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Kananelo Boloetse

While thousands of Lesotho garment workers face mass retrenchment and factory closures amid the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) chaos, five out of six major American retailers allegedly sourcing from the affected plants could not be bothered to respond, according to the Business and Human Rights Centre (BHRC).

Only JCPenney offered a polished corporate statement that acknowledged the suffering, without committing to do anything meaningful about it.

BHRC, formerly and still widely known as the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC), is an international non-profit/non-governmental organization focused on corporate accountability and human rights.

Founded in 2002, it tracks the human rights impacts, positive and negative, of over 10,000 companies across more than 180 countries. This includes allegations of abuses, company responses, policies, lawsuits, and benchmarks.

The Centre is known for its neutral, fact-based tracking while strongly advocating for greater corporate transparency and remedy for victims.

In March 2026, reports emerged that garment workers in Lesotho were being retrenched en masse and facing factory closures, allegedly due to buyer reluctance amid uncertainty over the continuation of AGOA, which grants garments duty-free access to the United States market.

BHRC then invited five brands allegedly sourcing from affected factories to respond. Only JCPenney, which is allegedly linked to TZICC, provided a response.

Perry Ellis, allegedly sourcing from Maseru-E; Authentic Brands, allegedly sourcing from Precious Garments for its Reebok brand; Fabletics, allegedly sourcing from Hippo Knitting; and retailers Costco and Walmart, all allegedly linked to TZICC, did not respond to the Centre's inquiries.

In a letter dated June 30, 2026, JCPenney Senior Manager for Responsible Sourcing and Sustainability Katy Evans acknowledged the impact of sourcing changes on workers but did not commit to reversing the decisions.

"We appreciate the concerns raised regarding sourcing changes affecting workers at TZICC in Lesotho and recognize the impact that shifts in production can have on workers, their families, and the surrounding community," Evans wrote.

However, the company stopped short of committing to reverse or alter its sourcing decisions, stating only that it "recognises the importance of responsible purchasing practices and continued dialogue among brands, suppliers, worker representatives, civil society organizations, and policymakers."

JCPenney reaffirmed its commitment to

US retailer speaks as Lesotho garment workers lose jobs

... Five other retailers look away



Nien Hsing Garments factory during knock off time.

internationally recognised labour standards through its Code of Conduct, which it says sets clear expectations for suppliers. The company said it monitors compliance and engages with suppliers to encourage responsible purchasing practices.

"When concerns are identified, we seek to understand the circumstances, engage constructively with relevant stakeholders where appropriate, and respond in accordance with our policies and the information available," Evans said.

The letter also voiced strong support for the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), saying the trade agreement "supports economic opportunity and resilient manufacturing communities" in Africa.

JCPenney did not directly address questions about whether the sourcing changes would be reversed or what steps it was taking to mitigate the impact on affected workers at TZICC.

Lesotho's textile, primarily garment/apparel, industry is the country's largest private-sector employer and a cornerstone of its export economy, though it remains highly vulnerable to external shocks.

The modern textile industry took off in the early 2000s thanks to the AGOA, a U.S.

trade program signed in 2000 that granted duty-free and quota-free access to the U.S. market for eligible sub-Saharan African countries.

This preference, combined with Lesotho's relatively cheap and skilled labour, largely female workforce, political stability relative to some neighbours, and eligibility for "third-country fabric" rules, allowing imports of fabric from Asia, transformed the sector.

Factories, mostly foreign-owned, from Taiwan, China, and South Africa, sprang up in industrial zones, producing jeans, t-shirts, and other apparel mainly for U.S. brands.

At its peak, the sector employed over 50,000 workers and drove rapid growth in manufacturing exports. It has consistently accounted for a large share of manufactured exports and a significant portion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and foreign exchange earnings.

The industry is overwhelmingly export-oriented, with the U.S. as the dominant market for years, followed by South Africa.

AGOA has been central to the industry's success but also its fragility.

The program lapsed in September 2025, triggering sharp declines in orders,

combined with new U.S. tariffs, initially high, later adjusted. A short-term renewal was passed in early 2026, extending AGOA until December 31, 2026, providing temporary relief and some stabilisation, but only about a year of certainty.

This has slowed contractions and allowed some production to resume, yet uncertainty persists.

According to the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL)'s 2025 Financial Stability Report, more than 40 percent of jobs in Lesotho's textile sector were lost in 2025 due to U.S. tariffs and weak global demand.

This hit the country's largest private-sector employer hard, leading to a decline in export revenues and exposing the lack of market diversification.

The report noted that these external shocks dampened demand, weakened business performance, and increased credit risks for banks as textile firms struggled with debt servicing.

Non-performing loans rose across manufacturing and related sectors. While the short AGOA renewal has offered some breathing room, the Central Bank highlighted broader structural vulnerabilities, including concentrated credit risks and reliance on narrow export markets.

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Ntsoaki Motaung & Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Barely two years after it was handed over as one of Lesotho’s most modern public health facilities, Maseru District Hospital is operating without a functional incinerator, forcing hazardous medical waste to accumulate on its premises and exposing patients, staff and nearby communities to potential health and environmental risks.

The situation has raised questions about how a newly constructed hospital could begin operations without a functioning waste disposal system, despite generating large volumes of infectious medical waste every day.

Maseru District Hospital is a modern public hospital. It opened on June 13, 2024, as the country’s second major referral hospital, alongside Queen ‘Mamohato Memorial Hospital QMMH.

It was primarily built to relieve overcrowding and pressure on QMMH. It is designed to serve around 400,000 patients from Maseru and surrounding districts. It has 200 beds and functions as a district and referral hospital offering specialised care.

Construction began around April 2021. It was funded by the Chinese government (approximately CN¥400–430 million grant) as part of the Belt and Road Initiative and built by the Shanghai Construction Group.

The World Health Organization (WHO) provided technical support.

It is sometimes referred to in connection with an associated Eye Clinic and features modern facilities, including specialist departments in infectious diseases, dermatology, ophthalmology, an intensive care unit (ICU), and a histopathology lab.

Now, behind the hospital’s mortuary, piles of used bandages, syringes, needles, placentas and other infectious waste continue to grow as the hospital struggles to dispose of them.

The problem came into sharp focus in early May when Parliament’s Social Cluster Portfolio Committee visited the facility.

Committee chairperson Mokhothu Makhalan-yane said Members of Parliament (MPs) found the designated medical waste storage area overflowing.

“The area where medical waste is kept is very full and some of it is spilling out of the storage,” Makhalan-yane said. “There is a foul smell, and I foresee that if action is not taken, we will have rats. There are already insects, and soon there will be worms.”

The committee found waste spilling out of stor-

Incinerator failure turns new hospital into waste dump



age areas, with torn refuse bags exposing infectious materials while pools of unidentified fluids had seeped onto the ground.

Sources within the hospital say the incinerator has never worked since the facility was handed over to the Government of Lesotho by the People’s Republic of China in June 2024.

As a result, waste that should ordinarily be destroyed on-site has had to be transported to other health facilities with working incinerators.

For a time, Newsday has learned, a porter volunteered to transport waste to Scott Hospital for disposal, hoping the hospital management would recognise the effort and assign the duty formally. But when it became clear that no one cared, even that small act of initiative died.

Since then, the waste has simply been left to pile up.

Hospital sources say the breakdown has also affected compliance with infection prevention protocols.

Medical waste that should be separated into colour-coded biohazard containers is now frequently disposed of in ordinary black refuse bags.

“It means protocols are not followed and everyone’s health is at risk,” one source said.

The source warned that the situation increases the risk of hospital-acquired infections while also exposing cleaners, waste handlers and the public to potentially infectious materials.

Environmental concerns are also mounting.

According to hospital sources, flies breed around the waste while rainwater carries contaminated runoff into the surrounding soil, raising fears of land.

“The situation affects not only people but also the environment because both the land and the air be-

come polluted,” another source said. Hospital spokesperson Kekeletso Motanyane acknowledged that the hospital has no functioning incinerator.

Motanyane said medical waste is temporarily stored before being collected by the Project Implementing Unit (PIU) and transported to hospitals with operational incinerators.

According to Motanyane, collections can take place up to three times a day but delays by the PIU sometimes leave waste accumulating beyond the storage area’s capacity.

She referred questions about repairing or replacing the incinerator to the Ministry of Health.

However, the ministry’s spokesperson, ‘Mateboho Mosebeka, did not explain why the hospital has continued operating without a functional incinerator, instead indicating that a health inspector would respond.

Meanwhile, the hospital continues generating hazardous waste around the clock as its operating theatres remain fully functional.

Some of the most hazardous waste, including placentas and amputated body parts, must be transported to hospitals as far away as Roma and Quthing for destruction.

Motanyane said the hospital has introduced interim measures, including improved waste segregation, tighter storage controls and continuous monitoring while working with the Ministry of Health to find a permanent solution.

Despite those measures, the growing waste pile has become a visible reminder of a fundamental infrastructure gap at one of the country’s newest hospitals.

For a facility built to represent a modern health-care system, the absence of a functioning incinerator has exposed a critical weakness in its design, commissioning or maintenance, one that now threatens public health and the environment alike.

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Soldier tries to shield Kamoli from Mahao murder prosecution

Lekhetho Makhanya

A Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) soldier on Monday sought to distance former army commander Lieutenant General Tlali Kamoli from criminal responsibility in the 2015 killing of Lieutenant General Maaparankoe Mahao, telling the High Court that Kamoli was on leave when the fatal operation was carried out.

Sergeant Lekhooa Moepe, one of the nine soldiers charged with Mahao's murder, maintained under cross-examination that Kamoli neither authorised nor participated in the operation because he had temporarily relinquished command of the army.

The marathon trial was later postponed to July 13, 2026, for further hearing.

"The court is adjourned until 13 July 2026 for further hearing on this matter," Justice Charles Hugwe ruled after the prosecution concluded its cross-examination of Moepe, led by Advocate Rethabile Setlojane.

Kamoli, who is Accused No. 9 in the trial, is charged alongside Captains Litekanyo Nyakane and Haleo Makara, Sergeant Motsamai Fako, and Corporals Marasi 'Moleli, Motsoane Machai, Mohlalefi Seithleko and Tšitso Ramoholi over Mahao's killing on June 25, 2015.

The court has already heard evidence that Captain Haleo Makara fired the fatal shots that killed Mahao.

During cross-examination, Moepe repeatedly insisted that command of the LDF had passed to Lieutenant General Khoantle Motšomotšo because Kamoli was on leave at the time.



According to Moepe, Motšomotšo, assisted by then deputy commander Major General Lineo Poopa, authorised the operation to arrest Mahao and several other soldiers over alleged mutiny charges.

"The operation was sanctioned by the then army commander, Lt-Gen Motšomotšo, and his second-in-command, Major General Lineo Poopa. Accused No. 9 (Kamoli) was absent on leave," Moepe testified.

His evidence appeared aimed at distancing Kamoli from the chain of command that authorised the operation, despite Kamoli facing prosecution in his capacity as the substantive LDF commander.

Moepe further maintained that the intention was to arrest Mahao—not to kill him.

"Had he stopped voluntarily and not shown

signs of fighting back and resisting arrest, Brigadier Mahao would still be alive," he told the court.

He testified that Mahao ignored signals from Captain Tefo Hashatsi to stop his vehicle and instead allegedly drew a 9mm pistol while confronting an eight-member armed military team carrying AK-47 rifles.

However, prosecutor Setlojane challenged the legality of the entire operation, arguing that the alleged mutiny charges were fabricated and that junior-ranking soldiers had no lawful authority to arrest Mahao, who outranked them.

"That operation was unlawful. In fact, there were no mutiny charges in the first place," Setlojane argued.

He referred the court to earlier testimony by the current LDF commander, Lieutenant General

Mojalefa Letsoela, who testified as Prosecution Witness No. 38 that the alleged mutiny case collapsed for lack of prosecution.

Setlojane reminded the court that Letsoela had testified the charges appeared to have been manufactured because the reports were substantially identical and appeared to have been drafted by a single individual.

"No soldiers or officers were ever court-martialled on the alleged mutiny charges," Setlojane submitted.

Despite the challenge, Moepe maintained that the operation was lawful because it had been authorised by Motšomotšo and Poopa, adding that other soldiers, including Lance Corporals Moteng and Makhabane, had also been arrested over the same alleged mutiny.

Motšomotšo was himself killed by rogue soldiers on September 5, 2017.

Kamoli has remained in custody since his arrest in 2017 while awaiting trial.

Mahao was appointed LDF commander on August 29, 2014, by then Prime Minister Motsoahae Thomas Thabane with the approval of King Letsie III. His appointment was intended to replace Kamoli, who refused to vacate office after being dismissed for insubordination.

The prosecution alleges Mahao's killing was unlawful, while the defence maintains he was shot after resisting arrest.

The trial continues before Zimbabwean judge Justice Charles Hugwe and is among the few High Court matters proceeding during the court's winter recess.

WASCO amnesty draws 346 customers in first week

... M1 million in penalties pardoned

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) has reported that 346 customers have come forward during the first week of its Amnesty Programme, resulting in nearly M1 million in accumulated penalties being written off.

In a statement issued this week, WASCO said that within the first seven days of the programme, which began on July 1 and runs until October 31, 2026, customers had taken advantage of the opportunity to regularise their accounts.

"Within the first Seven days (7) of the pro-

gramme, 346 customers have come forward to regularise their accounts and take advantage of the amnesty initiative. During this period, WASCO has pardoned M992,346.95 in accumulated penalties, and M30,000.00 relating to illegal water connections has also been pardoned in accordance with the programme guidelines," the statement read.

The utility described the response as encouraging and said it demonstrated that many customers were embracing the chance to resolve outstanding issues without fear of legal consequences.

The Amnesty Programme, first announced in June, offers a once-off opportunity for customers

with outstanding debts to regularise their accounts and for those who made illegal water connections on or before March 2026 to legalise their connections without facing prosecution.

"WASCO wishes to remind the public that no legal action will be taken against customers or individuals who voluntarily come forward during the amnesty period, provided they comply with the terms and conditions of the programme. This is a once-off opportunity designed to encourage compliance, restore customer confidence, and strengthen partnerships between WASCO and the communities it serves," the statement added.

WASCO Credit Control Manager Tselane Mohapi previously said the programme was intended to provide customers with a "fair opportunity to rectify past irregularities while strengthening the sustainability and integrity of water service delivery".

The utility has consistently raised concerns about illegal connections, which it says remain a major hurdle in providing uninterrupted water supply. Vandalism and water theft have led to significant revenue losses, with the company reporting approximately M1.5 million spent each month since November 2019 on maintenance along the Metolong Downstream Conveyance System.

The company has appealed to all eligible customers and members of the public who have not yet participated to visit their nearest WASCO office before October 31, 2026.

"By participating in the Amnesty Programme, customers will have an opportunity to start afresh, regularise their water services, and contribute towards a sustainable and reliable water supply system for all Basotho," WASCO said.

Strict enforcement measures against illegal connections and unpaid accounts are set to commence after the amnesty period concludes.

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

At the Juvenile Training Centre (JTC) on Thursday, 130 children in conflict with the law received more than just sanitary packs and toiletries. They received a message that their mistakes do not define them.

The charity run and marathon hosted by Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso, alongside the Ministry of Social Development, UNICEF, and World Vision, marked International Boy Child Day under the theme "Flourish and Thrive: Investing in Boys for Stronger Families and Communities."

For the children at JTC, the visitors brought practical gifts and, more importantly, a reminder that change can begin today.

One boy, whose name is withheld to protect his identity, spoke from the heart, saying the boys in the institution need to be groomed and nurtured not only by their families but also by the community. He said a boy's duty is to protect and provide, challenging his fellow children to think of their future the moment they walk out.

"It is not right for men to depend on women when they can work hard to provide," he said, urging them to build the kind of character that earns trust.

A girl at the facility echoed the same spirit, saying boys have a responsibility to protect women and their country. She urged everyone to ensure women and children are safe. Speaking about education with conviction, she said, "Opportunity knocks but once," stressing that learning is the doorway to a better life.

Health Inspector Mpho Mohasoa taught the children about daily discipline and personal responsibility, explaining that maintaining hygiene and living healthily gives confidence to interact with others

International Boy Child Day reaches juvenile centre



and live without fear or shame.

"Cleanliness will give you confidence," she told them, encouraging them to see self-care as part of growing into better people.

Director of Child Protection Services at the Ministry of Social Development, Mookho Motheo Lekhan-ya, explained why gifts were delivered to both boys and girls. She said it was meant to let every child know they are valued and important.

She reminded them that being in conflict with the law does not mean an end to their lives. Their second

chances still exist, and those chances can shape the rest of their dreams. She encouraged them to look inward, introspect, and fix where they have faltered because even when the institution closes, life continues.

Head of JTC Senior Superintendent Lerato Mofolo told the children that with these gifts, people still love and remember them, and that they should leave as transformed people. She reminded them that men are meant to lead, support, and protect, drawing strength from biblical scripture that points

to leadership and protection expected from male figures.

Of the 130 children in the facility, sanitary pads and cosmetics were handed out to the girls. All recipients expressed their excitement and appreciation during the ceremony.

Observed annually since 2018, International Boy Child Day carries a simple promise: visible boys can flourish when people choose to invest in them, guide them, and remind them that tomorrow can be built with care.

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Accountability by summit or by law?

Matekane's new model faces its first credibility test



Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane at the Accountability Summit

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Prime Minister Sam Matekane has introduced something Lesotho has never seen before.

For three days last week, the heads of the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary stood before the public to explain what they have done, what has gone wrong and what they intend to do next. Borrowed from Rwanda and branded the Leadership Forum and Accountability Summit, the initiative was presented as a new era of open government.

“Our ultimate goal is to hear the voice of the society and bring up solutions where possible,” Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane declared at the opening.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Lesao Lehohla praised the initiative as a demonstration of democracy and good governance.

On the surface, it was refreshing.

Citizens questioned leaders directly. Ministers answered uncomfortable questions. The Chief Justice, Sakoane Sakoane, spoke about judicial reforms. Parliament explained its oversight role. Government promised that the summit would become an annual exercise.

But once the applause faded, a more fundamental question emerged.

Can accountability be achieved through an annual public forum, or is accountability measured by compliance with the Constitution and the law?

That question goes to the heart of governance in Lesotho.

Section 1 of the Constitution declares Lesotho a sovereign democratic kingdom. Although democracy is not expressly defined, constitutional democracy rests on principles of accountability, transparency, openness and responsiveness. Those principles are reinforced by constitutional

supremacy, judicial review, parliamentary oversight and financial accountability.

Parliament translated those constitutional ideals into law through the Public Financial Management and Accountability Act of 2011.

The Act does not encourage accountability, it requires it.

Section 34 requires spending units to prepare quarterly and annual reports detailing programme results and financial statements in accordance with international public sector accounting standards. Chief accounting officers must certify these reports and submit them to the Finance Minister within three months of the financial year's end.

Failure attracts a surcharge of M500.

Section 35 demands consolidated financial statements within five months, Section 37 requires their presentation to Parliament within eight months. Section 43 compels public enterprises to submit audited annual reports within three months.

However, the evidence of systemic failure is overwhelming.

A 2024 PEFA assessment found that many state-owned enterprises simply fail to submit their financial statements within the stipulated time.

Many state institutions rarely publish consolidated reports. Local councils submit their financial statements to the Ministry of Local Government to be audited as part of the ministry's accounts, with no independent consolidated report on their financial performance published annually.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption review noted that procuring entities had not been submitting annual procurement plans or adhering to other prescribed measures. Perhaps most

damningly, Lesotho has been receiving adverse audit opinions on its Consolidated Financial Statements from the Office of the Auditor General for at least the past five years.

Against that background, the Accountability Summit represents a significant political innovation—but it is not a substitute for legal accountability.

There is an important distinction. A summit allows leaders to explain themselves. The law requires them to prove their performance.

That distinction became apparent throughout the three-day forum.

Passports: A promise that cannot be stamped

Prime Minister Matekane announced that the passport backlog would be cleared within three months and that new passports would thereafter be issued within four days.

But this is far from the first such assurance. Matekane has previously told citizens passports were available while people continued to be turned away from passport offices around the country. Some lost jobs in South Africa because the government could not provide documents in time. Others were forced to cross swollen rivers illegally to reach work.

The Ombudsman's recent investigation, damningly titled: “Stateless in Lesotho,” revealed systemic failures including corruption involving bribes ranging from M300 to M600 in at least four offices, shortages of passport materials, outdated systems, and production capacity dropping to as low as 50 passports per day.

The report established that 65 percent of respondents were never given reasons for delays.

Minister of Home Affairs Voeswa Tsheka, speaking at the summit, urged patience while sitting on a portfolio the Ombudsman has declared to have subjected citizens to “prolonged and profound injustices.” The irony would be laughable if the consequences were not so devastating.

Matekane also promised the long-delayed Royal Palace would finally be completed within 18 months and the Royal Family would move in during that period.

He generated applause and hope. But the project's history offers little cause for optimism.

Construction began in August 2011, scheduled for completion by May 2013 at a cost of M136.7 million. Work was suspended in April 2013, resumed after redesigns, and stalled repeatedly.

Costs have ballooned past M500 million, with the Auditor-General's report revealing shocking overpayments of up to 3,000 percent on some contracts.

Public Works Minister Matjato Moteane, who inherited the project, has called for former Principal Secretaries to be held accountable. Moteane noted that none of the officials responsible for the mess, most still alive, have faced scrutiny. In a system of genuine accountability, this would be unthinkable.

The palace project, alongside the Setsoto Stadium upgrade, the failed Lesotho National Broadcasting Services (LNBS) complex, represents not just mismanagement but the systematic failure of public finance oversight.

FIFA condemned Setsoto Stadium in 2021, forcing Lesotho's national team, Likuena, to play home matches abroad at considerable cost. Despite promises, the upgrade has dragged on for nearly five years.

Government also committed to making the summit an annual event.

This announcement generated optimism. But optimism alone is not accountability.

The Prime Minister has made major commitments before.

In 2022 he promised performance contracts for ministers, yet those contracts have never been published. Without them, Basotho have no objective benchmark against which to assess ministerial performance.

He declared youth unemployment a national disaster in 2025 and announced ambitious employment targets, but the summit provided little measurable assessment of those commitments.

These examples reveal the difference between announcing projects and delivering results.

Rwanda's model, Lesotho's reality

One of the summit's most valuable moments came not from Lesotho's own leaders but from Rwanda's Minister of State for the National Treasury, Godfrey Kabera.

His message was simple.

Governments generally know what needs to be done.

Their failure lies in implementation.

He argued that leaders must support implementing officers, move faster on agreed priorities and engage citizens continuously rather than speaking only to themselves.

Kabera challenged the idea that external support is required for basic duties. He questioned whether donors truly need to instruct people to do work that is already understood to be essential. “The first accountability is accountability to oneself,” he said.

But Rwanda’s model cannot simply be imported. Rwanda built structures enabling interaction with people at the grassroots level. Lesotho’s summit, as the Transformation Resource Centre (TRC) noted, was organised within such a short timeframe that participants were still awaiting key documents when it began.

The Judiciary perhaps offered the clearest example of measurable accountability.

Chief Justice Sakoane reported concrete reforms, including opening a High Court division in Maseru’s Hoek, digitising parts of the court system, expanding access to justice through pro deo representation and introducing deadlines requiring High Court judgments within 90 days and subordinate court judgments within 45 days.

These are commitments that can be independently verified.

That is what accountability looks like.

Deputy Prime Minister, Ntsemang Majara, reported successes: 141 classrooms made available, 59 villages connected to electricity, 29,000 households electrified, tourism growing from 541,000 to 960,000.

But these achievements exist alongside a pattern of promises that never materialise. The Youth Bill, budgeted for last year, has not appeared. The bilateral labour migration agreements with



Some of the Ministers in attendance at the Accountability Summit

Qatar, Seychelles, and Mauritius remain unfinalised two years after the ministry was allocated M71.6 million to support them.

Factory workers who were promised insurance and nearby housing in 2022 have heard nothing as factories close due to AGOA uncertainty. Deported Basotho from South Africa received buses for repatriation but no plans for reintegration, financial assistance, or jobs.

The credibility deficit

Matekane’s summit represents a genuine innovation in Lesotho’s governance. Bringing the three arms

of state to account before citizens is unprecedented and should be commended. His commitment to make it an annual affair suggests the government recognises the need for more than rhetorical accountability.

But accountability is not a one-off event. It is a daily discipline of compliance, transparency, and consequence. The PFMA Act exists precisely because Lesotho’s Constitution demands nothing less. Its systematic violation is not merely administrative negligence, it is a constitutional betrayal.

The summit’s true value will not be

measured by applause lines or even by the clearing of passport backlogs. It will be measured by whether the government finally complies with its own laws, whether ministries submit their financial statements on time; whether the Auditor-General’s reports lead to consequences, not just more reports, whether the accountability demonstrated over three days becomes the standard for every day.

Until then, the summit remains what critics of similar exercises in Rwanda have long noted: a performance of accountability that risks becoming a substitute for the real thing.





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11 & 12 SEPTEMBER 2026



**Seabata Mahao**

The Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) is overhauling the administration of its industrial factory shells, introducing a stricter management regime that will see tenants who default on rent, underutilise factory space or misuse industrial facilities removed to make way for productive investors.

The move marks a significant shift in how the Corporation manages its industrial infrastructure, with greater emphasis being placed on ensuring publicly owned factory space directly supports manufacturing, investment and job creation rather than serving as long-term rental accommodation for non-performing tenants.

At the centre of the exercise is an estimated M50 million in outstanding rental arrears owed by tenants occupying LNDC-owned factory shells across the country. Some businesses have reportedly failed to pay rent for more than five years, while others have vacated the premises without formally notifying the Corporation.

LNDC Chief Executive Officer Thabo Khasipe said the Corporation has become increasingly concerned about the management and utilisation of its industrial facilities, noting that some tenants are using the premises for activities that fall outside their intended industrial purpose.

“The misuse of the Corporation’s facilities has contributed to a number of challenges, including poor revenue collection, as some tenants have consistently failed to pay rent on time,” Khasipe said.

He disclosed that outstanding rental arrears currently stand at around M50 million, warning that the debt continues to rise.

The Corporation has therefore launched an industrial space optimisation programme aimed at reclaiming factory shells from tenants who have breached their lease agreements through persistent non-payment of rent, significant underutilisation of factory space or misuse of industrial premises.

The recovered factory shells will be reallocated to investors with viable industrial projects capable of expanding manufacturing activity and creating employment opportunities.

“The industrial space made available through this exercise will support a pipeline of 24 prospective international investors whose projects have the potential to create 7,500 jobs at full operational capacity. This represents a significant contribution toward LNDC’s annual and long-term employment targets,” he said.

According to LNDC, demand for factory shells continues to outstrip supply, with more than 24 international investors already seeking industrial space.

Khasipe said the optimisation programme represents more than a debt recovery exercise, describing it as part of a broader strategy to improve stewardship of public industrial assets while strengthening revenue collection and accelerating investment-led economic growth.

“As part of this initiative, in the short term, tenants will be required to vacate

Rent defaulters face the boot



The CEO of LNDC, Thabo Khasipe

factory premises due to non-compliance with rental obligations and/or significant underutilisation of industrial facilities. The total amount owed to LNDC in the form of rental debt is M50 million,” he said.

“This decision has not been taken lightly. It follows established procedures and reflects our responsibility to ensure that public development assets are used effectively and responsibly.”

Besides removing non-compliant tenants, LNDC also intends to introduce a more efficient allocation of industrial space by matching factory size with the operational requirements of businesses.

Under the new approach, companies occupying facilities that substantially exceed their production needs may be relocated to smaller premises, allowing larger factory shells to accommodate expanding businesses and incoming investors.

Khasipe stressed that the changes should not be interpreted as an attempt to push out existing businesses, but rather as a strategy to maximise the productive use of scarce industrial infrastructure.

“Let me emphasise that this initiative is not about displacing businesses. It is about enabling growth, increasing productivity, and ensuring that industrial infrastructure generates the greatest possible benefit for Basotho.”

The industrial space optimisation programme forms part of LNDC’s Letsema Strategy 2026–2031, which was launched in April to accelerate industrialisation, diversify the economy and expand employment opportunities.

The five-year strategy aims to create 50,000 net new jobs by March 2031, develop 100 Basotho industrialists, establish five new industrial sectors and build

a more competitive and diversified economy.

Khasipe said achieving those objectives requires a fundamental change in how LNDC manages its industrial assets.

“Industrial factory shells and serviced industrial estates are among the most important investment facilitation tools at LNDC’s disposal. Their purpose is not merely to provide rental accommodation, but to serve as productive assets that contribute to national development,” he said.

He noted that the Corporation has over time identified numerous cases where factory shells have remained underutilised while investor demand for industrial facilities has continued to increase.

“This situation limits our ability to facilitate investment and hinders our efforts to create jobs at the scale required by the Letsema Strategy,” Khasipe said.

He said the urgency of implementing the new approach has grown amid persistently high unemployment, particularly among young people, and an increasing number of Basotho returning from South Africa because of changing economic conditions and tighter immigration enforcement.

Despite the tougher enforcement measures, Khasipe said LNDC remains committed to supporting compliant investors

through aftercare services, facilitating expansion projects, resolving operational challenges and maintaining an enabling investment environment.

He added that while new investment projects typically generate employment progressively as factories are commissioned and production expands, the Corporation is confident that reclaiming idle industrial space will significantly improve its ability to attract new investors.

“Importantly, these facilities will not remain vacant,” Khasipe said.

“Our message is therefore clear: industrial property must support industrial production, industrial investment and employment creation. Where space is available, it must be occupied by businesses that are growing, creating opportunities and contributing to Lesotho’s economic future.”

Khasipe said LNDC will continue engaging affected tenants and other stakeholders throughout the implementation of the exercise to ensure the process is conducted transparently and in accordance with the law.

“Together with our stakeholders, and guided by the Letsema Strategy, we remain committed to building a stronger, more industrialised and more prosperous Lesotho,” Khasipe said.

NOTICE OF SURNAME SPELLING CORRECTION

Notice is hereby made that a spelling correction is being made. NIZAMUDDING NAJARANABANU TELAR, whose surname is wrongly spelled TELAR in her passport, is to be changed to a correct spelling which is TAILOR. Notice is therefore made that the correct surname is TAILOR.

Union pushes for stronger protection of workers

Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho General Trade Workers Union (GENTU) has accused several multinational companies operating in Lesotho of persistently violating labour laws and international labour standards, calling for tougher enforcement of the Labour Act No. 3 of 2024 and greater accountability from employers.

Addressing a media briefing this week, GENTU General Secretary Bahlakoana Shaw Lebakae said the union has formally raised a number of complaints with the Ministry of Labour and Employment after engagements with some employers allegedly failed to resolve longstanding workplace disputes.

According to the union, the alleged violations span several sectors and include failure to provide written employment contracts, non-compliance with statutory minimum wages, non-payment of overtime, inadequate occupational health and safety measures, and poor working conditions.

GENTU further alleges that some employers maintain uniform salary structures without recognising employees' length of service, while others fail to provide transport for night-shift workers or adequate accommodation where such facilities are offered.

The union also raised concerns over workers allegedly being required to purchase their own work uniforms, the absence of reg-



ular medical examinations for employees exposed to hazardous working environments, inadequate protective equipment and poor compliance with workplace safety standards.

Lebakae further alleged that some truck drivers and their assistants are required to undertake overnight journeys through mountainous terrain while receiving minimal sleep-out allowances, exposing both workers and the public to increased road safety risks caused by fatigue.

The union has also called on the Ministry of Labour to investigate whether some em-

ployers are complying with legal provisions governing the employment of expatriate workers and other statutory obligations under the Labour Act.

In addition, GENTU alleges that some workers continue to face unfair labour practices, including unequal treatment regarding off-days, deductions from sick leave, inadequate workplace security measures, lack of employment contracts and being required to train new employees without additional compensation.

The union further expressed concern over

proposed changes to employee pension and risk benefit arrangements by some employers, arguing that such changes could leave workers worse off and therefore conflict with Section 129(5) of the Labour Act.

Lebakae said GENTU also continues to receive complaints from workers in the textile and garment industry, indicating that labour rights concerns remain prevalent across the sector.

Beyond workplace grievances, the union criticised the implementation of the Labour Act's dispute resolution framework, arguing that separating conciliation and arbitration has slowed the resolution of labour disputes.

"In our experience as trade unionists, the Government of Lesotho has underestimated the importance of the Ministry of Labour for the past 27 years," Lebakae said.

He attributed delays in resolving labour disputes to shortages of labour inspectors, conciliators, arbitrators and Labour Court personnel, which he said continue to undermine effective enforcement of workers' rights.

Lebakae urged government to strengthen labour institutions and improve enforcement of labour legislation to ensure employees receive the protections guaranteed under both national law and international labour standards.

Econet tackles child online safety challenge

Seabata Mahao

As internet access and smartphone use continue to expand among young Basotho, Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) is strengthening its child online protection initiatives, saying greater digital connectivity must be accompanied by education, awareness and responsible online behaviour.

The telecommunications operator said protecting children in the digital space has become increasingly important as more young people rely on the internet for learning, communication and social interaction.

ETL believes safeguarding children online is a shared responsibility that requires the combined efforts of parents, schools, regulators, communities and the private sector.

The company's initiative aligns with the Lesotho Communications Authority's Child Online Protection Guidelines, which encourage mobile network operators to promote online safety awareness, improve digital literacy and help create a safer online environment for children.

ETL General Manager for Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Karabo Tlhoeli, said child online protection remains central to the company's commitment to responsible digital connectivity.

"At ETL, we strongly believe that every child should be able to enjoy the opportunities of the digital world safely. As technology becomes part of everyday life, our



ETL General Manager for Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Karabo Tlhoeli

responsibility extends beyond providing connectivity to empowering children, parents and communities with the knowledge to navigate the online world responsibly," Tlhoeli said.

He said while the internet has become an essential tool for education, innovation and communication, it has also exposed children to a growing range of online risks, including cyberbullying, online grooming, identity theft, harmful content and digital scams.

To address these challenges, ETL is expanding public education and awareness initiatives aimed at promoting responsible digital citizenship among children, parents, guardians and educators.

"Awareness is one of the strongest forms of protection. Children need the confidence to recognise online risks, while

parents need to remain actively engaged in their children's digital lives. Technology cannot replace parenting, but it can support informed families in creating safer online experiences," he said.

Tlhoeli said ensuring children's safety online requires collective action from all stakeholders.

"Government, regulators, schools, parents, communities and industry all have a role to play. By working together, we can create a digital environment where children are free to learn, innovate and thrive safely," Tlhoeli added.

The renewed awareness drive comes as Lesotho continues to advance its digital transformation agenda, with internet connectivity playing an increasingly important role in education, business and the delivery of public services.

Through the initiative, ETL aims to encourage safer internet use while equipping children and their caregivers with the knowledge needed to navigate the digital world responsibly.

FOR SALE VW TIGUAN 2022 PRODUCT MODEL: 2022 ENGINE NO. CZC891261 VIN: WV6ZZZ5KZVW8351 VEHICLE REGISTRATION NO. Not Provided MARKET VALUE M 265,300.00	FOR SALE MERCEDES BENZ 230E 1991 PRODUCT MODEL: 1991 ENGINE NO. 825381029800 VIN: ADB1232236A VEHICLE REGISTRATION NO. Not Provided MARKET VALUE M 35,000.00	FOR SALE LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 1999 PRODUCT MODEL: 1999 ENGINE NO. 2812N17N006676 VIN: SALLN48E7V560159 VEHICLE REGISTRATION NO. Not Provided MARKET VALUE M 49,000.00
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Ntsoaki Motaung

Thaba Tseka District Administrator Tlali Mphafi has called on young people and the wider community to break away from outdated thinking that limits the dreams of the youth, as the district grapples with high rates of teenage pregnancies and gender-based violence.

Speaking at a UNFPA meeting, Mphafi expressed deep concern about how low expectations for young people, particularly girls, are fueling the crisis. He stressed that real change will only happen if everyone, including men and boys, works together to help youth see a future beyond early marriage and family life.

"Last year when I went to one of our facilities, I went to the maternity division. I met around 18 pregnant ladies. Of all of them, the oldest was 32, and the youngest was 13," Mphafi said.

"When I asked them what they wished for their unborn babies, most of them only said they wanted their children to get married or go to initiation school. Some said they wanted their daughters to get married so they could have lots and lots of grandchildren."

Mphafi said this mindset reveals a lack of vision for the future among young mothers. "This story is not very nice, but I always say it because it shows the true nature of the problem we have in the district. Many young mothers do not see a future for their children beyond starting families of their own," he said. "We cannot afford to be stagnant. We cannot afford to do one thing repeatedly for years without a change. We need to move forward."

The Demographic Health Survey 2023-2024 shows that Thaba Tseka district continues to record high rates of adolescent pregnancies and gender-based violence, with many girls forced to leave school early due to pregnancy.

To tackle these challenges, the district has partnered with organizations including UNFPA. Mphafi thanked the agency and other stakeholders for their support. "Thank you,

Mphafi calls for mindset change to curb teen pregnancies, GBV



UNFPA Representative John Kennedy Mosoti and Thaba Tseka District Administrator Tlali Mphafi

UNFPA, for joining the learning system. We are running a race in Thaba Tseka because we want to make a change," he said.

Mphafi outlined interventions being implemented, including procuring park homes and providing beds for mothers at health facilities. He also highlighted the importance of involving men and boys in the fight against GBV and teenage pregnancies.

"Women become the culprits of GBV, early teenage pregnancies, HIV, and sometimes they die. But the truth is, they do not get into these problems alone. They share these challenges with the males," Mphafi said. "We can't just engage girls or women alone. We need to engage their partners too."

He shared plans to hold a special engagement for men in the district, saying he

had postponed a Father's Day event but would now work with UNFPA to merge their ideas and reach male community members.

UNFPA Representative John Kennedy Mosoti, also at the meeting, emphasised the importance of joint efforts to empower youth and prevent GBV. "We are doing some male engagement activities and also working on youth empowerment, GBV prevention, and other related issues that are linked to the work of UNFPA," he said.

Mosoti noted that programs focused on training male nurses and working with head boys have proven successful in Mokhotlong and will be expanded. He said these efforts align with government accountability initiatives, particularly the revival of district planning units.

"If you're able to turn around Thaba Tseka, we can turn around any other district in the country," Mosoti said.

Both Mphafi and Mosoti called on everyone in the district, including youth, parents, and leaders, to help change attitudes and create a brighter future.

"We need to change. We need to give young people a chance at a better future, not just repeat the same old patterns," Mphafi concluded.

Lesotho marks World Population Day with focus on youth

Ntsoaki Motaung

Lesotho will join the global community in celebrating World Population Day on July 11, 2026, with special events planned in Maseretse Ratiea under the theme "Realising the hopes and aspirations of young people, today and for the future."

The annual observance, which focuses on population and development issues, this year draws on findings from the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) Demographic Futures Survey, which polled young people from 73 countries about their dreams and challenges.

The survey found that while many young people aspire to have families and build good futures, they face significant obstacles including unemployment, economic hardship, and limited access to health services.

Maseretse Ratiea, UNFPA's National Program Analyst for Adolescents and Young People, explained why Maseretse was chosen for the celebration.

"We are here in Maseretse to celebrate World Population Day together with government ministries and partners. We are talking to the youth about this year's theme and what it means for their lives. Our discussions are about sexual and reproductive health and rights, making informed decisions, and



Maseretse Ratiea, UNFPA's National Program Analyst for Adolescents and Young People

avoiding problems like early and unintended pregnancy, gender-based violence, and drug and alcohol abuse."

Ratiea said the goal is to give young people information so they can realise their hopes and dreams. "We want them to understand how today's choices affect their futures, like how getting pregnant at a young age can

change their lives and goals."

Young people from Maseretse shared their experiences. Matšelis Senqu, 19, from Qalakheng said: "As youth, we face many challenges, but there are not many places where we can talk about them. Many young people drop out of school and then start abusing alcohol and drugs. There are many

liquor stores in our villages, and it's easy to be influenced by friends to start drinking."

Keabetsoe Ralienyane, 18, took part in a two-day workshop for youth. She said, "We talked about the challenges we face, like unemployment. Not everyone could attend, but it's important that those who did can share what they learned with others in their villages."

Mampho Makharilele, District Youth Development Officer for the Ministry of Gender Youth and Social Development, said the workshop was held because youth unemployment is a big problem. "When young people cannot go to school or start their own businesses, they become miserable. This leads to more cases of early pregnancy and, sometimes, unsafe abortions," she explained.

A major part of the commemoration will be the official handover of special medical equipment to Maseretse Hospital in Maseretse. These tools will help doctors and nurses measure blood loss during childbirth, detect problems early, and save lives. UNFPA's support shows their commitment to making childbirth safer for women in Lesotho.

Ratiea said World Population Day in Lesotho is an important time to listen to young people, support their dreams, and work together to solve the problems they face. By investing in youth, Lesotho can build a stronger and better future for everyone.



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10AM - 6PM



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10
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THE LESOTHO CHORUS

HEAVENLY SWEET SERENADERS

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TWELVE APOSTLES' CHURCH IN CHRIST (TACC)

PELO E TLOTLEHANG LCYM

MOTSEKUOA HIGH SCHOOL

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M70

STANDARD
AUGUST

M100

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VACANCY

Lesotho Electricity Generation Company (LEGCO) invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill the position of a Driver on a fixed term contract

The Responsibilities of the Driver shall include:

- Ensure that LEGCO fleet is clean and roadworthy
- Check vehicles requirements and maintain their records properly (log books)
- Ensure proper management of service and other maintenance schedules and report any faults.
- Ensure the safety and comfort of passengers, assist with luggage, and represent the company with a professional demeanor.
- Act as a Messenger and safely pick and/or deliver official documents, parcels and mail to intended recipients while maintaining dispatch records.
- Drive office vehicles for transportation of authorized personnel and delivery/collection of official goods/cargo and ensure that they are safely delivered to their destinations.
- Ensure that LEGCO requirements are adhered to in case of accidents and/or emergencies.
- Conduct pre- and post-trip inspections, monitor fluid levels (oil, water), tire pressure, and ensure that routine servicing is scheduled.
- Support and assist the office in performing registry-related duties and messaging services.
- Make distribution of correspondence material to appropriate persons and or offices.
- Provide logistical support to Administration Officer in the organization and prepare for all workshops, meetings and events.
- Ensure compliance with traffic laws and that the vehicle is always fueled.

Job Specifications and Requirements

The incumbent must have a minimum qualification of C.O.S.C. Certificate plus a Driver's License and Defense Driving with at least 5 years driving experience.

OR

Standard 7 plus Driver's License and Defensive driving with at-least 10 years driving experience.

NB: Standard Pass from Assessment test done by Department of Traffic & Transport is pre-requisite and the potential candidate must possess good interpersonal skills and be a good team player.

Applications, Curriculum Vitae with certified copies of educational certificates, Driver's Licence and an ID copy should be hand delivered to:
Human Resources and Administration Manager at LEGCO offices situated at House No.251 Honeymoon Park, Maseru West, Contacts: 22312164

Closing Date: 31st July 2026



BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

[LAA ICT/Internet Services: 08/07/2026]

The Land Administration Authority has allocated funds be used for the acquisition of *supply and delivery of Internet Services*.

1. The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above supplies.
2. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open national bidding method contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all bidders.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below at 7(a) from *[08;00am to 05:00pm]*.
4. Bids must be delivered to the address below at 8(c) at or before *[12:00 Noon]*. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 7(d) at *[21/08/2026]*
5. There *shall NOT* be a pre – bid meeting as indicated in the proposed schedule in this notice.
6. (a) Documents may be inspected at: *Land Administration Authority*
(b) Documents will be issued from: *Land Administration Authority*
(c) Bids must be delivered to: *Director General and Chief Executive Officer*
(d) Address of bid opening: *P.O. Box 11856, Maseru, Lesotho. Lerotholi Road Opposite, The Royal Palace*

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

Activity	Date
a. Publish bid notice	08/07/2026
b. Pre-bidmeeting where applicable	N/A
c. Bid closing date	21/08/2026
d. Evaluation process	(24th August to 31st August 2026)
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	(01st to 14th September 2026)
f. Contract signature	(15th to 21st September 2026)

[LAA HRA/ Two (2) SUV Vehicles/08/07/2026]

1. The Land Administration Authority has allocated funds be used for the acquisition of *supply and delivery of Two (2) SUV Vehicles*.
2. The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above supplies.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open national bidding method contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all bidders.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below at 7(a) from *[08;00am to 05:00pm]*.
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below at 8(c) at or before *[12:00 Noon 08/07/2026]*. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 7(d) at *[21/08/2026]*
6. There *shall NOT* be a pre – bid meeting as indicated in the proposed schedule in this notice.
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f. Contract signature	(15th to 21st September 2026)



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



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



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



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



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



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



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





Kingdom of Lesotho
Ministry of Health

Invitation for Bids

Supply, delivery and lease of Medical Equipment (IFB No.: GoL/MOH/G001/2026/27)

Supply, delivery and lease of Medical Equipment (IFB No.: GoL/MOH/G001/2026/27)

1.

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho intends to utilize its funds (2026/2027 Recurrent Budget) towards the cost of Procurement of medical equipment (Automated tissue processor (1), coagulation analyzers (3) and Anaesthetic workstation machine (3), TTIs Platform Automated Eliza Analyzer for HIV (Anti-HIV & P24 Antigen) HBV, HIV and Treponema Pallidum Antibody (1) for the Ministry of Health.
2.

The Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Supply delivery and lease of medical equipment for the Ministry of Health.**

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at:
Procurement Unit
Health Headquarters Building
Ground Floor – Left Wing
Maseru 100, Lesotho.

Attention: motsukunyanemolise@gmail.com

3.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before **July 23rd, 2026** on/ before 11:00 a.m. Late bids will be rejected. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **1.5% (1.5 percent) of the bid amount** in the form of Insurance Bond, or a bank draft, and or a bank guarantee from a reputable financial institution valid for thirty (30) days beyond the validity of the bid.
4.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders at the above address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **(M500.00) five hundred Maloti only**. The method of payment will be cash payable at:

Accounts Revenue Collection
Health Headquarters, First Floor
Corner Constitution & Linare Roads,
Maseru 100,
Lesotho.

5.

It is mandatory for bidders to submit the following valid documents: (a) Tax Clearance Certificates; (b) Trader's License (c) Bid security, (d) Valid manufacture authorization letter, (e) power of attorney and bonafide certificate signed and stamped. These documents shall either be originals or certified copies from the source. **Non- compliance with this requirement shall invalidate a bid.**

The full information on supply, delivery and lease of medical equipment details will be viewed from the tender document for further qualification details but below are some of the specifications:

Specification: Automated Tissue Processor

1. General Requirements

- Fully automated enclosed tissue processors for histopathology applications.
- Suitable for routine surgical pathology, biopsies, and large tissue specimens.
- Microprocessor-controlled operation with programmable processing schedules.
- Vacuum-assisted tissue processing technology.

2. Capacity

- Minimum processing capacity: 300–400 standard tissue cassettes per run.
- Multiple basket system accommodating standard histology cassettes.
- Capability to process various tissue sizes and specimen types.

3. Processing Features

- Vacuum and pressure infiltration system.
- Automated reagent transfer.
- Programmable agitation of reagents.
- Multiple user-defined and pre-installed processing protocols.
- Delayed start and automatic completion functions.
- Continuous overnight operation capability.

4. Reagent Stations

- Minimum of 12 reagent stations.
- Minimum of 3 paraffin stations.
- Minimum of 2 cleaning stations.
- Reagent containers resistant to formalin, alcohol, xylene, and xylene substitutes.
- Automatic reagent level monitoring.

5. Temperature Control

- Heated paraffin stations with adjustable temperature settings.
- Paraffin temperature range of approximately 55–70°C.
- Reagent temperature monitoring and control.
- Over-temperature protection system.

6. User Interface

- Color touch-screen display.
- Intuitive graphical user interface.
- Real-time monitoring of processing status.
- Storage of at least 50 programmable protocols.
- Password-protected user access.

7. Safety Features

- Enclosed system to minimize exposure to hazardous fumes.
- Activated carbon filtration and/or external exhaust connection.
- Leak detection system.
- Audible and visual alarm system.
- Power failure protection with automatic recovery.
- Emergency stop function.

8. Quality Assurance

- Continuous monitoring of:
 - Temperature
 - Vacuum levels
 - Reagent status
 - Processing times
- Automatic error detection and reporting.
- Electronic processing log and audit trail.

9. Connectivity

- USB port for data export.
- Ethernet/LAN connectivity.
- Compatibility with Laboratory Information Systems (LIS) preferred.
- Remote diagnostics capability preferred.

10. Utilities

- Power supply: 220–240 VAC, 50/60 Hz.
- Built-in UPS backup for safe completion or recovery of processing cycles preferred.

11. Accessories

- Tissue baskets and cassette racks sufficient for maximum stated capacity.
- Reagent containers.
- Maintenance kit.
- User manuals and service manuals.

12. Regulatory Requirements

- CE marked and/or FDA-approved.
- Manufacturer certified to ISO 13485.
- Compliance with applicable IEC electrical safety standards.

13. Physical Specifications

Dimensions

- Width: 100 cm
- Depth: 100 cm
- Height: 200 cm

Preferred specification for tender:

The tissue processor shall be floor-standing with dimensions not exceeding 100 cm (W) × 100 cm (D) × 200 cm (H).

Weight

- Net weight: 250–500 kg
- Shipping weight: 300–650 kg

6.

Qualifications requirements for award include amongst others: **(a) business experience of not less than five years in similar jobs, (b) successful completion of similar contracts of not less than M5,000 000.00 in the past five years.** Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
7.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday **July 23rd, 2026** at the address given below:

Procurement Unit

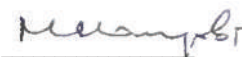
Ministry of Health

Health Headquarters, Ground Floor
Corner Constitution & Linare Roads,
Maseru 100, Lesotho.

Bidders shall ensure that the envelopes containing their bids are properly addressed as indicated under 2 above and are clearly marked **“Supply, delivery and lease of medical equipment for the Ministry of Health-- IFB No.: GoL/MOH/ G001/2026/27”**.

Disclaimer:

The Ministry also reserves the right to cancel the tenders before the submission or opening of tenders, postpone the tender submission/opening date and to accept or reject any or all tenders. The Ministry is not bound to award the lowest or any bid. Being the lowest bidder does not guarantee an award.


PRINCIPAL SECRETARY (a.i) ('Mants'oanelo Monyobi)
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



NOTICE OF INVITATION TO TENDER
PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES AT LNDC PROPERTY ACROSS LESOTHO
PROJECT REFERENCE: LNDC-PDM-26-06
02nd July 2026

1. The Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) has allocated funds to be used for provision of security services at LNDC Property across Lesotho.
2. The LNDC invites sealed bids from **eligible local security service providers registered with the Ministry of Police and Public Safety (Registration certificate) and Ministry of Trade and Industry (Business ID)** for provision of the above said services.
3. Bidding & bidder eligibility shall be conducted in accordance with the Open National Bidding procedures prescribed in the Public Procurement Act, 2023 and the Regulations made under the Act.
4. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address given below at 9(c) from **2 July 2026 between 08:30am and 16:30pm**.
5. The bidding document which has been prepared in the English language is available free of charge in **soft copy** by emailing **procurement@lndc.org.ls**. A **hard copy** may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **M500.00** directly into the LNDC bank account and submit proof of payment at the finance office at LNDC Development House block A Level 6.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equal to 1% of the bid amount for each Lot tendered for, issued by a locally registered financial institution.
7. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 9(c) at 10:15 on 7th August 2026 at LNDC Development House, Block A Level 1.
8. The planned Procurement schedule (subject to changes) is as follows:

Activity	Date
(a) Publish bid notice	02nd July 2026
(b) Mandatory pre-bid meeting & Site visit at LNDC Dev House Block A Level 1	22nd July 2026
(c) Bid submission address	Tender box situated at the reception areas at 1st floor
(d) Bid closing date & time	07th August 2026 on or before 10:00am
(e) Evaluation process	11th August 2026
(f) Display of best evaluated bidder notice	8th October 2026
(g) Contract signature	23rd October 2026



Road Fund

A2

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
CHIEF INTERNAL AUDIT

The Road Fund Secretariat requires the services of a suitably qualified Lesotho National to fill the position of **Chief Internal Audit**.

Job Purpose:

- The Chief Internal Audit provides an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the Road Fund's operations by helping the organisation to accomplish its objectives through a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.
- The Chief Internal Audit is the chief audit executive of Road Fund who leads the Internal Audit function and independently evaluates the effectiveness of the Road Fund's policies, procedures and controls to ensure financial, physical and information resources are properly managed.

Qualifications, Working Experience and Knowledge:

- Chartered Accounting (CA) OR ACCA OR Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) OR Masters in Internal Auditing OR Accounting with Eight (8) years' working experience, at least four (4) at a senior level (At least Internal Audit Manager) in an Internal Audit function.
- OR
- A Degree in Internal Auditing OR in Accounting OR Registered Accounting OR Internal Audit Technician (IAT) with Ten (10) years' working experience at least five (5) at the senior level (At least Internal Audit Manager) in an Internal Audit function.

Essential Requirements of the Post:

- He/she must be knowledgeable in audit procedures, including planning, techniques, test and sampling methods involved in conducting audits;
- He/she must be knowledgeable in computerised accounting and auditing record keeping systems;
- He/she must have the ability to gather, analyse and evaluate facts and to prepare and present concise oral and written reports;
- He/she must have the ability to maintain current knowledge of developments related to business matters of interest to internal audit and developments as they affect auditing techniques and practices;
- He/she must have the ability to establish and retain effective working relationships across all levels from the Board and its Committees, Management, Staff, Implementing Agencies, key offices in the public sector and related stakeholders;
- He/she must have the ability to communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing; and
- He/she must be able to work unsupervised.

Remuneration:

Salary will be in accordance with the Road Fund scales of remuneration, which are competitive and market related.

Closing Date for applications: Friday 17th July 2026 at 12:00hrs (Midday).

Interested candidates should submit their applications via email to recruitment@roadfund.org.ls with subject **CIA July 2026**, complete with Curriculum Vitae, certified copies of Certificates of Academic Achievement, certified copy of driver's license, certified copy of National Identity Document and two (2) letters of reference, one of which must be from the applicant's current Human Resources Manager or last employment Human Resources Manager to: The Head of Human Resources and Administration, Road Fund, P. O. Box 14644, Maseru 100.

Disclaimer:

- Only applications received on or before the closing date and time will be considered;
- Correspondence will only be conducted with short-listed candidates;
- Road Fund reserves the right not to appoint if no suitable candidate is found.

For further details on the Chief Internal Audit's job profile, please visit the Road Fund Website: www.roadfund.org.ls.



NOTICE OF INVITATION TO TENDER
PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES AT LNDC PROPERTY ACROSS LESOTHO
PROJECT REFERENCE: LNDC-PDM-26-07
02nd July 2026

1. The Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) has allocated funds to be used for provision of cleaning services at LNDC Property across Lesotho.
2. The LNDC invites sealed bids from **eligible local cleaning service providers registered with the Ministry of Trade and Industry** for provision of the above said services.
3. Bidding & bidder eligibility shall be conducted in accordance with the Open National Bidding procedures prescribed in the Public Procurement Act, 2023 and the Regulations made under the Act.
4. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address given below at 9(c) from **2 July 2026 between 08:30am and 16:30pm**.
5. The bidding document which has been prepared in the English language is available free of charge in **soft copy** by emailing **procurement@lndc.org.ls**. A **hard copy** may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **M500.00** directly into the LNDC bank account and submit proof of payment at the finance office at LNDC Development House block A Level 6.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equal to 1% of the bid amount for each Lot tendered for, issued by a locally registered financial institution.
7. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 9(c) at 10:15 on 7th August 2026 at LNDC Development House, Block A Level 1.
8. The planned Procurement schedule (subject to changes) is as follows:

Activity	Date
(a) Publish bid notice	02nd July 2026
(b) Mandatory pre-bid meeting & Site visit at LNDC Dev House Block A Level 1	22nd July 2026
(c) Bid submission address	Tender box situated at the reception areas at 1st floor LNDC Development House Block A.
(d) Bid closing date & time	07th August 2026 on or before 10:00am
(e) Evaluation process	11th August 2026
(f) Display of best evaluated bidder notice	8th October 2026
(g) Contract signature	23rd October 2026



NOTICE OF INVITATION TO TENDER
Office Configuration at LNDC Development House, Block A Level 8
PROJECT REFERENCE: LNDC-PDM-2026-05
02nd July 2026

1. The Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) has allocated funds to be used for **Office Configuration at LNDC Development House, Block A Level 8**.
2. The LNDC invites sealed bids from Category A Contractors registered with the Ministry of Public Works for the provision of the above works.
3. Bidding & bidder eligibility shall be conducted in accordance with the Open National Bidding procedures prescribed in the Public Procurement Act, 2023 and the Regulations made under the Act.
4. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address given below at 9(c) from **2 July 2026 between 08:30am and 16:30pm**.
5. The bidding document which has been prepared in the English language is available free of charge in **soft copy** by emailing **procurement@lndc.org.ls**. A **hard copy** may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **M500.00** directly into the LNDC bank account and submit proof of payment at the finance office at LNDC Development House block A Level 6.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **M30,000.00 from a locally registered financial institution**.
7. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 9(c) at 10:15 on **6th August** 2026 at LNDC Development House, Block A Level 1.
8. The planned Procurement schedule (Subject to changes) is as follows:

Activity	Date
(a) Publish bid notice	02nd July 2026
(b) Mandatory pre-bid meeting & Site visit at LNDC Dev House Block A Level 1	21st July 2026
(c) Bid submission address	Tender box situated at the reception areas at 1st floor LNDC Development House Block A.
(d) Bid closing date & time	06th August 2026 on or before 10:00am
(e) Evaluation process	10th August 2026
(f) Display of best evaluated bidder notice	26 October 2026
(g) Contract signature	13th November 2026



VACANCY

DEPARTMENT : ADMINISTRATION
JOB TITLE : EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (CONTRACT APPOINTMENT)
GRADE : F
REPORT TO : CHAIRMAN IEC
LOCATION : MASERU

JOB SUMMARY:
Under the general supervision of the Chairman, the Executive Secretary is responsible for production and distribution of documents, mail processing and records management; organisation of official meetings, conferences and official entertainment, organisation of official trips and visits, office security, improvement of secretarial services and dissemination of information in order to provide an effective administrative support.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES
Organizational arrangements.
Production of Documents.
Maintenance, storage and retrieval of documents.
Report writing.

MAIN DUTIES

- Makes arrangements for the Chairman's meetings and consultations, notifying participants and confirming times and venues.
- Types correspondences and documents to put written communication into a legible presentation for the Chairman.
- Obtains, distributes copies and files documents as required by the Chairman.
- Receives and gives messages to the office of the Chairman.
- Issues letters of invitation for meetings, conferences and official entertainment and confirms attendance to facilitate participation and hosting logistics for the Chairman.
- Prepares travel bookings (domestic and international) and arranges visas, accommodation for the Commissioners and

Director of Elections to enable successful stay in the host country.

- Consults and maintains diary of events and appointments to enable effective time management.
- Takes and records minutes for the meetings of the Chairman.
- Write and files reports for the office of the Chairman.

Attributes

- Confidentiality
- Integrity
- Adaptability

JOB SPECIFICATION
EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE
Degree in Office Management or related plus 3 years in relevant field.
OR
Diploma in Secretarial studies from a recognised institution plus 10 years' experience in secretarial duties.
Interested candidates must submit their applications accompanied by up-to-date Curriculum Vitae with three referees, copies of certified qualification certificates and transcripts, send via email to recruitment@iec.org.ls under the subject line;
Executive Secretary
OR
hand delivered to IEC Headquarters (Registry) or Respective districts head offices in a sealed envelope labelled;

The Director of Elections
Maseru West
Corner Maluti and Caledon Road
P.O. Box 12698
Maseru 100

Closing date: 16th July 2026 at 16:30.

Only Short-listed candidates will be contacted.



NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANISATION

P.O.Box 1167
Mafeteng 900
Lesotho
Tel: (+266) 2270 0232
Fax: (+266) 2270 1340

NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANIZATION (NDSO)

INVITATION TO BID

Open National Competitive Tendering

Tender No.: NDSO/CUSTOMERMEETING/2026/07
Subject: Provision of Accommodation and Conference Facilities to NDSO

The National Drug Service Organization (NDSO), a Trading Account for the Ministry of Health in Lesotho, invites eligible bidders to submit bids for the Provision of Accommodation and Conference Services for the NDSO Customer Meeting and Gala Dinner, to be held from **19 to 23 October 2026**.

Bidding will be conducted through Open National Competitive Tendering procedures in accordance with the Public Procurement Act, 2023.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain the Bidding Documents from the NDSO website at www.ndso.org.ls.
Bid Closing Date & Time: 14:00 hours, 13 August 2026
Bid Opening: 14:30 hours, 13 August 2026, in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend

Note: There shall not be a pre-bid meeting/site visit. Late bids shall be rejected.

Address for inspection, submission and opening of bids:
National Drug Service Organisation
Procurement Building
Mafeteng 900, Lesotho

Contact Details:
tenders@ndso.org.ls
Telephone: +266 2221 5300



Invitation to Bidders

BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

09 July 2026
Supply and Installation of Standard High Light Mast - NA002/26/27

1. The National Assembly has been allocated/received funds by the Government of Lesotho to be used for the acquisition of Standard High Light Mast.
2. The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above supplies.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open national bidding method contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all bidders.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below at 8(a) from 09:00am to 4:00pm.
5. The Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at 8(b) and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LSL500.00. The method of payment will be cash.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at 8(c) at or before 10:00am local time on 20th August 2026. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of LSL10 000.00. Bid security must be valid until 20th December 2026. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 8(d) at 10:30am Local time on 20th August 2026
7. There shall be a pre – bid meeting/ site visit at National Assembly on the dates indicated in the proposed schedule in this notice.

- (a) Documents may be inspected at: National Assembly Offices, Ground Floor, National Assembly Building, Top Mpilo Hill, Maseru, Lesotho and the contact office is the Procurement Unit email address; malehakoe.mokone@gov.ls/mamohanoe.kokoropo@gov.ls telephone number: 22323035
- (b) Documents will be issued from: National Assembly Ground Floor, Procurement Unit
- (c) Bids must be delivered to: National Assembly; Procurement Unit
- (d) Address of bid opening: National Assembly, Ground Floor, Procurement Unit

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

Activity	Date
a. Publish bid notice	09th July 2026
b. Pre-bid meeting/site visit	23rd July 2026
c. Bid closing date	20th August 2026
d. Evaluation process	21th August 2026
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	26th August 2026
f. Contract signature	10th September 2026

Signature:
Name: Adv. L. F. Maema
Position of Authorised Official: Clerk to the National Assembly



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

VACANCY

The National University of Lesotho invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the following posts:

POST NO.	POSITION	DEPARTMENT / FACULTY	DEADLINE
3646	Farm Attendant	Animal Science / Agriculture	31 July 2026
3427	Library Access Assistant	Thomas Mololo Library	31 July 2026

For full job description please refer to NUL Website: www.nul.ls or visit our HR Office at Roma for a hard copy. Please quote the post number you are applying for. For further clarifications call +266 22340247 or +266 22340601 ext 3842/3844.

In your application letter, include the names and contact details of your three (3) referees

Please combine covering letter, CV, certificates, Identity Document/Passport and email them in read only PDF file, if not, will be disqualified. All applications should be emailed to thr@nul.ls and addressed to:

Director - Human Resources
National University of Lesotho
Roma 180 - Lesotho



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,**
- 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.**

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.



Invitation for Bids

Maseru, Lesotho
08 JULY 2026

Re: Procurement and Distribution of Field Crop Inputs to Support Vulnerable HHS-LSO-2000002340-0240-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** and **Informative on 29 April 2026**
3. The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities (bidders) for the **Procurement and Distribution of Field Crop Inputs 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,
Maseru 100
Lesotho
Tel: (+266) 58730763/ (+266) 58757203
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 **10 August 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, Maseru 100, Lesotho
Tel: (+266) 58730763/ (+266) 58757203
E-mail: procurement.roll@gov.ls



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sweet**
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SuperC
The original energy sweet.



MANHATTAN
The taste of Fun





Stunna lands major Free State festival slot

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's music sensation Ntate Stunna continues to cement his growing influence beyond the country's borders after being announced among the headline performers for the 2026 Ngwathe Spring Experience Music Festival in South Africa's Free State Province.

Festival organisers have confirmed the award-winning artist as seventh act on the line-

up for the event, which will take place on 26 September at the Fezile Dabi Stadium in Tumahole, Parys.

His inclusion places the Stimela hitmaker alongside some of South Africa's biggest names, including Sjava, Russell Zuma, Scotts Maphuma, Shandesh and LeeMcKrazy, while media personality Somizi Somgaga will host the festival.

Organisers described Ntate Stunna as one of Lesotho's biggest musical exports whose distinctive fusion of hip-hop, Afro-pop and Sesotho music has earned him a loyal following across Southern Africa.

"We are excited to officially announce Ntate Stunna as the SEVENTH artist confirmed for the Ngwathe Spring Experience Music Festival 2026!

One of Lesotho's biggest music exports, Ntate Stunna has built a massive following across Southern Africa with his unique blend of Hip-Hop, Afro-Pop and Sesotho music.

Known for hit songs such as 'Ke Thata', 'Izandla Phezulu', 'Chelete' and 'Stimela', he is guaranteed to bring an unforgettable performance to Tumahole this September!"

The booking is the latest indication that the Leso-

tho-born artist is steadily expanding his footprint in South Africa, where his music has enjoyed growing commercial success over the past few years.

Born Thaabe Letsie, Ntate Stunna first rose to prominence through his ability to blend modern hip-hop with traditional Sesotho musical influences, producing a sound that has resonated with audiences in both Lesotho and South Africa.

His breakthrough album, Sesotho Fashioneng, established him as one of the country's most influential contemporary artists before he reached even wider audiences through cross-border collaborations and chart-topping singles.

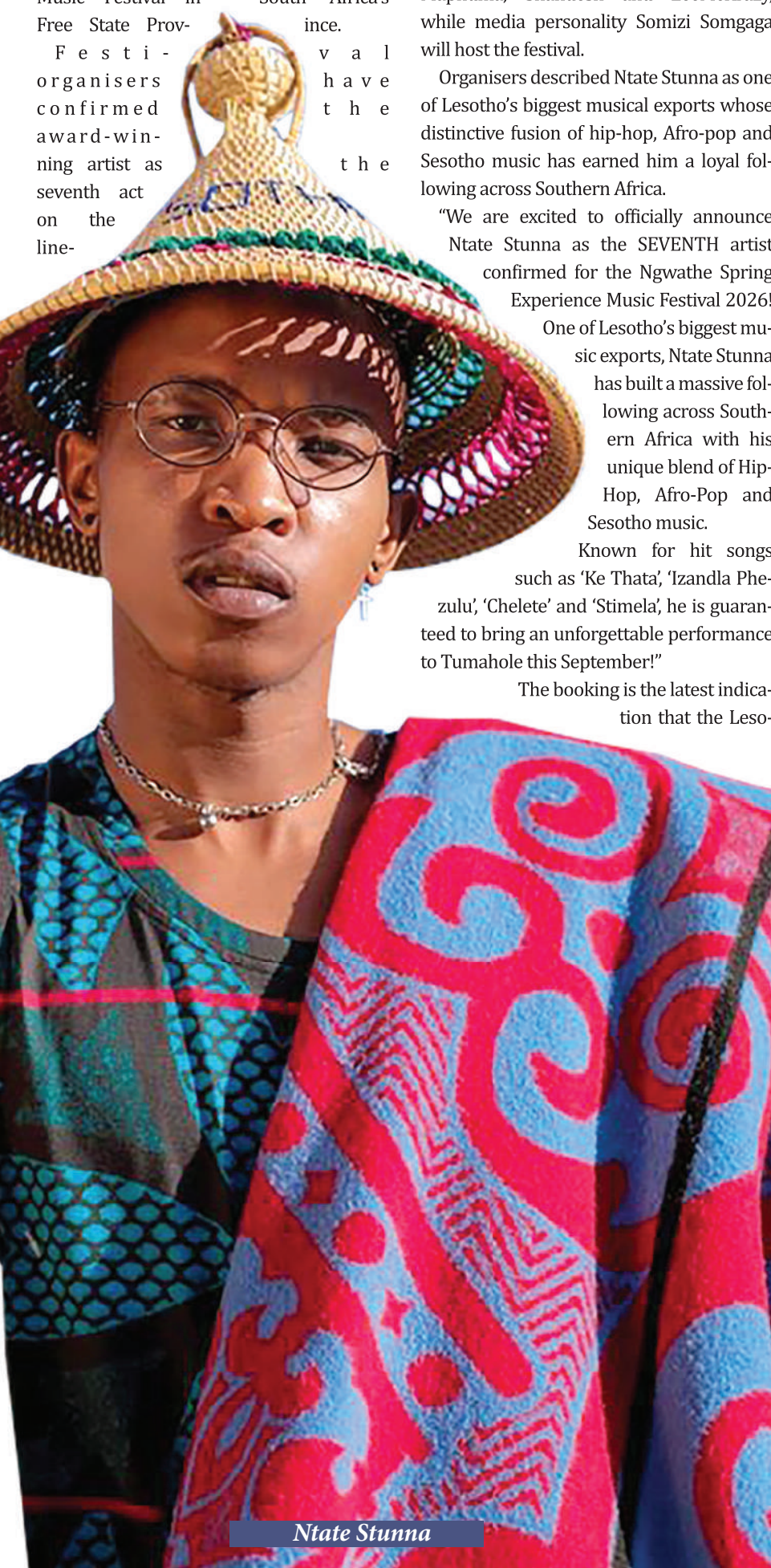
His biggest breakthrough came with Stimela, a collaboration that became a regional hit and introduced his music to millions of listeners across Southern Africa. The song went on to achieve significant commercial success and earned recognition at the South African Music Awards, helping position Ntate Stunna among a new generation of artists successfully taking Lesotho's

music onto bigger regional stages.

Today, the artist attracts more than 200,000 monthly listeners on Spotify, with songs such as Stimela, Chelete and Ke Thata collectively recording tens of millions of streams across digital platforms. Industry data also identifies South Africa as his largest audience, underlining the growing popularity of his music outside his home country.

The Ngwathe Spring Experience Music Festival has positioned itself as one of the Free State's flagship lifestyle, tourism and entertainment events, combining live music with tourism and community experiences. Organisers have indicated that more artists will be announced ahead of the festival, with early bird ticket sales having already closed.

To Stunna, the latest booking reinforces a career trajectory that has seen him become one of Lesotho's most recognisable cultural ambassadors. His continued inclusion at major South African festivals reflects not only his growing fan base but also the increasing acceptance of Sesotho-language music on mainstream regional platforms.



Ntate Stunna

**Corporate
Challenge**
2026

**M4 000
TEAM OF 5**

**Venue:
Maseru Mall
02 - Oct - 2026**



📞 | ✉️
5649 3151 | 6274 1560
liopeloevents@gmail.com





Staff Reporter

When the third annual Ziyakhala Mo Sun City took over the iconic Superbowl on 26 June, Lesotho’s music scene was well represented as Sannere took to the stage alongside local performers Mavele and Tash, courtesy of SABC’s Lesedi FM.

The three artists joined a star-studded lineup at one of South Africa’s most prestigious entertainment destinations, delivering what organisers described as an “eclectic celebration” of music, culture and fashion. The event, now in its third year, has become a major fixture on the regional entertainment calendar, drawing thousands of fans from across Mzansi and beyond.

Sannere, known for his distinctive tšepe lyricism, performed alongside other heavyweights including afro-pop duo Mafikizolo, maskandi star Khuzani, amapiano sensation Young Stunna, and reggae legend Dr Colbert Mukwevho. The lineup also featured Khuli Chana, Shandesh, Encore, and DJ Mfundhisi Xikwembu ka Mic, making for a diverse celebration of South African musical heritage.

The event, held at the Superbowl with doors opening at 14h00, offered ticket holders access to the full Sun City Resort experience. Attendees were able to enjoy the Valley of Waves, world-class golf, and the nearby Pilanesberg before the main performances, with organisers emphasising that Ziyakhala is “more than a concert” but an immersive resort experience.

Lesedi FM, one of nine SABC African language radio stations broadcasting in Sesotho, played a key role in bringing the Lesotho artists to the stage. The station, which reaches Sesotho-speaking communities across South Africa, has been instrumental in showcasing talent from the region and amplifying indigenous knowledge.

The 2027 edition will mark the third year of the event, which began in 2025 and quickly sold out. Organisers have promised that the experience continues to grow, with each edition delivering “powerful performances” and “standout stage moments”. Thousands of fans gathered under one roof to celebrate, making it one of the winter’s most anticipated cultural events.



Sannere flies Lesotho’s flag high at Ziyakhala Mo Sun City



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Dr Theko Tlebere

Back in 2019, while I was serving in Lusaka, Zambia, under the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps, Mme Lerato Matheka, the Managing Editor of Newsday, reached out to me with a simple but powerful request: “Can you contribute to Newsday?” At the time, I was still finding my voice as a young Mosotho in a space where nobody knew that I could write, the thought of writing from outside the borders of Lesotho, watching our country from a distance, thinking deeply about governance, youth development, African integration, and the stubborn question of national progress was so humbling yet challenging at the same time. But I had to soldier on. I accepted her invitation with humility. I did not know then that those weekly articles would become more than just opinion pieces. They became a discipline. They became a classroom. They became a platform through which I could speak to Basotho, reason with Basotho, challenge Basotho, and most importantly, challenge myself.

Today, I write this article with a new title before my name. I write now as Dr Theko Tlebere, having completed my Doctor of Economics degree in National Development at Peking University. I know very well what this means. It means there will now be pressure from the editors, from readers, from critics, from friends, and even from strangers. Some will expect every sentence I write to carry the weight of a doctoral thesis. Others will expect every argument to be sharper, every opinion more refined, every conclusion more mature. That pressure is fair. Growth must come with responsibility. But before we speak of titles, pressure, and expectations, allow me to say this clearly: this article is not about celebrating a title. It is about encouraging a young Mosotho somewhere in Ha Khohlopo who is tired, discouraged, broke, rejected, delayed, misunderstood, or quietly fighting a battle that nobody sees. My message is simple: soldier

Soldier on: A message to young Basotho

on.

There are moments in life when your dream will look impossible. There are seasons when your progress will be so slow that you begin to doubt whether you are moving at all. There are days when you will look at your age, your background, your bank balance, your family responsibilities, your failed applications, your rejected proposals, your delayed scholarships, your unanswered emails, and you will ask yourself: “Is this still worth it?” I am here to tell you that it is. The road to a PhD is not romantic. People often see the graduation gown, the photographs, the certificate, the title, and the congratulations. They do not see the lonely nights, the rejected drafts, the painful corrections, the silent pressure, the intellectual confusion, the financial anxiety, the homesickness, the cultural adjustment, the pressure to represent your family and your country well, and the constant fear that perhaps you are not good enough.

People do not see the moment when you read the same paragraph ten times and still do not understand it. They do not see the supervisor’s comments that force you to rewrite what you thought was already perfect. They do not see the emotional cost of being far from home while life continues without you. They do not see the birthdays missed, the funerals missed, the family events missed, the relationships strained, and the personal sacrifices made in silence. But this is

the truth about meaningful achievement: it demands a version of you that comfort will never produce.

Many young Basotho want to succeed, but sometimes we underestimate the patience required for success. We want quick results in a world that rewards appearances. We want recognition before refinement. We want titles before discipline. We want positions before preparation. Yet the real work of becoming is slow. It happens in the hidden corners of life. It happens when nobody is clapping. It happens when you continue even after disappointment. It happens when you choose consistency over excitement.

When I started writing for Newsday, I was not writing as someone who had arrived. I was writing as someone who was becoming. Each article taught me how to think more clearly. Each deadline taught me discipline. Each public reaction taught me courage. Each criticism taught me humility. That is why young people must learn to respect small beginnings. The platform you have today may not look big, but it may be preparing you for the responsibility you will carry tomorrow. Do not despise the beginning. Do not despise the internship. Do not despise the volunteer role. Do not despise the small office. Do not despise the short contract. Do not despise the local opportunity. Do not despise the article with no payment, the meeting where nobody knows your name, or the first job that does not match your dreams. Sometimes God, life, and history train us

through humble doors.

To young Basotho, especially those who come from ordinary families like myself, I want you to understand something very important: your background is not a prison sentence. It may shape your starting point, but it does not have to define your destination. Yes, some people will start ahead of you. Some will have networks you do not have. Some will have money you do not have. Some will have confidence because the world has always opened doors for them. But do not waste your life measuring your journey against theirs. Run your race. There is dignity in moving slowly when you are moving forward. There is dignity in trying again after rejection. There is dignity in studying under difficult conditions. There is dignity in applying again after being ignored. There is dignity in being the first in your family to attempt something unfamiliar. There is dignity in refusing to give up.

Lesotho needs young people who are not easily defeated. We need young people who can dream beyond unemployment statistics. We need young people who understand that education is not merely a personal escape route, but a national resource. We need young people who study not only to get jobs, but to solve problems. We need economists who understand villages, lawyers who understand justice, doctors who understand public health, teachers who understand nation-building, journalists who understand truth, engineers who understand infrastructure, and politicians who understand service. A degree alone will not save Lesotho. Titles alone will not save Lesotho. But disciplined, ethical, skilled, patriotic, and resilient Basotho can change the direction of this country.

Completing a PhD has taught me that knowledge must remain humble. The more you learn, the more you realize how much you do not know. That is why I do not write today as someone who has all the answers. I appear as someone who has been sharpened by study, humbled by struggle, and strengthened by perseverance. I return with a deeper responsibility to contribute to national conversations with seriousness, fairness, and courage. And yes, now that the title “Dr” is attached to my name, I know some readers will hold me to a higher standard. They should. Editors will expect better arguments. They should. Young people may expect inspiration. They should. Our country may expect more thoughtful contributions. It should. But my first message as I step into this new chapter is not complicated. It is this: do not quit too early.

Some dreams die not because they were impossible, but because people gave up in the most difficult chapter. Some people stop just before the door opens. Some abandon the application before the scholarship comes. Some drop the research before the breakthrough. Some surrender to shame because they think delay means failure. But delay is not always denial. Sometimes delay is preparation. Sometimes delay is protection. Sometimes delay is the workshop where your character is being built. Therefore, ngoaneso oa Mosotho, keep going.

If you are studying, keep studying. If you are applying, keep applying. If you are writing, keep writing. If you are building a business, keep building. If you are unemployed, keep improving yourself. If you are rejected, learn and try again. If you are tired, rest, but do not surrender. If you are far from home, remember why you started. If nobody believes in you yet, become disciplined enough to believe through your actions.

One day, the same people who saw you struggling may see you standing. One day, the same story that brought you tears may become testimony. One day, the same journey that looked impossible may inspire someone else to begin. In 2019, I wrote as a young Mosotho in Lusaka responding to a call from Lerato to contribute weekly to Newsday.

In 2026, I write as Dr Theko Tlebere, grateful for the journey, aware of the responsibility, and still committed to the same belief: Basotho youth are capable of great things when given opportunity, discipline, courage, and a reason to keep going. So, to every young Mosotho reading this: your mountain may be high, your resources may be few, your road may be lonely, and your progress may be slow. But continue. Soldier on. The future is NOW!

Architects of poverty: How to make a country fail — the case of Lesotho and South Africa

Dr Chris N. Mokolatsie

In recent months, South Africa has intensified operations against undocumented migrants, leading to arrests, detention, and deportations, including many Basotho. The images are painful: men and women bundled into trucks, families separated, workers treated as disposable, and a nation that once depended on their labour now declaring them unwanted.

For many Basotho, the humiliation cuts deeper than immigration enforcement. It raises an uncomfortable question: How did the descendants of people who helped build South Africa become strangers in the land their forefathers helped enrich?

A kingdom that once fed others

At the dawn of the twentieth century, Basotho were not known primarily as migrant labourers. Lesotho was a productive agricultural society. The fertile valleys and mountain foothills supplied grain, wool, and livestock to surrounding regions, including the growing towns and mining settlements of South Africa.

The Basotho economy was not perfect, but it was rooted in land, family production, and local markets. A people who can feed themselves possess a degree of freedom that no government can easily take away.

That freedom became the problem.

The great theft

The history of Lesotho cannot be understood without confronting the loss of land. During the nineteenth century, vast territories historically occupied and cultivated by Basotho communities were absorbed through wars, treaties, colonial manoeuvres, and settler expansion.

The alliance of imperial interests, British administrators, and Boer settlers gradually compressed the Basotho nation into a much smaller territory than that over which King Moshoeshoe I had once exercised authority.

The result was catastrophic:

- Less arable land
- Growing population pressure
- Declining agricultural productivity
- Increasing rural poverty

A country that had once exported food was pushed toward dependence.

Turning a nation into a labour reserve

Then came diamonds. Then came gold.

The discovery of mineral wealth in Kimberley and later on the Witwatersrand transformed the political economy of Southern Africa. The mines required an enormous sup-

ply of cheap labour. Colonial governments and mining capital needed workers who would accept low wages because their families remained in rural areas.

Lesotho became one of the region’s great labour reservoirs.

Young men who might have farmed, herded livestock, built local enterprises, or developed their own communities were drawn, and often economically compelled through colonial taxation into migrant labour.

This was not simply an individual choice. It was a structural design.

Taxes had to be paid in cash. Land was insufficient. Cash employment opportunities were concentrated in South Africa. The system hollowed out the very resource a nation possesses when land and capital are scarce: its people.

For generations, Basotho men descended into the mines. They built shafts, railways, compounds, roads, and cities. They extracted the gold that financed banks, industries, suburbs, and fortunes. Many returned with damaged lungs, broken bodies, and shortened lives. Others never returned at all.

The hidden subsidy

South Africa’s mining economy benefited from a hidden subsidy: neighbouring countries bore much of the social cost of reproducing labour.

Basotho families raised children, cared for the elderly, buried the dead, and sustained rural communities, while the mines purchased labour power without carrying the full cost of maintaining the workers’ households.

In effect, Lesotho helped subsidise South Africa’s industrial rise.

When the mines declined

As mining employment contracted in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, the old migrant-labour system began to unravel.

But the damage had already been done. Lesotho had become deeply dependent on remittances. Local productive capacity had been weakened. Generations had been socialised into a regional labour market rather than a diversified domestic economy.

What happens when a country is structured to export workers, and the demand for those workers declines?

You get unemployment, poverty, and desperation.

The cruel irony of deportation

Today, many Basotho seek work in South Africa through formal and informal channels. Some lack documentation. South Africa, like any sovereign state, has the legal right to regulate immigration.

But legality is not the only question.

History is also a question.

There is a profound irony in watching the grandchildren of migrant miners being deported from the very country whose wealth was built, in part, by their grandfathers’ labour.

The issue is not that South Africa should abandon border controls. The issue is that public debate often treats migrants as though they appeared out of nowhere, detached from the historical system that created regional labour dependence in the first place.

The architects of poverty

Countries rarely fail by accident.

They fail when political and economic systems systematically remove the foundations of self-reliance.

Take away land.

Disrupt local production.

Extract labour.

Concentrate wealth elsewhere.

Create dependence.

Then blame the dependent for seeking survival.

That is how poverty is manufactured.

A different future

The tragedy of Lesotho and South Africa is that their histories are inseparable. One supplied labour; the other accumulated capital. One absorbed social costs; the other captured much of the economic gain. Yet both now face unemployment, inequality, and social tension.

The answer cannot be endless deportations, nor can it be open denial of state sovereignty.

The answer lies in something harder:

- Rebuilding productive economies.
- Investing in agriculture, manufacturing, and regional value chains.
- Creating legal pathways for labour mobility.
- Recognising the shared history of Southern Africa.
- Restoring dignity to those whose work built the region.

How did we get here?

We got here through conquest, dispossession, empire, mineral capitalism, migrant labour, and political choices made over more than a century.

And unless we are honest about that history, we will continue treating the symptoms while preserving the architecture that created the poverty in the first place.

The Mosotho migrant standing in a deportation queue is not merely an immigration statistic.

He is the final chapter of a much longer story.

A story Southern Africa has yet to fully confront.

In form Makoanyane XI upbeat ahead of COSAFA qualifiers

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's national Under-20 side, Makoanyane XI, continued their impressive preparations for the upcoming CAF U-20 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers with another dominant display, defeating Empire United FC U19 4-0 in an international friendly on July 9, 2026.

The emphatic victory extended what has become a remarkable run of performances by coach Motolo Makepe's youthful side, who have been building confidence through a series of competitive fixtures ahead of the COSAFA Under-20 Championship in September.

Makoa Makhwanyane opened the scoring in the 17th minute before Ntepane struck twice in the second half, finding the back of the net in the 63rd and 67th minutes to put the match beyond doubt. Phalatsi completed the rout with an 82nd-minute goal as Makoanyane XI once again showcased their attacking quality and defensive discipline.

The latest victory follows an equally impressive weekend campaign in Durban, South Africa, where the Lesotho U-20 national team proved they can compete with some of the country's leading football academies during the KwaZulu-Natal National Tournament held at Tills Crescent Sports Grounds.

The tournament, which featured PSL outfit AmaZulu FC alongside several top academies from KwaZulu-Natal, provided Makoanyane XI with their first major competitive test since entering camp. The Basotho youngsters responded by winning three matches and reaching the semi-finals, firmly establishing themselves as one of the standout teams in the competition.

Their opening fixture saw Lesotho defeat Durban City U19 2-1 after PasekaNtlaloe had given Makoanyane XI a 1-0 halftime lead. Durban City equalised in the 65th minute before Kamohelo Sello restored Lesotho's advantage, with Ntlaloe adding another goal to secure an important opening victory.

Confidence continued to grow in the second match as Makoanyane XI dismantled Benfica U19 5-0. MakoaMakhwanyane and BahlakoanaMotsie each grabbed braces, while Relebohile Moletle completed the scoring in a commanding performance that highlighted Lesotho's attacking depth.

The quarter-final against Bissa Football Academy proved to be a sterner examination, ending 1-1 after regulation time. However, Makoanyane XI held their nerve to win the penalty shootout 4-3 and



Makoanyane XI in action in Durban, South Africa

book their place in the semi-finals.

Their impressive run eventually came to an end against Highlanders Football Academy after a goalless draw. The South African side progressed with a 5-3 victory in the penalty shootout, but the performance did little to diminish the positive impression left by the Basotho youngsters throughout the tournament.

Coach Motolo Makepe praised his players for their fearless displays and commitment throughout the Durban campaign and in the ongoing friendly matches.

"The team played very well. I am proud of my team as they showed no fear in this tournament," said Makepe.

"They never took their foot off the gas; they fought for the badge."

The encouraging performances have also generated excitement among local football supporters, who believe Lesotho's investment in youth development is beginning to bear fruit.

Football supporter TlotlisoNtulielabo believes the national youth programme is moving in the right direction.

"I love how Lesotho is handling its sporting activities lately. The way young players are being given opportunities and the way Lesotho is trying to match up with the other big footballing countries brings us success, and it is showing in the way Makoanyane XI is playing right now," he said.

The Durban campaign forms part of LeFA's broader strategy to strengthen youth football pathways and prepare the next generation of national team players. With victories over some of South Africa's respected development academies and another convincing friendly win against Empire United FC U19, optimism continues to grow around Makepe's squad.

Makoanyane XI are currently in an intensive month-long training camp at BambathaTšita Sports Arena as they prepare for the CAF U-20 AFCON qualifiers, which will be staged during the COSAFA Under-20 Championship from September 21 to 30.

Coach Makepe selected a squad of 25 players for the camp, with the programme including several high-level friendlies designed to sharpen the team ahead of the regional qualifiers.

Lesotho will be aiming to qualify for the CAF U-20 Africa Cup of Nations for only the third time in history, having previously reached the tournament in 2005 under the late Seephephe "Mochini" Matete and again in 2011 under Leslie Notši.

Cricket squad gears for World Cup qualifiers

Seabata Mahao

The national men's cricket team has stepped up its preparations for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Sub-Regional Qualifiers after head coach Alexander Mavhiko assembled eight players for a three-month residential training camp at Soofia International School in Botha-Bothe.

The camp, which began on Wednesday, will run until September 30 and forms a key part of Lesotho's preparations for the continental qualifiers scheduled for October.

Mavhiko said the selected players were chosen partly because they are currently unemployed, allowing them to fully commit to the demanding training programme without work-related interruptions.

"We have selected eight players who will be in camp from July 1 until September 30 ahead of the World Cup qualifiers," Mavhiko said.

"These are players who are not working, so they are camping here with everything, including accommodation and food, being taken care of. However, among them there are some who are still at school, so they will utilise this first month (July) before returning to school."

He added that national team players who are employed will continue to be part of the squad and will join the camp during weekends for training sessions.

According to Mavhiko, the extended residential programme is expected to address one of the team's biggest challenges—limited training time.



"The camp is going to help us a lot because we will have continuous time to work with the players and help them understand each other and the game itself. Meeting only on weekends and having a lot to cover has been our major challenge in the past," he said.

"This time, for three months, these players will focus solely on cricket. They will wake up thinking about cricket, play cricket and go to sleep thinking about the sport. So, we believe this will work for us."

Beyond improving performances on the field, Mavhiko believes the initiative will also have a positive social impact by keeping young

players engaged in a structured sporting environment.

"This camp is also helping us keep the players off the streets and keep them occupied with something they love," he said.

The coach said the national side is determined to turn a new page and compete more effectively on the international stage instead of merely making up the numbers.

"We want to change our fortunes and start competing rather than just participating," he said.

Mavhiko credited the success of the initiative to support from the private sector and educational institutions. Saverite Supermarket

is supplying groceries for the camp, Soofia International School has provided its sporting facilities, while Nashua is covering accommodation for the players.

As part of the build-up to the qualifiers, Lesotho is also expected to play a series of friendly matches against South African provincial teams to give the players valuable match experience before the tournament.

The players currently attending the residential camp are Thamae Thamae, TankiKhetsi, Tšepiso Chaoana, 'Malei Khauta, JabulaniMatjatje, BahlakoanaMejaro, HlalefangRamohapi and Mpiti Lerotholi.

Seabata Mahao

Avani Hotels and Resorts has launched the AvaniFit 2026 Marathon, dangling a total prize purse of M150,000 as it seeks to establish one of Lesotho's biggest annual endurance and lifestyle events while boosting sports tourism and corporate participation.

The marathon, themed "Run Your Story," will take place on 17 October 2026, starting and finishing at the Avani Lesotho Hotel and Casino in Maseru. It is expected to attract elite athletes, amateur runners, corporate teams and fitness enthusiasts from Lesotho and across the Southern African region.

Participants will compete in four race categories – the 42km full marathon, 21km half marathon, 10km race and a 5km fun run – providing opportunities for runners of different ages and fitness levels.

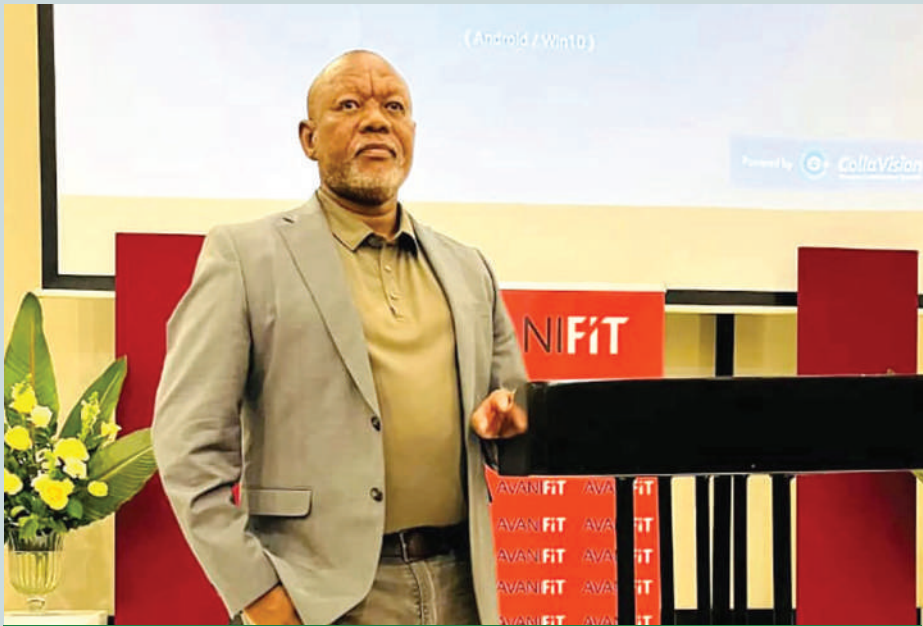
Launching the event on Friday, Avani Lesotho General Manager Letsoso Mohasoa described the marathon as more than a race, saying it combines sport, wellness and premium hospitality.

"Partner with Lesotho's premier endurance and lifestyle event, where the city runs at its best. AvaniFit 2026 is a fitness and lifestyle event designed to attract professional athletes, amateur runners, corporate teams and health-conscious communities from across Lesotho and the region," Mohasoa said.

He said participants will receive exclusive post-race hospitality experiences, including a specially curated breakfast, a pool party at Avani Maseru and complimentary access to the hotel's swimming pool and sauna facilities.

Mohasoa said the marathon also offers

M150k jackpot for Avani athletes



Avani Lesotho General Manager Letsoso Mohasoa

businesses a platform to market their brands through sponsorship packages ranging from M10,000 to M100,000. Sponsorship categories include Platinum (M100,000), Gold (M50,000), Silver (M25,000) and Bronze (M10,000), with the latter two also available through in-kind contributions.

He said sponsors would benefit from extensive visibility through marketing

campaigns, regional media coverage, branding on the AvaniFit website and on-site activations during the event.

"All confirmed sponsors, regardless of their tier, will benefit from a robust visibility platform that includes inclusion in all event marketing campaigns and regional media coverage, official logo placement on the AvaniFit website, and on-site brand activations

during moments of celebration, recovery and community interaction," Mohasoa said.

He encouraged companies to secure sponsorships early, saying limited slots and category exclusivity would reward early commitments with premium brand positioning before promotional campaigns are finalised.

"Every runner receives exclusive access to Avani's hospitality offering, ensuring extended engagement with sponsor brands beyond race day. These touchpoints provide repeated, positive brand exposure during moments of celebration, recovery and community interaction," he said.

To ensure the event meets competitive standards, veteran Lesotho athletes Thabiso Moqhali and Peete Maphephe will provide technical support in planning and delivering the marathon.

Lesotho National Olympic Committee president Morake Raleaka welcomed the inclusion of a children's race, saying it would help develop future athletes and strengthen the country's sporting pipeline.

The AvaniFit 2026 Marathon is expected to add to Lesotho's growing road running calendar while promoting healthy lifestyles, tourism and corporate engagement through a festival that blends elite competition with hospitality and community participation.



Kick4Life sends more players abroad



16-year-old Mariam Monnapula and 20-year-old Thuso Khoarane

Seabata Mahao

There were smiles, applause and emotional tributes at the Kick4Life Centre on Thursday this week as family members, educators, partners and supporters gathered to celebrate two young footballers whose talent and determination have earned them life-changing opportunities abroad.

Kick4Life officially announced international scholarships for Scholar-Football Academy (SFA) standouts Mariam Monnapula and Thuso Khoarane during a press conference held on July 9, marking another milestone for the organisation's mission of using football as a pathway to education and leadership.

The event highlighted the impact of the Scholar-Football Academy, which combines football development with academic excellence, leadership training and community service to create opportunities for young people in Lesotho.

Sixteen-year-old Mariam Monnapula has secured a scholarship to attend the prestigious African Leadership Academy (ALA) in Johannesburg, South Africa, where she will enrol in the academy's two-year Leadership Programme beginning on August 22.

The residential pre-university programme is designed to prepare Africa's future leaders through

rigorous academics, entrepreneurship, leadership development and African studies while opening pathways to leading universities around the world.

A player for the Kick4Life Junior Girls team, Mariam has also distinguished herself away from the football field as a volunteer life skills coach and tutor in Mathematics and Chemistry.

Since joining Kick4Life through its Soccer Schools programme in 2022, she has steadily developed into one of the academy's brightest prospects, representing Lesotho at regional leadership forums while balancing sporting excellence with academic achievement.

Reflecting on her journey, Mariam credited Kick4Life for transforming her confidence and outlook on life.

"Through Kick4Life, I have grown. I have learned to challenge myself and step outside of my comfort zone. The Mariam of 2022 would never have stood in front of you to give a speech like this," she said.

"Through Kick4Life, I have achieved so many things, and it has been instrumental in shaping the person I am today, both academically and in my personal development. As I head to the African Leadership Academy, I am going to be a leader for Africa. I hold this torch only for a moment, and I will make sure it burns as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

The celebrations also recognised 20-year-old Thuso Khoarane, who has earned a four-year scholarship to study for a Bachelor of Information Technology Sciences degree, majoring in Cybersecurity, at the University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg, Kentucky, USA.

Alongside his studies, Khoarane will also represent the university's football programme when he begins his new chapter on August 1.

Khoarane's journey through Kick4Life reflects the academy's long-term player development model. After joining the organisation in 2018, he progressed from the Soccer School to captaining Kick4Life Juventude to the Lesotho A-Division League title.

Off the pitch, he completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma, gained workplace experience as an IT Administration Assistant trainee through the Fit4Work and Play programme and volunteered as a life skills coach.

In an emotional address, Khoarane dedicated the achievement to everyone who had contributed to his development.

"Today is not really about Mariam and me. It is about everyone who has had a hand in building the people we are today," he said.

"I would like to thank the entire Kick4Life family because you have changed my life in ways I cannot fully describe. Had I not come to Kick4Life,

I believe my life would have been completely different. If I have seen more than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants. Today, the giant I am talking about is Kick4Life, because had it not been for this organisation, I would not be standing here today."

Kick4Life Academics Coordinator Likhapha Khemi described the scholarships as a reflection of the students' commitment to academic excellence, leadership and service to their communities.

"At Kick4Life, we are committed to ensuring that our participants are not only supported academically and athletically, but are also equipped with the skills, knowledge and values needed to navigate real-life challenges," Khemi said.

"We are incredibly proud of both of you and believe you will inspire other young people in Lesotho to see that through dedication, determination and hard work, everything is possible. As you embark on this journey, remember that you are representing your families, Kick4Life and Lesotho. Go out there and make us proud."

Kick4Life said the scholarships demonstrate the success of its Scholar-Football Academy, which has, since 2016, created international education pathways for talented student-athletes by integrating football, education and character development.



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