming them."

Overcrowding: 240 percent of capacity and climbing

The forensic unit at Mohlomi was designed for thirty-five patients. In 2023,

it housed seventy-seven. Today, it houses eighty-four.

"The forensic unit now houses 84 patients (81 male and 3 female), representing an occupancy rate of 240 percent of design capacity," the report states.

The general wards house another seventy patients. The total institutional population stands at 154, "substantially above the 110-patient capacity established after the 2001 refurbishments."

"Patients sleep on mattresses on the floor, with up to eleven patients in rooms designed for four or five," the report documents. "The proximity of patients facilitates the transmission of communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, scabies, HIV/AIDS and respiratory infections."

The hospital no longer has vacant observation cells. "All single cells have to now be shared between four patients, irrespective of circumstances that warrant that a patient be isolated for observation purposes."

One patient's words from 2023 haunt the report. Quoted again in 2026, they have become a prophecy: "Re folile empa re qetella re boetse re hlanya hape ka lebaka la ho lula le bakuli ba bang" — "We have healed, but we end up relapsing as a result of living with other patients."

"Sadly, the same patient is still held at the hospital as he awaits assessment and possible pardon."

The forgotten: Patients detained for decades without review

Because the psychiatrist position was vacant for nine years, because the Advisory Committee has not sat since 2015, and because the Mental Health Review Tribunal last convened in 2015, patients who have recovered from mental illness remain locked inside.

"One patient, committed on account of sexual offences committed while under the influence of dagga in 1998, has now been detained for 28 years," the report reveals. "A second, committed for arson in 2017, has been detained for nine years

despite being stabilised.”

Twenty-eight years. Almost three decades. A detention that began when Nelson Mandela was still president of South Africa, when Lesotho was still under the rule of His Majesty Letsie III's early reign.

“The absence of a functional review mechanism means that these patients, and dozens like them, are effectively serving indeterminate sentences without judicial oversight,” the report concludes. “This is not treatment; this is imprisonment without trial, and it violates Section 8 of the Constitution.”

A foreign Cuban psychiatrist arrived in early 2025, the first psychiatrist able to handle medico-legal matters in nine years. But he speaks neither Sesotho nor English as a first language. “He has had to learn English first to enable him to assess forensic patients,” the report notes. In a full year, he has produced fewer than five evaluation reports.

His contract has now lapsed.

The math of neglect

The report reduces the crisis to numbers that are almost impossible to comprehend as policy choices.

Mohlomi Mental Hospital receives 1.8 percent of the national health budget. Its annual allocation ranges between M8 million and M9 million. “This budget, exemplified by last year's M8 million, is inadequate to meet the needs of the facility.”

By contrast, an estimated 431,000

Basotho suffer from some form of mental illness.

“This allocation of 1.8% of the health budget to the nation's only psychiatric hospital, serving a population in which an estimated 431,000 people suffer from mental illness, reflects a profound misallocation of resources,” the report states. “It is a policy choice that prioritises other health expenditures over mental health.”

The centralised procurement system means that even when money exists, supplies do not arrive. Cleaning detergents have not been received “for the past year.” Communal areas are cleaned with water only. Patients, lacking toilet paper, “use alternatives including mattress sponge and blanket fabric.”

“The hospital's assets are being destroyed because the MOH (Ministry of Health) will not provide M20 rolls of toilet paper consistently,” the report says.

A warning from across the border

The Ombudsman invokes a tragedy that should serve as a warning to every official who reads the report: Life Esidimeni.

In South Africa, 144 psychiatric patients died of starvation and neglect after being transferred to unlicensed facilities. That disaster was described as “the greatest cause of human rights violations” in democratic South Africa.

“Lesotho is not there yet,” the report acknowledges. “But the trajectory is concerning, and the underlying conditions, neglect, under-resourcing,

and lack of oversight, are similar.”

The report does not mince words about what is at stake. “The Life Esidimeni tragedy in South Africa should serve as a warning. That tragedy, in which 144 psychiatric patients died, did not happen overnight. It was the culmination of years of neglect, of warnings ignored, of patients forgotten.”

The patients' words

Throughout the report, the voices of patients and staff break through the bureaucratic language. They are not quoted at length, the Ombudsman's office records their suffering in clinical prose, but their presence is unmistakable.

There is a 19-year-old male patient, admitted for substance-induced psychosis, who committed suicide in the seclusion room in 2025.

There is the 72-year-old man, Souru, who died of high blood pressure and stroke complications in March 2025. He had been under observation for seven years.

There is a 49-year-old female admitted on 20 November 2025 who died two days later, “from an unknown or unidentified cause of death, query cardiopulmonary arrest.”

There is a minor female patient who murdered and facially deskinning another patient, a case documented in 2023, after which “no systemic changes have been implemented to prevent similar incidents.”

And there is the patient who spoke

the words that have become the report's haunting refrain: “We have healed, but we end up relapsing.”

“Act now or explain why you have chosen not to”

The 2023 report ended with hope. This one ends with a demand.

“The 2023 report ended with an expression of hope that the Ministry would use the report to inform intervention measures,” the Ombudsman writes. “That hope has not been realised. This report ends with a demand: act now or explain to the nation why you have chosen not to.”

The Ombudsman recommends that the Principal Secretary (PS) and Director General of Health Services appear before Parliament to account for their failure. That the mental health budget be increased to at least five percent of the health budget. That the M12.00 risk allowance be raised to M500. That nurses hired in 2018 finally be confirmed.

But the report's final paragraph is not about recommendations. It is about time.

“The patients of Mohlomi Mental Hospital have waited long enough.”

Three years of inaction. Nine years without a permanent psychiatrist. Eight years of nurses on probation. Twenty-eight years for one patient still waiting to be pardoned.

The ceilings are still collapsing. The showers still have no doors. And the man who said “we have healed, but we end up relapsing” is still inside.

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'A House Still in Ruins'

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

A follow-up report by Ombudsman Advocate Tlotliso Polaki has painted a grim and worsening picture of conditions inside Lesotho's correctional facilities, warning of systemic failure and continued human rights violations.

Titled "A House Still in Ruins", the report, released this week, finds that the vast majority of recommendations made in 2023 have been ignored, with only nine percent implemented and 91 percent left unaddressed.

This marks the third inspection conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman in the 2025/2026 financial year, under powers granted by Section 135 of the Constitution and Section 10 of the Ombudsman Act of 1996. The inspections assess conditions in detention facilities to determine whether they meet basic standards for human habitation.

Advocate Polaki said the situation has not only persisted but deteriorated.

"Three years have passed since the Office of the Ombudsman first documented the deplorable conditions in Lesotho's correctional facilities," she said.

"The evidence gathered between January and February 2026 reveals a truth that is as uncomfortable as it is undeniable: virtually none of the recommendations made in 2023 have been fully implemented. The situation has, in critical respects, worsened."

The report highlights overcrowding, dilapidated infrastructure, underfunding, and what it describes

as a "deeply ingrained culture of impunity" within the Lesotho Correctional Services (LCS).

Polaki further criticised the government's failure to act on serious incidents, including the alleged torture of inmates at Maseru Central Correctional Institution (MCCI) in December 2023.

"When the State fails to heed warnings... the result is not merely systemic failure but active harm to human beings," she said.

The Ombudsman's findings echo those of the Commission of Inquiry, established to investigate the 2023 prison escapes and subsequent treatment of inmates.

Chaired by Judge Realeboha Mathaba, the commission heard testimony from 197 witnesses over 88 days and implicated more than 120 correctional officers.

It uncovered widespread misconduct, including torture and the death of an inmate, and described brutality and impunity as entrenched within the system.

The commission also criticised leadership failures, particularly under then Commissioner Mating Nkakala, and recommended criminal investigations, disciplinary action, and urgent institutional reforms.

Despite these findings, the Ombudsman notes that no officer has been held accountable to date.

The report further exposes worsening overcrowding, with the inmate population rising by 133 percent, from about 1,835 in 2023 to 2,757 by March 2025.

At MCCI, a facility designed to hold 500 inmates

is now housing 971, far exceeding capacity.

Infrastructure collapse remains a major concern. Facilities in Berea, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, Maseru Female, and the Juvenile Training Centre have been flagged for demolition due to their uninhabitable condition.

Healthcare in prisons has also reached what the report describes as a "critical threshold," with outbreaks of pellagra, scabies and tuberculosis reported in some facilities.

The report adds that dietary standards set out in the 1959 Prison Regulations, which require balanced nutrition including meat, vegetables and milk, have never been implemented since independence. Inmates continue to survive on a limited diet of porridge and beans.

"This state of inmate health constitutes a profound challenge to the government's obligation to uphold fundamental human rights," the report states.

Polaki emphasised that incarceration does not strip individuals of their constitutional rights.

"The right to human dignity is not suspended at the prison gate," she said, describing the report as a "call to action" for authorities.

"The house of Lesotho's correctional system remains in ruins. The question is whether we have the collective will to rebuild it, or allow it to collapse entirely."

Responding to the report, LCS spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Pheko Ntobane conceded that the findings could not be dismissed.

However, he described claims of a culture of impunity as "subjective," depending on one's perspective.

On officers implicated in torture by the Mathaba Commission, Ntobane said disciplinary measures had been taken but could not confirm whether criminal charges had been pursued.

"We cannot torture inmates; there is no such directive," he said. "We are dealing with individuals from different backgrounds, and management engages them regularly."

posed a M1.00 increase, but the consultant's findings justified higher adjustments. He also pointed to recent and anticipated fuel price increases linked to global conflicts.

However, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport says the process for approving new fares has not been completed.

Public Relations Manager Ntumeleng Ntšekhe Moloinyane said even if the proposed M23 fare is agreed upon, consultations must be conducted, the Road Transport Board must approve the fares, and the new rates must be officially published before implementation.

She added that fares were last reviewed in 2023, as government awaited the development of a new pricing framework.

MRTO claims the Road Transport Board had committed to publishing new fares by April 1, 2026, although this has not happened.

It remains unclear whether government has a contingency plan. In previous disputes, the state deployed buses to assist commuters when negotiations collapsed.

Commuters have raised concerns that the proposed increases will disproportionately affect low-income earners.

For instance, a factory worker earning between M2,724 and M3,041 per month, currently spending about M26 per day on transport, would see costs rise to M46 per day under the proposed fares.

This amounts to roughly M920 per month for a five-day work week, a steep increase many fear will be unsustainable.

Police warn against unlawful fare hike

... As transport operators push ahead

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) has warned transport operators against implementing unapproved fare increases, stressing that doing so would be unlawful.

Police spokesperson Superintendent Thabo Mohai said while police cannot act pre-emptively, they are prepared to respond to any violations of the law.

"Lesotho is governed by the rule of law, and no one is permitted to act outside it without consequences," he said.

Mohai added that although police are aware of statements by transport operators, no criminal offence has yet been identified at this stage.

The warning comes as Maseru Regional Transport Operators (MRTO) insist they will introduce new public transport fares from May 1, 2026, with or without approval from the regulator.

MRTO Chairperson Mokete Jonas confirmed that a closed meeting was held this week between transport operators, the Road Transport Board and offi-

cial from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

He said operators had tabled their demands, and government undertook to review them and provide feedback.

At a press conference on Monday, MRTO announced that local fares would increase from M13.00 to M23.00, while long-distance fares would rise by M9.00 for every 10 kilometres.

The association said the proposed increases are based on a consultant's report submitted to the ministry. It cited rising fuel costs, the absence of annual fare reviews, and additional expenses such as new plate-number fees when vehicles are replaced.

MRTO Secretary-General Sehloho Sehloho said the Road Transport Board is expected to review fares annually but has failed to do so for the past three years.

He said this prompted the engagement a consultant to develop a more systematic pricing model.

Sehloho noted that operators had initially pro-

Staff Reporter

In a move to strengthen inclusive education and improve access to learning materials for visually impaired students, the Third Order Society of St Francis (TSSF) Lesotho Group has donated a Braille printer to St Catherine's High School's Centre for the Blind.

The equipment, handed over this week, was funded through the Government of Monaco's Department of International Cooperation's financial assistance to the TSSF.

The package includes the Everest-D V5 Braille printer and Duxbury Braille Translator software, valued at about M113,000.

The printer converts text and images into raised dots, while the software translates documents into accurate Braille, allowing learners to access and produce learning material more independently.

Established in 1906, St Catherine's is the only institution in Lesotho offering secondary education tailored for visually impaired learners. Its Centre for the Blind currently accommodates 24 students.

School headmaster Dr Ntoa Nkanda said the donation comes at a critical time, addressing long-standing challenges in teaching visually impaired learners, particularly in subjects requiring diagrams such as mathematics and science.

"We have no words to describe our gratitude for

Modern braille machine lifts St. Catherine's universal learning

this journey of fostering inclusive learning for our learners. You have once again rescued us from going down under, especially because we did not have the financial resources to buy the Braille printer," Dr Nkanda said.

"Our old Braille printer broke down around September last year, and since then, we struggled a lot with the learning process, and we even had to hire help from another nearby school."

He noted that the new equipment is already yielding results, with improved learner performance.

"We are already seeing the positive impact of the TSSF's support in our school, as we had a visually impaired student who obtained a pass in mathematics for the first during the 2025 end of year examinations. This is quite notable since passing mathematics for visually impaired learners had always been a serious challenge for our learners."

The donation builds on earlier support in 2025, when TSSF, also with Monaco funding, provided Braille writing machines and specialised paper. The latest addition strengthens the school's capacity to produce a wider range of learning materials.

On his part, TSSF's advisor Chaba Mokuku explained that the initiative reflects Monaco's broader commitment to development in Lesotho and other partner countries. He noted that the tiny country supports projects across Africa and the Middle East, focusing on education, health and economic development.

The new printer enhances efficiency by producing Braille quickly, printing on both sides of the paper and supporting tactile graphics such as diagrams and maps. It is also compatible with multiple devices, making it easier to integrate into the school's learning system.

Push for alignment of Lesotho laws with SADC model laws

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Members of Parliament from both houses have called for the alignment of Lesotho's laws with Southern African Development Community (SADC) Model Laws to strengthen governance, protect rights and unlock socio-economic benefits.

The call was made during a two-day meeting convened by the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), which brought together legislators, civil society organisations, government officials and the Office of Parliamentary Counsel (OPC).

Participants agreed that harmonising national legislation with regional frameworks could improve cross-border movement and cooperation, particularly between Lesotho and South Africa.

The meeting discussed several SADC Model Laws, including those on HIV and AIDS, eradicating child marriage and protecting children already in marriage, gender-based violence, elections, and public financial management.

Parliamentary Counsel Advocate Nthabiseng Sekokotoana outlined the process of integrating Model Laws into Lesotho's legislative framework.

She said the OPC is developing a digital platform to serve as a repository for legislation and emphasised that all proposed laws must be constitutionally sound, implementable and enforceable.

Sekokotoana clarified that while the OPC cannot alter the substance of Model Laws, it plays an advisory role on constitutional requirements, existing legal frameworks and legislative gaps.

"For Model Laws, they can serve as a structural backbone or guiding tool," she said, calling for stronger collaboration through multi-stakeholder drafting committees.

She also urged the fast-tracking of an Act of Parliament to strengthen the domestication and implementation of international agreements.

Clare Musonda, SADC-PF Programme Manager for Model Laws, said the forum promotes regional integration, democracy, human rights and good governance.

Although SADC-PF does not have binding law-making powers, she said it advances its work through standing committees and plenary assemblies held at least twice a year.

Health sector stakeholders highlighted key gaps in legislation and service delivery.

Mampho Mafereka from the Ministry of Health cited findings from the Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey 2023/2024, showing that 18 percent of children are married before the age of 18, while 33 percent of women aged 15 to 49 experience intimate partner violence.

She noted that while laws such as the Sexual Offences Act of 2013 and the Penal Code address aspects of sexual violence, they fall short of the comprehensive protections envisioned under the SADC Model Law on Gender-Based Violence.

The data also shows that only 20 percent of women who experience violence report it to authorities, with fewer than 30 percent of rape survivors coming forward.

Blandina Motaung of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), together with MP Itumeleng Rantšo, emphasised the need to prioritise village health workers (VHWs).

Rantšo argued that primary health care remains weak and urged the Ministry of Health to demonstrate commitment by reflecting such priorities in the national budget.

"I might be sitting here and being told that as a parliamentarian I pass the budget, but you come with the budget already with priorities," she said.

Meanwhile, MP 'Mope Khati, who is also a member of SADC-PF, reminded participants of the Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee (RPMLOC) benchmarking visit to Lesotho held from 8 to 9 October 2025.

He said the committee monitors progress on the domestication of Model Laws and regional policies.

Khati noted that Lesotho was selected to host the inaugural RPMLOC visit based on reports presented at the SADC-PF 56th and 57th Plenary Assemblies, which indicated notable progress in aligning national laws with regional standards.

He added that, with support from the SADC-PF Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Governance and Climate Action project, Parliament has undertaken capacity-building initiatives aimed at strengthening legislation in line with SADC Model Laws.



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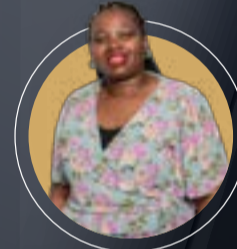
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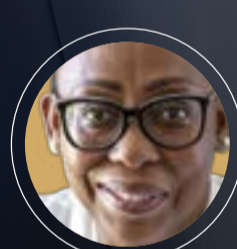
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Business

Sekhiba's enterprising spirit transforms local tourism

Refiloe Molise

Family, friends, industry stakeholders and business leaders gathered at Scenery Guest House Stadium on Wednesday to celebrate Marethabile Sekhiba, whose growing influence in Lesotho's hospitality sector continues to redefine local tourism standards.

The surprise event followed her recent recognition as the 2026 Outstanding Tourism Entrepreneur Award winner at the China Trade Expo & Global Awards, cementing her position as one of the country's leading figures in hospitality and tourism.

Speakers from across the tourism and business sectors paid tribute to Sekhiba's expanding footprint, highlighting her role in transforming accommodation services and elevating Lesotho's appeal as a destination.

Mamello Morojele, the acting CEO of Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC), said Sekhiba has been a key player in reshaping the industry since entering the sector around 2008, at a time when innovation in hospitality was still limited.

"In those years, she was one of the few young people who brought change and creativity into the industry. Scenery Guest House was designed in a way that reflected the trends and expectations of travellers at the time," she said.

Morojelo noted that Sekhiba's influence has grown steadily over the years, with her business expanding beyond its original base to areas such as Maqalika and Mokhotlong, reflecting both strategic vision and adaptability.

"You have kept on going, you have kept the creativity moving, from Stadium to Maqalika and Mokhotlong. You have closely observed the trends of tourism and hospitality," she added.

She further described Sekhiba as a visionary leader whose impact extends beyond her own enterprise to shaping the broader direction of the industry.

"In her, I have seen a dreamer, a visionary and a leader that Lesotho needs to lift this tourism industry for the world to see," she said.

Other speakers echoed these sentiments, pointing to her growing role in job creation, mentorship and positioning Lesotho as a competitive tourism destination. Her ability to blend business success with sector-wide influence has made her a standout figure in the industry.

Sekhiba's journey is underpinned by a strong academic and professional background. Born in Maseru, she attended Maseru Primary LEC and later Morija Girls High School. She went on to study at the Centre for Accounting Studies, qualifying as a Char-

tered Accountant before pursuing a master's degree in Ireland. Her early career in finance laid the foundation for her transition into entrepreneurship.

Her entry into hospitality was driven by a clear market insight and a desire to localise economic activity.

"I was not happy seeing people staying in South Africa while doing business in Lesotho," she said.

Recognising a gap in quality accommodation, she moved to establish Scenery Guest Houses, targeting professionals who were opting for cross-border



Marethabile Sekhiba delivers an emotional speech during a surprise celebration recognising her achievements

lodging due to limited local options.

"It began when I realised that there is a need for accommodation in Lesotho," she explained.

Her vision was to create facilities that meet international standards while retaining economic value within the country.

"We dreamt of establishing a high-quality service hospitality facility in Lesotho," she said.

Over time, this vision has evolved into a broader mission of shaping service excellence in the sector. Sekhiba's approach places strong emphasis on customer experience, innovation and consistency, elements that have helped position her brand as a benchmark in the local market.

"My dream to see tourists stay and contribute towards economic development kept me going," she said. "The employees and their families also inspire me to succeed because of the unemployment challenge."

She added that sustaining and growing the business carries a wider social responsibility.

"One has to work hard to keep existing employees and to employ even more so that there can be more people who can put bread on the table," she said.

A family-owned enterprise, Scenery Guest House reflects her long-term vision for the industry.

"It's my vision. I saw it even before its implementation," she said.

Despite facing challenges along the way, Sekhiba has maintained a focus on innovation and resilience, allowing her business to grow in a competitive environment.

"I have faced many challenges and can attest that we grew through them," she said.

Her influence is also evident in how she is redefining hospitality culture in Lesotho, aiming to turn customer experiences into lasting connections.

"With our high-quality service culture, we want our patrons to arrive as visitors but leave as friends who will go out there and tell others about the reception we gave. For us, one visit is not enough," she explained.

Beyond her business, Sekhiba is actively shaping the next generation of entrepreneurs. Through initiatives such as "She Millionaire" and her biannual mentorship programme, she is expanding her impact across the broader business ecosystem, particularly among women.

She continues to advocate for tourism as a key economic driver, positioning it as central to Lesotho's growth.

"In the tourism sector, we have a higher responsibility because ours is an export service that we must utilise to drive our economy," she said.

Her message to aspiring entrepreneurs reflects the mindset that has driven her success.

"Do not hesitate to start anything you have now. The moment you have a dream, make sure you believe in it and do it," she said.

Unlocking China and other global markets for entrepreneurs

Seabata Mahao

Local entrepreneurs, importers and emerging manufacturers will gain practical insights into international trade at the upcoming XPORT China Sourcing and Global Trade Symposium.

The initiative aims to strengthen Lesotho's participation in global markets.

Scheduled for May 2, 2026 at Lehakoe Recreation Center, the symposium returns for its second edition with a sharper focus on structural barriers limiting enterprise growth.

Through structured training and expert-led discussions, participants will learn how to source directly from global manufacturers, particularly in China, while exploring opportunities within international supply chains.

The platform targets key challenges such as high procurement costs, limited access to international suppliers and heavy reliance on intermediaries when importing goods, machinery and production inputs.

The event comes amid expanding economic cooperation between Lesotho and China, opening new avenues for trade, investment and partnerships.

As one of the world's largest manufacturing hubs, China produces a wide range of industrial equipment, machinery and consumer goods essential for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing economies.

Despite this, many Basotho entrepreneurs still struggle to access these markets due to limited information, high import costs and dependence on intermediaries.

Event organiser Chaka Mapeshoane said the symposium seeks to bridge this gap by simplifying international sourcing processes.

"Many businesses in Lesotho have the ambition to expand but often face structural barriers when attempting to access international suppliers. This symposium is designed to provide practical tools for entrepreneurs to engage directly with manufacturers and compete more effectively in global markets," he said.

The programme will cover international sourcing strategies, supplier verification, logistics planning and global trade trends affecting SMEs. Organisers say the insights will benefit sectors such as manufacturing, retail, agriculture, construction and small-scale production.

"The speakers will primarily be from the XPORT



Event owner Chaka Mapeshoane

team. I would also like to add that based on feedback from our last event where attendees felt not enough time was allocated to us as the experts, we are adjusting the programme this time. At the previous event we invited LNDC and Standard Bank and gave significant time to partners. For this symposium, XPORT will lead most of the sessions."

"We also plan to invite one or two Chinese suppliers from our catalogue that we've worked with directly. They will be part of our presentation via MS Teams to brief attendees on how we navigate the full process of sourcing and buying from China.

"Last year, attendees who purchased the M750 ticket had access to post-workshop consultations. Through that process, we helped them directly

with their sourcing, purchasing from China, export processes, and related support," Mapeshoane explained.

Mapeshoane said the long-term goal is to position the symposium as a leading national platform for global trade engagement.

Corporate sponsors are expected to play a key role, reflecting growing private sector support for SME development and economic diversification. Standard Lesotho Bank (SLB) and Newsday Media have already partnered with the event, with more sponsors invited to participate.

Entrepreneurs and business stakeholders are encouraged to attend, with general tickets priced at M250.00 and executive tickets at M750.00.

The Ombudsman's remedial actions are not suggestions, they are commands

The Office of the Ombudsman does not issue advice. It does not offer polite recommendations that ministries may consider at their leisure. Under Section 135 of the Constitution of Lesotho and the Ombudsman Act No. 9 of 1996, the Ombudsman issues remedial actions, binding directives that carry the full weight of the nation's highest oversight authority.

The Ministry of Health has treated the 2023 recommendations as though they were optional. Of ninety-seven directives, seventy remain unimplemented. Nurses hired on probation in 2018 are still waiting for confirmation eight years later. The M12.00 risk allowance, an insult, not a wage, has not been touched. Patients sleep on concrete floors while ceilings collapse around them.

This cannot continue.

The Ombudsman's updated remedial actions, set out in Chapter 6 of the follow-up report, are not a menu from which the Ministry may pick and choose. They are not subject to negotiation, delay, or bureaucratic inertia.

When the Ombudsman orders the reconstitution of the Mental Health Review Tribunal within six months, that is not a target, it is a deadline. When the Ombudsman demands that probationary staff hired since 2018 be confirmed within three months, that is not a suggestion, it is a directive.

When the Ombudsman instructs that the risk allowance be reviewed upward from M12.00 to between M300 and M500 per month within six months, that is not a request, it is a lawful order.

Let there be no misunderstanding: The Principal Secretary and Director General of Health Services are now required to appear before Parliament to account for their failure. Quarterly progress reports must be submitted to the Ombudsman's Office. An internal monitoring mechanism must be established.

These are not formalities. They are accountability mechanisms designed for a ministry that has proven it cannot be trusted to act in good faith.

The patients of Mohlomi Mental Hospital have waited three years since the first report. Some have waited twenty-eight years for a pardon review. They cannot wait any longer. And this nation cannot afford to treat the Ombudsman's remedial actions as though they were merely advisory.

To the Ministry of Health: Implement every recommendation. Meet every deadline. Submit every report. Or explain to Parliament, to the courts, and to Basotho why you have chosen to ignore the law.

The Ombudsman has done her duty. It is now time for the Ministry to do theirs.



No Comment



Dr. Tseliso Moroke

Common Concern

How the country moves

From Promise to Performance

What do people do when they realise that what they believed to be their messianic leader and party is not what they thought and anticipated?

What happens when the promises and campaign manifesto are not fulfilled?

What happens when the government becomes disintegrated and misaligned with pressing national issues such as jobs, education, and healthcare?

A nation then enters a phase of political awakening. An uncomfortable, uncertain, yet necessary phase. Disillusionment is not the death of democracy; it is one of its most defining moments. It is the point at which citizens begin to separate rhetoric from reality, personality from performance, and power from responsibility.

In that moment, the illusion of political infallibility collapses. Leaders are no longer viewed as saviours, but as public servants subject to scrutiny. Political parties are no longer movements of hope, but institutions that must justify their existence through delivery. This transition is critical because without it, a country remains trapped in cycles of blind loyalty and repeated disappointment.

In Lesotho, these moments are not theoretical; they are lived.

We have witnessed political parties ascend to power on the strength of bold promises and emotional appeal, only to govern with fragmentation, inconsistency and detachment from the real economic struggles of the people. Campaign periods are marked by clarity and conviction, promises of job creation, economic transformation, and poverty eradication. However, governance often becomes something else entirely: slow, reactive, self-enriching agendas and administratively focused rather than trying to transform people's lives.

The consequences of inaction become real. Youth unemployment remains persistently high, not because solutions do not exist, but because policy direction lacks coherence and implementation lacks urgency. Inequality continues to widen as economic opportunity becomes concentrated among a few politically connected.

Poverty, instead of being treated as a national emergency, becomes normalised, a condition managed through rhetoric rather than resolved through deliberate intervention.

So again, what do people do?

Some disengage. They retreat from the political process, convinced that participation yields no meaningful change. Elections become rituals rather than instruments of accountability. Voter turnout declines, and with it, the legitimacy of democratic institutions weakens.

Others grow restless. Frustration builds and manifests in public dissatisfaction, sometimes through protest, sometimes through unstructured anger. Without clear alternatives or organised civic direction, this energy risks being misdirected or exploited, leading to instability rather than reform.

But there is a third path. One that is more demanding, yet far more powerful.

Citizens begin to reorganise their expectations and reclaim their agency.

They move away from personality-driven politics and begin to demand system-driven governance. They insist on institutions that function beyond individuals, policies that are evidence-based, and leadership that is accountable not just in words, but in measurable outcomes.

They begin to ask harder, more precise questions:

How exactly is this budget creating jobs?

Which sectors are being prioritised for economic growth?

What mechanisms are in place to ensure equitable distribution of resources?

What timelines have been set, and what happens when they are not met?

This shift, from passive acceptance to active interrogation, is how a country begins to move forward.

It forces a recalibration of power.

Leadership can no longer rely on historical loyalty or emotional appeal. It must produce results. It must demonstrate competence. It must align its actions with the lived realities of the people it serves. Where it fails to do so, it must

either reform or be replaced.

This is the essence of democratic maturity.

For too long, governance has been treated as an administrative obligation. A process of maintaining systems rather than transforming them. But in a country grappling with unemployment, inequality, and poverty, complacency is not an option. Government must be intentional and self-assessing. It must be strategic. It must be relentlessly focused on economic outcomes and the people's well-being.

The economy cannot remain peripheral to political decision-making; it must become its central pillar.

Jobs are not a slogan; they are the foundation of dignity and stability. Inequality is not theoretical; it is experienced daily in access to opportunity, services, and economic mobility. Poverty is not inevitable; it is the result of policy choices, and therefore, it can be reversed through better policy choices.

When the government becomes misaligned with these realities, it does more than underperform; it becomes irrelevant.

And when the government becomes irrelevant, people do not wait indefinitely, and they must not be expected to live in blind loyalty. They must adapt, reorganise, and ultimately move, with or without the structures that were meant to serve them but have failed.

The defining question is not whether people will move, but how.

Will that movement be constructive, grounded in accountability, institutional reform, and economic renewal?

Or will it be destructive? Driven by frustration, instability, and the collapse of trust?

That choice is not abstract. It is being made in real time, through the actions of both leaders and citizens.

Because in the end, how the country moves is not judged by promises made during campaigns.

It is determined by what is done consistently, deliberately, and accountably, after power has been attained.



If fuel rises, fertiliser must not

Theko Tlebere

At Ha Khohlopo, my uncle does not experience an economic crisis through graphs, speeches, or meetings in Washington at the UN House. He experiences it when the price of diesel rises, when transport becomes expensive, when shop prices shift upward, and when the cost of preparing fields begins to look like a gamble rather than a plan. At Ha Rankakala, my friend who hopes to go into crop farming this coming season is not asking for miracles. He is asking for one simple thing: that the government should not wait until it is too late to secure fertilisers in time for the coming cropping season.

As Lesotho faces such a dilemma of an economic crisis caused by the situation in the Middle East, we need to understand how the typical Mosotho will be affected by the situation and what the government of Lesotho should do. The current war in the Middle East is no longer a distant geopolitical event. It has entered the kitchen, the taxi rank, the field, and the village cooperative society. The IMF has warned that the war is testing an already fragile global economy, while the World Bank says the conflict is raising new risks for food security by disrupting energy and fertiliser flows. Recent World Bank estimates show fertiliser prices jumped sharply between February and March 2026, with urea prices rising by nearly 46 percent in a single month. International institutions also warn that millions more people could be pushed into food insecurity if these shocks continue.

That is why this is not merely a fuel story. It is a farming story. It is a food security story. It is a dignity story. The government of Lesotho has already acknowledged the seriousness of the fuel shock. Last week, it announced temporary subsidies on petrol, diesel, and paraffin, while also removing the fuel levy for three months and expanding zero-rated essential goods. That was the correct first move. It showed that the government understands this is not business as usual. But fuel is only the beginning. If fertiliser prices are allowed to rise sharply, then the subsidy on fuel, though welcome, will not be enough. We would simply be cushioning one side of the problem while neglecting the very input that determines whether Basotho can produce food for themselves in the coming season.

This is where the national interest should be larger than routine



administration.

Lesotho has already used input subsidies to support farmers in the past, and that is commendable. A government that understands its role should be considering now, to review the policy direction of 80 percent of fertiliser costs and 70 percent of seed and herbicide costs. Actually, this policy direction of subsidy should stay the same or be expanded before the planting season. Due to the high fuel prices, Basotho do not want to be stressed by fuel prices and expensive fertilisers. This should be the thinking line of our government as the situation becomes more and more unpredictable.

Let me explain why this issue is so important that it should be considered as early as now; His Majesty King Letsie III is not merely a ceremonial figure in this discussion, His continental role is both real and current. The African Union (AU) extended his mandate as AU Champion for Nutrition through 2026, and the whole world continues to describe him as a leading advocate for nutrition and food security. That honour should not sit in Addis Ababa while hunger grows in the villages and farming inputs become unreachable in Ha Rantuba, Matsieng, Siloe, Qomo-qomong, or Ha Mmatjotjo. The dignity of the King is upheld not by praise songs alone, but by a country that acts consistently with the cause he champions.

A nutrition Champion must preside over a nation that treats food production as a matter of urgency. If Lesotho truly wishes to honour that leadership, then

fertiliser

availability and low prices must now be treated as strategic. Fertiliser is not a luxury item. It is national insurance against hunger. It is the line between a field that yields and a field that disappoints. It is the difference between a household remaining upright and one slipping deeper below the poverty line.

This is why I argue that the government should immediately take four decisive steps. First, it must ring-fence fertiliser affordability. The existing subsidy should be increased or temporarily deepened so that the retail price to farmers does not rise with the fuel shock. If the government can cushion fuel because it knows transport affects everyone, then it must also cushion fertiliser because food affects everyone even more.

Second, the subsidy must reach farmers early, not after the rains have begun. There is wisdom in the Sesotho idiom saying "re seke ra emela e marotholi a liphara" which literally warns against waiting for the storm before fixing the roof. We cannot wait for the first heavy rains and then scramble for fertiliser tenders, transport arrangements, and district distribution. By then, the season will already be slipping away.

Third, distribution must be predictable and decentralised. Farmers in the districts should not have to spend scarce money chasing subsidised inputs through confusion, delays, and long queues. A subsidy on paper that arrives late is no subsidy at all.

Fourth, the government must lead by

example in austerity. At a time like this, suspending non-essential international travel by public officials would send the right signal. The country cannot preach restraint to villagers and farmers while practising comfort in Maseru.

In times of external shock, political leadership must show that every loti is being protected for essentials: food production, transport stabilisation, and household survival.

While I already know that some people will argue that this strategy that I am proposing is too costly, I would argue the opposite. The cost of acting now is lower than the cost of hunger later. The cost of protecting fertiliser today is lower than the cost of food imports tomorrow. The cost of supporting a farmer in Ha Khobotle this month is lower than the cost of supporting a hungry household next year. And this is not simply an agricultural argument. It is an economic argument. When fuel rises, transport rises. When transport rises, food rises. When fertiliser rises, production falls. When production falls, rural incomes fall and market dependence rises. That chain is well known. A country serious about resilience breaks the chain at the input stage.

My uncle in Ha Khohlopo should not hear lofty speeches about nutrition while the means to grow food are priced beyond reach. My cousin in Tsikoane should not be told to venture into crop farming while the cost structure punishes the initiative before a seed even enters the soil. If we want young Basotho to farm, then we must stop making farming the riskiest livelihood choice in the country.

The honour carried by King Letsie III as AU Champion for Nutrition places a moral burden on the rest of the state. The King stands at the center as a symbol of Africa's fight against hunger. The government, standing to the left of that mission, must now act decisively. It must not drift, delay, or behave as though this shock will pass without consequence. It must prepare now.

A nation that can feed itself protects its farmers before the season begins. A nation that respects its King gives practical meaning to the cause he champions. A nation serious about dignity does not wait for hunger to become visible before it responds. The time to protect fertiliser prices is now. The time to shield Basotho farmers is now. The time to prove that nutrition leadership starts at home is now. Yes, the future is NOW!



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
TO CONDUCT
MANAGEMENT AUDIT SERVICES ON LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT**

RFP Reference No: LHWC No. LHWP-PMA-0125

Issue Date: 12th April 2026

Closing Date & Time: 24th May 2026, 12:00hrs, South African Standard Time

The Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC), acting under the authority granted in Article 9, Paragraph 10 of the 1986 Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) Treaty and as expanded in LHWP Protocol VI, invites eligible and qualified consulting firms to submit proposals for the provision of professional services to conduct a Management Audit of LHWP.

The LHWC, the designated bilateral oversight body for the LHWP, has resolved to undertake a structured, multi-packaged management audit to evaluate the Project's governance performance, contract management, and related institutional efficiency across the LHWP implementation framework. The review is intended to assess the efficiency of governance structures at all levels, institutional arrangements, contract management, and supervision frameworks at the project implementation level, and to make recommendations for improvement.

This review is driven by the need to address systemic project delivery delays, cost escalations, and oversight deficiencies affecting strategic infrastructure and social investment projects under the Project.

This assignment will be procured through a competitive process in accordance with the Lesotho Public Procurement Act of 2023, related regulations, and the provisions of the LHWP Phase II Agreement of 2013.

Eligibility Criteria:

Firms must demonstrate:

- Proven and extensive experience in multidisciplinary management audits of large infrastructure projects, including contract management, governance performance, and institutional efficiency, among others.
- At least five (5) similar assignments successfully completed in the last ten (10) years, accompanied by operational experience in the fields of engineering advisory, management audit, or infrastructure programme evaluation.
- Proven track record in working with public sector clients, regulatory bodies, or international donors on governance, procurement, and performance audits.
- Strong technical, analytical, and communication skills with the capacity to deliver within tight deadlines and in multicultural environments

Eligible Consulting firms are invited to:

- Obtain and review the request for Proposals (RFP) document. (Detailed information on the assignment is contained in the RFP Document.)
- Attend the Pre-Bid Meeting scheduled on 24th April 2026, 09:00hrs, South Africa Standard Time
- Submit a Technical and Financial Proposal in accordance with the instructions provided in the RFP.

Key details:

- **RFP Issue Date:** Sunday, 12th April 2026
- **Pre-Bid Meeting:** Friday, 24th April 2026, 09:00hrs, South African Standard Time in Sandton, Republic of South Africa (Virtual Attendance will be available – Prior Arrangement to be made)
- **Deadline for Submission:** 24th May 2026, 12:00hrs, South African Standard Time
- **Bid Validity Period:** 120 days from the deadline for submission
- **RFP Document:** The RFP document can be requested via email at procurement@lhwc.org.ls or obtained in hard copy from the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission Secretariat Office, 5th Floor, Standard Lesotho Bank Tower, Kingsway Road, Maseru, Lesotho, at a cost of USD 250/M4,000 per set or equivalent.

RFP Payment should be made into the following account:
Account Name: Lesotho Highlands Water Commission

Bank: Standard Bank

Account No: 042039401

Branch Code: 005633

Swift Code: SBZAJJXXX

Evidence of payment should accompany the request for RFP documents.

Firms must submit a signed declaration confirming:

- A conflict-free relationship with LHWC, LHDA, and LHDA Service Providers. In particular, Bidders or their business Associates must not have current or prior contracts with LHWC/LHDA or LHDA Service Providers in the past fifteen (15) years.
- Compliance with all legal and professional requirements outlined in the RFP.
- Tax compliance in their Country of origin.
- Freedom to Operate: must not subject to any trade sanctions, embargoes, blacklists, procurement debarments, or restrictions—whether issued by multilateral development banks (e.g., the World Bank, AfDB), national governments, or international regulatory bodies—that would prevent the bidder from lawfully executing any part of the assignment in Lesotho, South Africa, or under international law.
- Legal Standing and Good Faith: must declare that they are not engaged in any litigation or investigation by regulatory authorities that may materially impair their ability to deliver this assignment. A Bidder must confirm that they are in good standing with all regulatory and licensing bodies in their country of registration and in Lesotho/South Africa (if applicable).
- No Conflicts with International Sanctions Regimes: Neither the bidder, directors, shareholders, affiliates, nor any party to this proposal, appear on: The United Nations Security Council Sanctions List, The U.S. OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control) Sanctions List, The EU Consolidated List of Sanctions, The African Union Sanctions List, any blacklist maintained by the Lesotho or South African government.
- No Unethical Relationships: confirm that neither the firm, consortium members, subcontractors, nor any of its employees, shareholders/partners or representatives have engaged or will engage in any unethical, improper, or corrupt relationship, agreement, or arrangement—directly or indirectly—with any employees, officials, agents, or representatives of the LHWP, including but not limited to bribery, facilitation payments, nepotism, or any form of conflict of interest.
- Financial stability and possession of the necessary financial resources to undertake and successfully complete the services required under the LHWP Management Audit assignment, and possess the financial capacity to mobilize and support the proposed team for this assignment without requiring advance payments beyond the agreed terms.
- Not undergoing bankruptcy, insolvency, or financial reorganization.
- Not been the subject of any legal or regulatory action that could compromise the financial viability.
- Acknowledge that any misrepresentation regarding our financial capacity will be grounds for disqualification or contract termination.

Incomplete, late, or non-compliant submissions will be disqualified.

Please send inquiries and confirmation of attendance to the pre-bid meeting to:

Ms. Helen T. Buluma

Commission Secretary

Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC)

Email: procurement@lhwc.org.ls



Kingdom of Lesotho
Ministry of Education and Training

Expression of Interest for short term Consultancy of Finance Officers (2)

COUNTRY: Kingdom of Lesotho
PROJECT: Lesotho Education Improvement Project (LEIP)
SECTOR: Education
LOAN #: 7587-LS
PROJECT ID NO.: P500587

The Government of the Lesotho (GOL) signed Loan with World Bank to support implementation of the Lesotho Education Improvement project (P500587) (LEIP) for a total value of US\$ 20 million in August 2024. The project aims to improve basic education service delivery and student retention in targeted schools. Mainly construction of classrooms and pit latrines in primary schools, and workshop, science laboratory blocks and latrines in secondary schools is included in the project. MoET intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, related services and consulting services to be procured under this project.

The three components of the project are:

Component 1: Improving the quality of teaching in primary and secondary schools

Component 2: Enhancing physical learning conditions in targeted primary and secondary schools, (I) Improving basic infrastructure in targeted primary schools, (II) Constructing laboratories and workshops in targeted secondary schools with the total allocation of US\$ 15 Million.

Component 3: Strengthening project management, and governance of education system.

The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) now wishes to recruit a **Two (2) Finance Officers** to be part of the Project Facilitation Unit (PFU) which is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the project.

Objective:

The principal objective of this assignment is the provision of consulting services for finance officer to support project financial, accounting management and reporting.

Qualification and Experience:

Interested candidates must have:

- a) Educational qualifications:** at least Diploma in Accounting/Business or CAT Stage or CIPFA-Diploma from a recognized University or Professional Institution respectively, bachelor's degree/General Accounting Stage will be an added advantage.
b) Work Experience: Be familiar with Government of Lesotho and donor funded projects Financial Management and must have at least successfully completed one (1) similar assignment in the past Seven (7) years.

Selection Criteria:

The selection of the suitable candidate will be based on the qualifications and experience as follows: (i) qualifications (30%), (ii) experience (professional, specific and general) (60%); and (iii) other relevant attributes (10%) consistent with the requirements of the Terms of Reference pursuant to the relevant requirements of the World Bank's **applicable Guidelines:** Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" **Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers** July 2016 and updated **February 2025 (Sixth Edition)**, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest available on www.worldbank.org/procurement.

Duration:

The duration of this assignment will be approximately from 6 months with possibility of extension subject to satisfactory performance.

Details:

Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) can be attained from the following address between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on working days: **Procurement Unit, EFU, Site 130 Fokothi, Off Moshoeshoe Road, P.O. Box 1279, Maseru 100, Lesotho. Tel (+266) 22324968.** Attn: Mr. Relebohile Nkalai Email: relebohile.nkalai@gov.ls with a copy to nthabi.hleoheng86@gmail.com.

Submission:

Interested consultants should submit their detailed expression of interest and updated Curriculum Vitae (CVs), indicating names and contact details of at least two (2) referees, and should enclose certified copies of educational certificates. The Expression of interest must be hand delivered to the address indicated above on or before **May 05th, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. (local time)**.

Submissions must be clearly titled (including on the submission envelope where applicable): **"Expression of Interest for Finance Officer"**



Kingdom of Lesotho



Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)
for the Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Maintenance (DBFOM)
of a Strategic Fuel Storage Facility

Date: 27th March 2026

EOI Number/Ref number: [PF/EOI/2025/2026-02]

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Government of Lesotho is seeking expression of interest from accomplished construction companies to undertake the Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Maintenance, Testing and Commissioning responsibilities for a 30-day strategic fuel storage facility at Maqhaka in Berea, Lesotho. This project is critical to ensuring security of fuel supply.

The facility encompasses eleven bulk storage tanks, along with loading and offloading pumps, valve chambers, fire systems, control systems, effluent handling systems, truck loading and offloading gantries, administrative, security, MCC building complexes and access road.

The eleven (11) bulk storage tanks are of the following capacities:

- Four (4) 2730m³ tanks for the storage of petrol (ULP 93&95)
- Four (4) 3650m³ tanks for the storage of diesel (50ppm)
- Three (3) 930m³ tanks for the storage of illuminated paraffin (IP)

Complete the Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Commission for the Strategic Fuel Storage Facility in accordance with internationally accepted standards (e.g. SANS) as well as relevant international standards (ISO, API, IEC etc.) to ensure sufficient operation;

2. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The services required under this assignment include:

- Complete the Strategic Fuel Storage Facility, testing and commissioning in accordance with internationally accepted and relevant standards to ensure sufficient operation;
- Detail the ownership representation ensuring involvement of the State
- iii) Provide a detailed financing structure including the funding sources, a clear risk sharing plan and allocation among project stakeholders
- Demonstrate expertise on procurement of petroleum products for the state
- Elaborate how petroleum products will be procured without alienating existing players and avoiding the creation of monopolies
- Propose how other interested groups may participate
- Propose how products will be procured from the international market
- Propose the operating and maintenance model

The Ministry of Energy invites suitably qualified construction companies to submit an expression of interest. The companies may form joint ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

3. EOI SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following should be included in the submission:

- Company Overview or Company Profile;
- A track record of the company demonstrating experience in large-scale DBFOM projects, ideally within the energy

sector (e.g contract);

- A client reference list of at least three (3) clients that similar work has been implemented for;
- Project organogram illustrating the roles of each team member,
- CV and qualifications of each proposed team member;
- Demonstrate financial stability and ability to secure project financing;
- Past 5 year's audited financial statements;
- Company registration documents, Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) and a comfort letter from a reputable bank.
- Description of the Company's quality assurance policies and procedures.
- Additional Certifications/procedures applicable to perform the services

4. SUBMISSION DETAILS

Expression of interest must be submitted by email to the address below by Monday, the 8th June 2026, at 12:00 hours Central African Time (CAT) and clearly titled "EOI for DBFOM for Maqhaka Strategic Fuel Storage facility".

Attention:

Mr. Teboho Moloantoa
Petroleum Fund
LCCI Building
Orpen Road
Maseru, Lesotho

Submission Address: supplier@petroleum.org.ls

Attention: **Late submissions will not be considered.**

5. EOI EVALUATION CRITERIA

Expression of Interest Evaluation Criteria		Points
A.	Relevant DBFOM Experience	15
B.	Technical Qualification and Personnel	20
C.	Ownership Model and financing structure	10
D.	Quality assurance, HSSE Systems and compliance with standards	10
E.	Financial Capacity	20
F.	Local Participation & Capacity Building	10
G.	Procurement and sales/trading model	15

6. DISCLAIMER

This EOI is issued for information-gathering and shortlisting purposes only and does not constitute an invitation to tender. The Government of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI, to annul the process, or to amend the scope without incurring any liability.

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Selloane Thakanyane's journey through faith, film, and music

Chris Theko

At just 30, Selloane Thakanyane is emerging as one of Lesotho's promising creative voices, weaving together music, visual storytelling, and a deeply rooted sense of faith into a journey that is as personal as it is inspiring.

Born and raised in Lesotho, Thakanyane grew up in a born-again Christian household, an upbringing that continues to shape both her identity and her artistry. From an early age, music was part of her world, but stepping into it professionally was not always easy.

"Yes, music has always been with me but I just lacked the courage to go after it," she reflects.

"It needs more than just a voice, and I avoided it until I could not run away from it anymore."

That turning point would eventually lead her into the spotlight, but not before she laid a strong creative foundation. Thakanyane studied TV and Film Production at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, an experience that broadened her understanding of storytelling beyond sound.

"The course has given me a wider view into how the world we watch on TV works and how it's created," she explains.

"It makes me so thrilled, producing visuals and music videos and storylines that properly align with my music and who I really am."

This multidisciplinary approach is be-

coming a defining feature of her artistry. For Thakanyane, music is not just about sound, it is about the complete experience, from lyrics to visuals, all working in harmony to communicate a message.

Her official entry into the music industry came in 2023, when she collaborated with Penny Play on two love-inspired singles, Kea U Rata and Lerato. These songs introduced listeners to her emotive style and marked the beginning of a journey that has steadily gained momentum.

In 2024, she expanded her sonic palette through collaborations with local DJ Scott, working on tracks such as Morao and Dali. The following year, she teamed up with hip hop artist Phoka Ea Boroa on Memeza, further showcasing her versatility and willingness to explore different musical spaces.

For Thakanyane, growth has been both deliberate and deeply felt.

"The growth is very visible from my first projects until now," she says.

"I have gotten to experience different genres like jazz with songs like Re Basali, and others that haven't been released.

The growth didn't just happen with exploring genres, but also vocally, and it's very motivating, even to myself, to see how far I can go if I keep finding my voice with every beat."

Her openness to experimentation signals an artist who is not confined by genre, but rather guided by emotion and message. Yet, beyond

technical growth and musical exploration, collaboration has also played a crucial role in shaping her journey.

"Honestly, for me, passion for music is the first thing I observe in a person before working with them," she explains.

"This work can be overwhelming and tiring at times, but working with someone who truly loves it makes it so much easier to navigate the hard parts."

It is this shared passion that has allowed her to build meaningful creative partnerships, each contributing to her evolution as an artist.

At the core of it all, however, is her faith, a constant thread running through every chapter of her life and career.

"My faith will forever be my backbone in every chapter of my life, in every direction I choose," she says.

"There are little things that make me, but faith keeps the fire burning even when I get tired. In every song I've made, I always hear or sense a very great presence of anointing."

This spiritual grounding not only fuels her resilience but also shapes the intention behind her music. For Thakanyane, each lyric carries



Selloane Thakanyane

weight, each message meant to resonate beyond entertainment.

Looking ahead, her ambitions stretch far beyond local recognition.

"My greatest hope is reaching Hollywood, not even just Joburg," she says with conviction.

"I am not of this world, and I know I carry a lot of message through every lyric. I remain hopeful for the world to receive it with open arms."

It is a bold vision, but one that aligns with her unwavering belief in purpose and calling. In an industry often defined by trends and competition, Thakanyane stands out as an artist driven by something deeper; a desire to connect, to inspire, and to remain authentic.

As her journey continues to unfold, Selloane Thakanyane represents a new generation of Mosotho creatives: fearless in expression, grounded in identity, and unafraid to dream beyond borders.

With her voice, her vision, and her faith leading the way, she is not just creating music, she is building a legacy.

Chris Theko

LNIG Hollard is sharpening its focus on young Basotho, rolling out a youth-centred campaign that uses music and storytelling to reshape perceptions of insurance and drive uptake among first-time earners.

The insurer has partnered with local artist Sannere, whose single Ke molato oaka anchors a broader strategy to make insurance more relatable to younger audiences. The campaign targets youth and early-career individuals, a segment the company sees as key to building long-term financial planning habits.

The move comes as Lesotho's financial services sector continues to show uneven adoption. While financial inclusion reached 87 percent in 2021, according to FinMark Trust, insurance uptake still trails behind banking products. At the same time, informal safety nets are weakening, increasing the need for formal risk protection.

LNIG Hollard says young people represent a critical opportunity to close this gap. By engaging them early, the insurer aims to normalise insurance as part of everyday financial decision-making rather than a product reserved for later in life.

Head of Brand and Marketing at LNIG Hollard, Liepollo Tsekoa, said the company recognises that insurance has historically been seen as complex and out of reach, particularly for

LNIG Hollard draws youth through music

younger consumers.

"Insurance in many markets, including Lesotho, has often been seen as something distant or only relevant to certain income groups," Tsekoa said.

"There is a clear need to engage underserved segments, particularly young people who are just beginning their financial journeys, so they can understand insurance as a practical planning tool."

The collaboration with Sannere reflects a shift towards culturally relevant communication. By embedding financial messages in music, LNIG Hollard is aiming to meet young people where they are and translate technical concepts into everyday language.

"Music is a powerful reflection of our lived realities," Sannere said.

"With Ke molato oaka, we wanted to tell a story about responsibility, dignity and the consequences of not being prepared."

The song was released during the Easter holiday period, when travel activity rises and

risks increase. The timing was designed to link insurance with real-life situations that young people encounter, reinforcing its role in providing security and peace of mind.

Beyond timing, the campaign highlights themes that resonate with younger audiences, including financial responsibility, dignified funerals and protection against household losses. It also taps into the idea of "ho Qatsoha" or levelling up, positioning insurance as a marker of financial maturity.

Early results suggest the youth-focused approach is gaining traction. Tsekoa said the campaign has driven strong digital engagement and contributed to rising interest in funeral insurance among younger consumers.

"We are seeing meaningful momentum, particularly through digital and SMS channels. More importantly, conversations around insurance are becoming normalised, with young people actively seeking information and participating in financial decision-making in ways we haven't seen before," she said.

Despite this progress, affordability and competing priorities remain key challenges. Many young consumers continue to prioritise immediate needs over long-term financial protection.

"A key barrier is the gap between awareness and financial prioritisation," Tsekoa noted.

"While young people are engaging with the content, their decisions are often influenced by immediate lifestyle needs."

LNIG Hollard says its long-term strategy is to bridge this gap by sustaining youth engagement and reinforcing the value of insurance over time.

"Our goal is to fundamentally change how insurance is perceived, understood and prioritised," Tsekoa said.

"This is about building a generation that sees insurance not as an afterthought, but as an essential part of everyday financial life."

The company believes that youth-driven, culturally grounded campaigns will be central to expanding insurance uptake and shaping a more financially resilient generation in Lesotho.

Mokitimi-Dlamini launches inspirational book on healing and faith

Chris Theko

Bible scholar turned author Nthabeleng Mokitimi-Dlamini marked a significant milestone last Saturday with the launch of her inspirational book, *This Wasn't the Plan*, in Maseru.

The event, held at Lake Cookhouse, was preceded by a commissioning service for her Marketplace Ministry, setting the tone for a day rooted in faith, healing, and empowerment.

Together, the two occasions reflected Mokitimi-Dlamini's mission to support women navigating the emotional and practical realities of separation and divorce.

Structured as a guide through the journey of healing, the book is divided into chapters that mirror the different stages many women experience.

Themes such as "Boundaries are Necessary," "The Triggers," and "The Detox" were not only discussed but also visually represented at the launch, offering attendees a tangible sense of the book's progression.

Through these chapters, Mokitimi-Dlamini addresses the complexities of confronting pain, setting healthy boundaries, and releasing past hurt. The approach positions the book as both a deeply personal narrative and a practical manual for women seeking restoration and renewed strength.

Speaking at the launch, Mokitimi-Dlamini shared that the book was born out of her own lived experience during a difficult period in her life.



Nthabeleng Mokitimi-Dlamini

"This wasn't just a book I wanted to write, it became the book I needed," she said. "I realised that the material available was either overly spiritual without practical application, or practical without acknowledging God as the source."

She explained that her journey required drawing strength from her faith in God, describing it as both a challenging and transformative process. The book, she said, reflects that balance between spiritual grounding and

actionable steps.

Central to her message is the importance of intentional parenting, particularly in single-parent or co-parenting situations. Mokitimi-Dlamini emphasised that children should not bear the emotional consequences of broken relationships.

"Bitterness is a thief," she noted. "You cannot allow it to shape how you raise your children. As parents, our first ministry is stewardship over the lives entrusted to us."

She also highlighted the need for women to establish clear boundaries, a lesson she admitted learning through personal struggle.

"For a long time, I associated boundaries with being unchristian," she said. "But I came to understand that boundaries are necessary, and they must be set early and clearly."

The author did not shy away from sharing some of the most painful moments that informed her writing, including the emotional experience of returning home to find her life had unexpectedly changed.

"You mourn a life that is still alive," she said, describing the moment she realised her relationship had ended. "Writing those parts meant reliving them, but it was necessary to ensure the book is honest and not superficial."

Beyond emotional healing, Mokitimi-Dlamini also underscored the importance of legal awareness, encouraging women to understand and assert their rights in co-parenting and financial responsibilities.

Looking ahead, she expressed a vision that extends beyond individual readers to broader societal transformation.

"I want to meet a generation of women who are healed, confident, and thriving in healthy co-parenting relationships," she said. "If women can move from bitterness to restoration, then we can raise children who will positively shape society."

Lesotho-born actress Liteboho Molise, who attended the launch and was the MC, praised Mokitimi-Dlamini's courage and resilience.

"It takes courage, strength, and guts," Molise said. "These are the ingredients she brought together to create this book."

Mokitimi-Dlamini revealed that the book is only the beginning of a broader ministry initiative, which will include workshops, conferences, and a companion workbook aimed at providing practical tools for women on their healing journey.

"This book is a companion. Even for me, there are moments when I return to it for guidance," she said.

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Passion and perseverance rules rugby youngster's journey

Kananelo Mokhele

In Lesotho's growing rugby landscape, young talent continues to emerge with determination and purpose.

Among them is Moletsane Tsolo, a National University of Lesotho (NUL) student and NUL Spears' player whose journey reflects resilience, passion and ambition. Tsolo's early life was split between two communities.

"I grew up in Khubetsoana and Maputsoe," he explained.

"I stayed in Khubetsoana from Grade 1 to 4, then moved to Maputsoe where I continued until I finished high school."

It was during these formative years that his love for sport began to take shape. An energetic child, he naturally gravitated towards rugby.

"I have always been active since I was

young, but I only started taking rugby seriously in 2023," he said. Since then, his commitment to the sport has steadily intensified.

His breakthrough came in 2024 while playing for Maseru Warriors. Tsolo delivered a standout performance, scoring three tries and three conversions in a dominant 77-0 victory over NUL Spears at Mater Jesu Immaculata Oblate Scholasticate in Roma.

He was named Man of the Match, a display that signalled his arrival on the local rugby scene and highlighted both his attacking ability and growing confidence.

In a twist of fate, that same opponent would later become his new club. Tsolo has since joined NUL Spears, marking a new chapter as he continues to develop his game at university level.

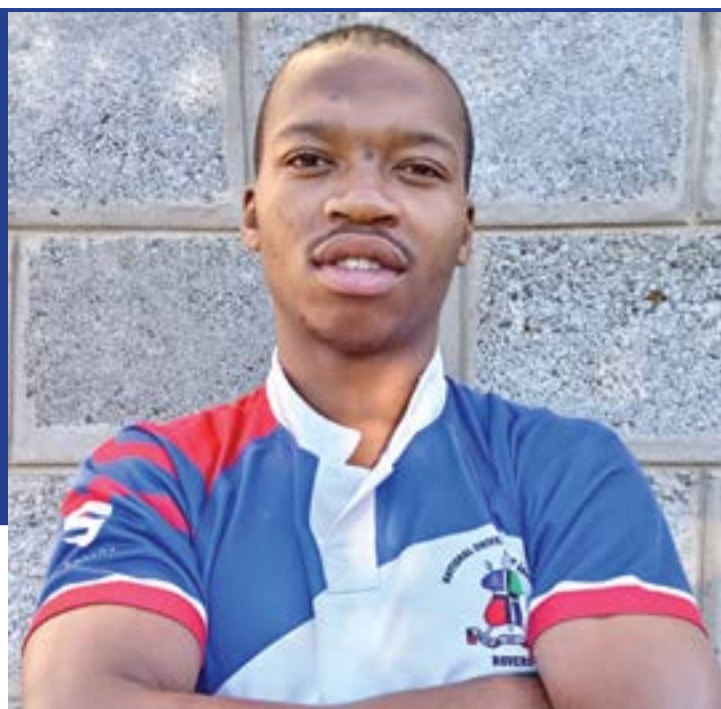
Like many aspiring athletes in Lesotho,

his journey has not been without challenges. Limited financial resources, equipment shortages and lack of exposure have tested his resolve.

"One of the biggest challenges has been financial issues and not having enough equipment or exposure," he admitted.

Despite this, he remains focused on his ambition of becoming a professional rugby player. A strong support system has played a crucial role in keeping him on track.

"My parents have always supported me and tried their best to help me stay in the game," Tsolo said, crediting them for sustaining his dream.



Moletsane Tsolo is turning promise into performance from a standout Man of the Match display

He also acknowledges the impact of his former coach, Motaung Morapeli: "He is the coach who influenced me the most."

Under his guidance, Tsolo sharpened his skills while developing discipline and a deeper understanding of the game. Now balancing academic demands with rugby, Tsolo represents a new generation of players determined to rise above limitations.

"I want to become a professional rugby player," he said with confidence.



Lesotho Women cricket team in Botswana

Reflloe Molise

The national women's cricket team has delivered a promising performance at the Botswana Cricket Association's (BCA) Kalahari T20I tournament, underlining clear progress despite winning only two of their seven matches.

The six-nation tournament, which ran from 4-12 April, featured Brazil, which was the winner, Botswana as runners up, Mozambique (third), Malawi (fourth), Lesotho (fifth) and Zambia, which came in sixth.

While Lesotho's results were mixed, the campaign marked a step forward for the side which has struggled in past international competitions. The team capped their campaign with a convincing 48-run victory over Zambia, offering a glimpse of their growing competitiveness.

Individual performances also stood out. The squad secured three Player of the Match awards, with Boitumelo Tlali claiming two against Zambia and Mozambique, while 'Ma-neo Nyabela earned the accolade in another clash against Zambia.

In response, the Lesotho Cricket Association (LCA) has welcomed the overall showing, highlighting both the improved results and the team's development trajectory.

Head coach Dzikamai Alexander Mavhiko said the outcomes reflect meaningful pro-

gress compared to previous years, when the team often failed to register a win.

"Winning two out of seven matches in our context is a lot of progress, far much better than previous years," he said.

"This is the highest we have achieved so far, especially after securing our first-ever international win at last year's qualifiers against eSwatini."

A key area of improvement during the tournament was batting, long identified as the team's main weakness. The technical team prioritised staying longer at the crease and building innings, a shift that began to show results as the competition progressed.

"Our main focus was to bat longer and occupy the crease more, as batting has been our biggest weakness," he explained. "The early matches showed us clearly that we needed to work harder on batting more than bowling and fielding."

Beyond tactics, team cohesion and mental resilience played a vital role. The coaching staff placed emphasis on maintaining morale, encouraging open communication and celebrating incremental gains.

"There was transparent communication, shared purpose and celebrating small wins. We focused on building a strong team culture and modeling resilience," he said.

Nyabela emerged as one of the standout performers, delivering a strong all-round dis-

Women's cricket coach takes positives from Botswana outing

play that proved decisive in key moments.

"She made a big difference both with the ball and the bat. She also built an important partnership with Tšepi Khabo, which helped us reach a competitive total," he said.

The tournament also reflected a long-term development approach, with a strong presence of youth in the squad. Seven Under-19 players featured in the team, signalling a deliberate effort to build depth and sustainability.

"We are focusing more on batting and bringing in Under-19 players. We already had seven Under-19 players in the squad in Botswana, which shows our commitment to building for the future," he added.

Off the field, the LCA views the tournament as a valuable learning experience. Media Liaison Officer and National Teams Manager, Dr Clifford Molefe, said the campaign has provided critical insights to guide future preparations.

"The campaign has given us insights into both our strengths and areas that need improvement. We will use performance data and technical analysis to refine our training programs," he said.

Grassroots development remains central to the association's plans, with efforts underway to expand women's cricket at school level and strengthen domestic structures.

"We are investing in structured programs in schools to introduce girls to cricket early. We

are also strengthening the domestic women's league, improving coaching through certification programs and increasing training camps for the national team," he said.

However, funding constraints continue to limit progress.

"Funding affects everything facilities, coaching and competition opportunities. Without consistent financial support, it is difficult to sustain growth and provide adequate exposure," he explained.

The association is now exploring international partnerships to boost development through exchange programmes and competitive opportunities.

"We want to build strategic partnerships with other cricket boards and organisations. Exchange programs, international training camps and bilateral series will be key in raising our standards," Molefe said.

Despite the challenges, the team leaves Botswana with renewed confidence and belief.

"The players now believe they can compete and that confidence is crucial going forward," he said.

He urged the public to focus on the bigger picture.

"I want people to see the growth and determination of this team. Even if results do not always show it immediately, there is clear improvement in performance, discipline and competitiveness. This team is building something meaningful for the future," he said.



LeFA SG Mokhosi Mohapi

Giants clash in fiery cup showdown



LSRC President Baba Malephane

Mamello Rakotsoane

Lesotho football's royalty clubs are set for a blockbuster showdown after a mouth-watering People's Cup draw paired traditional rivals in high-stakes semi-finals of the annual competition.

The 2026 edition has pitted giants against each other in fixtures that promise intensity, rivalry and top-quality football as the competition reaches its climax.

Following a fiercely contested nationwide voting campaign, four of the country's biggest clubs, Lioli FC, Matlama FC, Bantu FC and Lijabatho FC, have secured their places in the semi-finals, setting up a thrilling one-day knockout tournament.

The announcement was made at Bambatha Tsita Sports Arena by Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL), in partnership with the Premier League Management

Committee (PLMC) and the Sam Matekane Foundation (SMF), marking the end of weeks of fan-driven engagement.

Supporters once again played a decisive role, voting in large numbers to shape a line-up dominated by powerhouse teams with rich histories and strong followings.

Lioli FC topped the polls with 162,122 votes, narrowly ahead of Matlama FC with 156,038 votes. Bantu FC followed with 150,231 votes, while Lijabatho FC claimed the final spot with 139,118 votes.

The results have set up two compelling semi-final clashes. Lioli FC will face Lijabatho FC in the opening match, while Bantu FC take on long-time rivals Matlama FC in what is expected to be a fiercely contested encounter.

The matches will be played on April 25, 2026, at Bocheletsane Stadium, with the first semi-final kicking off at 09:00 and the second at 11:30. The

winners will advance to the final later in the day at 15:00.

Beyond the fixtures, the tournament continues to grow in stature, with a sponsorship package worth M1.1 million. The winners will take home M400,000, while the runners-up will receive M200,000. Each losing semi-finalist will earn M100,000.

Speaking at the event, Lesotho Football Association Secretary General Mokhosi Mohapi outlined a broader vision to strengthen local football and elevate clubs to compete internationally.

"To bring this vision to life, we are assessing teams both financially and through their performance on the pitch, this includes preparing clubs for major competitions such as the CAF Champions League, while also identifying top players who can strengthen national representation abroad," he said.

He also confirmed that each participating team will receive M15,000 to assist with preparations and accommodation ahead of the matches in

Mantšonyane.

Mohapi urged teams to compete with discipline and sportsmanship, while encouraging those who missed out to remain committed to future opportunities.

Matlama FC representative Moeketsi Khojane welcomed the draw, describing the journey to the final four as highly competitive.

"It has been a journey that required hard work and dedication from the beginning, some teams started strong, others fell behind and came back, but everything has unfolded as envisioned," he said.

Khojane also called on supporters to turn out in large numbers to witness what promises to be a high-quality spectacle.

"Let us come out to Bocheletsane, support these matches, showcase our talent, and play with pride as we uplift and represent our nation," he said.

Premier league title race heats up

Seabata Mahao

The Vodacom Premier League (VPL) title race is reaching a thrilling climax, with just four matches remaining and only four teams still in realistic contention for the crown.

This weekend's fixtures could prove potentially narrowing the race even further if any of the front-runners stumble.

Following last weekend's action, Lijabatho remain at the summit with 53 points, although their grip has loosened after a 1-1 draw with Lifofane.

Bantu capitalised on the slip, edging Manonyane 2-1 to climb into second place on 51 points level with Matlama, who sit third due to the head-to-head rule after a crucial 1-0 victory over defending champions Lioli.

Lifofane, meanwhile, dropped to fourth with 50 points after their stalemate against the leaders. With the title picture tightening, the focus now shifts to how each of the top four will navigate the final stretch.

Lijabatho, once seemingly destined for a historic

triumph, have hit a rough patch at the worst possible time. Back-to-back draws against the LDF and Lifofane have exposed vulnerabilities in a side that earlier looked unstoppable.

Lijabatho head coach James Madidilane now finds himself under mounting pressure to deliver silverware and justify the heavy investment in the squad.

Despite their dip in form, Lijabatho still control their destiny. However, their run-in appears the most challenging, with key fixtures against Matlama and Lioli still to come. Madidilane has emphasised the importance of winning their next two matches against LCS and LMPS before facing Matlama in what could be a title decider.

Bantu, under the guidance of Motheo Mohapi, have quietly built momentum at a crucial stage of the season. While their campaign has been inconsistent, their recent form has kept them within touching distance of the leaders. Victories over relegation-threatened Liphakoe and a crucial clash against Lifofane could define their title credentials. Should Bantu go all the way, Mohapi would make history by winning the league three consecutive times with two different teams.

Perhaps the most compelling narrative belongs to Matlama. Their resurgence under Thabile Secker



Bantu Football Club squad 2025-2026

has been remarkable, transforming from early-season strugglers into genuine contenders.

Having previously guided the club to its 10th league title, Secker's experience has been instrumental in their revival. While he has attempted to temper expectations, Matlama's current form makes them a formidable force in the title race.

Lifofane, led by Nkosana Mabena, have also exceeded expectations this season. Despite being viewed as the most vulnerable among the top four, they remain firmly in contention.

Their immediate task appears manageable against struggling Members, but a subsequent showdown with Bantu could ultimately determine their fate. A victory in that fixture would not only dent Bantu's hopes but significantly boost their own title ambitions.

Away from the top, the relegation battle is equally intense. Maroala sit bottom with 14 points, followed closely by Members on 15, while Liphakoe

hover just above the drop zone with 16 points. With survival at stake, every point will be fiercely contested.

This weekend's fixtures promise high drama at both ends of the table. A standout encounter sees long-time rivals Linare host Matlama, renewing a rivalry that previously saw Matlama claim a narrow 2-1 victory.

Meanwhile, Bantu face a must-win clash against Liphakoe, and Lifofane take on Members in another pivotal contest.

All eyes will be on Setsoto Stadium on Saturday, where a quadruple header is scheduled. The action begins with Lioli facing LDF at 10:00, followed by Linare versus Matlama at 12:30. Bantu meet Liphakoe at 15:00, before Machokha take on Majantja at 17:30, with matches broadcast live on FIFA+.

Sunday's fixtures include Maroala against LMPS at Ratjomose, Members versus Lifofane at LCS Ground, and Manonyane facing LU FC at Bambatha.



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