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Storm brews over railway tender



Railway Maseru

Lekheho Makhanya

The Roads Directorate is locked in a heated dispute with a South African joint venture after disqualifying its bid for the rehabilitation of the Maseru Private Siding railway track, a multi-million maloti project that has now spilled into potential litigation, Newsday has learnt.

MGT/BAHAI Joint Venture, comprising MGT Projects and Bahai Construction and Engineering – both South African-registered companies – has engaged lawyers and is preparing to sue the Roads Directorate.

Bahai Construction and Engineering boasts, on their website, of highly skilled personnel specialising in railway maintenance.

The joint venture claims it was unfairly disqualified after its bid had advanced through technical and financial evaluation stages.

The tender (RD/DD/5-A) for the “Plant and Design Build of the Rehabilitation of Maseru Private Siding Railway Track” was advertised in October 2025. It explicitly required bidders to submit a valid bid security in the form of an unconditional bank guarantee of LSL 100,000.

According to Lehlohonolo Seshophe Mabote, a Lesotho-born director of Bahai Construction and Engineering, the joint venture attended the non-compulsory site visit and pre-tender briefing on October 17, 2025. Its bid was submitted on the extended closing date of November 22, 2025.

The tender document had stated: “A non-compulsory site visit and pre-tender briefing, at the tender’s own cost, have been organised on 17 October 2025... Prospective bidders are requested to assemble at the Maseru Industrial Area at the Railway Level Crossing... by 9:30 am.”

Seshophe Mabote said: “The submission of tenders was initially scheduled for Thursday,

November 13, 2025, but the client subsequently granted an extension. On the extended date of submission, being November 22, 2025, we received an email notification instructing us to attend the tender opening. I was present in person at the technical opening session. After the public opening, all bidders were invited to demonstrate inclusion of the required Bank Guarantee in their tender documentation. We complied fully, and our copy of the Bank Guarantee was available and met the requirements.”

At this stage, Seshophe Mabote said, several companies were procedurally disqualified for failing to provide the bank guarantee.

Subsequently, Seshophe Mabote said they received an invitation on January 30, 2026, “addressed to all companies that had successfully completed the technical stage,” he claimed, adding the invitation was for the financial bid opening.

“We duly attended the financial opening session. Our tender price was R8,673,913.05 exclusive of VAT, while the only remaining qualifying competitor submitted a price in excess of R40 million,” Seshophe Mabote said.

In a statement to Newsday last month, Roads Directorate said M10 million had been allocated for the rehabilitation of the railway project during the 2025/26 financial year.

It said a detailed railway assessment was carried out in April 2025 together with Lesotho Flour Mills (LFM) and a South African engineering company called Flint.

According to the Directorate, the findings formed the basis for tender documents issued later. However, the procurement process reportedly failed after no contractor qualified for the work.

“The works were advertised and bids received. However, there was no successful bid-

der,” the Directorate said.

It said the tender will now be re-advertised regionally because of limited local expertise.

Seshophe Mabote told Newsday this week that after several follow-up calls, they received an email on March 6, 2026, from Ntaba Manoeli of the Roads Directorate’s procurement department, “stating that our bid was unsuccessful on the grounds of non-compliance”.

This is the email that triggered contention between the MGT/Bahai Joint Venture and the Roads Directorate. Seshophe Mabote said, “We then appealed the decision but were rejected”.

Meanwhile, Newsday saw a letter of appeal that MGT/Bahai Joint Venture wrote to Road Directorate’s Procurement Manager, Manoeli, dated February 27, 2026 and entitled: “Formal Objection to Disqualification on the Grounds of Alleged Non-Submission of Bid Security”.

The letter continued: “We hereby lodge a formal objection to the decision to disqualify our bid on the basis that no bid security was submitted. The decision is fundamentally flawed and misguided because it is founded on a factually incorrect basis and is furthermore inconsistent with the procurement records.”

MGT/Bahai Joint Venture argued that their bid security was submitted and met requirements of the tender.

This newspaper also saw the bid security dated November 17, 2025. The document is endorsed by a certain Sekemo Risk Services and reads in part: “We (Sekemo) hereby confirm cover for MGT Projects (Pty) Ltd/Bahai JV upon award of the tender Contract Number RD/DD/5-A; Sum Insured: R100 000; Policy Number 163366789; Insurance Company: Guardrisk.”

The document is signed for by one Seletshoge Tsitsing - Executive Broker Commercial and Personal Insurance.

On February 26, 2026, Manoeli responded to the joint venture’s appeal, noting: “This letter serves as a formal communication on the tender for “the plant and design of the rehabilitation of Maseru private siding railway track” you had tendered for. As per IBT 19, subsection 19.3, which states that “Any bid not accompanied by an enforceable and substantially complaint bid security, if one is required in accordance with ITB 19.1, shall be rejected by the employer as non-responsive.”

Manoeli argued the MGT/Bahai Joint Venture did not comply with this requirement, “this is to be read with ITB 37, “the Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to bidders. In a case of annulment, all bid submitted and specifically, bid securities, shall promptly be returned to the bidders.”

MGT/Bahai JV was non-responsive to this tender and therefore they were rejected, Manoeli firmly held.

But Manoeli’s response did not sit well with the Joint Venture’s management. On March 9, 2026, they wrote back to Manoeli again. Their letter was now entitled: “Formal Legal Response - Disqualification of MGT/Bahai Joint Venture Contract No. RD/DD/5-A.”

They appealed: “We refer to your letter dated February 26, 2026, communicating the decision of the Roads Directorate to declare the bid submitted by MGT/Bahai Joint Venture non-responsive on the grounds that the bid security provided was not in the form of an unconditional bank guarantee”.

They said after careful review of the reasons advanced by Manoeli, “we must respectfully but firmly reject the position adopted by the Roads Directorate”.

They counter-argued: “The decision to retrospectively disqualify our bid after the completion of the technical and financial evaluation stages is inconsistent with the governing procurement framework, violates well-established principles of administrative law, and undermines the integrity of the procurement process”, their letter read in part.

The MGT/Bahai JV’s position is that, “the doctrine of legitimate expectation arises where a public authority, through its conduct or representations, creates a reasonable expectation that a particular procedure will be followed. In the present case, the Roads Directorate conducted the evaluation process in a structured sequence in which; (a) our bid was accepted at the preliminary compliance stage, (b) our bid was subjected to full technical evaluation and scored, (c) our Joint Venture was formally recommended for the financial opening.”

By allowing their bid to progress through all these stages without objection regarding the bid security, the Joint Venture argues the Roads Directorate created a clear and reasonable expectation that their bid had satisfied the compliance requirements of the tender.

They argue the sudden reversal of this position after financial evaluation constitutes a breach of that legitimate expectation and undermines the predictability and fairness required in public procurement.

Seshophe Mabote told Newsday on Tuesday that their lawyers were this week preparing papers to file a lawsuit against the Roads Directorate.

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Ntsoaki Motaung

The Maseru City Council (MCC) has expressed serious doubts over the legality of a contract it awarded for the critical stabilisation and rehabilitation of the troubled Ha Tšosane dumpsite and the development of the proposed Tšoeneng sanitary landfill.

In a letter dated June 9, 2026, the council notified SSL Joint Venture that the contract, formally titled "Design and Supervision of the Tšosane Dumpsite Stabilisation and Rehabilitation, and Tšoeneng Sanitary Landfill Design, Stabilisation and Long-term Environmental Design Project," exceeds the council's monetary ceiling and may therefore be "illegal or unlawful."

The letter, addressed to Teboho Nchapha: "Our attention has been drawn to the fact that the contract above that we signed with you is way above the Maseru City Council monetary ceiling/jurisdiction on works of this nature. That, by reason thereof, means that the contract may very well be illegal or unlawful."

Town Clerk 'Moea Makhakhe signed the correspondence and invited the joint venture to submit written representations or contributions by close of business on Friday, June 12, 2026.

When contacted by Newsday on Thursday, Makhakhe confirmed the matter would be addressed publicly once the council receives the joint venture's input.

"The Council would talk about these issues publicly, as it is a public issue, after it has received written representations from SSL Joint Venture," he said.

The council's letter does not disclose the contract value or detail how the apparent breach of financial thresholds occurred. It remains unclear what immediate steps will follow if the contract is ultimately deemed invalid.

The projects are central to long-standing efforts to address the Ha Tšosane dumpsite, which has been a persistent environmental and health hazard for nearby residents.

MCC admits signing 'illegal' waste contract



Tšosane dumping site

The site has repeatedly caught fire, most recently in September 2025, blanketing Ha Tšosane in thick, acrid smoke and raising fears of respiratory illnesses and other pollution-related health impacts.

Government officials have previously indicated plans to relocate operations to a new sanitary landfill at Tšoeneng, but progress has been slow amid funding, procurement, and legal challenges.

A 2022 study by Lemohang Precious Moko, titled "The Impact of Tšosane Solid Waste Dumpsite on the Neighbouring Community,"

provided empirical evidence of the dangers.

The study found that residents living within a radius of 0-500 meters from the dumpsite reported environmental degradation, bad odours, and health issues.

Findings from the study indicated that the dumpsite's proximity contributes to land, noise, and air pollution, with some residents even suffering economic losses on rental properties due to the unbearable living conditions.

The study concluded that residents were living in fear and suffering from trauma, with impacts being most acutely felt closer to the site.

During an address to the National Assembly last year, then minister of local government Lebona Lephema stated that the ministry was working on a solution to relocate the dumpsite to Tšoeneng.

However, this statement was met with scepticism and sharp criticism from the leader of the United Africans Transformation (UAT), Dr. Mahali Phamotse.

Phamotse demanded an explanation for how the M20 million allocated in the 2025/2026 financial year for the relocation had been spent.

She expressed concern that the money, intended for implementation, was being used for yet another study and the identification of new companies.

"This is among the things that derail this country's progress," Dr. Phamotse declared, suggesting the funds were not being used for their intended purpose.

The government's repeated delays and apparent inaction were further highlighted in a report by the Portfolio Committees on Law and Public Safety and Natural Resources, Tourism, and Land.

The report's findings were damning. The committee found that the Tšosane dumpsite had been illegal since the Environment Act was enacted in 2008 and lacks an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The committees' recommendations included a comprehensive EIA to assess the full extent of the damage, a funded clean-up strategy, and an improved budget for modern waste management infrastructure across the country.

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Census workers demand full payment as wage disputes persist

... But director faults red tape for enumerators' hurdles

Thoboloko Ntšonyane and Seabata Mahao

Concerns continue to mount among enumerators and assistant supervisors involved in Lesotho's 2026 Population and Housing Census. Workers are alleging delayed payments, missing allowances, and a lack of transparency around how their claims are being processed.

The complaints come shortly after the completion of field enumeration for the national census, which was conducted by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) under the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

Lekoeneha Pompo, an enumerator from the Teyateyaneng Constituency, spoke on behalf of affected workers. He said that while some progress has been made following engagements with the Bureau of Statistics (BOS), significant challenges remain unresolved.

Pompo acknowledged that some previously raised concerns have begun to receive attention.

"Following the assistance and intervention that was provided regarding our concerns with the Bureau of Statistics, some progress has been made," he said.

According to Pompo, workers received some of the materials required to do their jobs, including name tags, flasks, and reporting materials. He also said some enumerators received their April allowances.

However, he noted that a substantial number of census workers remain unpaid.

"There is a group of approximately 600 enumerators who have not yet received their April allowances. Furthermore, no one has received the M204 daily wages for either April or May, and no one has received allowances for the month of May," Pompo said.

Among the biggest concerns is the allegation that some constituencies are only being compensated for part of May, even though workers claim they remained on duty until the end of the month.

Pompo cited TY 24 Constituency as an example.

"It is deeply concerning that some constituencies, including TY24 where I was working, appear to be scheduled to receive May wages and allowances only up to May 24 or 25 instead of the full period from May 1 to 30, despite the fact that most of us worked throughout the entire month," he said.

He further alleged that many enumerators never received written contracts or official memoranda detailing the terms of their employment.

"Despite the fact that many of us worked until May 30, our claims have reportedly been reduced to cover only up to May 24 or 25 through our assistant supervisors. We are particularly worried because these claims are now being processed without our direct involvement or verification," he added.

Enumerators say they are entitled to a daily taxable wage of M204 and a non-taxable allowance of M350, amounting to M554 per day before deductions. Workers argue that excluding five or six working days from their claims could result in losses exceeding M2,500 per person.

Assistant supervisors have also voiced frustration over outstanding payments.

One assistant supervisor, who requested anonymity, said he signed a formal contract with the Bureau of Statistics at the start of his employment.

"I signed a contract at the beginning of my employment as an assistant supervisor with the Bureau of Statistics. My contract started on March 16, 2026, and was initially expected to end in April, but it was later extended until the end of May," he explained.

The supervisor said he was entitled to a daily allowance of M350 for the entire period worked, 77 days of service.

"Although the work has been completed, I have only received M4,900, which covered the first two weeks (14 days) of work, and nothing more. There is still an outstanding balance of approximately M35,056, which is being paid irregularly and only in very small amounts to some individuals, while others have received nothing at all," he alleged.

Contractual obligations

A copy of the assistant supervisors' contract reviewed by this publication outlines several obligations on the part of the employer.

The agreement states that employees are to be remunerated in accordance with Public



Service Regulations and are entitled to monthly salary payments. The contract further obliges the employer to provide a safe working environment, supply all necessary resources and equipment, and comply with the Constitution and applicable laws of Lesotho.

The agreement also provides mechanisms for dispute resolution under the Public Service Act 2005 and the Codes of Good Practice.

Attempted boycott notice

The payment dispute appears to have escalated earlier in the census exercise.

Documents seen by this publication indicate that a group identifying itself as "United Enumerators" drafted a formal notice addressed to the Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. However, according to the workers, officials allegedly declined to accept the letter.

In the correspondence, census workers notified management of their intention to boycott field operations from May 11, 2026, unless outstanding salaries and allowances were paid and written contract extensions issued.

The workers argued that the census period had been extended through verbal instructions rather than formal written agreements.

"We insist that any extension of the contract period must be provided in written form, clearly stating adjusted duration. Verbal directives expose us to future disavowal of obligations by the Bureau, leaving us unprotected," the letter stated.

The workers further demanded the immediate payment of all outstanding salaries and allowances, and the issuance of formal written contract renewals duly signed and stamped by the Bureau.

Enumerators and assistant supervisors say they remain committed to supporting a credible national census but argue that they should receive the compensation promised for work already completed.

The affected workers are now appealing to

relevant authorities within the Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, and other government stakeholders to urgently address the outstanding payments and clarify the status of claims currently being processed.

Director faults red tape for enumerators' hurdles

However, the Director of the Bureau of Statistics, Malehloa Molato, has conceded that the challenges that have mired the recent population and housing census are the result of governance bureaucracy.

On Wednesday this week, enumerators took their grievances to the Lehakoe Recreation Club to protest during a census stakeholders' dialogue hosted by the BOS to brief the public on progress and the way forward.

This year's national census was rocked by controversy and alleged nepotism even before work began. The recruitment process was also allegedly compromised by political recruitment perpetuated by the Revolution for Prosperity (RFP), and the final lists publication had to be revised and delayed.

There was also a threat by some members of the public and politicians to boycott the census owing to alleged nepotism. Some politicians condemned the manner in which the recruitment of enumerators and other support staff, such as supervisors, was handled.

One enumerator complained that they began work as an assistant supervisor with the BOS on March 16, 2026, under a contract originally due to end in April but extended until May 31. They alleged they were entitled to a daily allowance of M350 for 77 working days, translating to M26,950 total owed, but have so far received only M4,900 as payment for the first 14 days. They reported an outstanding balance of M35,056 being paid irregularly and in small amounts to some staff, who described the current payment process as erratic and unfair.

Another enumerator, who did not want their identity disclosed for fear of reprisals, alleged that airtime had been misallocated. The complaint also

stated that their backpack was incomplete and that their wages due from March 16, 2026, had not been paid.

Some enumerators alleged that an extension had been granted under dubious circumstances and that their allowances had been calculated incorrectly.

Approached for comment, the Director of BOS said convoluted red tape lies at the heart of the problems dogging census payments. She explained that before salaries can be processed, they have to check timesheets, an exercise done only at month end to pay each enumerator for the number of days worked.

She said after counting days, records are taken to the accounts department, and funds have to be released by the Central Bank.

Molato also said delays in processing salaries and allowances were due to some workers who did not have bank accounts and were asked to open them. She blamed the cumbersome process and consolidation work for creating bottlenecks, leaving temporary staff out of pocket.

"We are not proud of these delays. As we speak, our accounts team is busy processing the payments. We have even asked for additional accountants, and the [Ministry of] Education has assigned us some. Even today we are going to seek an update on the status of payments," she said, adding that those affected will receive their compensation.

"Everyone is going to be paid," Molato said.

On the question of why some enumerators had to fork out money from their own pockets to buy data for the tablets, the BOS said the SIM cards in the tablets were unlimited, but some did not "follow instructions for setting up." However, the BOS admitted they failed to relay messages well to everyone, as some who raised concerns were assigned IT technicians to help with setup.

Asked to commit to a timeline for settling all outstanding salaries and allowances, she said she would need to consult their accounts department to determine that, but promised that by month end, almost everyone will have been paid.

On the way forward

On the way forward until August 2026, when preliminary results will be announced, the Director of BOS said they are currently undertaking a validation exercise and doing structural edits.

Following the publication of preliminary results, she said they will run a tabulation plan programme, run content errors, run tables for thematic reports, do analysis and report writing, edit reports, format and publish them, and then document and archive all census materials.

The preliminary results, she said, will be disseminated to all districts from October 13 to 30. She noted, however, that the law requires that they can only release 10% of data for public consumption and research purposes, not the disaggregated data, as it is personal data of the nation.

All census reports and all data sets, handled in line with the law, will be available in March 2027.

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, has announced that preliminary results of the 2026 National Population and Housing Census will be released in August.

Dr Matlanyane made the announcement during this week's 2026 Population and Housing Census Stakeholders Forum, held under the theme "The Role of Population Data in Planning, Development and Service Delivery". The forum brought together government ministries, development partners, the international community, civil society organisations and the media.

The Minister described the census as a critical national undertaking that provides a comprehensive snapshot of the country's demographics, living conditions and development needs.

"This exercise is very important not only for us but for the continent as well," Dr Matlanyane said. "It is one of the most important statistical exercises undertaken by any country. It tells us who we are as a nation – how many we are, where we live, and what our living conditions are – so that we can plan effectively for

Continues in page 6...

Preliminary 2026 Census Results Due in August



Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane

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Farmers Pitso agricultural awards promise hoopla and honour

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Barely three months away, the Farmers Pitso Agricultural and Excellence Awards have promised a grand celebration of innovation, resilience and excellence among Basotho farmers.

Addressing the media earlier this week, Project Director of the Farmers Pitso Excellence Awards and Newsday Managing Director Lerato Matheka – whose publication also produces Seahlolo Newspaper – said the awards will celebrate the critical role the farmers play in feeding the nation.

“Today marks a defining moment in the evolution of agriculture in Lesotho. We are gathered here not simply to announce an awards ceremony, but to launch a national movement that seeks to recognise excellence, celebrate innovation, inspire productivity and elevate agriculture to its rightful position as the engine of economic transformation in Lesotho,” Matheka said.

“The Farmers Pitso Agricultural & Excellence Awards 2026 are founded on a simple but powerful belief: that those who feed the nation deserve to be celebrated by the nation.”

Matheka highlighted the daily struggles of farmers, noting they “rise before dawn, who endure droughts, hailstorms, livestock diseases and market uncertainty, yet persist in producing food, creating jobs and sustaining livelihoods.”

She added that for too long excellence in farming has gone unrecognised. Through these awards, “we aim to tell a different story, one that places farmers at the heart of national development.”

Matheka recounted how Seahlolo began its journey four years ago when the newspaper was barely two months old.

“We were a young publication with limited resources but an unwavering belief in the power of agriculture,” she said. Invited to sponsor a category at an agricultural awards event, they chose the Broiler Farmer category. “We did not do so because we were wealthy. We did so because we believed agriculture deserved champions.”

Two years later, they expanded their support by sponsoring schools participating in agricultural activities. “Those early investments were not sponsorships. They were statements of intent. They reflected our conviction that agriculture must be celebrated, supported and elevated,” Matheka said.

“Today, that journey has matured into the Farmers Pitso Agricultural & Excellence Awards. The awards are therefore not an isolated event. They are the culmination of years of commitment to farmers, food systems and rural development.”

The vision for the awards from 2026 to 2028 is to build the most influential agricultural recognition platform in the Kingdom of Lesotho. Matheka said the initiative comes as Lesotho shifts towards a private-sector-led economy.

“Instead of relying solely on the government, [these awards show] how private organisations can pool resources, create opportunities, celebrate success and attract investment,” she explained.

She emphasised that agriculture must be prioritised “not just in government board-

rooms but by banks, businesses, development agencies, schools, communities and households.”

Matheka also linked the awards to the leadership of King Letsie III, who has long championed food security and sustainable agriculture. Referencing the King’s speech in Kenya earlier this year, she quoted him saying: “A child who goes to school on an empty stomach is not just hungry for food, but also hungry for opportunity.”

Matheka added: “Agriculture is not merely about production. Agriculture is about education. Agriculture is about health. Agriculture is about dignity. Agriculture is about opportunity. Agriculture is about nation building.”

She stressed that Seahlolo Newspaper has always seen its role as more than just reporting. “We have always believed that journalism must actively contribute to development.”

The awards, she said, belong to all farmers and stakeholders in the sector. “We want your story. Allow your journey to inspire others.”

“Together, let us make excellence visible. Together, let us make agriculture aspirational. Together, let us make Lesotho food secure, nutrition secure and economically stronger. Those who feed the nation deserve to be celebrated by the nation that they feed,” Matheka declared.

The two-day event begins on 11 September with a focus on schools, students, agricultural exhibitions and knowledge-sharing. The main awards ceremony and prestigious black-tie gala dinner will take place on 12 September, honouring outstanding Basotho farmers across various categories.

Tlaba Mochebelele of the Farmers Pitso Trust Foundation and co-founder of the awards commended Seahlolo for its support. “Seahlolo has been by our side, waking us up and dusting us off,” he said.

...Continuation from page 4

development.”

Lesotho has conducted censuses since the colonial era, with the first recorded in 1936. Post-independence decennial censuses have been managed by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS). According to the Statistics Act of 2001, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning oversees the census process. Previous modern censuses were held in 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006 and 2016.

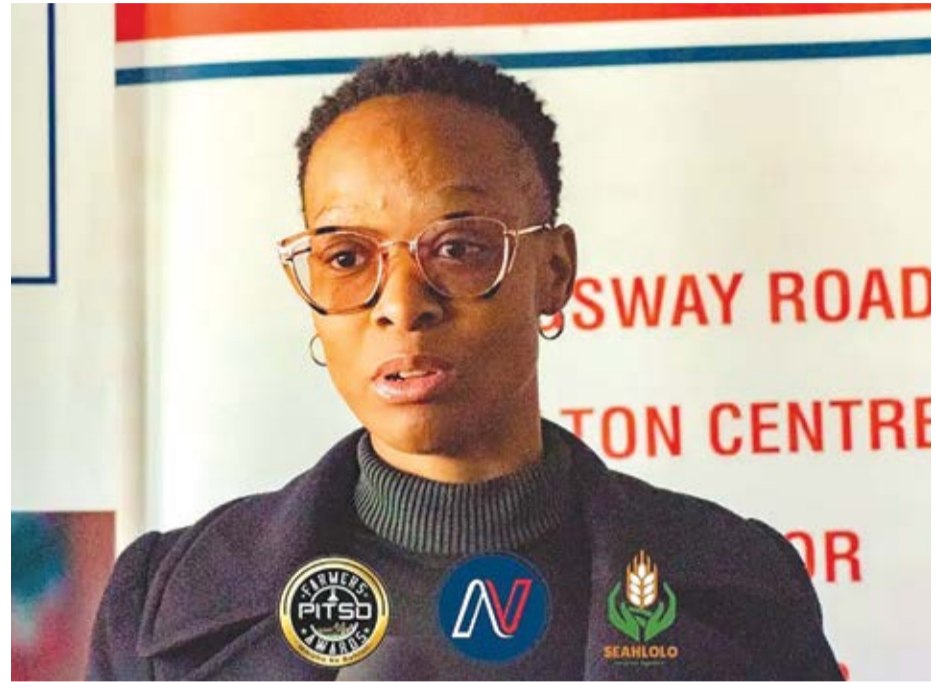
Census progress and challenges

The Minister reported strong overall coverage, with 135 percent of targeted households reached. Vacant households accounted for 12 percent, while seven percent of households were absent for extended periods. Refusals were minimal at 0.1 percent.

Field teams will follow up to understand the reasons behind the refusals.

BOS Director ‘Malehloa Molato highlighted some community resistance encountered during data collection. Some residents declined to participate, citing government failure to improve living conditions and address their challenges, while others expressed dissatisfaction with policy implementation.

Despite these challenges, Dr Matlanyane described the census as a success. For the first time, Lesotho conducted a fully digital census, marking a significant milestone in the country’s data management systems.



Lerato Matheka

Describing the handover, Mochebelele said the team decided Seahlolo should “carry the baton and introduce new innovations,” particularly as it sponsors the schools category. “We handed over the baton to this publication because we did not want to drop the ball and felt it had the capacity to take the awards to the next level.”

He praised the participation of schools, saying it fosters a love of agriculture among learners. The Farmers Pitso team operates under three pillars: lipitso (public gatherings), field trips, exhibitions and awards.

Secretary-General of the Lesotho Agricultural Teachers Association, Tsofeng Pela, described agriculture as the backbone of communities but noted current challenges including climate change, declining soil fertility, soil degradation, youth unemployment and waning interest in farming among young people.

“These challenges demand innovative and

sustainable solutions. And one of the most powerful solutions lies in strengthening agricultural education,” Pela said. “Agricultural education equips learners with practical skills, scientific knowledge, and entrepreneurial abilities essential for modern farming.”

Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, Sean Lawlor, said the United States is supporting Basotho farmers with expertise, precision farming technology and market access.

“The United States has a strong agricultural tradition that has no doubt ensured its survival for almost 250 years. We understand how important farming is,” Lawlor said.

“The Farmer’s Pitso Awards that will be held in September will celebrate something profound: the ingenuity, resilience and hard work of Basotho farmers. We want to see Lesotho farmers not just feeding families but feeding their nation, competing in regional and global markets.”

All final census reports and datasets are expected to be available in March 2027.

UN support and significance

UN Resident Coordinator Taija Kontinen-Sharp described the census as a major milestone in Lesotho’s development journey and a demonstration of the country’s commitment to evidence-based planning.

“The Population and Housing Census is among the most important investments a nation can make in its future,” she said. “It is far more than a statistical exercise – it is a national endeavour that provides a comprehensive picture of who we are as a people.”

Kontinen-Sharp emphasised that reliable population data is essential for informed decision-making in education, health, housing, social protection, infrastructure and economic development. She said the data would help address inequalities and ensure no one is left behind, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The United Nations reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Lesotho’s development aspirations.

“A nation that counts its people demonstrates that it values its future,” Kontinen-Sharp added.

The census data will guide government resource allocation and planning for services and infrastructure across the country.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided key support, including tablets that enabled electronic data capture. UNFPA Representative John Kennedy Mosoti expressed satisfaction with the level of support rendered to the exercise.

Population trends

Lesotho’s population has shown steady growth. The 2006 census recorded 1,876,633 people, rising to 2,007,201 in 2016. Preliminary 2026 results are expected to confirm continued growth. The BOS Director noted that the counting exercise surpassed targets by more than 0.3 percent.

In the first week of June, BOS staff conducted a “move-up” exercise to complete call-backs and retrieve tablets from enumerators across all districts. Data retrieval is scheduled to begin in the second week of June.

Molato said the BOS is currently undertaking validation and structural edits ahead of the August preliminary results release. Following that, the bureau will produce thematic tables, conduct analysis and prepare reports. Dissemination of preliminary results to districts is planned for 13 to 30 October 2026.

She noted that, in line with the Statistics Act, only 10 percent of the data will be released for public and research use initially. Fully disaggregated data will not be made public as it constitutes personal information.

Only two MPs declare assets as DCEO issues stern reminder

Staff Reporter

A damning reminder from the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) has exposed widespread non-compliance among Members of Parliament (MPs), with only two lawmakers having submitted their asset declarations for the year ending 2025/2026.

In a strongly worded letter dated June 9, 2026, DCEO Director General Mantšo Sello warned Members of the National Assembly of their statutory obligation to declare assets, noting that failure to comply within 14 days, from 10 June 2026, would attract legal consequences under the Prevention of Corruption and Economic Offences Regulations.

“The office of the Director General (DCEO) has the honour to request your good office to remind the Honourable members of the National Assembly of their statutory obligation to declare assets, liabilities, and interests for the year ending 2025/2026,” Sello wrote.

The letter, addressed to the Clerk of the National Assembly, states that the DCEO had, by June 9, received declarations from

only two MPs, Mohopoli Monokoane and Lekhetho Rakuane.

“Pursuant to Regulation 66(5)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption and Economic Offences Regulation, all persons who have not submitted are reminded to do so within fourteen days with effect from June 10 2026,” the letter read.

“Failure to comply with this declaration will attract legal consequences provided by the Act,” it added.

When contacted by Newsday on Thursday, Monokoane confirmed that he had submitted his declaration and expressed surprise at the low level of compliance.

Rakuane also confirmed submitting his declaration, adding that asset declaration by public officials was an issue he was particularly interested in.

The DCEO has urged non-compliant MPs to contact Mohau Mokhochane, Chief Compliance and Integrity Officer, for assistance.

The development comes amid growing public scrutiny over accountability and transparency in Lesotho’s public institutions. Asset declaration is a key anti-corruption tool designed to prevent conflicts of interest and



The National Assembly

detect illicit enrichment among senior public officials, including Members of Parliament.

Regulation 66(5)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption and Economic Offences Regulations makes the submission of these declarations mandatory, with clear legal penalties for non-compliance.

“A person who fails to make a declaration within the specified time shall be reminded through a public media platform or an outlet to make such a declaration within fourteen days of such a reminder,” the regulations read.

They add: “A person who fails to make a declaration as required or makes a declaration

that is false commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding M20,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years or both.”

The Director General, according to the regulations, must designate an officer holding a position not below that of a chief to be the custodian of records of declared assets, special gifts and offers to public officers, departments and ministries.

“Information contained in the Central Registry shall only be released with the written authority of the Director General,” reads the regulations.

FARMERS PITSO AWARDS GALA DINNER

AVANI MASERU

12th SEPTEMBER 2026 | 6:00PM

THEME | BLACK TIE

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Fixing WASCO's finances: Makara's big test

Bereng Mpaki

When Mpeke Lebohang Makara walked into the Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) headquarters as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in March this year, he inherited a utility facing one of the most daunting financial crises in its history.

The state-owned water utility is grappling with a toxic combination of poor revenue collection, escalating non-revenue water (NRW) losses, and a growing backlog of customer connections challenges that have collectively placed immense strain on its finances and operational sustainability.

The damning statistic is that WASCO is collecting less than 30 percent of the revenue it bills customers for water consumption. In effect, about 70 percent of billed water usage generates no income for the company.

"Our financial situation is not serious; it is dire! This is because we are unable to collect around 70 percent from our water bills. That is dangerous," Makara said in an interview this week.

The admission provides a sobering picture of the magnitude of the task facing the new CEO, whose appointment was announced by WASCO in March as part of a broader effort to usher in a new era of operational excellence and improved service delivery.

For a utility whose operations depend heavily on revenue generated from water sales, the inability to collect payment from the majority of its customers represents a serious threat to its long-term viability.

Makara said many customers have stopped paying their bills because of disputes relating to billing inaccuracies and other service complaints. Rather than adopting a confrontational approach, he intends to engage customers directly and seek mutually beneficial solutions.

"We are saying as you are consuming water you are obligated to pay, notwithstanding the billing disputes that we will engage in. That being said, there are initiatives that we are working on regarding



WASCO Chief Executive Officer Mpeke Lebohang Makara

how we can meet our customers halfway in settling their outstanding bills," he said.

He acknowledged that WASCO's own inefficiencies have contributed to the problem.

"We admit that we have historically not done things efficiently. We cannot deny that. There were gaps in efficiency."

While unpaid bills have severely weakened the utility's cash flow, another major drain on its finances comes from non-revenue water, which is treated water that never generates income because it is lost before reaching paying customers.

According to Makara, NRW currently costs WASCO an estimated M60 million annually. Illegal water connections alone are estimated to cost WASCO more than M350,000 every month, translating into annual losses of about M4.2 million.

"A cost estimate for NRW for us is M60 million per annum. This is the water that we treat but end up getting lost somewhere and becomes unaccounted for, and that is quite huge," he said.

Non-revenue water refers to water that has been produced and treated but fails to generate revenue due to leakages, illegal connections, faulty meters, inaccurate billing, ageing infrastructure and other operational inefficiencies.

Recognising the urgency of the situation, Makara has already established a dedicated task team to investigate the root causes of the losses and recommend solutions.

"We have constituted a task team that is currently assessing the situation and

identifying the main sources of non-revenue water across our network. Once we have a clear understanding of the problem, we will be able to implement targeted interventions."

The investigation will examine leakages, illegal water connections, ageing infrastructure, meter inaccuracies and commercial losses.

Makara said part of the challenge stems from inherited infrastructure, including some systems taken over from Rural Water Supply networks, which were not originally designed to minimise water losses.

The utility has set itself an ambitious target of reducing NRW levels to at least 40 percent, below the regulatory threshold of 46.5 percent set by the Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA).

Reducing water losses would significantly improve WASCO's financial position without requiring tariff increases or costly expansions in water production capacity.

Beyond tackling NRW, Makara must also confront another persistent challenge: a backlog of more than 2,140 water connections.

The waiting list has become a source of frustration for many households and businesses seeking access to water services. WASCO has already indicated that efforts are underway to strengthen customer payment systems to ensure funds paid for future connections are protected and available when installations are eventually undertaken.

Addressing the backlog is expected to play a critical role in restoring public confidence in the utility and improving customer satisfaction.

To support his turnaround strategy, Makara is also looking to technology. One of the projects being prepped for implementation is the introduction of smart metering systems that can detect leaks, identify meter reading anomalies and provide early warning signals that enable rapid intervention.

Planned for implementation during the current financial year, the technology is expected to improve billing accuracy while helping the utility better monitor water consumption patterns across its network.

Makara's vision extends beyond plugging revenue leaks.

"What I want to achieve is to get WASCO to a level of operational excellence, including streamlining and optimising our processes to make them more efficient and ensuring that we do things in a manner that introduces cost-saving measures," he said.

His appointment comes with significant expectations. Before joining WASCO, Makara built a career spanning nearly two decades in operational management, plant management, contract management and the optimisation of large-scale industrial systems in both Lesotho and South Africa.

His experience includes leadership roles in complex technical operations within the mining and processing sectors, where efficiency, asset management and cost control are critical success factors. Those credentials may prove invaluable as he attempts to engineer a turnaround at WASCO.

The challenge ahead is formidable. Collecting billions of litres of lost revenue, recovering unpaid bills, modernising ageing infrastructure and clearing a mounting customer backlog will require significant resources, strong leadership and sustained commitment. Yet Makara remains confident that the utility can reverse its fortunes.

"I want to turn WASCO from a loss making entity to a profit making business when I leave the organisation," Makara said.

ESTATE NOTICE

LATE ZIPHO FELIX RAMOLOKO B71/24

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

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

ADDRESS
BEHIND PASSPORT OFFICE BUILDING
OPPOSITE POST OFFICE
BOTHABOTHE 400

NOTICE OF LOST LEASE

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

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

APPLICANT'S NAME & ADDRESS
THEOLO ISHMAEL MAKHELE (EXECUTOR)
RASEKOAI, RAMPAI & LEBAKENG ATTORNEYS
HOPLANG BUILDING ROOM 1 & 6

P.O.BOX 1899
MASERU
ADDRESSES
LAND REGISTRAR

LAND ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITY
LEROETHOLI ROAD
P.O.BOX 11856
MASERU 100

Econet rolls out M2m Berea's digital upgrade

Seabata Mahao

Telecommunications giant Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) has strengthened its commitment to digital inclusion and community development through an investment exceeding M2 million in Sehlabeng-sa-Thuathe, Berea, where it unveiled a new network tower and handed over a modern kitchen facility to Senekane Primary School.

The projects, officially launched on Friday during a ceremony attended by community members, school authorities and ETL officials, are expected to enhance communication services while improving learning conditions for pupils at the school.

The investment includes the construction of a telecommunications tower aimed at expanding network coverage in the area, as well as a two-room kitchen valued at M60 000, built as part of ETL's corporate social responsibility programme.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, ETL Chief Executive Officer Dennis Plaatjies said the company remains focused on expanding network infrastructure across Lesotho while contributing to the socio-economic development of local communities.

"It is our responsibility and commitment as Econet Telecom Lesotho to provide network coverage that enables communication and mobile financial services across various platforms," Plaatjies said.

"We take that responsibility seriously because it is through such initiatives that livelihoods are improved. Businesses rely on our services to grow, while children depend on the internet for research and learning. Communication with friends and loved ones should never be interrupted."

The new tower is expected to improve voice and data connectivity in the surrounding villages, creating opportunities for businesses, learners and households to access digital services more efficiently.

Plaatjies noted that ETL had deployed a team to the area to educate residents about the company's products and services, including affordable connectivity packages, EcoSure insurance solutions and budget-friendly mobile devices.



ETL Invests Over M2 Million in Connectivity and Community Development in Berea

"They will explain some of the exciting packages we offer, all aimed at delivering quality services and improving people's lives," he said.

The ETL chief also appealed to residents to safeguard the newly constructed infrastructure, warning that vandalism could reverse development gains and deprive the community of critical services.

"I wish to make a special appeal to everyone here today to protect this tower because it stands to benefit the entire community. Its presence represents many development opportunities, not only for the school but for everyone living in this area," he said.

"We have already engaged the police to assist with safeguarding the tower, but we hope the community itself will see it as a valuable asset and protect it accordingly."

Beyond telecommunications infrastructure, Plaatjies highlighted another challenge facing Senekane Primary School – the absence of electricity. He expressed disappointment that despite the new developments, the school remains without power, limiting opportunities for digital transformation.

"One of the things I had hoped to see after the completion of this tower was internet connectivity in the staff room and school offices. However, I was disappointed to learn that the school does not have electricity," he said.

Plaatjies pledged that ETL would honour its commitment to provide internet connectivity to the school and would advocate for the institution to be connected to the national electricity grid.

"I have already assured the school authorities that we will provide the promised internet connection to support digitisation at the school. I will also do everything within my power to help ensure that electricity is brought to the school. It is important for a facility of this size to have access to electricity," he added.

For Senekane Primary School, the projects represent a significant improvement in infrastructure and service delivery.

School principal 'MapitsoMahase expressed appreciation to ETL for its investment, describing the developments as transformative for the institution.

"The efforts made by ETL to upgrade

our premises have greatly improved our environment. Through these initiatives, we are truly experiencing God's mercy," Mahase said.

"I would like to thank ETL for making this possible and everyone who contributed towards the successful completion of these projects."

Mahase further recognised the collective effort of the school board, teachers, support staff and pupils, who assisted throughout the construction process.

"The school board members were always available to assist, staff members sacrificed their time, even during school holidays, and pupils helped builders fetch water from the nearest source," she said.

"Our cooks also played their part by ensuring adequate water storage was available. Each and every one of you contributed in a special way, and today we are celebrating the results of that collaboration."

She added that the school and surrounding community would welcome ETL's support in securing electricity access, noting that residents have waited many years for the service.





Ombudsman launches probe into Lesotho's failing healthcare system

Ntsoaki Motaung

The Office of the Ombudsman has announced a comprehensive investigation into Lesotho's public healthcare system following a surge in complaints from patients, bereaved families, health workers, and civil society organisations about deteriorating services.

The probe, described as one of the broadest reviews of the health sector in recent years, will examine systemic failures across public facilities, including the Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital (QMMH).

Local doctors have welcomed the move. Dr Mojakisane Ramafikeng, a practising physician, described the investigation as "long overdue" and called for a thorough examination of all aspects of the health system.

"Most things are going wrong with the health system, so an investigation in all areas is necessary," Dr Ramafikeng said. "This should have been done many years ago."

He identified poor leadership training as a core problem, noting that health professionals are often appointed to managerial positions without adequate training in running complex institutions. The investigation, he said, should scrutinise patient

care processes, management structures, working conditions for staff, and the overall financing of the national health system.

Public facilities are reportedly buckling under severe pressure. Patients face critical delays, with stroke victims missing vital treatment windows, accident victims left waiting for specialist care, and cancer patients experiencing long delays in referrals and treatment. In extreme cases, patients have allegedly died while waiting in queues before receiving medical attention.

The system also grapples with chronic shortages of medicines, equipment, and specialised staff. Paradoxically, Ramafikeng said while hospitals face acute staff shortages, newly qualified doctors are struggling to secure placements for mandatory internships, with the government citing a lack of vacant positions.

"All the time we say doctors should come back after studying to work in their country," Dr Ramafikeng noted, highlighting the contradiction.

The Office of the Ombudsman emphasised that access to healthcare is a fundamental right enshrined in Lesotho's Constitution. The investigation aims to establish accountability and improve governance and resource allocation rather than assign blame to frontline workers.

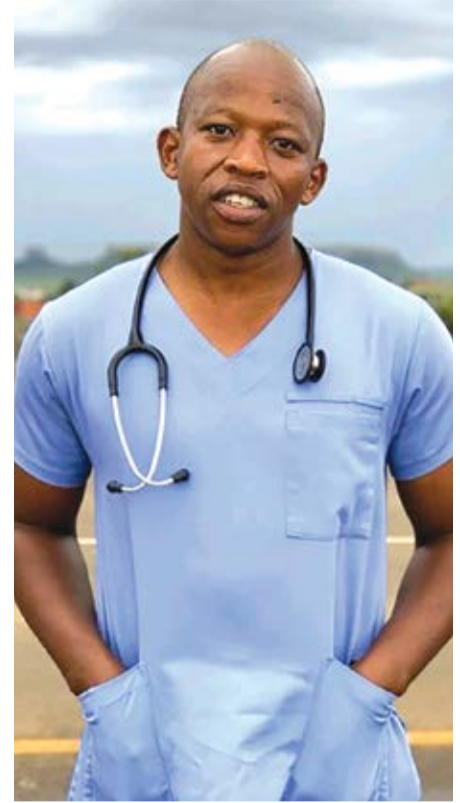
"The probe is not about punishing individual doctors, nurses or emergency personnel who continue to serve under very difficult conditions," the office stated. Instead, it will focus on identifying administrative and structural failures.

The inquiry will seek answers to six key questions:

- Are patients receiving care within reasonable and medically acceptable timeframes?
- Are referral systems functioning effectively and equitably?
- Are shortages of medicines, equipment, and personnel harming patient outcomes?
- Are complaints from patients and families properly investigated?
- Do current administrative arrangements protect patient dignity and well-being?
- Are avoidable deaths occurring due to systemic failures?

The Ombudsman has called on members of the public, patients, families, healthcare workers, and civil society groups to submit evidence and personal testimonies to support the investigation.

"A nation's health system should not determine whether a patient lives or dies simply because help arrived too late," the office said. "The people



**Ramafikeng
Mojakisane**

of Lesotho deserve a healthcare system that preserves life, protects dignity, and inspires confidence."

The investigation is expected to begin shortly, with findings and recommendations to be made public.

Ntsoaki Motaung

Stepping off the taxi by the main gate, the world immediately takes on a different rhythm. Inside the yard of Mohlomi Mental Institution, groups of people linger under the open sky.

In the morning quiet, it is impossible to tell who they are. Are they patients taking in the early air? Are they anxious relatives waiting to see loved ones admitted to the wards? Or perhaps they are hospital workers or visitors drawn here for a dozen other reasons. The uncertainty hangs in the air, a quiet prelude to a day of profound observation.

I walked toward the reception desk to report my presence. I was here as a journalist, tasked with covering an event organised by the Crime Prevention Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Ex-Offenders Association (CRROA).

They had scheduled a visit to the hospital's Forensic Department to commemorate Men's Mental Health Month a critical initiative in a country where men's psychological struggles are so often swept beneath the rug.

The reception area, which doubles as the main waiting room, felt heavy. A biting chill gripped the indoor air, leaving the people sitting on the benches looking visibly cold and miserable. Outside, those waiting in the yard were far more fortunate, they were actively basking in the warmth of the morning sun.

Shortly after checking in, a hospital staff member volunteered to accompany me to the Forensic Department.

As we navigated a labyrinth of long corridors, the persistent cold followed us. Yet, despite the low temperature, the facility was immaculately clean. The floors gleamed, looking as though they had just been meticulously scrubbed.

As we neared the forensic gate, the silence shattered. Shouts and chaotic noises echoed. Drawing closer, a specific voice cut through the noise. It belonged to a guard or perhaps a member of the Lesotho Correctional Services (LCS) who was stationed at the gate to regulate movement.

"He lona banna ha reeng lebaleng!" (Hey men, let's go to the ground!) he shouted, handling a large stick covered with sharp thorns.

We approached the gate and explained the purpose of my visit. The guard looked blank, he clearly had no idea that an event was scheduled for that morning. Instructing us to wait, he walked away to consult his superior.

When he returned, he informed my guide that while the event was indeed expected, it had not yet begun. I was instructed to return to the recep-

Inside the cold walls of Mohlomi, warm voices rise



Mohlomi Mental Hospital

tion area and wait until someone came to fetch me.

On our way back through the spotless corridors, we encountered a large group of people. I assumed they were patients, moving in tandem with their caregivers. Among them were two women wearing medical scrubs the universal uniform that marked them out as nurses.

Unable to endure the shivering cold of the indoor reception area, I opted to wait outside and bask in the sun.

As I stood there, the distant sound of voices drifted across the yard. A group was singing gospel hymns, their voices rising loud and clear into the morning air. They walked in a slow procession around the grounds, a routine that seemed to be their daily morning ritual.

As the singers passed directly in front of the reception area, I witnessed something that shook me to my core. In my mind, I realised I had subconsciously expected to see dull, listless individuals, people drained of energy, wearing the exhaustion of chronic illness plainly on their faces.

Instead, looking at them, you would swear that I was the patient. They looked genuinely happy. They sang with fierce energy, their bodies moving in rhythm to the music. Most of the patients leading this vibrant, musical parade were middle-aged women.

Soon, it was time to head back to the forensic unit. Upon arrival, I waited outside the gate alongside representatives from CRROA and various other non-governmental organizations. Before the heavy doors opened, we were thoroughly briefed and given strict instructions on how to behave once we stepped inside the inner yard of the unit.

When we finally entered, we were greeted by rows of bright, expectant faces. Sitting on their chairs, eager to hear from the visitors, were nearly one hundred men and a small group of no more than five women.

The program commenced with a moment of solemn spirituality. One of the patients stood up to lead a hymn and offer a opening prayer. He prayed deeply for better days, asking God for the spiritual strength to endure, and pleaded with the world outside to never give up on them.

Following the prayer, the Executive Director of CRROA, Nkalimeng Mothobi, took the stand. He explained that the core objective of their visit during Men's Mental Health Month was to extend love and solidarity to the individuals housed within the forensic unit.

Mothobi openly acknowledged the staggering challenges facing both the patients and their healthcare providers.

He promised that his association, in partnership

with other stakeholders, is actively working to resolve these systemic issues, particularly the deteriorating living conditions and the heartbreaking reality of individuals who have remained confined to the unit for more than thirty years.

"We all know that workers here operate under unbearable conditions, which makes it seem like they are also serving time," Mothobi noted grimly, highlighting the shared burden of the staff.

The emotional peak of the day arrived when a choir of about ten male patients stood up to perform.

They sang entirely from the bottom of their hearts. The Sesotho hymns, "O re nehe ho thabela tseo u li ratang kaofel" (Grant us to delight in all that You love) and "Kena le molisa ke tabe ke hloakang" (The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want), carried a profound, haunting weight in that high-security space.

Next, Suping Mokapane from MVAL, an association formed by retired members of the Lesotho Defense Force (LDF), addressed the gathering. He reminded the patients that regardless of the circumstances that brought them behind these high walls, they remain inherently important human beings who matter to society.

Mokapane urged the patients to actively protect their emotional well-being and to seek help whenever life becomes overwhelming.

He concluded with a powerful message aimed at breaking traditional stigmas, "Gone are the days when men were expected never to complain or cry, or told to simply take it like a man."

The day concluded with remarks from the Acting Director of Mental Health from the Ministry of Health Thabo Mokhothu. He expressed deep gratitude to the visiting associations, noting his profound happiness that the public is beginning to understand that mental health is not solely the responsibility of the government, but requires coordinated, collective efforts from all sectors of society.

Walking away from Mohlomi, the echoing hymns stayed with me, a stark reminder of the humanity thriving behind the cold gates.



Feature

The sun comes to Mount Moorosi: How solar is giving Lesotho's children back their evenings

Ntsoaki Motaung

For years, nightfall in the rugged mountains of Lefikeng Sekokoaneng, in Mount Moorosi, brought more than darkness to the Mothibe family. It brought a heavy, exhausting routine that tested their endurance.

As the sun dipped behind the hills in this remote corner of Quthing district, some 210 kilometres from Maseru, the real work for the family of 12 would often begin. With no electricity, staying connected to the world or simply having light to study by became a daily struggle that drained both time and scarce resources.

Lekhetho and 'Matetiea Mothibe, together with their children, daughters-in-law and grandchildren, lived a life where basic needs like phone charging turned into punishing expeditions.

To keep their five mobile phones alive, essential for receiving vital social cash transfers, a family member had to walk three hours to the village of Ha Mphethi, leave the phones at a charging shop, return home, and later make the same six-hour round trip again to collect them. Twelve hours of walking, three times a week.

The financial strain was just as heavy as the physical toll. In a household where making ends meet is a daily struggle, finding an extra M25 for phone charging at M5 per phone pushed the family budget to its absolute limit.

In a household where every coin is already spoken for, that money came mostly from 'Matetiea, the mother, who earns what she can cooking meals at a nearby school. When the cash ran dry, the family went into debt at the charging station, just to keep the lines open.

When darkness fell, the home fell quiet. Five children are still in primary and high school. Studying by candle meant squinting at a page that seemed to disappear with every flicker. Paraffin lighters were brighter but poisoned the air. And some nights, there was simply nothing, no candle, no paraffin, no light at all.

Now, that world is beginning to fade.

Under the newly launched energy component of the Ntlafatsa Bana ("Improving the Lives of Children") programme, the Mothibe family was selected as one of five households in their village to receive a modern solar home system.

For 20-year-old 'Mabaeti Mothibe, the impact was immediate.

"Under the Ntlafatsa Bana Project, our family chose a solar panel for lighting and charging amongst the cooking and charging stoves because lighting was the most essential to them," 'Mabaeti explained. "The family still has children who are still attending school, and lighting from the panel would be useful and empower my siblings to focus more on their studies, without worrying about using a candle which its light is not even enough for one to see their books, or use a paraffin lighter which sometimes we find ourselves in the dark because there is no money to buy paraffin or even a candle."

The most profound change, however, is measured in the hours restored to their lives.

"I could use the time that I take travelling for charging phones to do some other things like house chores," 'Mabaeti said, reflecting on the relief of no longer facing that 12-hour walking routine.



The home of a beneficiary family nestled in the mountainous terrain of the Quthing district



Renewable energy solutions displayed at the Telle Community Center launch.

The Mothibe family is far from alone. Their household is one of 104 selected from the Telle and Tosing community councils, and part of a broader cohort of 1,000 vulnerable households with children under the age of five receiving clean energy solutions across five mountainous districts, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, Thaba-Tseka, Leribe, and Mohale's Hoek.

Funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Government of Lesotho in partnership with UNICEF, Ntlafatsa Bana is a flagship five-year initiative. It uses an innovative Cash Plus approach, recognising that while direct financial aid through the Child Grants Programme (CGP) is vital, cash alone cannot solve the overlapping complexities of rural poverty.

At the official launch ceremony held at the Telle Community Center on June 5, 2026, Marcella Veneziani, representing the European Union, addressed the gathered crowd, highlighting why clean energy is a fundamental right for a developing child.

"Today is a special day for Quthing, and for your community as we are gathered here to launch the Energy Component of the Ntlafatsa Bana project, under the broader Equitable Lesotho Programme," Veneziani said. "Many of our Child Grants Programme households, especially in rural and mountainous areas, still live with candles, paraffin and open fires. These are expensive. They are dangerous. And they fill our homes with smoke. Because of this, children struggle to study after dark, mothers and children breathe smoke that damages their lungs, and families spend a lot of time and money collecting

money safely and on time. With light in the house, you can do small home-based activities in the evening sewing, selling small goods, charging phones for neighbours, or other small businesses. No child in Lesotho should be left in the dark."

The political leadership of Lesotho turned out in full force to support the initiative, signaling a unified multi-ministerial push to integrate green energy into national social protection safety nets.

The Minister of Gender, Youth and Social Development, Pitso Lesaoana, expressed immense gratitude to the international partners who made the rollout possible, pointing out that Ntlafatsa Bana has already rehabilitated 26 rural water systems and established 47 community nutrition clubs.

"Ntlafatsa Bana has provided services to children in rural areas where access and service provision is challenged. Today we are gathered to launch the provision of renewable energy to 1,000 households in nine community councils. I urge everyone who will use the cookstoves, the chargers, to ensure safe keeping and protection of all these assets so that they benefit you for a long time," he said.

Adding to this sentiment, the Minister of Energy and Mining, Lejone Mpotjoane, took the stage to remind beneficiaries that these assets belong to the community as a whole.

He urged the families who received the systems to take excellent care of them and to share their charging capabilities with neighbors, fostering communal harmony in the face of ongoing electricity deficits.

Mpotjoane also brought a wave of hope to the region by promising that formal grid connectivity expansion is underway, announcing that the nearby villages of Masiu and Moqalo will soon be connected to the national electricity supply line.

Representing the United Nations children's agency, UNICEF Representative Mr. Deepak Bhaskaran reinforced the organisation's unwavering commitment to the youth of the mountain kingdom.

He noted that changing a child's physical environment is an essential part of changing their life trajectory.

"The initiative signifies our commitment to improving lives of children across the country," Bhaskaran said. "Access to clean energy solutions will contribute to safer homes, improved well-being and greater household resilience. The Ntlafatsa Bana project has successfully assisted families to improve nutrition practices and access to clean water amongst others, and this energy component is the next vital piece of that puzzle."

SCENERY EVENTS AND TOURS PRESENTS

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Building Businesses That Build Nations

Market Building / Wealth Creation Insights
Mentorship & Networking

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HOST
MS MARETHABILE

ON SCREEN
WARREN BUFFET

GUEST SPEAKERS
MR MAKHETHAI | MR SESIOANA | REV. DR LEJAKANE | MS LERATO | DR MAEMA | MS ALICIA | MS MAKARA | HON MARETLANE

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Farmers Pitso Agriculture & Excellence Awards 2026 Categories

1. Primary Farming Excellence Categories

These categories form the foundation of the awards and recognise excellence in core agricultural production. They celebrate farmers who demonstrate productivity, innovation, resilience and leadership within crop and livestock farming.

CATEGORIES

Crop Production

- Smallholder Farmer of the Year
- Commercial Farmer of the Year
- Emerging Farmer of the Year
- Young Farmer of the Year
- Woman Farmer of the Year
- Best Horticulture Producer
- Best Grain Producer
- Best Organic Farmer
- Climate-Smart Farmer of the Year
- Conservation Agriculture Champion
- Best Potato Producer of the Year

Livestock

- Best Broiler Farmer
- Best Layer Farmer
- Best Free-Range Poultry Farmer
- Best Dairy Cattle Farmer
- Best Dairy Goat Farmer
- Best Wool Producer
- Best Mohair Producer
- Best Horse Breeding & Performance Farmer
- Best Pig Producer
- Best Aquaculture/Fish Farmer
- Animal Health Champion
- Best Bee-Keeper
- Best Rabbit Breeder/farmer

01

2. Innovation & Agribusiness Categories

This segment recognises businesses, entrepreneurs, and innovators contributing to agricultural transformation. It positions agriculture as an economic driver and encourages investment, technology adoption, and value addition.

CATEGORIES

- Agribusiness of the Year
- Agri-Tech Innovation Award
- Best Agro-Processing Enterprise
- Best Agricultural Start-Up
- Best Agricultural Cooperative
- Best Agri-Finance Support Institution
- Best Market Access Initiative
- Best Export-Oriented Agricultural Business

02

5. Media, Advocacy & Knowledge Sharing Categories

Agriculture cannot grow without communication, awareness, and information sharing. This segment recognises journalists, content creators, researchers, and educators advancing agricultural discourse.

CATEGORIES

- Best Agriculture Radio Programme
- Best Agriculture TV/Digital Content Creator
- Best Agriculture Newspaper
- Agricultural Photography Award
- Agricultural Storytelling Award
- Best Agriculture Influencer of the Year
- Best Research & Extension Excellence Award

05

3. Youth, Women & Inclusion Categories

These categories ensure the awards are socially inclusive and developmental. They highlight the contribution of women, youth, schools, and marginalised groups in strengthening food systems and rural livelihoods.

CATEGORIES

- Rural Youth Agripreneur of the Year
- Women in Agriculture Leadership Award
- Best Youth-Led Agribusiness
- Disability Inclusion in Agriculture Award
- Community Food Security Champion
- Best School Garden Initiative
- University/College Agricultural Innovation Award

03

6. Community & National Impact Categories

These categories celebrate individuals, institutions, and communities making a lasting contribution to national development, food security, and agricultural leadership.

CATEGORIES

- District Agricultural Excellence Award
- Community Farming Initiative of the Year
- Food Security Champion
- Agricultural Mentor of the Year
- Agricultural Leadership Award
- Traditional Leadership in Agriculture Award

06

4. Sustainability & Climate Categories

These awards recognise individuals and organisations implementing environmentally responsible and climate-resilient agricultural practices.

CATEGORIES

- Climate Resilience Award
- Water Conservation Champion
- Sustainable Land Management Award
- Indigenous Seed Preservation Award
- Renewable Energy in Agriculture Award
- Regenerative Farming Award
- Environmental Stewardship Award

04

Nominate or apply here:

<https://seahlolo.co.ls/farmers-pitso-agriculture-excellence-awards-2026/>





INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

DRIVER SALESMAN

Location: Blue Ribbon - LESOTHO
Reporting to: Sales Manager

Purpose of the job : To ensure service delivery and bakery sales growth through on time in full deliveries of products as per customer requirements, collection of payments and bakery sales asset management daily.

Responsibilities:

- Communication
- Crate control
- Vehicle use
- Cash management
- Sales Growth
- Stock management

Qualifications:

- LGSCE/COSC
- Valid code C1 license & PDP
- At least 1-3 years' experience in a similar position in the FMCG industry with emphasis on customer service FMCG background and sound knowledge of bread

Competencies (knowledge, skills and attributes):

- Self-motivated and responsible with the ability to achieve personal work goals and objectives
- Ability to build good trade relationships
- Ability to persuade and influence
- Ability to present and communicate information to all levels
- Good management skills
- Business processes, rules and procedures
- Legislation
- Accuracy/ Attention to detail
- Problem solving
- Numerical ability

Other Requirements

- Pressurized environment
- 6-Day position
- Required to work Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays
- Required to work in alternative areas

Values

- Teamwork
- Accountability
- Sense of urgency
- Respect

Interested candidates are invited to apply through our email: hr.lesotho@PremierFMCG.com

Documents should be sent together or on one email (School certificates and a CV), alternatively, you can hand-deliver at Blue Ribbon Offices, Thetsane Industrial Estates

Closing Date: 13 June 2026. PS:

Should you not receive a reply within 30 days of your application, please treat it as unsuccessful.



INVITATION TO TENDER

INVITATION TO TENDER: MATSIENG CAMPUS FENCING CONSTRUCTION

Lerotholi Polytechnic (LP) hereby invites you to submit a Bid to this Invitation to tender (ITT) for the above-referenced subject. Lerotholi Polytechnic, hereinafter referred to as LP or the institution, intends to engage the services of competent contractors to secure the Matsieng Campus premises with fence. Contractors must possess the necessary professional and technical qualifications and competence, financial resources, equipment and other physical facilities, managerial capability, experience in the construction field.

Interested bidders can obtain Tender Documents from the Procurement office at LP main campus in Maseru at a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Maloti Only (M2,000.00)**. For further clarifications, kindly communicate with the Procurement Office on **22324402**.

The following documents are mandatory.

- Copy of valid trader's license
- Copy of valid tax clearance certificate
- Category Certification (C) from BDS Ministry of Public Works

Prices quoted should be Vat net inclusive of all the Taxes and delivery and must be in local currency and shall remain valid for 90 days from the closing date of the tender. Completed tender documents in sealed envelopes bearing no identification of the tenderer, clearly marked "**Tender No. LP/ADM/03/2026 For Construction of fencing**" as per instructions in the tender documents and addressed to:

THE PROCUREMENT MANAGER
LEROTHOLI POLYTECHNIC
P.O. BOX 16
MASERU

ATTENTION: Procurement Manager

must be deposited in the Tender Box situated in Administration II Foyer at Maseru Campus, on or before 30 June 2026 at 12:30p.m.

Compulsory site-visit and pre-bid meeting will be conducted on the 19 June 2026 at 10:00 am at Lerotholi Polytechnic Matsieng Campus. Contractors will assemble at the Matsieng Campus premises for registration. Contractors are to provide their own transport.



ADVERTISEMENT

The Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC), a bilateral institution established by the Governments of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa, established under the 1986 Treaty to oversee the implementation of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), invites suitably qualified and experienced candidates to apply for the following positions within its Secretariat:

1. Finance and Administration Manager
2. Monitoring and Data Management Officer

The Commission seeks dynamic, competent, and results-oriented professionals who are committed to excellence, accountability, and supporting the effective implementation of the Commission's mandate.

1. Finance and Administration Manager

Position Summary

The Finance and Administration Manager will be responsible for establishing and managing sound financial, administrative, and human resource systems within the Secretariat, ensuring compliance with applicable policies and procedural requirements.

Key Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Managing all financial functions of the Secretariat, including budgeting, financial planning, expenditure control, and financial reporting;
- Ensuring effective procurement processes and contract management in line with approved policies;
- Overseeing human resources functions, including recruitment processes, performance management, leave administration, and staff welfare;
- Managing administrative operations, including office management, assets, and service providers;
- Supporting the Commission Secretary in ensuring financial accountability and audit readiness;
- Developing and maintaining financial and administrative systems, policies, and procedures; and
- Providing regular financial and administrative reports to the Commission as required.

Qualifications

- A relevant first degree in Finance, Accounting, or an equivalent qualification.

Experience

- At least 5–10 years of relevant experience in financial management, administration, and human resources, preferably within a public-sector or international organization;
- Demonstrated experience in budgeting, financial reporting,

procurement, and audit processes; and

- Experience in managing administrative systems and supporting governance structures.

Skills and Competencies

- Strong financial management, budgeting, and reporting skills;
- Sound knowledge of procurement, supply chain, and contract management processes;
- Working knowledge of human resource management principles and practices;
- Strong organizational and administrative management skills;
- High level of integrity, attention to detail, and compliance orientation; and
- Ability to provide clear financial and administrative advice to senior management and the Commission.

2. Monitoring and Data Management Officer

Position Summary

The Monitoring and Data Management Officer will be responsible for strengthening the Secretariat's information management, tracking, and reporting systems, ensuring that Commission records, submissions, decisions, and implementation actions are effectively managed, monitored, and reported on.

Key Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Tracking, recording, and organising all Commission submissions, decisions, and related documentation;
- Supporting the Commission Secretary with the development and monitoring of timelines to ensure effective turnaround of submissions and responses;
- Maintaining and managing document storage and records management systems for both delegations;
- Supporting the monitoring of implementation progress on Commission resolutions and action items;
- Ensuring proper version control, accessibility, and security of Commission documents;
- Assisting with the preparation of status reports and dashboards on Commission work; and
- Supporting institutional memory and continuity through structured data and records management.

Qualifications

- A degree in Information Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Data Management, Records Management, Public Administration, or a related field.

Experience

- At least 5–7 years of relevant experience in monitoring, information management, records management, or programme support;
- Demonstrated experience in tracking submissions, managing timelines, and maintaining document management systems; and
- Experience working in a governance, public-sector, or multi-stakeholder environment will be an added advantage.

Skills and Competencies

- Strong organisational, tracking, and coordination skills;
- Proficiency in document and data management systems, including version control and records management;
- Ability to develop and maintain monitoring tools, schedules, and dashboards;
- Strong attention to detail and ability to manage multiple deadlines;
- Good communication and reporting skills; and
- Ability to support evidence-based decision-making through accurate and timely information.

Duty Station

Both positions will be based at the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC) Offices, LHDA Tower, Kingsway Road, Maseru, Lesotho.

Remuneration

The Lesotho Highlands Water Commission offers a competitive remuneration package commensurate with the qualifications, experience, and responsibilities associated with each position.

Application Procedure

Interested candidates should submit a detailed curriculum vitae, certified copies of academic and professional qualifications, and a cover letter indicating the position applied for.

Applications should be addressed to:

The Commission Secretary

Lesotho Highlands Water Commission
LHDA Tower
Kingsway Road
Maseru
Lesotho

Applications may also be submitted electronically to: sec@lhwc.org.ls
The closing date for receipt of applications is **25 June 2026 at 17h00**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Equal Opportunity Statement

The Lesotho Highlands Water Commission is an equal opportunity employer committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace. Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply regardless of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, religion, or other personal characteristics. Selection will be based solely on merit, qualifications, and the requirements of the position.



Request for Proposal (RFP)

Supply, Installation, and Maintenance of Shared Network Multifunction Devices with Secure Print Release and Student Print Quota Management System Lerotholi Polytechnic Moshoeshoe Road, Maseru, Lesotho

1. Introduction and Background

Lerotholi Polytechnic (hereinafter referred to as "the Polytechnic" or "LP") is a public technical and vocational education and training institution located in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho. The Polytechnic provides technical, vocational, and continuing education programmes across multiple schools and administrative departments.

The Polytechnic invites eligible qualified vendors to submit quotations on a leasing terms for the supply on a leasing terms, installation, configuration, and ongoing maintenance of a shared network printing infrastructure across eight (8) identified buildings, together with an integrated student print quota management system that enables students to purchase prepaid print credits and release print jobs at shared multifunction devices (MFDs) using a unique password as a PIN.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this procurement are to:

- Deploy one (1) shared network multifunction device (MFD) in each of the eight (8) identified buildings.
- Enable secure PIN-based print release for all staff users, ensuring printed documents are only released when the authorised user is physically present at the device.
- Implement a student print quota management system that allows students to purchase prepaid print credits and print on dedicated student MFDs deployed in accessible shared areas, separate from staff devices.
- Provide students with a convenient channel to top up their print credit balance at an institutional cashier or student finance counter.
- Establish a fully managed service arrangement that includes toner, parts, maintenance, and operator training.
- Provide management with usage reporting tools to monitor print volumes by user, department, and building.

3. Bid submissions must meet all the conditions indicated below, failure to comply with conditions 3.1 (a), 3.1 (b) and 3.2 (e) will lead to disqualification:

- 3.1 General terms and conditions
 - a. Valid Tax Clearance Certificate.
 - b. Valid Traders Licence.
 - c. VAT registration certificate (where applicable).
 - d. Company Profile.
 - e. The submission shall include three (3) references where similar assignment(s) were undertaken and should specify full names of client companies, the contact person(s), their email addresses and telephone numbers. All references will be contacted for further information on those assignments.
 - f. Lesotho laws SHALL be applicable.
 - g. Late submissions shall not be accepted.

Completed tender documents (1 original and 4 copies) in sealed envelopes bearing no identification of the tenderer, clearly marked "Tender No: LP/ADM/03/2026 Leasing of Shared Network Multifunction Devices" as per instructions in the tender documents and addressed to:

THE PROCUREMENT MANAGER
LEROThOLI POLYTECHNIC
P.O. BOX 16
MASERU

ATTENTION Procurement Manager, must be deposited in the Tender Box situated in Administration II Foyer, on or before Friday 03 July 2026 at 12:30p.m. Tenders will be opened same day at 14:00hrs at the Administration I Block Conference room, in the presence of the Tenderers or their representatives who choose to attend.

LP reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in whole or part without giving reasons for its decision. Further information, scope of work and specifications can be obtained at the following address during office hours

Email: procurement@lp.ac.ls
Tel: +266 22324402

PETROLEUM FUND.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEVELOPMENT OF A REGULATORY ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (RAS) AND ZONE DIFFERENTIALS FOR THE PETROLEUM FUND – LESOTHO REF#: PF/RFP/2026/2027-01

The Petroleum Fund of Lesotho (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund") is mandated to regulate petroleum pricing, ensure security of supply, and promote the sustainability and efficiency of the petroleum sector. In executing its mandate, the Fund regulates both retail and wholesale prices of petrol, diesel, and paraffin in the country through the Basic Fuel Price (BFP) model. The BFP is based on a cost-plus methodology, under which domestic fuel prices are derived from the sum of the cost of importing fuel products, the cost of operating within the oil industry, wholesale and retail distribution margins, as well as applicable taxes and levies.

In this regard, the Fund intends to develop and implement a comprehensive Regulatory Accounting System (RAS) to standardise financial reporting across regulated entities, including Oil Companies and dealers, strengthen regulatory oversight, and support evidence-based pricing decisions. The RAS will be informed by regional best practices, and the unique Lesotho context. A key outcome of this initiative will be the development of a transparent, robust, and data-driven zone-based pricing framework, including the clear definition of pricing zones and associated transport cost differentials across Lesotho.

Interested, eligible Consultants may obtain the Terms of Reference from the Petroleum Fund by writing to supplier@petroleum.org.ls from Friday, the 22nd of May, 2026. Requests for clarifications should be made in writing on or before 14:00hrs on Thursday, the 18th of June 2026, to the following e-mail address: supplier@petroleum.org.ls.

The Proposals must be submitted to PetroleumFundofficesinsealedpackages clearly marked 'PF/RFP/2026/2027-01, DEVELOPMENT OF A REGULATORY ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (RAS) AND ZONE DIFFERENTIALS FOR THE PETROLEUM FUND – LESOTHO' containing Technical Proposals and Financial Proposals sealed in separate envelopes. The deadline for submission of proposals is 12:00hrs on Tuesday, the 14th of July, 2026, with a public opening of Technical Proposals at 12:15hrs on the same day, the 14th of July 2026.

Hard copy proposals must be delivered to the following address:
Petroleum Fund LCCI Building
Orpen Road, Old Europa
Maseru 100
Tel. (+266) 22312137

Online submissions may be made by sending encrypted Technical and Financial proposals to supplier@petroleum.org.ls by the set deadline.



Independent Electoral Commission

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS CONTRACT DURATION: FIVE (5) YEARS

1. INTRODUCTION

The vision of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is to contribute to the strengthening of a peaceful, stable and prosperous nation through sustainable and inclusive democracy. The Commission is committed to the continuous development and improvement of relationships that create an enabling environment for the promotion and delivery of regular, credible and acceptable elections and referenda that are timely, participatory and accessible to all.

The IEC therefore seeks to recruit a suitably qualified, visionary and dynamic individual to fill the position of **Director of Elections**. The successful candidate must demonstrate exceptional leadership, sound strategic management capabilities and the ability to provide effective direction under the supervision of the Commission.

2. REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Qualifications (Essential)

2.1.1 A postgraduate qualification in Law, Public Administration, Political Science, Electoral Management, Governance, Public Policy, Procurement and Supply Chain Management, Communications, Finance, Business Administration, Management, Sociology or other related disciplines relevant to executive leadership and electoral administration.

2.1.2 Candidates must demonstrate strong competencies in strategic leadership, governance, public affairs, stakeholder engagement, communication, procurement oversight, financial management and institutional administration within complex public or democratic institutions.

2.1.3 A PhD qualification or a recognised executive leadership certification will be an added advantage.

2.2 Experience (Essential)

2.2.1 A minimum of six (6) years' relevant experience leading a similar organisation or serving in a senior management position.

2.2.2 Demonstrated experience in the development, implementation and management of strategic plans.

2.2.3 Strong political awareness complemented by a sound understanding of public and private sector organisational processes.

2.2.4 Proven ability to establish and maintain constructive relationships with government, business and non-state actors.

2.2.5 Proven experience in managing and facilitating complex projects involving multiple stakeholders will be an added advantage.

2.3 Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

2.3.1 Extensive knowledge of electoral processes, procedures and policies as provided for under the Constitution and other electoral laws of Lesotho.

2.3.2 Working knowledge of the operations and functions of the Government and Parliament of Lesotho.

2.3.3 Ability to work independently and execute assignments based on broad strategic direction.

2.3.4 Demonstrated understanding of electoral processes, diversity management, human resources and financial management.

2.3.5 Proven performance in the role of Chief Accounting Officer, Chief Executive Officer or equivalent senior leadership position.

2.3.6 Strong leadership and supervisory skills, with the ability to organise, direct and motivate staff.

2.3.7 Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with internal and external stakeholders, including government institutions, political parties, civic organisations, the media and the public.

2.3.8 Sound knowledge of organisational governance, financial management and administrative principles.

2.3.9 Ability to produce high-quality reports in line with IEC policies and operational requirements.

2.3.10 excellent verbal and written communication skills across diverse stakeholder groups.

2.3.11 Strong teamwork and collaboration skills.

2.3.12 Demonstrated honesty, integrity and high ethical standards.

2.3.13 Proficiency in computer applications and information technology systems.

2.4 Competencies

2.4.1 Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

2.4.2 Ability to develop, articulate and implement strategic goals and objectives.

2.4.3 Strategic and creative thinking ability, including problem-solving skills.

2.4.4 Sound understanding of Lesotho's social, political and economic environment.

2.4.5 Ability to work effectively under pressure and meet strict deadlines.

NB: Shortlisted candidates shall undergo a competency assessment test.

3. JOB PURPOSE

To manage the operations of the IEC under the supervision and direction of the Commission.

4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Strategic Planning and Leadership

4.1.1 Provide overall strategic and operational leadership of the IEC in accordance with policy directives issued by the Commission.

4.1.2 Define and articulate the IEC's mission, vision and values, and develop strategies for their achievement.

4.1.3 Develop annual operational plans and budgets aligned to the Commission's strategic direction.

4.1.4 Submit annual plans and reports to the Commission for approval.

4.1.5 Develop, coordinate and monitor strategies to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the IEC.

4.1.6 Develop and oversee the IEC capital development programme.

4.1.7 Develop future leadership capacity and strengthen human capital within the organisation.

4.2 Management and Administration

4.2.1 Provide leadership and management of the IEC Secretariat and oversee the execution of its operations and administration within the strategic and accountability framework established by the Commission.

4.2.2 Work closely with the Commission to ensure sound governance of the IEC.

4.2.3 Advise and inform the Commission in a timely, comprehensive and appropriate manner.

4.2.4 Ensure compliance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements and mitigate institutional risks, including litigation risks.

4.2.5 Develop and maintain systems and procedures for implementing Commission-approved plans and programmes.

4.2.6 Promote a culture that reflects the values of the IEC, encourages high performance and rewards productivity.

4.2.7 Oversee recruitment, management and development of staff in accordance with approved human resource policies and applicable laws.

4.2.8 Ensure that staff and Commissioners have adequate and up-to-date information to execute their responsibilities effectively.

4.2.9 Conduct regular organisational and staff performance evaluations.

4.3 Financial Management

4.3.1 Oversee the preparation and submission of annual budgets for approval by the Commission.

4.3.2 Ensure prudent management of the IEC's resources in accordance with approved budgets, laws and regulations.

4.3.3 Ensure compliance with appropriate accounting standards and financial procedures.

4.3.4 Provide timely, accurate and comprehensive financial information to the Commission.

4.3.5 Oversee the management of IEC assets, facilities, infrastructure and stores.

4.4 Responsibilities as Chief Accounting Officer

4.4.1 Ensure ethical, efficient and accountable financial management in accordance with approved accounting principles and procedures.

4.4.2 Ensure proper collection, safeguarding and accounting of all revenues and receipts accruing to the Commission.

4.4.3 Ensure that expenditure is incurred only within approved warrants and budgetary provisions.

4.4.4 Ensure the establishment and maintenance of an effective internal audit system.

4.4.5 Ensure submission of all statutory and financial reports as required.

4.4.6 Perform any other financial duties assigned by the Commission.

4.5 Human Resource Management

4.5.1 Oversee recruitment and contracting of Secretariat and project staff.

4.5.2 Promote employee welfare, development and training.

4.5.3 Develop and implement human resource policies and procedures.

4.5.4 Manage employee relations effectively.

4.5.5 Develop and oversee performance management systems.

4.5.6 Ensure compliance with labour laws and regulatory reporting requirements.

4.5.7 Promote diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity principles within the IEC.

4.5.8 Develop remuneration and benefits proposals for approval by the Commission.

4.6 Institutional Representation and Stakeholder Relations

4.6.1 Protect and enhance the image and reputation of the IEC through effective corporate governance, stakeholder engagement and media relations.

4.6.2 Serve as spokesperson of the Commission when authorised.

4.6.3 Ensure transparent, inclusive and timely communication of Commission activities.

4.7 Programme Management and Innovation

4.7.1 Monitor developments and trends relevant to electoral management and anticipate future institutional needs.

4.7.2 Promote innovation and increased adoption of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

4.7.3 Monitor and evaluate IEC programmes and ensure readiness of electoral infrastructure, logistics and voting facilities.

4.7.4 Promote research and institutional learning to strengthen electoral management and operational capacity.

4.7.5 Support the Commission in maintaining institutional independence in line with international best practices for electoral management bodies.

4.8 Statutory Responsibilities

4.8.1 Lead the IEC Secretariat in the administration of National Assembly elections, Local Government elections and referenda.

4.8.2 Ensure registration of all eligible voters in Lesotho.

4.8.3 Compile and maintain the national register of electors and constituency voter registers in accordance with the Constitution and electoral laws.

4.8.4 Oversee implementation of all electoral and election-related activities required to fulfil the Commission's constitutional and statutory mandate.

4.8.5 Advise the Commission on the review and reform of electoral laws, regulations and frameworks.

5. WORKING ENVIRONMENT

5.1 The IEC is a constitutional institution established to support democracy in Lesotho. The Commission is committed to promoting diversity, inclusion, transparency, accountability, ethical conduct and respect for human rights.

5.2 The position requires a highly motivated and energetic individual capable of leading large multidisciplinary teams and implementing programmes effectively.

5.3 The incumbent must be capable of managing sensitive electoral matters with professionalism, tact and diplomacy.

5.4 The successful candidate must demonstrate respect for diversity and the ability to work effectively in a rights-based environment.

5.5 The incumbent must be able to manage competing priorities and meet multiple deadlines.

6. REMUNERATION

The IEC offers a competitive remuneration package commensurate with the responsibilities of the position and market conditions.

7. APPLICATIONS

- Interested suitably qualified Basotho nationals with proven senior leadership experience, high integrity and demonstrated professional competence are invited to submit applications accompanied by:
 - A detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV);
 - Certified copies of academic qualifications; and
 - Names and contact details of three (3) contactable referees.

Applications should be hand-delivered to IEC Head Office in the Registry Office at Corner Maluti & Caledon Road, Maseru West and be addressed to:

The Chairperson
Independent Electoral Commission
IEC Head Office – Maseru West (Corner Maluti & Caledon Road)
P.O. Box 12698
Maseru, Lesotho.

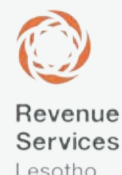
Important Notes:

- Appointment shall be subject to security clearance and vetting processes.
- Applicants must be registered voters with the IEC.
- Note that Political Party representatives will be represented in the recruitment processes

8. CLOSING DATE

All applications must be received on or before **Friday, 26 June 2026 at 16:00 hours**.

For Immediate Release



JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT ROAD FUND AND REVENUE SERVICES LESOTHO

TRANSFER OF COLLECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF TOLL GATE FEES FUNCTION TO THE ROAD FUND

The Road Fund and Revenue Services Lesotho wish to inform the public, road users, transport operators and all stakeholders that effective 01 July 2026, the responsibility for the collection and administration of toll gate fees in Lesotho will be transferred from Revenue Services Lesotho to the Road Fund.

The transfer is being undertaken in accordance with the legislative and policy framework governing road user charges in Lesotho, under which the Road Fund is mandated to mobilise, manage and account for revenues dedicated to road maintenance and development.

The transfer will create a more streamlined and efficient experience for road users by consolidating the collection, administration and customer service functions relating to toll gate fees under a single organisation. This will provide stakeholders with a central point of engagement on toll-related matters and improve administrative coordination within the road financing system.

Revenue Services Lesotho has successfully administered the collection of toll gate fees for over fifteen years from 2011 and has worked closely with the Road Fund to ensure a smooth and orderly transition of this function. Both organisations are committed to maintaining service continuity and ensuring that road users experience minimal disruption during the handover process.

The Road Fund will assume full responsibility for:

- a) Collection of toll gate fees at all designated border facilities;
- b) Administration and management of toll revenue;
- c) Customer service related to toll gate fees payments;
- d) Reporting and accountability for toll revenue utilisation in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Both organisations are working closely to ensure that all operational, technological and administrative arrangements are completed ahead of the effective date. The transition has been carefully planned to safeguard service delivery and maintain operational continuity at all toll points.

Existing toll fee structures will remain in effect unless otherwise communicated through official channels. The Road Fund and Revenue Services Lesotho remain committed to working collaboratively in support of Government's broader objectives of strengthening public financial management, enhancing service delivery and ensuring sustainable financing of road infrastructure for the benefit of all Basotho.

Further information regarding operational arrangements and any future changes will be communicated through official announcements by the Road Fund.

Issued jointly by:

Road Fund
Phumla Moleko (Mrs.)
Head of Corporate Communications
molekop@roadfund.org.ls

Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL)
Tšepang Mncina (Ms.)
Manager Public Relations
t.mncina@rsl.org.ls

Press Release

For immediate release



Letshego Lesotho becomes the first microfinance institution to offer savings and investment products.

Maseru, Lesotho – 3 June 2026: Letshego Financial Services Lesotho has launched Savings and Investment products, becoming the first microfinance institution in Lesotho to offer customers the opportunity to save and invest alongside accessing credit. This milestone marks an important step in the organisation's evolution from a credit provider to a broader financial services partner.

The launch reflects Letshego's commitment to deepening financial inclusion and empowering Basotho to not only access credit, but also save, grow and secure their financial futures.

The newly introduced products are designed to meet the diverse needs of individuals, communities and businesses, offering accessible, flexible, and affordable options that encourage a culture of savings and long-term financial resilience. Customers will now be able to build savings, earn competitive returns, and confidently plan for key life goals such as education, home ownership, and retirement.

The offering includes LetsGo SaveSmart, LetsGo Flex and LetsGo Fixed designed for individuals and businesses seeking secure and accessible ways to build savings and grow wealth over time. These offer minimum deposits from M50.00 and a minimum term of 3 months.

"Today represents a transformative step in our journey to be more than a lender," said Selloane Tsike, Chief Executive of Letshego Financial Services Lesotho. "By introducing savings and investment solutions, we are enabling our customers to take control of their financial well-being—today and into the future. We believe that true financial inclusion is achieved when people have the tools to both access and grow their money. For many Basotho, financial services have traditionally focused on borrowing. Today's launch gives customers the opportunity to build assets, plan for future goals and strengthen their financial resilience through saving and investing."

As a trusted provider of inclusive financial solutions across Africa, Letshego has built a strong reputation for delivering customer-centric, responsible financial services. The introduction of savings and investment products in Lesotho reflects the organization's broader strategy to evolve into a holistic financial partner for individuals, and micro-entrepreneurs.

Key features of the new offering include:

- Low barrier to entry, ensuring accessibility for underserved segments
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- Competitive rates to provide higher returns on investments

This milestone aligns with national priorities to enhance financial literacy, promote savings culture, and strengthen economic participation among citizens.

Letshego Financial Services invites existing and new customers to visit their nearest branch or digital platforms to learn more about the new savings and investment solutions and begin their journey towards sustainable financial growth.

Notes for the Editors:

About Letshego Financial Services Lesotho

Letshego in Lesotho

Letshego Lesotho started its operations in September 2012 as a credit-only licensed financial service provider. The company has positioned itself as an inclusive financial solutions partner for the people of Lesotho. Through continuous customer experience improvements, Letshego Lesotho's customer base has grown to over 7,500 customers. Customer access points are well distributed across the country in Butha-Buthe, Leribe, Mafeteng, Maseru, and Mohale's Hoek, expanded further by Letshego's digitisation of further access channels such as Digital Mall, WhatsApp, and USSD. Letshego Lesotho continues its focus and progress in diversifying its customer segments into non-government sectors, boosted by the Group's regional rollout of world-class digitised channels and systems to support customer access, convenience, and product diversification.

For more information:

visit: <https://www.letshego.com/lesotho>. Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn: @LetshegoLesotho, <https://letshego.com>, WhatsApp: **+266 59073570** and Landline: **+266 22031017**.

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How Sothokids stayed true for nearly a decade

Chris Theko

In a country where youth unemployment remains one of the most pressing challenges and where cultural identity is increasingly competing with global influences, Sothokids Culture Agency has quietly built a reputation as one of Lesotho's most consistent cultural and youth development organizations.

For nearly a decade, the agency has remained committed to a mission that goes beyond entertainment and cultural showcases. At its core, Sothokids Culture Agency seeks to preserve and promote Basotho culture while creating meaningful opportunities for young people to develop their talents, build confidence, and access livelihoods.

Founded by cultural advocate and youth development practitioner Makhebe Seatlana, the agency was born out of a simple but powerful realization: Lesotho is rich in talent, but many young people lack platforms to showcase their abilities and transform them into opportunities.

"I was inspired by my deep passion for Basotho culture and my desire to create opportunities for young people," Seatlana explained.

"Growing up, I witnessed many talented young people whose potential often went unnoticed because they lacked platforms to showcase their abilities. At the same time, I noticed that our cultural heritage was gradually losing visibility among younger generations."

This dual challenge of preserving culture while addressing youth unemployment became the foundation upon which Sothokids was built.

According to Seatlana, the vision was never limited to cultural preservation alone. It was

also about proving that culture and creativity can contribute to economic development and job creation.

"Many young people possess incredible talents in arts, culture, modelling, dance and other creative fields, but they often lack opportunities to transform those talents into sustainable livelihoods," he said.

"I wanted Sothokids to bridge the gap between talent and opportunity."

Over the years, the organization has remained faithful to its founding principles. Its mission continues to centre on cultural preservation, youth empowerment, mentorship, education and community development. Despite operating in a challenging economic environment, the agency has resisted the temptation to compromise on its values.

"We have never compromised on integrity, respect for culture, professionalism, inclusivity and the empowerment of young people. Success should never come at the expense of our values," Seatlana said.

Like many organisations in the creative sector, Sothokids has faced its share of obstacles. Financial constraints, limited resources, difficulties securing sponsorships and sustaining operations have tested the organization's resilience.

There were moments when giving up seemed like a possibility.

"Yes, there were certainly moments when the challenges felt overwhelming," Seatlana admits. "However, every time I saw a young person's life transformed through this agency, I was reminded of why I started. Those success stories gave me the strength to keep moving forward."

That persistence has produced remarkable

results.

Perhaps one of Sothokids' greatest achievements has been its ability to take Basotho culture beyond Lesotho's borders. Through its programmes and international engagements, the agency has represented the country in France, Spain, the Canary Islands, Turkey, Botswana, Japan, Eswatini, Qatar, South Africa and the United States.

These experiences have not only showcased Basotho culture to global audiences but have also opened doors for young people who may never have imagined themselves performing or representing their country on international stages.

There is hardly any major event that takes place in Lesotho for both the public and private sector without Sothokids being the point of entertainment for the guests or the audience.

"I am equally proud of the many young people whose lives have been transformed through our programmes. Watching them grow into confident leaders, performers, models, entrepreneurs and cultural ambassadors has been one of the most rewarding aspects of this journey."

At a time when globalization continues to reshape identities and influence younger generations, Sothokids has worked to strike a balance between tradition and innovation. The organization embraces digital storytelling, social media, photography, videography and online campaigns to make culture accessible and relevant to today's youth.

Technology, Seatlana believes, has become a powerful ally in preserving and promoting cultural heritage.

"Through digital platforms, we are able to

share Basotho culture with the world and connect with young people more effectively," he said.

Yet he remains concerned that without deliberate efforts to preserve traditions, language and cultural values, younger generations may lose touch with their roots.

This concern is one of the reasons Sothokids continues to invest in cultural education, mentorship and youth engagement initiatives.

Looking ahead, the organization is focused on growth, sustainability and expanding its impact. Plans include strengthening international partnerships, increasing youth development programmes, supporting entrepreneurship, creating employment opportunities and launching new cultural exchange initiatives.

After nearly a decade of service, Sothokids Culture Agency's story is ultimately one of resilience and purpose. It demonstrates that culture is not merely something to be celebrated on special occasions; it can be a catalyst for opportunity, social change and economic empowerment.

As the agency prepares for its next chapter, Seatlana hopes its legacy will be measured not only by the cultural performances it has staged or the countries it has visited, but by the lives it has transformed.

"I want future generations to see the organization as proof that culture can be a powerful tool for social change, personal growth and national development," he said.

For nearly ten years, Sothokids Culture Agency has remained rooted in culture while empowering young people to dream bigger, reach further and proudly carry Lesotho's identity onto the world stage.

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Queen's golden jubilee inspires celebration, giving and national pride



Lerato Matheka

A dazzling sea of colourful Seshoeshoe dresses, intricately designed blankets and elegant traditional attire transformed Avani Maseru into a living tapestry of Basotho culture as hundreds gathered for the annual Khaba Joalo Ka 'Mabasotho celebration, marking the 50th birthday of Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Moahato Seeiso.

Held under the theme "Crowned in Heritage," the event blended culture, philanthropy, fashion and entertainment into a memorable evening dedicated to celebrating the Queen's Golden Jubilee and raising support for vulnerable children through the Hlokomela Bana Foundation.

The atmosphere throughout the evening was vibrant and festive, with women and men, though predominantly women, arriving in striking Seshoeshoe creations and traditional blankets that created a picturesque display of Basotho heritage and elegance.

From the moment guests entered the venue, it was clear that this year's celebration was unlike any other. The event radiated jubilation befitting a Golden Jubilee, as attendees embraced the occasion as both a cultural showcase and an opportunity to contribute to a worthy cause.

Adding to the evening's excitement were captivating performances by renowned musician Maleh and a fashion showcase by internationally acclaimed designer Georges Malelu, whose creations brought a contemporary flair to traditional Basotho fashion.

Rev. Moruti Tuoane gave a biblical, inspirational talk on the importance of giving, drawing on her own experiences.

Also making it to the stage were the Lesotho Choir, Thizozo and Ntate Mantasa.

Since its launch in 2017, Khaba Joalo Ka 'Mabasotho has become one of Lesotho's most anticipated social and charitable events. It brings together business leaders, corporate partners and members of the public to celebrate Baso-

tho identity while supporting national development initiatives.

Addressing guests, Her Majesty expressed gratitude to Avani Maseru Hotel for consistently organising the event and supporting the work of Hlokomela Bana.

"It is by the grace of God that I am celebrating 50 years today," she said.

She explained that the celebration serves a dual purpose: commemorating her birthday while also creating an opportunity for Basotho to support vulnerable children.

"We are remembering vulnerable and needy children, ensuring that they, too, can enjoy life and have their needs met. At the same time, people are able to celebrate my birthday through acts of giving," she said.

The Queen humorously recounted how a friend had complained about not receiving an invitation to the event.

"I had to explain that even I am an invited guest. This event belongs to the spirit of giving, with celebration at its centre," she said, drawing laughter from attendees.

Her Majesty reserved special praise for Avani Maseru Hotel, describing the hospitality

establishment as one of the most consistent supporters of Hlokomela Bana.

"It was mentioned earlier that we are not funded. This event plays a very important role in helping us meet the needs of the children we support. Avani has remained steadfast in walking this journey with us."

The Queen noted that while the event did not take place last year, the wait made the 2026 celebration even more special.

"Now I understand why we did not celebrate last year. It was preparation for this magnificent celebration of my 50th year. Today's festivities surpass all the previous years," she said.

She used the occasion to encourage Basotho to embrace kindness and generosity.

"As the celebrations continue, I urge every Mosotho to prioritise acts of kindness. When you give, God blesses you. Celebrate me by praising God, by giving and by simply being kind."

Her Majesty also encouraged Basotho to adopt healthier lifestyles, drawing applause when she jokingly demonstrated that turning 50 did not mean slowing down.

"I am happy that at 50 I can still get down on the dance floor," she said. "Let us exercise, eat healthy and take care of ourselves. I am heading to 100 years, and I encourage all of you to strive for healthy living."

The Queen also observed that women continue to dominate attendance at the annual event.

"Every year, I notice that there are many women and only a few men. I do not know why men are reluctant to attend, but I am grateful to those who come."

The celebration's charitable focus centred on Hlokomela Bana, an organisation founded in the 1980s by the late Queen 'Mamohato Bereng Seeiso to support vulnerable children across Lesotho. It now operates under the auspices of the National Queen's Trust Fund, with Queen 'Masenate serving as its patron.

Speaking on behalf of the foundation, representatives highlighted the organisation's ongoing efforts to support orphaned and vulnerable children through educational assistance, clothing donations and other interventions.

The foundation reported that funds raised through previous editions of the event have enabled donations to schools across the country, including Philisanong School for learners with disabilities, where winter clothing, educational materials and wheelchairs were provided.

This year, the foundation honoured the legacy of Queen 'Mamohato through a visit to Mamohau High School, where food parcels, school uniforms and teaching aids were donated. Plans are also underway to support St Leo's School at Ha-Makhoathi in the coming weeks.

The foundation appealed to the private sector to continue partnering with Hlokomela Bana to ensure that vulnerable children receive the support they need.

Avani Maseru Hotel General Manager, Letsoho Mohaso, said the event was inspired by Her Majesty's desire for a birthday celebration that creates a lasting impact.

"The event was a response to Her Majesty's call for a meaningful celebration that would allow Basotho to express kindness while enjoying themselves," he said.

"We are honoured that Her Majesty chose Avani as the home of this prestigious event, which makes possible her vision of helping vulnerable Basotho children."

Sales and Marketing Manager Sharlene Maema described Khaba Joalo Ka 'Mabasotho as one of the highlights of the hotel's annual calendar and said this year's celebration carried special significance because it marked Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee.

The previous edition of the event raised approximately M65,000 for Hlokomela Bana, and organisers expressed optimism that this year's gathering would generate even greater support.

As music filled the ballroom and guests danced late into the evening, Khaba Joalo Ka 'Mabasotho 2026 showed why it has become much more than a birthday celebration, but a national platform that honours culture, celebrates leadership and mobilises compassion for Lesotho's most vulnerable children.



Sky Alpha continues to redefine media innovation in Lesotho

Chris Theko

When Sky Alpha HD launched in 2019 as Lesotho's first online radio station, many questioned whether an internet-based broadcaster could survive in a country where digital adoption remained a challenge.

Seven years later, not only has the platform survived, but it has also earned international recognition after being named Digital Media & Innovation Leader of the Year 2026 at the African Excellence Awards.

For founder and Executive Director Tello Leballo, the award represents more than recognition for a successful media platform. It is validation of a vision that many initially struggled to understand.

"When we launched Sky Alpha HD in 2019, we were responding to a shift that many people had not yet fully recognised," Leballo said.

"Audiences were becoming increasingly digital, yet much of our media landscape remained centred on traditional broadcasting."

Officially launched on May 1, 2019, Sky Alpha HD made history as Lesotho's first fully online radio station. However, Leballo says radio was never the ultimate destination.

"What many people still misunderstand is that Sky Alpha HD was never simply about radio. Radio was our entry point. The vision was always much bigger," he explained.

That vision included building a digital media ecosystem encompassing online broadcasting, podcasting, livestreaming, audiovisual simulcasts, digital marketing and innovation-driven initiatives designed to connect Lesotho with the rest of the world.

At a time when FM broadcasting remained

dominant and internet access was still developing, launching an online-only station was widely viewed as a gamble. Sky Alpha HD, however, chose to build for what it believed would become the future.

"Our belief was simple: if the world was moving towards digital, then Lesotho should not be left behind," said Leballo.

The journey has not been without challenges. Financial constraints, infrastructure limitations and skepticism from sections of the market tested the organisation during its formative years.

"The journey has been emotional and, at times, incredibly difficult," he said. "There were moments when the pressure felt overwhelming. Resources were limited, support was not always guaranteed and skepticism often seemed louder than encouragement."

Yet despite those obstacles, Sky Alpha HD remained focused on its mission, adapting to changing technology and audience behaviour while continuously expanding its services.

Today, the platform stands as one of the country's most recognised examples of digital innovation.

Its impact extends beyond media. Over the years, Sky Alpha HD has positioned itself as a catalyst for youth development, digital literacy and innovation. Through partnerships with organisations such as Right for Education Africa, DataCamp and ASMIS, the platform has helped create opportunities for young Basotho in fields ranging from Artificial Intelligence and digital literacy to content creation and emerging technologies.

Leballo says these opportunities represent one of the organisation's proudest achievements.

"For us, success is measured not only by awards or audience numbers but by the lives we impact, the careers we help launch and the opportunities we create."

The platform has also established collaborative relationships across the continent, including Botswana, Kenya and Zambia, while working with partners such as the British High Commission, the European Union in Lesotho and the Music In Africa Foundation.

These efforts have helped strengthen conversations around innovation, entrepreneurship and the role of digital media in economic development.

As Lesotho continues to explore pathways towards a stronger digital economy, Sky Alpha HD's journey highlights both the opportunities and challenges that exist within the sector.

According to Leballo, the country's digital landscape has evolved significantly since 2019.

"There is greater awareness of digital opportunities, increased entrepreneurial activity and a growing appreciation for technology-driven solutions," he said. "While challenges remain, the momentum is encouraging and the future is promising."

The recent international award serves as a powerful reminder that innovation from Lesotho can compete on a global stage.

"This recognition is bigger than Sky Alpha HD. It demonstrates that innovation from Lesotho can compete and be recognised globally. It sends a message to young entrepreneurs, creators and innovators that their ideas have value and that they should never allow their geographical location to limit their ambitions."

Looking ahead, Leballo envisions Sky Alpha HD evolving into one of Africa's leading digital media and innovation brands while remaining firmly rooted in Lesotho.

More importantly, he hopes its legacy will be measured not by awards alone, but by the opportunities it creates and the possibilities it inspires.

"I want Sky Alpha HD to be understood for what it truly is: not simply a radio station, but a movement that inspires creativity, innovation and possibility."

In a country still navigating its digital transformation journey, Sky Alpha HD's story demonstrates that bold ideas, backed by persistence and innovation, can help redefine what is possible.

From an online radio station once viewed as a risk to an internationally recognised digital media brand, Sky Alpha HD has become more than a broadcaster. It has become a symbol of the potential that exists when vision meets determination.

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Letsie scores biggest win yet

Seabata Mahao

Kick4Life Academy student-athlete Senate Letsie has added another remarkable achievement to an already inspiring journey after graduating from Cape Breton University (CBU) in Canada with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Minor in Anthro-Sociology.

The May 28, 2026 graduation marks a significant milestone for the Moshoeshoe II-born footballer, whose story has become a powerful example of how sport, education and community service can transform lives.

Kick4Life celebrated Letsie's achievement, describing it as the latest chapter in a journey characterised by excellence both on and off the football field.

Although she officially joined Kick4Life in 2009, Letsie's relationship with the organisation began much earlier. As a primary school learner, she first encountered Kick4Life through its HIV and AIDS awareness initiatives conducted in partnership with Lesotho's senior men's national team, Likuena.

"My journey with Kick4Life began long before I officially joined the organisation," said Letsie.

"I first knew about Kick4Life when I was in primary school, and I admired the work they were doing in communities."

Soon after joining the organisation, she was selected among four young women to represent Kick4Life at youth development events linked to the Confederations Cup in Cape Town ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Her passion for community development quickly became evident. In 2012, she volunteered as a Life Skills Coach, delivering educational sessions to young people after completing Kick4Life's life-skills training programme.

Later, while studying for a Diploma in Pastoral Care and Counselling at the National University of Lesotho, she undertook an internship with the organisation in 2016.

A major breakthrough came in 2017 when Letsie became the first female footballer to secure a student-athlete scholarship through Kick4Life. The scholarship took her to Lewis and Clark Community College in Illinois, United States, opening doors not only for herself but also for future generations of young women seeking opportunities through football.

During her two seasons in the United States, she excelled academically and athletically. She helped her team win back-to-back conference championships and qualify for national tournaments in both years. Her outstanding debut season earned her selection to the All-Region Team of the Year.

Alongside her football success, she completed an Associate Degree in Arts before returning home in 2020 due to restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Back in Lesotho, Letsie continued to make an impact. She played a key role for Kick4Life Women, helping the club lift the Dare to Dream Tournament title in 2021. At the same time, she resumed her work



Senate Letsie from Kick4Life Ladies

as a peer educator and Life Skills Coach, empowering young people through HIV and AIDS awareness and personal development

programmes.

In January 2022, another opportunity emerged when she secured a full

scholarship to study and play football at Cape Breton University in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Balancing university studies with the demands of collegiate football, Letsie continued to thrive. During her first season, she helped the CBU Capers enjoy a successful campaign and earned selection to the league's Second All-Star Team.

"Being selected to the Second All-Star Club during my first season was a proud moment for me," she said. "It showed me that hard work and perseverance can open doors, even when you're adapting to a completely new environment."

However, her journey was not without setbacks. An injury ahead of the 2023/24 season limited her playing opportunities and eventually led her to focus on completing her academic studies.

Despite the disappointment, she remained determined and successfully completed her degree this year.

Beyond club football, Letsie has represented Lesotho's senior women's national team, further strengthening her reputation as one of the country's ambassadors for women's football. She has also spoken at conferences and events in the United States, sharing her experiences and advocating for the power of education, sport and youth development.

Now preparing for the next phase of her life, Letsie is transitioning from a student visa to a work visa in Canada as she seeks to establish herself in the corporate sector.

"I am excited about the opportunity to apply everything I have learned through my education, my experiences with Kick4Life and my academic journey in a professional setting," she said.

"This marks the beginning of a new chapter in my career, and I look forward to finding a meaningful role in Canada where I can put my skills and knowledge into practice while continuing to grow both personally and professionally."

Reflecting on her journey, Letsie highlighted resilience as the key lesson she has learned.

"I have learned never to give up, no matter how challenging the obstacles I come across in life are. I'm proud of how far I have come, and I'm grateful for my life and the opportunities that I have through Kick4Life," she said.



LNOC in anti-doping fight

Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) has taken a significant step towards promoting clean sport and strengthening athlete protection through the successful implementation of its Anti-Doping Education and Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) Training of Trainers Workshop.

The three-day workshop, held from June 5 to 7, 2026, brought together 30 participants from various National Sport Federations across the country. The initiative was officially launched by LNOC Chief Executive Officer, Morake Raleaka, who described the programme as a strategic investment in the future of sport in Lesotho.

In his opening address, Raleaka highlighted the importance of anti-doping education in safeguarding athletes, promoting fair competition, and upholding the values of integrity and sportsmanship.

He noted that the workshop aligns with the objectives of the LNOC Strategic Plan 2025-2035, which seeks to strengthen sports governance and athlete development structures nationwide.

"The development of knowledgeable Anti-Doping Education Officers within our federations is essential in ensuring that athletes compete in a clean and fair environment," said Raleaka.

The opening ceremony was also attended by LNOC Director of Sports Medicine and the Protection of Clean Athletes Commission, Litšitso Motšeremeli, as well as LNOC Chief of Operations, Mathato Makhoro. Throughout the workshop, participants



LNOC strengthens fight against doping through national education programme

received comprehensive training on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) education framework, anti-doping regulations, Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs), doping control procedures, results management processes, and athlete rights and responsibilities. The programme also incorporated the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP), which promotes excellence, friendship and respect as core

sporting principles.

Participants were equipped with practical skills to enable them to deliver anti-doping and values-based education programmes within their respective federations, helping to extend awareness and compliance efforts throughout Lesotho's sporting community.

The workshop concluded on June 7, with a closing ceremony officiated by Motšeremeli, who commended participants for their

dedication and commitment to protecting the integrity of sport.

A total of 29 participants received certificates after successfully completing the training programme, qualifying them to support anti-doping education initiatives within their federations.

"This training marks an important milestone in our collective efforts to protect clean athletes and uphold the credibility of sport in Lesotho," said Motšeremeli.

"The responsibility now lies with the graduates to share this knowledge and promote a culture of fair play."

The LNOC also expressed gratitude to the team of presenters who facilitated the workshop, namely Thabo Kholopo, Liphho Makhoali, Dr. Makhetha Mosotho and Dr. Mapepe Mahao, whose expertise contributed significantly to the success of the programme.

Among the participants was Lerato Denteh, an Executive Committee Member of the Lesotho Athletes Commission (LAC), who represented the commission during the national anti-doping education course.

Following her successful completion of the programme, Denteh has been designated as the LAC Anti-Doping Education Focal Point. In this role, she will be responsible for coordinating anti-doping awareness campaigns, supporting education dissemination, and promoting athlete protection initiatives within the commission.

The national course forms part of broader efforts to strengthen anti-doping awareness, promote clean sport principles and enhance capacity in athlete welfare and anti-doping education throughout Lesotho.

MMB, Maluti beer catch FIFA World Cup fever

Seabata Mahao

Football fans across Lesotho are set to experience the excitement of the FIFA World Cup 2026 like never before, following the launch of a nationwide campaign by Maluti Mountain Brewery (MMB) through its flagship brand, Maluti Premium Lager.

MMB recently unveiled its FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign at its Maseru brewery, marking a significant milestone as Maluti Premium Lager joins football's biggest stage as an official beer sponsor of the tournament through its parent company, AB InBev.

This year's football showpiece, which will be jointly hosted by United States, Mexico, Canada, is expected to captivate billions of football fans worldwide. Through its campaign, MMB aims to bring that global spectacle closer to home by creating memorable football experiences for Basotho through fan activations, watch parties and community engagement initiatives across the country.

Speaking at the launch, MMB's Country Director, Mapeete Ntjana, described the sponsorship as both a brand achievement and a national achievement for Lesotho.

"Beer and sports have always been synonymous for time immemorial. Beer is for social occasions and has been integral in bringing people together in moments of friendship, sports and general celebration," Ntjana said.

"As the only brewer in the country, we are



Mapeete Ntjana, the Managing Director of Maluti Mountain Brewery

proud to announce that our flagship brand, Maluti Premium Lager, has been appointed as an official beer sponsor of the FIFA World Cup 2026, a milestone that reflects the strength and stature of our portfolio."

She said the achievement demonstrates Lesotho's ability to compete on the global stage while reinforcing MMB's commitment to creating unforgettable experiences that unite communities through football and celebration.

"From the heart of Lesotho to the biggest sporting stage in the world, this is not

just a brand achievement, it is a national achievement," she added.

Ntjana highlighted that Maluti Premium Lager has become a symbol of Basotho pride, resilience and excellence.

"Maluti Premium Lager is more than a beer. It is a celebration of craftsmanship and a reflection of Basotho's resilience and pride. Whether watching the games at home or at our spiritual homes, beer remains the natural choice to enjoy responsibly," she said.

As part of the campaign, MMB will invest in

100 retail outlets nationwide, transforming them into vibrant football hubs where supporters can gather to watch matches and celebrate together.

"The economic impact that we are going to see in the country because of these games is going to be massive," Ntjana said.

"We are going to invest in 100 retailers across the country, transforming these outlets into vibrant football hubs. This will drive traffic, increase demand and help unlock growth opportunities."

She noted that the initiative is expected to boost consumer engagement while positioning retail partners at the centre of the campaign's success.

The campaign has already been welcomed by participating retailers. 'Makarabo Ketsi of Hillside Public Bar in Tšenola expressed optimism about the opportunities the initiative will create for local businesses

"We are very happy with the initiative and I have no doubt that it is going to help increase our sales starting from next week," Ketsi said.

The launch event also featured the unveiling of limited-edition Maluti Premium Lager bottles and cans carrying the official FIFA World Cup 2026™ branding, tournament graphics and emblem.

MMB said the campaign reflects its broader commitment to building world-class brands, driving economic growth, supporting communities and promoting responsible enjoyment of its products.

The brewery also urged football supporters to consume alcohol responsibly during the tournament and warned against drinking and driving.

As anticipation builds ahead of football's greatest spectacle, MMB believes the partnership will not only bring the spirit of the World Cup to Basotho but also showcase Lesotho's potential on a global platform.

"Lesotho is ready. Lesotho is capable. And Lesotho belongs on the global stage," Ntjana concluded.



Kick4Life versus LeFA

Seabata Mahao

Fresh tensions appear to be emerging between Kick4Life Juventude FC and the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) after the newly crowned A Division South Stream champions signaled uncertainty over whether they will accept promotion to the Vodacom Premier League next season.

The situation has sparked concern within football circles, with LeFA officials expressing frustration over reports that Kick4Life may once again decline a place in the country's top-flight competition despite earning promotion on merit.

Kick4Life Juventude secured promotion after a dominant 2025/26 campaign in the A Division South Stream, prompting widespread congratulations from football supporters and stakeholders. However, celebrations have since been overshadowed by revelations that the club has requested a meeting with LeFA to discuss its future following promotion.

The club argues that participation in the Premier League could compromise its long-standing educational and development model. According to Kick4Life, competing in a professional environment may affect the amateur status of some of its players, potentially jeopardizing opportunities to secure football scholarships abroad, particularly in the United States.

This concern is not new. In 2022, Kick4Life voluntarily withdrew from the Premier League after eight seasons in the top flight, citing similar reasons. At the time, the organization also pointed to the substantial financial burden associated with running a Premier League side and reaffirmed its commitment to youth development and educational opportunities.

Over the years, Kick4Life has built a reputation as one of Lesotho's most successful football development

organisations. Through partnerships with institutions in the United States and the United Kingdom, including Wrexham University, the club has helped numerous young Basotho players access higher education opportunities through sport.

LeFA caught off guard

Despite Kick4Life's explanation, LeFA says it was surprised by the latest developments. LeFA's Secretary-General Mokhosi Mohapi revealed that previous engagements between the association and the club had left officials with the understanding that Kick4Life intended to remain within the country's competitive league structures.

"We had meetings before where they assured us that they would continue competing. We were therefore surprised to receive this latest communication," Mohapi said.

Mohapi warned that repeated uncertainty surrounding promotion and participation was becoming disruptive to football administration.

"Kick4Life should not be allowed to continue disrupting the smooth running of the league. There are already recommendations in place that will help bring this issue to an end. Kick4Life also needs to decide exactly what it wants to be and make that position clear," he added.

The uncertainty comes at a crucial stage as LeFA and the Premier League Management Committee (PLMC) prepare for the upcoming season and finalize league structures.

No official withdrawal yet

However, Kick4Life has moved to clarify reports suggesting that it has already withdrawn from the Premier League. Kick4Life's Country Director Motlatsi Nkhahle stressed that no final decision has been made.

"There is no official communication stating that we are withdrawing from



Kick4Life Juventude FC celebrating their championship in Nedbank Champ of Champs

competing in the Premier League," Nkhahle said.

"The letter we wrote was simply requesting a meeting to discuss a way forward based on our current situation. Once those discussions have taken place, we will release an official statement."

According to Nkhahle, discussions between the club and LeFA are expected to take place next week.

Meanwhile, officials responsible for administering the leagues maintain that no formal withdrawal notice has been received.

A Division League Communications Officer Kofa Rantai confirmed that his office had not received any withdrawal letter from Kick4Life. He emphasized that any club wishing to withdraw from a league it has qualified for must comply with existing regulations.

Similarly, the Premier League Management Committee says it has yet to receive any official correspondence indicating that the club will not participate next season.

Potential impact on league structures

The uncertainty has raised important questions about how LeFA would manage promotion and relegation should Kick4Life ultimately reject promotion.

Football administrators are particularly concerned about the precedent such a decision could set. Many stakeholders argue that clubs should honor sporting outcomes, warning that repeated withdrawals could undermine the integrity of the promotion and relegation system.

League experts note that withdrawals can affect fixture planning, sponsorship agreements, budgeting, and competitive balance across divisions.

Should Kick4Life decide to sell its Premier

League status, another organization or investor could purchase the franchise and continue competing in the top flight, ensuring that all Premier League positions remain occupied.

However, if the club retains its status but chooses not to participate in the Premier League and instead remains in the A Division, LeFA may be forced to organize a playoff between A Division South Stream runners-up Lilemela FC and North Stream runners-up FC Summit.

The winner of that playoff would then claim the vacant Premier League spot, preserving balance between the two A Division streams.

A further vacancy would subsequently emerge in the A Division. In that scenario, newly promoted B Division sides AC TIP and Selibeng Flamingo could contest an additional playoff to determine which team fills the available A Division place.

A defining moment

The coming days could prove pivotal for both Kick4Life and Lesotho football as a whole.

For LeFA, the matter touches on the credibility and stability of the country's football pyramid. For Kick4Life, it represents a difficult balancing act between competitive success and a developmental model that has transformed the lives of many young Basotho athletes.

As discussions loom, football supporters across the country will be watching closely to see whether the club chooses the Premier League stage or remains committed to its scholarship-focused mission.

One thing is certain: the outcome of next week's meeting could have significant implications for the structure of Lesotho football heading into the 2026/27 season.



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