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News

PS gobbles M1.6m on 18 trips in less than 2 years

Page 3

News

Matekane cracks whip on delayed economic reforms

Page 6

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARE HIKE SCANDAL



• **Minister Moteane admits some transport board members profit from fares they set**

• **He dismisses High Court ruling as 'grave error of law'**

Page 2

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Public transport fare hike scandal

- **Minister Moteane admits some transport board members profit from fares they set**
- **He dismisses High Court ruling as 'grave error of law'**

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

In a striking admission that has raised fresh questions about the legitimacy of a recent over 30 percent transport fare increase, Minister of Public Works and Transport has acknowledged that some members of the board responsible for setting the new fares have "vested financial interest in public motor transport operations."

The minister, Matjato Moteane, made the acknowledgment in a letter responding to a legal advocacy group, SECTION 2, The Advocates for the Supremacy of the Constitution. The group had demanded clarification on whether the Road Transport Board was lawfully constituted when it made a decision announced on May 7, 2026, that local fares would rise to M17 from M13, effective May 11.

The exchange has exposed a deeper legal fault line. At the heart of the dispute is a 2011 High Court judgment that, according to some interpretations, stripped the Road Transport Board of the authority to unilaterally set

fares, a ruling the minister now argues was nonbinding and legally flawed.

Moteane, has defended the fare hike, asserting that the Road Transport Board acted within its powers under regulation 11 of the Road Transport Regulations of 2004. But the 2011 judgment, which has never been overturned, says the opposite, in language that is direct, unambiguous, and critical of the board's longstanding practice.

"I do not understand it to be the applicant's case that the permits of their members have the condition I have described above," wrote the late Justice T. Nomngcongog of the High Court in *Maseru Region Transport Operators v. Traffic Commissioner and Others (CIV/APN/384/2011)*, delivered on August 6, 2011.

"They assume simply, with the concurrence of the respondents that the latter have power to regulate fares. I have not been shown, nor am I aware where that power comes from."

The case arose after transport operators challenged the board's authority to impose fares without consultation. While the court dismissed the specific application before it, the judge went further, ruling that the board had been acting illegally for years.

'The regulation of fares is not one of them'

Justice Nomngcongog systematically dismantled the legal

basis for the board's fare-setting powers. He examined section 7 of the Road Transport Act of 1981, which defines the duties and functions of the board, and found that fare regulation was not listed.

"It is not under one of the functions of the Board that section to determine fares," the judge wrote. "I do not know why it is assumed that such is their function."

He pointed instead to section 18(2)(c) of the act, which allows the board to attach a condition to individual permits requiring that "fares and charges to be used in connection with the carriage of passengers or goods are to be approved by the Board."

The distinction is legally critical. Under the judge's reading, the board cannot unilaterally set fares for the entire industry. Instead, it can only approve fares submitted by permit holders themselves, and only where that specific condition has been attached to a permit.

"It follows that someone else other than the Board would have calculated the fares and then submitted them to the Board for approval," Justice Nomngcongog wrote.

He concluded that the board's practice of regulating fares was "ultra vires," beyond its legal powers. "The regulation of fares is not one of them," he said, "unless it is for the purpose of approving them when such is a condition attaching to permits."

A minister's defiance

In his response to SECTION 2, Moteane acknowledged the existence of the 2011 judgment but dismissed its core finding on fare-setting as "obiter," a comment made in passing that is not binding.

"The judge in this regard committed a grave error of law in opining that the law gave liberty to the industry to self-regulate fares," the minister wrote. He insisted that "the regulation of fares is the sole responsibility of the Road Transport Board in accordance with regulation 11 of the Road Transport Regulations, 2004."

An 'unavoidable' conflict of interest

Perhaps more damaging to the government's position was the minister's candour about the board's composition. SECTION 2 had asked whether any board member had a financial interest in public transport operations, and whether the minister had taken steps to ensure such interests did not compromise the board's independence.

Moteane's answer was direct.

"I appreciate the provisions of section

4(1)(c) of the Road Transport Act, 1981, and I acknowledge that some of the members of the Road Transport Board have vested financial interest in public motor transport operations," he wrote.

He described the conflict as "unavoidable," explaining that the law itself requires that some board members be "representatives of passenger and freight operators who are nominated amongst the operators."

Under section 4(1)(c), such members are disqualified only if, "in the Minister's opinion, such interest may interfere with the impartial discharge of their duties." Moteane wrote that he had "applied my mind and formed an opinion that the existing financial interest ... is not interfering with the impartial discharge of their duties."

Critics argue that a board composed of industry representatives with a direct financial stake in higher fares cannot be expected to act impartially, precisely the kind of conflict that the law was designed to prevent.

A fare hike imposed on a fragile economy

The 31 percent fare increase comes at a moment of acute economic distress for Lesotho. Factory closures, particularly in the textile and manufacturing sectors, have cost thousands of jobs. Public servants received a salary increase of just 2 percent this year, a figure that falls below inflation.

For a worker earning M3,000 maloti per month, the new transport fares consume nearly 23 percent of monthly income, upwards of M680 per month, simply to get to and from work.

The Consumers Protection Association, which has also condemned the fare hike, noted that the increase was imposed with only four days' notice, giving households "no opportunity whatsoever" to adjust their budgets.

"The approach taken here, announcement and immediate implementation, is not governance; it is imposition," the association said in a statement (read full story on page 4).

What remains of the 2011 judgment?

The legal status of Justice Nomngcongog's ruling is now at the center of the dispute. The minister is correct that the judge did not issue a final, binding order striking down the board's fare-setting powers. Instead, he ordered the parties to meet, discuss the way forward, and report back to court within 14 days.

But the judge also made clear that he was not leaving a vacuum. He ruled that the existing fares would remain in force and that the board's practice of regulating fares was illegal. And no higher court has ever overturned his legal reasoning.

"It would be likewise irresponsible to let what has clearly emerged as illegal for being ultra vires the powers of the Road Transport Board the practice of the Board to regulate fares," Justice Nomngcongog wrote.

For now, the 2026 fare increase remains in effect. Thousands of Basotho commuters, workers, students, and patients traveling to hospitals, continue to pay M17 per trip.

SECTION 2 has not yet indicated whether it will pursue legal action to challenge the board's authority or the minister's interpretation of the law.



The Minister of Transport and Public Works, Neo Matjato Moteane

Newsday (+266) 2231 4267 / 5945 8983

Carlton Centre
3rd Floor
Room 302
Kingsway
Maseru

PUBLISHER
Newsday Media (Pty) (Ltd)
Maseru

MANAGING EDITOR
Lerato Matheka
managingeditor@newsdayonline.co.ls

NEWS EDITOR
Kananelo Boloetse
editor@newsdayonline.co.ls

SUB EDITOR
Bereng Mpaki

NEWS ROOM
Nisoaki Mofaung
Seabata Mahao
Thoboloko Ntšonyane

INTERNS
Mamello Rakotsoane
Refloee Molise
Kananelo Mokhele

CONTRIBUTORS
Theko Tlebere
Motsamai Mokotjo

PRODUCTION
Bataung Monaheng
Khosi Matheka

VIDEOGRAPHER
Tumelo Taole

DISTRIBUTION
Lehlohonolo Mantsoe

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

WEBSITE
www.newsdayonline.co.ls

FACEBOOK
Newsday Newspaper LS
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PS gobbles M1.6m on 18 trips in less than 2 years

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Principal Secretary (PS) for the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development has taken 18 international trips since her appointment on June 1, 2024, costing the government more than 1.6 million maloti, according to figures disclosed in Parliament on Thursday.

But whether those journeys, which spanned three continents and included eight visits to neighbouring South Africa, have yielded any tangible economic benefit for the country remains an open question.

The government has not provided any assessment of returns on investment from the travel.

The PS, Palesa Matobako, assumed her post on June 1, 2024. The travel details were released in a written parliamentary response on May 21, 2026, by the Deputy Prime Minister, Nthomeng Majara, who answered on behalf of the trade minister.

The question had been submitted by Machesetsa Mofomobe, an opposition lawmaker from the Basotho National Party (BNP), who requested a full accounting of Matobako's trips, including destinations, dates, airfares and per diems.

According to the government's response, Matobako traveled to South Africa eight



Ps Palesa Matobako

times, with single trips to Botswana, Namibia, Morocco, Cameroon, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States, India, and two trips to Japan.

The total cost was M1,651,833.80. Airfares accounted for M936,086, while per diems, daily allowances for food and incidentals, totaled M715,747.80.

During the parliamentary session, Energy Minister Lejone Mpotjoane raised a point of order, questioning the premise of Mofomobe's inquiry. He argued that the question had failed to address whether the trips had generated any return on investment for the country.

The deputy speaker, Tšepang Tšita-Mo-

sena, ruled the question procedurally valid, stating that Parliament's role was to ensure compliance with its rules, not to judge the substantive merits of a legislator's inquiry.

The episode reflects a broader pattern of legislative frustration over executive branch travel. During the 2025-26 financial year, Remaketse Sehlabaka, leader of the Mpu-lule Political Summit, pressed the government during question time to disclose the total cost of overseas trips in the 2024-25 fiscal year; to compare that sum with funds allocated for youth job creation, and to explain how much additional money had been drawn from the contingency fund.

The leader of the house, Majara, disclosed that M145 million had been budgeted for international travel in 2024-25, with an additional M13 million allocated, of which M9 million had already been spent.

On the question of tangible benefits, such as investment deals signed, trade agreements concluded, or jobs created, the government provided no answer then, and has provided none now.

For a country grappling with chronic unemployment and a strained public budget, the absence of any return-on-investment accounting for nearly 20 official trips by a senior trade official is likely to fuel further scrutiny.

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Consumer group condemns 31% transport fare increase as unjustified

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

A consumer advocacy group has sharply condemned a more than 30 percent increase in local transport fares, calling the hike “economically punitive” and accusing the government of imposing it with only four days’ notice, leaving ordinary Basotho households no time to adjust.

The Consumers Protection Association announced on Wednesday this week that it was “categorically objecting” to the increase, which raised the cost of a single trip to M17 from M13. The new fares were published on May 7, 2026, and took effect on May 11, a window the association described as a violation of consumer rights.

“This represents a staggering 31 percent increase in the cost of commuting, a burden imposed without any meaningful notice, consultation, or opportunity for ordinary Basotho households to plan and adjust their budgets,” the association said in a statement.

The group drew a sharp contrast between the fare increase and the government’s recent wage adjustment for public servants. The government awarded civil servants a salary increase of only 2 percent, which the association said already fell “woefully short” of inflation and the rising cost of living.

“The arithmetic of injustice,” the association said. “A 31 percent fare hike against a 2 percent salary increase.”

Citing the example of a civil servant earning M3,000 (about 160 USD) per month, the association calculated that daily commuting under the new fare structure would consume nearly 23 percent of that worker’s monthly income, upwards of M680 (about 36 USD), “simply to get to and from work.”

“Transport is not a luxury, it is a necessity that underpins access to employment,



healthcare, and education for the people of Lesotho,” the statement read.

The association reserved particular criticism for the speed with which the increase was implemented. Four days, the group said, gave households “no opportunity whatsoever” to adjust their budgets or seek alternatives.

“Good governance demands adequate notice before changes of this magnitude take effect,” the association said. “The approach taken here, announcement and immediate implementation, is not governance; it is imposition.”

The group also questioned the role of a fuel subsidy that was ostensibly designed

to protect both transport operators and consumers from volatile global fuel prices. The association demanded a public accounting of the subsidy, asking whether it remained active, whether operators had demonstrated that it was insufficient, and who audited its use.

“Public subsidies are funded by taxpayers,” the association said. “Consumers have a right to know whether those subsidies are being properly deployed to protect them from precisely this kind of fare shock.”

The warning came against a bleak economic backdrop. The association noted that a series of factory closures, particularly in the textile and manufacturing sectors, had resulted in

thousands of job losses, shrinking household incomes and swelling the ranks of the economically vulnerable.

“In this context, increasing transport fares does not occur in a vacuum,” the association said. “It is the latest in a series of cost pressures, alongside food inflation, utility tariff increases, and the erosion of purchasing power, that is systematically impoverishing working Basotho.”

The group warned that such policies “accelerate poverty and deepen inequality” and risk driving more families below the subsistence threshold.

The association made six demands, including the immediate suspension of the fare increase, a transparent public consultation process with a minimum of 30 days’ notice before any future revision, the establishment of a Transport Costs Review Committee with consumer representatives, and a mechanism for downward readjustment when fuel prices fall.

“The prices are adjusted citing high fuel prices,” the association said, “but when the fuel falls in price, the benefits are not transmitted to the commuters, rather, it is only the motorist that reaps all the benefits.”

The association called on members of Parliament, civil society organizations, trade unions, and the media to join in demanding a reversal of the decision.

“The Consumers Protection Association exists to give voice to the millions of ordinary Basotho who rely on public transport every day to earn a living and sustain their families,” the statement said. “We will not stand silent as policies that benefit a narrow set of interests are imposed on those least able to bear them.”

The association issued the statement on May 15, four days after the new fares took effect. It was released publicly on May 20. The government and the Land Transport Authority have not yet responded to the association’s demands.

Ntsoaki Motaung

The United States celebrated two centuries and a half of American independence alongside six decades of bilateral relations on Thursday, with the US Embassy in Maseru hosting a joint anniversary that placed health cooperation and energy investment firmly in the spotlight.

The event brought together US Chargé d’Affaires Thomas Hines and Lesotho’s acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Law Minister Richard Ramoetsi. The US Embassy was established on the same day Lesotho gained its independence in 1966.

“The United States has continuously prioritised the sovereignty of Lesotho rather than impose agreements that lead to dependency,” Hines said.

Over the decades, he said, more than 2,700 American Peace Corps volunteers have worked in Lesotho, around 700 Basotho have travelled to the US for education, and the American Corner platform reached over 10,000 young Basotho last year alone with skills in science, technology and business.

But the centrepiece of Hines’s address was HIV/AIDS. Through the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), he said life expectancy in Lesotho has increased by 15 years, and the country has met its international HIV treatment targets. The US recently signed a \$364 million health agreement with Lesotho and has delivered thousands of doses of lenacapavir, a new drug that effectively stops new HIV infections.

On the economic front, Hines said US and Lesotho partners signed commercial deals worth M590 million this year, with another

US Embassy in Maseru uses a rare double anniversary to tout health gains, energy investments and a multi-billion maloti commercial pipeline

... While Lesotho quietly pushes for AGOA reforms.

100 billion maloti worth of projects in progress. He emphasised these are private investments, not loans.

He cited the US company OnePower’s Neol solar plant, which aims to help Lesotho become a clean energy hub exporting power to neighbouring countries, and the launch of Starlink, which seeks to bring high-speed internet to every corner of the country.

Ramoetsi praised programmes such as the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) for


expanding access to clean water and sanitation. He also highlighted the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which allows Lesotho to export textiles to the US and has created thousands of local jobs, calling for the programme to be modernised and extended beyond its 2026 expiry date.

While supporting the US vision of prioritising “trade over aid”, Ramoetsi noted that financial assistance remains critical for small economies. “Increased bilateral trade, coupled

with targeted support in infrastructure, health, and education, will transform our economy and uplift our people,” he said.

Hines closed the evening with a personal note, having participated in the Moshoeshe Walk for the past two years. “In that same spirit, the United States and Lesotho walk together toward brighter horizons,” he said.

Ramoetsi invited guests to raise a glass to the American people and to the good health of US President Donald Trump.


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Matekane cracks whip on delayed economic reforms

Seabata Mahao

Prime Minister Samuel Ntsokoane Matekane has issued a series of binding directives to senior government officials aimed at accelerating Lesotho's stalled investment and business reform agenda, warning that there will be "no hiding in bureaucratic process" as government tightens implementation accountability.

Delivering keynote remarks at the fourth High-Level Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) Forum in Maseru on Wednesday, Matekane ordered the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development to urgently submit the long-awaited Investment Policy to Cabinet within two weeks.

"I have been briefed that two drafts have been consolidated. I expect a Cabinet submission within two weeks. The Investment Law must follow on a defined timetable," Matekane said.

The Prime Minister further directed Trade Minister Motlatsi Maqelepo to personally supervise implementation of all Investment Climate Action Plan (ICAP) reform actions falling under his ministry and submit quarterly written progress reports.

The remarks signal mounting pressure within government to speed up reforms under the ICAP framework, which is central to Lesotho's efforts to attract foreign direct investment, improve the ease of doing business and stimulate private sector-led growth.

Tough directives across government

Matekane also instructed the Ministry of Justice and the Office of Parliamentary Counsel to prioritise several delayed legislative reforms, including the Investment Law, MSME Policy, Tourism Enterprise Bill, One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) Law and amendments to Business Licensing Regulations.

"These are not optional. They are the legislative infrastructure of economic transformation," he said.

In a sharp warning to the civil service, the Prime Minister tasked the Government Secretary with overseeing and coordinating ICAP implementation across all ministries and agencies through a quarterly review mechanism.

"The Government Secretary's Office is the nerve centre of this implementation architecture," Matekane said.

Principal Secretaries were similarly warned that they would be held directly accountable for implementation failures.

"You are the implementers. Not advisors. Not observers. Implementers," he declared.

Under the new accountability framework, Cabinet will receive a consolidated ICAP Progress Report every quarter beginning in the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year.

"That means three months from today, Cabinet will discuss on the record what has been done, what has not been done, and who is accountable," Matekane warned.

Financial sector reforms progressing

The Prime Minister acknowledged progress in financial sector reforms being driven by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning together with the Central Bank of Lesotho.

He confirmed that the National Payment Systems Act is currently before Parliament and nearing enactment, while the National Payment Switch is close to full operationalisation.

"The partial credit guarantee consolidation is underway. These are real achievements in a challenging fiscal environment," he said.

According to Matekane, the Financial Sector Development Strategy II, launched in November 2025, has strengthened efforts to modernise Lesotho's financial infrastructure and improve access to finance.

Slow reform pace worries government

Reviewing the ICAP implementation scorecard

presented during the forum, Matekane acknowledged progress in some areas but expressed frustration over the broader pace of reform implementation.

He said only two reform areas — the National Payment Systems Act and National Payment Switch — were officially classified as "On Track".

Seven other reform areas remain "In Progress", including LNDC investment promotion capacity building, Public-Private Partnership pipeline development, credit guarantee consolidation, the ASYCU-DA trade facilitation system, the Ministry of Trade's 15-point textile revitalisation plan, tourism foreign direct investment opening and the Tourism Enterprise Bill.

However, nine reform areas remain either "Not Yet Initiated" or "Awaiting Cabinet Action". These include the Investment Policy, Investment Law, amendments to Business Licensing and Registration Regulations, work and residency permit streamlining, a one-stop-shop for construction permits, and horticulture foreign direct investment opening and land parcel identification.

"We need to fast track them," Matekane stressed.

AGOA strategy and textile reforms

Maqelepo reaffirmed government's commitment to accelerating private investment, employment creation and economic transformation.

He highlighted collaboration between government and the private sector through fully operational thematic working groups in the textile and apparel, agriculture and tourism sectors.

The minister also revealed that Lesotho had successfully secured a one-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) through coordinated lobbying and diplomatic engagement with the United States.

Government, he said, is now pursuing a longer-term AGOA renewal strategy while simultaneously



diversifying export markets and strengthening regional trade integration.

New initiatives aimed at repositioning Lesotho's textile industry include expanding regional market access, strengthening partnerships with South African firms, improving factory competitiveness, enhancing workforce skills and securing WRAP certification to meet global compliance standards.

Maqelepo also acknowledged support from development partners, including the World Bank Group and the International Finance Corporation, in supporting reforms and investment readiness programmes.

"The time for talk alone has passed. Lesotho now needs binding, specific and time-bound commitments on investment, jobs and exports," Maqelepo said.

Closing his address, Matekane pledged direct political oversight of the reform agenda.

"I will personally track implementation. I will personally intervene where there are roadblocks. And I will personally and loudly celebrate when we begin to see the investment, the jobs, and the exports that this reform agenda is designed to produce," the Prime Minister said.

The PPD Forum brought together government officials, private sector leaders, development partners and industry stakeholders to assess implementation progress under the ICAP framework and identify reforms needed to improve Lesotho's investment climate and economic competitiveness.

Parliament that often can't find a quorum faces a reckoning

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The 11th Parliament of Lesotho has a problem. Hardly a week passes without presiding officers waiting, sometimes for hours, for enough lawmakers to show up so that proceedings can begin. The culprit is chronic absenteeism, and it afflicts both government and opposition benches.

Now, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Tlohang Sekhamane, has had enough. After more than two years of warnings, he says he is prepared to take action against members who consistently fail to attend plenary sittings and committee meetings.

"I have been warning you since 2023, but now it is high time that I take action," Mr. Sekhamane told the House.

The scale of the problem is striking. For two consecutive weeks, the Business Committee, the body that determines what legislation and business the House will consider, could not meet because it lacked a quorum. Other committees have also been paralysed by absenteeism, lawmakers say.

Under the Standing Orders, the rules that govern parliamentary conduct, the quorum for both plenary sessions and portfolio committees is 25 percent of the membership. In a house of 120 members, that means at least 30 lawmakers must be present for work to proceed, a threshold that is frequently not met.

The persistence of absences has drawn criticism not only from the public but from the lawmakers who do show up. Their duties include passing the national budget, enacting legislation, holding the executive accountable, and representing constituents. When Parliament fails to function, those



functions go unfulfilled.

And constituents are watching. Parliamentary sittings are broadcast live on national television and streamed on the Parliament and Lesotho Television Facebook pages. Voters can see, in real time, which seats are empty.

There is no mechanism for constituents to recall an absentee lawmaker before the next general election. That reality has deepened frustration, particularly among voters whose concerns cannot be raised or debated because their representatives are not present.

The problem extends beyond plenary sessions. Lawmaker Itumeleng Rantsho, who represents the Likotsi No. 36 constituency, rose on a point of order to note that some of the most frequent absentees are the very lawmakers elected to represent Lesotho in regional and international parliamentary bodies, including the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum and the Pan African

Parliament.

Rantsho called on presiding officers to select only committed lawmakers for those prestigious postings. She also noted that some members fail to present reports to Lesotho's Parliament on what transpired in those international forums, a further breach of their obligations.

Advocate Lekhetho Rakuoane, a veteran lawmaker, said the Standing Orders already empower the Speaker to take action. He urged Sekhamane to move beyond warnings and enforce compliance.

The legal framework is clear. Section 4 of the Standing Orders requires that lawmakers "shall" attend all sittings of the House, committees, and approved workshops unless leave has been granted or an apology submitted.

Section 4(6) specifies the penalty.

It reads: "If a member fails to attend a sitting or meeting of the House or a committee thereof without obtaining a leave of absence from the Speaker,

or if he or she fails to remain for at least two thirds of the duration of the sitting or meeting, he or she shall be punished and an amount determined by the Business Committee shall be deducted from his or her sitting allowance for each sitting or meeting from which he or she is absent or does not remain for at least two thirds of the duration of the meeting."

The National Assembly's Code of Conduct and Ethics, yet to be adopted by the House, goes further, applying the principle of "no work, no pay." It also mandates that a presiding officer certify the attendance register for every meeting, indicating which members were absent with leave and which were absent without.

The deputy speaker, Tšepang Tšita-Mosena, had previously promised quarterly attendance assessments and warned lawmakers that coming to work is not a "hobby" but a legal duty.

Despite the clear rules and repeated warnings, no political party has publicly denounced its own members for missing sessions or failing to report for work.

The Ethics, Code of Conduct, Immunities and Privileges Committee recently tabled a report recommending penalties for absenteeism and the enforcement of punctuality. But when the report came up for debate, the Leader of the Opposition, Mathibeli Mokhothu, raised a point of order urging that the report first be discussed informally and that consensus be reached before it returns to the House. He argued that the report would have a significant impact on members.

That report has yet to be debated.

Whether Sekhamane's latest warning will translate into action remains an open question. Previous cautions, including his own since 2023, have produced no tangible change.

Tšolo's M1.7bn corruption case gets a second life

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Court of Appeal has overturned a High Court ruling that had permanently halted corruption proceedings against a former minister and a German energy company, reviving a case that has already cost the Lesotho government millions in legal fees and compensation claims.

The case against Temeki Tšolo, a former minister in the Prime Minister's Office, and Fraser Solar GMBH involves allegations of fraud, forgery, obstruction of justice, and signing a contract without Cabinet approval.

The contract, signed in 2018 during the administration of former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane, was valued at approximately M700 million (about \$37 million at current exchange rates). A related compensation claim from Fraser Solar has reached €50 million (about \$54 million).

The Court of Appeal ruled that the High Court had "misdirected itself" when it granted a permanent stay of proceedings and ordered that the case be remitted to the High Court for a fresh hearing before a different judge. The decision, delivered by Court of Appeal President Prof. Kananelo Mosito, alongside Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane and Judge Van der Westhuizen, found that the stay had been issued without any request from the defense and was not supported by evidence.

A prosecution derailed

The case had been thrown out by High Court Judge Tšeliso Mokoko, who expressed exasperation with the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO), the country's anti-corruption agency.

"I have one problem," Judge Mokoko told the DCEO's lawyer, Advocate Mojalefa Shakhane. "Your conduct is that you were only aware of this matter last week. You have failed to prosecute. You have all the resources at your disposal and you did nothing."

The judge noted that the DCEO had failed on two separate occasions, the weeks beginning Oct. 21, 2024, and Aug. 18, 2025, to bring the matter to trial. The prosecution had not informed the court of its unreadiness nor applied for a postponement. Judge Mokoko was also critical of the absence of Advocate Jay Naidoo SC, a senior counsel engaged by the DCEO.

The permanent stay was ordered under Section 278 of the Speedy Court Trials Act of 2002, which requires expedited trials and permits discharge when the prosecution fails to proceed. The Act also requires that engaged lawyers be present unless the court is notified of their absence, a requirement the DCEO did not meet.

At the hearing, Advocate Shakhane told the court he was not empowered to withdraw the case when defense counsel, Advocate Molefi Masoabi, asked for it to be withdrawn.

A contract without approval

The origins of the case lie in a 2018 agreement that Tšolo, then a minister, allegedly signed with Fraser Solar GMBH without seeking Cabinet approval. The contract involved the supply of energy-saving equipment, solar lanterns, solar water-heating units, and LED lights.

The government later abandoned the Fraser Solar deal in favour of a separate Chinese project to build a solar plant in Ramathole, Mafeteng. Phase one of that project was commissioned in 2023.

Fraser Solar has since claimed €50 million



Temeki Tšolo

in compensation for breach of contract. The company has pursued separate legal battles against the Lesotho government both locally and in international courts, costing the state

millions of maloti in legal fees.

The DCEO said it initiated a criminal investigation in November 2022 and jointly charged Tšolo, Robert Fraser, and Fraser Solar in November 2024 with fraud, corruption, and contravention of section 21(3)(b) of the Prevention of Corruption and Economic Offences Act of 1999, as amended.

Legal experts note that entering the Fraser Solar contract would have violated the Public Financial Management and Accountability Act of 2011 and the Procurement Regulations of 2007.

'I was framed'

After the High Court granted the permanent stay, Tšolo maintained his innocence. "I have always maintained that I was framed," he said at the time.

The DCEO immediately signaled its intention to appeal. 'Matlhokomelo Senoko, the Directorate's senior public relations officer, told this newspaper that the institution was "not satisfied" with the ruling.

The Court of Appeal has now cleared the way for the prosecution to proceed. The case has been remitted to the High Court, though no date has been set for the fresh hearing.

Opposition MP moves to force Matekane to face parliament

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

For more than three and a half years, Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane has governed without once answering questions from rank-and-file lawmakers in Parliament. Now, an opposition leader is trying to force the issue, with a motion that could set a major precedent for executive accountability in Lesotho.

Remaketse Sehlabaka, leader of the Mpulule Political Summit (MPS) and a member of the opposition in the National Assembly, has filed a notice to move a motion declaring that the prime minister is constitutionally obligated to appear before the legislature for questioning, and that no parliamentary resolution can waive that duty.

Matekane, a wealthy businessman turned politician who took office in October 2022, has never submitted himself to backbench questions. On the rare occasions he has spoken in the House, it has been largely to second budget motions. When lawmakers direct questions to his portfolio, he delegates responses to the minister in the Prime Minister's Office.

Critics say the pattern amounts to routine avoidance of direct accountability.

Sehlabaka's motion, which has not yet been scheduled for debate, seeks to declare null and void any resolution that purports to excuse the prime minister from appearing before the House, arguing that such a manoeuvre would be inconsistent with Standing Order 27, the parliamentary rule governing the prime minister's attendance.

The motion also affirms that the prime minister's obligation to appear, answer questions, and address matters of national importance is

mandatory, and "cannot be waived, suspended or overridden by a simple majority vote," according to a copy of the filing.

Furthermore, the motion urges the House to resolve that

a failure by the prime minister to comply with the standing order constitutes a breach of parliamentary privilege and an erosion of legislative oversight. It calls for the House to order Matekane to appear on the next sitting day designated for questions to the prime minister, and for the clerk of the National Assembly to communicate the resolution immediately.

The frustration extends beyond party lines.

Lawmakers have repeatedly sought to question Matekane on issues of acute public concern: a soaring crime rate, widespread gender-based violence and femicide, and persistently high fuel prices. None of those questions have been answered by the prime minister directly.

This is not the first attempt to compel his appearance. Before his appointment as a minister, Motlatsi Maqelepo moved a similar motion proposing that questions be submitted to the prime minister days in advance, allowing him time to study them, consult, and prepare responses. That motion was defeated.

Sehlabaka said in an interview that he is prepared for any outcome, but that he has been canvassing fellow lawmakers to support the motion. He described the effort as a matter of constitutional duty, not political theatre.



"This time around it's different," he said. "I need Parliament as a collective to declare its stand and position on these constitutional legal issues. Following due legal processes as part of my parliamentary duties, I intend to push through to fulfill my obligations and responsibility."

He added: "The prime minister must appear before Parliament to properly account to the people. It is not discretionary."

In unusually blunt language for a parliamentary manoeuvre, Sehlabaka also threatened legal action if the prime minister and the cabinet do not address what he called his "parliamentary and constitutional concerns."

"It is a matter of both responsibility and duty that is an obligation — not a political display," he said.

For now, the motion sits in procedural limbo. No date has been set for debate. But the underlying question, whether Lesotho's head of government can be compelled to face elected lawmakers, is very much alive.

And in a country where previous prime ministers have appeared for question time, Matekane's sustained absence has become, for his critics, a quiet constitutional crisis in the making.



China's tariff removal piles pressure on Lesotho

Bereng Mpaki

Lesotho's trade competitiveness has come into question following China's recent implementation of zero tariffs for all African countries, with growing concerns over whether the country has what it takes to exploit the arrangement.

There are increasing calls for Lesotho to urgently strengthen its productive capacity and export competitiveness if it hopes to meaningfully tap into the Chinese market. This concern was recently raised by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development's Director of Trade, Malineo Seboholi.

Speaking during a reception hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Maseru, Seboholi said that while Lesotho has previously benefited from preferential market access as a Least Developed Country (LDC), the real challenge now lies in effectively utilising the expanding opportunities.

China first announced the tariff elimination initiative during follow-up engagements under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2025, with the arrangement officially taking effect on May 1, 2026.

Under the new framework, 53 African countries with diplomatic ties to China now enjoy expanded duty-free access to the world's second-largest economy.

The arrangement broadens an earlier concession granted to least developed countries, including Lesotho, which had already been enjoying duty-free treatment on 100 percent of tariff lines since December 2024. China says the initiative is aimed at deepening trade rela-

tions and supporting Africa's industrialisation efforts.

Reflecting on the implications for Lesotho, Seboholi warned that tariff removal alone would not automatically translate into economic gains. She said the greater challenge was whether the country could produce enough competitive goods for export into the Chinese market.

She noted that Lesotho continues to run a trade deficit with China, with the Asian giant ranking among the country's biggest import partners while exports from Lesotho remain negligible.

According to the latest Foreign Trade Statistics report for the third quarter of 2025, China was not among the top 10 destinations for Lesotho's exports. However, it was the country's second-largest source of imports, accounting for 13 percent of total imports.

The ministry further warned that unless Lesotho improves its productive capacity, industrial output and value addition, the zero-tariff arrangement could end up benefiting Chinese exporters more than Basotho producers.

Those concerns mirror broader debates emerging across Africa as China deepens commercial ties with the continent. While African countries have welcomed greater access to China's vast consumer market, economists caution that many African economies still mainly export raw commodities while importing higher-value manufactured products from China.

According to official Chinese customs data,

trade between China and Africa reached a record US\$348 billion in 2025, underlining the growing significance of the relationship. African exports to China stood at about US\$123 billion during the year.

In the first five months of 2025 alone, China-Africa trade had already reached 963.21 billion yuan, equivalent to roughly US\$134 billion.

Despite this growth, Africa's trade imbalance with China remains significant, largely because many African countries continue exporting raw materials while importing machinery, electronics, vehicles, textiles and processed goods.

Seboholi cited Lesotho's wool and mohair industry as an example of the country's structural weaknesses. She said Lesotho still exports most of its wool and mohair in raw form, leaving the sector vulnerable to external shocks and price fluctuations.

The recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, which disrupted exports, further exposed the risks associated with relying heavily on unprocessed commodity exports.

The ministry argued that greater domestic processing and value addition would help Lesotho retain more value locally, create jobs and improve economic resilience.

For years, Lesotho's wool and mohair industry has been regarded as one of the country's strongest agricultural export sectors, yet local beneficiation has remained limited. Much of the raw fibre is exported before being processed into finished textile products abroad.



Director of Trade Malineo Seboholi

The ministry believes the Chinese zero-tariff initiative presents an opportunity for Lesotho to reposition itself beyond raw commodity exports and expand into agro-processing and manufacturing.

Among the priority areas identified for cooperation with China are technical support for exporters, investment in agro-processing industries, improved logistics systems, technology transfer and skills development.

China's move comes at a time when African countries are searching for alternative markets amid global economic uncertainty and shifting trade patterns. Beijing has increasingly positioned itself as Africa's largest trading partner and a major investor in infrastructure development across the continent.

Chinese authorities say the new tariff arrangement will remain in place until April 2028 for non-least developed African countries, while negotiations on broader economic partnership agreements continue.

The ministry, however, insists that Lesotho remains committed to creating an enabling environment for trade and investment while strengthening support for the private sector. It also called for practical cooperation to ensure the zero-tariff initiative contributes meaningfully to poverty reduction, job creation and sustainable economic development.

Lesotho matches major African nations in trade shares

Ntsoaki Motaung

A newly released economic report from the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has shed fresh light on the massive trade network connecting South Africa with its closest regional neighbors.

While South Africa continues to stand tall as the largest and most industrialised powerhouse in the southern region, the report highlights exactly how smaller nations fit into the bigger regional puzzle.

Among these, Lesotho plays a unique, steady, and vital role on both sides of the trade fence. According to the report, when looking at trade strictly within the African continent, South Africa holds a massive commercial advantage.

The economic giant sells approximately \$31.1 billion worth of goods to other African nations, while buying back roughly \$10 billion in return.

Because Lesotho is completely enclosed by South African territory, its economic heartbeat is naturally tied to its giant neighbor.

However, the new data proves that Lesotho is not just a passive observer, it is an active and essential trade partner.

South Africa exports a vast amount of manufactured goods, machinery, automotive products, and processed food across its borders every year.

According to the report's 2025 data, Lesotho accounts for a solid 5 percent share of South Africa's total trade exports to the rest of the African continent.

While a 5 percent market share might sound small when compared to larger regional neighbors like Mozambique which takes 17 percent or Namibia and Botswana which take 13 percent each, the report shows that, it tells a very impressive story for a country of Lesotho's size.

"In fact, Lesotho's 5 percent share perfectly

matches the export share of the massive Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and sits just behind Eswatini, which stands at 6 percent. This demonstrates that despite its small geographic footprint and smaller population, Lesotho operates as a highly valuable consumer market for South African products," report shows.

The report shows that, on the flip side, South Africa relies heavily on its African neighbors for essential inputs like clean energy, raw minerals, and specific agricultural goods. In this import category, Lesotho claims a 4 percent share of all the goods South Africa buys from the African continent.

When compared to other nations on the continent according to the report, Lesotho holds its own remarkably well. Its 4 percent import share places it just underneath regional neighbors like Botswana and Zimbabwe, which both supply 5 percent of South Africa's imports.

Naturally, it is much smaller than regional import heavyweights like Eswatini and Nigeria, which each supply a massive 17 percent of South Africa's African imports, or Namibia, which claims a 16 percent share. Even so, Lesotho provides a consistent stream of goods that helps fuel South African industries.

Economic experts note that Lesotho's steady trade numbers are largely thanks to two major factors, its unique geography and its long-standing political agreements. Being surrounded on all sides by South Africa makes cross-border transport direct and necessary.

Furthermore, Lesotho is a key member of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), which allows for the free movement of goods without heavy taxes between member states.

With new continental trade agreements like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) steadily breaking down cross-border barriers across the wider continent, regional integration is changing.

However, the deep-rooted trade partnership between Lesotho and South Africa remains a textbook example of how a small economy can successfully carve out its own space alongside an industrial giant.

ESTATE NOTICE

3 LATE ZIPHO FELIX RAMOLOKO B71/24

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 2024. The first and final distribution account in the above mentioned estate shall lie open for inspection in the offices of the Master of the High Court for three (3) weeks from the date of publication of this notice. The account can be inspected on working days 8:00 am till 4:30 pm.

The offices of the Master of the High Court are situated at the following address:

ADDRESS
BEHIND PASSPORT OFFICE BUILDING
OPPOSITE POST OFFICE
BOTHA-BOTHE 400

NOTICE OF LOST LEASE

NOTICE is hereby issued that the Executor of the late MASECHABA MARY LITABE & ZACHARIAH LITABE intend to apply for issuance of certified copy of registered Lease to immovable property registered under NO.13282-405 in favor of MASECHABA MARY LITABE & ZACHARIAH LITABE in respect of every right or interest on and to the building (s) and other developments express or implied in certain PLOT NO.13282-405 situated at MAPELENG, MASERU URBAN AREA in the DISTRICT of MASERU.

All persons having objection to the issue of the said copy are requested to lodge such in writing to the Land Registrar within three weeks from the last publication of the notice.

APPLICANT'S NAME & ADDRESS	P.O.BOX 1899	LAND ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITY
THEOLO ISHMAEL MAKHELE (EXECUTOR)	MASERU	LEROTHOLI ROAD
RASEKOAI, RAMPAI & LEBAKENG ATTORNEYS	ADDRESSES	P.O.BOX 11856
HOPOLANG BUILDING ROOM 1 & 6	LAND REGISTRAR	MASERU 100

CBL warns of rising financial risks amid global uncertainty



The launch of the CBL's tenth Financial Stability Report (FSR) in Maseru

Seabata Mahao

The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) has warned that growing global uncertainty, weakening economic conditions and rising domestic vulnerabilities are increasing risks to the country's financial system, urging stronger vigilance from regulators, businesses and households.

The warning emerged during the launch of the CBL's tenth Financial Stability Report (FSR) in Maseru, where Governor Dr Maluke Letete said Lesotho faces mounting financial pressures stemming from geopolitical conflicts, volatile global markets and slowing economic activity.

Letete said the report comes at a critical time marked by heightened global uncertainty, persistent geopolitical tensions and deteriorating macro-financial conditions.

He warned that ongoing conflicts, including tensions involving the United States and the Russia-Ukraine war, continue to fragment global trade systems, destabilise commodity markets and increase policy uncertainty across economies.

"For small open economies such as Lesotho, these global developments affect the country through trade, commodity prices, financial flows and confidence channels, increasing domestic risks and limiting policy space," he said.

According to the report, financial stability risks intensified during 2025 as households, businesses and the public sector came under growing strain amid slowing economic activity and declining external support.

Letete said household credit continued to expand despite fragile labour-market conditions, contributing to rising non-performing loans, particularly in mortgage and unsecured personal lending.

"In the business sector, declining export demand, falling diamond prices and heightened global trade uncertainty weakened cash flows and debt-servicing capacity, resulting in increased credit risk across industries," he added.

The report further cautioned that although fiscal outcomes remained favourable on the surface, Lesotho's public finances remain

vulnerable because of continued dependence on volatile external revenues, particularly receipts from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), coupled with a rigid expenditure structure dominated by the public-sector wage bill.

Head of the Financial Stability Department at the CBL, Nkhahle Seeiso, said vulnerabilities within the non-bank financial sector are also contributing to elevated systemic risks.

Although the insurance and microfinance sectors recorded growth and improved profitability, Seeiso warned that balance-sheet weaknesses remain a concern.

He said the insurance industry continues to face challenges linked to high operating costs, market concentration and uneven reinsurance utilisation. Meanwhile, the microfinance sector remains exposed to liquidity and credit risks because of loan-concentrated asset structures and reliance on borrowed funding.

Despite the growing risks, Seeiso said Lesotho's financial system remains broadly resilient.

"The banking sector continues to maintain strong capitalisation, high liquidity buffers and positive profitability despite some deterioration in asset quality during the year," he said.

He added that stress-testing results showed banks remain well positioned to withstand macro-financial shocks, with capital levels staying above regulatory requirements under different stress scenarios.

Seeiso further noted that key financial market infrastructures, including the Lesotho Wire and Automated Clearing House systems,

continued to operate efficiently and support smooth payment and settlement processes.

At the same time, he cautioned that the rapid growth of mobile-money services, while improving financial inclusion, has also increased exposure to operational, liquidity and cybersecurity risks that require close regulatory oversight.

The report also highlighted the continued decline in global diamond prices and its impact on Lesotho's broader economic outlook.

According to the analysis, prolonged weakness in the diamond sector has reduced export earnings, weakened government revenues and heightened credit risks as businesses struggle and job losses increase.

In response to the emerging threats, Seeiso said the CBL will continue strengthening macro-prudential surveillance, enhancing early warning systems and tightening oversight mechanisms to ensure risks are identified and addressed promptly.

International Monetary Fund representative Andrew Steven said geopolitical developments continue to play a major role in shaping global macroeconomic conditions.

Steven explained that escalating trade wars, military conflicts and political instability disrupt trade flows, alter investment patterns and influence economic policies across interconnected economies.

CBL Deputy Governor Lehlomela Mohapi echoed those concerns, stressing that global transmission channels increasingly influence domestic prices and economic conditions in Lesotho.

Mohapi said Lesotho's heavy dependence

on imports, particularly from South Africa, leaves the country highly exposed to global market shocks and supply chain disruptions.

He explained that geopolitical conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war continue to affect fuel prices and transport costs, ultimately raising production costs across sectors.

"These shocks eventually filter down to everyday life," Mohapi said, warning that rising diesel prices are already increasing farming costs and are likely to push up food prices, particularly maize meal, in the coming months.

He added that ordinary Basotho travelling long distances between districts such as Makhotlong and Maseru are already feeling the burden of rising transport and living costs.

Mohapi also urged households to adopt more resilient financial strategies, warning against dependence on a single source of income or investment.

"People should not invest all their money in one place. It is important to diversify income sources so that when shocks occur, households are not left completely exposed," he said.

He further called for stronger collaboration among regulators, financial institutions, government and the private sector to preserve financial stability amid growing uncertainty.

Meanwhile, 'Mamotlohi Mochebelele raised concerns about the impact of geopolitical instability on pension investments.

Mochebelele explained that pension funds rely on long-term investment strategies in which monthly contributions from civil servants are invested across financial markets to generate future retirement benefits.

However, she warned that prolonged global instability and market volatility threaten investment returns and could negatively affect pension payouts if economic pressures persist over an extended period.

"We collect money every month from civil servants and invest it so that when they retire, they can receive their pensions," she said.

She cautioned that sustained geopolitical shocks could erode the long-term value of pension assets, placing future retirees at greater financial risk.





Ntsoaki Motaung

WHO has officially declared the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). But while Lesotho has recorded no cases, local health experts are warning that the mountain kingdom cannot rely on its geographical distance from the epicentre for safety.

Molumaela Lepeli, a public health specialist, nurse educator and PhD candidate, told Newsday that the belief Lesotho is immune to the crisis is a dangerous illusion.

“Most European researchers have a notion that Ebola is an African disease only because it is found in parts of Central and West Africa,” Lepeli said. “This does not make Lesotho exceptional.”

In an irony that cuts against conventional assumptions, Lepeli argues that Lesotho’s status as a peaceful and stable nation in Southern Africa is precisely what increases its vulnerability.

“In an era defined by global geopolitical instability and human displacement fuelled by climate change, Lesotho has become an attractive option for refugees and migrants seeking safety,” he said.

He also pointed to the Basotho diaspora. “Global academic and employment opportunities mean that members of the Basotho diaspora are living and travelling all over the world. With international travel networks more interconnected than ever, a pathogen jumping species thousands of miles away can arrive at our borders in less than 24 hours.”

Unlike the more familiar Ebola-Zaire strain, the current outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo virus. According to official WHO statements, there are currently no approved vaccines or specific therapeutics for this strain.

The WHO has indicated that the Bundibugyo virus causes severe haemorrhagic fever, directly impairing the body’s clotting system and causing catastrophic organ damage. The virus has an incubation period of 2 to 21 days post-exposure.

Lepeli urged the public to be aware of the key symptoms, which include unexplained internal and external bleeding or bruising, intense fatigue and general body malaise, vomiting, diarrhoea and stomach pain, as well as severe headaches and muscle pain.

According to the WHO, the virus initially jumps from infected wildlife such as bats or non-human primates to humans, subsequently spreading rapidly from person to person through direct contact with blood, bodily fluids, secretions or contaminated surfaces.

During an address at the World Health Assembly 2026, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus confirmed that 30 cases have been recorded in the DRC’s north-eastern province of Ituri. Uganda has also informed WHO of two confirmed cases in the capital Kampala, including one death, among two

Lesotho told to prepare for Ebola as deadly Bundibugyo strain spreads

As the World Health Organisation (WHO) elevates the Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak to a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, a Lesotho public health specialist says the country’s peace and stability paradoxically increase its risk.



Public health expert Molumaela Lepeli, who cautions that global migration and climate displacement mean Lesotho is no exception to the continental Ebola threat

individuals who travelled from the DRC.

“An American national has also been confirmed positive, and been transferred to Germany, as reported by the US. We’re working with the DRC, Uganda and the United States,” Ghebreyesus said.

The WHO has since updated its figures to include at least eight laboratory-confirmed cases, hundreds of suspected cases, and dozens of community deaths in the DRC, alongside confirmed cases spreading into Kampala.

Ghebreyesus outlined four factors raising concern about further spread and further deaths.

First, beyond the confirmed cases, there are more than 500 suspected cases and 130 suspected deaths, numbers that

will change as field operations scale up including strengthening surveillance, contact tracing and laboratory testing.

Second, cases have been reported in urban areas, including Kampala and the city of Goma in the DRC. Third, deaths have been reported among health workers, indicating healthcare-associated transmission.

And fourth, there is significant population movement in the area.

Lepeli argues that primary prevention is Lesotho’s only line of defence and has laid out a series of measures he says the Ministry of Health must implement immediately.

These include continuous surveillance for suspected and probable cases at all

ports of entry and borders, frequent district coordination and emergency meetings for knowledge sharing and refresher training for healthcare workers, social mobilisation meetings with community leaders in rural communes to spread awareness, and Infection Prevention and Control assessments across all healthcare facilities.

Suspected cases must be isolated immediately, and the Ministry must provide secure transportation for medical samples from rural clinics to diagnostic labs.

“We cannot afford to wait for the virus to arrive before we build the walls to contain it,” Lepeli said. “For Lesotho, preparation is not optional — it is a matter of national survival.”

Highlighting the gravity of the situation, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has officially assumed leadership of the regional and continental response.

The Africa CDC Director General has cancelled his high-profile engagements at the World Health Assembly in Geneva to fly back to Africa and personally visit the affected zones.

The agency has immediately activated its continental Incident Management Support Team (IMST) to coordinate rapid response operations.

Furthermore, the Africa CDC is urgently convening its Emergency Consultative Group to evaluate a formal declaration of a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS), reflecting the threat this cross-border outbreak poses to health security across the entire African continent, including southern nations like Lesotho.

As the WHO advises neighbouring nations to enhance active surveillance and prepare rapid response teams, Lepeli said Lesotho must treat this global declaration as a domestic health emergency.

“Preparation is not optional,” he said. “It is a matter of national survival.”

Social Cluster Committee calls for urgent rescue of Thaba-Tseka's ailing health sector

Ntsoaki Motaung

A hard-hitting report by the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on the Social Cluster has exposed the severe systemic failures plaguing health facilities in Thaba-Tseka district. Following joint site visits with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Members of Parliament are demanding immediate government action to avert the total collapse of healthcare services in the mountainous district.

The findings reveal a district struggling with basic infrastructure deficits: chronic water shortages have forced clinics to shut down, while the lack of reliable transport has left pregnant women and patients in remote villages isolated and at risk.

Dry taps and closed clinics: District Administrator's stark warning

In frank briefings to the committee, the Thaba-Tseka District Administrator warned that his district faces the most acute health challenges in the country.

The most pressing issue is the severe shortage of clean water. Many communities rely on unprotected streams, putting thousands of residents at risk of waterborne diseases.

The situation recently forced the complete closure of Ha-Mokoto Health Centre. The

District Administrator noted that Thaba-Tseka remains the only district in Lesotho without a government hospital. The entire population depends on Paray Hospital, a Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL) facility that is chronically overcrowded.

He also linked rampant youth unemployment to rising teenage pregnancies and child marriages, with some young women resorting to transactional relationships for survival.

Donkeys used to transport medicine, acute shortage of midwives

A presentation by the District Health Management Team (DHMT) painted a desperate picture of the transport crisis. Health workers said they are unable to conduct outreach services to remote mountain communities due to a complete lack of vehicles.

After their request for horses went unanswered, they resorted to using donkeys to carry medical supplies. Officials warned, however, that donkeys are unsafe for transporting fragile medicines and vaccines over rough terrain.

The DHMT further reported high maternal mortality rates, as health teams often cannot reach women in labour in time. This is compounded by a critical shortage of qualified midwives.



Overcrowding and funding crisis at Paray Hospital

Paray Hospital management told the committee that, as the district's only hospital, it is overwhelmed by patient referrals from all corners of Thaba-Tseka.

The facility is also battling serious financial difficulties caused by delayed quarterly subvention releases from government. These delays have affected the timely procurement of essential drugs and the payment of staff salaries.

Management also revealed that the suspension of donations by the current US administration has created a significant funding gap, particularly in cervical cancer prevention and treatment programmes.

High adolescent pregnancies and rejection of cancer screenings

At Sehong-hong Health Centre, adolescent pregnancies account for 30 percent of all female consultations. The Acting Manager highlighted cultural barriers to healthcare: many older women are refusing cervical cancer screenings. Some believe they are no longer at risk after menopause, while others feel uncomfortable being examined by younger nurses.

Like several other facilities, Sehong-hong was recently forced to close temporarily due to insufficient water pressure from its borehole.

Committee's urgent recommendations

Deeply concerned by the realities witnessed on the ground, the Social Cluster Committee has tabled urgent recommendations.

It recommended that the Ministry of Water must immediately task the Rural Water Supply unit with repairing broken boreholes and pipelines at all health facilities in Thaba-Tseka and that the Ministry of Health and CHAL must urgently resolve outstanding issues in their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to restore smooth service delivery and funding flows.

It also recommended that the Ministry of Health must deploy targeted resources to address the district's high cervical cancer burden and that the government must prioritise youth employment programmes to tackle the economic desperation fuelling child marriages and teenage pregnancies.

The committee warned that without urgent intervention to fix roads, water supply, and health infrastructure, communities in Thaba-Tseka will continue to be denied their basic right to healthcare.

Government urges vigilance following regional Hantavirus scare

Ntsoaki Motaung

The Government of Lesotho has issued a detailed briefing to the National Assembly on the Ministry of Health's preparedness measures against the Hantavirus outbreak.

The statement was delivered on Tuesday by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Health, 'Mamokete Ntšekhe.

The briefing comes in the wake of a highly publicised international outbreak linked to the luxury expedition cruise ship MV Hondius.

The vessel departed Ushuaia, Argentina, on April 1, 2026, and sailed through remote Antarctic and South Atlantic regions, including the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and isolated islands, before reaching the Canary Islands in mid-May 2026.

A Dutch woman, widow of the first victim who died on the ship, disembarked at Saint Helena. She collapsed at OR Tambo Interna-

tional Airport in Johannesburg on April 25, 2026, while trying to board a flight home.

She was taken to a hospital but died the next day (26 April). Post-mortem tests confirmed she had the Andes hantavirus.

A British man fell seriously ill on the ship near Ascension Island. He was medically evacuated to Johannesburg on April 27 and treated in intensive care (ICU) at a private hospital. He tested positive for the same virus and was one of the early confirmed cases.

South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) in Johannesburg was one of the first labs to confirm Hantavirus infection and identify the specific Andes virus strain through testing and genomic sequencing.

This early confirmation helped trigger the international alert.

Although the World Health Organization (WHO) currently assesses the global risk as low, Lesotho's health authorities are calling for

heightened vigilance.

According to the government statement, the outbreak originated aboard the MV Hondius. Between 1 April and 13 May 2026, the vessel travelled through remote areas including Ushuaia in Argentina, Antarctica, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and several isolated Atlantic islands, before returning to Europe.

Globally, 11 cases have been confirmed, with three deaths — a fatality rate of approximately 27 percent. South Africa has recorded two cases, one of which was fatal after the patient was transferred to a hospital in Johannesburg.

At the 79th World Health Assembly, the WHO Director-General urged member states to maintain rigorous contact tracing. Passengers and crew from the ship remain under strict quarantine until late June.

Health officials have clarified that Hantaviruses are primarily rodent-borne. Humans usually become infected through contact with rodent urine, saliva, or droppings, particularly

in enclosed spaces. The strain in this outbreak is the Andes virus. While human-to-human transmission is generally rare for most hantaviruses, limited person-to-person spread occurred aboard the cruise ship due to close quarters. No sustained community transmission has been reported globally.

The Ministry of Health has warned that symptoms can range from mild to severe. Early signs include fever, muscle weakness and fatigue. In serious cases, the virus can cause severe respiratory distress requiring oxygen support, as well as complications affecting blood pressure and organ function.

Given that thousands of Basotho regularly travel to South African hubs such as Gauteng and the Western Cape, the Ministry has activated an immediate multi-sectoral response.

Health and immigration officials will intensify screening of people and goods at all major ports of entry, active tracing and monitoring of individuals who have recently travelled to affected areas, and training for health workers and immigration officers to enable rapid identification of symptoms.

There is also public education on basic hygiene, including regular handwashing and use of alcohol-based sanitisers and strengthened information-sharing with South African authorities and the WHO to ensure laboratory readiness.

"Because Lesotho and South Africa share such porous borders, we cannot afford to be complacent," the ministerial statement concluded.

"We must remain vigilant, observe strict hygiene protocols, and ensure our health facilities and laboratories are fully prepared to protect the nation."

The public is advised to report any flu-like symptoms, especially after travel, to the nearest health facility immediately. Further updates will be issued as the situation evolves.



Three decades later, Vodacom Lesotho says the mission is bigger than technology

Thato Ramafu

In Lesotho, we have a peculiar relationship with distance. Mountains separate villages, weather interrupts plans, and for decades, opportunity often arrived late, if at all. A journey from Mokhotlong to Maseru could feel less like travel and more like negotiating with geography itself. Yet somewhere between the ringing of old public phone booths and the glow of smartphones lighting up taxi ranks, Lesotho quietly entered the digital age.

And perhaps that is why Vodacom Lesotho turning 30 feels larger than a corporate anniversary. It feels like a checkpoint in the country's modern story.

What began in 1996 as a flickering mobile signal has evolved into something far more consequential: a social infrastructure woven into how Basotho live, trade, learn, mourn, celebrate and survive. Across the globe, telecommunications companies like Vodacom Group, MTN Group and Safaricom have become central to national development conversations. But in Lesotho, where terrain and inequality have historically shaped destiny, the role of connectivity carries a different emotional weight.

It is not merely about signal bars. It is about shrinking isolation.

That sentiment came through strongly during the recent Vodacom Lesotho's 30th anniversary launch where CEO Mohale Ralebitso delivered remarks that felt less like executive talking points and more like a reflection on the country itself.

"The journey was never just about connectivity or technology," he said. "Technology is simply an enabler of something more fundamental, which is connecting people."

That line lingers because it challenges the sterile language often used around innovation. Too often, digital

transformation is spoken about like a glossy PowerPoint presentation imported from Silicon Valley. But in Lesotho, connectivity is intensely human. It means a herd boy in Thaba-Tseka accessing information from the same internet as a student in London. It means a mother receiving money instantly through M-Pesa instead of waiting days for a relative travelling home. It means small businesses surviving because customers can pay remotely.

Technology, in this context, is not futuristic decoration. It is economic oxygen.

Ralebitso's framing of M-Pesa was particularly striking because it acknowledged something policymakers and banks sometimes hesitate to admit: financial exclusion is not an abstract statistic. It is a daily barrier to dignity.

For years, millions across Africa operated outside formal banking systems, not because they lacked ambition, but because the systems themselves were geographically and structurally inaccessible. Mobile money changed that rhythm. Suddenly, transactions no longer required a taxi ride, a queue or an entire afternoon sacrificed to logistics. Money began moving at the speed of need.

That shift altered economies from Nairobi to Maseru. Entire informal sectors became more agile. Families became more financially connected. Entrepreneurs gained breathing room.

And yet, the most thought-provoking part of Ralebitso's address had little to do with telecommunications at all.

It was climate change.

At first glance, soil erosion and mobile networks seem worlds apart. But perhaps that is precisely the point. Modern corporations are increasingly being forced into conversations that were once reserved for governments and environmental activists. Climate shocks, food

insecurity and sustainability are no longer peripheral issues. They are business issues. National stability issues. Human survival issues.

Ralebitso's comments about Lesotho's farming practices were unusually candid.

"It is insanity how we farm on steep slopes," he said.

Harsh? Perhaps. But difficult to dismiss.

Lesotho's mountains are breathtaking, but they are also fragile. Every rainy season leaves fresh scars across hillsides stripped bare by overgrazing and unsustainable cultivation. One does not need satellite data to notice the erosion. The land itself tells the story.

What was compelling about the speech is that it refused to isolate technology from these broader realities. Increasingly, the future of telecommunications companies lies not merely in carrying data, but in enabling resilience. Information-sharing for farmers. Digital health systems. Remote education. Climate adaptation tools. Artificial intelligence. Financial inclusion. Cybersecurity. These are no longer side conversations. They are the main event.

And this is where Vodacom Lesotho's next chapter becomes genuinely interesting.

Because the challenge facing telecoms in 2026 is profoundly different from the one they faced in 1996. Back then, the mission was access. Build towers. Expand coverage. Get people connected.

Now the mission is trust.

Can digital platforms protect privacy? Can AI create jobs rather than widen inequality? Can connectivity genuinely improve lives beyond marketing slogans? Can companies remain profitable while still being socially useful?

These are harder questions than simply extending network coverage into remote villages.

To his credit, Ralebitso appeared aware of this tension.

His repeated emphasis on inclusion, education and social investment suggested a recognition that corporations can no longer survive by behaving like detached profit machines floating above society. In an era of public distrust and widening inequality, people increasingly expect businesses to justify their existence beyond shareholder returns.

That expectation is especially pronounced in Africa, where corporations often fill developmental gaps left by struggling states.

The Vodacom Foundation's investments in coding programmes, bursaries and healthcare initiatives may not solve Lesotho's structural problems overnight, but they reflect a growing reality: the private sector is becoming one of the architects of the country's future, whether it planned for that responsibility or not.

Still, there is a cautionary undercurrent worth acknowledging.

Corporate storytelling can sometimes romanticise impact while sidestepping uncomfortable realities around affordability, digital inequality and consumer frustrations. Connectivity alone does not automatically produce prosperity. A smartphone without economic opportunity is still just a glowing screen in a struggling household.

That is why the real test of Vodacom Lesotho's next decade will not simply be technological sophistication. It will be whether digital progress becomes genuinely democratic.

Will innovation reach the villages at the edge of the map, or only urban elites with fibre connections and flagship smartphones? Will young Basotho become creators in the digital economy or merely consumers scrolling through opportunities happening elsewhere? Will AI empower local industries or deepen dependency on imported systems and foreign expertise?

These questions matter because the future Ralebitso described is already arriving. Quietly. Relentlessly. Like that first mobile signal in 1996.

And perhaps the most powerful thing about Vodacom Lesotho at 30 is not the towers, the revenues or even the technology itself. It is the reminder that in a small mountain kingdom often underestimated by the world, connectivity has become something profoundly political and deeply personal.

In Lesotho, a network signal is never just a signal.

Sometimes, it is the sound of a country trying to catch up with the future before the future races too far ahead.

Carmel Gaillard

Every year, International Day of the Boy Child invites us to pause and reflect on the realities shaping boys across the world, not only who they are today, but who they are being taught to become. It is a moment to ask difficult but necessary questions about identity, belonging, vulnerability and the environments that mould young boys long before adulthood arrives.

In Southern Africa, these questions carry particular urgency, many boys are growing up in communities shaped by poverty, inequality, unemployment, fractured family structures and limited access to opportunity. For some, the absence of present male figures in the home means they are learning masculinity from peers, social media, online influencers, or the harsh realities of survival itself. In those environments, violence can become currency. Aggression becomes visibility. Dominance becomes identity. Emotional detachment becomes a shield. Boys quickly learn that being feared often earns more recognition than being gentle, thoughtful or emotionally honest.

Public discourse often responds to these realities by invoking the phrase "toxic masculinity." While the intention may be to critique harmful behaviours, the term itself has become counterproductive. It risks labelling boys and young men rather than addressing the conditions shaping their behaviour. It can feel accusatory to those already navigating exclusion, unemployment and limited opportunity — and when people feel blamed, they disengage.

For children and youth, language matters. When we frame the conversation around what is "wrong" with boys, we lose sight of what is missing from their lives: safety, affirmation, guidance, opportunity and permission to be emotionally human. Behaviours do not emerge in a vacuum. They are responses to environments, expectations and unmet needs.

We see it in schools, in communities, online and in our programmes at Sentebale. We see boys carrying immense pressure to "man up" before they have even fully understood themselves. We see young men navigating hopelessness in economies where opportunities are scarce. Botswana's youth unemployment rate remains alarmingly high, estimated at more than 43% among 15-24-year-olds in recent World Bank-linked reporting, while unemployment and economic inse-

International Day of the Boy Child: Reclaiming boyhood through joy, humanity and possibility

curity continue to deeply affect young people in Lesotho as well.

When boys grow up without safe spaces to process fear, grief, rejection or uncertainty, those emotions do not disappear. They often emerge as anger, withdrawal, risk-taking, substance abuse or violence. Communities then respond to the behaviour, while rarely addressing the wound underneath it.

We also cannot ignore the growing influence of digital culture shaping modern masculinity.

Netflix's Louis Theroux's exploration of the "manosphere" brought global attention to online spaces targeting young boys and men with narratives rooted in resentment, hyper-masculinity and emotional isolation. These platforms offer boys certainty in uncertain times. They promise status, control and identity. For boys who feel invisible, unheard or economically excluded, that messaging can be deeply seductive.

But this is not entirely new. Long before algorithms amplified these ideas, many societies had already conditioned boys to suppress vulnerability and equate masculinity with dominance. What is new is the scale, speed and intimacy with which digital narratives now reach boys often in bedrooms, on phones and in moments when guidance from trusted adults is absent.

The "manosphere" may not always look exactly as it does in Western contexts, but the pressures are familiar. Boys are still grappling with questions of worth, power and belonging against a backdrop of unemployment, HIV, mental health challenges and social instability. In some communities, young boys grow up seeing migration for work separate families, economic hardship strain households, and substance abuse or violence become normalised coping mechanisms.

So the question becomes: how do we interrupt this cycle? One answer lies in something we do not speak

about nearly enough — boy joy.

Boy joy is the freedom for boys to experience tenderness, creativity, curiosity, laughter and emotional safety without shame. It is allowing boys to be fully human before the world demands they become "men." It is teaching boys that strength and softness can coexist. That asking for help is not weakness. That empathy is power. That care, accountability and emotional intelligence are not feminine traits — they are human ones.

Boy joy shifts the narrative from "fixing dangerous boys" to nurturing healthy boys. It asks us to create environments where boys are seen not only as future providers or protectors, but as children deserving of care, affirmation and guidance. It reminds us that prevention starts long before crisis. Long before violence. Long before incarceration. Long before despair hardens into hopelessness.

At Sentebale, our work with young people across Lesotho and Botswana is rooted in this understanding. Through psychosocial support, youth advocacy, vocational training, health services and safe community spaces, we work alongside young people to build resilience, confidence and agency.

But no organisation can do this work alone. Supporting boys requires collective responsibility, from parents, educators and faith leaders to policymakers, coaches, employers and media platforms. We must invest in mentorship. We must create opportunities for economic participation. We must normalise conversations around mental health. We must give boys language for emotion before the world gives them language for violence.

Because when boys are unsupported, communities feel the impact for generations. But when boys are nurtured, guided and empowered, entire societies benefit.

International Day of the Boy Child is not about centring boys at the expense of girls. It is about recognising

that healthy societies require healthy children, all children. And that includes boys who are too often told to endure silently.

This day calls us not simply to acknowledge boys, but to reimagine what boyhood can be without fear, hardness, performance but joy and humanity.

The International Day of the Boy Child is celebrated annually on 16 May. It was first observed in 2018 and focuses on the wellbeing, development, and positive contributions of boys in society.

Carmel Gaillard is a purpose-driven leader advancing the rights and wellbeing of children and young people across Southern Africa. As Executive Director of Sentebale, she drives an integrated strategy across Health, Wealth Creation, and Climate Resilience, turning children's rights into lived reality in a region where HIV remains a defining, but not solitary, challenge.

She has served as a WHO and UNICEF technical expert on child mental health, psychosocial support and protection. At the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, she led strategic portfolios on child safety and protection, including multi-year responses to gender-based violence and femicide. She is a Board Member of the South African National Child Rights Coalition and St Anthony's Child and Youth Care Center.

With deep regional and global experience in child and youth development, Carmel's leadership is grounded in addressing the chronic, interconnected adversities shaping young lives, where HIV intersects with poverty, inequality, mental health pressures, and climate vulnerability. She is focused on advancing responses that move beyond single-issue interventions, strengthening healthcare and psychosocial support, unlocking economic opportunity, and building resilience within communities facing layered and persistent stressors.

My take on the dismissal of Minister Lephema: Implications and limitations

Theko Tlebere

A few of my friends have been calling and sending me messages requesting my take on the so-called “dismissal” of Minister Lebona Lephema. A very interesting topic for Lesotho’s politics and probably very important for Lesotho’s political history. At first I was very reluctant but my Uncle’s call from Ha Khohlopo actually made me realise that maybe I need to say something about this issue. What actually changed my mind was when my uncle actually asked me “to use my political science intellect” to analyse this situation. But he said I should do it in a way that he will be able to narrate to Ntate Mochoanfo (his neighbour) about my explanation. Therefore, in pursued of my uncle’s request and that of friends and followers of this column I will theorise this situation in a way I hope “e tla re qil” even to that Mosotho youth in that very rural village.

And this is it how it goes; on the 18th of May 2026, His Majesty King Letsie III formally accepted the recommendation of Prime Minister Sam Matekane to terminate the ministerial appointment of Hon Lebona Lephema, signifying a significant alteration within the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho. This action was part of a comprehensive cabinet reshuffle involving the reallocation of responsibilities across various ministries that even saw a new minister from the Mafeteng district being sworn in as the minister of Public Service.

For many Basotho, particularly in areas such as Ha Khohlopo, these events have been perceived as the expulsion of a minister, I am saying that because that’s exactly how my uncle put it, “why has Matekane expelled Lebona from cabinet?” However, in political and legal terms, what is the true nature of this occurrence? Should constituents, whose immediate concerns pertain to service delivery, infrastructure, education, and employment, be preoccupied with what may initially appear to be a conflict among political elites? The succinct response that first come to my mind is that, from a theoretical and constitutional perspective: yes, but not in the manner some commentators suggest.

Let us remember that Lesotho’s political framework operates as a parliamentary constitutional monarchy, wherein executive authority is vested in the Prime Minister and Cabinet, while the monarch primarily assumes a ceremonial role. Under this framework, the Prime Minister is empowered to appoint ministers from among the members of parliament and to advise the King regarding appointments and terminations. Consequently, ministerial tenure is contingent upon the political discretion of the Prime Minister, constrained not by the King but by constitutional conventions and party political dynamics. In this context, Lephema’s dismissal is not an anomaly but rather a lawful exercise of executive authority.

From a rational choice institutional perspective, political leaders strive to maintain cohesion and discipline within their governing coalitions. Ministers function primarily as political agents who must represent their constituencies while advancing the overarching



Former Minister of Local Government and Police, Lebona Lephema

agenda of the executive. When a minister openly refuses to comply with directives, particularly those possessing constitutional legitimacy, the executive risks fragmentation and potential governmental paralysis. Thus, the Prime Minister’s decision to reassign Lephema to a different ministry (and ultimately to terminate his appointment upon refusal to comply) exemplifies principal agent theory in practice: the Prime Minister (principal) cannot accommodate agents (ministers) who cease to act in accordance with collective directives. The removal thus reinforces executive authority and upholds collective accountability, which is essential for the stability of coalition governance.

Another pertinent theoretical perspective emerges from institutionalism, particularly the notion that political order is contingent upon adherence to rules rather than individual personalities. Leaders who disregard constitutional protocols or defy lawful directives risk not only political embarrassment but also institutional erosion. By restructuring Lephema’s role and subsequently dismissing him for noncompliance with the Prime Minister’s directive, after initially transferring him to the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Business Development, Matekane conveyed that no official is above constitutional norms or the directives of His Majesty. There is no evidence that the King acted unilaterally; his acceptance of the Prime Minister’s counsel was procedural and anticipated within Lesotho’s constitutional framework.

What this means is that this narratives are grounded in personalised power politics and

reinforces the principle that political authority is mediated through constitutional office rather than solely through traditional authority. For rural Basotho in Ha Khohlopo and beyond, this distinction is significant: institutional predictability fosters a more stable environment for development than unpredictable political patronage.

The government of Lesotho, under the leadership of Prime Minister Matekane’s Revolution for Prosperity (RFP), operates within a coalition framework that necessitates negotiation and balance. It is expected that ministers will originate from diverse factions and interests. For enduring governance, the Prime Minister must ensure that cabinet members act cohesively and in alignment with established policy directions, even when this necessitates the disciplining of ministers.

Political theories of coalition governance suggest that leaders must balance inclusivity with enforceability: excessive leniency may result in ministerial fiefdoms where ministers pursue narrow agendas to the detriment of agreed national priorities. In Lesotho’s context, such discipline is particularly crucial given ongoing challenges in public service delivery and economic management.

Despite the fervor of political discourse in urban settings and on social media platforms, the average village in Ha Senyokotho possesses a far more concrete set of expectations from government: improved infrastructure, reliable water supply, enhanced healthcare services, operational educational institutions, and increased household incomes. What my little knowledge of Political science consistently

indicates is that elite reshuffles and ministerial turnover seldom translate directly into enhancements in material conditions unless accompanied by systemic reforms in governance and service provision.

The events of May 2026 are unlikely to effectuate immediate or substantive changes in the daily lives of Basotho in general. Shifts in ministerial personnel do not automatically yield new clinics or agricultural resources. Indeed, what is most consequential for rural households is not the identity of the minister, but the efficacy of policy implementation. Consequently, while this episode is politically significant and indicative of Matekane’s commitment to constitutional adherence and executive discipline, it does little to resolve the chronic under investment in rural service infrastructure that adversely affects ordinary Basotho.

My take, therefore is that, the dismissal of Minister Lebona Lephema should not be interpreted as an isolated incident but as an exercise of executive authority consistent with Lesotho’s constitutional order. Prime Minister Sam Matekane has demonstrated steel balls to uphold internal discipline and constitutional protocols, even at the expense of political discord within his own ranks. Nevertheless, Basotho should moderate their expectations: this political event will not, in isolation, translate into the material improvements they seek. Genuine change will arise from effective policy implementation by those in power that prioritizes developmental outcomes, transcending ministerial rhetoric. The future is NOW!



Kingdom of Lesotho

REQUEST TO SUBMIT BUSINESS PROFILES

The Ministry of Health (MoH) invites suitably qualified Basotho individuals and companies to submit businesses profiles for the provision of vehicle hire services to support operations across districts in Lesotho. This will form a database of the vehicles that will be used by the Ministry of Health when in need.

The ministry now intends to call upon all relevant transport service who are suitable and eligible to provide transport services under the transport models and criteria that will be stated hereunder:

Transport service providers should:

- ▶ Submit Company profile in hard copy format
- ▶ Submit Valid Company business trading documents (traders' licence, tax clearance, certificate of incorporation and VAT certificate where applicable)
- ▶ in hard copy format
- ▶ Valid roadworthy certificate (VAT11)
- ▶ Valid vehicle insurance that includes the third party
- ▶ Mileage: Not above 100,000 km/h
- ▶ **Vehicle Type:** 4x4 Double Cab

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [08h00 to 16h30 local time].

The Procurement Manager
Health Headquarters, Ground Floor, Left Wing
Ministry of Health
P.O.Box 514,
Constitution Road
Maseru 100, Lesotho.

All the documents must be submitted to;

The Procurement Unit
Health Headquarters, Ground Floor, Left Wing
Ministry of Health
P.O.Box 514,
Constitution Road
Maseru 100, Lesotho.

Submission Details:

Closing Date: 22 May 2026 at 12:00 noon (Lesotho time)

Submission Method: Hand delivery only

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY- HEALTH



SADPII

Specific Procurement Notice

**Request for Bids
Small Works
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process)**

EXTENDED SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTOR FOR SEAKA (LOT 1) AND TSIKOANE (LOT 2) IRRIGATION SCHEME

Employer: Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSN)
Project: Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II)
Contract title: Design and Build for Seaka (Lot 1) and Tsikoane (Lot 2) Irrigation Scheme
Country: Kingdom of Lesotho
Loan No. /Credit No. / Grant No.: P165228
RFB No: LS-MAFS-524103-CW-RFB
Issued on: 21st April 2026

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSN) under Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the (SADP II) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Design and Build for Seaka (Lot 1) and Tsikoane (Lot 2) Irrigation Scheme. "For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing."

1. The Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Design and Build for Seaka Irrigation Scheme (Lot 1) construction period-6months, location: Quthing and Tsikoane Irrigation Scheme construction (Lot 2) period-6months, location: Leribe.
2. Bidding will be conducted through national competitive procurement using Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers 6th Edition February 2025 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
3. Bids will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation process set out in the bidding documents. The following weightings shall apply for Rated Criteria (including technical and non-price factors): 60% and for Bid cost: 40%. The weightings are applicable for each lot.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from SADP II, e-mail: procurement@sadpii.org.ls and inspect the bidding document during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours at the address given

at the end of this RFB .
5. Bidders are eligible to bid for both lots but only one (1) bidder can be allocated/ awarded one (1) irrigation scheme (lot) at a time.

DEADLINE EXTENSION

6. Bids must be delivered to the address at the end of this RFB on or before 1400 hours on **5th June 2026**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL BID", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below at SADP II boardroom, **1430 hours on 5th June 2026**. All envelopes marked "FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Employer until the second public Bid opening.

Additionally, the outer envelope should be marked "do not open" and should clearly indicate the Lot being submitted as follows:

- Design and Build for Seaka Irrigation Scheme - Lot 1
Design and Build for Tsikoane Irrigation Scheme- Lot 2
7. All Bids must be accompanied by the following:
(i) Bid Security of LSL 300,000.00 for Seaka (Lot 1) and / Bid Security of LSL 260,000.00 for Tsikoane (Lot 2) and
(ii) Local Labor Method Statement for both lots.
 8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
 9. The address(es) referred to above is (are):
Procurement Office
Moshoeshoe II Livestock
P.O Box 24
Maseru 100
Lesotho

telephone number: +266 22312578
email address: procurement@sadpii.org.ls
web site address: Procurement - SADP II or <https://www.sadpii.org.ls/procurement/>

1. Substitute "contracts" where Bids are called concurrently for multiple contracts. Add a new para. 3 and renumber paras 3 - 8 as follows:
"Bidders may Bid for one or several contracts, as further defined in the Bidding Document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid."
2. Insert if applicable: "This contract will be jointly financed by (insert name of cofinancing agency). Bidding process will be governed by the World Bank's Procurement Regulations"
3. A brief description of the type(s) of works should be provided, including, location, quantities, construction period, application of margin of preference and other information necessary to enable potential Bidders to decide whether or not to respond to the Request for Bids. Bidding Document may require Bidders to have
4. If electronic procurement will be used, insert link or web site address and any additional relevant information, as appropriate
5. The office for inquiry and issuance of Bidding document and that for Bid submission may or may not be the same.
6. Substitute the address for Bid submission if it is different from address for inquiry and issuance of Bidding document.



Kingdom of Lesotho
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
PROCUREMENT UNIT
P.O BOX 24
MASERU 100

Invitation to Bidders

BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

22th May 2026

LAPTOPS - MAFSN/G006/2026/27

1. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition has been allocated/received from the Government of Lesotho to be used for the acquisition of **Laptops**.
2. The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above Goods.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open national bidding method contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all bidders.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below at 8(a) from **08:00 to 16:30 hrs**.
5. The Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at 8(b) and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of M500.00. The method of payment will be cash at the Ministry.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at 8(c) at or before **14:00hrs, 25th June 2026**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid securing declaration. Bid Securing Declaration must be valid until **30th October 2026**. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 8(d) at **14:30hrs, 25th June 2026**
7. There shall not be a pre - bid meeting.
8.
 - a. Documents may be inspected at: Procurement Unit Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Corner Constitutional and Linare Roads **22322741**
 - b. Documents will be issued from: Procurement Unit Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Corner Constitutional and Linare Roads **22322741**
 - c. Bids must be delivered to: Tender Box situated at Agric Headquarters, Corner Constitutional and Linare Roads **22322741**
 - d. Address of bid opening: Boardroom of Agric Headquarters, Corner Constitutional and Linare Roads **22322741**

9. The planned procurement schedule (subject to changes) is as follows:

Activity	Date
a. Publish bid notice	22nd May 2026
b. Pre-bid meeting where applicable	N/A
c. Bid closing date	25th June 2026
d. Evaluation process	09th July 2026
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	16th July 2026
f. Contract signature	After expiry of at least 10 working days from display of the Notice of Tender Results - 31st July 2026

Signature:

Name: **Khothatso Tsooana**

Position of Authorised Official: **Permanent Secretary**



Kingdom of Lesotho
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
PROCUREMENT UNIT
P.O BOX 24
MASERU 100

Invitation to Bidders

BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

22th May 2026

ANIMAL FEEDS FOR LAC - MAFSN/G005/2026/27

1. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition has been allocated/received from the Government of Lesotho to be used for the acquisition of **Animal Feeds for LAC**.
2. The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above Goods.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open national bidding method contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all bidders.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below at 8(a) from **08:00 to 16:30 hrs**.
5. The Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at 8(b) and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **M500.00**. The method of payment will be cash at the Ministry.
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e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	16th July 2026
f. Contract signature	After expiry of at least 10 working days from display of the Notice of Tender Results - 31st July 2026

Signature:

Name: **Khothatso Tsooana**

Position of Authorised Official: **Permanent Secretary**



Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
WaMCoP
P.O. Box 24
Maseru 100



General Procurement Notice

Government of: Lesotho
Project/procuring entity: Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project
GPN version: 2026.2
GPN publication date: May 11, 2026

The Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project and intends to apply part of the financing to payments for contracts for goods, works and services. The procurement program for the 04/2026 - 03/2027-year period will include the following:

Procurements for 04/2026 - 03/2027	
Estimated value - 3,883,082.63 EUR / 75,981,500.00 LSL / 4,479,161.46 USD	
Procurement of Goods, to include:	
1)	Promotional Material
2)	Communication material
3)	Generator and Extension Cord
4)	Mobile Kraals
5)	Feeders and Drinkers
6)	Aprons and Overalls
7)	Additional AI Equipment
8)	Liquid Nitrogen Plan
9)	Semen for AI Program
10)	Fodder seeds
11)	Silage Making Equipment
12)	Concentrates
13)	IEC Material
14)	Animal ear tags
15)	Promotional Attire
16)	Protective clothing for Auctioneering team and CAHWs
17)	Vet Kits and drugs
18)	Video Editing softwares
19)	Corporate Identity Materials
20)	Meeting Amplifier

21)	Tender Box and Trolley
22)	Zippel
23)	Protective Clothing for PCU
24)	Laptops
25)	ICT Equipment
Procurement of Consulting Services, to include:	
1)	Certification of Wool and Mohair Consultancy
2)	SECAP Risk Management Consultancy
3)	EIA Consultancy
4)	Asset Valuation Consultancy
5)	AI Service Provider
6)	Fodder Demo and Silage Making Consultant
7)	Productive Alliance Consultancy
8)	Gender Mainstreaming Strategy Consultancy
9)	MIS and Website Development
10)	Corporate Identity
11)	Valuation of Physical Assets
Procurement of Works, to include:	
1)	Rehabilitation of Bucks and Does Structures
2)	Construction of the NDL
3)	Parkhome

Contracts for goods, works and services will be implemented according to the principles, rules and procedures set out in the current versions of the IFAD Project Procurement Guidelines and IFAD Procurement Handbook. Specific procurement notices for contracts to be tendered under the competitive bidding procedures will be announced as they become available on selected portals, in local newspapers, and other media outlets as appropriate.

Interested eligible bidders and consultants who wish to be included on the mailing list to receive a copy of advertisements, or those requiring additional information, should send an email to the Moroosi Lejota Thakong (procurement@wamcop.org.ls) using the subject line "GPN 2026.2 for Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project" and indicating which of the procurement items they are interested in. **Valid trading licenses must be attached.**

This GPN is based on the 1st edition of standard procurement document for the general procurement notice issued by IFAD on www.ifad.org/project-procurement for use in projects financed by IFAD. IFAD does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy or translation, if applicable, or any other aspect in connection with the content of this document.



Invitation for Bids

ROLL Project -Supply and Delivery of Water Irrigation Tanks Material

Maseru, Lesotho
20 MAY 2026

Re: Supply and Delivery of Water Irrigation Tanks Material - Ref No: LSO-200002340-0153-G-NCB

The Government of Lesotho has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and intends to apply a part of the proceeds of the financing to this purchase. The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with *Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods*.

- The *Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods* includes rehabilitation of sixteen identified landscapes in Lesotho and improvement of the livelihoods of the people in the rural areas, within a period of eight years.
- This invitation for bids (IFB) follows the general procurement notice that appeared on IFAD website on the **21st April 2026**, Lesotho Times newspaper on the **23rd April 2026** and Public eye newspaper on **24th April 2026**.
- The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities (bidders) for the **Supply and Delivery of Water Irrigation Tanks Material** more details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of requirements in this bidding document.
- This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully carry out the procurement.
- Bidding will be conducted using the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** method, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook which is provided at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The NCB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.
- Please note that a pre-bid conference **will not be** held as described in the bid data sheet (BDS), Section III of the bidding document.

Bidders interested in submitting a bid shall download the bidding document from the following website: www.rollproject.gov.ls and complete the registration form available on the website.

Attn: Procurement Manager
ROLL Project
Near Ministry of Environment & Forestry
Industrial Area, Plot No. 12281-609
Maseru 100
Lesotho

Tel: (+266) 5873 0763/ (+266) 5875 7203

E-mail: procurement.roll@gov.ls and copy to morakanyane.mafatle@gov.ls

- Bids must be delivered to the address and in the manner specified in the bid data sheet – instructions to bidders 23.2, no later than **10:00** local time on the **24 June 2026**
- Bidders shall be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstance and will be returned unopened at the written request and cost of the bidder. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security or bid-securing declaration (as required) in the manner and amount specified in the bid data sheet.
- Please note that electronic bids **shall not** be accepted.

Yours sincerely,

Procurement Manager
Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods Project
Near Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Industrial Area, Plot no. 12281-609
Maseru 100
Lesotho
Tel: (+266) 5873 0763/ (+266) 5875 7203
E-mail: procurement.roll@gov.ls





ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LHDA) STAKEHOLDER PORTFOLIO

Background

The Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC) is mandated by the Lesotho Highlands Water Project Treaty of 1986 and related Instruments to provide oversight, approval, advisory, and monitoring roles to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) on behalf of the Governments of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is the implementing Institution for the LHWP, and is governed by a Board of Directors. The LHDA Order, as amended in 2000, mandates the LHWC to appoint the LHDA Non-Executive Director.

The Commission hereby, on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources in Lesotho, invites suitably qualified and reputable individuals from Lesotho to express interest in serving as a non-executive member of the LHDA Board of Directors, representing the stakeholders' portfolio.

This non-Executive board directorship requires both stakeholder insight and governance capability, with full collective fiduciary and governance responsibilities. The tenure for this position is fixed at three (3) years, with a possibility of renewal.

The Board and Committee meetings are primarily conducted at the LHDA Headquarters located in Maseru, Lesotho, with periodic travel and meetings at the LHWP sites.

Educational Qualifications:

Applicants must possess a Tertiary Qualification with a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in any discipline or a relevant professional qualification.

Core Experience

Applicants must demonstrate proven experience in the following areas:

- Governance experience, including familiarity with Board roles, statutory bodies, or regulated entities;
- Board exposure, either as a Board member, committee member, trustee, or senior executive engaging regularly with Boards;
- Strategic oversight experience, with the ability to contribute to long-term institutional strategy, policy direction, and performance monitoring;
- Public reputation and credibility, demonstrating ethical leadership, sound judgement, and the ability to uphold the reputation of a nationally and internationally significant institution.

Board accountability

As a non-executive director, the successful candidate will be expected to:

- Discharge full fiduciary duties in the best interests of the LHDA, exercising care, skill, diligence, and independent judgment;
- Provide financial oversight, including review of budgets, financial statements, audit reports, and financial controls;
- Contribute to risk management, ensuring that strategic, operational, financial, environmental, and reputational risks are identified and appropriately managed;
- Ensure compliance with the Lesotho Highlands Water Project treaty, related protocols, legislation, and governance frameworks;
- Uphold collective board responsibility for decisions, performance oversight, and institutional accountability.

The following competencies will be added as an advantage:

- **Experience working in a corporate or structured organisational environment**, with demonstrated ability to **learn quickly, adapt effectively**, and operate confidently within a governance and regulatory framework.
- **Knowledge of social, economic, and environmental impacts** associated with large-scale infrastructure or water projects, with sensitivity to the needs of vulnerable groups

How to Apply

Interested individuals are invited to submit their application, which should include the following:

1. A detailed Curriculum Vitae;
2. A cover letter explaining their motivation and suitability for the role;
3. Certified copies of relevant qualifications; and
4. Contact details of at least two referees.

To: The Commission Secretary,

Lesotho Highlands Water Commission
5th Floor, Standard Lesotho Bank Tower
Private Bag A156
Maseru 100

Email: sec@lhwc.org.ls

By Friday, the 12th June 2026. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



Kingdom of Lesotho
Lesotho Public Procurement Authority
5th Floor, Right Wing Post Office Building
Kingsway Road

Standard Invitation to Bidders
BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

8th May 2026

Provision of Cleaning Services - LPPA/NCS/L0001

1. The **Lesotho Public Procurement Authority (LPPA)** has received funds from the Government to be used for the acquisition of **Cleaning Services at Corporate Offices of the LPPA**.
2. The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above non consultancy services.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open **National Competitive bidding** procedures contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all eligible bidders.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below at 8(a) from **0830 Hrs – 1630 Hrs**
5. The Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at 8(b) and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LsL 500.00**.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at 8(c) at or before **1015 Hrs 19th June 2026 All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 1 % bid price Bid must be valid until 15th May 2026**. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 8(d) at **1030 Hrs 19th June 2026**
7. There shall be a pre – bid meeting/ site visit at **LPPA Corporate Offices** on the dates indicated in the proposed schedule in this notice.
8. (a) Documents may be inspected at: **5th Floor, Post Office Building Kingsway Road**
(b) Documents will be issued from: **5th Floor, Post Office Building Kingsway Road**
(c) Bids must be delivered to: **5th Floor, Post Office Building Kingsway Road**
(d) Address of Bid Opening: **5th Floor, Post Office Building Kingsway Road**

9. The planned procurement schedule (subject to changes) is as follows:

Activity	Date
a. Publish bid notice	8th May 2026
b. Pre-bid meeting/ Site visits where applicable	15th May 2026
c. Request for Clarifications	11th June 2026
d. Bid closing date	19th June 2026
e. Evaluation process	3rd July 2026
f. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	6th July 2026
g. Contract Signature	21st July 2026

Lebekoane Ntoi
Director General



Kingdom of Lesotho
Lesotho Public Procurement Authority
5th Floor, Right Wing Post Office Building
Kingsway Road

SStandard Invitation to Bidders
BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

8th May 2026

Provision of Security Services - LPPA/NCS/L0002

1. The **Lesotho Public Procurement Authority (LPPA)** has received funds from the Government to be used for the acquisition of **Security Services at Corporate Offices of the LPPA**.
2. The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above non consultancy services.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open **National Competitive bidding** procedures contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all eligible bidders.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below at 8(a) from **0830 Hrs – 1630 Hrs**
5. The Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at 8(b) and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LsL 500.00**.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at 8(c) at or before **1515 Hrs 19th June 2026 All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 1 % bid price Bid must be valid until 15th May 2026**. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 8(d) at **1530 Hrs 19th June 2026**
7. There shall be a pre – bid meeting/ site visit at **LPPA Corporate Offices** on the dates indicated in the proposed schedule in this notice.
8. (a) Documents may be inspected at: **5th Floor, Post Office Building Kingsway Road**
(b) Documents will be issued from: **5th Floor, Post Office Building Kingsway Road**
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g. Contract Signature	21st July 2026

Lebekoane Ntoi
Director General



Lesotho Football Association (LeFA)

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

REFERENCE NUMBER: LFA/PR/002 – Suppliers to supply goods/Render services at LeFA

Date of Issue: 11th May,2026

Lesotho Football Association is a national association with perpetual succession formed with the vision of developing, promoting football in Lesotho, with the objective of turning the dreams and aspirations of the entire Lesotho society into a reality. Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) is registered under number 94/68 in the societies register, Maseru, under Societies Act 1966. LeFA is mandated to organize, administer, develop and control the game of football consistent with Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) rules and regulations in a manner that will continuously improve the standard of football in the country and enhance competitiveness of Lesotho Football while at the same time providing wholesome entertainment to Basotho.

The purpose of this exercise is, therefore, is to competitively identify suppliers to be included in a pre-qualified list of providing goods and services to LeFA offices in all the ten districts for a period of twelve months from the date of signing the contract. Pre-qualified suppliers are invited to submit bids as appropriate, and whenever necessary; LeFA might enter into a long-term Framework Agreement for the supply of routine services. This exercise and subsequent tendering processes shall be subject to the LeFA Procurement regulations. The Secretary General, on behalf of the association, invites interested eligible dealers to be considered for pre-qualification for categories stated below;

CATERGORY	LOT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
Goods	LFA/001	General Office supplies and Consumables
Goods	LFA/002	Sanitary Products and cleaning Materials
Goods	LFA/003	General Football Wear and equipment
Goods	LFA/004	Protective wear and safety equipment
Goods	LFA/005	Cleaning Material and office sundries
Goods	LFA/006	Motor Vehicle Tyres & spare parts
Goods	LFA/007	ICT Equipment, supplies, accessories, LAN, WAN Network Services, IT services, ICT Hardware Maintenance & Service.
Goods	LFA008	General Hardware, Plumbing & Electrical Items
Goods	LFA/009	Office Furniture, equipment & Related Items
Goods	LFA/010	Air conditioners and Supply of Maintenance
Services	LFA/011	Printing Services, Promotional Materials and Signage.
Services	LFA/012	Motor Vehicle Service and maintenance
Services	LFA/013	Conference Packages & Accommodation for all district in Lesotho
Services	LFA/014	Logistics; buses, taxis, 4*4 Motor vehicles, luxury cars and sedans
Services	LFA/015	Air Tickets and Travel Management Services

Services	LFA/016	Legal Services
Services	LFA/017	Security Services
Services	LFA/018	Branding of Vehicles and other Office Equipment
Services	LFA/019	HR and staff support Consultancies
Services	LFA/020	Laundry and Cleaning Services
Services	LFA/021	Market Services (Full House Marketing and advertising agency, strategy formulation and execution, market research and others
Services	LFA/022	Media (Production of print, social media, media production – editorial content, videography & photography
Services	LFA/023	Catering Services
Services	LFA/024	Land scaping and surroundings cleaning services
Services	LFA/025	Fashion Design, tailoring and dress-making services

Pre-Qualification Criteria

All suppliers wishing to be considered for Pre-qualification should include the following requirements in their proposals. This will be assessed in a pass or fail basis. All bidders should include a checklist indicating inclusion of the requirements listed below in chronological order.

- a. Business profile including contact address and details of key staff and ultimate beneficiaries.
- b. Business registration certificate/Traders License
- c. Tax Clearance certificate
- d. List of current customers to the business with their contact details and at least written reference from three reputable organizations.
- e. Physical address and other contact details (postal, physical email and phone)
- f. Other information to back up the application

Sealed proposals clearly marked "Pre – Qualification of Suppliers for goods and Services" Quoting the Reference Number and Lot Number being applied for, **should be delivered before 14:00 hrs** on the 29th May 2026 to the addresses below;

For further information, contact the Secretary General on phone number +266 63118118

The Secretary General
Lesotho Football Association
Bambatha Ts'ita Sports Arena
Old Polo Ground
Maseru

District Administration Officers
All DiFA Offices (But DiFA Maseru)

NB: Electronic and late submissions will be rejected.



Fees	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
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Subscription	M 72.00	M 156.00	M 312.00
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Delivery	M 60.00
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Names:..... **Email:**..... **No. Of Copies:**.....
Address:..... **Start date:**...../...../..... **Expiry:**...../...../
Tel:..... **Cell:**..... **Signature:**.....

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How Leotoana Is Using Comedy to Walk Again

• **A comedian, a taxi, and fifteen years of resilience, Thapelo Sephiri is turning his greatest challenge into his greatest comeback.**



Chris Theko

It was an ordinary Sunday evening on 3 July 2011. Thapelo Sephiri, popularly known now as 'Leotoana' then 24 years old, was simply walking a friend to the Lakeside bus stop to catch a taxi home. He never made it back on two legs.

A taxi coming from town suffered a brake failure and took an off-ramp at speed. In a desperate bid to get out of the way, Sephiri tried to evade the vehicle but was dragged by it in the process.

The next thing he remembers is waking up in hospital the following Monday morning at

around 11am, being told what had happened to him. He lost his leg that day. He was 24 years old.

"It has really been difficult," Sephiri reflects. "I had to manage the challenges of accepting, of facing the public, and learning to live without a leg, having lived for 24 years with an able body. I used to be a dancer, very active. Then moving on to facing a different life altogether."

The road back was neither short nor straight. Sephiri only received his first prosthetic leg in 2013, two full years after the accident. Prosthetics, he has since learned do not

last forever.

By 2018, seven years after losing his leg, he launched his first fundraising campaign to cover the cost of a replacement. It worked. He walked again.

Now, in 2026, five years on from that second prosthetic, the time has come again. The limb has reached the end of its lifespan, and Sephiri needs a new one.

He has obtained two quotations: one for M152,000 from a new supplier, and one for M189,000 from the provider he has worked with before. Despite the higher price tag, Sephiri is firm about which one he wants.

"I want the M189,000 one because we have created a good relationship with them," he says.

Trust, when it comes to something as intimate as a prosthetic limb, is not something to be traded for a discount. His medical aid will contribute M60,000 towards the cost, leaving a shortfall of M129,000. That gap is exactly what Comedy For A Cause is designed to close.

If the story of how the comedy show came together tells you anything about Thapelo Sephiri, it is this: people show up for him, because he shows up for them.

"Because we work together and support each other, I contacted them individually and all of them committed to helping make this comedy show a success, at no cost," he says of the lineup of performers who will grace the stage on 3 July 2026.

The bill is a who's-who of local comedy talent: Lilaphalapha, Makhubelu, Masapo Energy, Skaftin, MSL, Tseko (Nthotse Streit), Shorts, Mokotatsie, and Sir MATEE, alongside Leotoana himself. Dancers Mavele & Tash and saxophonist Marcx Brass round out what promises to be a spectacular evening of entertainment. Every single one of them said yes.

Sephiri did not always know he had a gift for comedy. It was his schoolmates who saw it first.

"Some of my schoolmates turn to say I have always been that guy," he laughs. But it was fellow comedians Mosola and Skaftin who eventually nudged him to take the stage and make it official.

He found his footing, and his niche.

"My niche is storytelling," he says. "It pleases my heart when I see the audience and share stories, and I see them laughing and relating to the stories I share. I love it with a passion."

But comedy has been more than just a career. For Sephiri, it has been medicine.

"It helped me to heal and live with my disability."

There is something quietly profound about a man who lost so much in an instant, and who found in laughter not just a livelihood, but a lifeline.

Sephiri is not waiting around. The moment the funds are secured, he will travel to Bloemfontein for an initial fitting. The prosthetic then takes approximately two weeks to manufacture, after which he returns for a confirmation fitting. Within roughly a month of hitting the target, he expects to be walking on a new leg.

He is confident it will happen.

"I am quite confident that we will reach the target," he says. "If not, I will reach out to companies, and actually, if there are companies willing to join the campaign now, they can reach out to me so that we can facilitate that process."

For anyone still weighing whether to buy a ticket, Sephiri has a direct message:

"When you take out money and buy a ticket to the Leotoana show, you will be making a huge contribution to my being. That will be a huge contribution to my peace of mind, my social life, and my health."

Comedy For A Cause takes place on 3 July 2026. Tickets are priced at R200. All proceeds go directly towards Thapelo "Leotoana" Sephiri's prosthetic leg fund.

Companies or individuals wishing to make a larger contribution to the campaign are encouraged to reach out directly to facilitate the process.

Chris Theko

For years, social media influence in Lesotho was largely viewed as entertainment, viral jokes, lifestyle photos, event appearances, and online popularity that rarely translated into real economic opportunity.

Today, however, that perception is beginning to shift. Across TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and X, a growing number of Basotho creators are no longer simply chasing attention online.

They are attempting to build businesses, personal brands, and sustainable careers in what is increasingly becoming part of Africa's emerging digital creator economy.

But while creator culture in Lesotho is visibly growing, the business infrastructure needed to sustain it remains underdeveloped. Monetisation systems are limited, brand investment is still inconsistent, and many creators continue operating in a space where visibility grows faster than income.

The result is a digital industry caught between potential and structural limitation.

Social media has become one of the country's most influential cultural spaces, especially among young people. Creators now shape conversations around entertainment, fashion, fitness, nightlife, lifestyle, and even public discourse.

Businesses are increasingly using influencers to market products and events, while traditional media personalities are extending their relevance through digital platforms. Yet despite this growth, many creators still struggle to convert influence into stable revenue.

One of the biggest reasons is that direct monetisation from global social media platforms remains largely inaccessible or inconsistent in Lesotho. Platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, and X offer creator monetisation systems globally, but many of these systems are either unavailable locally, regionally restricted, or difficult to access because of payment infrastructure limitations.

For creators in Lesotho, this means content can attract significant engagement without generating direct platform income.

According to DataReportal, Lesotho had approximately 619,000 social media user identities at the beginning of 2025, representing more than a quarter of the national population, while internet penetration stood at nearly 48 percent.

Facebook remains the country's dominant platform, with estimates ranging between 619,000 and 757,000 users during 2025. Instagram, though significantly smaller, continues to grow steadily among younger audiences, particularly users aged between 18 and 34.

X (formerly Twitter) maintains a comparatively niche but influential audience concentrated around media, politics, and urban discourse. While reliable local figures for TikTok and YouTube remain limited, both platforms are increasingly shaping entertainment culture and creator visibility among young Basotho audiences.

Influencer and content creator Junior Kots (Thulo Motaung), who recently represented Lesotho at the African Social Media Influencers Summit in Ethiopia, says one of the major conversations at the summit focused on artificial intelligence and the future of digital influence in Africa.

"We were there to learn about the transformative power of AI in social media influencing," he said.

"We were basically there to learn how AI can help amplify our brands and increase the level of our content creation. If we start seeing social media and content creation as a way of making a living intentionally, we can help improve the economy of our African countries."

But according to Kots, Lesotho is still significantly behind in terms of infrastructure and digital innovation.

"We are very behind compared to the AI

Basotho creators are building influence, but can they build an industry?



technology being used in countries such as Ethiopia in the way their innovation is and infrastructure. We are very far behind," he said.

That technological gap is directly linked to monetisation challenges facing Basotho creators. While influencer culture continues to expand, creators still rely heavily on brand collaborations, event promotions, and ambassadorial work rather than structured platform income.

"The biggest challenge is monetization. Our policymakers need to take this issue seriously and create a conducive environment for these tech companies to be able to come and invest in the creator economy," Kots explained.

He added that even local brand partnerships remain inconsistent.

"Some brands still do not see us as a good investment. When it comes to payments, it is rarely about what you are worth but more about what they want to give you, and because we are hungry, we take whatever we are being offered," he said.

This imbalance reflects a broader reality within Lesotho's creator economy: brands are slowly beginning to understand influencer marketing, but the industry itself remains largely informal. Deals are often negotiated privately, pricing is inconsistent, and long-term creator partnerships are still relatively rare.

Financial Advisor and communications strategist Tokiso 'TKay' Nthebe argues that while Lesotho has always had creators in the form of artists, performers, and storytellers, digital platforms have amplified their visibility in new ways.

"Lesotho has always had a creator economy. What digital platforms have done is shine the light on the creative industry, amplifying the

reach and awareness as more creators leverage online platforms to create opportunities," he said.

However, Nthebe who also is a podcaster and content creator believes monetisation remains the defining issue separating online popularity from a genuine creator economy.

"For us to say it's the creator economy, there needs to be economic opportunities for creators. Not nearly enough creators have economic opportunities from their content creation, and that is a significant problem," he said.

According to Nthebe, one of the biggest structural barriers is market size. Monetisation systems on platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, and TikTok are driven largely by advertising demand and audience scale.

"It's a numbers game. A market like Lesotho is unfortunately small, making it unattractive for many advertisers, thus making monetisation harder for creators as the platforms are reluctant to spend here," he explained.

He also believes many companies still underestimate the value of influencer marketing.

"Many local brands and multinational companies still see digital and influencer marketing as inferior and are reluctant to allocate marketing budgets towards digital," he said. "A shift needs to happen and happen quickly."

Another major challenge is regulation. Lesotho's creator economy currently operates with little standardisation around pricing, contracts, copyright protection, or influencer conduct.

"This is a new industry in Lesotho with no regulation, standardisation, or policies," Nthebe said. "The industry remains unregulated, making it difficult to professionalise or protect creators."

For many creators themselves, the reality behind online visibility is far less glamorous than audiences often assume.

Content creator Lerato Chaoana says content creation in Lesotho has not yet reached the point where it can realistically sustain most people financially.

"At the moment, no," she said when asked whether content creation could become a full-time career locally. "In the future, I think it could."

Like many creators, Chaoana currently relies on her primary employment rather than digital income. She says brand collaborations typically involve submitting rate cards and negotiating prices directly with businesses, but production costs remain one of the hidden burdens of the industry.

"Logistics, products, supporting apps and software, and sometimes even help from other creatives like photographers and editors all cost money," she explained.

Despite these constraints, creator culture in Lesotho continues to expand rapidly. Micro-influencers, creators with smaller but highly engaged audiences, are becoming increasingly valuable to local brands because of their relatability and direct audience connection. Event organisers, nightlife promoters, and businesses are increasingly using influencers to drive attendance, visibility, and online engagement.

At the same time, many creators are beginning to look beyond Lesotho itself in search of larger audiences and better monetisation opportunities. Regional reach is becoming increasingly important, particularly in countries where creator monetisation systems are more established.

Nthebe believes this cross-border positioning could become critical for Basotho creators moving forward.

"If creators can package our culture, language, and uniqueness with subtitles, that will help unlock opportunities beyond Lesotho," he said.

But perhaps the most important challenge facing the industry is not technological, it is mindset.

According to Kots, many creators still fail to see themselves as businesses.

"The biggest opportunity Basotho creators are missing is that they do not understand social media business," he said. "Most of them still see it as a platform for vibes and fun. That is why it is constantly controversial. They do not see themselves as brands and people of influence."

He believes the future of the creator economy in Lesotho depends on professionalisation and formal business structures.

"We need to understand what a brand is and what it means to be a content creator and ambassador," he said. "We need to get to a point where creators are registered and formalised as businesses so that we can also employ other people because this is an economy."

That may ultimately define the next phase of Lesotho's digital creator culture. The influence is already there. The audiences are growing. Brands are slowly paying attention. But the systems needed to transform online influence into a sustainable industry are still being built.

Ntate Stunna joins star-studded FNB Africa Day concert bill

Staff Reporter

Hip hop sensation Ntate Stunna has been added to the growing list of headline acts set to perform at this year's FNB Africa Day Concert, promising an explosive touch to one of the country's rapidly growing annual music celebrations.

The concert will take place at the Maseru Club on 23 May 2026 and has already generated excitement among music lovers following the earlier announcement that South African amapiano star Boohle would headline the event.

Organisers and sponsors have been gradually unveiling more performers ahead of the show, with Ntate Stunna's inclusion widely welcomed by fans on social media.

Promotional posts by FNB Lesotho confirmed that the award-winning rapper will be among the artists performing at the event, which forms part of Africa Month celebrations and aims to showcase African music, culture and unity through live entertainment.

Ntate Stunna, whose real name is Thaabe Letsie, has become one of Lesotho's most recognised musical exports over the past few years. Blending Sesotho lyricism with modern hip hop, trap and Afro-fusion sounds, the artist has built a loyal following both locally and in neighbouring South Africa.

His rise to regional prominence accelerated after the success of his hit single "Ntoa", which became a crossover anthem and introduced many international listeners to Sesotho rap music.

Since then, he has collaborated with several prominent Southern African artists and continued to position himself as one of the leading figures in Lesotho's contemporary music scene.

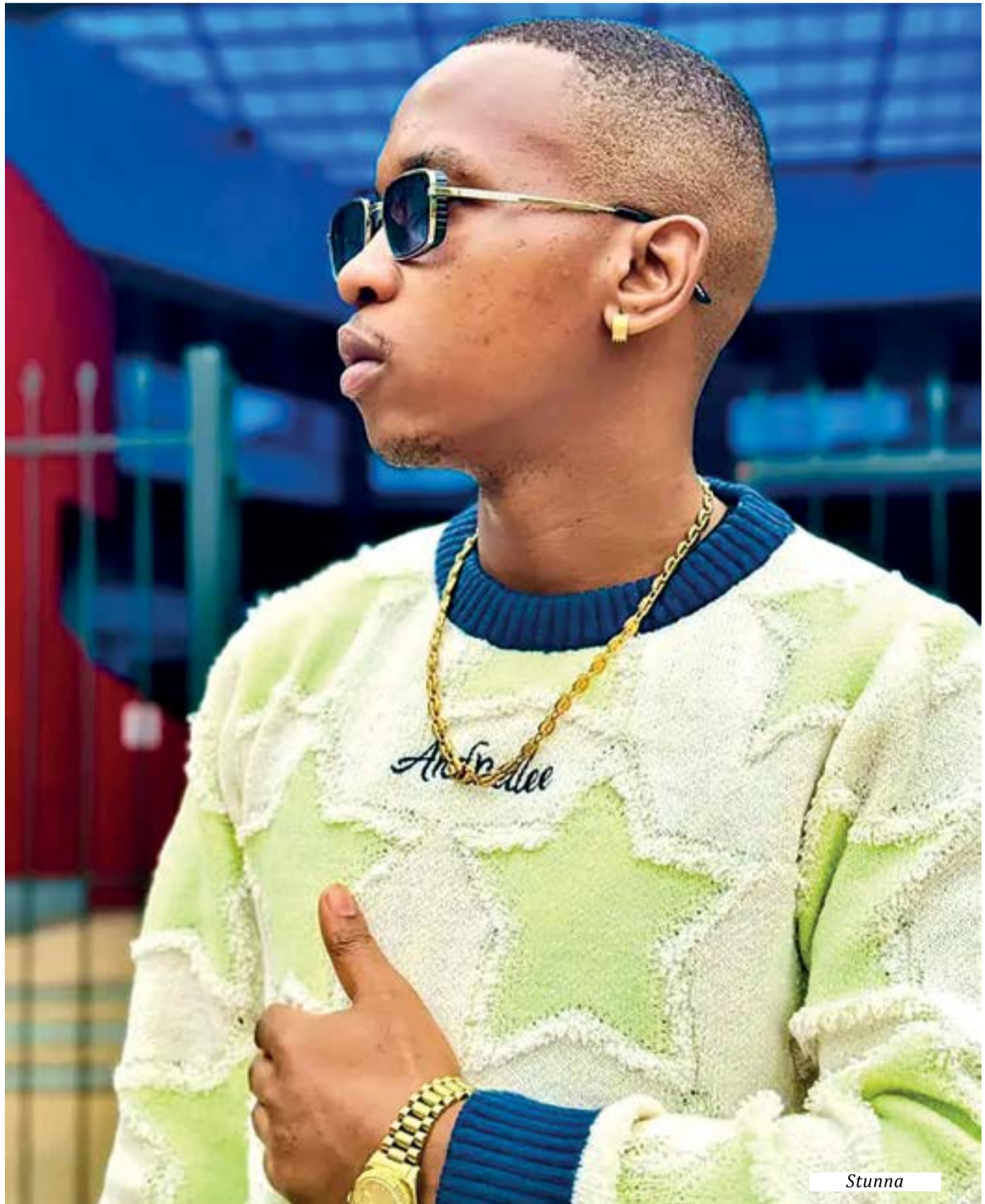
The rapper's energetic performances and ability to connect with young audiences are expected to add another layer of excitement to the Africa Day festivities. Fans are already anticipating a setlist packed with some of his biggest songs, including crowd favourites that have dominated local radio and streaming platforms over recent years.

This year's edition of the FNB Africa Day Concert appears set to be one of the largest since the event was first introduced by FNB Lesotho as part of its broader cultural and community engagement initiatives.

The annual show has steadily grown into a major entertainment fixture in Maseru, attracting thousands of attendees and featuring a mix of local and international talent.

Previous editions have featured celebrated artists from across the African continent while also providing a platform for Basotho musicians to perform alongside established regional acts. The event has become particularly popular among younger audiences due to its fusion of amapiano, hip hop, Afro-pop and dance music.

According to promotional material circulating online, the 2026 edition will also feature DJs and supporting performers from Leso-



Stunna

tho's entertainment industry, with organisers promising a vibrant celebration of African rhythm and identity.

For Ntate Stunna, the performance comes at a time when his profile within the regional music industry continues to rise. The rapper has increasingly become a regular feature at major festivals and concerts in Lesotho and South Africa, reflecting the growing influence of local urban music beyond the country's borders.

His success has also been viewed by many in the local entertainment sector as evidence that Basotho artists can compete commercial-

ly and creatively on the regional stage when given proper exposure and investment.

Music industry observers say the inclusion of both international stars and strong local acts such as Ntate Stunna is important for the continued growth of Lesotho's live entertainment industry. Concerts of this scale not only provide audiences with high-profile performances but also create opportunities for local DJs, sound engineers, promoters, vendors and emerging artists.

The entertainment sector in Lesotho has seen notable growth in recent years, driven largely by increased social media visibility,

digital music distribution and cross-border collaborations with South African artists. Events such as the FNB Africa Day Concert have become key platforms for sustaining that momentum.

Tickets for the concert are already available through online ticketing platforms and other designated outlets.

With Ntate Stunna now officially added to the lineup, anticipation for the event is expected to intensify further in the coming days as fans prepare for what organisers are billing as a celebration of African music, culture and unity.

Likuena dare to dream after favourable AFCON draw



Likuena squad

Seabata Mahao

Likuena coach Bob Mafoso believes Lesotho have a realistic opportunity to qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) for the first time after Tuesday's qualifying draw handed his charges what many football observers consider a manageable route to the 2027 finals.

Lesotho were drawn in Group A alongside continental giants Morocco national football team, Gabon national football team and Niger national football team as they begin another bid to reach Africa's biggest football tournament for the first time in the country's history.

The draw for the qualifiers was conducted by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) in Cairo on Tuesday ahead of the tournament that will be jointly hosted by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania from June 19 to July 17, 2027.

CAF confirmed that 48 nations will compete in 12 groups of four teams, with the top two sides in each group progressing to the finals.

Despite Lesotho being ranked among the lowest-seeded teams in the qualifiers, Mafoso believes the structure of this campaign gives Likuena a better chance than in previous editions.

"Not drawing one of the host nations gives us genuine hope," Mafoso said after the draw.

"In previous campaigns, we were often grouped with hosts, meaning only one place was realistically available for the remaining teams. This time, all four teams in the group are competing equally for two qualification spots."

His optimism reflects wider sentiment within local football circles after Lesotho avoided hosts Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, who automatically qualify for the finals regardless of their performance in the qualifiers.

The issue of host nations participating in qualifying groups has generated debate across African football because teams drawn alongside hosts can sometimes compete for only one effective qualification slot if the hosts finish inside the top two positions.

Several football supporters and analysts across online football communities described Lesotho's group as one of the more open pools outside Morocco's dominance. Still, the challenge facing Likuena remains enormous.

Morocco are among the strongest national teams on the continent and enter the qualifiers as defending AFCON champions and 2022 FIFA World Cup semi-finalists. The Atlas Lions have consistently dominated African football in recent years and are widely expected to top the group comfortably.

That leaves Gabon, Niger and Lesotho likely battling for the second qualification spot. Gabon possess greater AFCON experience and continue to benefit from a generation of players competing in Europe and North Africa, while Niger have steadily improved over the past decade and remain difficult opponents, particularly at home.

However, Lesotho's recent performances have given supporters renewed belief. Likuena secured their place in the group-stage

qualifiers after overcoming Seychelles national football team in the preliminary round earlier this year. CAF had initially placed Lesotho among the lower-ranked nations required to navigate an additional qualification stage before reaching the group phase.

Mafoso, who took charge of the national team amid a rebuilding phase, has earned praise for introducing younger players while maintaining competitiveness against stronger opposition.

Attention has now shifted to the upcoming COSAFA Cup where Mafoso has named a provisional 45-man squad dominated by young and largely uncapped players from the Vodacom Premier League.

The selection underlines the coach's long-term strategy of broadening the national team pool ahead of what promises to be a physically and mentally demanding AFCON qualifying campaign stretching from September 2026 to March 2027.

Only two foreign-based players were included in the provisional squad, 23-year-old midfielder Lebohang Lesako of South African side Orbit College and Lehlohonolo Fothoane of Botswana giants Township Rollers. Lesako has already accumulated senior caps for Likuena and is increasingly viewed as one of the key figures in the next generation of Basotho footballers.

The provisional squad is expected to be trimmed to 30 players following the conclusion of the domestic season before entering camp for COSAFA Cup preparations.

For many Basotho supporters, the current qualifying campaign represents one of the best opportunities yet for Lesotho to finally break into Africa's premier football competition.

Likuena have previously come close to major qualification milestones but often struggled with consistency, squad depth and difficult qualifying draws against continental heavyweights. The country has never appeared at either the AFCON finals or FIFA World Cup.

Yet the growing competitiveness of smaller African nations has shown that surprises are increasingly possible in continental football. Recent AFCON tournaments have seen countries such as Comoros, Gambia and Madagascar exceed expectations by qualifying and competing strongly against established giants.

CAF itself acknowledged ahead of the draw that the gap between Africa's traditional powers and emerging football nations continues to narrow.

Lesotho's hopes may ultimately depend on their ability to maximise home fixtures in Maseru while stealing crucial away points against Gabon and Niger.

With Morocco overwhelming favourites to dominate the group, the battle for second place could become one of the most closely contested races in the qualifiers.

For now, however, belief is steadily growing inside the Likuena camp. And after years of heartbreak and near misses, Basotho football supporters may finally have genuine reason to dream that history could be within reach.

Seabata Mahao

The International Day of the Boy Child was commemorated in Lesotho on May 16, 2026 through a vibrant marathon aimed at promoting physical fitness, unity, protection, and the empowerment of boys.

The event, organised by the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development, attracted participants from athletics associations, World Vision, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and members of the public, all joining hands to celebrate and uplift boys across the country.

Queen 'MasenateMohatoSeiso, child rights advocates, and government officials attended the celebration, which highlighted the importance of supporting boys to become responsible and productive members of society.

The marathon featured three race categories – 10km, 5km, and 1.6km, with participants competing according to age groups. The 10km race catered for adult men and women as well as older boys and girls, while the 5km race targeted middle-aged boys and girls. Younger children took part in the 1.6km race.

Speaking after the event, Director of the Child Protection Department in the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development, Mookho Motheo Lekhanya, said this year's commemoration focused on building boys' self-confidence and creating supportive environments where they can grow into responsible men.

He noted that many boys continue to face challenges that affect their emotional wellbeing, academic progress, and future opportunities.

"The race served as a reminder that boys matter and need guidance, protection, and emotional support from families, schools, and society as a whole," Lekhanya said.

"We want boys to know that they are

important, that their voices deserve to be heard, and that society must create safe spaces where they can grow and succeed."

Lekhanya added that activities organised nationwide are intended to encourage good behaviour, strengthen mental resilience, and promote healthy lifestyles among boys.

She stressed that empowering boys today will help build stronger families and communities in the future.

Athletics coach Thabo Mosebeka expressed satisfaction with the turnout and praised the success of the celebrations.

"We are pleased with how the International Day of the Boy Child celebrations have gone. We appreciate the presence of Her Majesty, and we hope to see even more children participating in future celebrations," he said.

Mosebeka further encouraged parents to support and motivate their sons to participate in similar activities next year.

Members of the community also welcomed the initiative, saying it was important for the nation to openly address issues affecting boys.

Molefi Moeketsi, one of the youths who attended the event, called for more programmes aimed at equipping boys with life skills, leadership abilities, and employment opportunities.

He said many boys fall into negative behaviour because of limited support and guidance. Moeketsi thanked parents for encouraging participation and said boys were happy to celebrate a day that made them feel valued and cared for.

He urged boys to conduct themselves responsibly, respect women and girls, avoid crime and drug abuse, and view education as the key to a brighter future.

On his part, the Minister of Gender, Youth and Social Development Pitso Lesaoana reaffirmed the government's commitment

International Day of Boy Child marked with athletics



Lesotho celebrated the international Day of a Boy Child on May 16, 2026

to strengthening programmes that promote education, physical fitness, and health among young people.

Messages of unity, responsibility,

discipline, and self-respect formed a central part of the celebrations as participants gathered to mark the annual event, observed globally every May 16.

Kick4Life equips personnel with holistic football skills

Seabata Mahao

Football For Worldwide Unity (FFWU) facilitator Sascha Bauer has successfully concluded a six-day Emotional Competencies workshop at Kick4Life, equipping academy coaches and staff with valuable skills aimed at improving both player performance and personal development.

The intensive workshop followed the successful Social Competencies training held in September 2025 and formed part of an ongoing partnership focused on holistic football development in Lesotho.

Hosted at Kick4Life, the programme combined classroom learning with practical football-based activities designed to strengthen emotional and life competencies among participants.

Coaches and staff engaged in sessions covering self-reflection, focus and mindfulness, self-control, goal setting, perseverance, emotional management, motivation, creativity and responsibility.

Participants also took part in daily focus group discussions supported by video analysis, while team-building exercises and a closing football festival helped bring



Emotional competency workshop

the lessons to life in an interactive and engaging environment.

Speaking after the workshop, Kick4Life's Academy Manager 'MahapiloPutsoane stressed the importance of emotional development within football coaching.

"This workshop was very important to us because it looked at other aspects of growth

that should be considered by coaches and every staff member when working with and supervising participants," said Putsoane.

"Emotional competencies are essential in helping us motivate our players and build their self-confidence so that they can perform at their best."

Facilitator Bauer praised the commitment

shown by the participants throughout the week and highlighted the growing importance of mental skills in modern football.

"This time we focused on emotional competencies, often referred to as mental skills in football performance," Bauer said.

"We looked at how to build self-confidence, stimulate motivation and passion, encourage creativity, and develop perseverance and determination. The coaches gained many practical ideas on how to integrate these competencies into their daily work with players."

Bauer also described the experience as personally rewarding, saying he had learned a great deal about coaching and football culture in Lesotho.

Junior Women's Coach, Mamphotleng Mahao said the workshop offered a deeper understanding of the mental side of football.

"What stood out for me most were the sessions on focus and mindfulness, perseverance, determination and goal setting," Mahao explained.

"What I appreciated most was that the workshop was not only about football itself, but about the mental application behind performance and the emotional connection that players and coaches can build together to create a highly competitive team."

The workshop marks another important milestone in Kick4Life's mission to develop young footballers beyond the pitch by equipping them with emotional resilience and life skills needed to succeed both in sport and in everyday life.



Secker confirmed as Matlama coach

Matlama Football Club Head Coach, Thabile Secker
(Picture Courtesy Matchday)

Seabata Mahao

Matlama Football Club has confirmed Thabile Secker as head coach after signing a new two-year contract, marking another major step in the club's rebuilding project.

The announcement came on the back of a strong second half run by Matlama since Secker took the reigns. Following his appointment as interim coach in January 2026 after the departure of former head coach ShalaneLehlohla, the club has undergone a remarkable transformation both on and off the field.

Under Secker's leadership, Matlama went 14 matches unbeaten in the Vodacom Premier League (VPL), recording 10 victories and four draws during an impressive spell that revived the club's fortunes.

The outstanding run lifted Matlama into second place during that period and re-established the club as genuine contenders for domestic honours.

However, Matlama's impressive campaign ended on a disappointing note after suffering a 1-0 defeat to league leaders Lijabatho FC on Saturday, a result that saw the club finish the season in third position.

Speaking in an interview, Matlama's Public Relations Officer ThembaTalane said the club believes Secker's leadership has been central to the team's revival.

"The leadership of Secker on the touchline has played a major role in restoring confidence and discipline within the squad," Talane said.

Talane also revealed that the club's contract renewal plans extend beyond the coach and captain, confirming that several players have also committed their futures to the club as

part of a long-term vision.

Among the players who have reportedly signed new deals are Rethabile Mokokoane, Tšepang Ntsenyane and LebohangChokolo, all of whom have played important roles in the club's recent resurgence.

"We are very proud and happy as Matlama Football Club for securing these players and the coach because they continue to help improve the club. It is also a major achievement for the club in terms of ensuring long-term success and stability," Talane added.

Secker is no stranger to success at Matlama. During the 2018/19 season, he guided the club to a memorable league title that ended a painful nine-year championship drought, a triumph that remains one of the club's most celebrated achievements in recent history.

Despite delivering the championship, Secker unexpectedly left the club shortly afterwards, disappointing many supporters who believed he still had more to offer.

Years later, Matlama once again turned to the experienced tactician during a difficult period marked by inconsistent performances and growing pressure during the first half of the season.

At the time of his arrival in January, few predicted the dramatic turnaround that would follow. Players quickly responded to

Secker's methods, with the team showing improved organisation, defensive discipline, attacking confidence and greater intensity at training sessions. Morale within the dressing room also reportedly improved significantly.

It was against this backdrop that the club decided to officially appoint Secker as permanent head coach on a two-year contract.

In an exclusive interview, Secker expressed gratitude to the club's management for placing trust in him and his

to come to their level and do many repetitions since some were really behind. We had to motivate them and show them that they can do this even though some were slow."

The coach also acknowledged the contribution of experienced players who helped guide younger members of the squad.

"Some quality players were able to help the younger players move forward. Most of the players were really committed and everyone was pushing themselves," he added.

Looking ahead to next season, Secker said the club's focus will now shift towards strengthening key departments within the squad, particularly in defence, midfield and attack.

"We are working hard to find quality players in defence, midfield and the striking force. The biggest challenge will be finances because football has now become a livelihood for many people and players want to be paid," he explained.

Despite the financial challenges, Secker insisted the club remains determined to continue progressing with the current technical team and management structure.

He also thanked supporters, management and the technical staff for their unwavering support throughout the season.

"I really received support from supporters, fans, management and the technical team. We are still going to work hard for Matlama to be successful forever," he said.

After ending the season without silverware, Secker acknowledged that supporters expect trophies next season and promised that the club would work hard during pre-season to build a more competitive squad.

"This year there was no cup, so supporters and fans expect us to win. We are going to work hard by having a good pre-season and bringing in other players. Next season is going to be very competitive, but Matlama will also be competitive," Secker concluded.



technical team.

"I am very excited that I got this two-year contract and I am really happy that the management had trust in me and the technical team because we are still going to work together," Secker said.

He credited the team's turnaround to patience, repetition and adapting coaching methods to suit the youthful squad.

"What influenced our performance is the sessions we had and the quality we have because these are young players, so we had



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