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News

**16 nabbed in home
affairs**

Page 4

Sports

**LeFA empowers young
referees**

Page 16

MASERIBANE IMPLICATED AS KEY FIGURE IN 2015 LDF MUTINY PLOT

**...former PM Thabane and Rantšo linked to
army operation that led to Mahao's death**

**...in explosive testimony alleging
conspiracy against LDF command**

Page 2



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Lekhetso Makhanya

Former Basotho National Party (BNP) leader Chief Thesele Maseribane was the key person in the mutiny plot within the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) in 2015, the High Court heard this week.

According to the new defence witness, Retired Major General Tumo Lekhooa, who first took the stand on Monday in the marathon murder trial of Lieutenant General Maaparankoe Mahao, Maseribane was the “principal architect” in the mutiny plot.

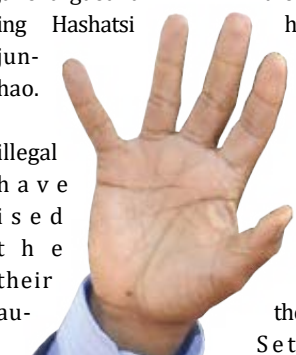
Lt-Gen Mahao was also a suspect in the alleged mutiny plot. He was killed by an LDF task team that was established to hunt down the suspected mutineers and arrest them. Mahao was fatally shot during the operation that was dubbed “Operation Safe Lives” on June 25, 2015. He later died while receiving medical treatment at the Makoanyane Military Hospital the same day, according to the evidence in court.

The army has maintained that Mahao was shot dead because he resisted arrest and fought back during that operation. Mahao is alleged to have held out his pistol and pointed it at Captain Tefo Hashatsi before he was shot by Captain Haleo Makara at the scene of the crime in Mokema that fateful day. Hashatsi was the team leader of the operation.

But the Crown legal representation has challenged the legality of the operation. They argued the operation was illegal, questioning its authorisation. Advocate Rethabile Setlojane, for the Crown, said the operation could not have been legal because the operative soldiers were all junior to Lt-Gen Mahao in military ranks.

Captain Hashatsi was the most senior officer of the eight men manning the operation. Setlojane argued all the men, including Hashatsi himself, were junior to Mahao. Therefore, it would be illegal for them to be authorised to effect arrest on a senior authority.

Setlojane also based his argument on the testimony of the current army commander, Lt-Gen Mojalefa Letsoela, who had earlier testified as state witness number 38. In his testimony, Letsoela had also dismissed allegations of a mutiny plot. He said there was no record of the mutiny



army commander, Lt-Gen Mojalefa Letsoela, who had earlier testified as state witness number 38. In his testimony, Letsoela had also dismissed allegations of a mutiny plot. He said there was no record of the mutiny

Maseribane implicated as key figure in 2015 LDF mutiny plot

...former PM Thabane and Rantšo linked to army operation that led to Mahao's death ...in explosive testimony alleging conspiracy against LDF command

charges and therefore the case was not prosecutable in the Court Martial.

Now, the Retired General Lekhooa was brought in by the defence to take the stand to testify on whether or not there was any mutiny plot in the LDF.

The pensioned Major General was the acting Director of the Military Intelligence (MI) unit of the LDF at the time of the alleged mutiny events in 2015, before he was transferred to head the National Security Service (NSS) in 2016.

He told the court this week that following allegations of the mutiny plot, as the MI, “We had cast our net wide... Our findings led us to the State House. We found out that the whole plot started at the State House, following the snap general elections of February 2015. There were political party leaders dissatisfied with the outcome of the elections,” the General said.

Due to the 2014 political and security instability, Lesotho held snap National Assembly elections on February 28, 2015, two years ahead of schedule. The outcome ousted the tripartite administration of Dr Motsoahae Thomas Thabane, Mothetjoa Metsing and Chief Maseribane, respectively, of the All Basotho Convention (ABC), the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) which had split when its then secretary general, Keketso Rantšo, left to form her own Reformed Congress of Lesotho (RCL), and the BNP.

According to Major General Lekhooa, his team had found out that the three political party leaders—Thabane, Maseribane and Rantšo—were dissatisfied with the outcome of the snap elections that ushered back the administration of the previous prime minister, Dr Pakalitha Mosisili.

Lekhooa said of the three disgruntled leaders, Maseribane was the one who instigated a plot to destabilise the army structures in their protest against the election outcome.

“This discussion between the three political leaders was first held in a meeting held in the State House. This was immediately after the election outcome and Dr Thabane had not yet moved from the State House and the incoming prime minister (Mosisili) had not yet been inaugurated,” Lekhooa told the court.

He added that Maseribane continued to hold clandestine meetings at his office at BNP Centre and elsewhere, including at the residential home of one Mr Hloolane, a retired member of the LDF, in Ha Leqeletse, Maseru. He said a large number of the members of the LDF had attended the clandestine meetings where Maseribane “lobbied them into the mutiny plot.”

Lekhooa revealed that Maseribane was experienced in organising riots in the military, “as he did post the elections in 1998.” He said Maseribane had established “his cells and collaborative networks within the army, to accomplish his desires to cling onto power.”

Also to accomplish his mission, Lekhooa said Maseribane used businesspeople such as Jessie Ramakatane. Other civilians who were engaged in the plot, Lekhooa said, included Thabiso Mahase, “the person of high standing in the ABC.” Mahase, he said, was notorious for cases of the disarmament of soldiers deployed as bodyguards at respective cabinet ministers’ residential places in 2007.

Lebohlang

provided accommodation for the soldiers who went on self-imposed exile in South Africa, “fleeing what was termed kidnappings, abductions and intimidation by the soldiers on other soldiers in May 2015.” Following the alleged mutiny charges, some soldiers fled for their lives and sought refuge in neighbouring South Africa. The court heard this week how the soldiers were accommodated at Hlaele’s residential place in Ladybrand, South Africa.

Other actors, Lekhooa said, included former Commissioner of Police Khothatso Tšooana, “who pledged to support operatives of the mutiny plot with police ammunition and additional personnel, among other things.”

General Lekhooa did not spare the Retired Major General Matela Matobakele, who he revealed disappeared under mysterious circumstances from the army in 2014. During his disappearance, Lekhooa revealed Matobakele was secretly working for Dr Thabane and his party, the ABC. “He worked undercover as Chief of Security for the ABC Leader, Dr Motsoahae Thomas Thabane. He also secretly operated as a spy, collaborating with some of the international spy communities,” Lekhooa revealed. Matobakele, Lekhooa added, was a member of the ABC in good standing.

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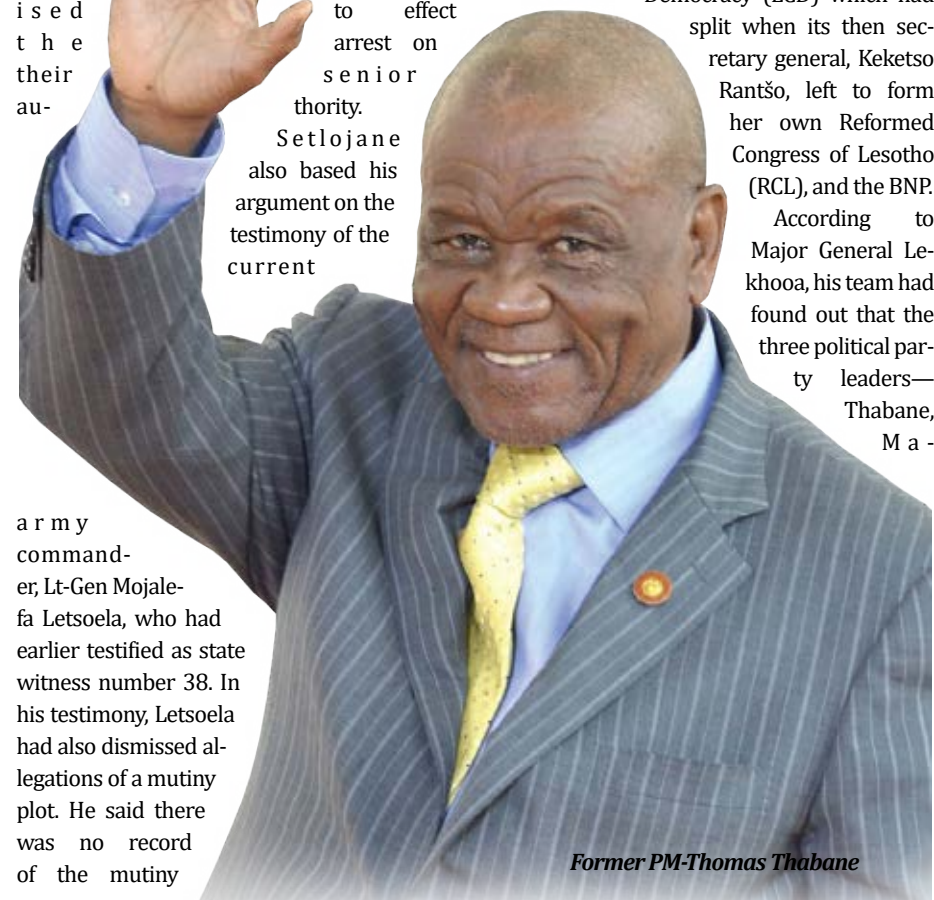
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Former PM-Thomas Thabane



Chief Thesele Maseribane

Continued on page 3...

Continued from page 2...

Lekhooa said there were clear records of the plot compiled by the MI.

Lekhooa did not spare the non-governmental organisations and the media, which he said were also engaged in the plot. The Transformation Resource Centre, the Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations and the Development for Peace Education were mentioned by Lekhooa as the NGOs which he said were used to dispel the fact that there was a mutiny plot.

“They carefully selected emotionally provoking words such as ‘kidnapping, abduction and intimidation’ to suggest that the suspected mutineers were not simply arrested and detained by their colleagues, but kidnapped and assaulted for no justifiable reason,” said Lekhooa.

The radio stations which connived with the NGOs to broadcast the “disinformation” were Harvest FM and People’s Choice FM, according to his testimony.

While he gave his testimony, Lekhooa kept reminding the court that he would not divulge

Maseribane implicated as key figure in 2015 LDF mutiny plot

some of the evidence because he still had to answer before courts on other cases he faces himself. The Retired Major General is still on bail. He still has his own scandals to answer before the courts.

In 2017, General Lekhooa himself fled the country. He claimed before the High Court last year, upon his return and subsequent arrest, that he fled out of fear of then Prime Minister

Thabane, who had just been reinstated into power following his ABC victory in the 2017 National Assembly elections.

Lekhooa was arrested in February last year upon his return from self-exile in South Africa. He said he had fled after Dr Thabane dismissed him from the NSS, where he oversaw the state’s intelligence as then Director General. He said Thabane had first withdrawn his bodyguards and confiscated his service firearms, leaving him vulnerable.

He still faces charges of treason and murder in connection with the attempted coup against Thabane’s government on August 29-30, 2014, as well as the murder of General Mahao on June 25, 2015, which is exactly the case in point.

His trial was separated.

In his bail application filed last year in the High Court, Lekhooa claimed that Thabane publicly accused him of spreading “false” allegations that the former First Lady, ‘Maesaiah Thabane, was responsible for the murder of Mr Thabane’s estranged previous wife, Lipolelo Thabane.

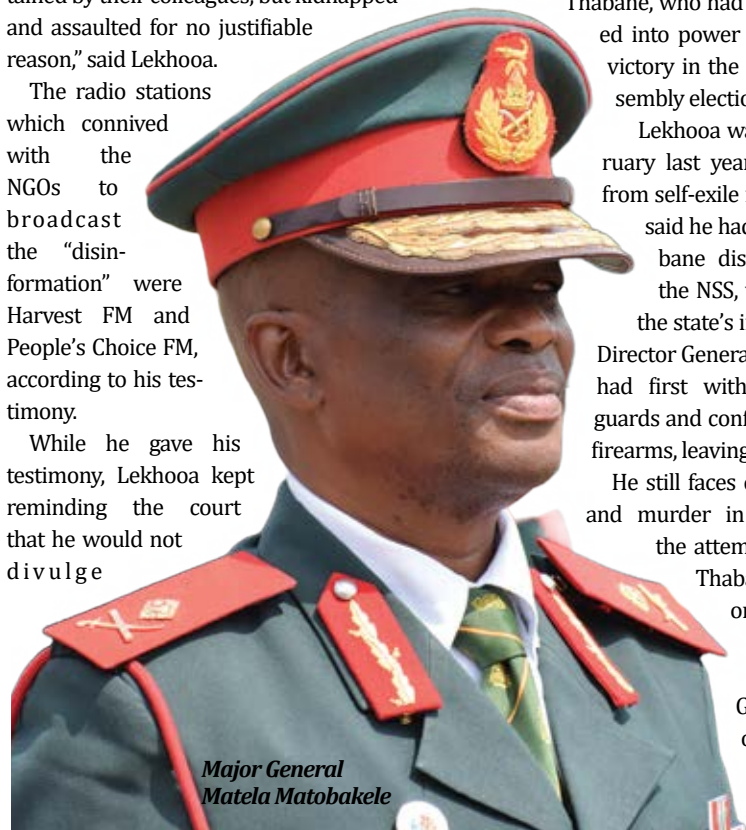
Lekhooa argued that he had not been charged with any crime at the time of his departure in 2017, but feared for his safety. He claimed that hostility towards him intensified immediately after Thabane reassumed power. Despite multiple attempts to provide the Prime Minister with intelligence updates, as was expected of him as the NSS boss, Thabane allegedly refused to meet with him, he claimed.

He stated that his secondment to the NSS was abruptly terminated, his bodyguards withdrawn, and his service weapons confiscated. Following this, he claims that upon returning to the Lesotho Defence Force, he took annual leave with the approval of then LDF commander, Lieutenant General Khoantle Motšomotšo. However, his security situation deteriorated further when his bodyguards were withdrawn, and his service weapons

ons—two rifles and a sidearm—were confiscated.

Faced with these threats, Lekhooa stated that he decided to flee to South Africa in October 2017, with his family’s support.

He then pleaded with the court to grant him bail on conditions that he pays a M1000 cash deposit, attends remands, reports himself to the police every Monday, surrenders his passport to the police and stands trial to finality.



Major General
Matela Matobakele



Former RCL Leader
Keketso Rantso

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16 nabbed in home affairs

...Minister Tsheka vows to crack down on corruption

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Minister of Home Affairs and Police Voeswa Tsheka has announced the capture of 16 officials from her ministry on charges of corruption and fraud, describing the arrests as a breakthrough in cleaning up the troubled department.

Ten of the accused have already been arraigned in court, while six are facing disciplinary proceedings, the Minister disclosed to journalists this week as she delivered a public apology for persistent inefficiencies in the passport and identity documents system.

"On behalf of the Ministry, I sincerely apologise to all Basotho and residents who have experienced delays, poor treatment, and inconvenience. We take full responsibility," Tsheka said.

The apology came in response to a damning report by Ombudsman Advocate Tlotliso Polaki, published in May this year, which exposed a pattern of maladministration, inadequate digital infrastructure, and systemic failure to comply with the Ministry's Service Charter. The report also flagged irregularities in the issuance of diplomatic passports, where statutory surrender provisions were not enforced.

"No citizen will be denied essential services due to expired ID while awaiting renewal," the Minister promised.

Tsheka said police officers and the Criminal Investigation Department have now been deployed to Home Affairs offices across the coun-

try to root out corruption.

"The Ministry condemns all acts of bribery and solicitation for payment to fast-track services," she declared.

The arrests follow a turbulent period for the department. On April 2 this year, the Principal Secretary ordered a temporary halt to passport production "until further notice." Passports were not manufactured, leaving more than 50,000 applicants frustrated, particularly those working in South Africa who could not travel.

Tsheka said when the crackdown began, the backlog stood at more than 61,000 passports. It has since been reduced to 38,000.

"In a day we print half of the new applications and process the other half," she explained. "The usual daily output ranges from 1,200 to 1,600. In the worst case, 900 passports were printed."

She said the more aggressive approach has been in effect since June 22.

The Minister revealed that she had approached the United Nations Development Programme to conduct a systems audit covering hiring, control measures, and standard operating procedures. Two new printers have been acquired to speed up operations.

"Meeting a person in the production area, I asked how many passports they print per day, but they did not know," Tsheka said. "The production area is hot, but it is now cooler. We have also procured fraser suits for those staff."

Tsheka announced that systems will be automated, SMS alerts restored, and a tracking app introduced so applicants can check the status of their passport applications. A customer experience team has been formed, and a toll-free home service for the elderly has been introduced.

On the diplomatic passport scandal flagged by the Ombudsman, the Minister was unpromising.

"The Ministry acknowledges irregular issuance and misuse of diplomatic passports," she said. "Diplomatic passports will be recalled, and once resistance is noticed, they will be cancelled in the system."

Tsheka also addressed the issue of residence permits, apologising for the failure to issue them.

"The requirement was that, after two years, staff should have passed on the skills to local personnel. However, surprisingly, from time to time the same person would still return to request the permit," she said.

She stressed that thorough vetting of Home Affairs staff, which has not happened for some time, will be reinstated.

"In respected countries, after the army and police, there is an effective Home Affairs service," she said. "When these people's contracts end, they will leave with the secrets of the Ministry, and in some cases become agents who facilitate matters for people still active at work, helping those outside."



She said the ministry intends to do away with temporary staff and move to permanent employees who can be trained, developed, and invested in for their growth.

"Meeting a person in the production area, I asked how many passports they print per day, but they did not know," she repeated, underscoring the incompetence she has encountered.

The Minister also raised concerns about land administration, saying the use of arable land for property development was the "sin" of the Ministry of Home Affairs, contrary to the belief that it was councilors after giving them the land for farming.

She said identity documents state that everyone is a Mosotho and can access land.

Tsheka promised to report to the public every three months, as directed at the Leadership Forum and the Accountability Summit.

She warned staff against demanding bribes from the public and urged them to exercise empathy towards people.

MSMEs to access M68 million climate adaptation grants

Seabata Mahao

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development has launched a M68 million MSME Resilience Building and Preparedness Support Facility aimed at helping micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) strengthen their ability to withstand the growing impacts of climate change.

Established under the World Bank-funded Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) Project, the facility will provide matching grants to eligible formally registered businesses seeking to invest in climate-resilient equipment and minor infrastructure upgrades designed to reduce their exposure to climate-related risks.

Under the programme, the government will finance up to 80 percent of approved resilience investments, while beneficiary businesses will contribute the remaining 20 percent. The cost-sharing arrangement is intended to promote ownership while making resilience-enhancing technologies more accessible to enterprises.

The initiative comes at a time when Lesotho is experiencing increasingly frequent and severe climate-related shocks, including prolonged droughts, floods, strong winds and heavy snowfall, all of which have disrupted business operations, damaged infrastructure, destroyed agricultural production and weakened economic activity.

Speaking at the launch, Minister of Trade Motlatsi Maqelepo described climate change as one of the country's most pressing economic challenges, saying the facility represents a strategic investment in the future competitiveness of Basotho enterprises.

"Through the World Bank-financed Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) Project, the Government is introducing the Climate Resilience and Preparedness Support Facility to help Basotho enterprises prepare for, adapt to, and withstand the growing impacts of climate change. This initiative is not merely a grant programme; it is an investment in the future resilience, productivity and competitiveness of our businesses and our economy," Maqelepo said.

He noted that climate change has evolved from an environmental concern into a significant economic threat affecting production, supply chains, employment and public finances.

"Climate change is no longer a distant environmental concern. It is one of the most significant economic challenges confronting our nation. Increasingly frequent droughts, floods, extreme weather events and changing climatic conditions are disrupting agricultural production, damaging business assets, interrupting supply chains, threatening jobs and placing immense pressure on livelihoods and public finances," he said.

According to the minister, strengthening climate resilience is now critical to protecting productive investments and sustaining economic growth.

"The Government recognises that strengthening climate resilience is therefore not only an environmental imperative; it is an economic necessity. Building resilient businesses means protecting jobs, safeguarding investments, maintaining production and ensuring that our economy

continues to grow despite increasing climate risks," he said.

The facility is expected to support businesses in acquiring resilience-building equipment and undertaking targeted infrastructure improvements that reduce exposure to climate hazards before disasters strike. By prioritising prevention rather than recovery, the programme aims to minimise business disruptions, protect livelihoods and enhance long-term operational continuity.

Maqelepo said the initiative aligns with broader government efforts to strengthen national disaster preparedness and risk management.

He revealed that, through the CAFI Project, the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Disaster Management Authority, developed the Disaster Risk Financing Strategy, which was approved by Cabinet and entered implementation in 2025.

"The Strategy provides a comprehensive framework for mobilising and managing financial resources before disasters occur, enabling Government to respond more rapidly, efficiently and effectively when crises arise," he said.

"Today, we are extending that same forward-looking approach to the private sector."

Unlike conventional disaster response programmes that provide assistance after calamities occur, the new facility is focused on prevention and preparedness.

"While other government programmes focus on supporting communities after disasters have occurred, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development is investing in prevention. Our objective is to ensure that businesses are equipped to anticipate climate risks, reduce their vulnerability and continue operating even under adverse conditions," the minister said.

He emphasised that resilient businesses are essential to sustaining communities, preserving jobs and supporting economic stability.

"Resilient businesses create resilient communities. When businesses continue operating, they preserve jobs, sustain household incomes, maintain supply chains and contribute to national economic stability," he added.

The matching grant programme will finance investments in climate-resilient technologies, equipment and infrastructure that strengthen operational resilience while improving enterprise productivity and competitiveness.

Maqelepo stressed that addressing climate change requires coordinated action between government, the private sector, financial institutions and development partners.

"Climate resilience cannot be achieved by Government alone. It requires collective action by businesses, financial institutions, development partners and every stakeholder committed to the future of our economy," he said.

Applications for the Climate Resilience and Preparedness Support Facility are now open to eligible formally registered businesses across Lesotho.

Application forms and eligibility requirements are available from the CAFI Project Office, district offices of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development, and on the CAFI Project website.

Encouraging businesses to apply, Maqelepo said resilience investments are increasingly becoming a prerequisite for long-term competitiveness and sustainability.

"Preparing for climate change is no longer optional; it is essential for business continuity, competitiveness and long-term success. The businesses that invest in resilience today will be the businesses that thrive tomorrow."

He concluded by urging the private sector to work alongside government in building a more resilient and competitive economy.

"Together, let us build enterprises that can withstand shocks, create sustainable jobs, drive economic transformation and secure a more prosperous future for our nation."

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Bereng Mpaki

A proposed commercial deal to supply American-grown cotton to Lesotho’s textile manufacturers could yet invigorate the struggling textile sector in Lesotho, while also signaling a shift to a more balanced trade relationship between the two countries.

The proposal, currently being explored between the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) and the US-Africa Trade Desk (USATD), would see American cotton shipped to Lesotho, where it would be transformed into denim garments destined for major US retailers.

If it materialises, it could become the clearest indication yet of a fundamental shift in economic relations between Lesotho and the US, from a relationship historically characterised by development assistance and preferential market access, to one which is anchored on reciprocal trade and investment.

While still at a formative stage, the initiative aligns with Washington’s growing emphasis on commercial diplomacy across the African continent.

The proposed arrangement featured prominently during the inaugural Khotso Convo dialogue organised by the US Embassy in Maseru, a new platform designed to encourage discussions on issues shaping bilateral relations between the two countries.

The inaugural conversation centred on trade and investment, emphasizing a broader evolution in the nature of US engagement with Africa from typical aid to trade.

Discussions centered around the recognition that while Lesotho has long benefited from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), much of its textile industry continues to operate under the Cut-Make-Trim (CMT) manufacturing model.

Under this system, foreign-owned factories predominantly from Asia, import fabrics, patterns and accessories from their home countries before Basotho workers assemble the finished garments for export to the United States.

Although the arrangement has created thousands of jobs over the years, Lesotho’s participation in the value chain has remained largely confined to labour-intensive assembly, leaving relatively little value added within the domestic economy.

Sean Lawlor, the US Embassy Maseru’s Political and Economic Chief said discussions between USATD and the LNDC have already identified a practical opportunity capable of deepening industrial cooperation between businesses in both countries.

“One initiative that I would like to highlight is a partnership between US Africa Trade Desk (USATD), that works with US companies to find business opportunities in Africa, and the LNDC, with whom they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) earlier this year,” Lawlor said.

He revealed that one of the first projects under consideration involves supplying American cotton directly to Nien Hsing International Group in Lesotho.

“One of the deals they are working on is to bring American cotton to Lesotho to Nien Hsing factories, which produce denim jeans. High-profile retailers are interested in buying those jeans because they’re specifically using US cotton.”

Unlike the prevailing manufacturing model, the proposed arrangement would integrate American agricultural producers with Lesotho’s manufacturing capacity, creating a supply chain

US cotton lifeline for ailing Lesotho textile sector



US Embassys political and economic affairs chief Sean Lawlor

in which both countries contribute meaningful value before finished garments are sold to American consumers.

The implications for Lesotho extend beyond securing another export order, according to Lawlor. He said the arrangement would allow Basotho workers to occupy a more strategic position within the global apparel supply chain rather than simply providing low-cost labour.

And while the proposed deal is currently limited to one manufacturing group, it is possible to be extended to other factories to replicate its anticipated impact across the sector, which has been particularly decimated by the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the imposition of a reciprocal import tariff on Lesotho products and services to the US.

“From a Lesotho perspective, this deal will allow Nien Hsing to continue providing products to American retailers, and being a large-scale project means there are going to be a lot more jobs, and those jobs are not just going to sew something together; they are going to be producing a pair of jeans from cotton to what you see in the store.”

Having first arrived in Lesotho around 1990, the Taiwanese Nien Hsing group is one of the earliest and prominent players in the AGOA-inspired sector. The group says on its website that it currently employs over 2600 workers through its fabric mill (Formosa Textile) and garment factory (Nien Hsing International) both in Lesotho.

Lawlor argued that integrating American raw materials with Basotho manufacturing would significantly strengthen Lesotho’s industrial contribution.

The proposal also reflects a broader evolution in Washington’s commercial engagement with Africa. Rather than relying primarily on develop-

ment assistance programmes, the US is increasingly encouraging private-sector investment, business partnerships and mutually beneficial trade relationships.

That shift was reflected in Lawlor’s assessment of changing global investment patterns.

“Risk is very important to American businesses. As we all know, America First is focused on benefiting American businesses, with the result of providing greater prosperity for the American people.”

He noted that for decades Asia dominated global manufacturing investment, attracting companies seeking efficient production at scale.

“From 1975 to 2015, the land of opportunity was Asia... But I do not think that is the case anymore. That market is now saturated. Those countries are competitors now. That then leads to Africa.”

According to Lawlor, many of the historical perceptions surrounding investment risk on the continent are changing as businesses search for new markets and production locations.

“Africa has traditionally been seen as a risky bet for American businesses... These days the risk is less, and there is more possibility in Africa because of talent, energy and the growing demand for services.”

He believes Lesotho’s comparative advantages are increasingly becoming commercially attractive. He suggested that Lesotho’s abundant water resources, renewable energy potential, cool climate and educated workforce position it as an attractive destination for investment in data centres that will underpin the rapidly expanding global artificial intelligence (AI) economy.

“One of the biggest factors for American businesses is political risk, and I would argue that Lesotho is very stable right now. It also has a lot of

untapped resources, particularly water.”

“Data centres require a lot of energy and a lot of water; and Lesotho has both of those things, an educated workforce, a stable government and the right climatic conditions that make it cheaper to do it here than almost anywhere in the world.”

He said such investments could have multiplier effects extending well beyond technology.

Tumisang Mosotho, the former Lesotho Ambassador to the US, believes the proposed cotton partnership captures precisely the type of mature commercial relationship both countries should now be pursuing.

“It is one project that is really exciting to me because it talks to reciprocity. A simple story, yet so powerful: American cotton, Basotho workers turn it into garments, and it is sold to American retailers. That is exactly the kind of relationship that the US government is foreseeing going forward.”

He contrasted the proposed partnership with the uncertainty that has periodically surrounded AGOA, whose renewal depends on decisions taken by the US Congress.

“With AGOA you always have to wait for the cycle when it is about to expire, and business does not operate on such uncertainty.”

Mosotho argued that sourcing American cotton could also improve the competitiveness of Lesotho-made garments in the US market while strengthening the commercial logic for deeper bilateral investment.

He said using US cotton as production inputs would further drive down the amount of import tariffs by up to 30 percent, which Lesotho products have to pay to enter the US market.

He believes the opportunity extends well beyond textiles. Data centres, biotechnology, agricultural technology, veterinary sciences and advanced manufacturing all present areas where Lesotho can leverage American expertise while creating domestic industries capable of generating high-skilled employment.

“I would therefore encourage Lesotho to take this opportunity, as it is no longer time for talk shops, it’s now time for concrete deals. If we seize this opportunity, there is so much to be achieved that can transform the economic fortunes of this country.”

He sees the greatest challenge is no longer whether opportunities exist, but whether Lesotho deliberately positions itself to attract them.

“I doubt if we as a country have ever been intentional about attracting US investors. We seem to have been comfortable with the one-sided economic relationship with them. So, the shift will be more than welcome,” Mosotho said.

While the LNDC would not divulge much details at this “early stage of the talks”, it acknowledged the ongoing discussions around a deal to import US cotton to Lesotho.

NOTICE OF LOST LAND ACT LEASE

Notice is hereby given that we intend to apply to the Registrar of Deeds for a certified copy of Land Act Lease No. 14311-286, situated at Matala Maseru Urban Area, registered in the name of Phethahatso English Medium Community School.

All persons having objections to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge them in writing with the Land Registrar within three (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

Notice made by:
Phethahatso English Medium Community School
Mohalalitoe
Maseru 100

NOTICE OF SURNAME SPELLING CORRECTION

Notice is hereby given that the surname of “TELAR” NAJARANABANU NIZAMUDDIN was incorrectly printed as “TELAR” in her passport due to a spelling error. The correct surname is “TAILOR” Henceforth, she shall be known and identified as NAJARANABANU NIZAMUDDIN TAILOR, and both names refer to one and the same person. All concerned are requested to take note of this correction.



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Bata



Ntsoaki Motaung

For several years, children in Lesotho have been making a quiet, dangerous journey. It begins at a health clinic, where a mother hoping for a life-saving vaccine for her baby is instead met with a closed refrigerator, a “stockout” in the cold, technical language of global health.

It continues into the labyrinth of government ledgers, where the records of who has been vaccinated and who has not have become so unreliable that international health authorities say they can no longer tell which children are safe and which are at risk.

This is the grim portrait painted by the latest joint review from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF, released on July 7. The assessment, which examines data up to June 2026, reveals a country whose immunisation program has not only lost ground but has lost its compass.

“The estimates refer to immunisations delivered through routine immunisation services to children less than 12 months of age... for whom vaccinations are recorded,” the report notes. Yet in Lesotho, those records have become a source of profound confusion.

The report documents a cascade of failures, from supply chain breakdowns to a systemic data crisis that has eroded international trust in the country’s official statistics.

In 2021, coverage for the BCG vaccine, which protects against tuberculosis, stood at a robust 99 percent. By 2023, it had plunged to 68 percent, a collapse the report directly attributes to a “two months vaccine stockout at national and subnational levels” following a three-month shortage the year before.

A similar story unfolded for the measles vaccine. A five-month national stockout in 2022 left the first-dose coverage estimated at just 76 percent the following year, down from 90 percent in 2021. The second dose, for which coverage is already dangerously low, slipped to 63 percent.

These interruptions are not isolated. The report notes a recurring pattern of shortages, for polio and rotavirus in 2021, for measles

Childhood immunisation success undercut by stockouts and data failures, WHO and UNICEF Say



in 2018 and 2016, that suggests a chronic weakness in the country’s vaccine procurement and distribution.

But perhaps more alarming than the empty refrigerators is the broken pencil. The WHO and UNICEF analysis repeatedly flags “fluctuations in reported data” that “suggest the need for review of the administrative recording and reporting system.” This is a diplomatic way of saying the official numbers, which the government relies on to make policy, are often fiction.

The most glaring example occurred in 2021, when administrative records claimed 102 percent coverage for the first dose of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine (DTP1) and 101 percent for the third dose, a statistical impossibility for a birth cohort. These figures were summarily “excluded by the international working group.”

In other years, the data was simply too volatile to trust. Reported coverage for the measles vaccine jumped from 61 percent in 2018 to 101 percent in 2019, only to fall to 86

percent in 2020, prompting the agencies to discard the data entirely and rely on modeling.

“We encourage another independent coverage assessment to verify coverage levels,” the report states, a clear signal that the international community has lost confidence in Lesotho’s ability to measure its own progress.

The roots of this crisis run deep. The report traces the recording anomalies back to at least 2012, when a Data Quality Assessment first spotlighted severe challenges.

The problem was exacerbated in 2017, when the official target population was revised downward following a census, a statistical adjustment that “resulted in an increase in reported coverage that does not reflect programme improvements,” according to the report.

This failure to track vaccinations has profound real-world consequences. Without reliable data, it is impossible to know which communities are most vulnerable, how to allocate limited resources, or whether campaigns to curb outbreaks like measles are working. It effectively blinds the country to its own public health threats.

The human cost of these systemic failures is not reflected in the numbers alone. Health experts say that when a vaccine is unavailable for months, it’s not just a percentage point that is lost, it is a child. And when the data is wrong, that child becomes invisible.

HIV Treatment Works, but Prevention Is Failing the Young

Ntsoaki Motaung

One in three new HIV infections in Lesotho’s Mphahle’s Hoek district now occurs among young people, yet only 18 percent of preventive medication reaches adolescents, health officials revealed on World Population Day.

Dr. Bokang Kojana, District Medical Officer for Mphahle’s Hoek, told community leaders and health workers that the district records 244 new HIV infections each year, with 85 of those, or roughly one in three, among youth.

That translates to 20 new infections among young people every month.

“PrEP uptake among adolescents remains very low, with only 18 percent of distributed PrEP reaching this group,” Kojana said. “This means the epidemic is moving forward, not backward. Our youth are still getting infected.”

The warning came as Lesotho marked World Population Day 2026, an annual commemoration that this year focused on the country’s demographic dividend, a promise that is increasingly threatened by preventable health crises among its predominantly young population.

The crisis extends well beyond HIV. Kojana

reported that early and unintended pregnancy is accelerating at an alarming rate. In 2025, one in five teenage girls in Mphahle’s Hoek was pregnant. Just halfway through 2026, the figure has already climbed to one in four, a surge from 12 percent to 26 percent in less than two years.

“Many of these girls are not mentally, emotionally, or financially ready,” Kojana said. “Of all family planning services given, only 25 percent is accessed by adolescents and young adults. This low uptake means sexually active youth are at high risk of unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortions, and HIV.”

Access to youth-friendly health services remains deeply uneven, particularly in rural communities. Kojana called for urgent integration of maternity, HIV, and family planning services, and for health officials to “use data to target hot spots in schools and villages where new infections are rising.”

The crisis is unfolding against a backdrop of remarkable treatment success. Lesotho has achieved a 97-97-99 score on UNAIDS targets, meaning 97 percent of people living

with HIV know their status, 97 percent are on treatment, and 99 percent have achieved viral suppression. But Kojana warned that these gains are unsustainable without stronger prevention.

“While Lesotho has achieved 97-97-99 on HIV treatment targets, our prevention strategies, especially for youth, are still lagging,” he said. “The goal must be zero new HIV infections.”

Speaking at the same commemoration, Minister of Finance and Development Planning Dr. Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane tied the health crisis to broader economic stagnation, noting that youth unemployment remains a critical barrier to the country’s development.

“A huge part of Lesotho’s population is youth. We have to work fast to benefit from their skills,” Matlanyane said. “We also have high unemployment rates amongst youth, which needs all of us to do something about it.”

UNFPA Representative John Kennedy Mosoti underscored the demographic stakes, noting that young people under 35 make up the majority of Lesotho’s population. “Many face significant challenges, teenage pregnancy, unmet need for family planning, sexual violence, and unemployment,” he said.

Mosoti pointed to Lesotho’s \$173.3 million Maternal Health Investment Case as a



Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane Minister of Finance

blueprint for action.

“By bridging this funding gap, the country will prevent over 344,000 unintended pregnancies, address the 21 percent unmet family planning need among adolescent girls, and save 15,900 lives by 2030,” he said.

The crisis is compounded by pervasive violence. Inspector Tefo Kopeli of the Child, Gender and Protection Unit reported that sexual offences remain the highest category of reported crime in the district.

There were 80 cases in 2024, 85 in 2025, and 20 cases already recorded in the first half of 2026. Domestic violence and child marriage persist, often unreported despite existing legislation.

Matlanyane concluded with a call to accelerate investment in young people. “This theme calls to us to invest more in young people so that they have a bright future as well as contributing to the development of the country,” she said.



Dr Theko Tlebere

A few days ago, I received what many job seekers would consider a welcome phone call.

A recruitment agency handling a position I had applied for contacted me to say that I needed to come to their offices to sign a declaration form before the recruitment process could proceed.

There was only one challenge.
I was outside the country.

I explained my situation and informed the officer that I would only be back in Lesotho in the coming days. Fortunately, she was understanding. Rather than insisting that I travel immediately, she promised to seek permission from her supervisors to send the declaration form via email so that I could sign it electronically.

It was a small conversation.
But it left me thinking about a much bigger issue.
Why was travelling to an office considered the default option when the same document could easily be sent electronically?

That question is not about one recruitment agency. Nor is it about one individual following procedures. It is about how deeply our institutions remain attached to administrative practices that belong to another era.

For many Basotho, especially unemployed young people, travelling from Leribe, Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek or Thaba-Tseka to Maseru is not a small matter. It involves transport costs, accommodation in some cases, meals and, most importantly, time. Ironically, these are costs often borne by people who are searching for employment precisely because they have limited financial resources.

When technology offers an alternative that is faster, cheaper and equally secure, we should ask ourselves whether our procedures are serving the people or merely preserving tradition.

Lesotho has made remarkable progress in expanding internet access and digital communication. Government ministries communicate through email. Many public officers use smartphones. Banks have embraced mobile banking. Businesses conduct transactions online. Universities accept digital submissions. Even court proceedings in many jurisdictions around the world increasingly rely on virtual platforms.

Yet many administrative processes still require citizens to appear physically to sign a form, certify a document or submit paperwork that could easily be handled electronically.

This is not simply an inconvenience.

From queues to clicks: Why Lesotho must modernise the way we apply for jobs

It has real economic consequences.
Every unnecessary trip represents transport money that could have been used for food, school fees or business capital. Every unnecessary queue means productive hours lost. Every paper-based process increases storage costs, delays decision-making and consumes resources that could be invested elsewhere.

Digital transformation is therefore not merely about computers.
It is about improving service delivery.

Around the world, governments have recognised this reality. Estonia has become famous for allowing citizens to access almost all government services online. Rwanda has invested heavily in e-government platforms that allow citizens to obtain permits and access public services digitally. Botswana has steadily expanded online government services, while South Africa continues to increase electronic recruitment across many public institutions.

These countries are not perfect, but they demonstrate an important principle: government should travel to the citizen through technology, rather than requiring every citizen to travel to government.

Lesotho has already taken encouraging steps.
The introduction of online passport appointments, digital tax services and improvements in mobile financial services demonstrate that change is possible. The foundation is already being built.

The next step is to ensure that recruitment processes are equally modern.

Imagine a government recruitment portal where applicants create a secure profile only once. Educational certificates are uploaded digitally and verified electronically. Required declarations are signed using recognised electronic signatures. Applicants receive automatic notifications whenever there is progress on their applications.
No unnecessary travel.

No printing dozens of pages.
No standing in long queues simply to submit documents that could have been transmitted in seconds.

Such a system would not only benefit applicants. It would benefit government itself.

Digital records are easier to organise, search and archive. They reduce the risk of misplaced files. Recruitment timelines become shorter. Human error decreases. Transparency improves because every stage leaves an electronic audit trail.

Importantly, digital systems can also strengthen accountability.

When applications are processed electronically, timestamps show exactly when documents were submitted and received. Decisions become easier to track, reducing disputes over missing files or late submissions.

Of course, digital transformation should not ignore the realities of our country.

Not every Mosotho has reliable internet access. Not everyone owns a computer. Digital literacy also varies across communities.

This is precisely why modernisation should expand options rather than eliminate them.

Citizens who prefer physical services should continue to receive them. However, those who are able to complete processes electronically should be allowed to do so. A hybrid system would provide flexibility while gradually increasing digital adoption as infrastructure improves.

The COVID-19 pandemic taught the world an important lesson.

Many activities once believed to require physical presence could be conducted remotely without sacrificing efficiency. Meetings moved online. Universities taught virtually. Businesses operated from home. Electronic signatures became widely accepted across many sectors.

Those lessons should not be forgotten.
If anything, they should encourage governments to rethink long-standing administrative procedures.

Technology should not merely replicate old paper processes on a computer screen. It should fundamentally improve how services are delivered.

Sometimes meaningful reform begins with asking very simple questions.

Does this process genuinely require someone to travel?

Does this document truly need ink on paper?
Can technology achieve the same outcome more efficiently?

If the answer is yes, then perhaps our procedures deserve another look.

My recent conversation with the recruitment officer ended positively. She was willing to explore an electronic solution rather than insisting on unnecessary travel. That willingness to adapt is exactly the mindset our institutions need.

Modernisation is rarely about abandoning everything from the past. It is about recognising when better tools exist and having the courage to use them.

As Lesotho continues pursuing economic transformation, improving public service delivery should remain part of that journey. Digital government is not a luxury reserved for wealthy nations. It is an investment in efficiency, accessibility and respect for citizens' time and resources.

The future of public administration will not be determined by how many forms we print, but by how effectively we use technology to serve people.

Perhaps the next generation of job seekers should never have to ask whether they need to travel hundreds of kilometres simply to write their name on a piece of paper. Instead, they should be asking a different question:

"When can I expect the confirmation email?"

Advancing water resilience ahead of the road to the 2026 UN Water Conference

Mahash Alhameli

Abu Dhabi is set to host a major milestone in global water diplomacy as the United Arab Emirates and Senegal prepare to co-host the 2026 United Nations Water Conference from 8 to 10 December 2026.

The gathering will be only the third UN Water Conference in history, following the first in Mar del Plata, Argentina in 1977 and the second in New York in 2023, which was co-hosted by the Netherlands and Tajikistan.

The 2026 conference carries particular diplomatic significance as the first UN Water Conference of its kind to be co-hosted by two countries from the Global South. In bringing together governments, international organisations, civil society, academia, youth representatives and Indigenous Peoples, the conference is expected to reinforce international cooperation around one of the world's most urgent development challenges: ensuring access to safe water and sanitation for all.

At the heart of the conference is Sustainable Development Goal 6, which calls for the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation worldwide. The UAE and Senegal have positioned the conference as a platform to accelerate implementation, strengthen

partnerships, mobilise finance and translate political momentum into practical initiatives.

Preparations began informally in May 2024 before the co-hosts received their official mandate through a United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted in September 2024. The resolution sets out the rules and procedures for the three-day conference, which will include national plenaries and six interactive dialogues designed to encourage substantive, non-negotiated exchanges.

The six interactive dialogue themes, adopted by consensus in July 2025, will focus on Water for People, Water for Prosperity, Water for Planet, Water for Cooperation, Water in Multilateral Processes, and Investments for Water. Their adoption by consensus was viewed as an important signal of shared commitment on an issue that often reflects complex national priorities and regional concerns.

The dialogue tracks will be led by co-chair countries appointed in January 2026: Ghana and Switzerland for Water for People; China and Spain for Water for Prosperity; Egypt and Japan for Water for Planet; Zambia and Finland for Water for Cooperation; Mexico and Germany for Water in Multilateral Processes; and South Africa and France for Investments for Water.

For Lesotho, the conference comes at a

particularly significant moment. Often described as the 'water tower' of southern Africa, Lesotho plays a central role in regional water cooperation, including through its long-standing partnership with South Africa under the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. With the second phase of the project, one of Africa's most significant transboundary water infrastructure initiatives and a cornerstone of Lesotho's national development strategy, now taking shape, the country is well positioned to highlight a positive story of regional cooperation, infrastructure investment, technical expertise and shared water management.

These achievements reflect decades of collaboration, shared commitment, and sustained engineering progress. A key milestone in the preparatory process was the High-Level Preparatory Meeting held in Dakar from 26 to 27 January 2026. The meeting brought together ministers, senior officials, UN entities, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society representatives, academic experts, youth and Indigenous Peoples.

It also marked the first in-person convening of the selected co-chairs, who began focused discussions on their respective themes ahead of the Abu Dhabi conference. Through the preparatory process, the UAE and Senegal have adopted an inclusive and consultative approach,

engaging Member States and stakeholders to ensure that the conference reflects global priorities, emerging challenges and practical opportunities for progress.

For the UAE, the conference reflects its broader diplomatic emphasis on partnership, innovation and sustainable development, particularly in areas where water resilience, financing and technology can support long-term solutions.

The conference's mandated outcome will take the form of a summary of proceedings prepared by the Presidents of the Conference. This summary is expected to highlight opportunities for enhanced cooperation and accelerated collective efforts to support the implementation of SDG 6, while reflecting the conference's role as a platform for dialogue and practical engagement rather than a negotiated political declaration.

The timing of the Abu Dhabi conference further underscores its importance. It follows the 2023 UN Water Conference and comes ahead of the 2028 UN Water Conference in Dushanbe, which will mark the conclusion of the Water Action Decade 2018–2028. As such, the 2026 gathering is expected to serve as a bridge between renewed global attention on water and the final push toward measurable progress by 2028.

As co-host, the UAE is expected to play an important convening role, helping to mobilise partnerships and encourage practical cooperation across regions. The UAE has emphasised the importance of global partnerships in advancing water resilience, innovation, sustainable water management, financing and implementation-oriented solutions.

With Abu Dhabi serving as the host city, the 2026 UN Water Conference is poised to provide an important diplomatic platform for renewed international engagement on water as a foundation for sustainable development, stability and shared prosperity.

Mahash Alhameli is the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to South Africa.



Kingdom of Lesotho
Ministry of Health

Invitation for Bids

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 (1) and Anaesthesia workstation machine (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 (Act.) ('Mats'oanelo Monyobi)
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Invitation to Bidders

BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

02 July 2026

Supply and delivery of 3% Aqueous Film Forming Foam - PRO/1/2026/2027

1. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport has been allocated/received funds from Government under Development Budget to be used for the acquisition of 3% Aqueous Film Forming Foam.
2. The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above Goods.
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 [0800hrs to 1600hrs].
5. The Bidding document in English may be obtained by interested bidders from the office of procurement of Transport at Old Traffic Building, next to St Catherines High School
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at 8(c) at or before 04th August 2026, 1200Hrs. [If appropriate, include the following: All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 2% of the bid amount. Bid securities or bid securing declarations must be valid until 04th November 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 1200Hrs, 04th August 2026.
7. There shall not be a pre – bid meeting/ site visit.
8. (a) Documents may be inspected at:
Ministry of Public Works and Transport
Old Traffic Department Building
Next to St Catherines High School
Procurement Unit
Room 223

- Procurement Unit
Room 223
- (c) Bids must be delivered to:
Ministry of Public Works and Transport
First Floor of Public Works and Transport Building
Corner Senate Road & Lepoqo Road, Industrial Area, Maseru
Opposite Browns Wholesale
- (d) Address of bid opening:
Ministry of Public Works and Transport
First Floor of Public Works and Transport Building
Corner Senate Road & Lepoqo Road, Industrial Area, Maseru
Opposite Browns Wholesale

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

Activity	Date
a. Publish bid notice	02nd July 2026
b. Pre-bid meeting where applicable	(N/A)
c. Bid closing date	04th August 2026
d. Evaluation process	05th – 14th August 2026
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	17th – 21st August 2026
f. Contract signature	24th – 28th August 2026.

Signature: _____
Name: Mapaseka Nkone
Position of Authorised Official: Procurement Manager



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



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



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.



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Entertainers answer call for noble cause

Chris Theko

Lesotho's entertainment industry is putting competition aside to demonstrate the power of unity, as musicians, DJs, event organisers and businesses join forces to raise funds for a young child whose life was changed by a devastating dog attack.

The initiative, which has rapidly gained momentum on social media, aims to support Nnete Leotlela, a child from Ha Matala, Maseru, who is receiving specialist treatment at Medi-Clinic in Bloemfontein following severe injuries sustained in an attack that happened on Monday 6 July 2026.

The campaign began gathering widespread attention after popular DJ Pablo DJ Phakoa proposed that the entertainment industry organise a fundraising event instead of relying solely on public donations.

"Why don't we find a club with a big enough crowd to hold something like this, so that the gate takings can go towards helping her?" Pablo wrote on Facebook.

"We are willing to play for free, and we'll also put our own hands in our pockets to contribute."

His suggestion was quickly embraced by Tesfa Lounge, which announced it was willing to provide its venue free of charge for the initiative, while inviting fellow DJs, musicians and entertainers to volunteer their talents.

"As Tesfa Lounge, we had a chat with Pablo, and we are willing to join forces with his idea.

We are giving out our space for such an event and invite all DJs and musicians who are willing to support the initiative," the venue said in a Facebook post.

Tesfa later issued an urgent appeal calling on artists across the country to become part of what it described as Nnete's Healing Campaign, encouraging performers to confirm their participation before preparations were finalised.

The result is Kulture Fridays: Help Nnete Heal, a fundraising event scheduled for Friday, 17 July, where some of Lesotho's biggest DJs, MCs and musicians are expected to perform without charge in support of the cause.

According to the organisers, every ticket sold will go towards helping fund Nnete's ongoing medical treatment.

"We're coming together for a cause that truly matters," Tesfa Lounge said while promoting the event. "Every ticket purchased and every



show of support brings us one step closer to making a real difference."

The entertainment sector's efforts have also been strengthened by support from the business community. The Market Restaurant this week released a media statement thanking Basotho for their overwhelming response to earlier appeals and encouraging continued financial support.

The restaurant said Nnete's recovery would be a long and complex process, requiring extensive cosmetic surgery, rehabilitation and ongoing medical care beyond what the family can afford on their own.

"The response from Basotho near and far has been a powerful testament to the compassion and unity our nation is known for," the statement reads.

The Market also published the family's official Lesotho Postbank account details, emphasising that all contributions would go directly towards the child's medical, post-operative and rehabilitative care.

The campaign has become an example of how different sectors of society, entertainers, businesses and ordinary citizens alike, can unite behind a common humanitarian cause. For many within the creative industry, Friday's event represents more than a night of entertainment; it is an opportunity to use music and performance as a force for good, turning ticket sales into hope for a child facing a long road to recovery.

With performers volunteering their services, a venue donated for the night, businesses amplifying donation drives, and members of the public continuing to give what they can, organisers hope the event will significantly boost funds for Nnete's treatment while showcasing the generosity that has come to define this campaign.

The initiative goes beyond the Kulture Fridays: Help Nnete Heal event, organisers are urging Basotho to attend, donate where possible, and stand together in giving Nnete the best chance at healing.

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Rabale kicks off new era for women's football

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho women's football captain Boitumelo Rabale has taken another major step in her mission to transform the women's game after officially launching the Boitumelo Rabale Foundation, an initiative dedicated to empowering girls and young women through football, education, mentorship and skills development.

The foundation, established by Rabale together with co-founder Chris Bullock, was officially unveiled during a gala dinner held at Mpilo Boutique in Maseru over the weekend. The event attracted members of the football fraternity, corporate partners and invited guests who gathered to celebrate the beginning of an initiative aimed at creating opportunities for young women both on and off the football field.

Beyond football development, the foundation seeks to promote gender equality, encourage educational advancement and equip young women with life skills that will enable them to become leaders in their communities.

The launch capped a landmark week for the foundation, which began with a media briefing held on July 7 at Ha-Seoli, Rabale's home ground, where the vision and objectives of the organisation were unveiled.

The foundation's first major sporting event, the inaugural Botho Cup, was successfully staged on

Friday and Saturday at Bambatha Tsita Sports Arena in partnership with the Lady M Foundation.

The tournament served as more than a pre-season competition. It was designed to empower young girls and women through sport while creating educational opportunities, promoting youth empowerment and raising awareness against gender-based violence.

The event received royal recognition with the attendance of His Royal Highness Prince Lerotholi Mohato Seeiso, whose presence underlined the importance of women's football and the social impact the foundation hopes to achieve. The Crown Prince also participated in a charity match organised by the foundation, impressing many with a composed performance in central defence.

On the pitch, Rejoice Academy emerged as champions of the inaugural competition after an impressive campaign. Emmanuel Queens finished as runners-up, while Mpaola United claimed third place in a tournament that showcased some of Lesotho's brightest young female football talent.

Organisers described the competition as the beginning of what they hope will become an annual platform for identifying and developing future stars while using football as a vehicle for social change.

In another significant gesture during the launch week, the Boitumelo Rabale Foundation donated a full set of playing kits to Emmanuel Ladies FC as the club prepares for its historic debut in the Women's Super League.



Boitumelo Rabale Foundation launch campaign at Bamabatha Tsita Sports Arena

The donation carried special significance for Rabale, who began her football journey at Emmanuel Ladies before progressing to become Lesotho's most decorated female footballer and a star with South African giants Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, foundation co-founder Chris Bullock praised Emmanuel Ladies for nurturing Rabale's talent and urged the club to continue developing young players.

"Emmanuel Ladies did an outstanding job in nurturing Boitumelo's talent. They should continue with the excellent work because the foundation is looking forward to discovering another talented player from Emmanuel who can follow in Rabale's footsteps," Bullock said.

He added that Rabale's remarkable rise would not have been possible without the opportunity the club provided.

"If Emmanuel had not given her the platform to showcase her talent, she might never have been noticed by Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies," he said.

The donation was welcomed by Lady M Foundation representative 'Mamotake Matekane, who praised Rabale for giving back to the club that

laid the foundation for her successful career.

"What Boitumelo has done is truly commendable. I hope other successful athletes will follow her example by supporting the communities and clubs that helped shape their careers," Matekane said.

She noted that while reaching the highest level of sport requires tremendous commitment, successful athletes have a responsibility to inspire younger generations and create opportunities for those coming behind them.

The Botho Cup provided valuable preparation for Emmanuel Ladies ahead of their maiden Women's Super League campaign as they tested themselves against Mpaola Ladies, Kick4Life Juniors and eventual champions Rejoice Academy. For Rabale, however, the results were only part of a much bigger picture.

Through the Boitumelo Rabale Foundation, Lesotho's national team captain hopes to build a lasting legacy that extends far beyond trophies and accolades. By combining football with education, mentorship and advocacy against gender-based violence, the foundation aims to create pathways for girls across the country to pursue both sporting excellence and brighter futures.

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Nthunya urges Likhosatsana to dream bigger

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) President LijaneNthunya has challenged the national Under-20 women’s team, Likhosatsana, to continue raising the country’s flag after their impressive victory at the Legacy Tournament hosted by the University of the Free State in South Africa.

The young side returned home to a heroes’ welcome after defeating Central University of Technology (CUT) 3-0 in the tournament final, capping off another memorable chapter in what has become one of the country’s most promising women’s football stories.

A brace from in-form forward Tebello Lesala, coupled with a goal from Boiketlo Molise, secured a commanding victory and saw Likhosatsana crowned Legacy Tournament champions.

Welcoming the team, Nthunya praised the unity and commitment that have become hallmarks of the squad, urging the players to preserve the strong bond that has driven their recent success.

“The sky is the limit and signs are there that from what you have achieved already, you can take us to greater heights by qualifying for a major continental competition, and starting with that, you might make us happy at global level,” Nthunya told the players.

He further encouraged the team to remain disciplined and hardworking while serving as role models for other national teams.

“Continue to work hard and be a good example to our other national teams. We are proud of you,” he said.

The Legacy Tournament success is the latest milestone for a generation of players that continues to break new ground for women’s football in Lesotho.

Under the guidance of head coach TjamelaTjamela, Likhosatsana made history in 2023 by becoming the first Lesotho women’s national team to reach the final of



LeFA President commends Likhosatsana on impressive performance

the COSAFA Under-20 Girls Championship. Although they narrowly missed out on the title, the achievement marked a turning point for

women’s football in the Mountain Kingdom.

The team demonstrated that their breakthrough was no coincidence by reaching another international final in 2024 at the CAF Girls’ Gift Cup in Zimbabwe, further cementing their reputation as one of the region’s emerging forces.

Their latest triumph at the Legacy Tournament reinforces the steady progress the team has made over the past three years. The convincing 3-0 victory over CUT showcased both their attacking quality and defensive discipline, qualities that have become synonymous with Tjamela’s side.

The performances of Lesala and Molise also highlighted the growing depth of talent within the national youth setup, offering hope for the future of the senior women’s national team, Mehalalitoe.

With the COSAFA and CAF competitions continuing to provide valuable international exposure, LeFA believes this talented generation has the potential to become the first Lesotho women’s side to qualify for a major continental tournament.



Seabata Mahao

Team Lesotho is carrying not only the nation’s sporting ambitions but also the hope of ending a two-decade Commonwealth medal drought as the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow roars.

The Games, which run from July 23 to August 2, will see Lesotho send a 14-member delegation to compete in athletics and boxing, two disciplines that have historically delivered the country’s greatest international success.

The athletes received an official farewell on Wednesday during a send-off hosted by the British High Commission in Lesotho, where government officials, sports administrators and diplomats rallied behind the national team ahead of its departure for Scotland next week.

The ceremony, organised by Olivia Hildebrand on behalf of British High Commissioner Martine Sobey, was attended by the newly appointed Minister of Sports, Stephen Mputi, and Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) President LetsatsiNtsibolane.

While the event celebrated national pride, it also underscored the broader economic and developmental significance of international sport. Strong performances at global competitions often enhance a country’s profile, attract investment in sports development, create sponsorship opportunities for athletes and national federations, and inspire greater participation in grassroots sport.

Among the country’s leading medal prospects is middle-distance runner Kamohelo Mofolo, who has publicly committed to fighting for a podium finish in

Lesotho eyes first Commonwealth medal in 20 years

the men’s 5,000m and 10,000m races.

“Representing Lesotho at a competition of this magnitude has always been my dream, and I am delighted to have been given this opportunity,” Mofolo said during the farewell ceremony.

“The journey has not been easy. I suffered a number of injuries along the way, but I have fully recovered and am ready to give my best. I promise Basotho that I will fight for a medal.”

His confidence reflects growing optimism within Team Lesotho as the country seeks to return to the Commonwealth Games medal table for the first time since 2006.

Lesotho’s Commonwealth Games success has largely been built on boxing and endurance athletics. The nation’s most recent medal came at the 2006 Melbourne Games, where boxer Moses Kopo won silver, following LetukaSephula’s bronze medal at the 2002 Manchester Games.

However, the benchmark remains marathon runner ThabisoMoqhali, whose gold medal at the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth

Games remains one of the country’s greatest sporting achievements and the only Commonwealth gold won by a Mosotho athlete.

Team Lesotho’s Chef de Mission, ‘MamotsabiLekhabunyane, said the delegation would travel in two groups to accommodate different competition schedules.

“The teams will travel separately because their competition schedules are different. Boxing gets underway on July 24, while the athletics programme begins on July 27,” she explained.

The delegation comprises eight men and six women, with seven athletes competing in athletics and seven in boxing.

The women’s athletics team consists of ‘MamakoliSenauoane (200m and 400m), ManqabangTsebela (800m and 1,500m), MaliaNalane (100m and 200m), and Nthabiseng Letokoto (5,000m and 10,000m). Female boxing representatives are RealebohaSegoete (60kg) and RapelangMaselela (57kg).

The men’s athletics squad features MojelaKoneshe (100m and 200m), Kamohelo Mofolo (5,000m and 10,000m), Neo Ntelele (200m and 400m), and KenteMokheseng (200m and 400m). The boxing team includes Pooana Khoahli (65kg), Refiloe Thai (70kg), TokaLitabe (60kg), and MathealiSeholoholo (55kg).

Athletics will be led by coach Samuel Khalane and team manager EketsangMpota, while boxing will be overseen by head coach ThabisoNketu, assisted by coach and team manager Tieho Ntulo.

Beyond the pursuit of medals, Team Lesotho’s participation represents an opportunity to elevate the country’s sporting brand on the international stage. Success in Glasgow could strengthen the case for increased public and private investment in elite sport, enhance athlete marketability, and encourage greater corporate sponsorship, critical components in building a sustainable high-performance sports ecosystem.



LeFA empowers young referees



LeFA in conjunction with FIFA conducts young referees course

Seabata Mahao

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA), in partnership with FIFA, has launched a five-day FIFA Young Referees Course aimed at developing a pipeline of highly skilled match officials, a move expected to strengthen governance and professionalism within the country's football industry.

The course, which runs from July 13 to 17, 2026 at the BambathaTsita Sports Arena, has attracted 35 young referees from across the country.

It forms part of FIFA's talent development programme designed to equip emerging referees with the technical knowledge, physical conditioning and decision-making skills required to progress through the refereeing ranks.

The initiative is being facilitated by two international instructors—Paulo Marques of South Africa, who is leading the technical component, and Mark Mzenzo of Malawi, responsible for physical instruction.

They are supported by local instructors PulengMahomo (technical) and Moabi Makara (physical), highlighting collaboration between international expertise and local capacity building.

Beyond improving the standard of officiating, the programme represents an investment in one of football's critical human capital resources. Quality refereeing is increasingly viewed as essential to maintaining the integrity, commercial value and competitiveness of domestic leagues, while also creating opportunities for officials to earn international appointments under FIFA and the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

Officially opening the course, LeFA Secretary General MokhosiMohapi challenged participants to treat the programme as a serious learning opportunity rather than merely another workshop.

"There is a difference between a workshop and a course," Mohapi said. "A course is

about acquiring lasting knowledge that you can implement. Learning should not end when you leave the classroom."

Mohapi said the course comes at an important time as the global football community continues to witness rapid technological and tactical developments in officiating, particularly during the ongoing FIFA World Cup.

He noted that modern referees are expected to understand the evolving demands of the game, including team tactics, player formations and increasingly sophisticated decision-making processes.

"If we get the basics right, advancement becomes much easier. The game has evolved from a refereeing perspective. Preparation is now just as important for referees as it is for players and coaches," he said.

Mohapi encouraged participants to embrace continuous learning and apply international best practices within Lesotho's domestic competitions, saying strong foundations would ultimately improve the

quality of football across the country.

CAF Physical Instructor Mark Mzenzo described the young referees as the future of football officiating in Lesotho and said investing in their development would produce long-term benefits for the country's football ecosystem.

"I am always happy when I am invited to conduct a young talent course because these are the future referees of Lesotho," Mzenzo said.

"The age group we see here gives us confidence that whatever knowledge we share over these five days will grow in fertile soil. From this group, we can produce the next FIFA referee from Lesotho."

Mzenzo urged participants to believe in their potential and approach the programme with commitment and discipline.

"The future of Lesotho football refereeing is in your hands. During these five days we will provide you with the technical and physical knowledge you need. It is now up to you to build on that foundation," he said.



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His Majesty King Letsie III COLLECTION OF BEST WISHES Of His Birthday

King Letsie III celebrates 63rd birthday

His Majesty King Letsie III is today celebrating his 63rd birthday, with festivities underway in the Mokhotlong district.

The King was born on July 17, 1963, at Scott Hospital in Morija, the eldest son of

the late King Moshoeshe II and Queen 'Mamohato Bereng Seeiso.

Celebrations began on Thursday with a Holy Mass at St. Martin's Roman Catholic Church in Malingoaneng, where Bishops Joseph Sephamola and John Joale Tlho-

mola led prayers for the King's health and long life. Congregants sang hymns and ululated as they welcomed the King and the Royal family to the church.

The district celebration will continue today at Pitso House in Mokhotlong town,

where thousands of Basotho will gather to honour their monarch. The main event features cultural performances, speeches, and traditional ceremonies.

The King is married to Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso, and together they have three children: Princess Senate, Princess 'Maseiso, and Prince Lerotholi.

Meanwhile, various organisations have marked the occasion through community initiatives. The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority celebrated by planting 650 fruit trees at Masakong, Malingoaneng, in support of the King's role as African Union Nutrition Champion. A five-day King's Birthday Market is also underway at Maseru Mall, providing a platform for local entrepreneurs to showcase their products.

King Letsie III ascended to the throne in 1996 following the death of his father and was crowned on 31 October 1997.

May the Roads of Progress Continue Beneath the Reign of a Remarkable King.

Happy 63rd Birthday, Your Majesty.

On the joyous occasion of **His Majesty King Letsie III's 63rd Birthday**, the Road Fund extends heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to His Majesty.

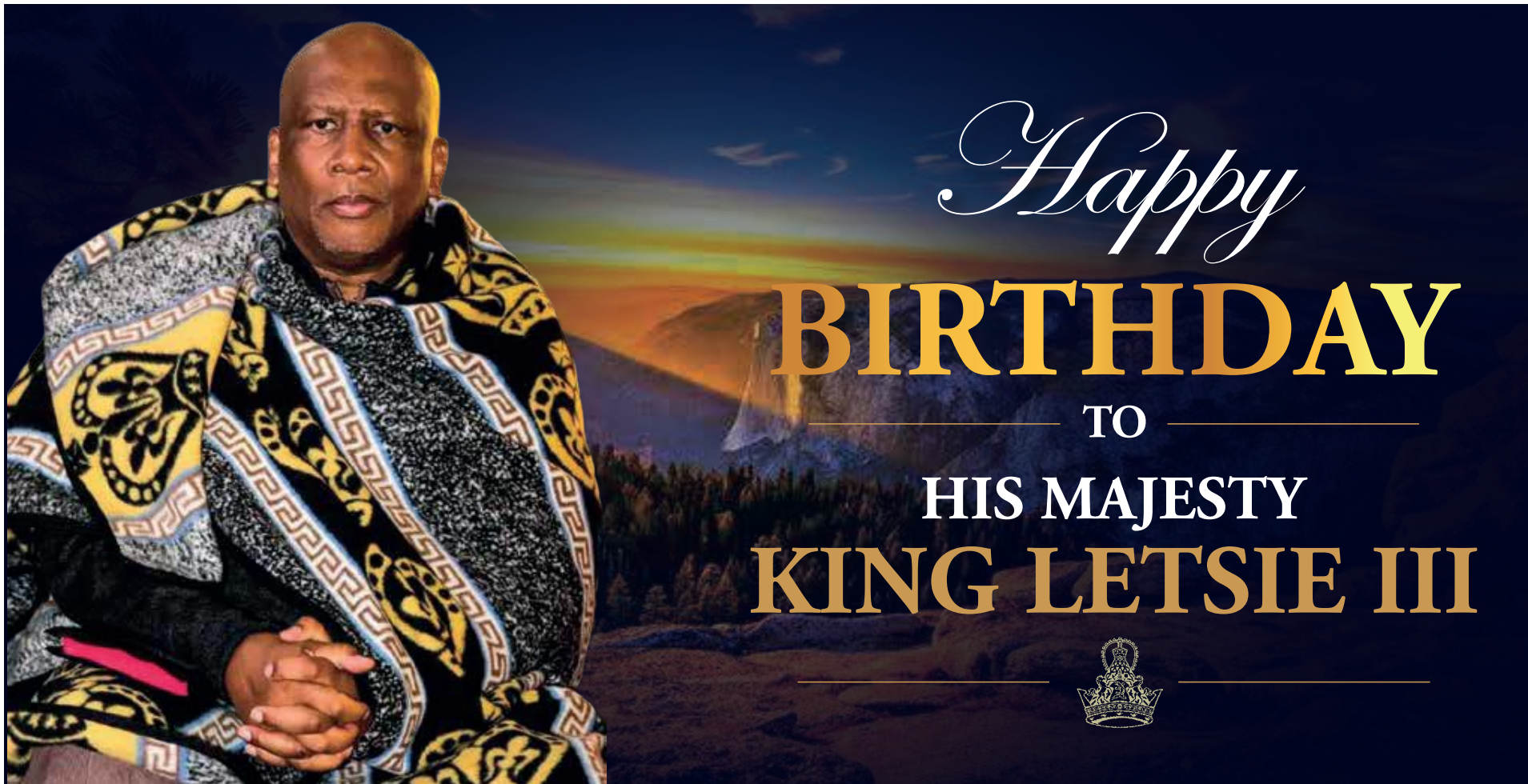
We celebrate a leader whose dedication, wisdom and unwavering commitment continue to inspire the nation and guide Lesotho towards a brighter future.

May this special day be filled with joy, good health and continued blessings as His Majesty continues to serve the Kingdom with distinction and grace.

From All of Us at The Road Fund



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As the nation celebrates this joyous milestone with admiration and gratitude, we offer our sincere prayers that the Almighty continues to bless Your Majesty with abundant strength, excellent health, divine guidance, and enduring wisdom. May Your Majesty's reign continue to foster harmony, inspire progress, and uphold the values that define the Kingdom of Lesotho.

It is our heartfelt hope that the years ahead bring Your Majesty continued joy, fulfilment, and every blessing worthy of the Crown. May the Kingdom flourish under Your Majesty's noble leadership, and may your legacy of service continue to inspire future generations.

Happy Birthday, Your Majesty.

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Birthday Wishes to His Majesty King Letsie III

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) Lesotho proudly extends its warmest birthday wishes to His Majesty King Letsie III as he celebrates his 63rd Birthday.

May this special day bring Your Majesty joy, peace, good health, and abundant blessings. May the years ahead be filled with continued strength, wisdom, and God's grace. It is with great respect that we convey our heartfelt wishes for Your Majesty's happiness, good health, and continued well-being. May this milestone mark the beginning of another year filled with hope, fulfilment, and many cherished moments.

On behalf of the Board, Management, and Staff of AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) Lesotho, we extend our sincere best wishes for a memorable and blessed birthday.

*Happy 63rd Birthday,
Your Majesty.*

AHF LESOTHO



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Today, we proudly celebrate
His Majesty King Letsie III

on His 63rd Birthday. May Your Majesty continue
to lead with wisdom, strength, and grace.

Happy Birthday,
Your Majesty !

*From all of us at Econet Telecom Lesotho,
Higherlife Foundation Lesotho &
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The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority joins the nation in celebrating the 63rd Birthday of His Majesty King Letsie III on 17 July 2026.

We honour His Majesty's championing of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project; leadership recognised globally with the Global Water Partnership (GWP) Water Changemakers Award for advancing water security and regional cooperation in Southern Africa.

As the Lesotho Highlands Water Project marks 40 years, we are grateful to celebrate this milestone alongside Lesotho's 60th year of independence, and with a leader whose vision has carried Lesotho's waters, and its name, to the world.

Happy Birthday, Your Majesty.



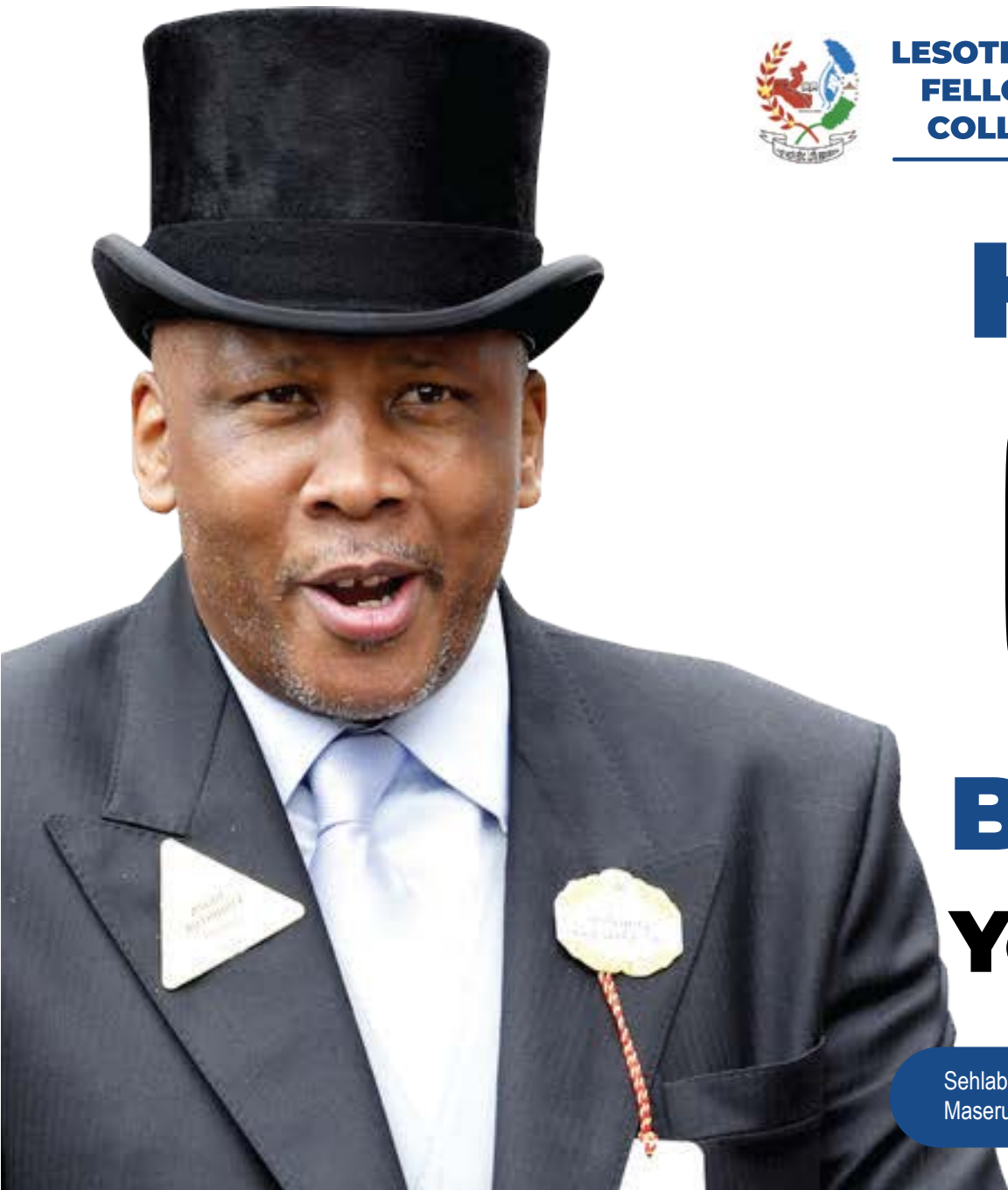


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Happy

BIRTHDAY YOUR MAJESTY!

The LP community wishes you
many more years of Grace!



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HAPPY
63rd
BIRTHDAY
Your Majesty

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Liteboho Motšekalle

Happy birthday, Your Majesty! My seven-year-old nephew was enthusiastic at the thought of celebrating and eating cake with you. To him, a birthday means stuffing his face with sweetness. You should have seen the melancholy cloud his face when we told him the cake-eating part was happening. Your Majesty, I write this letter to you today as the daughter of a late historian and a young woman who fiercely believes a better Lesotho is still within reach.

My father committed his life to history. A voracious reader and keen observer of our national evolution, he understood the foundations and transitions of traditional leadership in this country. He eloquently defended the monarchy and praised your bravery in dissolving the Basotho Congress Party (BCP)-led government, demanding your father's return from exile and re-inauguration as King. I was not yet born when this happened. However, my father's narration of historical events on the monarchy influenced my 2024 opinion piece arguing that it is time the monarch danced with power.

As a country, we need new thinking. Your Majesty. We need to reimagine our national leadership model by shifting from a ceremonial monarchy to one with executive, but not absolute, powers. Constitutional law expert Professor Hoolo 'Nyane precisely echoes that the constitutional monarchy is counter-intuitive and maintained at great cost without it having a substantive role to hold politicians accountable. Thus, the monarchy should be conferred with some powers to construct checks and balances between itself and elected officials. It is senseless to keep this institution

entirely tethered. Moreover, it benefits imperialists and self-serving politicians who govern with impunity, making unscrupulous and decadent decisions for this country while real development is deferred.

Lesotho is crumbling under the incompetent leadership of the prime ministers we breed and nurture. On Africa Heroes' Day this year, Prime Minister Sam Matekane's mud-splattered photos circulated on social media. When I saw them, I could only ask: what did we do to deserve this caliber of leadership? His idea of commemorating Africa Day was denigrating and repugnant. He spat on the graves of those who sacrificed their lives for an emancipated Lesotho and Africa. And this is the man whose vision and leadership are supposed to deliver prosperity. We continue to truly be led by the worst among us.

Your Majesty, I write to you as a young woman who still believes, fervently, that a better Lesotho for all is possible, nevertheless, we simply need new thinking in how we honour your presence. Your reign and economic development take place in a constitutional cage, while politicians misuse security agencies to hold the masses hostage. They run this country like a personal fiefdom. It has become a nest for greedy officials to loot from tenders. There is no determination to curb the widespread corruption that is entrenched in every public space. The kleptocracy continues to deepen poverty, unemployment, and inequality. So, I ask Your Majesty: can you do some soul-searching? When you depart this earth, God forbid, what will be the legacy you leave behind?

On 17th July 2026, Mokhotlong will host your birthday celebration for the third time in over two decades. This district is one of the

Dear King Letsie III, we need new thinking

most complex in this country by being an economic powerhouse, yet it remains neglected. Just last month, we saw the heart-rending rescue of a pregnant Itumeleng Motloli (now late) from the snow at 'Moteng Pass by Mr Clifford Amad Tarr and two herdboys. She was being transferred from Mokhotlong Hospital when her ambulance got snowbound. Two things stand out in this tragedy: the chronic under-resourcing of Mokhotlong Hospital and a blatant disregard for preparing for winter. We need pragmatic leadership that supplies our hospitals with medical specialists and sophisticated, modern equipment to reduce reliance on Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital.

NoViolet Bulawayo opined that "when things fall apart, the children of the land scurry and scatter like birds escaping a burning sky. They flee their own wretched land so their hunger may be pacified in foreign lands." Our story reflects an endlessly profound depend-

ency on South Africa, and times have changed. Chief Leabua Jonathan is dead, Chris Hani is assassinated, and Cyril Ramaphosa is president. Our support during apartheid belongs to history. Now, as South Africa struggles with unemployment, Basotho and other Africans are no longer welcome. South Africans have come for the masses—how long before they come for the elite? Your Majesty, what does the future have in store for your nation?

As the late King Moshoeshoe II said in 1976, I strongly believe the struggle for a better Lesotho is not yet over. With creative and effective leadership, we can rewrite our own dignified story. We just need new thinking and the courage to blend monarchy and democratic institutions. We need to invest in ideas that would break the cycle of poverty and create a self-reliant Lesotho.

Yours sincerely,
Liteboho Motšekalle

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HAPPY

63RD

BIRTHDAY

Your Majesty

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