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Afriski accused of hiring undocumented South Africans

Workers claim white South Africans favoured over Basotho, but resort insists it complies with all labour laws as inspection looms

Lekhetso Makhanya

Racial and labour tensions are simmering at Afriski Mountain Resort, Newsday can reveal. Afriski is Lesotho's only skiing facility and one of just two operational ski resorts in Southern Africa.

Located along the A1 road, past the iconic Moteng and Mahlasela passes in the Botha Bothe district, Afriski sits high in the Maluti Mountains at over 3,000 metres above sea level.

It boasts a large capacity to host events and winter activities, with accommodation for over 300 people.

The resort employs an estimated 200 staff members every winter season (June to August), its peak operational period. According to high-placed sources at Afriski, these employees are recruited from both South Africa and Lesotho.

Speaking to Newsday this week on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal, two sources from Afriski alleged that the company was unnecessarily favouring white South Africans over Basotho in its recruitment. During the off-season, they said, Afriski retains a permanent staff of around 50 people.

"The problem is that the company now gives more preference to white South Africans than Basotho. There is a larger number of white South Africans than Basotho in Afriski's employ at the moment. They [whites] constitute 60 percent of the staff—10 percent more than Basotho," one source claimed.

Another source added: "Some of these whites are unqualified, yet they are employed as managers and supervisors above qualified Basotho. We teach them the work, but in turn, they are the ones promoted by the company to become our bosses. How strange!" he exclaimed.

The sources further alleged that some of their white South African colleagues are undocumented. "They work with us, but they do not possess work permits from local authorities to be employed in Lesotho," one said.

This situation, they claimed, has created a division between Basotho and white South African employees.

"There is an atmosphere of sour relations between ourselves. Threats, intimidation, and possible harassment are imminent between us," one of the sources said.

According to Lesotho's Labour Act No. 3 of 2024, Section 161(1), no employer shall employ any person in Lesotho who is not a citizen of Lesotho, "and no such person shall accept employment in Lesotho, unless that person is in possession of a valid work permit issued by the Director - National Employment Service."



However, the workers allege that Afriski has employed some white South Africans without the required work permits.

This allegation was disputed by Afriski's Human Resource Manager, Masibane Rangoako, who indicated that as a "responsible employer" operating within Lesotho, "Afriski remains fully committed to conducting its recruitment and employment practices in compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework, including the Lesotho Labour Act No. 3 of 2024 and all relevant immigration and employment requirements."

Rangoako added that Afriski remained committed to maintaining lawful employment practices "while continuing to support the development and employment of Basotho across all levels of the organisation."

Meanwhile, Newsday has seen a series of urgent letters that concerned workers wrote, through their trade union, the Independent Democratic Union of Lesotho (IDUL), to Afriski management and relevant authorities, including Minister of Labour and Employment Tseliso Mokhosi and Labour Commissioner Mamohale Matsoso.

On March 4, 2026, IDUL's Deputy Secretary General, Clarke Letsie, wrote to the Director of Afriski, noting in part: "The IDUL Trade Union has identified the following expatriate employees who are allegedly working without the valid certificates of employment required by section 161-163 of the Lesotho Labour Act No. 3 of 2024."

Letsie then listed the expatriates, their departments, and nationalities as follows: Winand (Maintenance) South African, Anton (Maintenance) South African, Vicky (Finance)

South African, and Anton's Son (Maintenance) South African.

The continued employment of these expatriates without lawful documentation, Letsie warned, "is a direct violation of both the Lesotho Labour Act No. 3 of 2024 and the Aliens Control Act of 1966. This practice unfairly displaces qualified Basotho workers and exposes the company to severe penalties, including fines."

Letsie concluded with a final demand and an ultimatum: "We require management to produce valid work permits for the above-listed individuals within 48 hours of receipt of this notice. Failure to do so will result in the union immediately escalating this specific list to the National Employment Services (NES) and the Labour Inspectorate for a full-scale audit and subsequent legal action."

Rangoako responded to this letter on March 7, 2026, stating: "We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 4, 2026, regarding the employment status of certain expatriate staff members at Afriski. We confirm that Afriski is in ongoing engagements with the relevant statutory authorities and professional advisors regarding all compliance matters relating to expatriate employment. These engagements include processes relating to applications, renewals, and regulatory compliance in accordance with the applicable statutory procedures."

Rangoako said Afriski would continue to work through the appropriate legal and administrative channels to ensure that all requirements are addressed in accordance with the law.

"We further note that your correspondence

refers to a limited number of individuals. In the interest of consistency and fairness in the application of labour and immigration regulations, it is important that any compliance considerations relating to expatriate employment be addressed in a uniform manner across all individuals who fall within the scope of the relevant legislation, including expatriates that are members of your union," the Human Resource Manager said.

Afriski, Rangoako argued, values constructive and responsible engagement with organised labour and "remains available for further discussion should the union wish to address any concerns through the appropriate channels."

On April 2026, Letsie wrote a letter to the Labour Commissioner, titled "Follow-up on Illegal Expatriates and Lack of Skills Transfer at Afriski Mountain Resort."

"We refer to our previous correspondence dated 19 March 2026 regarding the employment of undocumented expatriates at Afriski Mountain Resort. Following our report, an inspector was dispatched on 23 March 2026. Her findings confirmed that several employees are working without valid work permits. Despite an ultimatum issued for their immediate departure, no action has been taken to date. These individuals remain on site in direct defiance of the law," Letsie noted to Matsoso.

Letsie further brought to the Labour Commissioner's attention that "the General Manager [Afriski] and other senior staff members also lack valid work permits, which explains the ongoing disregard for local labour laws."

Since 2021, Letsie noted further, the resort has consistently rehired the same undocumented expatriates during peak seasons. "This practice bypasses the legal requirement for skills transfer to Basotho workers and denies local citizens employment opportunities," he said.

At IDUL, Letsie noted that they request the commissioner's office to intervene immediately to enforce the inspector's findings and ensure the Labour Act is upheld.

"We draw your attention to section 165 of the Labour Act No. 3 of 2024, which explicitly prohibits the employment of non-nationals without a valid work permit," he said.

This dispute occurs against a backdrop of heightened sensitivity around cross-border employment and job competition in the region. South Africa, which completely surrounds Lesotho, is experiencing significant anti-immigration sentiment and protests, with groups setting a June 30, 2026 deadline for undocumented migrants to leave amid record-high unemployment and perceptions that foreigners are taking local jobs.

While the Afriski case involves South Africans working in Lesotho, the reverse dynamic, it taps into similar frustrations over prioritisation of non-nationals in employment, skills transfer, and permit enforcement.

Newsday has since learnt that the office of the Inspector General from the Ministry of Labour and Employment will visit Afriski next week to conduct an inspection regarding the concerns raised by IDUL against the resort.

A letter dated June 22, 2026, from Inspection Manager M. Koalepe, states: "The office of labour planned to conduct an inspection at Afriski on 4 June 2026, but due to bad weather, the inspection had to be postponed. The inspection will now take place on 2 July 2026, wherein the grievances raised will now be addressed."

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Thoboloko Ntšonyane

As anti-immigration protests surge across South Africa, Lesotho has announced it will not facilitate the repatriation of its citizens living there without legal documentation, even as violence against foreign nationals escalates.

The Border Management Authority (BMA) has identified Lesotho nationals as one of the largest groups of people who have entered South Africa illegally. While some Basotho are crossing the border to escape the wrath of persecution in South Africa and to regularise their status, the government says it will not assist their return and has no plans to help them adjust financially or secure stable livelihoods.

This week, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Limpho Tau, told journalists in Maseru that Lesotho will not, at this stage, facilitate the repatriation of its citizens from South Africa, despite reports of pockets of harassment, humiliation, and violence directed at some foreigners in the country.

Anti-migrant sentiment intensifies

Over recent months, campaigns targeting irregular migrants have been led by groups including Operation Dudula and March and March, as well as political parties such as ActionSA and the MK Party. Anti-migrant civic groups have issued a "deadline" of 30 June 2026, calling for all irregular migrants to leave South Africa.

Some South Africans complain that foreigners "take" their jobs, undermine women, sell drugs to young people, and commit serious crimes in the country. The South African government has condemned physical attacks and vandalism. However, videos have emerged showing marchers whipping foreigners in full view of police, with officers failing to intervene or protect the victims. In some cases, marchers have conducted stop-and-search operations, demanding identification from people they suspect are foreigners.

Tensions continue to grow as anti-migrant movements gain momentum across major cities. There are also reports of sporadic incidents of intimidation, violence, and harassment.

'Lesotho lost its chance to claim rights'

Tau expressed regret that Lesotho had not negotiated more strongly when South Africa's democrat-

Lesotho won't evacuate citizens from SA



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations Limpho Tau

ically elected government came to power in 1994. Instead, he said, Basotho were busy "chasing each other on useless politics."

"Lesotho lost the opportunity to claim its rights. We were micro-managed while under the Pretoria Administration. Who would have respected us? We put ourselves in those precarious situations for useless political battles," Tau fumed.

He also blamed Lesotho's poverty on South Africa having turned the country into a labour reserve during the mining era.

Tau further called for a special document, not the usual policy, to govern bilateral relations between the two neighbours.

"You took our land. You turned us into a labour reserve. You robbed us. We need to talk tough as equal partners. Truly speaking, you are owing us," he said.

While he avoided questions about what the government is doing to ensure Basotho do not go to South Africa in search of greener pastures, he said "every country has unique circumstances" and that Lesotho has been oppressed for many years.

Tau said South Africa has an "obligation" to help Lesotho access international markets, noting that Lesotho is an enclave and cannot trade with any other country without going through South Africa.

He referenced the United States extending the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to Lesotho, even though the US has not colonised any country. "Those are issues that we should push in our dialogue. It should help Basotho to access international markets," he said.

Other African countries evacuate citizens

Some African countries have responded to the

rising anti-migrant unrest by arranging flights and buses to evacuate their citizens out of fear of attacks. Ghana, Nigeria, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique have reportedly taken such measures.

Tau said Lesotho's diplomatic missions in South Africa are closely monitoring developments.

"Our missions will continue to monitor the situation closely and advise the government accordingly as developments unfold," he said.

He called on Basotho to remain calm and avoid panic while the government continues to assess the situation through appropriate diplomatic channels.

Diplomatic missions issue warnings

In May, the Lesotho High Commission in Pretoria issued an advisory note to Lesotho nationals living in South Africa to remain vigilant. The High Com-

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WASCO extends amnesty for illegal connections

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) has announced a Debt Amnesty Programme offering residents a fresh start by pardoning illegal connections and waiving old bills.

In a statement this week, the utility said the programme is designed to encourage customers to come forward and regularise their status.

"The Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) wishes to inform its valued customers and the public of a once-off Amnesty Programme aimed at encouraging the regularisation of illegal water connections and assisting customers with long-overdue outstanding balances," the statement read.

The amnesty programme will run from July 1, 2026, to October 31, 2026. During this period, customers can voluntarily report to WASCO offices and negotiate payment arrangements for their outstanding arrears.

A special dispensation will also be extended to those who have been accessing water illegally. Such customers may "regularise their connections during the amnesty period without incurring penalties or being referred for prosecution."

WASCO extended a call to all customers with unauthorised connections to come forward and become compliant with the company's regulations.

"In addition, customers with more than 60 days' debt as of March 31, 2026, may apply for a once-off debt amnesty. Approval of debt amnesty applications will be subject to WASCO's verification process and compliance with any payment arrangements or conditions communicated during the application process," the statement added.

WASCO Credit Control Manager Tselane Mohapi said the amnesty programme reflects the company's commitment to providing customers



with a "fair opportunity to rectify past irregularities while strengthening the sustainability and integrity of water service delivery."

"This amnesty programme is intended to encourage voluntary compliance and provide relief to customers facing challenges in settling overdue accounts. We urge all eligible customers to take advantage of this limited-time opportunity before stricter enforcement measures are implemented," she said.

Despite extending a hand to defaulters, WASCO has previously complained that illegal connections remain one of the major hurdles in its efforts to provide an uninterrupted water supply. Vandalism of infrastructure and illegal connections have continued to undermine the utility's progress.

The company reported that approximately M1.5 million had been spent each month since November 2019 on maintenance materials, transport, and overtime along the Metolong

Downstream Conveyance System (DCS).

Vandalism has taken a number of forms, including water theft and tampering with sanitation facilities and equipment, leading to significant revenue losses.

Although vandalism of service infrastructure has occurred over the years, it spiked substantially towards the end of 2019, particularly along the DCS. This has had a direct and significant impact on the utility's performance, with service reliability being negatively affected.

WASCO has promised that "strict enforcement" measures against illegal connections and unpaid accounts will commence immediately after the amnesty period concludes.

The utility warned that customers who fail to regularise their connections or make arrangements regarding their arrears will face penalties or other legally enforceable action in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

...from page 3

mission warned them to avoid areas where protests are taking place and to limit travel during tensions to avoid being caught up in violence.

Lesotho's High Commissioner to South Africa, Ntsime Jafeta, said they were concerned about marches targeting migrants but pointed out that Basotho remained "safe."

"We have not received reports that Basotho have been beaten or suffered acts of violence at the hands of the marchers," Jafeta said. He added that they will continue engaging with South African authorities and will oversee the safety of Basotho.

His sentiments were echoed by the Durban Consul and Johannesburg Consul, Rapelang Thuoela and 'Mamolefi Ntatsane, respectively.

Ntatsane said some companies have started releasing Basotho because of the Lesotho Exemption Permit (LEP), which expires next year. She assured that assistance is being provided with documents that employers accept. She encouraged those facing challenges to come forward and report their problems so they can be supported.

She added that even before the March and March protests began, consulates were always called when Basotho who violated immigration laws were detained at the Lindela Repatriation Centre to assist with processing.

Thuoela said they received reports that some Basotho have been threatened with evacuations from their residential areas and from some factories.

Concerns over safety and violence

Anti-migration campaigns and rhetoric are feared to have caused unrest, displaced many foreign nationals, and, in some tragic cases, led to deaths. There has also been a report of a South African citizen who was allegedly killed after being mistaken for a foreigner.

Images circulating on social media reportedly show Zimbabweans who slept outside the Zimbabwean Consulate in Cape Town, allegedly fleeing mob violence.

South African government acknowledges concerns

Earlier this month, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation, acknowledging the frustrations of South Africans.

"Over recent months, South Africans from every walk of life have raised concerns about migration and illegal immigration. These concerns are being expressed in our communities, our workplaces, our schools, our clinics, and across social media platforms," he said.

"Many South Africans are asking difficult but legitimate questions. They are asking whether our borders are secure. They are concerned about jobs. South Africans are raising these matters because they are concerned about pressure on public services. They are concerned about safety, security, and the rule of law. These concerns are real. They deserve to be heard. They deserve to be addressed," Ramaphosa said.

The government and law enforcement agencies in South Africa have assured that those living in the country illegally will be safe, and that any illegal actions will not be tolerated. The law will take its course against those found wanting.

LEP expiry looms, no plan for returnees

In December 2023, then Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, granted exemptions to approximately 54,653 Lesotho nationals for a period of two years, which ended in December 2025. After this two-year extension, Lesotho Exemption Permits (LEPs) were extended until 28 May 2027. However, as the permits approached their end, new applications were not accepted, as many Basotho work in informal sectors, and some are domestic workers.

By 30 June, Lesotho is likely to see an influx of Basotho returning from South Africa. With no immediate plan in place, the government has not yet clarified what measures it will take and how it will help Basotho find their footing economically so that they can continue to support their families.

Bilateral talks on labour and migration planned

In September, a mid-term review of the Bi-National Commission (BNC) between Lesotho and South Africa is expected to take place in Pretoria. The talks are expected to prioritise labour and migration matters, including the rights, working conditions, and legal status of Basotho working in South Africa.

Movement between the two countries, border procedures, permits, cross-border transport, and measures to ease mobility for workers, students, and traders are also expected to feature in the meeting.

"No child should choose between education and dignity"



Ntsoaki Motaung

Lesotho joined the rest of Africa on Wednesday in commemorating the Day of the African Child, an annual event observed on June 16 to honour the courage, dreams, and rights of African children.

This year's celebration brought together government leaders, international partners, and children to spotlight the critical importance of clean water, sanitation, and hygiene for all.

The Day of the African Child commemorates the brave students of Soweto, South Africa, who in 1976 stood up for their right to education and equality. Their sacrifice continues to inspire advocates across the continent to fight for the rights and well-being of every child.

Minister of Natural Resources, Mhloni Moleko, reminded attendees that this is a day to celebrate the courage and aspirations of African children.

"Their sacrifice continues to inspire us to ensure that every African child has access to education, health care, protection, and opportunities to realise their full potential," he said.

The Minister called on government, communities, parents, and development partners to work together so that no child is left behind.

"To the children of Lesotho, you are our greatest asset and our hope for the future. We encourage you to work hard, dream boldly, respect others, and

embrace the values of integrity, innovation, and service," he added.

This year's theme was "Ensuring Universal Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for Every Child in Africa." Speakers emphasised that clean water and proper toilets are not merely infrastructure issues but are fundamental to health, dignity, and education.

Taija Kontinen-Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator, spoke emotionally about children who wake up every morning without access to clean water.

"It means going to school thirsty, missing classes because the toilets are unsafe, or girls staying home during menstruation because there is no privacy or support," she said. "Behind these numbers are children suffering from preventable illness. Children missing school. Children whose futures are being limited by conditions that should never exist in the first place."

She praised the progress Lesotho has made, including the Lowlands Water Project and improved WASH facilities in health centres and schools. However, she cautioned that "progress must move faster, because the challenges remain significant." Only 46 percent of Lesotho's population has access to basic sanitation, and open defecation remains a persistent problem in rural areas.

Kontinen-Sharp called for increased investment,

stronger partnerships, and sustainable solutions such as rainwater harvesting and wastewater treatment. "No child should have to choose between education and dignity," she said.

Deepack Bhaskaran, UNICEF Country Representative, noted the government's commitment to improving WASH services. He said investments in water infrastructure and rural service delivery are making a difference, with 91 water systems rehabilitated and 30,000 people benefiting from improved access to safe water.

"The programme has also improved WASH facilities in rural schools, benefiting more than 1,400 learners and helping create safer and more inclusive learning environments, particularly for girls," he said.

He stressed that behind the statistics are real children who walk long distances for water and study in schools without proper toilets.

"UNICEF remains committed to supporting the government of Lesotho in expanding equitable access to water and hygiene," he said, calling for urgent action so that no child's future is limited by a lack of clean water.

Dr. Ayalew Getachew Assefa from the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child shared the message of children from across Africa who recently gathered in Libya. The children called upon African governments to ensure that every child, including those with disabilities and those living in remote areas, has access to water and sanitation. They also requested child-friendly toilets in schools and health centres, and urged governments to protect water sources and penalise polluters.

Assefa emphasised, "When children are heard, our programmes, strategies, and policies become stronger. Services become more responsive, and our societies become more just."

Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso reminded everyone that access to clean water, hygiene, and sanitation is a right for every child. She urged the government to fast-track efforts to ensure all children have WASH essentials, particularly as climate change and drought threaten water supplies.

"We have to adapt and learn to collect water for times when drought hits," she said.

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How Malamulele Onward is transforming CP care in Lesotho



Thoboloko Ntšonyane

On a cold winter morning in Maseru, the Malamulele Onward team set out on an outreach exercise, crunching along frost-hardened tracks and navigating pothole-filled roads through the city and surrounding villages.

Their destination is the homes of families raising children with cerebral palsy (CP). At each stop, they stepped into small worlds where mothers balance daily chores while guiding children with stiff, uncertain limbs. Together, they spoke and sang quietly, attended to each child gently, and unpacked their tools, gloves, and sanitisers.

For Malamulele Onward, outreach is never just a physiotherapy visit. It is caring, helping families, and giving hope, all wrapped in dignity.

Bringing therapy to the doorstep

The organisation's parent facilitators trained parents in stretches and positioning, fitted adapted chairs and walkers, and discussed ways to keep children moving despite scarce resources. Malamulele Onward recently came to Lesotho from South Africa to visit families with children living with cerebral palsy.

Some children have hemiplegia affecting the whole left side. In these cases, the left arms cannot fully straighten or lock. In other children, the arms may be uneven, with one appearing shorter than the other. Some legs are weaker; ankles have limited movement, and toes move very little. The degree of each child's condition varies, but they are generally vulnerable to tiredness and stiffness.

Executive Director of Malamulele Onward, Pulane Baloyi, said they use whatever the family has instead of expensive equipment, because some cannot afford it.

"We actually train them to use whatever they have for therapy," she said. "The work we do is meant to benefit the child."

A gentle approach to care

Lydia Ngwana, the lead Master Trainer and Parent Facilitator Mentor for Malamulele Onward, explained that when children are happy, their bodies relax; but when they are not happy, they become stiff and unable to function well.

"What he wants is for you to talk to him. This is his body. Will you be happy if someone just undresses you without saying a word to you?" she told a parent while demonstrating how to help her son relax his body.

One family's journey

Moleboheng told the Malamulele Onward team that her child had difficulty eating solid food and would vomit, only delighting in eating cereal. She was advised to refer him to a dietitian.

"Explain everything to a dietitian so that he can be able to assist him to maintain a healthy body so that it is easier to pick him up," Ngwana emphasised.

Moleboheng said her son was injured on the head during birth. Doctors told her that he has a small brain and suffers from fits. She was also informed that his abilities would come slowly.

"How I met Malamulele Onward's Lesotho-based parent facilitator, 'Maseretse Makhothi, was at Queen II Hospital," said the parent. "She explained to me the condition and how I should help my child."

Makhothi conducts house visits and shows parents how to position their children's bodies and how to lay them in ways that keep them relaxed. She also teaches them how to pick the children up safely.

"During the time I met 'Maseretse, I had learned and understood how to position him and relax him so that he is at ease," the parent said.

She added that even how the child sat was not right, and 'Maseretse taught her how to place a towel so the feet could relax and not be floppy. Sometimes his feet can reach behind his head.

"We have to make him stand from time to time. This is a sandwich standing. Every time he stands, his weight should support his body, and his legs should get used to the weight of his body," said Ngwana, demonstrating how the child should stand.

Ngwana continued: "I am not happy at how he cries. When you check, explain everything to them about his condition and challenges so that they are able to assist him."

The team also uses home-visit follow-up forms that contain information about each

child.

A mother's struggle for support

In the second family, they met a six-year-old child with CP. Mpho said she was taught how to stand him up and how to always ensure he has his shoes on.

She said at physio they do not show them how to properly take care of their child. She commented that Malamulele Onward is checking on them and teaching them how to care for a child with CP.

However, she said that because she is not working due to ill health, she cannot provide for her child. She complained that Social Development last helped her four years ago with diapers and milk for her son.

"They don't care about us; they don't help us. I think they have assisted me once. Every time I go, I am dismissed and told this is not there, this is finished. And that is tiresome," she complained, saying she has given up.

In the third family, they found the child asleep. The child also had CP and was assisted by 'Maseretse. The parent said the assistance had been helpful.

Ngwana said the children have different types of cerebral palsy. She also shared a message of encouragement with the parents: "Know that what you have is not a burden; there is a life despite."

The organisation's origins and reach

Malamulele Onward is a non-profit organisation that helps improve the quality of life of African children with cerebral palsy, especially those from underprivileged families. While it is based in South Africa, its services extend to Lesotho.

It was established by Dr Gillian Saloojee in 2006, who was a physiotherapist at Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto. Baloyi said there was a request from Malamulele in Limpopo to be helped, because there were no physiotherapists to assist children with CP in that area. She gathered other therapists, and that is when the idea was born.

In Lesotho, Baloyi said they work in Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mohale's Hoek, and Mokhotlong. They have also trained parent facilitators in Lesotho who help children with CP.

She said they work closely with hospitals

under programme careers to careers, and a manual has been developed with modules for parents of children with CP. The modules include how to understand CP, the types of CP, CP as a way of life, the levels of CP, different ways of communication using sounds and gestures, and Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI).

Ngwana explained that even after bathing, there should be massage, and the children should be positioned in a healthy way and left sitting comfortably.

"Everything we do with them we prepare the body," said Ngwana. "Just like a soccer player."

From 2012, they expanded to Lesotho. Baloyi said they had visited 16 families in Lesotho, whereas initially they were supposed to be 18, but on arriving they received reports that the children had passed on. Their services are free.

She said they work with the Ministry of Health (MoH) through hospitals but pointed out that they are planning to formalise a relationship through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry.

In South Africa, Baloyi said there is a grant that people with disabilities receive. It covers children with CP, who qualify for it and receive it monthly.

Challenges and the way forward

"We see the value of our work through the support that they have received through 'Maseretse. I think the one problem which is universal, not just in Lesotho, is access. It could be resources," said Baloyi.

"The work that we do focuses on rural places and families that are resource constrained. Because of those challenges, there is limited access to healthcare services."

She added that the distance is sometimes far for parents to take their children to health facilities. As the child grows, she said it becomes difficult for a parent to carry the child, and they end up not taking them to the hospital or the clinic. Because of that, their home visit programme fills the gap, and through 'Maseretse, the children receive continuous therapy.

They work with the child from birth until they are 18, when they can release them from the programme.

Asked what challenges they face when conducting home visits, Baloyi said that sometimes some parents do not show interest in helping the child. She added that they would sometimes ask what she has brought to the child. She said sometimes she would find the parent not there despite making an appointment.

Baloyi said that as much as they want to expand their reach, they are limited by resources.

"We hope the Ministries [Social Development and Health] will see more value in our work and allocate some funding for the work that we do. There is so much that we want to do but we are struggling to do because we have limited funding. We can only work with what we have. But if we can get more funding, the impact will be bigger," she said.

Understanding Cerebral Palsy

Cerebral palsy (CP) is a group of disorders that affect a person's ability to move and maintain balance and posture. "Cerebral" means having to do with the brain, and "palsy" means weakness in or problems with using the muscles.

CP is caused by abnormal brain development or damage to the developing brain, affecting a person's ability to control their muscles. It is the most common motor disability in childhood.

Symptoms of CP vary from person to person. A person with severe CP might need special equipment to walk or might not be able to walk at all and might require lifelong care. A person with mild CP, on the other hand, might walk awkwardly but might not need any special help. CP does not get worse over time,

though the exact symptoms can change over a person's lifetime.

Government support for families

The Disability Equity Act, 2021 calls for the Minister to take necessary steps to achieve the full realisation of the rights of persons with disability.

Mpho Makhetha, the Public Relations Officer at the Ministry of Gender, Youth, and Social Development, explained the support available for families with children living with cerebral palsy, especially those from less privileged backgrounds.

Makhetha said the Ministry supports children living with cerebral palsy through a range of care services, including disability grants, disposable nappies, and assistive devices such as specialised wheelchairs designed to meet their specific needs.

She further stated that the Ministry provides food support for children who struggle with swallowing solid foods. "The Ministry also provides soft food packages, including Nespray, soup, and Ensure milk," Makhetha said.

She explained that the Ministry also coordinates with nutrition experts, stating that it facilitates referrals and coordination with nutritionists, who guide parents and guardians on how to prepare nutritious soft meals suitable for children living with cerebral palsy.

On emotional support, Makhetha highlighted that caregiving is not only medical but also psychological and social. "For emotional support and the well-being of both children and their caregivers, the Ministry offers counselling sessions/services for parents and guardians," she said.

Makhetha added that counselling helps families understand and accept their child's condition, learn appropriate caregiving practices, and encourage the inclusion of their children in family and community life. She emphasised that counselling also supports children's



opportunities to interact and play with other children. Makhetha said counselling is also provided to some children living with cerebral palsy, depending on their individual condition and needs.

How to access support

Makhetha said families can access assistance through local structures. "Services can be accessed by parents or guardians of a child with Cerebral Palsy by approaching the Ministry through Auxiliary Social Workers at the Community Council level or through the district offices," she stated.

She also outlined the documentation required, saying parents must submit: a letter from the local chief confirming the family's residence and the child's condition; the child's birth certificate; and the parent or guardian's identification document.

On eligibility, Makhetha explained that assistance is tied to household vulnerability and income categories. "Families that qualify for assistance are those assessed as being in the poor, ultra-poor, or middle-income categories,

depending on the needs and circumstances of the household," she said.

Earlier this year, Minister of Gender, Youth, and Social Development Pitso Lesaoana said the disability grants will no longer be paid quarterly at M1,800.00; instead, they will be paid monthly at M650.00.

Financial and educational support

Makhetha justified the rationale for support by describing the financial pressure cerebral palsy can place on households. "The Ministry provides this support because caring for a child with CP often places a significant financial burden on families, with the child's needs sometimes exceeding the household income," she stated.

She added that this can affect other children as well: "As a result, the needs of other children in the family may also be affected, including their education and overall well-being."

Makhetha explained that the Ministry's school support differs between primary and high school learners.

She said, "The Ministry covers boarding and

lodging costs for children with Cerebral Palsy attending inclusive primary schools, such as the Resource Centre," while also encouraging parents to enrol learners in inclusive schools registered with MOET.

"Parents are encouraged to enrol their children in inclusive schools registered with MOET," she added.

Makhetha clarified that at primary level, the Ministry covers living costs but not school fees or transport. "At the primary level, the Ministry covers only the boarding and lodging expenses; school fees are not paid at the primary level, and transport costs are also not covered since the children reside on the school campus during the school term."

She then contrasted this with high school level, where more direct fee support applies. "At the high school level, the Ministry provides support by covering school fees as well as boarding and lodging expenses for learners with CP," Makhetha stated.

Names of parents have been changed to protect their identities.

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Lesotho cannot afford slow AfCFTA uptake - PSFL

Staff Reporter

The Private Sector Foundation of Lesotho (PSFL) has raised concerns over what it describes as Lesotho's slow pace in preparing for and participating in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), warning that growing geopolitical tensions and shifting global trade patterns require urgent action to reposition the country's economy.

Responding to the findings of the recent African Trade Report 2026, the business advocacy body said Lesotho risks being left behind at a time when African countries are accelerating efforts to deepen regional trade and reduce dependence on volatile overseas markets.

The warning comes against the backdrop of mounting uncertainty in global trade, rising geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions and shifting alliances that are reshaping international commerce.

The African Trade Report 2026 argues that these developments make the rapid implementation of the AfCFTA more urgent than ever, as African countries seek to strengthen economic resilience through greater continental integration.

According to the report, Africa must move quickly to convert global fragmentation into an opportunity for industrialisation, value addition and sustainable trade growth. The report further identified stronger regional cooperation, improved competitiveness, infrastructure investment, innovative financing, and accelerated AfCFTA implementation as critical pillars for achieving this objective.

And the PSFL believes the message could not be more relevant to Lesotho's domestic economic situation.

"The report highlights that Africa's merchandise trade is increasingly intra-regional, with the AfCFTA offering a critical pathway for diversification. Lesotho has already ratified the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite FTA, and developed a National AfCFTA Implementation Plan, but private sector uptake remains limited, with only 5.3% of firms focusing exclusively on exports," PSFL said.

In a statement to Newsday, the foundation said the country's cautious approach to AfCFTA implementation is particularly concerning given the challenges that have emerged in its traditional export markets.

Lesotho's economy has long depended heavily on textile exports to the United States under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). However, uncertainty surrounding AGOA, coupled with new tariff measures introduced by the United States, has exposed the vulnerability of an economy concentrated in a single export sector.

Recent international assessments have also highlighted the growing pressure on African



exporters following shifts in global trade policy and the need to diversify export destinations.

The PSFL noted that the expiry of AGOA preferences in September 2025 and subsequent tariff measures have already had serious consequences for Lesotho's textile industry.

"The report emphasises that geoeconomic fragmentation, shifting alliances, and trade route disruptions are reshaping global trade. For Lesotho, this is particularly acute: the expiration of AGOA in September 2025 and subsequent US tariffs (temporarily reduced from 50% to 15%) have already triggered factory closures, order cancellations, and significant job losses in the textile sector, which accounts for approximately 58% of exports and 43% of export earnings."

The foundation argued that these developments demonstrate why Lesotho can no longer rely predominantly on extra-African markets and must instead position itself to

take advantage of a continental market of more than 1.4 billion people.

The African Trade Report 2026 highlights AfCFTA as one of Africa's most important economic instruments for building resilience against external shocks. The report notes that intra-African trade is expected to continue growing as member states accelerate implementation of the agreement.

Yet despite the opportunities, the PSFL believes Lesotho has not moved fast enough. Among its recommendations is the immediate operationalisation of the National AfCFTA Strategy with dedicated funding and clear implementation targets.

The organisation also proposes the establishment of an AfCFTA Desk within the Ministry of Trade to provide one-stop support services for exporters seeking access to continental markets.

Such a facility, PSFL argues, would help

businesses understand AfCFTA rules of origin, market access requirements, customs procedures and financing opportunities that currently remain beyond the reach of many small and medium-sized enterprises.

Beyond trade facilitation, the foundation also called for a broader restructuring of the economy. It said Lesotho must reduce its dependence on textiles by supporting growth in agro-processing industries such as horticulture, wool and mohair production, while also promoting light manufacturing and services exports.

The PSFL believes regional markets such as South Africa, COMESA and SADC offer immediate opportunities for Basotho businesses seeking alternative export destinations.

The call aligns closely with the African Trade Report's broader recommendations. The report urges African countries to strengthen industrial ecosystems, promote value-added production, invest in infrastructure and develop regional supply chains capable of withstanding external shocks. It further stresses the importance of promoting "Made in Africa" products and expanding trade finance to support industrialisation.

Another area highlighted by the foundation is improving the business environment. The PSFL proposed the full implementation of the Business Licensing and Registration Regulations of 2020, which reserve 47 business sectors for indigenous Basotho participation while maintaining an attractive environment for foreign direct investment.

In addition, it recommends streamlining customs procedures, reducing administrative bottlenecks and expanding e-government services to lower the cost of doing business.

The African Trade Report also places considerable emphasis on digital trade infrastructure and financial integration. It notes that the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) is gaining momentum across the continent by reducing transaction costs and lowering dependence on foreign currencies such as the US dollar and euro.

More central banks are joining the platform as Africa seeks to facilitate cross-border commerce more efficiently. The report's central conclusion is that Africa can no longer afford a business-as-usual approach in an increasingly fragmented global economy.

With geopolitical tensions continuing to disrupt trade routes, supply chains and investment flows, countries that move quickly to strengthen regional integration and industrial competitiveness will be better positioned to withstand future shocks. Recent international assessments have similarly warned that geopolitical tensions are becoming one of the biggest risks to global trade and economic growth.

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ESTATE LATE MASECHABA MARIA LITABE E710/2026

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

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

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NAME: LITABE LITABE
ADMINISTRATOR

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NAME: THATO M
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ADMINISTRATOR

Road reserve encroachment threatens M1.86bn infrastructure programme

Seabata Mahao

Illegal occupation of road reserves continues to hinder infrastructure development in Lesotho, prompting authorities to intensify clearance operations as part of a M1.86 billion roads and transport programme for the 2026/27 financial year.

The challenge was highlighted by Roads Directorate Director General Teboho Mokhoane during the Directorate's Annual Works Programme presentation, where he identified road reserve encroachment as one of the biggest obstacles to road development and maintenance.

Mokhoane said the Roads Reserve Programme would be prioritised this year to facilitate the rollout of several infrastructure projects under the government's transport development agenda.

The initiative will involve the removal of illegal structures built within road reserves and surveys covering 640 kilometres of urban roads to determine the extent of encroachment. Initial operations will focus on the TY Central Business District, Semonkong town and Seretse Khama Road in Maputsoe.

"The protection of road reserves is essential for road maintenance, public safety and future expansion projects," Mokhoane said.

He noted that illegal occupation of road corridors has persisted for years, complicating maintenance, rehabilitation and traffic management works.

"When people build shops, houses or fences on road reserves, engineers cannot do their work properly," he said.

The Director General described encroachment as one of the Directorate's most difficult operational challenges, often requiring police support.

"We normally seek assistance from the police during such operations. At times we are threatened with guns," he revealed.

Roads still awaiting surveys include Kingsway, Thabong Circle-Lakeside, Ha-Motšoeneng-Ha Makhoathi, Mookoli-Tšosane, Sekamaneng-Ha Foso and Seputana-Maqalika via Temong.

Beyond encroachment, Mokhoane identified climate change as a growing threat to Lesotho's road network, warning that increasingly intense rainfall is causing flooding, damaged bridges and overwhelmed drainage systems.

"The rains we are experiencing today are not the same as those experienced in the past," he said.

In response, engineers are incorporating larger culverts and stronger drainage systems into road designs to improve resilience against extreme weather.

Despite these challenges, Mokhoane said the Roads Directorate has significantly improved its emergency response capacity.

"Unlike in the past, we are now able to restore movement within 24 hours in most cases," he said.

The Directorate is also battling vandalism of road infrastructure, including theft and destruction of road signs, traffic equipment and street lights.

"This increases repair costs and puts drivers and pedestrians at risk," Mokhoane said.

To address the problem, street lighting will be rehabilitated along key routes,

including Kolonyama-Maputsoe-Hlotse, Butha-Buthe-Caledon's Poort, Matala-Masianokeng, Van Rooyen's Gate-Matholeng and Masianokeng-Airport Junction.

The Roads Directorate has been allocated M1,861,492,888.40 for the 2026/27 financial year. Funding will come from the Government of Lesotho, the Road Fund, the World Bank and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

According to Mokhoane, the programme aims to improve connectivity, enhance road safety and stimulate economic growth.

Major projects include upgrading the Thaba-Tseka-Katse, Matlali-Lebakeng and Ha Paramente-Ha Mpharoane roads to bitumen standard, as well as constructing the long-awaited Tebelloong Bridge and approach roads in Qacha's Nek.

The Directorate will also design 13 future projects, including the Butha-Buthe-Oxbow, Mafeteng-Quthing and Moshoeshoe I International Airport Road and Runway projects. In Maseru, 13 major intersections will be redesigned to ease traffic congestion.

Other planned works include rehabilitation of 171 kilometres of paved roads and 281 kilometres of gravel roads, reconstruction of footbridges, Bailey bridges and culverts, upgrading of the Maqhena-Motsemocha Road, and rehabilitation of railway



Roads Directorate Director General Teboho Mokhoane and Director Road Network Maintenance - Boitumelo Dillane

infrastructure.

However, Mokhoane warned that limited funding could affect implementation. He noted that nearly 99 percent of Lesotho's road network requires routine maintenance, placing significant pressure on available resources.

"We may run out of funds considering the amount of work that needs to be completed and the budget that has been allocated to us," he said.

Reflecting on the previous financial year, Mokhoane said operational challenges limited budget utilisation to between 60 and 70 percent.

"It was not an easy year. It was a tough year for us," he said.

He added that several procurement and planning processes have since been completed, paving the way for implementation of projects such as the Maseru Border Post-Maqhaka Road upgrade. Construction at the Monontša Border Facility is also largely complete, with only staff housing remaining outstanding.

Mokhoane stressed that protecting road corridors, adapting infrastructure to climate change and curbing vandalism are essential to achieving the country's long-term transport objectives.

"The job is no longer just building roads. It is now building roads that can survive heavy rains and floods, while also protecting the roads we already have," he said.

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Ntsoaki Motaung

In Mafeteng, a new chapter began for girls and young women on Friday as the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development, with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), launched the Menstrual Health and Hygiene Model. Among the many voices at the event, it was the words of young Polo Letsie that touched the hearts of everyone present, reminding the nation of the real impact this initiative has on young lives.

The launch brought together government officials, local leaders, development partners, teachers, parents, and students, all united by a common mission: to ensure that no girl in Lesotho misses school or loses her dignity because of menstruation.

Letsie, speaking on behalf of her fellow adolescent girls and young women, expressed deep gratitude for the dignity kits, packs containing sanitary towels, distributed during the event.

"We are very proud to be part of this commemoration," she said. "These sanitary towels may seem like a simple gift, but for many of us, they mean dignity, comfort, and peace of mind. Your support reminds us that we are not alone. We are seen. We are cared for."

For Letsie and countless girls like her, access to menstrual products is far more than a matter of convenience; it is the difference between attending school each day with confidence or staying home in fear and shame.

She shared how, at her school, teachers are already helping girls understand their bodies and manage menstruation with dignity. Special rooms in the girls' toilets allow for privacy and cleanliness, and teachers ensure that girls have the products and support they need.

"From Grade 4 to Grade 7, we are taught about physical changes in boys and girls. Our teachers are creating a pure and friendly world by doing so. To all boys, brothers, and fathers, let us support the girls," Letsie said, calling on everyone in the community to play their part.

The new Menstrual Health and Hygiene Model aims to extend this support beyond Polo's school, reaching across Mafeteng and, eventually, the entire country. The programme is being piloted in five community councils, covering 68 primary and high schools, as well as out-of-school girls. Approximately 3,000 women and girls are set to benefit from a year's supply of menstrual products through this initiative.

According to Sister Challa from the Mafeteng District Health Management Team (DHMT), menstruation has long been a source of worry, shame, and even danger for many girls in Lesotho.

"Without access to proper sanitary products,

Letsie's voice shines at menstrual health and hygiene model launch



some girls are forced to miss school, use unsafe materials, or even risk their health. In some cases, girls have had to make risky choices just to get pads, putting them at risk of early pregnancy, disease, and sexual exploitation," she said.

The statistics shared at the launch underscore the severity of these challenges. Sister Challa reported that in 2025 alone, there were 1,328 young people already on antiretroviral therapy (ARVs) in the district, reflecting the ongoing struggle with HIV among the youth.

"Early and unintended pregnancies remain a concern: five cases were recorded among girls aged 15 and under, 389 among girls aged 15-19, and 531 in the 20-24 age group. There were also 83 cases of miscarriage or abortion-related complications. Cases of sexual assault remain troubling. In 2025,

there were seven reported cases of sexual assault among girls aged 10-14, 19 among those aged 15-19, and five among those aged 20-24," she explained.

Sister Challa noted, however, that many more cases likely go unreported.

Inspector Mamosa Maile from the Child, Gender and Protection Unit (CGPU) highlighted additional challenges. She said that in 2025, 29 cases of sexual assault were reported among girls aged 2-14, and 55 among girls aged 15-35. In 2026 so far, there have already been 10 cases among girls aged 2-14 and 26 in those aged 15-35.

"These numbers show the urgent need for education, support, and protection for girls across Lesotho," she said.

Letsie's story, and those of her classmates,

highlight the critical need for education and support, not only for girls, but for boys, parents, and the wider community. "Our teachers talk to us about our body changes, give us sanitary towels, and make sure we are cared for. This calls for thanksgiving to our government," she said.

The importance of this new programme was echoed by many speakers at the event. UNFPA Country Representative John Kennedy Mosoti declared, "These are not just pads; they are dignity restoration." He stressed that girls in rural areas face the greatest challenges and called on everyone, parents, teachers, leaders, and boys, to support girls and end the stigma surrounding menstruation.

Bernard Mokhachane of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development explained that the programme is being piloted in Mafeteng, Mokhotlong, and Maseru before being rolled out to the rest of the country. He emphasised that the model will also support out-of-school girls, ensuring no one is left behind.

The event also highlighted the need for inclusion. Refiloeape Sesinyi from the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) spoke about the challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities, who often have less access to information and support. She welcomed the programme's commitment to inclusivity, regardless of age or ability, and called for greater awareness among families and caregivers.

Deputy Prime Minister Justice Nthomeng Majara reminded everyone that menstruation is a natural part of life and encouraged parents to talk openly with their children. "Girls should not miss school because of their periods," she said. "Let us make sure our children know they are supported."

The Menstrual Health and Hygiene Model in Lesotho is more than a project. It is a promise to every girl like Polo Letsie that her dignity matters, her dreams are important, and her future is bright. As Letsie herself said, "Your support reminds us that we are not alone. You gave us comfort, hope, and respect."

1,802 Basotho return to HIV care

Staff Reporter

In a significant step toward turning the tide on one of the world's most severe HIV epidemics, more than 1,800 Basotho who had fallen out of treatment have been successfully reengaged in care through the United States-funded initiative.

The Back-to-Care Campaign, implemented by the Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) project between October 2025 and January 2026, traced 2,052 individuals who had interrupted their HIV treatment for at least 28 days and successfully returned 1,802 of them to care, a reengagement rate of nearly 88 percent, according to data presented at the Avani Lesotho hotel on Thursday.

"EpiC is one of the many significant projects the U.S. government supports in Lesotho to advance HIV epidemic control, because every life matters," said Chargé d'Affaires Tom Hines of the U.S. Embassy in Maseru, speaking at the symposium.

The campaign, which operated across 106 health facilities in four districts, Maseru, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, and Thaba-Tseka, focused on identifying clients lost to follow-up, tracing them through community networks, and addressing barriers that had kept them from continuing their treatment.

The Back-to-Care Campaign was implemented between October 2025 and January 2026. The initiative went beyond merely returning patients to treatment; it also strengthened HIV prevention efforts by tracing contacts of clients who had



Picture courtesy - Shutterstock

interrupted treatment, providing HIV testing services, and offering pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, to eligible HIV-negative individuals.

Lesotho has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world, with approximately one in five adults living with the virus. The country has made substantial progress toward the U.N. AIDS targets of 95-95-95 — 95 percent of people living with HIV knowing their status, 95 percent of those on treatment, and 95 percent of those achieving viral

suppression.

Hines highlighted U.S. work with Lesotho to drive strategic approaches to healthcare staffing, innovations, and public health for long-term HIV epidemic control, and how U.S. company Gilead Sciences's highly effective lenacapavir offers Lesotho a powerful new prevention option.

Lenacapavir, a twice-yearly injectable medication, has shown remarkable efficacy in preventing HIV infection in clinical trials and represents what health

officials describe as a potentially transformative tool for epidemic control.

The symposium brought together government officials, district health teams, development partners, community-based organizations, and people living with HIV to reflect on campaign achievements and discuss strategies for sustaining treatment continuity.

The objectives of the symposium, among others, were to disseminate the outcomes and impact of the Back to Care Campaign to national stakeholders, share lessons learned, innovations, and best practices in identifying, tracking, and returning clients to HIV treatment services and to strengthen national commitment, policy support, and community ownership toward sustained retention in care.

Client testimonies were also featured, with one returned client sharing what was described as "My Journey Back to Care."

The campaign was implemented by FHI 360, a non-profit human development organization, in consortium with partners including mothers2mothers, EGPAP, LENEPWHA, and Phelisanang Bophelong. The EpiC project is funded by the U.S. government through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, which has invested billions of dollars in HIV programs across Africa over the past two decades.

Mamokete Ntšekhe, Minister of Health, delivered the keynote address, urging sustained national commitment to treatment continuity and community support systems.

Queen 'Masenate brings comfort to new mothers at Maluti Adventist Hospital

Ntsoaki Motaung

For 'Mampho Letele, the arrival of her newborn was a moment caught between joy and despair. Living in the grip of poverty, she had no money for transport to the hospital, nor even a simple set of clothes for her baby.

Her story is a painful reality for many women in Lesotho, who are forced to make the dangerous decision to give birth at home because they lack the most basic essentials for a safe delivery. But this week, a special kind of help arrived, carrying the warmth of royalty and the spirit of community. Thanks to the generosity of Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso and her partners, hope was delivered along with the essentials.

The birth of a child is universally a moment of profound happiness, a dream that couples cherish. Yet, for families like Letele's, this dream is often shadowed by fear and hardship. When her labour began, she was faced with impossible choices. Without funds for transport and without baby clothes, she delivered her child at home.

"I gave birth at home because I had no money to get to the hospital," Letele explained. "Beyond that, I was worried because I didn't have anything ready for my baby. I only came to the hospital later so my baby could receive important vaccines and be immunised."

Letele's experience is far from unique. Across Lesotho, countless women struggle to access the care and support they need during childbirth. The lack of simple necessities, blankets, clothes, and transport, forces mothers into high-risk home deliveries, endangering both their own lives and the lives of their newborns.

This week, however, as Lesotho celebrated the Golden Jubilee, the 50th birthday of Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso, the Queen chose to commemorate her milestone not with pomp, but with profound purpose. She returned to Maluti Adventist Hospital, the very place where she was born, to celebrate by giving back to the community that first welcomed her.

With the steadfast support of the Shoeshoe ea Moshoeshoe Foundation, UNICEF Lesotho, and World Vision International Lesotho, Her Majesty donated a suite of essential items to mothers and newborns at the hospital. The generous gift included sleeping and welcoming blankets for infants, electric heaters for maternity and pediatric wards, baby clothes, toys, back-



packs for mothers and babies, hygiene packs, and even dustbins and garbage bags to help maintain a clean and dignified environment.

Khotso Moletsane, Communications Officer of the Shoeshoe ea Moshoeshoe Foundation, reflected on the significance of the event. "Her Majesty was born at this very hospital in 1976. Returning here for her Golden Jubilee is deeply meaningful for the Queen and for all of us. We wanted to celebrate by giving back to this community, which holds a special place in her heart."

For Letele, the Queen's gift is a promise that other women might be spared her own ordeal. "At least now, no woman will have to stay home to give birth because she has no clothes for her baby," Letele

said gratefully. "This will help women not to feel ashamed because they lack what others have. That is often the biggest problem that pushes vulnerable women to give birth at home."

The celebration at Maluti Adventist Hospital was more than a ceremony; it was a powerful testament to kindness, dignity, and community solidarity. It brought together global partners like UNICEF and World Vision, who work daily to protect children and uplift families in need.

During the event, 'Mamokobo Lebeko, CEO of Maluti Adventist Hospital, expressed her deep gratitude. "It is a great pleasure to thank everyone who made this commemoration possible, especially as we remember the hospital where Her

Majesty was born. We are honoured by the Queen's visit, and her choice to celebrate her milestone here speaks volumes about the quality of service our hospital provides."

Lebeko also offered an inspiring message to the nurses and hospital staff. "Sometimes, you do not know who you are serving. Let your work be so good, humble, and kind to everyone, because you may be helping a future queen, prime minister, or even your next CEO. We are all human beings before we are patients."

She also thanked the organising committee for their dedication and extended appreciation to development partners UNICEF and World Vision for their enduring support.

According to Member of Parliament Mokhothu Makhalanyane, Maluti Adventist Hospital holds a treasured place in Lesotho's history. Beyond being the birthplace of Her Majesty, the hospital has a long tradition of quality healthcare and community service. Over the years, it has been the site of pivotal events, including hosting the country's first AIDS conference in 1987.

The hospital's legacy was echoed by Principal Chief of Koeneng and Mapoteng, Chief Peete Lesaoana Peete, who said: "This area will forever hold a place in history because it is where the Queen was born. I encourage healthcare workers to keep providing quality services, and I wish Her Majesty a happy Golden Jubilee."

UNICEF's Chief of Education, Sara Skovgaard, spoke about the lasting importance of quality care for mothers and newborns. "Every life matters, and every child's first moment should be met with skilled, respectful, and compassionate care," she said. "UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Health to ensure health workers are trained and equipped to provide professional care."

She highlighted UNICEF's work in establishing learning hubs and simulation centres for health workers, as well as supporting emergency care and improving hospital infrastructure. "With these new donations, like bedside screens for privacy and warm blankets, we hope to improve the experience for mothers and newborns at Maluti Adventist Hospital," Skovgaard added.

In her closing remarks, Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate extended her heartfelt thanks to all who made the celebration a success, including His Majesty King Letsie III for his unwavering support and the hospital staff for their dedication.

She shared that her birthday celebration was never just about personal joy, but about honouring her roots and giving back to the community. "Maluti Adventist Hospital serves people from across the country," she said. "I am grateful to celebrate my Golden Jubilee here, where my journey started."

Her Majesty's actions inspired hope and gratitude among all who attended. The celebration was a poignant reminder that even the smallest acts of kindness, a warm blanket, a set of clothes, a gentle touch, can transform lives, restore dignity, and make an extraordinary difference.



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/>





Specific Procurement Notice
Request for Bids Small Works
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Kingdom of Lesotho
Name of Project: Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II)
Contract Title: Rehabilitation of Two (2) Irrigation schemes at Ha Mahlong, Thaba-Tseka (LOT 1)- & Waterfall, Qacha's Nek (LOT 2)

Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: 64220
RFB Reference No.: LS-MAFS-554055-CW-RFB

1. The government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II) with financial support from The World Bank, Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Butha-Buthe, Berea, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, ThabaTseka and Mokhotlong. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit based in Maseru. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract of rehabilitation of Two (2) Irrigation Schemes in Thaba-Tseka at Ha Mahlong (LOT 1) & Waterfall, Qacha's Nek (LOT 2).

2. The MAFSN through SADP II now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for *rehabilitation of Irrigation Schemes in Thaba-Tseka at Ha Mahlong (LOT 1) & Waterfall, Qacha's Nek (LOT 2), for a period of 6 months for each LOT.*

3. Bidders are eligible to bid for both Lots but only One (1) Bidder will be allocated/awarded one (1) Irrigation scheme (LOT) at a time.

4. Bidding will be conducted through national competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" 2025("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security -Smallholder Agriculture Development Project (SADPII) Situated at Department of Livestock Services Moshoeshoe II

Maseru. Procurement Manager at procurement@sadpii.org.ls or at 22312578 and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained by interested eligible bidders at the following address: Procurement unit, Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II, Department of Livestock Services Moshoeshoe II Maseru or SADP II Website: <https://www.sadpii.org.ls/procurement/> and also via Email: procurement@sadpii.org.ls

7. Bids must be delivered to the address at the end of the Bid Document /RFB on or before 30th June 2026 at 1400 hours. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the *at the end of this RFB* on 30th June 2026 at 14:30 hours.

8. All Bids must be accompanied by the following :

Bid Security of LSL 90,000.00 (Ninety-thousand Maloti) LOT 1- Mahlong at ThabaTseka and or **Bid Security of LSL 90,000.00 (Ninety-thousand Maloti) LOT 2- Waterfall, Qacha's Nek**

9. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

10. The address(es) referred to above is (are):

Procurement Office
 Moshoeshoe II
 Livestock
 P.O. Box 24 Maseru 100
 Lesotho

Tel: 22312578

Email: procurement@sadpii.org.ls

Website: <https://www.sadpii.org.ls/procurement/>



Specific Procurement Notice
Request for Bids Small Works
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Kingdom of Lesotho
Name of Project: Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II)
Contract Title: Rehabilitation of Two (2) Irrigation Schemes at Ha Potsane (Lot 1) and Mootsinyane (Lot 2) in Mohale's Hoek

Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: 64220
RFB Reference No.: LS-MAFS-554060-CW-RFB

1. The government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II) with financial support from The World Bank, Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Butha-Buthe, Berea, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, ThabaTseka and Mokhotlong. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit based in Maseru. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract of rehabilitation of Two (2) Irrigation Schemes in Mohale's Hoek at Ha Potsane (Lot 1) and Mootsinyane (Lot 2),

2. The MAFSN through SADP II now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for *rehabilitation of two (2) Irrigation Schemes in Mohale's Hoek at Ha Potsane and Mootsinyane, for a period of 4 months each scheme.*

3. Bidders are eligible to bid for both Lots but only One (1) Bidder will be allocated/awarded one (1) Irrigation scheme (LOT) at a time.

4. Bidding will be conducted through national competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" 2025("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition -Smallholder Agriculture Development Project (SADPII) Situated at Department of Livestock Services Moshoeshoe II Maseru. Procurement Manager at procurement@sadpii.org.ls

[sadpii.org.ls](mailto:procurement@sadpii.org.ls) or at 22312578 and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained by interested eligible bidders at the following address: Procurement unit, Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II, Department of Livestock Services Moshoeshoe II Maseru or SADP II Website: <https://www.sadpii.org.ls/procurement/> and also via Email: procurement@sadpii.org.ls

7. Bids must be delivered to the address at the end of the Bid Document /RFB on or before 30th June 2026 at 1400 hours. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the *at the end of this RFB* on 30th June 2026 at 14:30 hours.

8. All Bids must be accompanied by the following:

Bid Security of LSL 90,000.00 (Ninety-thousand Maloti) LOT 1- Ha Potsane at Mohale's Hoek and or **Bid Security of LSL 90,000.00 (Ninety-thousand Maloti) LOT 2- Mootsinyane, Mohale's Hoek**

9. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

10. The address(es) referred to above is (are):

Procurement Office
 Moshoeshoe II
 Livestock
 P.O. Box 24
 Maseru 100
 Lesotho

Tel: 22312578

Email: procurement@sadpii.org.ls

Website: <https://www.sadpii.org.ls/procurement/>



REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS (RFQ)

PROVISION OF OUTSOURCED BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES

Ahead Technologies (Pty) Ltd invites suitably qualified and experienced service providers to submit quotations for the provision of outsourced Business Support Services.

1. Background

Ahead Technologies (Pty) Ltd is seeking to engage a competent service provider to provide integrated business support services aimed at strengthening the Company's administrative, human resources, payroll, finance, tax compliance and governance functions.

2. Scope of Services

The successful service provider shall be expected to provide the following services:

Administration Services

i. Office administration support; ii. Records and document management; iii. Meeting coordination and minute taking; iv. Correspondence management; v. General administrative support.

Human Resources Administration

i. Employee records management; ii. Leave administration; iii. Recruitment support; iv. Performance management administration; v. Human resources compliance support.

Payroll Administration

i. Payroll processing; ii. Salary administration; iii. PAYE administration; iv. Statutory deductions administration.

Finance and Accounting Support

i. Financial records administration; ii. Accounts payable and receivable administration; iii. Financial reporting support; iv. Bank reconciliation support.

Tax Compliance Support

i. VAT administration and filing support; ii. PAYE compliance administration; iii. Tax filing support; iv. Liaison with the Lesotho Revenue Authority.

3. Minimum Requirements

Interested service providers must demonstrate:

i. Registration as a legal entity in Lesotho; ii. At least three (3) years' relevant experience in providing business support, administration, human resources, payroll, accounting or governance services; iii. Availability of qualified personnel; iv. Capacity to provide payroll and accounting systems; v. Good standing with statutory and regulatory authorities.

4. Submission Requirements

Interested service providers shall submit:
 i. Company profile; ii. Certificate of incorporation; iii. Tax clearance certificate; iv. Detailed proposal outlining methodology and approach; v. Relevant experience and references; vi. Proposed fee structure; vii. Curriculum vitae of key personnel.

5. Evaluation Criteria

Submissions shall be evaluated using the following criteria:
 i. Relevant experience and references – 25% ii. Technical capacity and methodology – 25% iii. Qualifications and experience of key personnel – 15% iv. Systems, tools and support infrastructure – 15% v. Financial proposal – 20%

6. Submission Deadline

Interested service providers must submit their quotations on or before **30th June 2026 at 1200hrs (Midday)**.

Submissions should be hand delivered at:
 Ahead Technologies Office
 Fahhida Building
 Room GF13
 Seputana,
 Maseru.

7. Reservation of Rights

Ahead Technologies reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, to cancel the procurement process, or to negotiate with the preferred bidder. Only shortlisted bidders may be contacted.



Road Fund

INVITATION FOR BIDS

TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ICT EQUIPMENT
(IFB Number: RF/2026/G02)

1. Background and requirements:

The Road Fund Secretariat invites bids from suitably qualified local companies with the capacity to supply Core IP-PBX Platform and computers. The specifications are provided in Table 1 below:

Table 1:

Item Number	Item description	Quantity	Lot number
1.	Core IP-PBX Platform	1	1
2.	14-inch Notebook Next Gen AI PC	5	2
3.	G5 23.8-inch FHD All-in-One PC	14	
4.	14-inch WUXGA AI Mobile Workstation	8	

Bidders are at liberty to bid for any lot or all lots. Bidders who choose to bid for lot 2 shall bid for all the 3 items under lot 2.

Requirements:

a) Bidders must be compliant with their tax and licensing obligations; hence a valid and relevant company Tax Clearance and a valid and relevant Trader's License/Business Identity card must be submitted;
 b) Bidders are expected to deliver within a maximum period of **Four (4) weeks** from date of receiving the official purchase order;
 c) All bids must be accompanied by bid security of 2% of the bidder's own bid amount and must be in the form of a bank guarantee.

2. Request for Clarifications: Request for clarifications may be send in writing to procurement@roadfund.org.ls on or before **9th July 2026**.

3. Detailed tender document is available at the Road Fund website www.roadfund.org.ls

Submission:

Sealed bids clearly marked "**Supply and delivery of ICT equipment IFB No.: RF/2026/G02**" bearing no identification of the bidder should be deposited in the tender box located at the reception area at the address in clause 4 below; on or before **Friday, 24th July 2026 at 10:00 hrs**. Public tender opening will be held on the same day at **10:30 hrs**.

4. The address referred to in clause 3 above for bid submission and opening is:

Road Fund Secretariat,
 Former Department of Rural Roads Building,
 Corner Moshoeshoe & Senate Roads,
 Industrial Area, Maseru.

INVITATION TO BID**Tender No. NDSO/PROMOTIONAL/2026/06**

The National Drug Service Organisation (NDSO) invites eligible bidders to submit bids for the:

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

The procurement includes, among others:

- A5 Renaissance Soft Notebooks
- Women's Jackets
- Men's Jackets
- Jumbo Poster Calendars
- Ball Pens
- Desk Planners
- Stylus Ball Pens

Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Tendering procedures** in accordance with the **Public Procurement Act, 2023**. Physical samples are required for specified items.

Bid Closing Date: 30 July 2026 at 14:00 hrs

Bid Opening: 30 July 2026 at 14:30 hrs

Bid Security: 2% of the Total Bid Price

Bidding documents may be obtained from NDSO upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LSL 1,000.00** or downloaded free of charge from the NDSO website.

For further information, collection and submission of bids contact:

The Procurement Manager
 National Drug Service Organisation (NDSO)
 Procurement Building, Next to Golden Hotel
 Mafeteng 900, Lesotho
 Tel: +266 2221 5300
 Email: tenders@ndso.org.ls
 Website: www.ndso.org.ls

NDSO reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

**Specific Procurement Notice****Request for Bids****(One-Envelope Bidding Process)**

Country: Kingdom of Lesotho
Name of Project: Department of Rural Water Supply
Contract Title: DRW, System Maintenance Programme, 2026-2027

RFB Reference No.: DRWS/M/ GOL2/2026-2027

1. The Ministry of Natural Resources has received financing from the Government of Lesotho(GOL) toward the cost of the Rural Water Supply Projects and intends to apply the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **DRW, System Maintenance Programme, 2026-2027**
2. The Ministry of **Natural Resources** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders of DRWS category **B, C and D** to submit tenders for **DRW, System Maintenance Programme, 2026-2027**
3. Bidding will be conducted through Open National competitive Tender as specified in Public Procurement Act of 2023.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may inspect the Bidding document during office hours; **09:00 hours to 16:00 hours** at the **Department of Rural Water Supply Railway station, Railway Station, Next to WASCO Offices.**
5. The bidding documents in **English, will be collected from Department of Rural Water supply, Railway Station, next to WASCO Offices,**
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **05, August, 2026, at 10:00 am**. Electronic Bidding will **not be** permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below:
**Procurement Unit
 DRWS Office Khubetsoana,
 Resource Centre,
 Next to Appropriate Technology Services (ATS)
 Maseru**
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security of M20,000** in the form of a Bank Guarantee.
8. A Compulsory Pretender meeting shall be held on Monday **13 July, 2026 at 10:00 am** at the DRWS Khubetsoana Resources Centre, Maseru.
9. All questions and clarifications relating to this tender should be directed to The Procurement Unit, Ministry of Natural Resources, Bokamoso Business Suit, Old Christie House, Orpen Road, and Opposite Centre for Accounting Studies Maseru. Tel: 27325160.

Maseru from Friday 26 June 2026 to 05 August 2026, at the non-refundable fee of M1 500.00. Payment shall be made to Accounts Office DRWS Maseru, Bidders must produce the receipt obtained from accounts office to procurement Unit in order to receive the bidding documents.

**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**





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".



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.

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://letshego.com>, 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



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Its show time for Allegro's musical extravaganza!

Chris Theko

After months of anticipation, planning and storytelling, the wait is almost over.

This Friday (today), music lovers from across Lesotho will gather at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre for Allegro Africa In Concert, an event that promises to bring together live music, cultural expression and creative collaboration in a way rarely seen on local stages.

Since the concert was first announced in April, audiences have followed the journey behind the production. They have learned about the vision that inspired the event, the artists helping bring it to life and the desire to raise the standard of live entertainment in Lesotho.

Now, with only days remaining before showtime, here are a few things concertgoers should know before taking their seats. Although Allegro Africa is widely known as one of Lesotho's leading DJs, attendees should not expect a traditional DJ performance.

The concert has been designed as a live musical experience that combines DJ culture with live instrumentation, vocal performances and musical storytelling.

Drawing on influences from jazz, Afro-inspired sounds and contemporary music, the production seeks to blur the lines between genres while creating a seamless musical

journey for audiences.

It is an ambitious undertaking that reflects Allegro's own musical background as a DJ, producer and former percussionist. One of the biggest attractions of the concert is the calibre of artists involved.

Among the featured performers is acclaimed singer and songwriter Mookho Moqhali, whose contribution to Lesotho's music scene spans many years. Known for celebrating Sesotho language and culture through her music, her presence brings an added layer of artistic depth to the production.

The concert will also showcase a range of talented musicians, vocalists and instrumentalists who have spent months preparing for the event.

At its core, the production is a celebration of collaboration and the power of different artistic voices coming together to create something unique.

Throughout interviews leading up to the concert, Allegro Africa has repeatedly described the event as an opportunity to challenge conventional thinking within the local music industry.

The production incorporates elements that are not commonly seen together on Lesotho's stages, including a string ensemble, live band performances and DJ-led musical arrangements.

For many involved, the concert repre-

sents an experiment in what becomes possible when artists are willing to take creative risks.

Whether the event becomes an annual fixture or remains a once-off experience, organisers hope it will inspire other creatives to think beyond traditional formats.

Concertgoers are encouraged to arrive early. The event has been designed to offer more than simply watching performers on stage. Organisers have paid attention to the overall audience experience, creating opportunities for guests to socialise, connect and immerse themselves in the atmosphere before the main performances begin.

Arriving early will also help attendees avoid last-minute queues and ensure they do not miss any part of the programme.

One of the most important themes behind Allegro Africa In Concert is the celebration of local talent. At a time when conversations around the growth of Lesotho's creative economy continue to gain momentum, the concert serves as a reminder of the depth of talent that exists within the country.

From performers and producers to technicians and event organisers, the production represents the efforts of numerous individuals working together to create a world-class experience.

Supporting local events of this nature contributes not only to the success of individual artists but also to the broader development

of the country's creative sector. Perhaps one of the most compelling aspects of the concert is the personal story behind it.

As revealed in previous interviews, the idea of performing with a live band has been part of Allegro Africa's vision for years. Experiences gained from working alongside respected musicians, including Mookho Moqhali, helped shape the concept that audiences will finally witness this Friday.

In many ways, the concert represents the culmination of years of learning, experimentation and artistic growth.

For Allegro Africa, this concert is about more than entertainment. It is about creating an experience that demonstrates what is possible when creativity, collaboration and ambition come together.

"We are making history here," he said in a recent interview.

"Not for Allegro Africa only, but for the whole country. Let the world hear us. Let them see us. Let us experience high standards in our own country."

Whether you are a long-time supporter of local music, a fan of live performance or simply curious about what happens when different musical worlds collide, Allegro Africa In Concert promises to be one of the most talked-about entertainment events of the year. The countdown is almost over. The stage is set. All that remains is for the music to begin.

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From samples to sales: Lesotho must put its products where the world can buy them

Theko Tlebere

At the Jintai Art Museum, nestled inside Chaoyang Park, Africans in China gathered not only to celebrate culture, dance, food, and identity but also to showcase the economic soul of Africa to one of the world's largest consumer markets. The event was organised as part of the Outdoor Africa Day Cultural Festival 2026, held under the framework of Africa Day and the China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges. African embassies were invited to present cultural exhibitions, tourism, heritage, and public engagement activities.

Lesotho showed up. And Lesotho looked beautiful.

At the Lesotho booth, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho in China displayed products made by Basotho hands: cosmetics, Vaseline, honey, handicrafts, mokorotlo, clothing, and other items that carried the quiet dignity of a small mountain kingdom with big creative potential. The booth was not noisy. It did not need to be. The products spoke for themselves.

Then something happened. Chinese visitors, and many others, became curious. They asked questions. They touched the products. They wanted to know what "Tlotsa" was. Some wanted to buy it on the spot. Others wanted to taste Maluti beer. One person was even ready to pay 100 yuan for a single can, roughly M245.00 in Lesotho currency.

But there was a problem. Nothing was for sale. The products were merely samples.

That is where my admiration turned to discomfort. The Embassy had done its job. It had placed Lesotho before the eyes of the world, especially the Chinese market. It had generated attention, curiosity, and demand. It had opened the door. But behind that door, there was no shop, no digital link, no Taobao store, no Pinduoduo page, no WeChat mini-store, and no reliable export channel where interested buyers could say: "I want this. Where can I get it?"

That is the gap. A market without access is a missed opportunity.

Learning from Economic Theory

New Structural Economics offers a useful lesson here. Development does not come from abstract ambition alone. It comes when a country identifies industries consistent with its existing comparative advantages and then removes the binding constraints that prevent those industries from growing.

Lesotho may not be ready to manufacture electric vehicles or smartphones. But Lesotho already has products with cultural identity, natural branding, and niche appeal: propolis, honey, herbal cosmetics, blankets, mokorotlo, crafts, beverages, and cultural fashion. Let us start there. Let us start where we are strong.

Diplomacy Must Be Followed by Delivery

The Embassy deserves congratulations. In fact, it should be encouraged to continue and expand this kind of economic diplomacy. I hope Lesotho's embassies in other countries are doing the same: showcasing Basotho products, telling Lesotho's story, creating curiosity, and connecting culture to commerce.

But embassies cannot carry the entire economy on exhibition tables. Basotho producers must now move from display to delivery.

This is even more actionable because China has widened market access for African exports. From 1 May 2026, China extended zero-tariff treatment to all African countries with diplomatic relations with Beijing, building on the December 2024 decision to grant zero tariffs on 100 percent of tariff lines for 33 least developed African countries. The Beijing Action Plan under FOCAC further emphasised duty-free treatment for least developed countries and cooperation on inspection, quarantine, and standards for African exports.

The excuse is becoming weaker. Tariffs are no longer the main wall. Standards are. Logistics are.

Quantity is. Packaging is. Certification is. Digital presence is. Consistency is.

The Reality of the Chinese Market

China is not a village market where one can arrive with ten bottles and hope for sympathy. China is scale. China is regulation. China is digital. China is speed.

A customer in Beijing expects to scan a code, pay instantly, and receive the product through a delivery chain that works. A buyer in Shanghai wants product information in Chinese. A distributor in Guangzhou wants customs documents, shelf-life data, barcode systems, quality certification, and stable supply.

That is not impossible. It only requires dedication.

A Roadmap for Export Success

For products like "Tlotsa," the first step is not to dream of conquering China overnight. The first step is to formalise the product for export: ingredients, safety testing, labelling, packaging, shelf life, and compliance with Chinese cosmetic or consumer-goods regulations. No shortcuts. No village-style improvisation. Quality must travel before the product travels.

Second, producers must aggregate. One small producer alone may not supply China. But ten producers organised under a cooperative, export consortium, or national "Made in Lesotho" platform might. Lesotho needs product clusters, not isolated heroes.

Third, government agencies, the private sector, and the embassy should build a digital bridge.

Every product displayed at an embassy booth should have a QR code. Scan it. See the producer. See the price. See the story. See the ordering channel. Even if the product is not yet fully available in China, buyers should be able to register interest, pre-order, or connect with distributors.

Fourth, Lesotho should choose a few pilot products. Not everything. Just a few. Honey, Tlotsa, blankets, mekorotlo, handicrafts, and selected fashion items. Maluti beer could follow later, once alcohol import rules, licensing, distribution, and branding are properly handled. Beer is not the same as a basket. It is heavily regulated. But regulated does not mean impossible.

Fifth, we need trade discipline. Export markets punish inconsistency. If the label says 250ml, it must be 250ml. If delivery takes 15 days, it must not become 60 days. If a product claims natural ingredients, that claim must be provable. The world does not buy pity. It buys trust. And trust is built on standards.

The Time for Action Is Now

The lesson from Beijing is simple. Lesotho already has products that attract attention. The Embassy has proven that. The Chinese market has confirmed it. The market has whispered. Now Basotho must answer.

We cannot continue celebrating demand without building supply. We cannot continue sending samples to embassies while leaving the actual market empty. We cannot clap for "Made in Lesotho" only when it is placed on a table for national pride, then fail to place it online for commercial purchase.

Culture must become commerce. Pride must become production. Samples must become sales.

The Embassy of Lesotho in China deserves commendation for giving Basotho products visibility in one of the most important markets in the world. But the next move belongs to us: producers, entrepreneurs, regulators, exporters, banks, trade officials, and ordinary Basotho who believe that a small country can still sell big ideas.

Lesotho is already on the table. Now let us put Lesotho on the shelf. **The future is now.**

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The imperative of dialogue in South African-Basotho migration governance



Theko Tlebere

The current immigration discourse in South Africa has reached a critical and emotionally charged juncture. Recent pronouncements from the 'March and March' movement, advocating for the departure of undocumented foreign nationals from South Africa by 30 June 2026, have created an atmosphere characterised by heightened tension, uncertainty, and apprehension within numerous migrant communities. For Basotho residing in South Africa, this moment raises profound questions regarding documentation, human dignity, regional historical ties, and the future viability of the Lesotho Exemption Permit.

The sovereign right of South Africa to regulate migration is unequivocally acknowledged. Indeed, no credible argument posits that a sovereign state should relinquish control over its borders, documentation processes, or law enforcement mechanisms. However, the governance of migration must not be ceded to extra-legal demands, fear-mongering, or populist pressures. A constitutional democracy is obligated to operate within the ambit of established law, informed by comprehensive consultation, empirical evidence, and humane administrative practices. The ongoing stakeholder engagements by the South African Department of Home Affairs on the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit and the Lesotho Exemption Permit are important.

These consultations transcend mere bureaucratic formalities; they constitute an indispensable democratic process. They facilitate governmental engagement with affected communities, employers, civil society organisations, religious institutions, legal professionals, migrant populations, and neighbouring states. Furthermore, they enable South Africa to distinguish factual realities from emotional responses. During

periods of societal frustration, migrants frequently become scapegoats for issues such as unemployment, crime rates, inadequate public services, and economic hardship. However, the origins of these challenges are considerably more entrenched than migration alone. They are fundamentally rooted in systemic inequality, underdeveloped local economies, corruption, persistent unemployment, inadequate planning, and historical patterns of exclusion. The removal of migrant populations will not automatically generate employment, ameliorate health-care provision, enhance educational standards, or eradicate crime.

This underscores the critical importance of stakeholder engagement. It provides the government with an opportunity for proactive governance, rather than mere reactive responses. It enables the state to pose pertinent questions: specifically, it facilitates inquiry into the demographic profile of permit holders, their residential patterns, occupational engagement, employment rates, educational enrolment, entrepreneurial activities, and familial circumstances. Furthermore, it prompts consideration of mechanisms for improving documentation processes, establishing requisite security checks, and devising viable legal pathways for compliant permit holders. Such inquiries are indicative of a diligent and responsible state.

For Lesotho, the issue carries an even greater degree of sensitivity. Basotho migration to South Africa is neither a novel phenomenon, an accidental occurrence, nor a temporary arrangement. Rather, it is an intrinsic component of a protracted historical relationship between two profoundly interconnected societies. Lesotho is geographically enclaved within South Africa. For generations, Basotho individuals have traversed the border into South Africa for purposes

of employment, education, commerce, religious practice, familial ties, and subsistence. Basotho labour has been instrumental in the development of South Africa's mining sector, agricultural enterprises, domestic economy, urban centres, and religious institutions. A significant number of Basotho families possess kinship networks spanning both sides of the border. Indeed, some individuals were born, educated, and employed within South Africa, having known no other social environment.

Consequently, it is insufficient for Lesotho to adopt a passive observational stance from Maseru. The Government of Lesotho must ensure robust representation at these stakeholder meetings. Its delegation must comprise officials possessing expertise in migration dynamics, labour policy, home affairs administration, foreign relations, diaspora engagement, and social protection mechanisms. Lesotho should not participate in these consultations merely as a passive observer. Instead, it must present a well-articulated national position, supported by comprehensive data, historical context, and concrete proposals.

The Government of Lesotho must articulate to South Africa that Basotho nationals are not alien to the regional context. They constitute an integral part of the social and economic fabric of Southern Africa. Moreover, it must put forth pragmatic solutions. These could encompass joint registration systems, biometric data updates, police clearance procedures, labour verification protocols, employer confirmation mechanisms, student status verification, cross-border family documentation, and a clearly defined transitional pathway from exemption permits to ordinary legal status for eligible individuals. Lesotho must unequivocally demonstrate its commitment to lawful migration, as opposed to unregulated move-

ment.

Concurrently, South Africa must uphold its ethical and legal obligations. It must resist the temptation to formulate policy driven by fear. While safeguarding its citizens, it must equally uphold the rule of law. Enforcement of immigration laws must proceed without fostering xenophobia. Engagement with frustrated communities is necessary, but without permitting vigilante movements to dictate national policy. The peril inherent in allowing public anger to dictate migration decisions lies in the potential targeting of innocent individuals. Should society sanction the threatening, harassment, or humiliation of foreign nationals, the integrity of the law itself is compromised.

The Lesotho Exemption Permit should, therefore, not be summarily terminated; rather, it warrants enhancement. South Africa can fortify compliance by mandating updated documentation, valid passports, verifiable proof of residence, evidence of employment or enrolment in educational institutions, tax compliance where pertinent, and comprehensive criminal background checks. Individuals who do not meet the stipulated criteria can be addressed through established legal processes. Conversely, those who have resided peacefully, engaged in legitimate employment, pursued education, fulfilled financial obligations, raised families, and adhered to legal frameworks merit a humane and pragmatic pathway.

Religious institutions also bear a significant responsibility. As moral institutions, churches are obligated to denounce xenophobia, whilst simultaneously encouraging migrants to adhere to legal requirements. The Anglican Church, the Catholic Church, Evangelical denominations, and other faith communities can contribute through initiatives such as documentation awareness campaigns, community education, anti-violence advocacy, and support for vulnerable families. They can serve as a reminder to both governments that migration encompasses more than mere border control; it fundamentally concerns human beings.

The fundamental reality is that Basotho nationals are inextricably linked to the region. Geographical proximity, shared history, familial bonds, labour migration, and existential imperatives have forged a permanent nexus between Lesotho and South Africa. The pertinent question, therefore, is whether this migratory phenomenon will be governed through structured documentation and the preservation of human dignity, or through the propagation of fear and resultant disorder.

South Africa is presently allowed to demonstrate exemplary leadership. Through the continuation of meaningful consultations, the steadfast protection of the rule of law, and the renewal or enhancement of the Lesotho Exemption Permit, it can demonstrate that robust migration governance does not necessitate punitive measures. Instead, it demands courage, equity, and sagacity.

Basotho nationals do not petition South Africa to abrogate its legal frameworks. Rather, they request that South Africa acknowledge its historical ties, uphold human dignity, and prioritise lawful regularisation processes over reactive panic. Such an approach aligns with the principles of good neighbourliness, the tenets of constitutional democracies, and the imperatives of justice. The future is NOW!

Former Lijabatho coach lands bigger job

Seabata Mahao

Former Lijabatho Football Club (FC) head coach James Madidilane has officially been unveiled as assistant coach of South African Premier Soccer League side Golden Arrows FC, marking a swift return to his homeland after ending a highly successful stint in Lesotho football.

Golden Arrows announced on June 24, that Madidilane will serve as assistant to newly appointed head coach Pitso Dladla as the Durban-based club reshapes its technical team ahead of the new season.

The club also confirmed the appointment of Jacob Mokhasi as goalkeeper coach following his departure from Marumo Gallants. The duo replaces outgoing assistant coaches Musa Bilankulu and Kagiso Dikgacoi, while Marcus Mashilo leaves his role as goalkeeper coach.

For many local football followers, the appointment comes as little surprise after Madidilane recently revealed that he was exploring opportunities in South Africa following his departure from Vodacom Premier League champions Lijabatho FC.

Last week, the South African tactician moved to clarify speculation surrounding his exit from the Morija-based side, insisting that he did not resign from the club.

"I did not resign," Madidilane told Newsday Sports in an exclusive interview.

"We had a meeting with the management of the club to discuss, among other things, my future with the club as my contract was going to end in November this year. After a lot of deliberations, we reached a mutual agreement with the management to part ways as part of doing what was best for everyone's interests."

His departure brought an end to a remarkable chapter at Lijabatho, where he guided the club to its first-ever Vodacom Premier League title during the 2025/26 season and secured a historic qualification for the CAF Champions League.

Although he declined to publicly discuss the challenges that influenced his departure, Madidilane acknowledged that internal issues within the club contributed to the decision.

"There have been a lot of things happening within the club, but I would rather not discuss them publicly," he said.

The former Bantu FC coach revealed at the time that he was looking for opportunities either abroad or back in South Africa.

"Given the situation at hand, I also found it better for me to move on abroad or back home to look for greener pastures. I have played my fair share in Lesotho; now it is time to move on."

Those comments have now materialised with his appointment at Golden Arrows, where he reunites with top-flight football in

South Africa.

Madidilane leaves Lesotho with an impressive legacy. Before transforming Lijabatho into league champions, he enjoyed tremendous success with Bantu FC, leading the Mafeteng giants to back-to-back league titles in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 seasons. He also served as assistant coach of the senior national team, Likuena, further enhancing his reputation as one of the most respected coaches to have worked in Lesotho football.

Despite his departure, Madidilane expressed deep gratitude to the country that helped shape his coaching career.

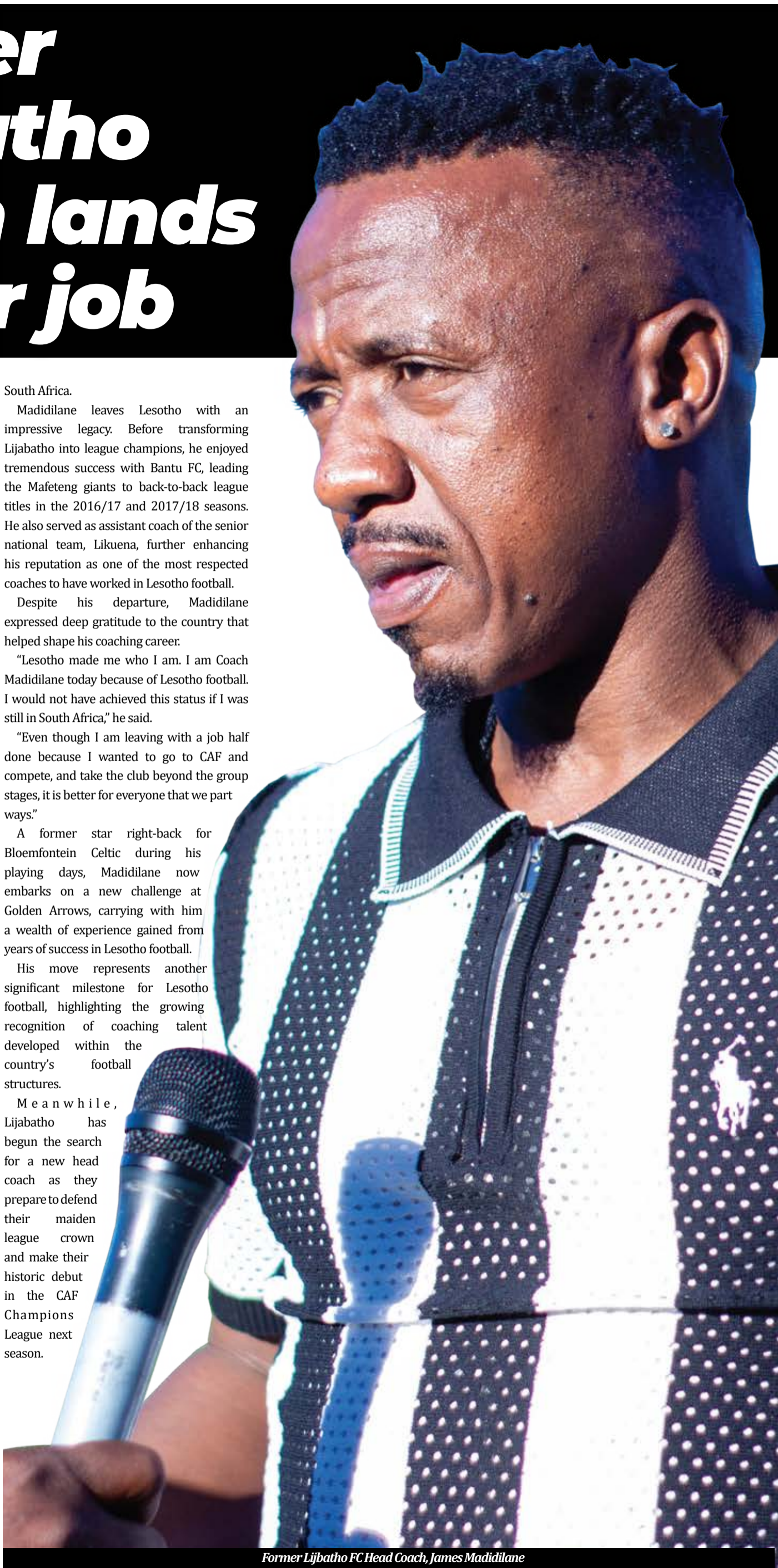
"Lesotho made me who I am. I am Coach Madidilane today because of Lesotho football. I would not have achieved this status if I was still in South Africa," he said.

"Even though I am leaving with a job half done because I wanted to go to CAF and compete, and take the club beyond the group stages, it is better for everyone that we part ways."

A former star right-back for Bloemfontein Celtic during his playing days, Madidilane now embarks on a new challenge at Golden Arrows, carrying with him a wealth of experience gained from years of success in Lesotho football.

His move represents another significant milestone for Lesotho football, highlighting the growing recognition of coaching talent developed within the country's football structures.

Meanwhile, Lijabatho has begun the search for a new head coach as they prepare to defend their maiden league crown and make their historic debut in the CAF Champions League next season.



Former Lijabatho FC Head Coach, James Madidilane

M100k up for grabs as Alliance Challenge returns

Lungile Maseela

A winner takes all M100 000 prize awaits the winner of the 2026 Alliance Winter Challenge as the annual off-season football tournament returns for its ninth edition, with organisers promising a bigger and better spectacle for football fans.

The tournament was officially launched at Alliance Insurance Gardens in Maseru on Tuesday, where sponsors, football administrators and representatives from participating clubs gathered to unveil plans for this year's competition.

This year's edition marks another milestone for the tournament as it continues to include women's football, following the successful introduction of the women's category last year.

Alliance Insurance Communications and Marketing Manager, Limakatso Mokobocho, said the competition was designed to address some of the challenges footballers face during the off-season.

"The challenge aims to address three issues football players face. Firstly, it creates an opportunity for teams and players to generate income during the off-season. Secondly, it allows clubs to network and strengthen relationships with one another, and thirdly, it helps players maintain their fitness levels ahead of the new season," Mokobocho said.

She said the growth of the competition reflects Alliance Insurance's continued commitment to football development in Lesotho.



Alliance Challenge 2026 launch at Alliance Garden in Maseru

"This year's challenge is going to be even better, particularly with the growth of the women's tournament. Participating teams will receive jerseys, trophies, medals and all the necessary logistical support. They will also share gate takings generated during the competition," she said.

Mokobocho announced that tickets for the men's matches will cost M40, while supporters attending the women's matches will pay M20. Details regarding VIP tickets are expected to be announced later.

The women's competition will take place on 25 July, while the men's tournament is

scheduled for 1 August.

Women's football representative Baholo Motena welcomed the continued inclusion of women's teams in the competition.

"Last year we finally got an opportunity to be part of the Alliance Winter Challenge, and we are truly grateful for that opportunity. We will work hard and continue improving the women's game," Motena said.

She also called on supporters to attend the matches and rally behind women's football.

"We are calling on supporters to come and support the ladies."

Premier League Management Committee

(PLMC) Acting Director praised Alliance Insurance for its long-standing investment in local football.

"It is a great initiative and we appreciate the support Alliance continues to provide to football clubs. The growth we continue to see is evidence of that commitment. Other companies should take note of what Alliance has done for football and follow in their footsteps," he said.

Meanwhile, Lioli FC president Lebohang Thotanyane expressed gratitude to Alliance Insurance for its unwavering support over the years.

"The support we receive from Alliance continues to bear fruit. Last season six trophies were awarded in the Premier League, and five of them found their way back to Alliance-sponsored clubs. That shows the value of the investment being made in these teams," they said.

Thotanyane added that the sponsorship has played a significant role in helping clubs remain competitive both on and off the field.

The women's semi-finals will see Linare FC face Lioli FC at 10:00 before Matlama FC take on LCS FC at 12:00, with the final scheduled for 15:00.

The men's competition will follow the same fixture format on 1 August, with Linare FC facing Lioli FC in the opening semi-final before Matlama FC meet LCS FC. The final will also kick off at 15:00.

With a M100 000 winner-takes-all prize, growing support for women's football and continued backing from Alliance Insurance, this year's Winter Challenge promises to deliver an exciting showcase of local football talent ahead of the new season.

Seabata Mahao

Basketball development in Lesotho received a significant boost on Wednesday when the Lesotho Basketball Association (LBA) received a donation of basketball equipment from the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 and FIBA Africa.

The handover ceremony, held at the Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture was attended by government officials, sports administrators and members of the media among others.

It marked another step in efforts to expand basketball participation and strengthen youth development through sport across the country.

Speaking at the event, AUSC Region 5 Chief Executive Officer Stanley Mutoya described the donation as far more than a contribution of sporting equipment.

"Today's handover is about creating opportunities, nurturing talent, building communities and strengthening pathways that enable young people to realize their full potential," said Mutoya.

He emphasised the rapid growth of basketball worldwide, particularly the emergence of 3x3 basketball, which has become an Olympic discipline and offers affordable and accessible opportunities for youth participation.

Mutoya said the equipment donation aligns with AUSC Region 5's vision of building 'a Winning Region' and "an Active Region" by increasing participation levels and strengthening talent development systems.

"More participation means larger talent pools, stronger clubs, more competitive leagues and ultimately more athletes capable of representing Lesotho and the Region with distinction," he said.

The AUSC Region 5 CEO also challenged schools, clubs, basketball administrators and communities to ensure the equipment reaches courts and development programmes rather than remaining in storage facilities.

Timely boost for Basketball

"Let it not remain in storerooms. Let it be seen on courts, in schools, in communities and in development programmes. Let it become an instrument for transformation," he urged.

Receiving the equipment on behalf of the Government of Lesotho, Minister of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture Stephen Mputi expressed gratitude to AUSC Region 5 and FIBA Africa for what he described as an investment in the nation's future.

"Today marks a proud moment for Lesotho as we receive these basketballs under the FIBA Legacy Initiative," said Mputi.

"This gift is more than just sporting equipment. It is an investment in the future of our youth. Through basketball, we will nurture talent across the country, provide opportunities for young people to shine and build a strong pipeline of athletes who can represent Lesotho with pride."

The Minister highlighted sport's role in



Lesotho Basketball Association (LBA) officially received a donation of basketball equipment from the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 and FIBA Africa during a press conference

instill discipline and teamwork. They will be tools for character building and for fighting the scourge of drug abuse that threatens our communities," he said.

Mputi added that the donation would help spread basketball to schools, villages and towns throughout Lesotho, ensuring greater access to the sport for young people regardless of their location.

"We believe that sport is a powerful force for unity, health and social transformation," he said.

Beyond basketball development, Mutoya outlined AUSC Region 5's broader ambitions for Lesotho's sporting future.

He noted that Lesotho's unique high-altitude environment provides a natural advantage for athlete training and could position the country as one of Southern Africa's leading centres for high-performance sport.

The AUSC Region 5 chief highlighted the potential transformation of the Rapokolana Swimming Complex into a Regional Centre of Excellence for swimming development and high-altitude training.

According to Mutoya, such an investment could attract regional and international athletes, stimulate sports tourism, create employment opportunities and contribute to economic growth.

"It is the aspiration of AUSC Region 5 that, subject to continued development and investment, the Rapokolana Swimming Complex could in future be considered as a satellite centre under the Region's Podium Performance Programme," he said.

The equipment donated to the Lesotho Basketball Association will be distributed nationwide to schools, villages and towns to strengthen grassroots basketball development, improve access to facilities and create pathways for talented young players to progress through the sport.

Both AUSC Region 5 and the Government of Lesotho expressed confidence that the initiative will contribute to healthier communities, stronger clubs and future national team success.

addressing social challenges, particularly among young people.

"These basketballs will help us achieve something even greater. They will take children off the streets, give them purpose and



Lijabatho ring changes



Lijabatho FC celebrating.

Seabata Mahao

Reigning Vodacom Premier League (VPL) champions Lijabatho FC have embarked on a major restructuring of their technical department ahead of the 2026/27 season, parting ways with key members of the title-winning setup as the club prepares for its maiden CAF Champions League campaign.

The most significant change is the departure of head coach James Madidilane, who recently joined South African side Golden Arrows after guiding the Morija-based outfit to a historic league title. His exit has triggered a broader shake-up within the club's technical structure, with several senior figures also leaving.

Lijabatho FC Communication and

Marketing Manager Mosia Malakane confirmed that the club has parted ways with Technical Director Mokoena Mohapi, Head Coach James Madidilane, Second Assistant Coach Bushi Moletsane and Club Analyst Maile Mokoena.

The departures mark the end of an era for a technical team that played a central role in delivering the club's first-ever VPL crown and securing qualification for continental football.

In response, the club has already begun rebuilding its technical department. Paradise Moeketsi has been appointed as the new Technical Director, while Tiisetso Molete has been promoted to Assistant Coach.

The champions are also actively searching for a new head coach to

replace Madidilane, with indications that the club is targeting a candidate with international exposure to lead the team through the demands of both domestic and continental competition.

Replacing Madidilane will be one of the biggest decisions facing the club. The outgoing coach leaves behind an impressive record after transforming Lijabatho into league champions and establishing them among the country's leading football institutions.

His successor will be expected not only to defend the league title but also to guide the club through the challenges of competing in the CAF Champions League for the first time.

The technical changes were announced as part of a broader restructuring exercise

that also includes adjustments to the playing squad.

In a statement released on June 25, 2026, the club welcomed its latest additions while expressing gratitude to departing personnel.

"We are delighted to officially welcome our new players and technical members to the club. We wish them a successful journey and look forward to seeing them contribute to the team's ambitions both on and off the field," the statement read.

"At the same time, we would like to thank the players and technical staff who have been released from the club. Your dedication, commitment, and service have been greatly appreciated. We wish you nothing but success in your future endeavors."

The statement concluded: "Welcome to our new recruits, and thank you to those moving on. Once a member of our family, always a member of our family."

Alongside the technical overhaul, Lijabatho have strengthened their squad through several new signings. The club has secured the services of defender Motlomelo Mkwanazi, goalkeeper Motlatsi Sebakala, left-back Mapheelle Manoso, forward Lehlohonolo Fothoane and defender Koketso Kharajane.

The club has also released goalkeeper Jessy Matsie and player Mohami Percy Mohami as part of its preparations for the new season.

The restructuring signals Lijabatho's determination to build on last season's success rather than simply preserve the status quo. With continental football looming and expectations rising, club management appears intent on assembling a technical team capable of navigating the increased demands that come with competing on multiple fronts.

The coming weeks are expected to be crucial as the champions complete their search for a new head coach and continue strengthening both the technical bench and playing squad ahead of what promises to be one of the most important seasons in the club's history.



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