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19 June - 25 June 2026

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Vol 08 No 18

M 6.00

News

Lesotho national receives life sentence for double murder in SA

Page 4

Sports

Suspended coach demands M1.5m over alleged defamation

Page 22

MCC FACES INVESTIGATION OVER M27.3 MILLION CONTRACT



Page 3

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Inside the M27.3 million MCC contract

Five months after celebrating the award of a M27.3 million waste management contract, the Maseru City Council now says the deal may be “illegal or unlawful” – and the contractor is fighting back, turning to the Ombudsman to investigate what it calls a campaign of administrative sabotage.

Kananelo Boloetse

On February 4, 2026, MCC introduced a joint venture known as SSL JV Consultants as the professional team entrusted with one of the country's most significant environmental projects — stabilisation and rehabilitation of the Tšosane dumpsite and the design of a new sanitary landfill at Tšoeneng.

In a letter to stakeholders, MCC acting Town Clerk Moea Makhakhe described SSL JV as “an experienced professional team” with expertise in dumpsite stabilisation, rehabilitation, landfill design and environmental management.

Makhakhe said the consultants would work closely with stakeholders throughout the project to ensure a process that is inclusive, transparent and aligned with sustainable development goals.

The Council urged stakeholders to provide the consultants with the necessary support and cooperation, saying the team intended to commence consultations immediately.

What the letter did not mention, however, was the price tag.

Just five days earlier, on January 30, 2026, MCC had signed a contract with SSL JV for the project at a professional fee of M27,303,450, excluding Value Added Tax (VAT).

The procurement process began in 2025 when the MCC invited bids for what was described as a major environmental intervention.

In the tender notice, MCC stated that it had secured funding from the Government of Lesotho for the stabilisation and rehabilitation of the Tšosane dumpsite, as well as the updating of environmental and social impact assessments, design work and supervision of the proposed Tšoeneng sanitary landfill site and related infrastructure.

A total of seven companies purchased tender documents. These were SSL Joint Venture (SSL JV), Gabriel and Combustion and Heating Pty Ltd, Stable Structural Solutions, Geo Pomona Waste Management, LL Projects Pty Ltd, New Horizon–BGM JV Consultancy and PASCO.

By the extended closing date of August 25, 2025, only three bidders had successfully submitted proposals. Several submissions arrived after the official deadline and were rejected in accordance with procurement rules.

The bids that proceeded to evaluation were those submitted by SSL JV, Geo Pomona Waste



Tšosane dumping site

Management and Gabriella Combustion and Heating.

Documents reviewed by Newsday show that after technical evaluation, only one bidder met the minimum technical threshold required by the Council. SSL Joint Venture emerged as the sole technically compliant bidder, resulting in its financial proposal being the only one opened and evaluated on September 19, 2025.

Less than a month later, on October 10, 2025, MCC Procurement Committee Secretary TiisetsoDakhane informed SSL JV that the committee intended to award it the contract at a value of M27,303,450, excluding VAT.

The letter advised the company that contract negotiations would commence following the expiry of the mandatory cooling-off period.

On October 23, 2025, Dakhane again wrote to SSL JV, this time formally inviting the company to negotiations scheduled for October 28, 2025, to finalise the terms and conditions of the proposed contract.

Following the negotiations, the procurement process moved swiftly towards implementation.

On November 19, 2025, acting Town Clerk, Makhakhe, formally awarded the contract to SSL JV. In his letter, he said the award followed a “comprehensive and competitive procurement process” in which the joint venture had demonstrated exceptional technical capacity, relevant experience and a thorough understanding of the project's environmental and social requirements.

The contract covered what MCC described as an Integrated Waste Management Infrastructure Programme, including the stabilisation, rehabilitation, operation and closure of the Tšosane dumpsite, as well as the design, construction supervision and long-term environmental management of the Tšoeneng sanitary landfill project.

The value of the contract remained M27,303,450, exclusive of VAT.

A notice of award was subsequently issued to all participating bidders, formally bringing the procurement process to a close.

For months, the project appeared to be proceeding without controversy.

Then, more than six months after the contract had been awarded and signed, the Council made a startling discovery.

MCC tries to void a contract it signed

Newsday can reveal that on June 9, 2026, Makhakhe wrote to SSL JV expressing concerns that the contract may have been concluded unlawfully.

“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,” Makhakhe wrote.

“That, by reason thereof, means that the contract may very well be illegal or unlaw-

Continues in page 7...



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Ntsoaki Motaung

The Maseru City Council (MCC) is facing a formal complaint to the Ombudsman for allegedly breaching a M27.3 million contract and withholding M2.73 million in fees from the SSL Joint Venture for critical waste management work at the Tšosane Dumpsite and Tšoeneng Sanitary Landfill.

In a strongly worded letter dated June 8, 2026, Tharollo Chambers, representing the SSL Joint Venture, accused the MCC of “material breach of contract, non-payment, and administrative injustice.”

“The MCC has materially breached the Agreement by: Failing to pay any fees despite delivery of Stage 1,” the letter states.

Stage 1 fees alone total M2,730,345, exactly 10 percent of the M27,303,450 contract value, and were due upon acceptance of the Status Quo Report.

The SSL Joint Venture, comprising SECO, SMEC South Africa, and Land Survey and Engineering, was awarded the contract in November 2025. The Professional Services Agreement was signed by the consultant on December 8, 2025 and by MCC on January 30, 2026.

According to the letter, the consultant submitted the Draft Status Quo Report on February 5, 2026, the Final Status Quo Report on February 23, and a Preliminary Operations Plan, while commencing geotechnical, topographical, water quality, and other investigations.

Despite these deliverables, the lawyers said, MCC has made zero payments.

“The continued non-payment violates Section 13 of the Agreement and constitutes a fundamental breach, undermining the Consultant’s ability to mobilise resources and retain specialist personnel,” the lawyers wrote.

The complaint further alleges MCC failed to respond to submissions within contractual timeframes, approve the Preliminary Operations Addendum, or provide an approved work plan.

A High Court order issued on February 12, 2026, directing the stabilisation and closure of the Tšosane Dumpsite, has added pressure, with the consultant warning that MCC’s delays risk expos-

MCC faces investigation over M27.3 million contract



Tšosane dumping site

ing it to reputational harm and possible contempt proceedings.

The SSL Joint Venture is calling on the Ombudsman to investigate, convene a formal hearing, and order the MCC to pay all outstanding fees plus interest, approve the addendum within seven days, and produce a realistic work plan.

The letter was copied to MCC’s Acting Town Clerk, Moea Makhakhe.

The Ombudsman’s office has previously raised alarms about the state of waste management in Lesotho.

In a report released last month, Ombudsman Advocate Tlotliso Polaki warned that the new Tšoeneng site “risks becoming another Tšosane” if not properly managed, cautioning that a focus on “relocating waste” without “properly engineered landfill” solutions would merely “transfer

the problem.”

Polaki made it clear that environmental protection is an uncompromisable human rights issue and expressed deep frustration with the persistent inaction of public entities.

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

She added: “The full and good-faith implementation of these recommendations is essential to halt further degradation and to ensure an improved adherence to minimum standards in the management of waste in the Kingdom of Lesotho, for the benefit of both present and future gener-

ations.”

Polaki further admonished local authorities for hiding behind administrative excuses.

“It became evident during the course of these inspections that the importance of effective waste management operations is being undermined by many local authorities, with various reasons cited, including budgetary constraints, lack of skilled personnel, and the absence of heavy machinery. However, these challenges must be overcome through sound economic planning, prioritization, and a renewed commitment to environmental governance,” she said.

The report concluded that the state has directly failed to uphold Section 27 of the Constitution of Lesotho, which requires the government to promote environmental hygiene and actively prevent endemic and epidemic diseases.

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Army Sergeant claims Mahao's nephews did not witness his fatal shooting

Lekhetho Makhanya

The Lesotho Defence Force's Sergeant Lekho Moepe has disputed the testimony of slain army commander Lieutenant-General Maaparankoe Mahao's nephews, Leuta and Mabilikoe Mahao, who testified before the High Court last year that they witnessed their uncle's face being scraped and dragged along the tarred road by irate soldiers after he was brutally shot on June 25, 2015.

Lieutenant-General Mahao was killed on June 25, 2015, by members of the army who claimed he was resisting arrest. He was travelling with his two nephews to his home village in Mokema when soldiers ambushed them.

But Sgt Moepe told the High Court on Wednesday this week that "the two boys (Leuta and Mabilikoe) did not witness anything because they fled the scene before Brigadier Mahao was even shot."

He added: "They fled the scene when they heard the first gunshot. They opened the passenger door and ran away in the direction of the fields, and that was before Mahao was shot."

Sgt Moepe is one of nine LDF members accused of the murder of Lt-Gen Mahao. He is accused alongside the erstwhile LDF commander, Lt-Gen Tlali Kamoli.

The other accused soldiers in the trial are Captains Litekanyo Nyakane and Haleo Makara, Sergeant Motsamai Fako, as well as Corporals Marasi 'Moleli, Motsoane Machai, Mohlalefi Seithleko and Tsitso Ramoholi.

Lt-Gen Mahao was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General on August 29, 2014, and appointed Commander of the LDF by then Prime Minister Motsoahae Thomas Thabane. His appointment was approved by King Letsie III. He was supposed to replace Lt-Gen Tlali Kamoli as the LDF Commander. However, Kamoli refused to vacate office after he was dismissed by the prime minister for insubordination.

Kamoli had since protested Mahao's promotion from brigadier to lieutenant general, hence subordinate soldiers still addressed Mahao as brigadier.

Sgt Moepe contested that Leuta and Mabilikoe were not fit to claim that they witnessed their uncle's fatal shooting, as they had fled the scene before Mahao was even shot.

Led by defence lawyer Attorney Qhalehang Letsika, Moepe further dismissed claims that Mahao was ever scraped and dragged on his face on a tarred road.

In particular, Attorney Letsika referred to the testimony of Marethabile Molibeli, who also testified as a crown witness and said she witnessed Lt-Gen Mahao being dragged on his face by soldiers on the tarred road.

But Sgt Moepe dismissed Molibeli's testimony as that of "an old lady who lied before the court."

"No such thing occurred at the scene," Moepe firmly said.

When he took the stand in July last year, Leuta had also said that he and his cousin, Mabilikoe, witnessed Lt-Gen Mahao's body "hanged from the passenger seat with his legs still inside the vehicle. A soldier dragged him out by the belt, scraping his face along the tarred road as another soldier joined in, and together they hauled him to one of the military vehicles."

Moepe narrated how, on the fateful day, he had arrived at his office at the Military Intelligence (MI) unit for his usual duties.

He said Captain Tefo Hashatsi arrived at the MI office at around 9:00 am. "He informed us that 'this was the day that Brigadier Mahao



High Court

was going to be arrested?"

He said Hashatsi left after a while but came back to set up four teams he said were going to assist him to effect the arrest of Mahao.

Captain Hashatsi was the team leader vested with the responsibility to arrest Mahao, Moepe said.

"Captain Hashatsi informed us that he had been ordered by the commander to effect the arrest of Lt-Gen Mahao."

At that time, Moepe explained, Major General Khoantle Motšomotšo was the acting army commander, standing in for Lt-Gen Kamoli,

who was on leave of absence.

He stated that the four teams Hashatsi set up to effect the arrest of Mahao comprised: "first team was made up of Captain Hashatsi himself, Captain Nyakane was the driver for the team, and Private Ramoholi".

He added that the second team comprised Sergeant Makara, Lance Corporal Seithleko and Private Machai. Sgt Moepe himself was in the third team with Corporal Fako. The fourth team, Moepe said, was made up of Corporal 'Moleli and Private Halahala.

The Southern African Development

Community (SADC) Commission of Inquiry, chaired by Botswana Judge Mpaphi Phumaphi, was established in July 2015 to investigate the circumstances surrounding Mahao's death.

When the Commission's report was made public in February 2016, its findings painted a starkly different picture from the LDF's official account. The Commission concluded that, on a balance of probabilities, Mahao did not resist arrest and that the degree of force used was excessive and not commensurate with any danger he may have posed.

The Commission found no evidence to support the LDF's claim that he fired on soldiers when they attempted to apprehend him. Even if Mahao had pointed a pistol, the Commission determined that the force used was disproportionate, particularly after the first shot immobilised his right arm, rendering additional shots unnecessary.

The Commission also found that soldiers charged with mutiny had been subjected to torture and that the charges were likely fabricated to punish those perceived loyal to Mahao.

It concluded he was deliberately killed and recommended vigorous criminal investigations into his death.

The report found that Lieutenant-General Kamoli's reappointment had perpetuated divisions within the LDF and that the LDF had hindered police investigations by refusing to surrender physical evidence, including weapons and vehicles used in the operation.

The Commission recommended that Kamoli be relieved of his duties as LDF Commander and that all officers implicated in cases of murder be suspended while investigations proceeded. Kamoli eventually retired in December 2016.

Lesotho national receives life sentence for double murder in SA

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The South African National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has welcomed the imposition of an effective life imprisonment sentence on a 38-year-old Lesotho national, Selebalo Mokoena, who was convicted of the premeditated murders of two men on a farm near Komani in the Eastern Cape.

Mokoena was sentenced by the Makhanda High Court, sitting as the Komani Circuit Court, for the brutal killings of Tšolo Tšoanamatsie (44) and Khwezi Sishuba (74). He was also convicted of entering and remaining in South Africa without valid documentation.

According to court evidence, Mokoena and Tšoanamatsie worked as shepherds at Hayden Park Farm, while Sishuba employed Tšoanamatsie.

Mokoena harboured a grievance against both men following a dispute over payment for work performed and a prior altercation with Tšoanamatsie. Motivated by anger and revenge, he embarked on a violent course of conduct that culminated in the deaths of both

victims.

On May 13, 2025, Mokoena went to Tšoanamatsie's residence, where he found him intoxicated and asleep. He assaulted him with an axe or similar object, inflicting multiple skull fractures and severe brain injuries. Tšoanamatsie died at the scene.

Following this incident, Mokoena fled the farm but continued to threaten Sishuba. He damaged the victim's vehicle by slashing its tyres and repeatedly threatened to burn down his home. He later attempted to carry out these threats by setting the residence alight; however, the fire was extinguished before significant damage occurred.

Undeterred, Mokoena returned to the farm days later.

On May 25, 2025, he confronted Sishuba, led him to a camp on the farm, and launched a further violent attack, repeatedly stabbing him in the chest and abdomen and inflicting additional injuries.

Sishuba succumbed to his injuries at the scene. After the second murder, the accused fled to a neighbouring farm, where he sought

refuge at his girlfriend's residence. She alerted the police, leading to his arrest.

State Advocate Thandiwe Kaleni presented strong evidence, including post-mortem reports, crime scene photographs, DNA evidence linking Mokoena to the second murder, and victim impact statements from the bereaved families. The State argued that both murders were planned, executed with extreme violence, and warranted the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment, with no substantial and compelling circumstances for a lesser sentence.

The court agreed, sentencing Mokoena to life imprisonment on each of the two murder counts. He received an additional two years for entering South Africa without a valid passport and two years for remaining unlawfully. The immigration-related sentences will run concurrently with the life terms.

Acting Director of Public Prosecutions in the Eastern Cape, Advocate Samkelo Mtwana, welcomed the outcome. "This sentence sends a clear message that those who commit violent crimes in our communities will face the full might of the law. The accused unlawfully entered and remained in South Africa before embarking on a calculated and brutal campaign of violence that claimed two lives. This outcome affirms the NPA's commitment to securing justice for victims and holding offenders accountable," he said.

The NPA further stated that it "reiterates its commitment to ensuring that all perpetrators of serious violent crime are held fully accountable before the law, regardless of nationality or immigration status."


The case has drawn attention in Lesotho, where many citizens cross into South Africa for work on farms and in other sectors. Authorities in both countries have repeatedly urged Basotho to ensure they possess valid travel documents and work permits to avoid legal complications abroad.

Mokoena remains in South African custody serving his life sentence.


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GBV is pervasive in Lesotho: World Bank

Staff Reporter

The World Bank has underscored the urgent need to tackle Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Lesotho, describing it as a “pervasive and critical development challenge” that undermines human capital, economic productivity, and inclusive growth, even as it signed new agreements to boost energy access, skills, and nutrition in the country.

Speaking at the official signing ceremony held on Thursday, June 18, 2026, in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Boardroom, World Bank Country Representative Dinara Djoldosheva announced an upcoming project specifically aimed at strengthening GBV prevention and response services.

“GBV is a pervasive and critical development challenge in Lesotho, undermining human capital, economic productivity, and inclusive growth,” Djoldosheva said.

“In response, the Lesotho Community-Led Gender-based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response Strengthening Project supported by the Japan Social Development Fund will strengthen community-based GBV prevention and improve the quality and coordination of survivor-centered GBV services in Lesotho.”

The remarks came during the signing of the Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation in Lesotho Project (ASCENT – Lesotho), along with preparation grants for two other initiatives.



While the main agreements focused on energy, skills development, and nutrition, Djoldosheva used the occasion to draw attention to GBV as a cross-cutting barrier to the country’s broader development goals.

The World Bank representative emphasised the centrality of job creation across all its operations. “At the heart of every World Bank Group operation is job creation. Jobs foster dignity, self-reliance, safety, stability, and great-

er opportunities,” she stated. “Sustainable job creation happens when infrastructure, policies, investment, and the public and private sectors all work together.”

Under the ASCENT – Lesotho project, a \$50 million credit from the International Development Association (IDA) will help bring reliable and affordable electricity to nearly 147,000 residents and businesses.

The initiative combines grid expansion in

peri-urban, rural, and highland areas with standalone solar systems for remote populations, aiming to reduce energy poverty and spur private sector growth.

Additionally, a \$1 million preparation grant was signed for the proposed Lesotho Skills Acceleration Project, which seeks to equip graduates with market-relevant skills for better employment opportunities in growth sectors.

A separate \$300,000 grant will support preparation of the Lesotho Multisectoral Nutrition Project, focused on coordinated nutrition-specific interventions in targeted districts.

Djoldosheva explained the value of these preparation grants: “Preparation grants are an investment by the World Bank Group to help borrowing countries carry out the essential groundwork before a project is formally approved. This helps to reduce risk, shorten implementation timelines, strengthen country capacity, and ultimately maximise development impact.”

She expressed gratitude to the Government of Lesotho for its collaboration and reaffirmed the Bank’s commitment to the country’s progress.

“We remain committed to supporting the country in its quest for inclusive and sustainable development and we will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that every Mosesotho has an opportunity to access economic opportunity and contribute to a more resilient and prosperous Lesotho,” Djoldosheva said.

The inclusion of the GBV project announcement signals the World Bank’s recognition that addressing violence against women and girls is essential for achieving broader economic and social gains in Lesotho, where GBV remains a significant obstacle to development.

The Japan Social Development Fund-backed initiative will emphasise community-led prevention and improved support for survivors.

Thoboloko Nfšonyane

The Deputy Commander for Civil-Military Engagement, Ambassador Robert K. Scott, told journalists at the end of his working visit to Lesotho this week that the trip aimed to strengthen the United States–Lesotho relationship and deepen security cooperation with the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF).

He said the partnership is founded on mutual respect, shared interests and a commitment to supporting peace, security and economic opportunities for the people of both countries.

The U.S. Africa Command, or AFRICOM, works with African partners to counter transnational threats, strengthen security forces, and respond to crises in order to promote security, stability, and prosperity.

Before coming to Lesotho, Scott visited Eswatini and concluded his trip in South Africa.

“My visit here is just a continuation of a relationship that is important to the United States, and I believe important for this decision. As was pointed out, the importance of this visit is that we do a lot together, and we want to talk to each other to identify areas, specific areas where we can continue to cooperate and expand that cooperation and partnership,” he said.

The Deputy Commander had an audience with the command of the LDF and the Minister of Justice and Law, Richard Ramoetsi. He said that during his engagements with the officials, they discussed a number of areas of interest to both countries.

Scott stated that addressing issues such as border security is important, noting that security has a very broad context and is not solely military; it can include health security programmes, as well as food security and border security.

He further explained that, when discussing these matters, they were looking at ways in

US, Lesotho deepen security partnership



which Lesotho can work together with the U.S. Defense Attaché Office in Pretoria. He suggested exploring the use of drones, how they are used, and how Lesotho might deploy them to patrol its borders and ensure cattle are not brought in illegally, potentially carrying disease into the country.

He also warned of the shared threat posed by illegal drugs and narcotics, as well as those who ship or manufacture them, and said this was a joint area for exchanging intelligence and best practice to address threats affecting the youth.

“We know that Lesotho is taking a look at setting up a joint command centre, where your police and military are able to take a look at responding to either natural disasters or other challenges that you face. That’s some-

thing that all of our countries at times struggle with a little bit. How do you integrate civil and military? How do you prepare yourself for disaster response? And the New York National Guard has experience in that, and so Captain [Michele] Lowe also spoke about how New York might be able to help with that very specific project that you have,” Scott said.

Scott said he also spoke about U.S. investments. “There are a number of US companies that are coming into Lesotho, looking to invest in this country, and obviously every country, every company takes a look at security, whether it’s coming into the United States or into Lesotho.”

Reflecting on his visit to Lesotho, the U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Thomas Hines said that as Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Mil-

itary Engagement, Ambassador Scott plays a critical role in advancing partnerships, providing policy guidance, and overseeing security cooperation and assistance programmes that support shared goals.

“We are excited that Ambassador Scott is visiting Lesotho to further strengthen our close and productive relationship and to deepen our security cooperation with the Lesotho Defence Force. The partnership between the United States and Lesotho is built on mutual respect, shared interests, and a commitment to promoting peace, security, and economic opportunity for our citizens,” Hines said.

He continued: “I have seen first-hand how closely our militaries work together to build capabilities, enhance professionalism, and improve readiness to respond to security, transnational, and humanitarian challenges.”

Hines said through training exchanges, professional military education, and cooperation on regional security priorities, the two nations’ partnership continues to grow stronger and more effective. He said beyond security cooperation, the United States remains committed to Lesotho’s development goals.

“We recognise that lasting stability is strengthened by investments in health, education, economic growth, and opportunities for young people. Our partnership is founded on improving lives and strengthening institutions,” he said.

Seabata Mahao

Prime Minister Samuel Matekane has officially handed over the Kofi Annan Road (A7) street lighting project to residents of Ha-Thetsane and surrounding communities, using the occasion to reaffirm his government's commitment to improving road infrastructure and public safety across the country.

The handover ceremony, held at Ha-Tikoe last Friday, attracted government officials, traditional leaders and community members, many of whom hailed the project as a major boost to security and mobility in the area.

Addressing the gathering, Matekane said the completion of the lighting project formed part of a broader national campaign aimed at upgrading roads and installing street lights in communities that have long struggled with poor infrastructure and inadequate public services.

"All challenges that restrict people from performing their daily duties because of darkness, we are dealing with them," Matekane said.

"We are in a campaign that ensures roads in villages are refurbished and completed with lighting infrastructure. This is already happening in the six constituencies where the project is being implemented."

He said government's infrastructure programme extends beyond street lighting and seeks to improve connectivity, safety and access to services through the construction and upgrading of roads across several constituencies.

According to the Prime Minister, the development initiative covers Maseru Central, Thetsane, Tsoalo, Likotsi, Koro-Koro and Qeme constituencies, where roads are being paved and equipped with modern lighting infrastructure.

The project is intended to address long-standing challenges faced by residents who travel in poorly lit areas, particularly during the early morning and evening hours when

Matekane promises wider roads upgrade



visibility is reduced and crime risks tend to increase.

Responding to a request from local leaders, Matekane also committed government to constructing the road leading to Loretto village, assuring residents that work on the route would commence in the near future.

He further revealed that road construction was already underway from Ha-Sae in Thetsane constituency. Once completed, the road is expected to provide an alternative route for motorists entering Maseru, helping to ease traffic congestion on existing roads.

"In the next two weeks that road will be completed and fitted with lights as well," he said.

Matekane described the projects as part of a long-term strategy to build resilient infrastructure capable of supporting economic activity and improving the quality of life for Basotho.

"This is only the beginning because this country is big and Basotho need services that can be relied upon in all weather conditions," he said.

ment was ultimately signed by both parties.

The attorneys noted that MCC issued a Letter of Award on November 19, 2025, before proceeding to execute the agreement, which was signed by SSL JV on December 8, 2025, and by MCC on January 30, 2026.

"At no stage, neither during the tender, evaluation, negotiations, nor execution, did MCC raise any issue regarding the monetary ceiling or jurisdiction," the lawyers argued.

They further contended that by advertising the tender, evaluating bids, negotiating the contract, issuing an award and signing the agreement, MCC had represented to bidders that it possessed the legal authority to enter into the transaction.

"MCC is therefore estopped from raising such an objection now," the response states.

The lawyers warned that should MCC persist with its position, SSL JV would approach the courts seeking a declaration that the contract is valid and binding, as well as an interdict preventing the Council from cancelling it.

They also threatened to escalate the matter to the Office of the Ombudsman, which they said was already seized with issues relating to the project.

The Council's latest position may also expose it to allegations that it is attempting precisely the kind of "self-help" recently condemned by Lesotho's highest court.

MCC's move to void the contract tests limits of Appeal Court 'self-help' ruling

In the landmark case of *LietsisoMothala and 76 Others v Director General, National Security Service and Others* (C of A (CIV) 60/2025), the Court of Appeal considered whether the Director General of the National Security Service (NSS) could simply decide that appointments

The Prime Minister urged communities to take ownership of public infrastructure by protecting it from vandalism and criminal activities that often undermine development efforts.

He also addressed concerns over rising unemployment and factory closures, saying government was pursuing several initiatives aimed at creating jobs and stimulating economic activity.

Among these are community-based road construction projects that provide temporary employment opportunities for local residents through labour-intensive works and the supply of quarry materials.

In a further boost to employment prospects, Matekane announced that factories located at Ha-Belo in Butha-Butha are expected to resume operations in October.

The reopening of the factories could potentially create jobs for approximately 20,000 people, providing much-needed relief amid ongoing economic challenges.

Public Works and Transport Minister Matja-

made by his predecessor were unlawful and then terminate the affected employees without first obtaining a court order.

The Court's answer was unequivocal.

Writing for a unanimous Court, Acting Justice of Appeal Johann van der Westhuizen held that if the appointments were indeed irregular or unlawful, the Director General should have approached a court to review and set them aside.

Instead, the Director General "took the law into his own hands."

The Court stressed that it is now a settled principle of public law that a public official or administrative body cannot unilaterally nullify decisions made by itself or its predecessor merely because it believes those decisions were unlawful.

Quoting approvingly from leading constitutional jurisprudence, the Court reaffirmed that the power to determine legality ultimately belongs to the courts.

"Government officials, or anyone else for that matter, may not usurp that role by themselves pronouncing on whether decisions are unlawful, and then ignoring them," the Court said.

The Court further endorsed the principle that no decision deriving its authority from the Constitution or legislation may simply be disregarded by a public authority.

"To do otherwise would amount to a licence to self-help," the judgment stated.

The Court concluded that even where a public authority believes a previous decision is unlawful, "an order of court would have to be obtained" before the legal consequences of that decision can be undone.

The judgment was not merely about employment disputes.

to Moteane said the Kofi Annan Road lighting project represented a significant public investment in infrastructure and local development.

"We spent M36 million on this project and as the ministry we added another M7 million. In the six months of implementation, the project created employment opportunities for 104 Basotho," Moteane said.

He said five contractors were engaged to implement the project, with four having already completed their assigned sections.

Member of Parliament for Thetsane constituency Nthathi Moorosi welcomed the completion of the project, describing it as a major intervention for communities that have for years battled poor lighting and associated security concerns.

"Communities in these areas have long been vulnerable to violence because of darkness. These are hardworking people who often travel on foot and poor lighting has always been one of their biggest challenges. We are grateful because that challenge will now become a thing of the past," Moorosi said.

Traditional leaders also welcomed the development while appealing for greater vigilance in protecting public infrastructure.

Representing the Principal Chief of Thaba Bosiu, Leloko Mohalenyane expressed concern over persistent vandalism and theft of electricity cables, warning that such acts undermine development gains and deprive communities of essential services.

"The theft of electricity cables continues to create darkness because of people who oppose development. We must work together to stop this. Development is for everyone. Parents must guide their children and help prevent destructive behaviour."

Mohalenyane called on residents to work closely with local authorities and law enforcement agencies to safeguard public assets and ensure the sustainability of development projects.

In fact, the Court criticised the High Court for treating the matter as a labour dispute when it was fundamentally a question of administrative law, legality and the rule of law.

"The Court failed to see that a court of law should have been approached to review and set aside" the impugned decisions, the Court of Appeal held.

The parallels with the MCC dispute are difficult to ignore.

In June this year, the Council informed SSL JV that a contract worth M27.3 million, which it had itself advertised, procured, negotiated, awarded and signed, "may very well be illegal or unlawful" because it allegedly exceeded the Council's monetary jurisdiction.

Yet, as of publication, there is no indication that MCC has approached a court seeking a declaration that the contract is invalid.

Instead, the Council appears to have reached its own preliminary conclusion regarding the legality of the agreement and communicated that position directly to the contractor.

Whether MCC's concerns about its monetary limits are ultimately correct is a separate question.

The Court of Appeal's judgment suggests that even if the Council believes the contract was concluded unlawfully, it cannot simply act on that belief without first obtaining appropriate judicial relief.

That is because, according to the Court, questions of legality are not for public authorities to determine conclusively for themselves.

They are matters for the courts.

As the Court of Appeal warned in the *Mothala* judgment, public institutions cannot become judges in their own cause by deciding that a previous decision was unlawful and then unilaterally treating it as such.

...Continuation from page 2

ful."

The letter raises a fundamental question: how did a contract worth more than M27 million progress through procurement, evaluation, negotiations, approval, award and implementation before the Council allegedly discovered that it may have exceeded its legal authority to enter into it?

Makhakhe invited SSL JV to make written representations on the matter by June 12, 2026, while the Council considered its position.

Joint Venture's response

SSL JV did not take the allegation lightly.

Three days later, on June 12, 2026, the joint venture, through its attorneys, Tharollo Chambers, fired back in a strongly worded response that rejected MCC's position outright and accused the Council of attempting to escape its contractual obligations.

The lawyers described MCC's claim that the contract "may very well be illegal or unlawful" as "belated, vague, speculative and unsubstantiated", arguing that the Council was seeking to manufacture a justification for delays and non-performance.

"It is an attempt by MCC to evade payment, avoid its performance, and manufacture an excuse for entrenched delays to perform its part," the lawyers wrote.

SSL JV pointed out that the contract had undergone every stage of the procurement process without objection from the Council.

According to the response, the project had been subjected to a public tender process, compulsory pre-tender briefing sessions, technical and financial evaluations, contract negotiations and a formal award before the agree-



EcoSure expands beyond funeral insurance

Seabata Mahao

What started as a simple funeral insurance offering more than a decade ago has evolved into one of Lesotho's growing digital insurance brands.

Founded in 2013 under Sasai Econet Financial Services (SEFS), a subsidiary of Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL), EcoSure has steadily expanded its profile by providing affordable insurance products to thousands of Basotho.

The company recently reached a significant milestone with the launch of EcoSure Short-Term Insurance, marking its entry into a broader range of insurance solutions for households, individuals and businesses.

The launch represents a major step in EcoSure's evolution from a provider primarily known for funeral cover into a more comprehensive insurance brand offering protection for homes, vehicles, mobile devices, businesses and other valuable assets.

Short-term insurance refers to insurance policies that provide protection against specific risks or losses over a limited period, typically one year at a time and renewable annually.

Unlike life or funeral insurance, which focuses on long-term events such as death, short-term insurance covers assets and property against unexpected incidents such as accidents, theft, fire, storms and other forms of damage.

Developed by SEFS and underwritten by LNIH Hollard Insure, EcoSure Short-Term Insurance has

been designed to make insurance more accessible and affordable while addressing the changing needs of Basotho households and enterprises.

The new portfolio includes homeowners' insurance, mobile device and electronics cover, motor insurance, small and medium enterprise (SME) insurance, business all-risks cover, public liability insurance and other specialised products.

The expansion aligns with SEFS's broader mission of advancing financial inclusion by making insurance products easier to access, understand and use.

Speaking during the launch, SEFS General Manager Moeketsi Mafereka described the introduction of EcoSure Short-Term Insurance as a landmark achievement in the company's growth journey.

"The launch of EcoSure Short-Term Insurance marks a new chapter for SEFS and our customers," Mafereka said.

"For more than a decade, we have built strong relationships with Basotho through our funeral insurance offerings. Today, we are extending that promise of protection to cover the homes, assets, devices and businesses that are essential to people's livelihoods."

Mafereka said the company remains committed to ensuring that insurance is available to all Basotho and not only a select few.

"Our vision is to make quality insurance accessible to everyone in Lesotho, regardless of where they live or what they do. Through EcoSure, we are lever-

aging digital innovation and trusted partnerships to simplify access to protection and help customers recover faster when unexpected events occur," he said.

The launch also highlights ETL's strategy of leveraging its telecommunications infrastructure to broaden access to financial services and insurance products through digital platforms.

ETL's Chief Executive Officer Dennis Plaatjies said connectivity should go beyond telecommunications services and play a role in improving people's lives.

"At ETL Telecom Lesotho, we have always believed that connectivity is about more than voice calls, data bundles and technology. Connectivity should create opportunities, remove barriers and enable people to access services that help them build better futures for themselves and their families," Plaatjies said.

He said the new insurance offering demonstrates the value of partnerships between organisations working towards a common goal.

"Through the combined strengths of SasaiEconet Financial Services, LNIH Hollard and ETL, we are making quality insurance more accessible, convenient and relevant to the everyday needs of Basotho," he said.

According to Plaatjies, EcoSure Short-Term Insurance has been designed around simplicity, affordability and convenience, allowing customers to secure protection through channels that are already familiar to them.

"By leveraging ETL's extensive network and digital ecosystem, we are bringing insurance closer to the people, making it easier to obtain cover, manage

policies and access support when needed," he said. He said the new product removes many of the barriers that have traditionally discouraged people from taking up insurance.

"Customers no longer need to view insurance as a complex service reserved for a few. EcoSure provides an accessible pathway for Basotho to protect the things they have worked hard to build, giving them confidence and peace of mind in the face of unforeseen events."

Plaatjies noted that as households acquire more assets and entrepreneurs invest in growing businesses, demand for reliable insurance protection continues to increase.

"This product demonstrates how technology can help bridge gaps in financial protection. By leveraging ETL's nationwide reach and digital ecosystem, customers can conveniently access insurance products and services regardless of their location," he said.

For LNIH Hollard, the partnership presents an opportunity to deepen insurance penetration in a market where many individuals and businesses remain uninsured or underinsured.

LNIH Hollard Managing Director Mpho Vumbukani said the collaboration would help strengthen financial resilience across the country.

"Insurance plays a critical role in helping individuals and businesses recover from unexpected losses and continue building their futures with confidence. Through our partnership with SEFS and ETL, we are making quality short-term insurance more accessible than ever before," Vumbukani said.

He said the company expects the initiative to have a meaningful impact on communities and enterprises throughout Lesotho.

"We are excited about the positive impact this partnership will have on communities, entrepreneurs and businesses throughout the country," he added.

New database to power transport planning

Seabata Mahao

The Roads Directorate has launched an ambitious programme to modernise Lesotho's transport sector through the development of a National Transport Statistics Database (NTSD) and the revival of the Maseru Urban Mobility Project, two initiatives aimed at improving transport planning, easing congestion and enhancing road safety.

As part of the process, the Roads Directorate this week convened a stakeholder workshop bringing together key institutions, including the Road Fund, Road Safety Department, Maseru City Council (MCC), Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and other stakeholders.

The workshop focused on developing Terms of Reference (ToR) for two consultancy tenders that will support the implementation of the National Transport Statistics Database and the Maseru Urban Mobility Project.

The initiatives form part of a broader strategy to strengthen transport planning, improve mobility and accessibility, and create a coordinated framework for sustainable transport development in Lesotho.

Speaking during the workshop, Roads Directorate Director for Road Network Planning, Khasapane Kikine, described the National Transport Statistics Database as one of the flagship projects emerging from the implementation of the National Transport Master Plan (NTMP) 2024-2044.

Kikine said the database would serve as a central repository for transport-related information collected by various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), replacing fragmented systems that currently hamper effective planning and investment decisions.

"We want to identify and assess existing databases and data systems across various Ministries, Departments and Agencies," Kikine said.

"We also want to finalise a clear and mutually agreed scope of work to avoid scope creep and ensure realistic deliverables and timelines."

He said the review process would also establish consultant qualification requirements, reporting structures and payment milestones linked to measurable outputs.

According to Kikine, ensuring that the consultant's assignment reflects the ambitious objectives of the NTSD remains a priority.

Roads Directorate Manager for Road Network Planning, Mpho Maqolo, said the workshop provided a critical platform for aligning national and local development priorities.

He said stakeholders were reviewing and refining the draft ToR to ensure the project framework is both legally sound and operationally effective.

"The process will also capture input from local authorities, transport operators and community representatives to strengthen the project scope and identify operational gaps," Maqolo said.

"We are establishing precise, time-bound outcomes and measurable milestones to guarantee accountability throughout the project lifecycle."

Maqolo stressed the importance of balancing mobility and accessibility in urban planning, noting that both are essential to building an efficient transport

system.

He warned that Maseru is facing growing pressure on its infrastructure due to rapid urbanisation, population growth and increasing vehicle ownership.

"Maseru is facing unprecedented pressure on its infrastructure, making immediate intervention necessary. We are experiencing rapid urbanisation, with population growth outpacing the capacity of the current transport network," he said.

"At the same time, the number of private and commercial vehicles continues to rise daily, resulting in significant economic losses through wasted time."

He added that historical linear development patterns along major transport corridors have increased travel distances and complicated movement within the city, while rising accident rates have highlighted the need for safer infrastructure, particularly for pedestrians.

To address these challenges, the Maseru Urban Mobility Project seeks to reduce traffic congestion and travel times, improve road safety, enhance the efficiency and reliability of public transport services, promote non-motorised transport and minimise environmental impacts associated with transport activities.

"We aim to reduce travel times within the Maseru urban area through improved traffic management and upgraded intersections," Maqolo said.

"We also want to create safer transport corridors for all commuters, particularly non-motorised road users, and improve the reliability, scheduling and efficiency of existing taxi and bus services."

He added that the project would support the development of pedestrian walkways and cycling lanes to encourage active transport while reducing emissions and air pollution.

Presenting on the National Transport Statistics Database, Roads Directorate Statistician Zwelethini Chetane said the workshop aimed to review, refine and finalise the consultant's draft ToR while identifying existing transport databases and systems within government institutions.

Chetane said the expected outcomes include a clearly defined scope of work, realistic timelines,

agreed reporting structures and consensus on payment milestones.

He explained that the NTSD is intended to harmonise transport data across institutions and support evidence-based planning, policy formulation and investment decisions.

"NTSD is needed because there is a need for harmonised transport data across institutions, enable evidence-based planning, policy and investment," Chetane said.

He said the project, led by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, aims to establish a functional, secure and sustainable national transport statistics system.

According to Chetane, the consultant will be tasked with reviewing existing systems and identifying gaps, designing the NTSD architecture, overseeing digitalisation and data integration, developing data collection procedures, creating a dashboard, establishing data security protocols, preparing manuals and monitoring frameworks, and conducting training workshops.

The consultancy will require advanced qualifications in transport, statistics, information technology or related fields, as well as extensive experience in transport data systems, geographic information systems (GIS), database development and multi-stakeholder projects.

Meanwhile, presenting on the Maseru Urban Mobility Project, Mariti Mariti emphasised the need to improve both mobility and accessibility within the capital.

He explained that mobility refers to the efficient and safe movement of people and goods, while accessibility relates to how easily residents can reach essential services such as schools, workplaces and healthcare facilities.

Mariti identified traffic growth, rapid urbanisation, linear development patterns and road safety concerns as the key factors driving the project.

He said the initiative aims to transform Maseru into a safer, cleaner and more accessible city capable of supporting economic growth and improving residents' quality of life.

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
LEROHOLI ROAD
P.O.BOX 11856
MASERU 100

Road Fund assumes toll fee collection

Seabata Mahao

The Road Fund has assumed full responsibility for the collection and administration of border crossing fees, commonly known as toll fees, marking a significant institutional shift aimed at strengthening public financial management and improving service delivery at Lesotho's border posts.

The transition, which takes effect on July 1, 2026, transfers the function from Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) back to the Road Fund as part of broader government reforms designed to enhance efficiency, accountability and coordination in the financing of road infrastructure.

Officials say the move will consolidate revenue collection and administration under a single institution, enabling better oversight of funds generated through road user charges while simplifying services for motorists entering and leaving the country.

The development was outlined during a recent stakeholder workshop convened by the Road Fund to explain the objectives of the transition and prepare employees who will be responsible for implementing the new system.

The workshop also served as the launch of a week-long training programme for staff who will be deployed to border posts across the country once the transfer becomes operational.

According to Road Fund officials, the transition is anchored in Lesotho's legal and policy framework governing road user charges.

Under its mandate, the Road Fund is responsible for mobilising, managing and accounting for revenue dedicated to the maintenance and development of the national

road network. Bringing toll fee collection under its direct control is therefore intended to align operational responsibilities with its statutory obligations.

Officials noted that the reform is expected to improve accountability by placing both revenue collection and revenue management under one institution.

"This transition will make it easier for road users to access services from a single point, without the back-and-forth communication that existed before," an official noted.

The Road Fund believes the arrangement will eliminate duplication, reduce administrative bottlenecks and improve responsiveness to motorists and transport operators who use the country's border facilities.

As part of the implementation process, the Road Fund is training 52 pioneer employees who will be deployed to strategic border posts nationwide.

The training programme is designed to equip staff with operational skills, customer service standards and institutional procedures necessary to manage toll collection effectively under the new framework.

Once deployed, the employees will be stationed at some of Lesotho's busiest border crossings, including Maseru Bridge, Ficksburg Bridge, Peka Bridge, Caledonspoort, Sani Top, Van Rooyen's Gate, Makhalleng Bridge, Tele Bridge and Qacha's Nek.

These officers will be responsible for handling toll transactions, assisting motorists, maintaining operational records and ensuring smooth implementation of the new system.

The Road Fund said the staff would play a



The Road Fund is training 52 pioneer employees who will be deployed to strategic border posts nationwide

critical role in safeguarding revenue collection while delivering consistent and efficient customer service at the country's key entry and exit points.

The latest reform effectively returns a function that was previously managed by the Road Fund before being transferred to Revenue Services Lesotho in 2011.

Border toll fee collection had originally been administered by the Road Fund from 2001. However, the responsibility was later moved to RSL, largely because of the tax authority's established operational presence and administrative capacity at border posts.

Officials said the decision to return the function to the Road Fund followed assessments indicating that a single institution directly overseeing both collection and administration would improve revenue completeness, strengthen accountability and streamline operational processes.

While acknowledging the successful collaboration between the two institutions over the years, officials said the revised arrangement would provide stronger oversight and clearer lines of responsibility.

The Road Fund also expressed appreciation to Revenue Services Lesotho for its role in managing toll collections over the past decade and a half.

Under the new arrangement, the Road Fund will assume full responsibility for collecting toll fees at all designated border posts, administering the revenue collected,

providing customer support related to toll payments and producing accountability reports in accordance with legal requirements.

Authorities have emphasised that motorists and transport operators should not expect any changes to existing toll charges.

A joint statement issued by the Road Fund and RSL confirmed that current fee structures will remain unchanged unless officially communicated through appropriate channels.

The two institutions also assured the public that services at border posts would continue uninterrupted during and after the transition period.

To ensure a smooth handover, both organisations have been working closely on operational, technological and administrative arrangements ahead of the effective transfer date.

The Road Fund says the reform forms part of government's broader efforts to improve public financial management systems while ensuring sustainable financing for road maintenance and infrastructure development.

By bringing collection and administration functions under one authority, policymakers expect greater transparency in how toll revenues are managed and utilised for road infrastructure projects.

"This reform is ultimately about improving efficiency, accountability, and service to Basotho at all border posts," officials said.

Nedbank ramps up customer engagement

Seabata Mahao

Nedbank Lesotho strengthened its customer engagement and business development efforts through its annual Market Expo held at Maseru Mall on June 13, using the platform to showcase its products and services directly to prospective and existing clients.

The expo brought together more than 50 local and international stakeholders, creating a one-stop marketplace where visitors could interact with the bank, explore financing opportunities and learn more about solutions tailored to both individuals and businesses.

The initiative forms part of Nedbank's strategy to take banking beyond traditional branch premises and engage customers face-to-face. By bringing its products directly to the public, the bank sought to generate new business opportunities while increasing awareness of its financial offerings.

Products showcased included vehicle finance, home loans, insurance solutions, digital banking platforms, point-of-sale technologies and transactional banking services. The event also featured exhibitors from the construction, property, insurance, agriculture, security and motor vehicle sectors.

Visitors had the opportunity to view a

wide range of vehicles and equipment, including trucks, SUVs, sedans, agricultural tractors and yellow plant machinery. The exhibition produced immediate results, with Nedbank securing two major vehicle financing deals during the event.

A key focus of the expo was direct interaction with potential customers. Bank representatives engaged visitors throughout the day, explaining product benefits, assessing financing needs and promoting solutions designed to support personal and business growth.

Among the products promoted was the Nedbank Pocket Point of Sale (POS), a digital payment solution that enables smartphones and tablets to function as secure payment devices using chip-and-PIN technology. The product is aimed at businesses with a monthly turnover below M50,000.

Speaking in an exclusive interview, Nedbank



The second edition of the annual Nedbank Lesotho Market Expo

Lesotho Marketing Manager, Lipalesa Mpemi, said the primary objective of the Market Expo was to bring banking closer to customers.

"We wanted to take banking out of its premises and bring it closer to our clients. We also wanted our customers to have a touch-and-feel experience of our products and services while raising awareness about both our new and existing offerings," Mpemi said.

She highlighted the bank's enhanced vehicle finance product, which now offers qualifying customers financing with no deposit and repayment periods of up to 84 months.

"We have just enhanced our vehicle finance

product. Customers can now access financing with a zero deposit and enjoy a longer repayment period of 84 months," she explained.

Mpemi said the expo also reflected the bank's commitment to sustainability and accessibility.

"As the Green Bank, we are intentional about green energy and sustainability. We also intend for this Market Expo to become an annual event and eventually expand it to other districts across the country," she added.

She said the event allowed customers to access the bank's full range of services in one location.

"It is all about accessibility. We have our digital solutions, transactional banking solutions, and business services that cater to enterprises of all sizes. We are helping businesses grow while promoting convenience and financial inclusion," she said.

Mpemi stressed that the expo was open to everyone, including customers from other financial institutions.

"The bank assesses affordability to ensure that clients can comfortably meet their financial obligations. Our services are open to both existing and prospective customers," she said.

Reflecting on the event, Mpemi expressed satisfaction with the turnout and level of engagement.

"The 2026 edition was very engaging. We received positive feedback and achieved the objectives we had set for the day," she concluded.

M5,400 grant transforms Quthing woman's life, creates jobs for others

'Marelebohile Moloinyane now employs two people after turning crochet skill into thriving business'

Ntsoaki Motaung

Many people believe that a small amount of money, like M5,400, cannot make a real difference in someone's life, especially with today's high cost of living. But for 35-year-old 'Marelebohile Moloinyane from Quthing, Tosing Community Council, this money was a turning point that brought hope not only to her but also to others in her village.

Moloinyane's story begins when she heard about the Economic Inclusion Program (EIP) under the Pathways to Sustainable Livelihoods Project from a friend. Curious and determined, she sought more information and eventually applied. Soon, she was selected to join the project and attended six months of training in business and bookkeeping.

The training encouraged participants to think creatively and come up with unique business ideas that would benefit their communities.

For Moloinyane, the answer was close to home. She had learned to crochet hats from her aunt, making them for family and friends. With the program's support, she decided to turn this skill into a business.

"Many people would say M5,400 is a small amount and cannot change anyone's life for the better, but it helped me wire my three-roomed house with electricity and plaster it. On top of that, I have two individuals that I have hired, meaning they now have an income for their families," she said.

She used the grant to buy wool and fix her crochet machine. The timing was perfect, it was winter, and the demand for warm hats



Beneficiaries of the Economic Inclusion Programme Marelebohile Moloinyane and Mofokeng Lesaona

was high both locally and beyond the community.

As orders grew, she hired two more people to help her keep up with the demand.

"Because of the demand, I increased the number of people to work with me by hiring two individuals. I then realised that what the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development has done for us is remarkable because I was able to put bread on the table for other

families by hiring their members. It means with the help of the ministry and partners, I was also able to invest in others," she explained.

With careful management and savings from her business, she was able to improve her home by getting electricity and plastering the walls.

Government launches phase II of project

"What started as a small grant has not only changed her life but also created jobs and inspired others in her community," said Minister of Gender, Youth and Social Development Pitso Lesaona during the launch of phase II of the project in Thaba Tseka, Mantšonyane, this week.

He said the five-year project, which started in 2022 and ends in 2027, came about after the government of Lesotho saw a need to assist vulnerable unemployed people with the means to start livelihood businesses in their communities.

Lesaoana indicated that in phase I, the project had 4,800 families as beneficiaries with more than M25.9 million to start businesses.

"In phase II, the government is looking to reach 5,000 families with about M27 million, while in Tenesulu council, where Phase II is launched, we will assist 1,000 families," he

said.

World Vision: Programme about dignity and transformation

World Vision International Lesotho National Director James Chefwelu said the second phase is the beginning of a journey of opportunity, dignity, and transformation for 5,000 Basotho, especially women, youth, and persons living with disabilities.

He said the programme is rooted in a shared vision, a Lesotho where the most vulnerable are not merely supported but are fully empowered to thrive, participate meaningfully in the economy, and build sustainable futures.

"As outlined in our national strategy, Lesotho continues to face severe socio-economic challenges. We confront high levels of poverty and vulnerability, particularly in rural areas. Our people experience limited access to productive assets and capital. Furthermore, we must dismantle persistent gender inequalities where women face structural barriers to markets, finance, and decision-making. We must also address the needs of a growing youth population that currently faces limited employment opportunities. Yet, within these deep challenges lie our greatest opportunities ahead," he said.

Chefwelu said the EIP responds directly to this reality by combining social protection with economic empowerment.

"By building on existing government systems such as the National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA) and our social assistance programmes, we are systematically moving beneficiaries from dependency to productivity and self-reliance," he said.

CRS: Phase I reached 99 percent of target

Hopewell Zheke, National Director of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), said phase I program achievements to date include reaching 99 percent (4,968) of their target (5,000) beneficiaries.

"Of those reached, over 60 percent are women and over 40 percent are youth, who were the targets. This means more women and youth in the target community councils got empowered to establish stable sources of livelihood for their households," Zheke said.

According to Zheke, the most popular businesses among beneficiaries include broiler production, piggery, spaza shops, crop and vegetable farming, selling second-hand clothing, free-range chicken farming, and layers.

Ntsoaki Motaung

"It sounds like a lie, but trust me, people still go through this." These are the heavy words of 'Malekhotla Mahooe, a person living with albinism in Lesotho, reflecting on the painful reality of discrimination, stigma, and ignorance that her community faces daily.

Speaking on the heels of International Albinism Awareness Day, celebrated on June 13, Mahooe emphasised that simply talking about albinism is no longer enough.

"Awareness alone is not enough, we need action," she said. "Persons with albinism deserve dignity, respect, protection, and equal opportunities in every aspect of life."

For many Basotho with albinism, daily life is a struggle against both social cruelty and nature. Mahooe highlighted that individuals continue to face constant bullying, staring, and hurtful comments that damage their confidence and well-being.

Worse still, she said, is the systemic neglect in healthcare and education. People with albinism lack adequate access to vital resources like sunscreen, protective clothing, and specialised eye-care.

Because albinism causes visual impairments, many children and adults struggle to learn or work without assistive materials. Furthermore, the harsh Lesotho sun poses a deadly threat, drastically increasing the risk of skin damage and fatal skin cancers.

Persons with albinism demand action beyond words

The continuous discrimination is fueled by shocking local myths. According to a recent press statement by the Persons with Disability Advisory Council (PWDAC), false beliefs such as the myth that people with albinism disappear or turn into donkeys after death continue to drive families to abandon, bully, and isolate their own children.

What makes these struggles more frustrating is that, on paper, the law is supposed to protect them. Lesotho has committed to several international laws and conventions, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), a global treaty that demands equal rights, non-discrimination, and full inclusion for all disabled persons, and the African Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a regional agreement signed by Lesotho to protect vulnerable groups from unique African challenges and superstitions.

Locally, the government passed the Persons

with Disability Equity Act in 2021. This domestic law outlaws discrimination in schools and workplaces, and it calls for reasonable accommodation, meaning environments must be adjusted to help people with disabilities succeed. Yet, despite these legal frameworks, real-world enforcement remains dangerously slow.

The PWDAC and local advocates are urging the government to move from signing documents to saving lives. Under this year's global theme, "Proudly In My Skin: Celebrating All Skin Tones," the council is demanding that the government immediately place sunscreen on the national essential medicines list, subsidise visual aids, provide inclusive learning materials, and implement workplace employment quotas.

Mahooe extended an open invitation to policymakers to listen to those who live this reality every day.



'Malekhotla Mahooe

"If the government feels they do not have enough information, we are here, we would love to share. We have already experienced a lot because of albinism," she urged.



Ntsoaki Motaung

The Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL) has officially launched the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Network in Immunisation.

The landmark launch comes on the heels of new data showing that thousands of vulnerable children are successfully being tracked down and vaccinated against preventable diseases through community-led efforts.

According to data shared during the launch event, a recent capacity-building pilot initiative successfully identified 7,773 children across five districts who had defaulted on their routine vaccines.

Out of these, local community teams managed to trace 6,368 children and ensured that 2,959 received their vital shots. Furthermore, the initiative uncovered 758 “zero-dose” children—those who had never received a single vaccine in their lives.

Teams tracked down 525 of these children and successfully vaccinated 245 of them. Network representatives noted that the actual number of vaccinated children is likely higher, as many families went to closer neighbouring clinics once reminded, meaning their records were captured by other facilities.

These figures highlight a critical gap in the health system. While Lesotho has made significant strides, achieving routine immunisation coverage rates of 87 percent for the DPT-3 vaccine, 90 percent for measles, and 93 percent for the HPV vaccine, health advocates warned that severe challenges remain.

Drug stockouts, deep-seated vaccine hesitancy, and shifting international funding landscapes mean that grassroots action is more urgent than ever to protect the children who are still falling through the cracks.

Speaking at the launch, CHAL Executive Director ‘Makatlheho Mohasi explained that civil society groups are uniquely positioned to reach the country’s most isolated areas. Mohasi noted that these organisations play a vital role in building trust where families are hesitant and ensuring that no child is left behind.

She emphasised that the new network will allow 26 local civil society organisations to share best practices, pool resources, and better align their work with national health priorities to give communities a real voice in health planning.

The event also featured international support and encouragement. Karen Sichali-Sichinga, the Chief Executive Officer of the Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ), traveled to witness the milestone.

In her address, Sichinga praised the initiative, stating that the creation of the network demonstrates exactly what can be achieved when governments, civil society, faith-based institutions, and international development partners work hand in hand.

A representative from the network’s newly elected governing body reminded the audience of the human lives behind the statistics. The speaker noted that these numbers are not merely charts on paper, but represent real children and families who are regaining confidence in the healthcare system.

The speaker closed with a strong call to action, quoting former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to challenge the audience on how history will judge their response to public health needs, urging everyone to treat immunisation as a fundamental human right.

The newly launched network will be led by a structured governing body of local leaders to ensure transparency, strategic direction, and total accountability moving forward.

CHAL launches CSO immunisation network



SCENERY EVENTS AND TOURS PRESENTS

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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/>





Invitation for Bids

ROLL Project -Procurement and Distribution of Apiculture Tools and Materials to Support Vulnerable HHS - LSO-200002340-0241-G-NCB

Maseru, Lesotho
05 JUNE 2026

Re: Procurement and Distribution of Apiculture Tools and Materials To Support Vulnerable HHS-LSO-200002340-0241-G-NCB

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

1. The Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods includes rehabilitation of sixteen identified landscapes in Lesotho and improvement of the livelihoods of the people in the rural areas, within a period of eight years.
2. This invitation for bids (IFB) follows the general procurement notice that appeared on **IFAD** website on the **21st April 2026**, Lesotho Times newspaper on the **23rd April 2026** and Public eye newspaper on **24th April 2026**
3. The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities (bidders) for the **Procurement and Distribution of Apiculture Tools and Materials To Support Vulnerable HHS** More details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of requirements in this bidding document.
4. This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully carry out the procurement.
5. Bidding will be conducted using the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** method, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook which is provided at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The NCB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.

6. Please note that a pre-bid conference **will not be** held as described in the bid data sheet (BDS), Section III of the bidding document.
7. Bidders interested in submitting a bid shall download the bidding document from the following website: www.rollproject.gov.ls and complete the registration form available on the website

Attn: Procurement Manager ROLL Project
Ministry of Environment & Forestry
Industrial Area, Plot no. 12281-609, Near Ministry of Forestry, Maseru 100 Lesotho
Tel: (+266) 5873 0763/ (+266) 5875 7203
E-mail: procurement.roll@gov.ls and copy to morakanyane.mafatle@gov.ls

8. Bids must be delivered to the address and in the manner specified in the bid data sheet – instructions to bidders 23.2, no later than **10:00** local time on the **06 July 2026**.
9. Bidders shall be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstance and will be returned unopened at the written request and cost of the bidder. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security or bid-securing declaration (as required) in the manner and amount specified in the bid data sheet.
10. Please note that electronic bids **shall not** be accepted.

Yours sincerely,

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

Procurement and Distribution of Apiculture Tools and Materials To Support Vulnerable HHS-LSO-200002340-0241-G-NCB



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](tel:+26622324402)

NOTICE OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY FIRMS

Project:	Enterprise-wide Policy Review and Development
Procuring Entity:	Lesotho National Development Corporation
Procuring Reference:	LNDC-EOI-CSEC-2026-04
Date of Publication:	11 June 2026

1.0 Objective & Scope of the assignment: The review of seventeen (17) existing policies and develop new policies critical to the Letsema Strategy 2026–2031, ensuring alignment with the LNDC Act 1990 and relevant Lesotho legislation.

2.0 Time Frame: 12-week timeline.

3.0 Key Expertise Required per Firm: Interested firms must demonstrate a multidisciplinary team including experts in:

- Corporate Governance
- Law
- Policy Development
- Human Resources and Labour Relations
- Finance, Risk, and Internal Controls
- Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Health and Safety
- Development Finance

4.0 Shortlisting Criteria:

- Relevant Experience of the Firm: 30%
- Experience of Key Experts: 40%
- Qualifications of Key Experts: 30%

5.0 Submission Details:

- Pre-Bid Meeting (Non-Compulsory): 23 June 2026 at 10:00 AM, LNDC Development House, Level 8 Boardroom.
- Deadline for Submission: 1 July 2026 at 10:00 am.
- Submission Format: One (1) original sealed envelope, clearly marked with the project title, Procurement reference number and Bidder name.
- Delivery Address: Tender Box, Reception Area, LNDC Development House, Block A Level 1, Maseru, Lesotho.

6.0 Further information and the full notice can be obtained by emailing procurement@lndc.org.ls



Lesotho Highlands Water Project – Phase II



RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR

LOT 1: CONTRACT 3005G1 THE GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS: BRIDGES AND QUARRIES

Specific Procurement Notice

Khubelu Joint Venture requests Quotations from Geotechnical Investigation Contractors, for **Lot 1 Geotechnical Investigations for Bridges and Quarries** under Contract: 3005: The Design and Construction Supervision of Feeder Roads and Bridges. The Scope of Permanent Works includes five (5), 3m wide Pedestrian Bridges and six (6), 10m wide Vehicle Bridges. The lengths of the Pedestrian Bridges range from 200m to 700m, and the Vehicle Bridge lengths range from 30m to 432m.

The Request for Quotations (RFQ) documents will be available from **19 June 2026**. Interested Tenderers may obtain the documents free of charge via email upon request, or purchase a hard copy for a non-refundable fee of M1,000.00. Requests for the RFQ documents should be directed to: procurement@pemahn.com.

Quotations must be submitted in sealed envelopes, labelled "QUOTATION FOR LOT 1: C3005G1 GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR BRIDGES AND QUARRIES UNDER CONTRACT LHDA NO. 3005: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF FEEDER ROADS AND BRIDGES". Original quotes should be hand-delivered to the physical address below:

Khubelu Joint Venture,
No. 6 Manong Road,
Hills View, Maseru, Lesotho.

The meeting place for clarifications will be at the **Polihali Operations Branch, Polihali Operations Centre, Polihali, Mokhotlong, on 01 July 2026 at 09h00**, followed by compulsory site visits on **01 and 02 July 2026**.

Quotations shall be submitted no later than the closing date and time: **20 July 2026 at 11h00**.

For Queries: E-mail: procurement@pemahn.com with subject heading "Lot 1: C3005G1 Geotechnical Investigations for Bridges and Quarries".

RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR

LOT 2: CONTRACT 3005G2 THE GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS: ROADS AND MATERIALS

Specific Procurement Notice

Khubelu Joint Venture requests Quotations from Geotechnical Investigation Contractors, for **Lot 2: Geotechnical Investigations for Roads and Materials** under Contract: 3005: The Design and Construction Supervision of Feeder Roads and Bridges. The Scope of the invitation includes: 96km of roads and eight (8) to ten (10) borrow pits.

The Request for Quotations (RFQ) documents will be available from **19 June 2026**. Interested Tenderers may obtain the documents free of charge via email upon request, or purchase a hard copy for a non-refundable fee of M1,000.00. Requests for the RFQ documents should be directed to: procurement@pemahn.com

Quotations must be submitted in sealed envelopes, labelled "QUOTATION FOR LOT 2: C3005G2 GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR ROADS AND MATERIALS UNDER CONTRACT LHDA NO. 3005: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF FEEDER ROADS AND BRIDGES". Original quotes should be hand-delivered to the physical address below:

Khubelu Joint Venture,
No. 6 Manong Road,
Hills View, Maseru, Lesotho.

The meeting place for clarifications will be at the **Polihali Operations Branch, Polihali Operations Centre, Polihali, Mokhotlong, on 01 July 2026 at 09h00**, followed by compulsory site visits on **01 and 02 July 2026**.

Quotations shall be submitted no later than the closing date and time: **20 July 2026 at 11h00**.

For Queries: E-mail: procurement@pemahn.com with subject heading "Lot 2: C3005G2 Geotechnical Investigations for Roads and Materials".

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
- Flexible savings plans tailored to customer needs
- Secure and regulated investment options
- Digital and branch-based access for convenience and reach
- 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://www.facebook.com/LetshegoLesotho), [https://letshego.com](https://www.linkedin.com/company/letshego), WhatsApp: **+266 59073570** and Landline: **+266 22031017**.

**i For Letshego
Lesotho-related
enquiries:**

Makate Maieane

Marketing Officer
Letshego Financial Services Lesotho
Email: makatem@letshego.com



Our Branches:

Maseru +266 5880 3421	Mafeteng +266 5880 4294	Mohale's Hoek +266 5880 3172
Leribe +266 5880 3431	Butha-Buthe +266 5880 2731	

FARMERS PITSO AWARDS GALA DINNER

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'MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTRE

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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 and 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**.



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Making Sesotho language fashionable

Chris Theko

When Naomi Motebang and her husband began watching social media videos featuring language challenges, tongue twisters, and translation skits from around the world, they saw more than entertainment.

They saw an opportunity. "We thought to ourselves, wouldn't it be funny if we did this skit in Sesotho?" Naomi recalls.

What started as a collection of amusing Sesotho words and phrases quickly evolved into one of Lesotho's most engaging language-focused content platforms. Today, Naomi is among a growing generation of digital creators using social media not only to entertain but also to preserve culture, promote language, and connect people across borders.

Through TikTok and Facebook, she has built a loyal audience fascinated by the richness, complexity, and uniqueness of the Sesotho language. What surprised her most was how far that audience had spread.

"I was looking through my content reach after reading comments from people saying where they were watching from and realised I had viewers from across Africa, the UK, the United States and parts of Asia" Naomi said.

While she cannot pinpoint the exact moment she realised her content had become something bigger, the response confirmed that people were genuinely interested in learning about Sesotho.

For many Basotho viewers, Naomi believes her content sparks a sense of pride.

"I think for Basotho it makes them feel proud of our language and seeing other people take an interest in it."

For international audiences, she attributes her success to accessibility.

"My videos are interactive and easy to follow because I include subtitles. I've realised some creators make content in Sesotho but don't always provide a way for people who don't understand the language to follow along."

This simple decision has transformed her content

from local entertainment into a cultural bridge connecting Lesotho to the world.

One of the aspects of Sesotho that fascinates Naomi most is the language's complexity. She points to words such as noka, whose meaning changes depending on pronunciation despite having the same spelling.

"The markings on different alphabets help people know the pronunciation, especially for words that are written the same but pronounced differently."

These linguistic nuances have become a recurring theme in her videos, which often challenge assumptions about language and reveal layers of meaning that even some native speakers may not fully appreciate.

Creating this content requires research, but Naomi admits she does not always rely on digital tools.

"Google doesn't always get it right," she said.

Instead, she turns to what she considers a more reliable source: the community.

"I reach out to my people. Literally anyone - friends, neighbors, family; the community."

That approach reflects her belief that language belongs to people and that authentic knowledge often lives beyond search engines and translation software.

As her platform grew, Naomi began to recognise the responsibility that comes with representing a language and culture online.

"Social media is very important because it gives



Naomi Motebang

everyone control over what information they put out there," she explained.

"Unlike restricted documentaries that may sometimes provide misleading information, creators can share authentic perspectives."

With that freedom comes accountability.

"I feel I have the responsibility to give correct information and cancel out misleading information" she said.

It is a mission that has become increasingly important as more people rely on online content to learn about countries, cultures, and languages they may never have encountered before. Now Naomi is taking that mission beyond the screen.

Her latest project, Kaai's Guide to Speaking Sesotho, is a pocket-sized language guide designed specifically for tourists, volunteers, expatriates, and visitors who want to communicate confidently while exploring Lesotho.

While much of her audience consumes content online, Naomi realised there were many people who still preferred physical resources.

"I thought, why leave that group out?" she said.

Her target audience is clear: foreigners spending anything from a few days to several years in the Mountain Kingdom.

"When you land, you want to be familiar with simple, everyday language. Travellers may fear getting lost because of the language barrier. What better way to help than a pocket-sized guide that teaches you how to get around towns and communities?"

said Naomi.

Unlike traditional language textbooks, the guide is intentionally practical.

"Not everyone wants a long read. It becomes tedious to learn through a large textbook when you're only visiting for a few days."

The book promises to be educational while maintaining the same humour, accessibility, and interactivity that have made her online content so popular. The guide will also introduce readers to the broader story of Lesotho.

Included are fun facts about the country, insights into Basotho culture, information about traditional attire and local cuisine, and even stickers that visitors can keep as souvenirs.

For Naomi, authenticity matters. She wants readers to experience a publication created from within Lesotho rather than one produced from an outside perspective. The project represents a celebration of both language and identity.

Rather than releasing one comprehensive guide, Naomi plans to roll out the project in phases.

The first booklet will focus on introductions and basic greetings under the theme Welcome to Lesotho. Future editions will cover topics such as food, travel, and everyday interactions with local communities.

Her long-term vision is ambitious. She hopes to see the guides sold at airports and made available digitally so that people around the world can access them before they even arrive in Lesotho.

When asked which single Sesotho word best represents the Basotho people, Naomi does not hesitate. "Khotso." The word means peace, but its significance runs much deeper.

"It is another way of saying hello. It is also part of our national motto and the final words of our national anthem: Khotso, Pula, Nala."

She says many foreigners who visit Lesotho often speak about the country's peaceful nature and welcoming people.

"We truly are a peaceful nation."

In many ways, that single word captures Naomi's mission.

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Purple Coffee & Co: The café quietly defining Maseru's soft-life culture

Lungile Maseela

Not too long ago, it was known simply as Artisan, a specialty coffee and pizza spot tucked away in Maseru that quietly attracted coffee lovers, creatives and food enthusiasts.

Today, with a fresh identity and a growing social presence, Purple Coffee & Co has evolved into something bigger than a café. It has become a lifestyle.

On weekends especially, the space fills with young people dressed intentionally for the occasion. Girls sit around wooden tables with iced coffees and journals, couples share sourdough pizza, while others snap photos of cookies, muffins and melting ice cream under soft lighting.

For many in Maseru, Purple is no longer just somewhere to eat. It is somewhere to be seen, unwind and momentarily escape the pressure of everyday life.

The café's rise reflects a bigger cultural shift happening among young Basotho. Across social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram, "soft life" culture, centered around aesthetics, self-care, calm spaces and curated experiences, has become increasingly popular. Purple Coffee & Co seems to sit right at the center of that movement.

Formerly operating under the name Artisan, the café originally built its identity around specialty coffee and Neapolitan-style pizza.

According to a 2022 feature by Coffee Magazine, the café was founded by Sehlabaka "SG" Rampeta and Lebohanga "Pesh" Rampeta

during the COVID-19 pandemic after they began exploring coffee culture, sourdough bread and pizza-making.

The original Artisan space quickly stood out because of its carefully designed atmosphere. Even then, the founders spoke openly about wanting to create not only good coffee, but an experience.

The café became known for its modern architecture, specialty coffee focus and visually appealing interior, elements that continue to define Purple Coffee & Co today.

But the rebrand into Purple Coffee & Co appears to signal something more intentional: a shift from simply being a café to becoming a recognizable lifestyle brand.

The name itself feels softer, trendier and more aligned with the aesthetics currently



dominating youth culture online.

Purple, a colour often associated with creativity, luxury and calmness, mirrors the atmosphere customers now associate with the café. The rebrand also comes at a time when cafés are becoming increasingly important social spaces for young people in Maseru.

Unlike traditional restaurants or loud entertainment venues, cafés offer something different: intimacy, comfort and flexibility.

People go there to work remotely, catch up

with friends, go on casual dates, create content or simply enjoy being alone in a beautiful environment.

And perhaps that is why Purple Coffee & Co resonates so strongly, especially with young women.

In a fast-moving digital culture where people are constantly online, overstimulated and overwhelmed, aesthetic spaces have become a form of comfort.

A good cup of coffee, warm pastries, soft music and visually pleasing interiors create an experience that feels almost therapeutic. For some, visiting Purple is less about hunger and more about the feeling attached to the place.

That atmosphere has naturally made the café social-media friendly. Photos taken there circulate frequently online, from close-up shots of coffee cups and cookies to mirror selfies and "day in my life" content.

In many ways, Purple has mastered what modern cafés around the world now understand: people are no longer just buying food; they are buying experiences.

Yet beyond the aesthetics and social media appeal, Purple Coffee & Co also represents the gradual growth of café culture in Lesotho.

For years coffee culture in Maseru remained relatively small, with only a handful of cafés creating spaces centered around specialty coffee and relaxed social experiences.

But newer establishments and rebranded spaces like Purple are contributing to a changing urban culture where cafés are becoming community spaces for creatives, professionals and young people looking for alternatives to traditional nightlife.

In many ways, Purple Coffee & Co reflects a generation that is redefining leisure. Young Basotho are increasingly drawn to experiences that feel intentional, aesthetically pleasing and emotionally comforting.

Whether it is through coffee dates, journaling sessions, solo lunches or simply taking photos with friends, spaces like Purple have become part of how people express identity and lifestyle in modern Maseru.

And perhaps that is the real reason behind the café's growing popularity.

It is not just about the coffee, cookies, sourdough or ice cream. It is about the atmosphere, the feeling of softness, calm and connection that people keep coming back for.

Beyond the music: Why branding is the missing piece for Lesotho's artists

Talent alone no longer enough as digital competition intensifies

Lungile Maseela

Lesotho's entertainment industry is growing, but so is the competition. Every day, local artists release music, launch fashion brands, post creative content, and try to build audiences online. Talent is clearly not the problem. The country has some of the most creative young people on the continent. Yet despite this, many local artists still struggle to maintain visibility, grow loyal fan bases, or fully turn their creativity into long-term careers.

The issue is often not the talent itself. It is the branding.

In today's entertainment world, branding has become just as important as the art. Audiences no longer only connect with songs, clothes, or performances. They connect with identity, storytelling, visuals, personality, and consistency. An artist can make great music, but without a strong image and intentional presentation, it becomes easy to disappear in a digital space that moves fast and constantly demands attention.

Artists who get it right

One artist who has managed to build a strong and recognisable identity is Ntate Stunna. Beyond the music, he created a brand

people instantly associate with him. From his fashion choices and use of Sesotho culture to his confidence and consistency, Ntate Stunna positioned himself as more than just another musician. His image feels intentional. Even people who may not know every song still recognise the identity attached to his name.

That is what strong branding does. It creates recognition before people even press play.

Artists like Sannere have also shown the importance of building an authentic identity. Rather than chasing trends, Sannere built a brand rooted in Bosocho culture, spirituality, storytelling, and emotion. His music, visuals, and overall artistic direction feel connected, which makes his work memorable. In a time where audiences are constantly consuming global content online, artists who remain authentic while still presenting themselves intentionally often stand out the most.

Branding beyond logos and photoshoots

Branding is often misunderstood locally. Many people think it only means logos or expensive photoshoots. In reality, branding is about how artists present themselves to the world. It includes social media presence, visuals, fashion, communication, consistency, and the emotional connection audiences build

with the artist.

Litshepe is another example of how powerful digital visibility can be when used correctly. Rising to fame through TikTok, he quickly became recognisable to young audiences online. His growth showed the power social media now has in shaping modern entertainment careers. However, virality alone is not enough. Maintaining that visibility and turning online attention into a long-term brand is where the real challenge begins. Artists who gain popularity online have an opportunity to use those platforms to build stronger audience loyalty, consistent engagement, and a recognisable identity that lasts beyond trends.

The same can be said for House of Thethana, which has become one of the clearest examples of strong creative branding in Lesotho. The fashion house successfully blends Basotho culture with modern fashion in a way that feels fresh and distinctive. Their work proves that artists do not need to abandon their identity to look professional or international. In fact, cultural authenticity itself can become the brand.

Creative personalities like Joachim also represent a new generation of artists who understand the importance of image and pres-

entation in the digital era. Today, audiences are highly visual. Before people even experience the art itself, they often encounter the visuals, the Instagram feed, the styling, or the overall aesthetic first. First impressions matter more than ever.

Social media: Competing with the world

Social media has completely changed the entertainment industry. Artists are no longer competing only with people in their town or country. They are competing with global content every single day. A local artist's music is now appearing on the same platforms as international stars with massive teams behind them. This means branding is no longer optional — it is survival.

Some local artists release strong projects but disappear online for months afterward. Others struggle with inconsistent visuals or unclear identities, making it difficult for audiences to stay connected to them. In a fast-moving entertainment culture driven by TikTok, Instagram, and streaming platforms, visibility matters almost as much as the art itself.

More than talent: The personality factor

Modern audiences follow more than talent. They follow personalities, lifestyles, aesthetics, and stories. They want to feel connected to artists as people, not only as performers.

Branding also creates opportunities beyond music and entertainment. Artists with strong identities are more likely to attract partnerships, sponsorships, collaborations, ambassador roles, and media attention. Brands want artists who already know how to communicate themselves clearly to audiences.

The truth is that Lesotho already has the talent. What many artists need now is stronger positioning, better presentation, and more intentional branding. Because in today's entertainment industry, talent may open the door — but branding is often what keeps it open.

LDF Ladies set to defend Queen's Cup crown as tournament returns



The second edition of the Queen's Cup, which will be staged from June 27 to July 4.

Seabata Mahao

Defending champions LDF Ladies will have the opportunity to retain their Queen's Cup title following the return of the tournament this year, with the second edition scheduled to run from June 27 to July 4.

The Lesotho Football Association (LEFA), in partnership with Blue Sky Air-conditioning and Refrigeration, officially launched the competition this week, bringing back the tournament that celebrates Her Majesty

Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso's 50th birthday.

LDF Ladies, who lifted the inaugural title last year, headline an eight-team field and will face seven challengers eager to dethrone them.

The tournament will feature eight teams divided into two groups. Group A consists of Amazulu Ladies, Koalepe Ladies, Mafokotsane Ladies and Berea Ladies, while Group B comprises LDF Ladies, Emmanuel Ladies,

Team Go Ladies and United Stars Ladies from Maseru.

Six of the participating teams secured their places through district qualifying tournaments, while Women's Super League sides LDF Ladies and Berea Ladies received automatic entry into the final eight-team competition.

Notably, the two strongest sides on paper, LDF Ladies and Berea Ladies, have been placed in separate groups, raising the possibility of a highly anticipated final showdown between the two rivals.

Speaking during the launch, Berea District Football Association (DIFA) president and Lesotho Football Association National Executive Committee member, Lekhooa Thabaneng, praised Blue Sky Air-conditioning and Refrigeration for maintaining its commitment to the growth of women's football.

"We will continue celebrating her birthday and Blue Sky is still sponsoring the games," Thabaneng said.

"These games are for two districts, Maseru and Berea, but it is our ambition to have other districts involved."

Thabaneng explained that LDF Ladies and

Berea Ladies did not participate in the district qualifying rounds because the competition was initially conceived as a contest between the two clubs before expanding to include more teams.

He noted that the tournament was first introduced in August as part of African Women's Month celebrations before evolving into the Queen's Cup. Organisers are also working closely with the Ministry of Sports to facilitate Queen 'Masenate's attendance at the final on July 4.

Blue Sky invested more than M100,000 in last year's tournament. Although the company declined to reveal this year's sponsorship package, organisers expect the budget to surpass that of the inaugural edition.

"Blue Sky will take full responsibility financially and will provide kits for all teams, transport and prize money. Prizes are for the last four teams only, as was the case last year," Thabaneng added.

Beyond team awards, organisers will also recognise outstanding individual performers. Awards will be presented to the Top Goal Scorer, Best Goalkeeper, Best Coach, Best Referee, Best Assistant Referee and the Player of the Tournament.

All matches will be played at Mejametalana Airwing, with football fans expected to witness a week of intense competition as clubs battle for silverware and the honour of lifting the Queen's Cup.

Quarter-final Fixtures

- Berea Ladies vs Koalepe Ladies
- United Stars Ladies vs Emmanuel Ladies
- LDF Ladies vs Team Go Ladies
- Amazulu Ladies vs Mafokotsane Ladies

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Suspended coach demands M1.5m over alleged defamation

... but his own letter undermines claim

Chris Theko

Khotso Mahloko, the volleyball coach handed a ten-year suspension by the Lesotho Volleyball Association (LVA) following allegations of sexual assault involving minor players, has issued a letter of demand to Newsday Media threatening legal action over this publication's July 2022 report on the matter.

In the letter dated 29 May 2026 – nearly four years after the original article was published – Mahloko demands a full retraction, removal of the article from all platforms, a public apology, and payment of M1,500,000.00 in compensation, claiming the report was false and defamatory.

In a response to Mahloko this week, Newsday News Editor Kananelo Boloetse said: "We respectfully decline your demand for retraction, apology, and payment of M1,500,000.00. We maintain that the article was a reasonable and accurate report on a matter of public interest, based on your own publicly available correspondence, the actions of the relevant sporting bodies, and your own decision to decline to comment when invited to do so."

Boloetse added: "We note your threat to institute legal proceedings. Should you proceed, Newsday Media reserves all its rights, including the right to rely on the defences of truth and public interest, reasonable publication, and absence of malice."

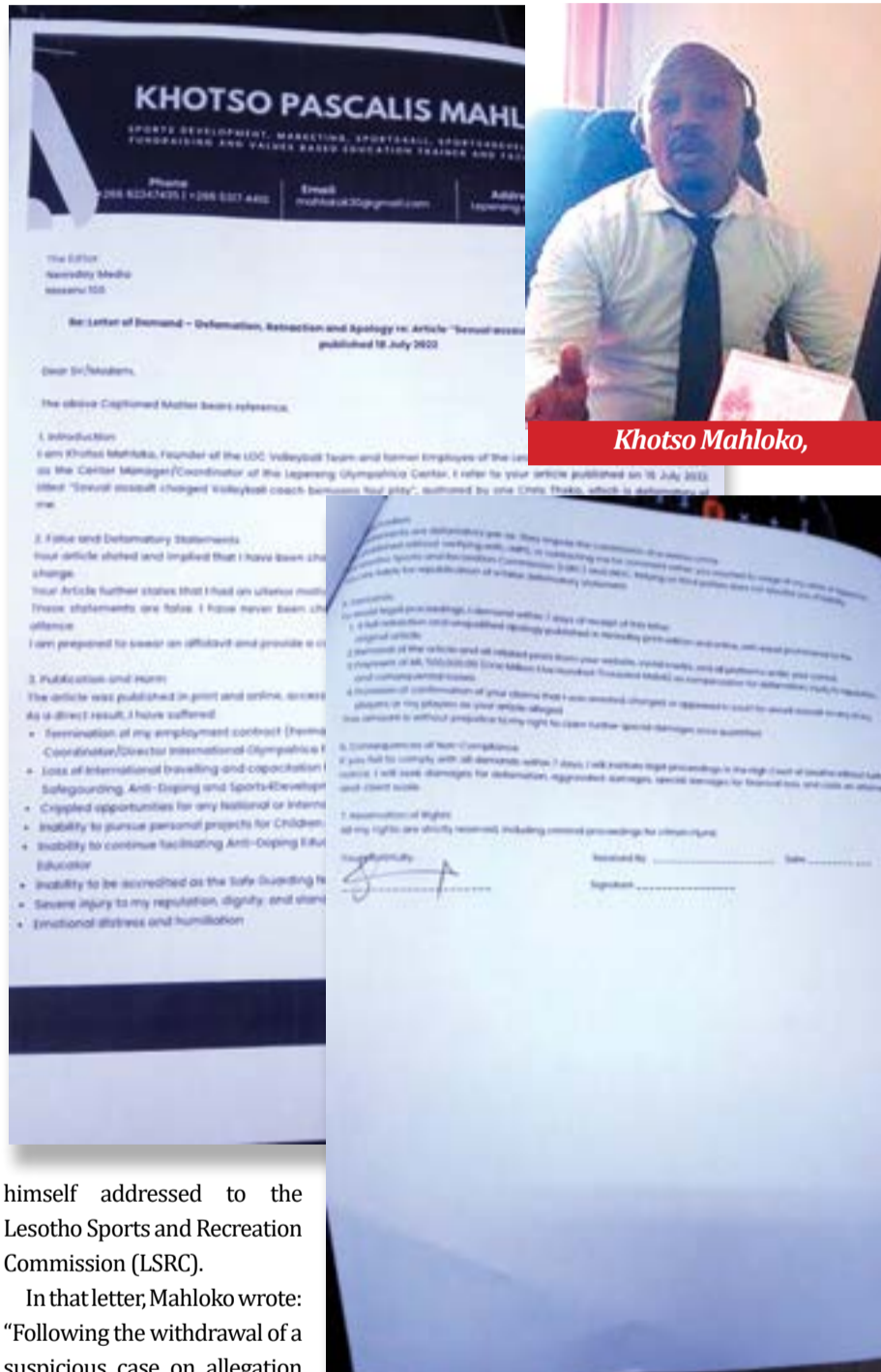
Coach's own letter formed basis of report

Mahloko contends that the article falsely stated or implied he had been charged with sexual assault and appeared in court, and that claims of multiple victims coming forward were fabricated. He further states he was never arrested, charged, or appeared before any court in relation to sexual assault.

On the question of criminal charges, Newsday acknowledges that no case was formally enrolled in court. The complaint was withdrawn by the victim and her family. The original article reported this fact, noting that "the case was dropped."

"We therefore refute the contention that the publication stated or implied that you were criminally charged, arrested, or appeared in a criminal court for sexual assault. The article reported that a case was withdrawn and that you had been subjected to internal disciplinary processes by the LVA. There is a clear and material distinction, and we believe that an ordinary, reasonable reader would have understood this," Boloetse said.

He further indicated that the article was based on correspondence that Mahloko



Khotso Mahloko,

himself addressed to the Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission (LSRC).

In that letter, Mahloko wrote: "Following the withdrawal of a suspicious case on allegation of sexual harassment against me by one of my former athletes, the Lesotho Volleyball Association (LVA) on the basis of the ongoing case wrote me a show cause letter why I could not be suspended."

Boloetse explained that it was on this basis that the article reported on the matter. "The Lesotho Volleyball Association (LVA) had clearly initiated proceedings against you based on allegations of sexual assault. The LVA wrote to you requiring you to show cause why you should not be suspended. These are disciplinary proceedings based on the very allegations that you now claim have caused you harm. The article did not invent these allegations," he said.

Semantics over 'sexual-assault charged'

Boloetse said Mahloko appeared to have taken issue with the phrase "sexual-assault charged volleyball coach".

"We submit that this is a matter of semantics and that the phrase, in the context of the article, is not synonymous

with a formal criminal charge laid by the state," he said.

He indicated that the phrase was used in its ordinary, lay sense to describe a coach who faces allegations of sexual assault and who was the subject of disciplinary proceedings initiated by the LVA based on those allegations.

"The LVA 'charged' you in the sense that it invoked its internal disciplinary mechanisms against you. This is clear from your own letter in which you acknowledge the show cause letter from the LVA," he said.

Suspension remains in effect

The ten-year ban imposed on Mahloko by the LVA following a show-cause process remains on record. In a letter by the then LVA Secretary General, Sebolele Ntlhokoe, dated 12 July 2022, all LVA clubs and members were formally notified of the suspension.

Former LVA Vice President Administration Masoli Khoanyane, who

was quoted by name in the original article, stated at the time that the association would not condone any form of abuse in the sport.

Khoanyane, who served on the executive at the time and was also the volleyball team Lesotho manager, confirmed to Newsday last week that a complaint was in fact made.

"There was indeed a case," Khoanyane said. "It ended up not making it to court because the victim said she forgave Mahloko and the case was withdrawn."

The withdrawal of a complaint by a victim who has chosen to forgive her alleged abuser is not, in law or in journalism, evidence that the events did not occur. It is a choice made by the victim.

Mahloko's letter makes no mention of the fact that he had a formal opportunity to contest his suspension. Khoanyane confirmed that Mahloko did exactly that.

"He had an opportunity to challenge the suspension at the LVA's Annual General Meeting in that same year, which he did, but the executive continued to stand by it," Khoanyane said.

The ten-year ban, Khoanyane confirmed, remains in effect to this day.

Independent investigation led to LNOC dismissal

Perhaps the most significant development concerns what happened after Newsday's original report. A reliable source within the LNOC, who asked not to be named, has confirmed that the LNOC conducted a formal investigation into the matter, as its then-CEO Morake Raleaka had previously promised.

The investigation panel was notably independent and multi-institutional, comprising an independent investigator from Senegal, an inspector from the Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU) of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), and a representative from Women and Law in Southern Africa.

According to the source, it was the findings of that investigation that directly led to Mahloko being released from his duties at the LNOC and being completely expelled from sport.

Mahloko's demand letter claims his termination from the LNOC was a consequence of Newsday's article. The source's account suggests it was, in fact, a consequence of what investigators found.

Raleaka could not be reached for comment at the time of publication.

Four-year silence before legal threat

Mahloko did not challenge the article at the time of publication. He did not seek a right of reply, despite being offered the opportunity before the original story ran – an offer he declined. He did not approach this publication at any point in the four years that followed.

The demand letter now arrives as his legal threats seek to rewrite a record that multiple institutions – including the LVA, the LNOC, and an independent multi-agency investigation panel – have already acted upon.

This publication reported on a matter of profound public interest: the safety of minor athletes in the care of those in positions of authority over them. Everything reported was grounded in documented correspondence, official LVA records, named senior sources, and the subject's own written statements.

Makoanyane XI's headache for COSAFA

Seabata Mahao

Makoanyane XI head coach Motolo Makepe has raised concerns over the challenge of building Lesotho's national Under-20 team around school-going players, indicating that some of the country's brightest young talents could miss out on selection due to academic commitments.

The young Crocodiles are preparing for the COSAFA Under-20 Championship, scheduled to take place in Mauritius from September 21 to 30. The tournament will also serve as the regional qualifier for the CAF Under-20 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

A 25-man provisional squad reported for a month-long training camp at BambathaTšita Sports Arena on Monday, taking advantage of the winter school holidays. The camp is aimed at ensuring the team is adequately prepared for the regional competition, with several friendly matches planned to test combinations and assess the squad's readiness.

However, Makepe admitted that the timing of the tournament presents a significant obstacle.

"The challenge we face is school examinations because when we go to the tournament in September, some players will be sitting for their final examinations," Makepe said.

"However, some have already completed high school while others are studying at



Makoanyane XI head coach Motolo Makepe

tertiary institutions, so we can rely on them."

The coach revealed that his strategy is to build a wider pool of approximately 40 players to provide depth and ensure continuity whenever key players become unavailable.

Makepe, who recently took charge of the side, said he has maintained the core structure established by his predecessor,

HalemakaleMahlaha, while also integrating players he identified during his time with Lesotho's Under-17 national team.

"I took over the team that was built by coach HalemakaleMahlaha and also included players I had identified since 2023 at Under-17 level," he said.

"I also relied on recommendations from

other coaches who referred players to me for assessment because I did not have enough time to travel around the country scouting talent."

The coach said the technical team is focusing not only on immediate results but also on long-term player development. As part of that approach, selectors have shifted their attention towards younger age groups.

"There is a lot of talent in the country, and we have decided to stop scouting players born in 2007 and instead focus on those born in 2008 and 2009 because they can remain in the team for about two seasons," Makepe explained.

"If we focus mainly on players born in 2007, next year we will have no team. We have to make sure that when some players graduate, we already have others ready to fill the void."

Lesotho will be aiming to qualify for the Under-20 AFCON finals for only the third time in the nation's history.

The country's first appearance came in 2005 under the late Seephephe "Mochine" Matete when the tournament was hosted in Benin. Makoanyane XI returned to the continental stage in 2011 under Leslie Notši when South Africa hosted the finals.

The upcoming COSAFA Championship offers another opportunity for the young Basotho side to end a lengthy absence from Africa's premier youth football competition.

Despite concerns over player availability, Makepe remains encouraged by the quality of talent currently in camp and believes the intensive training programme will be vital in preparing the squad for the challenge ahead.

Beyond chasing qualification, the coach said his broader mandate is to identify and nurture players capable of progressing to the senior national team in the years to come.

"Our responsibility is not only to qualify for AFCON but also to develop players who can eventually serve the senior national team," Makepe said.

Lesotho youngster in rare World Cup opportunity

Seabata Mahao

Tsielo Mokebe, a young Lesotho student-athlete has earned a place on one of the world's biggest sporting stages after being selected for an internship at the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup in North America, marking a significant step forward in her academic and professional journey.

A Kick4Life product, Mokebe has been appointed to join the operations team in New York and New Jersey, where she will contribute to the delivery of the world's largest sporting event.

Her responsibilities will include supporting hospitality operations, restocking supplies, assisting beverage services, explaining menus to VIP guests, and helping prepare venues ahead of matchday activities.

She is currently pursuing a four-year Degree in Accounting and Business Management at Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee, where she first became aware of the internship opportunity through her university's business programme.

Freed-Hardeman University regularly shares professional opportunities with students, which led her to apply earlier this year.

The selection process was extensive, requiring a CV submission, academic records, and supporting documentation, followed by interviews and onboarding



Kick4Life student-athlete Tsielo Mokebe

procedures. Mokebe says the waiting period was longer than expected, likely due to international security checks.

"I had an interview in March and received the employment confirmation in May," she explained.

"No matter how long it took to get the answer from them, it was worth it. I was so happy to get to the accreditation stage after being on the onboarding process for about a month and a half"

For Mokebe, the opportunity represents both excitement and pressure as she prepares to contribute to a global event expected to be watched by billions.

"I am nervous and excited at the same time because I really think this will be a great start for my career as a business and sports person. This aligns with both my passion for football and professional business experience, which makes it even more exciting."

She also acknowledged the challenge of working in a high-performance international environment.

"I will be gaining experience on how to work with professionals, and that also scares me because I think I am going to be afraid to make a mistake knowing I will not be able to correct it."

As preparations continue, Mokebe says she is focused on learning as much as possible from the experience, particularly in professional communication, teamwork, and high-pressure operations.

"With this experience, I hope to gain more on how to handle and work with people professionally, both in football and in the workplace. I want to experience how professional people work together, understand the impact of service towards the game, learn how to have professional conversations and approaches, and learn how to stay calm under pressure."

Her selection has been widely viewed as a strong example of how educational opportunity, sporting discipline, and ambition can combine to open international pathways for young people from Lesotho.



Kick4Life side cuts ties with LeFA

Seabata Mahao

Fresh from securing the A Division League Southern Stream championship, Kick4Life Lesotho has announced that its men's football club, Kick4Life Juventude FC, will not accept promotion to the Lesotho Premier League, and will instead withdraw completely from the men's football structures under the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA).

In a statement, the organisation confirmed that the decision was made to safeguard its long-standing mission of helping young Basotho student-athletes secure international university scholarships through football.

The announcement comes as a surprise to many football followers, particularly after the club's successful campaign earned them promotion to the country's top-flight league.

According to Kick4Life, participation in the Premier League would jeopardise the eligibility of its players to access scholarship opportunities in the United States.

"Moving forward, we will continue running the Kick4Life Academy for boys and girls, and our women's team will continue competing in the Women's Super League," the organisation stated.

Kick4Life further revealed that its men's academy teams will continue to participate in friendly matches, international tournaments and competitions organised by the organisation itself.

The organisation said the decision followed extensive consultations with major American collegiate sports governing bodies, including the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

Following their title-winning season, Kick4Life sought clarification from the NCAA regarding whether recent changes involving Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) regulations would allow players to compete in the Lesotho Premier League while retaining their scholarship eligibility.

However, the NCAA is reported to have confirmed that Premier League participation would immediately render players ineligible for NCAA scholarships.



KickLife Juventude squad during the Champion of Champs tournament

The NAIA also advised that players would lose one year of collegiate eligibility for every year spent playing in the Lesotho Premier League.

Kick4Life Co-Founder Pete Fleming described the decision as painful but necessary.

"It is extremely disappointing for our players and coaches that we are unable to accept the promotion which they earned, but the mission of Kick4Life is to provide life-changing student-athlete scholarships for young Basotho, and that cannot be achieved by playing in the Premier League, as players will lose their eligibility as soon as they step on the pitch," Fleming said.

He added that the club's latest promotion demonstrates the effectiveness of the academy model.

"The fact we achieved another promotion is evidence of our enormously successful Academy model and we are proud of the players and coaches for their fantastic achievement. We are excited about this new model for our men's Academy players and team, and we are fully committed to continue developing young male and female student-athletes."

Co-founder Steve Fleming said the

organisation also considered the wider implications of remaining within the league system while repeatedly rejecting promotions.

"In making this decision we recognised the challenges of remaining in the league system whilst rejecting promotions, and the potential impact this has on other teams and the system in general. This also influenced our decision to withdraw from the men's football pyramid," he said.

He assured players and stakeholders that the organisation would continue supporting athletes through scholarship pathways, football opportunities at other clubs, academic support programmes, work experience placements and paid employment opportunities.

However, Kick4Life Country Director Motlatsi Nkhahle said the organisation's football development programme will continue to thrive despite the withdrawal from LeFA men's competitions.

Nkhahle explained that the focus will now shift towards academy development through friendly matches and tournaments involving both local and international academies and football clubs.

"We are going to create and develop

tournaments for the academy with other local and international academies and football clubs. We have always participated in these friendly tournaments as a way to improve and develop our Under-15, Under-17 and Under-21 teams," Nkhahle said.

He stressed that the technical team would remain intact and that only the boys' participation in LeFA competitions would cease.

"We are keeping our technical team; hence everything is going to run smoothly except that we have exited LeFA football structures with our boys' clubs. However, the girls' club will not be affected by this change."

Nkhahle further disclosed that Kick4Life has already arranged a friendly match against the LeFA Academy in Leribe and will continue playing friendly fixtures against clubs such as Matlama FC, Lijabatho FC and Likulo FC.

Meanwhile, LeFA has outlined how it will manage the changes resulting from Kick4Life's withdrawal.

In a letter addressed to the Premier League Management Committee (PLMC), A Division Management Committee (ADMCO), B and C Division committees and other football structures, a copy of which was seen by this publication, LeFA confirmed that Villa FC will take the vacant Premier League place.

Villa FC finished runners-up to Kick4Life Juventude in the A Division South Stream during the 2025/26 season and will now compete in the Premier League in the 2026/27 campaign.

"Following extensive consultations, the decision has been reached that Villa FC, as runners-up in the A Division League South Stream, be promoted to the Premier League for the 2026/27 season to fill the vacancy created by Kick4Life's withdrawal," LeFA said.

The association further resolved that AC TIP FC be promoted from the B Division to the A Division League to occupy the space left by Villa FC. AC TIP FC had finished third in the recently concluded national B Division playoffs alongside Butha-Butha Warriors and Mahlaseli FC.



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