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Baylor salaries swallow 84% of HIV funding

Ntsoaki Motaung

Serious questions are being raised over how a prominent local health foundation spends its money, after a leaked financial report revealed that a staggering 84 percent of its annual M40 million government funding goes towards staff salaries and allowances, leaving very little for direct patient care, medical supplies, and equipment.

The Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Lesotho is believed to receive nearly M40 million annually from the Government of Lesotho to support critical frontline services, including treatment access, viral load monitoring, clinical care, adherence support, and nutrition services across the country.

According to the financial breakdown seen by this publication, the budget spending is 56 percent on salaries and wages, 28 percent on employee fringe benefits and allowances, 5 percent on contractual services, 2 percent on travel, 1 percent on patient care costs, 1 percent on medical supplies and 1 percent on equipment.

Compounding the financial controversy, close sources have revealed that the foundation recently laid off an undisclosed number of employees, the majority of whom are frontline clinical staff.

The revelation has triggered a fierce debate among health observers and the public regarding whether the funding is truly benefiting vulnerable children living with HIV, or simply sustaining administration costs.

Insiders expressed deep concern that these sudden terminations will cause a severe workload crisis and burnout for the healthcare workers left behind, ultimately threatening the quality of care provided to sick children.

Baylor Lesotho operates seven clinical sites across the country including Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mohale'sHoek, Mokhotlong, and Qacha's Nek. According to its website, the organisation employs 801 staff members and runs eight ongoing projects, such as KaraboeaBophelo, PINCH, PROTECT, COHIP SEC, ALPEC, and LEADER.

The foundation provides vital services ranging from HIV care and treatment, adolescent care, and teen clubs, to tuberculosis (TB) services, cervical cancer screening, and psychosocial support.

Baylor leadership defends budget structure, points to clinical success and national supply chains

In response to these allegations, the Executive Director of Baylor Lesotho, Dr. LineoThahane, along with her senior manage-



ment team and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, issued a detailed defense of the foundation's spending.

They argued that the high allocation toward personnel reflects the clinic's core mission of delivering high-quality, clinical expertise, rather than a failure to support patient care.

According to management, the foundation's staffing frameworks are intentional and heavily regulated. "The Foundation operates standalone facilities, delivering high-quality, comprehensive clinical care for Basotho through Government of Lesotho funding," management said.

"The Foundation operates in close partnership with the Ministry of Health, and staffing structures have been aligned with Ministry of Health norms and programmatic requirements to ensure efficiency and quality in service delivery."

Management further clarified that their personnel do not just sit in standalone clinics, but also drive country-wide healthcare training. "Foundation staff supports health care capacity building, mentorships, and coaching across all health centers in supported districts and participate in technical working groups."

Responding to concerns that only a combined 2 percent of the budget goes toward medical supplies and patient care, Baylor explained that the direct costs of medications and medical commodities are actually absorbed by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and international donor networks,

meaning these multi-million maloti costs do not need to be pulled from the foundation's M40 million government grant.

"The Foundation operates public health clinics therefore all commodities, supplies and medications for prevention, testing or diagnosis, and management of HIV, TB and related conditions are provided through Ministry of Health and supplemented through donor-supported supply chains," Baylor stated. "This includes all ARVs, HIV test kits, condoms and other prevention commodities, TB screening and diagnosis supplies and commodities."

The same paradigm applies to nutritional support. The foundation stated that "nutritional support commodities primarily for the management of malnutrition are provided to vulnerable clients in a form of treatment, through Ministry of Health supply chain channels," while additional food security supplies are supplemented via donor-funded collaborations.

Furthermore, they clarified that the seemingly low 1 percent budget allocation for equipment is misleading, noting that "all required diagnostic and clinical equipment is procured, maintained, and serviced through the Foundation's operational and maintenance budgets, and are not fully captured under this heading."

Defending the 2 percent travel allocation, leadership noted that the funds are utilised for supportive supervision of district-based teams, and that mobile

outreach services in remote regions are primarily financed through external, international donor-funded projects.

Despite public anxieties regarding potential fallout from clinical layoffs, Baylor's leadership pointed to stellar clinical data as proof that their operational model continues to yield exceptional outcomes for Basotho children.

"For the last reported quarter, Baylor Lesotho recorded a Viral Load coverage at 98 percent, 99 percent amongst children <15) and Viral suppression at 97 percent, 98 percent in children <15)." Crucially, Mother-to-Child Transmission (MTCT) of HIV under their watch stands at just 3 percent with the national level at 5.3 percent, while 93 percent of clients receive multi-month ARV treatment."

Addressing transparency and financial integrity amid the public outcry, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees emphasised that the foundation operates under strict public oversight.

"As a publicly funded entity, the Foundation is audited on an annual basis by the Office of the Auditor General, in line with its MOU with the Government of Lesotho," the management said.

"Its financial statement audits are therefore included in the comprehensive OAG audit of Government of Lesotho fiscal resources. Quarterly financial and programmatic reports are provided to the Ministry of Health for grant management and oversight."

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Damning audit reveals state owes suppliers over M2.8 billion

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The government owes more than M2.8 billion to suppliers, contractors, lenders and individuals, exposing deepening financial management failures that continue to cripple the private sector and undermine confidence in the state.

This is according to the latest Consolidated Financial Statements (CFS) audit report for the 2023/24 financial year released by Auditor-General 'Mathabo Makenete, who condemned the government's chronic failure to honour payment obligations within stipulated deadlines.

The report reveals that the mounting arrears have become a systemic problem, with suppliers carrying the heaviest burden as government delays continue to disrupt operations across several sectors of the economy.

"The government failed to meet its payment obligations of M2.81 billion to individuals, suppliers, lenders, and contractors within specified payment due dates," the audit report reads.

For years, businesses dealing with government have repeatedly complained about delayed payments, warning that the situation threatens their survival. Some companies have reportedly downsized operations, failed to pay salaries and suppliers, or closed altogether due to cash flow problems caused by unpaid government invoices.

The report notes that despite repeated promises by successive governments to improve cash management and creditor servic-



Auditor-General 'Mathabo Makenete

ing, little progress has been made.

The Auditor-General further flagged several financial irregularities and breaches of regulations within government operations.

According to the report, an advance of M152.43 million was disbursed from the Contingency Fund to six spending units for expenditure that was neither urgent nor unforeseen, in violation of Section 113 of the Constitution.

It also emerged that the Supplementary Appropriation (2023/2024) Bill intended to regularise government expenditure had not yet been passed by Parliament at the time of compiling the report.

"The total advances of M404.78 million remained unregularised as the Supplementary bill for 2023/2024 was not approved by Par-

liament as at the time of the report. There were differences between the recomputed revised budget (Appropriation Act, 2023/24 and Supplementary Appropriation Bill (2023/2024)) amounts and the revised budget per CFS and MFS for 6 Spending units."

Further discrepancies were identified in government financial records. The Auditor-General reported that the CFS and Ministerial Financial Statements reflected total receipts of M21.83 billion, while the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) ledger recorded M21.41 billion, leaving an unexplained variance of M422 million.

The report also found that M315.98 million had been spent on projects without approved budgets, while project records in nine spending units failed to reconcile with official finan-

cial statements.

Issuing an adverse audit opinion, one of the most severe findings in public financial reporting, the Auditor-General stated:


"In my opinion, because of the significance of the matters discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion paragraphs, the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements (CFS) do not present fairly the financial position of the Government as at 31st March 2024, its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards financial reporting under Cash Basis of accounting (Cash Basis IPSAS)."

The report further highlighted a M3.09 billion discrepancy in government cash balances, with the Consolidated Statement of Cash Receipts and Payments reporting M5.91 billion while Note 15 reflected M2.82 billion.

Auditor-General Makene also criticised inconsistencies in government budget figures and the exclusion of capital receipts in the national budget book, warning that the gaps compromise transparency and accountability.

In her remarks accompanying the report, Minister of Finance and Development Planning Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane said the 2023/24 budget was designed to improve growth, healthcare, industrialisation and service delivery.

However, she acknowledged that limited resources, corruption and wasteful spending remain major challenges affecting government performance.

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Lesotho's toxic waste nightmare exposed



TSOSANE DUMPING SITE

Ntsoaki Motaung

In a damning, nationwide inspection report that lays bare a catastrophic breakdown of governance, the Office of the Ombudsman has declared that Lesotho's environmental crisis is no longer just a matter of litter; it is a matter of life and death.

In a strongly worded press statement, Ombudsman Advocate Tlotliso Polaki issued a blistering rebuke to the state, warning that the proliferation of deadly, toxic open dumpsites across the Kingdom constitutes a grave violation of human rights.

Expressing deep frustration with the persistent inaction of public entities, Polaki is not just asking for change; she is demanding accountability before more citizens perish.

"The Ombudsman is hopeful that the Ministry of Forestry and Environment (MEF), Ministry of Health (MOH), and Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship (MLGCHAP) will use this report not as a criticism, but as a roadmap for urgent intervention," Polaki stated.

She added with profound emphasis: "The full and good-faith implementation of these recommendations is essential... for the benefit of both present and future generations."

The investigation, which spanned all ten districts of the kingdom, paints a harrowing picture of systemic rot. From the highlands of Mokhotlong to the industrial outskirts of Maseru, the Ombudsman found that the state has directly failed to uphold Section 27 of the Constitution of Lesotho, which explicitly binds the government to promote environmental hygiene and actively prevent disease.

Polaki admonished local authorities for hiding behind administrative excuses, pleading budgetary constraints, a lack of skilled personnel, and the absence of heavy machinery. However, the Ombudsman dismissed these defenses as unacceptable in the face of dying children.

"These challenges must be overcome through sound economic planning, prioritization, and a renewed commitment to environmental governance," the report states.

Among the report's most horrifying disclosures is the tragic cost of regulatory non-compliance on human lives. In the Berea district, the total failure to manage the Malubalube dumpsite has resulted in the ultimate price.

The Ombudsman directly noted that

"diseases related to the exposure and improper disposal of waste lead and affect the lives of ordinary citizens, and in some cases, have led to deaths at dumpsites like Malubalube."

This is not hyperbole. Ground-level investigations reveal that poverty-stricken residents, desperate for survival, regularly scavenge the site. In 2019, two young siblings from Ha-Ramachini village ate contaminated "food" retrieved from the dump and died.

Yet, years later, the site remains unsecured. "Waste from the hospital classified as infectious and sharps was also dumped on the site," a previous Ombudsman's report noted, describing needles, used blood vials, and expired medications rotting together.

The plight of children extends beyond Berea. In Mapoteng, the report highlights a devastating systemic gap. Due to the complete lack of a nearby legal disposal facility, dangerous healthcare risk materials are routinely dumped by the roadside.

The report underscores a heartbreaking case of affected community members, documenting that "medical waste has been

discarded at the illegal site, resulting in children becoming sick after consuming discarded medicine."

In Qacha's Nek, a severely broken and vandalized perimeter fence allowed destitute residents to easily access toxic grounds. The investigation discovered that this lack of security "made it easy for them to access the site and scavenge for food that had been discarded, which posed a serious health risk to the community."

Under the Public Health Act of 1970 and the Hazardous Health Care Waste Management Regulations of 2012, the Ministry of Health (MoH) is legally mandated to oversee sanitary compliance. Yet, the Ombudsman's findings point to a massive breakdown in the chain of custody for hazardous medical materials.

The report notes that Environmental Health inspectors are critically understaffed and lack basic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as heavy-duty gloves and face masks, leaving them exposed to blood-borne pathogens.

While the Ministry of Health has made



Advocate Tlotliso Polaki

attempts to rectify this, notably a 2024 World Bank-supported project to build medical incinerators at Berea, Mafeteng, and Motebang hospitals to safely treat infectious waste, the Ombudsman's investigation shows that existing practices remain archaic.

At the Mokhotlong dumping site, inspectors found scattered hospital waste, including highly contaminated used needles, openly exposed to the environment. The report confirms that healthcare staff routinely mix infectious microbiological materials and toxic pharmaceuticals with ordinary domestic garbage.

The environmental threats extend beyond the smell of rotting trash. Uncollected garbage piles in urban centers have triggered severe infestations of vermin, breeding rats and mosquitoes that spread malaria, cholera, and typhoid.

In the absence of functional waste services, open burning has become the primary method of disposal. The toxic smoke, absorbed directly into the lungs of nearby residents, is triggering asthma, chronic throat infections, and long-term cancer risks.

Furthermore, uncovered dumpsites produce "leachate," a toxic fluid that infiltrates streams and aquifers. This chemical-laden liquid travels toward critical water sources like the Maqalika reservoir, rendering drinking water unsafe and poisoning agricultural soil.

The Ombudsman noted that despite years of promises, Lesotho still lacks a single, properly engineered sanitary landfill.



India, Czech Republic appoint honorary consuls to Lesotho

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The two prominent businessmen have been appointed Honorary Consuls representing India and the Czech Republic, strengthening commercial and cultural ties between the host country and the country they represent.

The Indian Association of Lesotho (IAL) Biju Abraham Korah has been appointed as the Honorary Consul of the Republic of India in Lesotho.

This was announced by the Indian High Commissioner to South Africa and Lesotho Prabhat Kumar.

An honorary consul represents a foreign government in a particular area, promoting bilateral relations, assisting that country's citizens, and facilitating trade and cultural exchange. They serve voluntarily and they are not career diplomats, and usually maintain other jobs or businesses alongside their consular duties.

Korah has been serving as the President of the IAL for the past eight years. "During his leadership, he has earned a strong reputation among both the Indian and Basotho communities for his generous nature, community service, and efforts to strengthen relations between India and Lesotho."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations confirmed the issuance of the Exequatur by King Letsie III authorising Korah to exercise his functions as Honorary Consul of India in Lesotho.



Biju Abraham Korah

"Members of the Indian community described the appointment as a proud and historic moment, expressing confidence that Mr.

Korah will continue to promote friendship, cooperation, and cultural ties between the two nations," reads the statement issued by the

IAL.

In another similar development, the Czech Republic has appointed André Bothma as their Honorary Consul in Lesotho. The Czech Republic Embassy has said in a statement.

"The Czech Republic and the Kingdom of Lesotho have taken a significant step in strengthening their bilateral relationship with the formal conclusion of the appointment of Mr. André Bothma as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Maseru. The appointment has been duly formalised on both sides, marking the establishment of a Czech presence in Lesotho for the first time," reads the statement.

Bothma is a prominent entrepreneur whose extensive experience spans construction, energy, medicinal cannabis and education.

The Czech Republic said that the opening of the Honorary Consulate demonstrates Czechia's growing commitment to strengthening engagement with Lesotho across areas such as renewable energy, healthcare and people-to-people exchange, and provides a lasting institutional foundation for a partnership that continues to broaden in both scope and ambition.

The other European Union Member States that have also appointed the Honorary Consuls in Lesotho are Netherlands which is represented by Rethabile Mafura and Germany that has appointed 'Mantopi Lebofa. These two countries also maintain their embassies in Pretoria, South Africa from which they manage relations with Lesotho.

Lesotho's first GBV center opens

Ntsoaki Motaung

In a major breakthrough for the fight against domestic abuse, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has revealed that Lesotho's first dedicated Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Center is officially up and running.

Addressing a media capacity-building workshop yesterday, UNFPA Representative, John Kennedy Mosoti announced that the facility has been operational for about two weeks.

He said the center is already sheltering at least 20 survivors, providing them with critical counseling and psychosocial support.

The opening comes at a crucial time when statistics are showing that an overwhelming 86 percent to 87 percent of women and girls in Lesotho experience GBV during their lives.

Despite these high numbers, officials noted that a massive number of cases never make it to the police.

According to Mosoti, fear, lack of trust, and limited confidence in authorities keep many survivors from coming forward. Instead of seeking official help, many choose to suffer in silence or only confide in close neighbors and friends.

The workshop, jointly hosted by the UNFPA and the UN Sexual and Reproductive Health Agency, focused heavily on how the media can help change this culture of fear.

"The involvement of the media in reporting GBV issues can help break the silence surrounding abuse cases, raise awareness, encourage survivors to speak out, and contribute towards eliminating stigma," Mosoti stated.

MapulengSecheche, the acting Director General at the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development, acknowledged that the government faces heavy financial constraints in tackling violence.

However, she emphasised that journalists hold immense power to drive positive behavioral change across communities without needing massive budgets.

Local data shows exactly where help is needed most. Senior Inspector MojabengMokotjomela from the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) shared that while the Maseru district records the highest number of overall GBV cases, the Mokhotlong and Mafeteng districts currently flag the highest numbers for GBV-related murders.

She explained that sexual, physical, and emotional abuse remained the most common complaints.

To ensure the new center and community efforts can do their jobs safely, Senior Inspector Mokotjomela urged journalists to change how they cover these sensitive stories.

She appealed to the media to strictly protect the identities of survivors by never publishing names or photographs that could compromise their safety.

In response, local journalists requested that government institutions and development partners match their efforts by improving access to official, factual data. Better information sharing will allow reporters to accurately educate the public on the true magnitude of the crisis and hold institutions accountable.

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Newsday Business

Scenery summit to inspire next generation of entrepreneurs

Seabata Mahao

Scenery Guest Houses and Scenery Events and Tours Co-Founder, 'Marethabile Sekhiba, has announced the launch of the inaugural Legacy Leadership Summit, an entrepreneurship and leadership event aimed at empowering Basotho entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses that outlive their founders.

Speaking during a press conference at Scenery Guest House in Maseru, Sekhiba said the summit seeks to equip entrepreneurs with leadership skills, strategic thinking, and practical business knowledge capable of driving long-term economic impact.

The summit is scheduled for July 4, 2026, at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre and is expected to attract local and international business leaders, motivational speakers, and professionals who will share insights on entrepreneurship, leadership, wealth creation, and business sustainability.

Sekhiba described the summit as a platform designed to move entrepreneurs "from mentorship to legacy."

"We wanted this summit to go beyond inspiration. Global Consultants will help us ensure that participants receive practical follow-up support,

mentorship, and coaching for measurable progress," Sekhiba said.

Scenery Events and Tours has partnered with Global Consultants, which will provide consultancy services, groundwork coordination, as well as post-summit mentorship and coaching programmes.

The initiative has also secured sponsorship from Lesotho Post Bank and the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC), signaling growing institutional support for entrepreneurship and leadership development in Lesotho.

According to Sekhiba, the summit builds on years of mentorship work carried out through the Mentorship Party programme, which focuses on grooming young Basotho into future business and community leaders.

One of the headline speakers at the event will be internationally renowned motivational and mind-power speaker Robin Banks, who will attend in person. Legendary American investor Warren Buffet is also expected to participate virtually through a recorded presentation sharing lessons from his global business experience.

Sekhiba credited Robin Banks with transforming

her own entrepreneurial journey.

"We decided to invite the mind-power speaker Robin Banks, who is also my mentor. I am excited to announce that when I started my business journey, I was mentored by him. He shifted my mindset and made me believe that this business had to happen regardless of the circumstances," she said.

She added that local role models were equally important in inspiring Basotho entrepreneurs.

"People sometimes struggle to relate to individuals who are far away from them, so we decided to also bring local role models," Sekhiba explained.

Among the local speakers expected at the summit are Aliciah Motsoane, Co-Founder of Sentebale Funeral Gap; Thabo Maretlane, Co-Founder of Mo-shoeshoe Walk; Lerato Matheka, Managing Editor of Newsday Media; and Reverend Leakane, who will provide spiritual guidance during the event.

Professional institutions including Naleli Attorneys and Absolute Investment Advisors are also expected to contribute expertise on legal and financial issues affecting businesses.

Sekhiba emphasised that the summit's broader vision is to help entrepreneurs establish businesses that can survive beyond their lifetime.



'Marethabile Sekhiba, the Co-Founder of Scenery Guest House

"We want to create leaders whose businesses will outlive them so that they do not become white elephants when they are no longer alive," she said.

The summit will focus on leadership development, succession planning, strategic networking, mentorship, investment readiness, and entrepreneurship's role in economic growth.

Organisers are encouraging participants to attend with spouses, business partners, and family members to promote family-supported entrepreneurship and generational wealth creation.

Observers say the initiative comes at a critical time as Lesotho continues to battle high youth unemployment and limited entrepreneurial opportunities, making mentorship-driven business platforms increasingly important for economic transformation.



Acting Commissioner General of Revenue Services Lesotho, Rakokoana Makoa

Seabata Mahao

The Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) has celebrated the role of local creatives and digital influencers in strengthening public awareness and engagement during the recent Filing Season Share and Win Campaign 2026.

Speaking during the awards ceremony held on Thursday, Acting Commissioner General of Revenue Services Lesotho, Mr. Rakokoana Makoa, commended creatives for their outstanding contribution in promoting voluntary tax compliance through innovative digital storytelling and social media engagement.

The campaign, which ran from 8 to 14 May 2026, challenged creatives to amplify tax filing awareness nationwide using relatable and engaging online content aimed at educating Basotho on the importance of filing income tax returns and complying with tax obligations.

Top honours in the competition went to Mona-

RSL turns to creativity to strengthen tax compliance

hengMphahama, who walked away with a M10,000 cash prize, while TiktokerLumela received M7,500 and Nathaniel Mosollo secured third place with M5,000.

Other participants included SibongileKhesa, NaleliNkane, Mofolo Liau, David Mosola, Nteboheleng Mohale, Ntelele R,Thloks and Likoche.

Addressing attendees, Makoa said the initiative had succeeded in educating citizens about the importance of filing tax returns on time and understanding the consequences of non-compliance.

"At RSL, we believe that tax compliance is more than just a legal obligation, it is an act of patriotism. When citizens comply with their tax obligations, they contribute directly to national development, public services, infrastructure and the growth of our economy," he said.

He noted that communication trends are rapidly evolving, particularly among young people who increasingly consume information through digital platforms and social media.

"As communication methods evolve, RSL recognised the need to strategically partner with creatives and influencers who can effectively spread tax awareness messages to taxpayers and prospective taxpayers across the country," he added.

Providing further insight into the competition, RSL Marketing Manager, 'MatebohoMakote, said the collaboration with content creators significant-

ly expanded the reach of tax education messages, particularly among youth and digitally connected audiences.

She explained that the use of influencers and digital storytelling enabled RSL to communicate important information in a more relatable and accessible manner.

"Through the campaign, creatives increased the visibility of tax-related messages across diverse audiences while encouraging peer-to-peer awareness and participation," Makote said.

She added that the partnership leveraged trusted voices within communities, making it easier for the public to understand the importance of filing tax returns and complying with tax obligations.

Makote further highlighted the growing importance of modern communication platforms in reaching wider audiences and enhancing public engage-

ment.

Speaking on behalf of the participating creatives, competition winner MonahengMphahama expressed appreciation to RSL for creating opportunities that allow young creatives to showcase their talents while contributing to national awareness campaigns.

"This opportunity has shown that creative work can play a meaningful role in educating Basotho about important national issues such as tax filing," he said.

Mphahama encouraged fellow creatives in Lesotho to remain committed to their craft and take advantage of platforms that promote innovation and talent development.

The awards ceremony recognised 11 creatives who participated in producing and sharing campaign content during the filing season initiative.

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 61(b) of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024;

ESTATE LATE RAMAROU JOHN MAAMA E434/2026

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 61(b) of the Administration of Estates and inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon all creditors of the deceased to lodge their claims with the administrator of the deceased's estate within thirty (30) days of this publication.

The address at which the said claims can be lodged is mentioned hereunder;

ADDRESS: MASIANOKENG
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CELL NO. (+266) 58844463

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ADMINISTRATOR

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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.

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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.

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Newsday Health

Ntsoaki Motaung

The Persons with Disability Advisory Council (PWDAC) has sharply criticised the Counter Domestic Violence Act (CDVA) of 2022, arguing that the law discriminates against persons with disabilities (PWDs) and fails to accommodate their needs.

In its newly released Disability Mainstreaming Assessment Report for 2025/2026, the Council called for an urgent review of the Act to align it with international human rights standards.

The report, which assesses disability inclusion within the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development (MGYSD), highlights major gaps in the country's legal protection framework for survivors of domestic violence living with disabilities.

According to the findings, Section 2 of the Counter Domestic Violence Act relies on outdated stereotypes that undermine the autonomy and rights of persons with disabilities.

The report states that the Act limits their right to marry and denies them related conjugal rights by removing their sexual agency.

In its definition of sexual abuse in marriage, relationships or other settings, the law refers broadly to victims affected by physical, mental, sensory or intellectual disabilities. PWDAC argues that this medically driven wording treats persons with disabilities as passive individuals lacking legal capacity, instead of recognising them as rights holders.

The Council said this directly contradicts the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which Lesotho ratified in 2008.

Beyond the wording of the law, the report also points to the lack of reasonable accommodation for survivors with disabilities.

According to the Council, this means survivors who are Deaf, blind or living with other disabilities face major barriers when trying to report abuse or access support services.

The report further notes that national Gender-Based Violence (GBV) studies and intervention tools fail to account for the

Council slams GBV law for excluding disabled survivors



Advocate Nkhasi Sefuthi, Director General of the Persons with Disability Advisory Council (PWDAC)

additional costs required to support survivors with disabilities.

"This cost would ordinarily involve expenses related to engaging a sign language interpreter where the victim is Deaf or using large print or

braille to cater for visual impairment," Director General Nkhasi Sefuthi stated, adding that without these mandated accommodations, the system is directly locked against them.

Sefuthi also said exclusion remains visible

in digital interventions meant to support survivors of GBV.

He cited the Nokaneng App, developed in 2019 to provide women with GBV information and emergency support, saying persons with disabilities were not consulted during its development.

"Because it lacks inclusive design features and targeted public awareness campaigns, the majority of women with disabilities do not even know it exists," he said.

To address these shortcomings, PWDAC has proposed amendments to both the Persons with Disability Equity Act (PDEA) and the Counter Domestic Violence Act.

Among the proposed changes are the removal of discriminatory language, the inclusion of reasonable accommodation measures, and the integration of the disability sector into the national GBV Coordination Forum.

"Repealing all non-compliant and discriminatory language that restricts the legal capacity of PWDs to marry or exercise their fundamental rights. Mandating reasonable accommodation within the text of the law to guarantee that survivors have physical and communication access to medical, legal, and police support. Integrating the disability sector directly into the highly celebrated national GBV Coordination Forum, which has historically sidelined disability inclusion from its Terms of Reference," Sefuthi said.

He stressed that meaningful social justice cannot be achieved while laws meant to protect vulnerable citizens continue to exclude persons with disabilities.

PWDAC has since urged Cabinet and Parliament to fast-track the proposed amendments to ensure equal protection, dignity and access to justice for all Basotho, regardless of disability.

India-Africa Summit advances health innovation agenda

Ntsoaki Motaung

India is gearing up to host the landmark fourth edition of the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV) in New Delhi from May 28 to 31, 2026.

While the high-level gathering will cover major political, security, and economic ties, healthcare delivery, medical training, and technology transfer are set to take center stage.

The summit, themed "IA SPIRIT: India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience, and Inclusive Transformation," arrives at a crucial time.

As the global climate changes and new health threats emerge, both regions are looking to build resilient health systems to protect their populations.

Commenting on the upcoming historic gathering, Prabhat Kumar, the High Commissioner of India to South Africa and Lesotho, emphasised that the summit marks a transition toward deep, operational partnerships in

health security.

"Our relationship with our African brothers and sisters is changing its shape," Kumar stated. "We are moving past simple trade agreements. The focus now is about embedding real capacity on the ground, whether that means establishing critical educational foundations or ensuring medical self-reliance."

Kumar highlighted that the health partnership is structured to benefit regular citizens directly through structural growth rather than traditional aid channels.

"When we look at the future of public healthcare," Kumar added, "we see an opportunity to deploy digital public infrastructure, local manufacturing capabilities, and shared training systems that actively save lives across the continent."

India's partnership with African nations is guided by ten core principles first laid out by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A major focus of these principles is expanding co-operation in vital public sectors most notably

healthcare, education, and agriculture.

Importantly, this approach emphasises local value creation. In medical terms, this means moving away from just shipping finished pharmaceuticals from India toward helping African nations build their own capacity to manufacture vital drugs and medical tools locally.

The groundwork for stronger health ties is already visible across the continent through medical education and digital infrastructure.

India has established specialised academic institutions on the continent, including a specialised Forensic University in Uganda, proving a growing commitment to technical training.

Furthermore, the summit will look to expand digital health initiatives, including telemedicine frameworks that connect rural African clinics with specialist doctors. To support medical tourism and professional exchange, India has also expanded its e-visa facilities to 33 African countries, making it easier for patients seeking advanced treatments and

healthcare professionals undergoing training to travel.

The political segment of the summit will unfold in three distinct stages to ensure health and economic policies are actionable, Senior Officials' Meetings May 28, 2026 where technical experts and senior officials lay the initial groundwork, drafting the technical parameters of the health and trade agreements.

Foreign Ministers' Consultations, May 29, 2026 where Ministers iron out the strategic details of the partnership, ensuring alignment with Africa's Agenda 2063 and India's Viksit Bharat 2047 development roadmaps and summit of Heads of State on May 31, 2026 where national leaders meet to officially adopt the New Delhi Declaration, solidifying long-term commitments to healthcare access, technology transfer, and pharmaceutical co-operation.

By focusing heavily on medical self-reliance and tech transfer, this year's summit aims to transform India-Africa relations into a proactive, life-saving alliance.

Are public funds safe anymore?

For two years running, the Auditor General 'Mathabo Makenete has looked at the government's books, and declared that she cannot trust them.

Let us translate this into plain English: over M6 billion of the public's money has effectively disappeared without explanation.

The Auditor General recently issued an adverse opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. That is the most damning verdict an auditor can deliver. It means the government's own cash books do not match reality.

Consider the staggering figure: The Consolidated Statement of Cash Receipts and Payments showed a cash balance of M5.91 billion as at 31st March 2024. Yet Note 15 showed a total cash balance of only M2.82 billion.

The discrepancy? A mind-numbing M3.09 billion. In the previous financial year, it was M3.49 billion! Add them together and we are talking about more than M6 billion in public funds that cannot be traced, reconciled, or explained. This is not a bookkeeping error. It is a black hole.

While the government claims poverty to delay civil service salaries, while hospitals run out of gloves, and while our young people roam the streets jobless, someone, somewhere, cannot account for billions of maloti.

The question every Mosotho must ask is simple: Are our public funds safe under this administration? The auditor's report screams "No."

Let us be brutally honest. The government's bookkeeping is not just weak; it is woefully, dangerously bad. But at what point does incompetence become a convenient disguise?

When M6 billion goes undocumented over two consecutive fiscal years, we are no longer looking at a clerical oversight. We are looking at a systemic failure that invites looting.

The Public Finance Management Act and the Prevention of Corruption and Economic Offences Act exist precisely for moments like this. They give us the tools to act. Yet, where are the consequences?

Principal Secretaries are the chief accounting officers of their ministries. They sign off on these figures. They must be summoned, interrogated, and, where evidence demands, held personally accountable. Not transfers. Not quiet retirements. Accountability.

We call on the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to rise to its constitutional duty. No more polite hearings. No more excuses about "legacy systems." If the PAC cannot extract answers, then Parliament must consider whether the current leadership of the Ministry of Finance retains the nation's confidence.

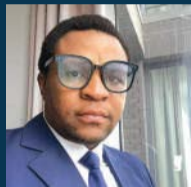
And to our international partners, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Union, who fund critical development projects in Lesotho: your money is also disappearing into this fog of bad bookkeeping. You have every right to demand forensic audits before releasing another loti.

The time for soft language is over. M3 billion in a single year is not an anomaly. It is a pattern. If we do not act now, if we do not prosecute, dismiss, and reform, this will become the new normal. Governments will hide behind "unexplained differences" while the nation grows poorer.

Lesotho cannot afford to wait for the next audit to find another M3 billion gone. The reckoning must begin today.



No Comment



Theko Tlebere

Common Concern

Lesotho needs an effective Prime Minister, not a powerful one

The debate about power in Lesotho often begins from the wrong place. We usually ask whether a Prime Minister should have "full control" of government.

But the more important question is this: what kind of power does Lesotho need for a stable, democratic, and effective government? My argument is simple. Lesotho does not need an all-powerful Prime Minister. Lesotho needs an effective Prime Minister working within strong institutions. What do I even mean? Follow me this week as I give my take on the kind of Prime Minister our kingdom needs.

The distinction I have just made in my introduction matters. A Prime Minister must have enough authority to lead the Cabinet, coordinate ministries, discipline ministers, implement government policy, and protect national stability. Without that authority, government becomes a marketplace of competing interests. Ministers behave like independent political actors.

Coalition partners pull the government in different directions. Senior officials delay implementation. Citizens then suffer because the government exists, but it does not govern. In a country like Lesotho, weak executive coordination is costly. When ministries fail to cooperate, roads are not completed on time.

Hospitals remain under-resourced. Schools lack support. Farmers wait for services. Young people lose confidence in public institutions. A Prime Minister must therefore be strong enough to demand performance from the machinery of government.

However, there is a danger in confusing effective leadership with unlimited power. Effective control means the Prime Minister has the authority to govern. Absolute control means the Prime Minister becomes bigger than the Constitution, Parliament, Cabinet, courts, and the people.

That is dangerous. It should stick in our heads that Lesotho is not a presidential system. It is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy. The Prime Minister does not personally own the state. He or she governs because the National Assembly gives that democratic authority.

Once the Prime Minister loses the confidence of Parliament, the constitutional basis of power becomes questionable. This is why Parliament is central to democracy. Parliament is not the enemy of the Prime Minister. It is the institution that gives the Prime Minister democratic legitimacy. But Parliament must also hold the executive accountable. If Parliament becomes weak, silent, or captured by

executive influence, democracy becomes only a ceremony.

Lesotho's political history has shown both dangers. At times, Prime Ministers have appeared too weak to control coalition partners and government machinery. At other times, Basotho have feared that too much power in the hands of one political leader may weaken institutions. Both extremes are harmful. Coalition politics have made this problem more complex. Since Lesotho entered the coalition era, prime-ministerial authority has become more fragile. A Prime Minister may formally lead the government but still depend on several parties with different interests, ambitions, and loyalties.

Coalition partners may demand ministries, influence appointments, and threaten withdrawal whenever disagreements arise. In such circumstances, the Prime Minister may spend more time surviving politically than governing nationally.

This explains why some people argue that Lesotho needs a stronger Prime Minister. They are not entirely wrong. Government cannot function properly when every decision is hostage to coalition bargaining. A Prime Minister must have enough authority to maintain Cabinet discipline and protect policy continuity. But strong prime-ministerial authority must not become arrogance.

The state is not the private property of the Prime Minister. Cabinet is not a personal club. The public service is not a party office. The security forces are not political instruments. National resources are not campaign rewards. When a Prime Minister treats institutions as personal tools, executive leadership becomes executive abuse.

The security sector is especially important. Lesotho's political history has shown that relations between civilian leaders and security institutions can easily become a source of national instability. A democratic state requires civilian control of the military, police, and intelligence services.

But civilian control must mean constitutional control, not personal control by one politician. Security institutions must serve the Constitution and the nation, not ruling-party factions. This is why constitutional reforms remain extremely important. The reform process should not merely ask who has power. It should ask how power is structured, limited, supervised, and transferred.

The real issue is not whether the Prime Minister should be strong or weak. The real issue is whether Lesotho's institutions are strong enough to allow decisive leadership while preventing abuse.

A mature democracy does not fear strong leadership. What it fears is unaccountable leadership. The vote of no confidence is a good example. In principle, it is a democratic mechanism. If a Prime Minister loses majority support in Parliament, there must be a lawful way to remove that government. But if votes of no confidence are used recklessly, Parliament becomes a permanent battlefield.

Governments become unstable, investors lose confidence, citizens become tired, and development plans are interrupted. Our country, Lesotho, therefore needs balance. Parliament must retain the power to remove a government that has lost legitimacy. But that process should not be abused for personal ambition or factional games.

A constructive vote of no confidence, where Parliament removes a Prime Minister only when it can identify a replacement, may help protect both accountability and stability. The same applies to Cabinet appointments. The Prime Minister must have the authority to appoint and remove ministers. Without that power, Cabinet discipline becomes impossible. But appointments must be guided by competence, integrity, national balance, and policy needs. If ministerial posts are used only to reward loyalty, silence critics, or satisfy coalition partners, governance suffers.

Lesotho must move beyond the politics of office-sharing and build a culture of performance. A minister should not remain in office because he belongs to the right faction. A minister should remain in office because he or she performs. The Prime Minister must demand results, but the public must also demand accountability from the Prime Minister.

At the end of it all, the question is not whether a Prime Minister should have power. Of course, power is necessary for governing. The real question is whether that power is exercised for national stability, development, and public service, or for personal survival, political revenge, and institutional capture.

Lesotho's future depends on getting this balance right. A weak Prime Minister cannot govern. An unchecked Prime Minister can damage democracy. The answer lies between these two extremes: strong leadership under constitutional control. That is the kind of Prime Minister Lesotho needs.

Not a ceremonial leader trapped by coalition chaos. Not an imperial leader above the law. But an effective constitutional leader with courage to govern, discipline to respect institutions, and humility to remember that power belongs ultimately to the people. The Future is NOW!



Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Collection Of Best Birthday Wishes



Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso: A life of grace, service and devotion

Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso stands as a symbol of grace, compassion, and quiet strength in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

From her early years as a dedicated student to her role today as Queen and mother of the nation, her journey reflects a life deeply rooted in service, dignity, and love for her people. Born Karabo Anna Motšoeneng of Leribe, Her Majesty pursued her education with distinction. She attended Machabeng International College in Maseru from 1990 to 1996, where she completed both the International General Certificate of Secondary Education and the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

It was during this time that she met His Majesty King Letsie III in 1996, a meeting that

would later shape the course of her life.

In 1997, she enrolled at the National University of Lesotho to study for a Bachelor of Science degree. Her academic journey was, however, interrupted following her engagement to His Majesty on October 23rd, 1999.

The couple was later joined in holy matrimony on February 18th, 2000, marking the beginning of a royal union grounded in duty and shared purpose.

Their Majesties have been blessed with three children: Her Royal Highness Princess Senate, born on October 7th, 2001, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Maseiso, born on November 20th, 2004, and His Royal Highness Prince Lerotholi, born on April 18th, 2007.

Together, they form a royal family that continues to embody the values of unity, service,

and national pride.

Beyond her royal duties, Her Majesty is deeply committed to humanitarian work. She serves as Patron to several organisations, including the Lesotho Red Cross Society, SOS Children's Village, institutions supporting persons with disabilities, and Machabeng International College.

Her compassion is especially evident in her advocacy for persons with disabilities. She has consistently championed their right to be heard and supported, believing that society must provide them with the necessary services and facilities due to their vulnerability. During her schooling years, she actively engaged in community service at Angela School for the Disabled and the Centre for the Blind, laying the foundation for her life-

long commitment to inclusivity.

Her Majesty's dedication to service was recognised early when she received the Prince Mohato Award Bronze Medal in June 1993. She also holds a First Aid Certificate, reflecting her readiness to serve in times of need.

She has also been a vocal advocate in the fight against HIV/AIDS stigma, urging communities to break the silence surrounding those affected. Through awareness campaigns and visits to various projects across the country, she has witnessed firsthand the importance of care, dignity, and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly orphans.

In the absence of His Majesty the King, Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso serves as Regent, a role she carries with dignity and quiet authority.

A Golden Milestone for Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso

Road Fund joins the nation in warmly wishing **Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso** a happy 50th birthday. May this special milestone be filled with grace, joy, and continued blessings as we celebrate her remarkable contribution to the Kingdom of Lesotho.



Maintaining a smooth journey

*Our Warmest Wishes to
Our Benevolent Queen*

Happy
50th
Birthday



H.M Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso

Limkokwing University of Creative Technology extends its heartfelt felicitations to Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso on the joyous occasion of Her Golden Jubilee Birthday. As the Kingdom of Lesotho celebrates this magnificent milestone, we honour a Queen whose grace, humility, compassion, and dignity continue to inspire the nation. May Her Majesty's enduring legacy of wisdom and noble leadership continue to reign in the hearts of Basotho for generations to come. We wish Her Majesty abundant joy, divine favour, lasting peace, and continued blessings.

U RE HOLELE 'MABASOTHO
Heartiest Congratulations





unicef  | for every child

Happy Birthday
to Her Majesty,
Queen 'Masenate
Mohato Seeiso



UNICEF Lesotho National Champion

We celebrate Your Majesty's continued commitment
to advancing the rights and wellbeing of children
and young people in Lesotho.



**LAND
ADMINISTRATION
AUTHORITY**

HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY HER MAJESTY



The Econet family in Lesotho joins the Basotho Nation in celebrating the

50th Birthday Of Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate.

Her Majesty's steadfast leadership and passionate advocacy for the empowerment and protection of the Mosotho girl child continue to inspire generations across the country. Through her work with Hlokomela Banana, countless young girls have been given hope, dignity and opportunities for a brighter future. We are deeply honoured by our longstanding partnership with Hlokomela Banana through Higherlife Foundation Lesotho – a shared commitment that continues to uplift and transform lives through mentorship and empowerment initiatives.

We celebrate not only a remarkable milestone, but also a legacy of servant leadership, compassion and nation-building. We wish Her Majesty good health, continued strength, joy and abundant blessings. **Happy 50th Birthday, Your Majesty!**

Beyond the crown: Her Majesty bares her heart of gold

Staff Reporter

For years, Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso has quietly built a reputation as a queen of charities, leveraging her position not for ceremony, but for concrete action.

Through the Hlokomela Bana Foundation and the Queen's National Trust Fund, she has spearheaded initiatives that address period poverty, early childhood education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability.

Her Majesty recently personally delivered 158 sanitary towels to girls at 'Matikoe LECSA High School in Qeme, Maseru. It was part of a sustained campaign since in 2024 alone, the foundation distributed 262 sanitary towels across the country.

Her Majesty is on record urging both boys and girls to maintain cleanliness and openly discuss menstrual hygiene and health. By breaking the taboo around menstruation, she is ensuring girls stay in school instead of hiding at home.

The Queen does not work alone, though. Major corporations have rallied behind her noble vision.

For instance, Econet Telecom Lesotho has joined Her Majesty for a massive clean-up campaign in Matsieng, donating 20 dustbins valued at M50,000 in recent years.

"It is our shared responsibility as citizens of this beautiful country to take care of the environment," the Queen said at the event.

Similarly, Lesotho PostBank has part-

nered with the Hlokomela Bana to donate a vital signs monitor to Maluti Hospital in Mapoteng, honouring the Queen's birthday. The bank noted the donation exemplified "commitment to improving the lives of Basotho citizens, particularly the most vulnerable."

Her reach extends across generations. In April 2026, she handed over teaching aids and toys to 25 preschools from Botha-Bothe, Leribe, Maseru, and Mafeteng.

"Play is not just recreation but a tool through which social and emotional skills are developed," she told donors.

In September 2024, she visited the SOS Children's Village in Quthing, presenting maize seeds, bread flour, hygiene buckets, and football attire. "Education is the key to

a bright future," she told the children.

While Princess Senate Seeiso has launched the 'Shoeshoe ea Moshoeshoe' foundation for school donations, Queen 'Masenate continues to focus on grassroots health and dignity initiatives.

She has even joined community fundraisers, such as the St. Ann Sodality gala lunch where she urged attendees to prioritise physical wellness: "Movement is medicine," she said.

From sanitary pads to hospital equipment, from preschool toys to clean environment campaigns, Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso is proving that royalty is not about being served, it is about serving. And in Lesotho, that service wears a crown.

WATER AND SEWERAGE COMPANY

Happy
50th
Birthday

*Her Majesty Queen
'Masenate Mohato Seeiso*

WATER AND SEWERAGE COMPANY

Seabata Mahao

It was meant to be a day about boys. But on May 16, 2026, it was Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso who stole the show, not with her crown, but with a pair of running shoes. The International Day of the Boy Child was commemorated in Lesotho through a vibrant marathon aimed at promoting physical fitness, unity, protection, and the empowerment of boys.

And in a powerful display of humility and energy, the Queen did not just attend the event. She ran. Her Majesty graced the occasion as the guest runner joining multitudes of Basotho on the road, pounding the pavement alongside children, parents, and athletes.

In doing so, she reinforced what many already know: Lesotho has a queen who leads not from a distance, but from the front.

A growing passion for the run

This was not the first time Queen 'Masenate has traded royal protocol for running shorts. In recent years, she has become a familiar and beloved figure at athletics events across the country. She has participated in the Maseru City Run, among other races, where she has been spotted warming up with ordinary citizens, chatting with children at water stations, and crossing finish lines with a radiant smile.

Observers say her growing involvement in road races reflects a deeper truth:

Her Majesty is a genuine fitness enthusiast who believes in the power of sport to unite communities. Whether it is a 5km fun run or a longer charity race, she shows up not as a distant dignitary but as a fellow runner, sweating and striving alongside her people.

“We appreciate the presence of Her Majesty, and we hope to see even more children participating in future celebrations,” said athletics coach Thabo Mosebekoa, speaking after the event. His words underscored how the Queen’s participation elevates any occasion she touches.

More than a runner: A people’s queen

The event, organised by the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development, attracted participants from athletics associations, World Vision, UNICEF, and the public. It featured three race categories – 10km, 5km, and 1.6km – catering to all ages. But for many in attendance, the highlight was watching their queen move among them freely, laughing, encouraging young runners, and posing for photos without the usual barriers of royalty.

This is the hallmark of Queen 'Masenate’s public life. Whether at a marathon or a community outreach, she loves to socialise and be among her people. She listens, she engages, and she participates. That is why many Basotho have come to call her not just Her Majesty, but “the

The Queen laces up for the Boy Child Marathon

people’s queen.”

Director of the Child Protection Department, Mookho Motheo Lekhanya, said this year’s commemoration focused on building boys’ self-confidence.

“The race served as a reminder that boys matter and need guidance, protection, and emotional support,” she said. But it was the Queen’s physical presence that

made that message resonate.”

Youth attendee Molefi Moeketsi called for more programmes for boys, adding that seeing the Queen run alongside them made him feel valued.

Her Majesty proved that day that leadership is not about standing above, it is about running beside. And in Lesotho, that is exactly what our queen does.



LESOTHO-CHINA FELLOWSHIP COLLEGIATE



CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Cambridge International School

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 50th HER MAJESTY

SUBJECT GROUPS

BAND 1

English Language
Mathematics
Accounting
Business/Computer science
Economics
English Language
Mathematics

BAND 2

English Language
Mathematics
Physics
Chemistry
Biology

BAND 3

English Language
History
Geography
Business
Economics

BAND 4

Biology/Geography
Bus /Chem/ Computer Science
Physics/Economics

BAND 5

English Language
Mathematics
Geography/Biology
History/ Business
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40
THIS IS
YEARS OF IMPACT



An Illustrious
50th
Celebration

ON THE OCCASION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF
HER MAJESTY
QUEEN 'MASENATE MOHATO SEEISO.

2026 is a year of remarkable milestones for Lesotho. As the **Lesotho Highlands Water Project** marks 40 years and Lesotho celebrates **60 years of independence**, the nation is also blessed to celebrate a far more personal treasure, **Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso**, who turns **50** on the **2nd of June**.

A devoted champion of **Basotho women, children, and communities**. On this joyful occasion, **LHDA** joins the nation in **honouring Her Majesty** and wishing her many more years of **health, happiness, and continued impact**.

Khotso. Pula. Nala.



50 YEARS
of Grace **25 YEARS**
of Reign **10 YEARS**
of Dignity

Happy Birthday Your Majesty

We celebrate your steadfast advocacy and unwavering dedication to ending period poverty in Lesotho. We are deeply grateful for your visionary leadership of **Hlokomela Banana** over the past 10 years and beyond as we work towards #APeriodFriendlyLesotho.



Newsday

...pacing standards

We wish Her Majesty
**Queen 'Masenate
Mohato Seeiso** a

Happy Birthday



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Migrant labourers' group decry 'systematic persecution' in SA



Seabata Mahao

The Migrant Workers Association of Lesotho (MWAL) has lodged a strong complaint to the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), accusing anti-immigrant groups in South Africa of orchestrating a sustained campaign of intimidation, violence and discrimination against foreign nationals, including thousands of Basotho migrant workers.

In a strongly worded letter addressed to the SAHRC complaints unit, the Lesotho-based migrant rights organisation painted a grim picture of what it described as “persistent and alarming human rights violations” being meted out against foreign nationals in South Africa.

The complaint, signed by MWAL's Executive Director Lerato Nkhetše, comes amid renewed tensions around immigration in South Africa, where anti-foreigner movements such as Operation Dudula have intensified campaigns targeting undocumented migrants and foreign-owned businesses.

“I am writing to formally express my grave concerns regarding the persistent and alarming human rights violations targeting foreign nationals in South Africa,” Nkhetše wrote.

“Reports suggest that these violations are often perpetrated by organised groups and community movements, creating an environment of fear and insecurity for these individuals.”

The letter is one of the strongest public condemnations yet by a Lesotho organisation of the growing hostility faced by Basotho and other migrant workers in South Africa.

For decades, South Africa has been a major destination for Basotho migrant labourers working in mines, farms, factories, construction sites and domestic service. However, worsening economic conditions, unemployment and political rhetoric around immigration have fuelled resentment toward foreign nationals.

MWAL warned that the situation has now deteriorated into what it believes is systematic persecution.

The organisation described itself as “a dedicated non-governmental organization that operates independently and is committed to serving the community without pursuing profit.”

It added that it advocates for “all migrant workers and their families to have equitable

access to essential public goods and services, free from discrimination related to migration status.”

According to the association, the abuse being suffered by migrants violates key sections of the South African Constitution, including rights to equality, dignity, freedom and personal security.

“As a stakeholder with a dedicated focus on the rights of migrant workers, I have systematically documented numerous incidents that indicate serious contraventions of critical provisions outlined in Sections 9, 10, 12, and 22 of the South African Constitution,” Nkhetše stated.

“These sections safeguard the rights to equality, human dignity, freedom, and security of the person, and the right to freedom of movement and residence.”

The organisation said the alleged violations also undermine South Africa's obligations under international human rights treaties.

In the complaint, MWAL outlined what it called four major categories of abuse. The first involved violent attacks and intimidation against migrants.

“There has been a troubling uptick in reported incidents where foreign nationals are violently targeted in numerous settings, including public spaces, workplaces, and informal settlements,” the letter reads.

“These reports detail shocking acts of physical assault, including beatings, threats of violence, and forced displacement from their homes and communities.”

The association warned that such attacks “not only endanger the lives of individuals but also contribute to a culture of fear.”

The second allegation concerned looting and destruction of migrant-owned property.

“Numerous accounts reveal that the property owned by foreign nationals, including shops and residences, has been systematically looted or destroyed, particularly during protests and what are referred to as ‘clearing’ operations,” the letter states.

“The loss of livelihood and shelter has devastating effects on families and communities, making recovery an arduous process.”

The third concern raised by the association was what it described as escalating hate speech directed at foreigners.

“The dissemination of hate speech has become alarmingly prevalent, particularly through public statements and platforms such

as social media,” Nkhetše wrote.

“This rhetoric fosters a climate of hostility and promotes dehumanizing views toward foreign nationals, which can incite further violence and discrimination.”

MWAL also accused anti-migrant groups of denying foreigners access to basic services.

“Foreign nationals frequently report systemic barriers preventing them from accessing basic rights, including employment, markets, and healthcare,” the organisation said.

“Being barred from these essential services solely based on nationality is a clear violation of their rights and exacerbates their vulnerability.”

The association directly named Operation Dudula as one of the groups allegedly linked to the abuses.

“Since its emergence in 2022, this group has garnered significant media attention for its controversial tactics. They have conducted raids on businesses and residences in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and other provinces, often demanding proof of citizenship from individuals and aggressively expelling foreign nationals,” the letter stated.

“This organised activity raises serious questions about legality and human rights protections.”

The organisation further cited activities by “Put South Africa First” and Dudula-affiliated movements, accusing them of organising marches, confronting foreign traders and forcing shops to close in Johannesburg and Pretoria.

“Such actions create an atmosphere of intimidation that directly impacts the livelihoods of foreign nationals and their ability to coexist peacefully within South African society,” the letter reads.

MWAL also drew parallels with previous waves of xenophobic violence that rocked South Africa in 2008, 2015 and 2019, leaving scores dead and thousands displaced.

“It is also vital to recognise the troubling continuity of these incidents,” Nkhetše wrote.

“These events have been documented by the SAHRC and various civil society organisations, underscoring the systemic nature of this issue.”

The concerns raised by the Lesotho organisation mirror growing alarm among South African civil society groups and human rights activists over the conduct of anti-migrant movements.

Last year, the SAHRC welcomed a landmark

ruling by the Johannesburg High Court against Operation Dudula, describing the group's conduct as unlawful and xenophobic.

According to the ruling, Operation Dudula and its leaders were interdicted from demanding identity documents from private individuals, harassing non-nationals, blocking migrants from accessing healthcare and schools, or unlawfully evicting foreign nationals from homes and trading spaces.

The court action followed complaints by advocacy organisations including Kopanang Africa Against Xenophobia and the South African Informal Traders Forum, which accused the group of intimidation, hate speech and unlawful vigilantism.

International media and human rights organisations have also documented incidents involving migrants being denied healthcare access at public clinics in Gauteng.

An Associated Press investigation last year reported that members of Operation Dudula stationed themselves outside clinics, demanding identity documents from patients and turning away foreign nationals, including pregnant women and sick patients.

The report said migrants were told to seek treatment at private hospitals despite many being unable to afford private healthcare.

Critics have accused anti-migrant groups of scapegoating foreigners for South Africa's economic hardships, unemployment crisis and failing public services.

Experts quoted by international publications have argued that migrants are increasingly being used as political targets amid growing frustration over poverty and inequality.

Despite acknowledging that “not every action taken by these groups necessarily constitutes unlawful behavior,” MWAL said the broader pattern of targeting people based solely on nationality was deeply troubling.

“The troubling trend of targeting individuals solely based on their nationality raises critical concerns regarding violations of fundamental rights,” the organisation said.

MWAL has urged the SAHRC to launch a full-scale investigation into the allegations.

Among its demands, the organisation wants the commission to “conduct a thorough investigation into the reported violations,” engage with the groups involved and issue recommendations aimed at protecting foreign nationals from further abuse.

It also offered to provide testimonies and additional evidence to support investigations.

The complaint is likely to resonate strongly in Lesotho, where many families depend on remittances from relatives working in South Africa.

Although Basotho migrants have historically enjoyed relatively easier movement into South Africa due to geographic and economic ties, many still face documentation challenges and remain vulnerable to anti-immigrant crackdowns.

Rights groups have warned that continued hostility toward migrants could strain regional relations within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and undermine long-standing labour migration arrangements between Lesotho and South Africa.

For many Basotho migrant workers living in fear across the border, MWAL's letter represents a rare but forceful attempt to publicly confront what the organisation calls an escalating “culture of fear” engulfing foreign nationals in Africa's largest economy.



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 Tsiikoane (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 Tsiikoane (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."

- 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 Tsiikoane Irrigation Scheme construction (Lot 2) period-6months, location: Leribe.
- 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.
- 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.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from SADP II, e-mail: procurement@sadpi.org.ls and inspect the bidding document during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours at the address given

- at the end of this RFB .
- 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

- 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 Tsiikoane Irrigation Scheme- Lot 2
- 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 Tsiikoane (Lot 2)** and
(ii) Local Labor Method Statement for both lots.

- 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.

- 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@sadpi.org.ls

web site address: Procurement - SADP II or <https://www.sadpi.org.ls/procurement/>

- 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."
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".
- 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 specific experience or capabilities, such qualification requirements should also be included in this paragraph.
- If electronic procurement will be used, insert link or web site address and any additional relevant information, as appropriate.
- The office for inquiry and issuance of Bidding document and that for Bid submission may or may not be the same.
- Substitute the address for Bid submission if it is different from address for inquiry and issuance of Bidding document.



Request for Bids

Framework Agreement(s) for Goods (Primary Procurement, One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Procuring: Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
Country: Lesotho
Name of Project: Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Inputs (Field Crop Seeds, Vegetable Seeds and Pesticides)
Framework Agreement Title: Agricultural Inputs
RFB Reference No: MAFSN/G001/2026/2027

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition has received financing from the Government of Lesotho toward the cost of Agricultural Inputs, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under Call-off Contracts that may be awarded under the Framework Agreements (FAs) for Agricultural Inputs concluded through this RFB Procurement process.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition is undertaking the Primary Procurement with a view to concluding Framework Agreements. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition is the sole Purchaser under the Framework Agreements. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply and delivery of agricultural inputs (Field Crops Seeds, Vegetables Seeds and Pesticides).
- The Framework Agreements to be concluded will be Single-User. The Single-User entitled to purchase under the Framework Agreements is Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.
- The Framework Agreements to be concluded will be Multi-Supplier.
- The selection of a FA Supplier to be awarded a Call-off Contract will be done through a Secondary Procurement process as defined in Framework Agreement. However, the conclusion of a Framework Agreement shall not impose any obligation on the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, to purchase goods under

a Call-off Contract. The conclusion of Framework Agreement does not guarantee that a FA Supplier will be awarded a Call-off Contract.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the Public Procurement Act, and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Act.
- Bidders may submit Bids for one or more "lots".
- The Framework Agreements shall be concluded for a Term of **two years**, note: the initial Term cannot exceed 3 years from the commencement date stated in the Framework Agreement.
- The Primary Procurement shall establish a **Closed Framework Agreement(s)**.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Procurement Officer and rd.sefooko@yahoo.com and inspect the Bidding document during office hours from 8:00 to 16:30 hours at the address given below:
- The Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 500 maloti. The method of payment will be cash.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **13:30hrs, 11th June 2026**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below at **14:00hrs, 11th June 2026**.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition**

Ranamane Sefooko Procurement Officer
Corner Constitutional and Linare Roads,
Maseru 100, Lesotho
+266 22322741
rd.sefooko@yahoo.com



Kingdom of Lesotho

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

Date: 27th March 2026
EOI Number/Ref number: [PF/EOI/2025/2026-02]

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

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

Complete the Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Commission for the

Strategic Fuel Storage Facility in accordance with internationally accepted

standards (e.g. SANS) as well as relevant international standards (ISO, API, IEC etc.) to ensure sufficient operation;

2. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The services required under this assignment include:

- Complete the Strategic Fuel Storage Facility, testing and commissioning in accordance with internationally accepted and relevant standards to ensure sufficient operation;
- Detail the ownership representation ensuring involvement of the State

- Provide a detailed financing structure including the funding sources, a clear risk sharing plan and allocation among project stakeholders
 - Demonstrate expertise on procurement of petroleum products for the state
 - Elaborate how petroleum products will be procured without alienating existing players and avoiding the creation of monopolies
 - Propose how other interested groups may participate
 - Propose how products will be procured from the international market
 - Propose the operating and maintenance model
- The Ministry of Energy invites suitably qualified construction companies to submit an expression of interest. The companies may form joint ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

3. EOI SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following should be included in the submission:

- Company Overview or Company Profile;
- A track record of the company demonstrating experience in large scale DBFOM projects, ideally within the energy sector (e.g. contract);
- Client reference list of at least three (3) clients that similar work has been implemented for;
- Project organogram illustrating the roles of each team member;
- CV and qualifications of each proposed team member;
- Demonstrate financial stability and ability to secure project financing;
- Past 5 year's audited financial statements;
- Company registration documents, Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) and a comfort letter from a reputable bank.
- Description of the Company's quality assurance policies and procedures.
- Additional Certifications/procedures applicable to perform the services

4. SUBMISSION DETAILS



PETROLEUM FUND.

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

Attention:
Mr. Teboho Moloantoa
Petroleum Fund
LCCI Building
Orpen Road
Maseru, Lesotho
Submission Address: supplier@petroleum.org.ls
Attention: Late submissions will not be considered.

5. EOI EVALUATION CRITERIA

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

6. DISCLAIMER

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



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

- 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**.
- The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above Goods.
- Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open national bidding method contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all bidders.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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**
- There shall not be a pre – bid meeting.
- Documents may be inspected at: Procurement Unit Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Corner Constitutional and Linare Roads **22322741**
- Documents will be issued from: Procurement Unit Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Corner Constitutional and Linare Roads **22322741**
- Bids must be delivered to: Tender Box situated at Agric Headquarters, Corner Constitutional and Linare Roads **22322741**
- 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

- 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**.
- The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above Goods.
- Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open national bidding method contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all bidders.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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**.
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- (b) Documents will be issued from: Procurement Unit Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Corner Constitutional and Linare Roads **22322741**
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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 ND
3)	Parkhome

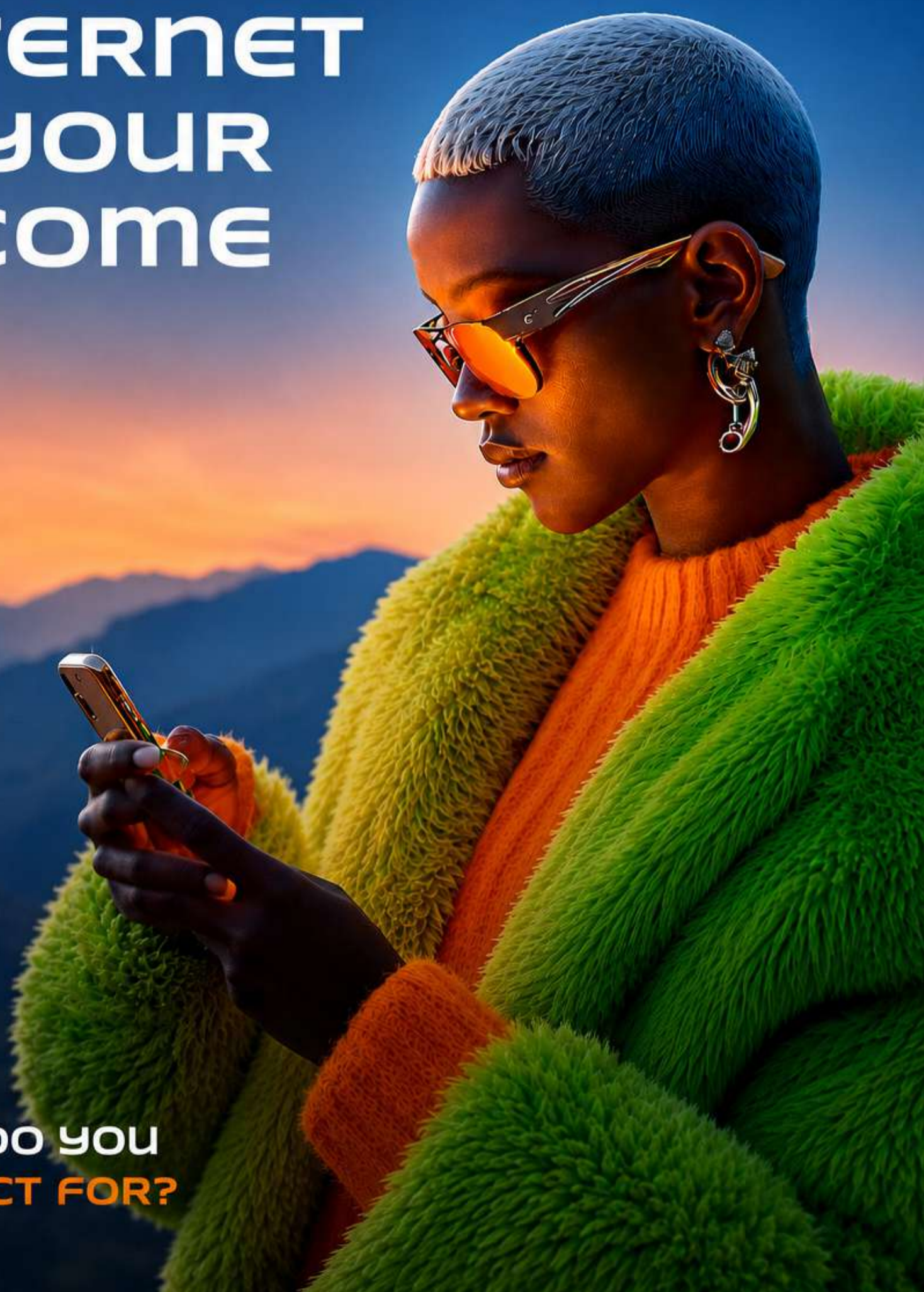
Contracts for goods, works and services will be implemented according to the principles, rules and procedures set out in the current versions of the IFAD Project Procurement Guidelines and IFAD Procurement Handbook. Specific procurement notices for contracts to be tendered under the competitive bidding 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.**

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Arts & Entertainment

Why Skebza D Still Matters in Lesotho Hip Hop



Chris Theko

In hip hop culture, longevity is never accidental. Trends shift quickly, audiences constantly chase new sounds, and many artists fade as fast as they rise.

Yet in Lesotho's evolving music industry, one artist has remained relevant across multiple generations: Mokebe Mohasoa, better known as Skebza D.

For nearly two decades, Skebza D has been more than just a rapper. He has built a reputation as a producer, mentor, creative visionary, and one of the pioneers of "Sotho-Hop," a subgenre rooted in African identity, lyrical consciousness, and Basotho cultural pride.

"I am Sotho-Hop. I am Lesotho Hip-Hop," he said confidently.

"I believe that I still have something to offer that some don't, which is that original conscious Hip-Hop sound."

Born and raised in Naleli, Maseru, Skebza D says his childhood was shaped by curiosity, education, and a deep interest in African history and identity.

"I always had my head stuck in books. I was constantly thirsty for knowledge, especially about the history of my Basotho and African people," he recalled.

That intellectual curiosity would later define both his music and philosophy. Growing up in the early 1990s, he was introduced to hip hop and dancehall through his older brothers, but hip hop's storytelling and consciousness stood out most.

"What attracted me to Hip-Hop was its consciousness and teachings like 'knowledge of self,'" he explained.

"Also the creativity and theatrics behind the music videos."

Like many rappers of his era, Skebza D drew inspiration from artists such as Tupac and Nas, whose music combined emotional storytelling with social commentary.

"Songs like Dear Mama, Changes and Brenda's Got a Baby really hit home," he said. "These artists spoke to all age groups, which was something I respected very much."

Before fully embracing rap, Skebza D was heavily involved in poetry and spoken word performance during his school years, an influence he says remains central to lyricism.

"Rap is literally an acronym for Rhythm And Poetry. Possessing the fundamentals of poetry definitely makes a better rap artist," he said.

That poetic background later evolved into a broader vision. Rather than imitating Western hip hop trends, he wanted to create music rooted in Southern African identity. The result became "Sotho-Hop."

"Sotho-Hop is representative of our Southern African and Sotho roots," he explained.

"For a song to be labelled Sotho-Hop, it doesn't necessarily have to be in Sesotho only or use koriana sounds. It just has to push the philosophies of being a real African who's proud of their culture and heritage."

At a time when much of local hip hop leaned heavily toward imitation, Skebza D believed cultural identity was missing.

"Yes, I felt lyrical Hip-Hop lacked cultural identity," he said.

His fusion of Sesotho and English became part of that cultural mission.

"The fusion of both languages was important in

bringing different cultures and tribes together," he explained. "It has contributed to popularising Basotho and African music globally."

After starting his career with Hipnotica in the mid-2000s, Skebza D later pursued formal music training in Johannesburg, an experience that exposed

him to the business side of entertainment.

Over the years, he built a respected catalogue, collaborated with major artists, and performed on important stages locally and internationally.

Still, he believes the industry has changed significantly.

"The older generation were about talent and quality. Now for most, the game is about popularity over talent."

While acknowledging social media's advantages, he believes it has shifted focus away from artistry.

"Social media has its pros and cons," he said. "It has made the game about negativity in the name of likes, numbers and fame over pure talent and hard work"

Despite his criticisms, Skebza D continues to evolve creatively through music, design, painting, and directing visuals.

"I understand where the music is going. Most times I set the trend instead of following it," he said

For Skebza D, legacy is no longer about fame, but about building something lasting.

"At this age I'm working to leave a legendary and respectful everlasting legacy," he said.

And in an industry driven by short attention spans and temporary fame, that may be exactly why Skebza D still matters.



ALLEGRO AFRICA

in Concert

PERFORMING WITH LIVE BAND,
BACKING VOCALISTS & STRING ENSEMBLE

DOORS OPEN @
5PM

27 JUNE 2026

SHOW STARTS @
7PM

'MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTRE AUDITORIUM

TICKET **M500**
PAY FLEX TICKETS AVAILABLE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
ticketbox & Pick n Pay






Chris Theko

For many media houses, surviving 20 years is an achievement. For a youth radio station operating in one of the world's fastest-changing media environments, it is something even more significant.

This year, The Ultimate Radio celebrates two decades on air — a milestone that reflects not only longevity, but also resilience, adaptation, and consistency in a rapidly evolving broadcasting industry.

Founded in 2006, the public-owned station entered the market with a clear mission: to serve young people and the English-speaking community in Lesotho, audiences that were largely underserved on local airwaves at the time.

"Our core purpose has always been to inform, educate, entertain, and genuinely connect with people, especially those who felt left out," said Station Director Mapitso Sekete Ts'iu.

While many radio stations were dominated by Sesotho talk programming, Ultimate Radio built its identity around youth culture, contemporary music, English-language presentation, and a modern urban sound that resonated strongly with younger listeners.

Even as other stations shifted direction over time because of financial and commercial pressures, Ultimate Radio maintained its original identity.

"We stayed true to our original mission," Mapitso explains. "While the world around us has changed a lot, our hearts haven't."

That consistency has helped the station remain relevant across generations despite dramatic changes in how audiences consume media.

When Ultimate Radio launched, radio still enjoyed captive audiences. Listeners tuned in at fixed times for entertainment, music, and news. However, smartphones, social media, and streaming platforms completely transformed audience behaviour.

"Suddenly, people weren't sitting by the radio waiting for their favourite show anymore," says the station director. "They wanted content when they wanted it."

The rise of instant news and social media competition forced the station to rethink its approach. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated that transition further, pushing broadcasters toward digital storytelling, remote production, and online engagement.

Twenty years loud: How The Ultimate stayed true while radio changed around it

Today, Ultimate Radio is embracing what management describes as a "digital-first" future by expanding beyond traditional FM broadcasting into podcasts, streaming, video content, and social media platforms.

Yet management insists that technology alone is not what keeps radio relevant.

"For us, relevance isn't just about technology - it's about trust and connection," says Mapitso.

That philosophy has helped the station position itself not just as a broadcaster, but as an active participant in community and cultural life through initiatives such as the Moshoeshe Heritage Celebration, Moea Oa Selemo, Back to School campaigns, and Sebatatso events.

For current on-air personality Diboza, the modern listener behaves very differently from past audiences.

"The modern Ultimate Radio listener is far more connected, informed, and interactive than audiences from the past," he says.

"Young listeners are constantly moving between radio, TikTok, podcasts, YouTube, Instagram, and streaming services, so radio is no longer competing only with other stations. We are competing for attention in a very crowded digital world."

According to Diboza, modern audiences no longer want passive entertainment.

"What has changed most is that listeners now want to feel part of the conversation," he explains. "They don't just consume content; they react to it, challenge it, share it, and shape it in

real time."

That shift has transformed how presenters approach broadcasting. Diboza believes authenticity has become essential, particularly for younger audiences facing unemployment, mental health struggles, identity pressures, and financial hardships.

"Young people today are dealing with real pressures, unemployment, mental health struggles, relationships, identity, finances, and social expectations," he says. "If radio ignores those realities, it loses credibility."

He believes successful radio today balances entertainment with meaningful conversations.

"A great radio show should make people laugh, think, and feel understood at the same time."

For Diboza, this emotional connection is what still separates radio from algorithm-driven platforms.

"Streaming platforms can give people songs, but radio gives them personality, conversation, emotion, and a shared experience."

He says the role of presenters now extends beyond the microphone.

"Social media is now an extension of the radio studio," says Diboza. "Radio is no longer just about what happens between the microphones; it's about building a full community across platforms."

Founding member Tello Leballo believes the station's continued relevance proves the original vision was sound.

"The original vision behind Ultimate Radio was to establish a commercially viable radio station that would not only serve its audience with excellence but also become a sustainable revenue-generating asset for government," says Leballo.

However, the journey was not always smooth. One of the station's early setbacks came after recruitment requirements changed, forcing management to part ways with talented broadcasters who lacked formal university qualifications.

"It was a difficult period and undoubtedly impacted the station," Leballo recalls.

Despite those challenges, the station rebuilt itself by nurturing a new generation of broadcasters who embraced its vision.

"It became evident that The Ultimate Radio was gaining momentum and establishing itself as a force to be reckoned with," he says.

Two decades later, the station's ambitions now extend far beyond traditional radio frequencies.

"We want to become a true multimedia brand that Basotho are proud of," says Mapitso. "One that reaches people on radio, online, through podcasts, video, and social platforms."

As Ultimate Radio marks 20 years on air, its story mirrors the broader evolution of broadcasting itself, from analogue to digital and from scheduled programming to on-demand content.

Yet despite all the transformation, one thing remains unchanged: the station's determination to stay connected to the people it serves.

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Seabata Mahao

A groundbreaking international scholarship partnership between Wrexham University, Wrexham AFC Foundation and Kick4Life is set to transform lives of many youngsters in Lesotho through the power of football and education.

Launched on World Football Giving Day, the initiative will provide two young people from Kick4Life's programmes in Lesotho with fully funded tuition opportunities to study in North Wales over the next four years.

The first beneficiary is 20-year-old Seabata Tsemame, who is expected to begin his studies in Wrexham in 2026. Organisers are currently raising funds to cover his travel and living expenses.

Seabata has received a conditional offer to join the Foundation Degree in Football and Community Development at Wrexham University, a two-year programme designed to combine football coaching, leadership training, community engagement and practical industry experience.

As part of the scholarship, he will also work closely with the Wrexham AFC Foundation, gain professional qualifications and participate in community development projects across North Wales.

For the young Mosotho, the opportunity marks a remarkable milestone in a journey that began more than a decade ago.

Seabata joined Kick4Life's football and education academy in 2014 and has steadily progressed through the organisation's academic and sporting pathways. He is currently completing a six-month internship within Kick4Life's community programmes department, helping to deliver projects aimed at supporting vulnerable youth and strengthening communities across Lesotho.

Speaking about the scholarship, Seabata reflected on the challenges he faced growing up in Lesotho.

From Mafeteng to Wrexham: How football opened doors for Tsemame



20-year-old Seabata Tsemame

"Growing up in Lesotho, my family and I experienced poor social and economic

conditions, and I knew from an early age that I would need to work very hard in order to alter the course of our lives," he said.

"For this reason, I came to appreciate the importance of education as a necessary tool to help me achieve my goals. The opportunity to study at Wrexham University, including a placement at Wrexham AFC Foundation, presents a life-changing opportunity to shape my career as a coach and to nurture my interest in how football can be used strategically to promote social justice, raise awareness of social issues and strengthen community cohesion."

The scholarship programme strengthens the growing partnership between Wrexham AFC and Kick4Life FC, building on a historic relationship between Wales and Lesotho that dates back to 1985. Several exchange visits involving young leaders from both organisations have already taken place, with additional visits planned over the next two years through support from the UEFA Foundation for Children.

Kick4Life's co-founder Steve Fleming described the scholarship as a genuinely life-changing initiative for young Basotho.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of Wrexham University and Wrexham AFC in making this scholarship possible," he said.

"It will empower young people with the skills, knowledge and qualifications to pursue their dreams and give back to their communities."

Programme Leader Sara Hilton said the partnership demonstrates football's power to create opportunities far beyond the pitch.

"We are incredibly proud to support Seabata's journey from Lesotho to Wrexham through this scholarship," she said.

"We hope the partnership with Kick4Life not only creates life-changing opportunities for the young people involved, but also strengthens the connection between our communities and highlights the positive impact football can have globally."

Head of the Wrexham Foundation Jamie Edwards also welcomed the initiative, saying the collaboration reflects the football club's commitment to creating positive social impact locally and internationally.

World Football Giving Day, founded by Common Goal, is observed annually on 26 May and brings together the global football community to support initiatives using sport as a force for social good.

Buasono United lift Nedbank 8 crown

Seabata Mahao

Buasono United are the champions of the A Division League's Nedbank 8 tournament after their unprecedented run to the final where they stunned Mzamane FC 2-0.

The Teyateyaneng-based outfit actually produced a commanding performance from the opening whistle, controlling possession, attacking with confidence and denying Mzamane any real opportunity to settle into the match.

Their victory earned them the prestigious Nedbank 8 trophy, gold medals and a winners' cheque of M35,000. LijaneNthunya, the President of the Lesotho Football Association (LEFA) was on hand to present the trophy and medals to the jubilant Buasono players and technical team after the final whistle.

Reflecting on their stunning victory, Buasono's coach Mpopo Malata praised his players for their determination and commitment throughout the competition.

"We worked very hard to reach this stage. The players showed dedication and a strong desire to win, and that made the difference," said Malata.

Buasono's route to the title was far from easy. In the quarterfinals, they overcame Kick4Life Juventude 3-1 before edging Summit FC in a dramatic semifinal clash.

That encounter ended 3-3 after an intense 90 minutes in which both teams attacked relentlessly. Buasono eventually triumphed 4-3 in the penalty shootout to book their place in the final.

Mzamane's campaign was equally dramatic. The Mokhotlong-based side



Buasono United after their final Nedbank 8 final match

defeated Qoaling Highlanders 2-1 in the quarterfinals before surviving a thrilling semifinal battle against Lilemela FC.

Lilemela appeared to be heading comfortably to victory after racing into a 3-0 lead, but Mzamane mounted a spirited comeback to level the score. The match eventually went to penalties, where Mzamane held their nerve to win 4-3 and advance to the final.

Lilemela had reached the semifinals

after defeating All Aces 2-1, while Summit eliminated Litšehlo by the same scoreline.

The 2026 Nedbank 8 tournament carried a total sponsorship package of M350,000. Runners-up Mzamane received M30,000 and silver medals, while third-placed Lilemela earned M25,000 and bronze medals.

Quarterfinalists Kick4Life Juventude, All Aces, Litšehlo and Qoaling Highlanders each received M20,000 consolation prizes. The tournament also featured individual awards

for Player of the Tournament, Top Goal Scorer and Best Goalkeeper.

Meanwhile, Mzamane coach MosholuMokhothu, popularly known as "Shoes," became emotional after the defeat and broke down in tears during post-match interviews.

Mokhothu admitted that his team struggled to match Buasono's pace and intensity throughout the match.

"We spent most of the game defending and chasing the ball because they controlled the game very well," he said.

The experienced coach also revealed serious disciplinary problems within his squad, claiming some players had been drinking alcohol and partying the night before the final.

"The level of indiscipline is very high," Mokhothu said before becoming emotional.

Throughout the match, Mzamane appeared disorganized, with players often ignoring instructions from the technical bench despite repeated calls from the coach on the sidelines. Tensions also surfaced after halftime when Mokhothu reprimanded one of his substitutes for provoking opposition players from the bench.

Similar scenes had been witnessed during Mzamane's semifinal victory over Lilemela.

Despite the disappointment, Mokhothu remains one of Lesotho's most accomplished coaches. He guided Lesotho Correctional Service FC to league titles in the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 seasons before winning back-to-back championships with Lioli FC in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016. He also won the league as an assistant coach with LCS FC during the 2007/2008 season.

Mzamane recently secured promotion to the Premier League for the 2026/2027 season following an impressive A-Division campaign.

Although their Nedbank 8 dream ended in heartbreak, the Mokhotlong outfit still has another important assignment ahead. Next week, the club will compete in the A-Division Champions Tournament, where top teams from the Northern and Southern regions will battle for the national championship title.



Big changes at Minet Independence marathon



Minet Independence Marathon 2025

Seabata Mahao

As Lesotho gears up to celebrate 60 years of independence, organisers of the annual Minet Independence Marathon have announced significant changes aimed at transforming the event into an even bigger spectacle on the national sporting calendar.

Minet Lesotho has officially launched the third edition of the marathon, which is

scheduled to take place on October 3 at the historic Thaba-Bosiu plateau.

With the country preparing to celebrate six decades of freedom, the organisers believe this year's marathon will not only promote athletics and tourism but also unite Basotho in a celebration of national pride and healthy lifestyles.

In a major strategic shift aimed at expanding

the event, Minet Lesotho has partnered with Eventful Moments, a local events management company that will assist with organising and marketing the marathon.

This partnership brings a wealth of recent experience to the table, as Eventful Moments is the force behind the record-breaking success of the 2026 Nedbank Maseru City Run.

That event, which took place in February 2026, attracted a record 3,400 athletes, including members of the Royal Family such as Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso and Prince Lerotholi Seeiso.

The company is also credited with steering the Maseru City Run toward international standards by engaging World Athletics course measurer Norrie Williamson to certify the routes, a move designed to gain global recognition for local races.

Eventful Moments' Director of Operations Sam Rapapa said his team is determined to use that momentum to significantly increase participation numbers at the Independence Marathon.

"Our employers (Minet) did not give us a target, but we promised them that we would double the participation numbers from last year," Rapapa said.

He explained that Eventful Moments will oversee technical race matters, logistics, finances and marketing to ensure a successful event. Last year, the race attracted more than 1,400 runners, meaning the team is aiming for close to 3,000 athletes this year.

The marathon has also gained regional recognition after being confirmed as a qualifying event for two of South Africa's most prestigious races, the Two Oceans Marathon and the Comrades Marathon.

Speaking during the launch in Maseru, Minet Lesotho's Human Resources Manager Pulane Mokhethi expressed excitement about the continued growth of the event and its alignment with the national independence festivities.

"We are happy that it is going to be big and exciting this year. We have earmarked October 3 and it will coincide with 60th independence celebrations and we are excited about that," Mokhethi said.

She added that the marathon promotes healthy living while also bringing communities together through sport. "We want to thank all the running clubs who take part in this marathon, everyone who always comes and celebrates with us," she said.

This year's edition will feature four race categories, namely the full marathon (42.2 km), half marathon (21 km), 10 km and 5 km races. Prize money for winners is expected to increase slightly, although organisers are yet to announce the final amounts.

Last year, Minet Lesotho and its partners invested approximately M940 000 into the marathon, and organisers have hopes of securing an even larger sponsorship package for the 60th independence celebration.

Player shakeup at Lioli after league title surrender

Seabata Mahao

Premier League giants Lioli FC have begun a major rebuilding exercise ahead of the 2026/27 season after releasing six senior players, including last season's Player of the Season, SihleMaso.

Following their poor league title defence where they finished seventh on the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) final log table, Lioli have confirmed the departure of several players as they seek to create room for new signings and reshape the squad under new head coach Halemakale Mahlaha.

"As part of early preparations for next season and to create room for new signings, Lioli has announced the departure of six players," the club said.

The released players are SihleMaso, SechabaMohapi, NkotoMasoabi, LitšepeMarabe, RetšepileKhubetsoana and TšoaneloKoetle.

The biggest surprise on the list is South



Lioli Football Club squad

African-born midfield maestro SihleMaso, who only recently suffered a serious head injury during a Vodacom Premier League clash against Matlama FC less than two months ago.

Maso, who joined Lioli from South African side Amavarara FC in 2023, had established

himself as one of the club's key players and was instrumental in the team's recent successes. However, his campaign was cut short after sustaining an Achilles tendon injury that required surgery.

The midfielder now faces a lengthy spell on the sidelines as he continues his recovery.

Despite his injury struggles, Maso's performances earned him the club's 2025 Player of the Season award, making his departure one of the most talked-about decisions by the Berea-based outfit.

Also leaving the club is striker NkotoMasoabi alongside former Bantu FC duo TšoaneloKoetle and LitšepeMarabe, who both joined Lioli only a year ago. SechabaMohapi, son of former Lioli coach Motheo Mohapi, and RetšepileKhubetsoana complete the list of departures.

"Lioli Football Club appreciates all these players for their dedication and effort into the team and wishes them well in their future endeavours," the statement further read.

Lioli endured a disappointing league campaign by their lofty standards, finishing seventh after having won back-to-back league titles under Motheo Mohapi before his departure to Bantu FC.

Now under Mahlaha, who previously coached Matlama FC and LMPS, the club appears determined to rebuild and introduce new faces capable of fitting into the coach's philosophy as they aim to reclaim domestic dominance.

Although the outgoing players failed to help Lioli defend the league title, they leave with silverware after guiding the club to victory in the People's Cup, where Lioli defeated Bantu FC on penalties in the final.

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