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QMMH staff wants management fired

Ntsoaki Motaung

Staff at Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital (QMMH) say they have lost confidence in the hospital's current management and are calling for its removal, with the Ministry of Health urged to appoint an entirely new management team.

The concerns follow revelations before the Parliament Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that the hospital's Finance Department had redirected staff pension contributions intended for LNIG Hollard to pay hospital suppliers.

Speaking on behalf of QMMH staff, 'Malebohang Tšolele told Newsday that the situation had further eroded employees' confidence in both the hospital management and the administration of their pension arrangements.

Following the revelations before the PAC, she said, QMMH management invited LNIG Hollard to meet with staff.

However, Tšolele said the engagement did little to address employees' concerns.

"As the staff, we felt like LNIG Hollard was already on the side of management and that if anything was to happen again, they would continue covering for management," she said.

She said staff were particularly concerned about the possible loss of investment returns resulting from the delayed payment of their pension contributions.

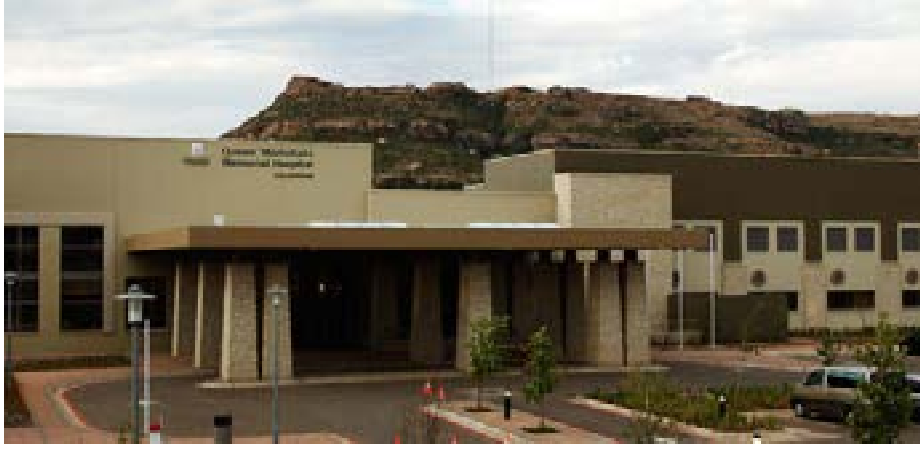
Tšolele said QMMH staff were now in the process of finding a lawyer to assist them in exploring whether they could move their pension arrangements from LNIG Hollard to another service provider they would trust.

Dr Mojakisane Ramafikeng, also speaking on behalf of QMMH staff, corroborated Tšolele's account, saying the discovery that pension contributions had been redirected had angered employees.

He said management subsequently called a meeting at which LNIG Hollard representatives explained the position to staff who feared that their policies might lapse.

"However, the management called a meeting where LNIG Hollard was there to explain because staff feared their policies might lapse. LNIG Hollard was there to basically let us know that, unlike policies where they are opened by an individual, organisational policies do not lapse, but the affected organisation will incur charges or penalties for not paying on time," he said.

Ramafikeng said employees understood that LNIG Hollard could recover penalties from QMMH for late payments, but remained concerned about whether employees would be compensated for investment returns they might have lost as a result of the delayed remittance of their contributions.



"The staff will not benefit anything and it means they will forfeit their interests because their monies were not circulating in the market to make interest, and it is not clear how the staff will be compensated," he said.

He said some employees had consequently lost trust in their employer's ability to oversee their pension arrangements.

"As a result of all this, some of the staff felt they no longer have trust in their employer to oversee their LNIG Hollard fund so much that they want to withdraw and they will do things on their own," Ramafikeng said.

He said one proposal was for the employer to pay employees the full amount of their contributions as part of their monthly salaries, with each employee then making payments directly to LNIG Hollard through a stop order.

"Another thing was that those who want to withdraw should be allowed and those who want to should also be allowed," he said.

Pension law

Section 29 of the Lesotho Pension Act, 2019 (Act No. 4 of 2019), which regulates pension schemes and funds in Lesotho, provides that a contribution payable in respect of a member of an occupational or umbrella pension fund must be paid to the fund by or on behalf of the member within seven days after the expiry of the period for which the contribution is due.

The Act further provides that the board must, no later than the first business day following the day on which the fund receives a contribution, ensure that all money received by the fund is invested in accordance with the fund's investment policy.

It also provides that an employer who fails to remit contributions to an occupational or umbrella pension fund within seven days of the expiry of the period for which they were due is liable to pay interest on the contributions at a rate determined by the regulator in the regulations, as well as an administrative penalty of M10,000 for each day the remittance remains outstanding.

The Act further provides that the regulator, the Central Bank of Lesotho, may make regulations determining whether, and to what extent, an intermediary licensed under the Act may receive and remit contributions to an occupational or umbrella pension fund.

LNIG Hollard responds

LNIG Hollard Head of Brand and Marketing Liepollo Tsekoa said the engagement with QMMH employees formed part of the insurer's annual member communication and engagement programme relating to employee benefits provided to hospital employees under LNIG Hollard's administration.

She said benefit statements are prepared and made available to fund members as part of the process, followed by member engagement sessions intended to explain the benefits reflected in the statements, refresh members on their insured risk benefits and provide an opportunity for questions and clarification.

Tsekoa said the hospital management invited LNIG Hollard to conduct the engagement as part of the usual annual member engagement programme, taking into account its operational schedule and staff availability.

"The primary purpose of the visit was to engage directly with Members, explain their Employee Benefits and provide an opportunity for members to obtain clarification on matters relating to their insurance cover and benefits," she said.

According to Tsekoa, the main concerns raised by employees included confirmation that their insurance cover remained active, delays in issuing benefit statements, non-payment of premiums by the employer and individual queries concerning information reflected on members' benefit statements.

She said LNIG Hollard confirmed that the insured benefits remained active and informed members that the issuance of benefit statements had been delayed.

"Management confirmed to the employees that indeed they were behind on some premiums," she said.

Tsekoa said individual queries, including matters concerning personal information on member statements, were addressed through established channels, including referrals through the hospital's Human Resources office where member records required updating.

She added that LNIG Hollard conducted one-on-one member engagements on 28–29 July and 4–5 August 2026, allowing employees to raise specific concerns about their individual benefits and statements.

"LNIG Hollard addressed the questions and concerns that were directed to it during the engagements," she said.

She said general questions regarding the status of insured benefits and benefit statements were addressed during group sessions, while individual queries were either referred through established HR channels or handled during the subsequent one-on-one engagements.

Tsekoa stressed that, for insured group risk benefits administered by LNIG Hollard, cover remains active.

"Accordingly, there has been no interruption to the insured benefits as a result of the matters raised during the member engagement," she said.

She, however, distinguished the insured group risk benefits from the retirement fund.

"The position regarding the Retirement Fund is separate from the insured Group Risk Benefits. Where Retirement Contributions are delayed, this may have implications for the timing of the investment of those contributions and, consequently, the investment returns that may accrue to members," she said.

She added that members' benefits remained subject to the applicable policy and fund rules, terms and conditions.

Regarding employees' calls for a change of service provider, Tsekoa said LNIG Hollard had not received a formal request from QMMH, as the policyholder, to terminate or transfer the existing insurance arrangement.

"Any decision to change an insurance service provider would be a matter for the relevant Policyholder and Fund stakeholders and would need to follow the applicable Contractual, Governance and Regulatory requirements," she said.

She said any change would also need to take into account continuity of cover, the terms and conditions of an alternative arrangement, eligibility requirements, applicable exclusions or waiting periods, the treatment of existing claims and the effective date of the transition.

"It would therefore be important that any proposed change is properly assessed and communicated to affected Members before implementation, to ensure that Members understand any implications for their existing benefits and protection," Tsekoa said.

She said LNIG Hollard remained committed to servicing the existing arrangement and engaging with relevant stakeholders to address members' questions and ensure continuity of service and benefits.

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Mofomobe charged in drug manufacturing scandal

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Basotho National Party (BNP) leader Machesetsa Mofomobe appeared before the Maseru Magistrate's Court yesterday facing three charges linked to an alleged drug manufacturing operation involving a clandestine laboratory in Khubetsoana.

Police went to Mofomobe's home on Wednesday, but he was not there. Law enforcement subsequently directed him to make himself available for court proceedings, which he did yesterday.

Machesetsa Mofomobe

Mofomobe is accused of aiding and abetting the production and transportation of illicit drugs, unlawfully importing machinery allegedly intended for drug manufacturing, and deliberately polluting the environment.

The charges stem from his alleged connection to four co-accused who appeared in court last month in connection with a suspected drug laboratory discovered in Khubetsoana, Berea.

The facility is suspected of manufacturing various types of drugs. Authorities have linked the operation to three Chinese nationals — Chen Wu, Chen Minglevu and Yeng Xiong Kang — and their company, Stan Dar (Pty) Also cated Ma- ficial try of Trade, Business Development and Industry.

The charges have been brought under the Medicines and Medical Devices Control Authority Act of 2023 and the Environment Act of 2008.

Magistrate Matšoloane Qhomane granted Mofomobe bail of M5,000, with a surety of M50,000, after the prosecution did not oppose his release.

His bail conditions require him to attend all court proceedings, refrain from interfering with Crown witnesses and avoid obstructing the ongoing investigation.

Mofomobe, represented by Advocate Machanduka Mukhawana, is due back in court on August 25, 2026. Advocate Keketso Motiki is leading the prosecution.

Mofomobe denies allegations

Speaking during a Facebook livestream yesterday afternoon following his court appearance, Mofomobe denied the allegations, describing the charges as persecution.

He claimed that a police officer had been pressured to find grounds on which to charge him but had refused to do so.

"I saw her at the court today. She refused to charge me but because they wanted me to be charged, they did it without her," he said.

Mofomobe said the purpose of the case was to break him, but vowed that he would not be intimidated.

"I will always be available in court to answer for myself. I will stand the trial to its finality. And I will beat them," he said.

He also said that, should he be convicted, he would resign as BNP leader.

"I cannot continue to lead BNP when the court has found me guilty of being part of the production of drugs that destroy the future of Basotho's children. No such person has to lead," he said.

Mofomobe remains presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty by a court of law.

LMPS senior officer faces corruption and money laundering charges

Lekhetho Makhanya

The Lesotho Mounted Police Service's (LMPS) Fire Brigade Senior officer, Superintendent Muso Lehlokoa, briefly appeared before the Maseru Magistrate's Court on Tuesday this week, facing corruption and money laundering charges brought by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO).

The 51-year-old officer, of Seforong in Quthing, is alleged to have conducted unauthorised firefighting skills training sessions and pocketed fees amounting to M56,000, according to the DCEO.

Supt Lehlokoa is stationed at the LMPS Fire Brigade under the Special Operations Unit (SOU) in Maseru. The DCEO alleges that between March 2017 and July 2021, he used his position and LMPS resources to conduct firefighting skills training without obtaining the required authorisation from his superiors.

According to the DCEO, Lehlokoa is an extensively trained firefighter who had been instructed by his superiors to conduct firefighting skills training courses for various sectors of society.

However, the prosecution alleges that he knew he was required to obtain prior approval before conducting the training sessions.

"He was also not permitted to charge trainees personally, and any payments accrued from the training were supposed to be deposited into the LMPS bank account rather than his personal account," the DCEO submitted before the court.

The DCEO alleges that Lehlokoa instead received payments personally, resulting in the corruption and money laundering charges against him.

Lehlokoa was released on bail of M3,000.

The matter has been postponed to September 7, 2026, for set down.

Magistrate Puseletso McPherson is presiding over the matter.

Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer Project marks progress

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer Project (LBWTP) has taken another step forward with the official inauguration of its Project Management Office (PMO) in Lesotho, marking progress in the coordination of the multi-billion-maloti project that will see Lesotho supply water to Botswana.

Botswana is set to become the second country to receive water from Lesotho, following South Africa.

The LBWTP PMO was inaugurated in Maseru last week by the Minister of Water, Mohlomi Moleko, in collaboration with the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM).

Although the office was initially established in 2023 and accorded diplomatic status by Lesotho, its formal launch and inauguration coincided with the ORASECOM governance meetings hosted by Lesotho under its chairmanship.

Moleko underscored the water scarcity facing the region, saying Southern Africa is among the most water-constrained regions in the world.

"Southern Africa is one of the most water-constrained regions in the world. At the same time, our economies, our communities and our ecosystems are increasingly affected by climate variability and growing demand for water. These realities remind us that water security can no longer be pursued by countries acting alone. It requires partnership, trust and institutions that enable us to plan together and invest together," he said.

The minister said the project presents Lesotho with an opportunity to contribute to regional water security.

He said water remains a strategic resource capable of supporting economic growth, strengthening regional partnerships and improving livelihoods. However, he stressed that large infrastructure projects should ultimately be judged by their impact on people's lives.

Botswana President Advocate Duma Boko visited Lesotho from July 15 to 18, 2025, during which he, among other activities, toured the proposed water project site at Makhalaneng.

As the project progresses, the PMO is expected to continue engaging governments, communities, development partners and other stakeholders during the remaining feasibility phase to ensure that the project is developed transparently and responsibly and in accordance with international environmental and social safeguard standards.

ORASECOM Executive Secretary Comfort Molosiwa described the inauguration of the office as a milestone in cooperation among the participating member states.

"The establishment of this Project Management Office demonstrates the confidence of the participating governments in the value of a dedicated institution to coordinate this important preparatory phase. The office exists to facilitate, coordinate and manage the completion of the feasibility studies that will enable informed decisions on the future implementation of the project," he said.

Molosiwa said significant progress had already been made, noting that the pre-feasibility studies had been completed, providing the strategic basis for the project.

He said the Technical Feasibility Study for the proposed dam on the Makhaleng River had also been completed, marking another milestone in project preparation.

However, four critical studies remain before the project can advance to the next phase. These are the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the proposed dam; the ESIA for the water conveyance system; the Technical Feasibility Study for the water conveyance system; and the Financial, Legal and Institutional Structure Study.

Molosiwa said the outstanding studies would provide the technical, environmental, financial, legal and institutional foundations upon which future investment decisions would be based.

"We recognise that major water infrastructure has the potential to transform lives, strengthen economies and enhance regional resilience. At the same time, we recognise that these types of projects can have profound implications for the communities and environments in which they are developed. It is therefore our collective responsibility to ensure that project preparation is rigorous, transparent and responsive to the needs and aspirations of those who may be affected," he said.

Last year, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Project Preparation and Development Facility (PPDF) approved US$1.83 million, approximately M29.5 million, in funding to advance the LBWTP.

The funding will support two critical preparatory components: the ESIA covering the proposed dam and water conveyance infrastructure, and a comprehensive feasibility study addressing the financial, legal and institutional frameworks required for the project's long-term sustainability.

Molosiwa said that while the LBWTP is being developed within the ORASECOM framework and involves Lesotho, Botswana and South Africa, Namibia participates in the Joint Study Management Committee as an "Official Observer".

The project is expected to span more than 700 kilometres, channelling water from Lesotho's highlands through South Africa to Botswana.

Lesotho's vaccine supply is now stable and safe: Ministry of Health

Ntsoaki Motaung

Following a damning report by international organizations, World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF, that highlighted years of vaccine shortages and unreliable records, the Ministry of Health has stepped forward to set the record straight.

To address the growing public concern caused by a recent report published in Newsday, the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) convened a special briefing to outline where the country has come from, the severe challenges it faced, and the aggressive measures now being taken to safeguard the health of Lesotho's children.

Speaking on behalf of the EPI, Puleng Limape acknowledged that the health sector did go through a difficult period.

However, Limape emphasised that the narrative of failure does not tell the full story, as many of the issues were triggered by severe global events beyond the country's direct control.

Limape explained that the vaccine shortages experienced in previous years were not unique to Lesotho. Instead, they were heavily driven by global supply disruptions that hit right after the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving small nations vulnerable to international market shortfalls.

"These challenges were primarily driven by unprecedented global vaccine supply shortages that affected many countries following the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for Rotavirus, Measles-containing vaccines and other routine childhood vaccines," Limape stated.

Beyond the global shortage of medical supplies, getting vaccines from central warehouses to rural health posts presented its own major obstacles. Transporting fragile vaccines requires a continuous cold environment, known as a cold chain. Without specialised vehicles, getting those medicines to remote mountainous villages was a constant struggle.

"In addition, the country faced operational constraints related to last-mile vaccine distribution, including limited dedicated transport capacity to ensure timely delivery of vaccines from district stores to health facilities," Limape added.

Limape noted that while these disruptions led to painful stockouts in the past, the ministry did not sit idly by. Instead, the government used those difficult years as a wake-up call to completely overhaul how child immunisation is funded, stored, and distributed nationwide.

Despite the historical failures detailed in the joint WHO and UNICEF assessment, Limape delivered a strong message of reassurance to the public, the national supply chain is now robust, fully operational, and dependable.

"We are pleased to assure the public that the immunisation supply chain has significantly stabilised. Over the past two years, Lesotho has not experienced any national stock-out of routine vaccines for children under five years of age," Limape announced.

She said, this stabilisation is the result of a massive, coordinated effort between the government and international partners. To ensure that empty clinic refrigerators are a thing of the past, the Ministry of Health has overhauled its operations across four critical areas.

The ministry has expanded its fleet of dedicated cold-chain vehicles. This ensures that vaccines travel safely from main stores in Maseru all the way to hard-to-reach rural clinics without losing their potency.

New, state-of-the-art refrigeration systems have been installed at central, district, and local health centres, protecting vaccines against local power outages and heat damage.

To prevent reliance on unpredictable emergency aid, the government has dedicated steady domestic funding to procure essential childhood vaccines on time.

Health workers now use modernised inventory tracking systems to predict shortages months before they happen, allowing the country to order fresh batches before stocks run dry.

The WHO and UNICEF report also drew heavy attention to what it described as a "broken pencil" years of chaotic and unreliable paper records that made it difficult to determine exactly how many children had been vaccinated.

Limape directly addressed these concerns, agreeing that accurate data is essential for saving lives. The department is actively moving away from outdated manual record-keeping to ensure every single child is correctly accounted for in official government databases.

"The Ministry also recognises the importance of high-quality immunization data for planning, monitoring programme performance, and ensuring that every eligible child is reached," Limape explained.

She said to restore complete trust in national statistics, the ministry is rolling out digital information platforms across clinics. These digital systems will reduce human recording errors, allow real-time tracking of child vaccination cards, and support regular data audits and staff training across all ten districts.

While global markets remain unpredictable, Limape reassured citizens that Lesotho is now better prepared than ever. By maintaining extra emergency buffer stocks and coordinating directly with international suppliers like UNICEF Supply Division, WHO, and Gavi, the ministry is built to withstand future global shocks.

Limape concluded the briefing with an urgent appeal to parents, caregivers, and community leaders across the country to remain confident in the public health system.

"Protecting every child from vaccine-preventable diseases remains one of the ministry's highest public health priorities," Limape emphasised. "Routine childhood immunisation services continue to be available throughout the country. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to continue taking their children to health facilities according to the national immunisation schedule."


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Telling Mokhotlong tourism story through the lens

Seabata Mahao

When Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) signed on to back Mokhotlong district under the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation's (LTDC) "Re Bontše Lesotho" campaign, it was doing more than sponsoring a content competition.

It was making a calculated bet that digital storytelling, backed by private capital, can unlock a tourism economy that has long punched below its weight, and that telecoms, not just travel operators, have a commercial stake in making that happen.

The campaign's Mokhotlong winner, content creator Mapele Maimane, has joined Econet's stable of creatives after his victory in the district competition, part of a broader push by the LTDC to have Basotho themselves market the country's ten districts to the world.

The partnership is a small but telling piece of a larger strategic logic for Econet; connectivity businesses increasingly see value not just in selling data, but in what that data is used to create.

ETL's Acting General Manager for Marketing Communications, Puleng 'Mathabo Masoabi, framed the investment as core to the company's identity as a technology enabler rather than a mere sponsor.

"As Econet, we have always believed that technology is most powerful when it enables people to tell their own stories, pursue their ambitions and create opportunities. Mapele represents exactly that spirit. He is a creative, proudly Mosotho and passionate about showing the world what his home has to offer," she said.

"We came into Re Bontše Lesotho as proud sponsors of Mokhotlong, but what makes this journey even more special is that it has allowed us to work with incredible local talent. There is something special in Mapele, and we want to help him take it further."

That commitment translates into tangible support, as Econet will work directly with Maimane to sharpen his content creation and storytelling craft, giving him a platform to continue highlighting Mokhotlong's tourist attractions, cultural experiences and lesser-known destinations.

Masoabi said the company's ambition goes beyond a single campaign cycle.

"Through this partnership, we want Mapele to dream bigger. We want to work with him, grow with him and give him room to experiment and develop his craft. As he tells exciting stories, we also want him to keep turning the camera towards Mokhotlong and showing Basotho and the rest of the world what is waiting to be discovered there," she said.

Econet Telecom Lesotho has welcomed Mokhotlong content creator Mapele Maimane into its growing family of creatives following his victory in the Re Bontše Lesotho competition

On the other hand, the opportunity marks a significant career turning point for Maimane.

"I am proud to have had the opportunity to tell the story of Mokhotlong through my own lens alongside Econet. This is home to me, so being able to showcase its beauty, its people and some of the experiences that make it special has made this journey even more meaningful," he said.

"Joining the Econet family is also an exciting step for me. I am looking forward to learning, growing as a content creator and using this opportunity to tell even bigger stories, while continuing to show people what Mokhotlong and Lesotho have to offer."

The economic logic behind this kind of sponsorship is straightforward. Mokhotlong, home to some of Lesotho's most striking mountain scenery and rich cultural heritage, remains under-visited relative to its tourism potential.

Digital storytelling produced by locals offers a low-cost, high-reach way to close that gap, converting social media visibility into actual visitor numbers, hospitality spending and small-business revenue in remote districts that otherwise struggle to attract investment.

Econet is not acting alone. The Re Bontše Lesotho campaign has drawn in a cross-section of Lesotho's corporate sector, each adopting a district. A spread of financial services firms, insurers and telecoms signals a broader private-sector recognition that tourism development and digital economy growth are increasingly intertwined, and that funding local content creators is now viewed as a viable channel for corporate marketing spend with a public-good dividend attached.

LTDC acting Managing Director Mamello Morojele explained that the campaign was built on the conviction that Basotho are best placed to tell the country's own story, an approach inspired by a visit from African digital content creator Wode Maya that sparked local interest in tourism-focused storytelling.

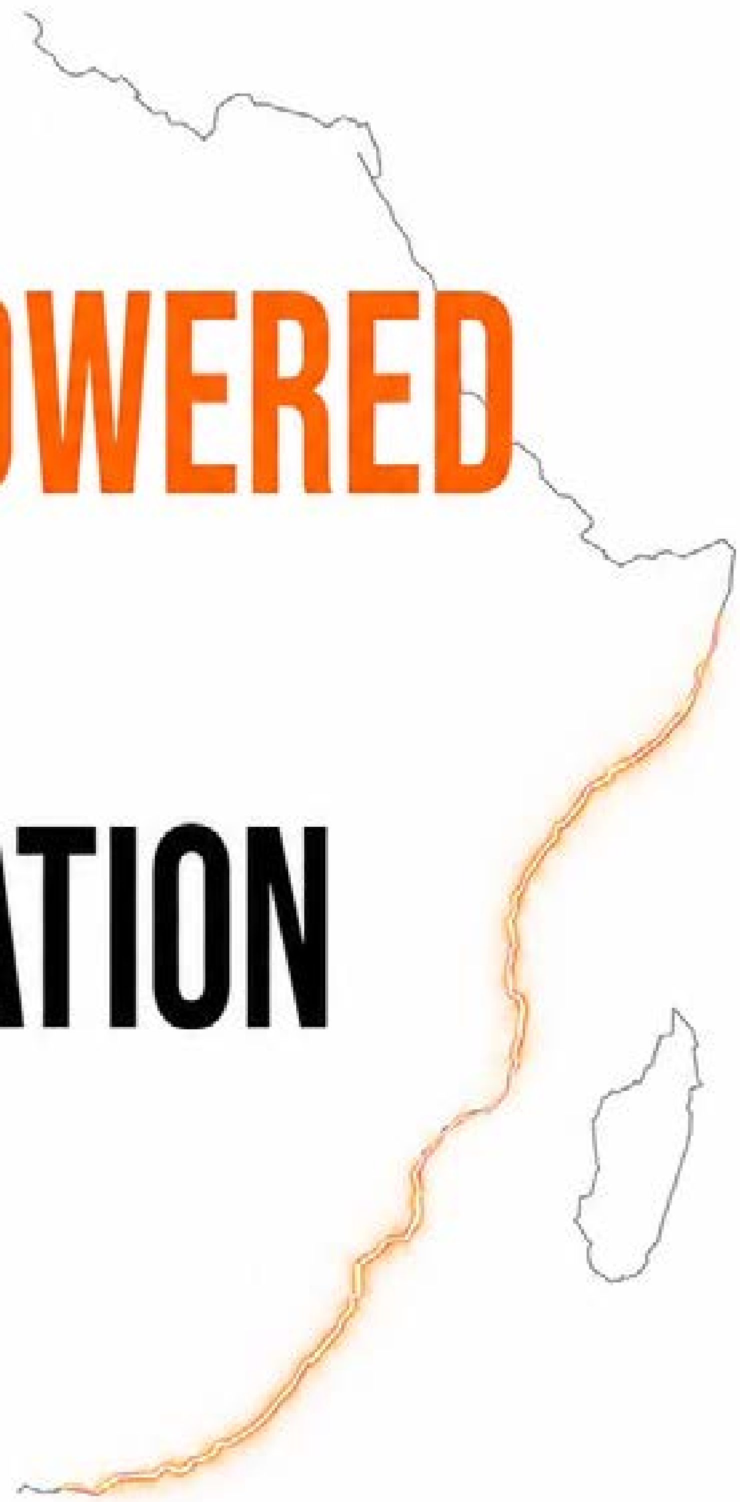
The corporation ran the initiative across all ten districts, partnering with Limkokwing University of Creative Technology to train participants in filmmaking, visual communication and responsible content creation before they produced their submissions.

Eleven ambassadors were ultimately selected nationally, tasked with showcasing Lesotho's attractions, heritage and culture to both domestic and international audiences. Morojele noted that opportunities remain for other businesses to come on board and adopt additional districts or expand existing partnerships.

For an economy still working to diversify beyond textiles, agriculture and remittances, tourism represents an underexploited growth lever, one that requires sustained marketing investment rather than one-off campaigns.

Econet's decision to bring Maimane into its own creative ecosystem, rather than simply handing over prize money, suggests a longer-term commitment to building Mokhotlong's visibility as a destination.

If replicated across the other district partnerships, this model of corporate-backed, locally produced storytelling could become a meaningful contributor to Lesotho's tourism receipts over the coming years, turning smartphone cameras in the country's most remote districts into instruments of economic development.



Quo vadis, young Basotho?

The question that remains after the Youth Dialogue on Economic Independence

Kananelo Boloetse

On Wednesday, 12 August 2026, the Youth Dialogue Initiative, which I am part of, and Queer WorX jointly hosted a Youth Dialogue on Economic Independence to commemorate International Youth Day.

The dialogue brought together young Basotho from different backgrounds to reflect on one of the most pressing questions facing the country: How do we build an economically independent Lesotho, and what role must young people play in making that possible?

The keynote address was delivered by the Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Selibe Mochoboroane. Other speakers included Mr Chaba Mokuku of CAFI, while Lesotho PostBank and the Basotho Enterprises Development Corporation (BEDCO) were invited to present on the Inclusive Growth Facility (IGF) and the Bacha Entrepreneurship Project (BEP), respectively.

Representatives of the WYDE Women's Leadership Initiative also participated in the dialogue, adding an important dimension to the discussion around young people, women and democratic participation.

But perhaps the most interesting part of the dialogue was not what was said from the podium. It was what young people asked afterwards.

And those questions took us from economics to politics.

From economic independence to political independence

It is worth refreshing our minds about what the Youth Dialogues on Economic Independence are and where they come from.

The initiative is a youth-led, nationwide platform launched in April 2025 in Maseru. Its central objective is to push Lesotho towards true economic autonomy, a country less dependent on foreign aid and external assistance and more capable of producing, financing and sustaining its own development.

The dialogues provide a structured platform for young Basotho to articulate their ideas, mobilise collective action and influence national policy.

But this is not intended to be another talk shop.

The ultimate objective is to translate the voices, ideas and aspirations emerging from these conversations into a concrete policy document, the **Youth Independence Charter or Youth Agenda 20266.**

The inaugural dialogue was held on April 28, 2025, at the American Corner in Maseru, with former Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro delivering the keynote address. Since then, the initiative has travelled across the country, holding dialogues in districts including Maseru, Mohale's Hoek, Mafeteng, Berea, Leribe, Qacha's Nek, Mokhotlong, Botha-Bothe and Thaba-Tseka.

A major session was also held at Kick4Life on May 23, 2025, to commemorate Africa Day.

At the heart of the initiative is Agenda 2066, a long-term national vision looking towards Lesotho's centenary of independence.

The argument is simple, Lesotho may have achieved political independence 60 years ago, but political independence means little if the country remains economically dependent, food insecure and unable to create sufficient opportunities for its own people.

The proposition, therefore, is to develop a 40-year developmental blueprint, created by young Basotho themselves, to take the country from political independence to genuine economic independence by 2066.

The conversations have already helped push economic independence and self-reliance higher up the national agenda.

Now, we are working on the Independence Charter, which will set out practical policies and measures for achieving that vision.

The Charter is scheduled to be launched on October 3, 2026, on the eve of Lesotho's 60th Independence Anniversary.

"Any party that does not adopt this should forget young people's votes"

At Wednesday's dialogue, my colleague Tumelo Moteuli made a particularly interesting observation.

Moteuli said that the hope is for the Independence Charter to become a blueprint that political parties can incorporate into their manifestos ahead of the 2028 National Elections.

Then he added, in essence, that any political party that refuses to incorporate the Charter into its manifesto should forget about getting young people's votes.

The hall erupted in applause.

It was encouraging.

But it was also revealing.

It suggested that young people are beginning to see a direction for themselves, not necessarily a political party, but a political agenda.

For too long, young people have been treated primarily as voters, campaign crowds, social media armies and political rally fillers.

Perhaps the time has come for young people to become something else: authors of the political agenda.

Instead of asking politicians what they intend to do for young people, perhaps young people should be telling politicians what they expect them to do, and then judging them against it.

That is precisely where the Independence Charter could become important.

"Which party should we vote for?"

Then came a question that perhaps nobody should have been surprised by.

Following a presentation by a representative of the WYDE Women's Leadership Initiative, young people wanted to know: Which political party should we vote for?

The question was directed at the representatives of the initiative, whose work is aimed at strengthening the participation of women and young people in democratic and political life.

The WYDE Women's Leadership Initiative in Lesotho forms part of the broader Women and Youth Democratic Engagement (WYDE) Programme funded by the European Union. In Lesotho, the programme is implemented by BAM Group Foundation as a national grantee, with support from UN Women under the EU-funded WYDE Women's Leadership programme.

Its objective is to increase the participation of women, particularly young women and women with disabilities, in leadership, political participation and decision-making, while challenging the social and institutional barriers that keep them out.

But the young people were not simply asking how they could participate.

They wanted to know who they should support.

And perhaps that is where the conversation became particularly uncomfortable, and therefore particularly important.

One participant suggested that perhaps young people should consider establishing their own political party. This participant was told by the moderator that there are already youth-led political parties in the country and in particular, mentioning Yearn for Economic Sustainability (YES).

Then later came a remarkably candid intervention from Mokhethoaneng Constituency Member of Parliament and Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) member, Mr. Mokhothu Makhalanyane.

He said the question he often asks when young people are encouraged to become politically active is: Which political party should they join?

His answer was blunt.

In his view, none of the political parties registered with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) currently has the capacity, or appetite, to bring meaningful change to Lesotho.

He argued that many political parties are primarily interested in gaining access to the national purse, which he said creates opportunities for looting, theft and squandering of public resources.

He warned that young people who enter political parties with genuine intentions can eventually be consumed and corrupted by the political culture they encounter.

For Makhalanyane, what Lesotho needs is nothing short of a spring cleaning.

The political mindset must change.

The political culture must change.

The way politics is practised must change.

And, perhaps most importantly, the relationship between citizens and political parties must change.

Interestingly, despite being a member of the governing RFP, Makhalanyane did not use the opportunity to recruit young people into his own party. Instead, he cautioned them against blindly supporting any of the existing political parties.

That, in itself, was an unusual political intervention.

So, quo vadis?

And this is where I am left with a question for young Basotho: Where are you going?

Not just which party will you vote for in 2028.

Not just which politician will you support.

Not just which candidate will give the best speech, make the most promises or have the most attractive social media campaign.

Where are you going as a generation?

Because there is a danger in asking only who should we vote for?

In my view, the more fundamental question is: What do we want our vote to achieve?

If young people constitute a significant portion of the electorate but have no clearly articulated political demands, political parties will continue to define the agenda for them.

If young people have a clearly defined agenda, political parties will have to respond to it.

That is the thinking behind the Youth Independence Charter.

It is not intended to be a manifesto of another political party.

It is intended to be a manifesto for a generation.

Political parties may adopt it. Candidates may campaign on it. Governments may implement it.

But its ownership should remain with the people who helped create it.

And if political parties want young people's votes in 2028, perhaps the conversation should not be:"What can we promise young people?"

Perhaps it should be: "How much of the young people's agenda are we prepared to commit ourselves to?"

There is also another uncomfortable possibility.

What if the existing political parties genuinely cannot provide the political vehicle young people need?

Should young people create one?

Should they build something entirely outside the existing party system?

Should they transform the parties that already exist?

Should they organise as a powerful non-partisan movement capable of making political parties compete for their support?

Or should they simply vote differently?

I do not have the answer.

And perhaps that is precisely the point.

The Youth Dialogue was never supposed to hand young people all the answers. It was created to give them the space to ask the questions that matter.

And these are questions worth asking before 2028, not after.

Because economic independence will ultimately require political choices.

We cannot seriously talk about food security, industrialisation, jobs, entrepreneurship, local production, education, public accountability and reducing dependence on foreign assistance without talking about who makes the decisions that determine these things.

Economic independence is therefore not merely an economic question.

It is also a question of political leadership, institutions, accountability and citizen power.

So, young Basotho, quo vadis?

Where are we going?

Perhaps the answer should not begin with a political party.

Perhaps it should begin with a vision.

Perhaps it should begin with the question: What kind of Lesotho do we want to inherit, and what are we prepared to do to build it?

And perhaps, by the time we arrive at the ballot box in 2028, we should not be asking politicians to tell us what they want to do with our country.

We should already have decided what we want done, and ask them whether they are prepared to do it.

That, to me, would be a meaningful beginning to political independence.

NMDS must stop explaining exclusion and start reforming it: A response to the policy defence offered by the Director of the Loan Bursary Fund

Dr Theko Tlebere

This week I listened carefully to an interview between my friend, Buta Moseme and the Director of the Loan Bursary Fund, Ntate Thabo Ntoi. I was genuinely impressed by Ntate Ntoi's eloquence and command of the institution he leads. He explained how the NMDS loan bursary is intended to operate as a revolving fund, why repayment matters, and how the rules are applied. His explanation was coherent. Unfortunately, a policy can be explained perfectly and still fail the people it was created to serve.

That is the difficulty confronting NMDS today. Basotho are no longer asking whether officials understand the rules. They are asking whether those rules address the realities of a young person who has qualified for university, received admission, and has no other way to pay. My uncle in Ha Khohlopo is not interested in an elegant explanation of a policy that prevents his son from pursuing his studies. He wants to know what government will do to stop one generation's debt, an exhausted quota or an outdated administrative rule, from destroying the next generation's future.

In my article last week, "NMDS Needs Both Political Will and a Culture of Repayment," I argued that the fund will survive only if government invests predictably, beneficiaries repay, and NMDS modernises recovery. I stand by that argument. A revolving fund that does not recover loans will eventually collapse. But the interview revealed the other side of the problem: a revolving fund cannot be made sustainable by denying qualified Basotho the opportunity to study. A fund that protects its balance sheet while shrinking the country's human capital is not succeeding. It is revolving around the wrong objective.

Ntate Ntoi explained, as I understood him, that the current policy treats the loan as a household obligation. It looks at the nuclear family, extends to spouses and may prevent a parent with an outstanding obligation from serving as guarantor for a child. Perhaps that is an accurate statement of the current rules. Yet accuracy does not make the rule just. It exposes why the rule must change. A parent may have benefited from NMDS twenty years ago and failed to repay. That debt should be pursued lawfully and firmly against the beneficiary who incurred it. It should not become an inherited educational sentence imposed on a son or daughter who was never party to the original agreement. A spouse's debt should not automatically extinguish the other spouse's opportunity to study. Nor should a parent be treated as if providing a guarantee is the same as providing independent surety when the policy has already disqualified the household. This design does not merely recover public money; it transfers administrative failure across generations.

The distinction matters. A guarantor undertakes to answer for a borrower's obligation under stated conditions. A household, by contrast, is not a single legal or economic person. Families contain adults with different incomes, debts, employment histories and responsibilities. They also contain children who cannot control whether their parents repaid an old loan. Public policy should locate liability where it belongs: with the borrower and any person who voluntarily entered a legally valid guarantee. It should not use kinship as a substitute for effective debt recovery.

Government has already acknowledged that the legal framework governing the Loan Bursary Fund is outdated and does not match the realities of the twenty-first century. That admission should end the era of defending inherited rules as though officials have no alternative. Ntate Ntoi is a public officer and is expected to administer the policy currently in force. The problem has now moved above his office. Cabinet must bring forward reform. Parliament must scrutinise it. The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning must fund it. The question is no longer whether the old policy can be explained; it is why it is still being used to exclude young Basotho.

The Bokamoso e-Portal is an important reform. Digital applications can reduce paperwork, improve tracking and allow students to apply without repeated travel to Maseru. But a portal is not transformation by itself. If applicants still queue at NMDS to discover what happened to an online application, if institutions and NMDS hold different information, if students remain "pending" without a clear reason or decision date, and if families cannot obtain prompt assistance, then the queue has merely moved from paper to a screen before returning to the pavement. Something is still wrong.

A functioning e-Portal should show each applicant, in plain language, whether the application is received, verified, assessed, conditionally approved, wait-listed, rejected or ready for contracting. It should identify missing documents, the office responsible for the next action and the date by which a decision will be made. Applicants should be able to appeal online, receive an auditable response and obtain support through district service points and a properly staffed call centre. Government should publish anonymised weekly statistics on applications, approvals, pending cases and processing times. Digitalisation must remove uncertainty, not digitise it.

The policy itself requires a more fundamental redesign. First, liability must be individualised. NMDS should recover an outstanding loan from the actual debtor through lawful payroll deductions, income-sensitive instalments, employer cooperation and accessible digital payment channels. A child or spouse should be assessed on his or her own application, financial need and ability to provide a reasonable guarantee. Family relationships may inform a genuine means test, but they should not function as automatic disqualifications.

Second, government must separate access decisions from debt-enforcement decisions. The scholarship desk should determine whether a student is academically eligible, financially needy and studying in a national priority area. A specialised recovery unit should pursue historic debts using verified records and due process. Making the applicant carry the burden of finding a debt-free relative may be administratively convenient, but convenience is not sound public policy.

Third, the quota system must be replaced by a transparent financing framework. Government should publish the expected number of school-leavers, available places, priority skills, cost per programme, continuing-student commitments, projected recoveries and the number of new awards that can be financed. Where funds cannot cover every eligible student immediately, decisions must be based on published criteria combining merit, household need, vulnerability and national skills demand. There must also be a properly governed waiting list and an appeals process. "The quota is full" cannot remain the final explanation given to a family whose child has done everything right.

Fourth, Parliament should amend the governing law and require modern regulations. The new framework should define the rights and duties of applicants, borrowers, guarantors, spouses, employers, institutions and NMDS. It should prohibit automatic intergenerational disqualification, provide hardship and restructuring mechanisms, authorise proportionate recovery tools, protect personal data and establish an independent review channel. Regulations should be published and written in language that families can understand. Important eligibility rules must not live only in circulars, forms or explanations offered after a student has already been rejected.

Fifth, government needs a transition plan for the present crisis. Reforming legislation may take time, but students are losing academic years now. Cabinet should create a temporary review mechanism for applicants excluded solely because of a parent's or spouse's historic debt. Where the applicant is otherwise eligible, NMDS should be permitted to contract directly with the student while separately regularising the previous borrower's account. Government should also establish a bridge-financing window for admitted, needy students whose applications are delayed by administrative verification rather than substantive ineligibility.

None of this excuses beneficiaries who can repay but choose not to do so. Those of us who received NMDS support have a moral and contractual obligation to help replenish the fund. Government employees and other salaried beneficiaries should not remain invisible to a state that already holds payroll and identification records. Recoveries should be systematic, fair and linked to income. But the state cannot compensate for decades of weak collection by turning poor households into enforcement instruments and qualified children into collateral.

The Director's interview was valuable precisely because it made the weakness of the present arrangement easier to see. He explained the system well; now policymakers must explain why they have not changed it. A director can administer a fund, improve operations and advise the minister, but he cannot alone rewrite the law, expand the national budget or remove policy contradictions. That responsibility belongs to the political leadership.

Basotho youth do not need another defence of a rule that closes the university gate. They need a government willing to ask whether the rule is lawful, fair, efficient and appropriate for the Lesotho of today. They need an NMDS that recovers money from those who owe it, supports those who genuinely cannot pay, communicates decisions clearly and finances the next generation without punishing it for the last one.

My uncle from Ha Khohlopo does not need to become a lawyer to understand why his son has been left behind. He needs a policy that recognises the young man's admission, ability and need. The Government of Lesotho must stop explaining exclusion and start reforming it. Amend the laws. Replace the outdated by-laws and administrative rules. Fix the portal. Recover loans from the correct people. Publish the criteria. Fund deserving students. A revolving fund must revolve, but it must revolve towards opportunity. The Future is NOW!

The NMDS crisis: Lesotho's youth paying for the sins of the system

Ntsoaki Motaung

As the world marks International Youth Day on Wednesday, I found myself reflecting on the plight of young people in Lesotho.

Are they proud to be Basotho? It is hard to imagine so, given the myriad of challenges they face daily, rampant unemployment, rising drug abuse, and now, grave uncertainty about their right to education.

The National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS), once a beacon of hope for Basotho youth, is today a symbol of anxiety and exclusion.

Not long ago, passing the final year of high school in Lesotho was a source of joy and optimism. A student could almost be certain of receiving sponsorship from the NMDS, enabling them to pursue higher education and transform their lives.

Today, that hope has turned into dread. NMDS can no longer sustain itself, and the once reliable system has become riddled with obstacles.

The most controversial of these is the practice of denying sponsorship to students whose parents still owe NMDS, punishing children for the debts of their families.

This policy raises uncomfortable questions. Why are people failing to repay their NMDS loans? The answer is painfully obvious, unemployment.

Even those who are lucky enough to find jobs often earn far below the legal minimum wage, making it nearly impossible to service student debts. This cycle of poverty is well-documented in Lesotho, where economic opportunities are scarce, and factory closures have only made the situation worse.

But before blaming ordinary Basotho, we must scrutinise the allocation and management of public funds. How much is allocated to NMDS in the national budget each year, and how much actually reaches the students?

Auditor General reports have repeatedly exposed the embezzlement and misappropriation of millions, sometimes billions, of maloti. For instance, the 2022 Auditor General's report revealed that over M1.9 billion was unaccounted for within government ministries, with no one held accountable.

Government officials embark on expensive international trips, burning through millions in per diems, while the country's youth struggle to afford basic education.

Investigations by the Public Accounts Committee have exposed the existence of ghost workers, inflated salaries, and contracts awarded to unqualified cronies. Civil servants, who should be serving the public, have been found conducting business with the very government they work for, further draining public coffers.

Given these realities, the NMDS's decision to punish students for their parents' debts is not only unjust but also counterproductive.

It will not solve the underlying issues of unemployment and poverty, nor will it ensure loan repayment. Instead, it perpetuates generational disadvantage, denying talented young Basotho the opportunity to rise above their circumstances.

If the government truly values its youth, it must prioritise accountability and transparency in public finance.

Instead of scapegoating the poor, efforts should focus on recovering the billions lost to corruption and mismanagement. Only then can NMDS fulfill its mission and restore hope to the youth of Lesotho.

Government of Lesotho

COMPETITIVENESS AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION (CAFI) PROJECT

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

MSME RESILIENCE BUILDING AND PREPAREDNESS SUPPORT

BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank to implement the Lesotho Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) Project. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase access to business support services and financial products targeted at Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and entrepreneurs, particularly women and youth.

Under Subcomponent 1.3, *Strengthening the Resilience of MSMEs to Climatic Shocks and Disasters*, the CAFI Project provides targeted support to enhance the preparedness and resilience of MSMEs against climate-induced shocks and disasters.

The support aims to strengthen business continuity by reducing the vulnerability of MSMEs to climate-related risks and disasters, protecting productive assets, improving operational resilience, and promoting sustainable enterprise growth. The Government of Lesotho, through the CAFI Project, therefore invites eligible Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to apply for Resilience Building and Preparedness Support. Successful applicants will receive assistance designed to strengthen their capacity to prepare for and withstand climate-induced shocks and disasters.

Eligibility criteria

Enterprises that meet the following eligibility criteria can apply:

- Enterprise must be a formal entity registered with relevant authorities.
- Enterprise must be located in an area where shock/s are likely to occur.
- Enterprises must clearly demonstrate how the expected shock/s are likely to affect their business operations.
- Enterprises must have valid tax clearance, indicating good standing with their tax obligations.
- The enterprises must provide financial statements.
- Enterprises must provide three (3) quotations from three (3) reputable suppliers.

The application forms must be accompanied by the following documents:

- Proof of business registration.
- Business identification certificates, where applicable.
- Up-to-date tax clearance certificate.
- Three quotations from three (3) reputable suppliers.

Note: A list of predefined equipment and minor works that are supported by CAFI is available on the following CAFI website: https://www.cafi.org.ls

Application Process

Application forms can be accessed on the following CAFI website https://www.cafi.org.ls

Submission

Complete Application Forms must be e-sent to procurement@cafi.org.ls with a copy to mmokone@cafi.org.ls as a single attachment.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [08h00 to 17h00 local time].

Lesotho Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion Project
House No. 252, Maseru West
Corner Kingsway and Tona-Kholo Road
P.O. Box 747,
Maseru 100
Lesotho
Tel: (+266) 22 315 100

Government of Lesotho

COMPETITIVENESS AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION (CAFI) PROJECT

KHOELEHETSO EA LIKOPO

TŠEHETSO EA LIKHOEBO TSE NYANE, TSE MAHARENG LE TSE NTSENG LI THUTHUOA MALEBANA LE BOITŠEMATLELO LE BOITOKISETSO KHAHLANONG LE PHETOHO EA LEHOLIMO

Selelekela

'Muso oa Lesotho o fumane tšehetso ea chelete ho tsoa Bankeng e Kholo ea Lefatše ho phethahatsa morero o tšehetsang likhoebo tse ikemetseng (CAFI Project). Sepheo sa morero ona ke ho ho eketsa litšebeletso tsa ntšetsopele ea likhoebo le lihlahisoa tsa lichelete bakeng sa likhoebo, haholo-holo likhoebo tsa basali le bacha.

Tlasa Karoloana ea 1.3, e shebaneng le ho matlafatsa Boitšematlelo ba Likhoebo tse Nyane, tse Mahareng le tse ntseng li thuthuoa khahlanong le Litlamorao tsa Phetoho ea boemo ba Leholimo le Likoluoa, Morero oa CAFI o fana ka tšehetso e khethehileng ho thusa likhoebo ho ntlafatsa boitokisetso le boitšematlelo ba tsona khahlanong le maemo a ka bakoang ke litla-morao tsa phetoho ea leholimo.

Tšehetso ena e reretsoe ho ntlafatsa kholo ea likhoebo tse nyane, tse mahareng le tse ntseng li thuthuoa ka ho li sireletsa le thepa ea tsona khahlanong le litla-morao tsa maemo a mabe a leholimo, le ho li tšehetsa hore li tsoelepele ho hoeba le maemong ao li anngoeng ke phetoho ea boemo ba leholimo.

'Muso oa Lesotho ka morero oa CAFI o mema likhoebo tse nyane, tse mahareng le tse ntseng li thuthuoa ho etsa likopo tsa tšehetso ea ho matlafatsa boitšematlelo le boitokisetso ba tsona khahlanong le litla-morao tsa maemo a ka bakoang ke phetoho ea leholimo. Likhoebo tse tla atleha li tla thusoa ka thepa e tla li sireletsa khahlanong le phetoho ea leholimo.

Lintlha tse lebelletsoeng ho hlaha kahara likopo

Likhoebo tse tla etsa likopo li lebelletsoe ho ba le tse latelang:

- E be khoebo e ngolisitsoeng ka molao le litsi tse amehang.
- E be khoebo e fumanehang sebakeng seo tlokotsi e ka hlahang.
- Khoebo e joalo e lebelletsoe ho hlakisa hantle hore na e ka angoa ke tlokotsi ea mofuta ofe, le hore na tlokotsi e joalo e ka ama khoebo joang.
- E be khoebo e nang le lengolo la khafa le ntseng le le nakong (valid tax clearance certificate).
- Khoebo e joalo e lebelletsoe ho fana ka tlaleho ea tsamaiso ea lichelete.
- Khoebo e lebelletsoe ho fana ka likhakanyo tsa thepa eo e kopang ho thusoa ka eona ho tsoa likhoebong tse tharo tse fapaneng (3 quotations).

Lenane la thepa le mesebetsi e menyane e tšehetsoang ke CAFI ka tlasa morero ona le fumaneha leqhepeng le latelang la marangrang a CAFI: https://www.cafi.org.ls

Mokhoa oa ho kenya likopo

Liforomo tsa likopo li ea fumaneha leqhepeng la marangrang a CAFI . Liforomo tsa likopo tse tlatsitsoeng le litokomane li ka romelloa ka marangrang ho procurement@cafi.org.ls e be kopi e romelloa ho mmokone@cafi.org.ls

Lintlha tse ling li ka fumaneha atereseng e ka tlase nakong ea lihora tsa mosebetsi [08:00 ho isa ho 17:00]

Lesotho Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion Project
House No. 252, Maseru West
Corner Kingsway and Tona-Kholo Road
P.O. Box 747,
Maseru 100
Lesotho
Tel: (+266) 22 315 100

Invitation to Bidders

BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

14 August 2026

Catering Services in Eight Lesotho Hospital - Ref: GoL/MOH/G004/2026/27

1. The Government of Lesotho has been allocated/received funds to be used for the acquisition of Catering Services to Government Hospital in Lesotho.
2. The Ministry of Health invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above services.
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 of the bidding documents at the address given below at 8(a) from 14 August 2026 to 31 August 2026, 08:00hours to 16:00 hours Monday to Friday exc.holidays.
5. The Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at 8(b) and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Maloti (M1, 000.00). The method of payment will be cash, payed at Accounts section revenue office. The Government hospitals are as follows:

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at 8(c) at or before 14 September 2026 at 12:00 noon Lesotho time. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 2% of bid amount or a bid securing declaration. Bid securities or bid securing declarations must be valid 24 months. 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 **12:00 noon on the 14 September 2026**.
7. There *shall be* a pre – bid meeting/ site visit at [*Insert address and time*] on the dates indicated in the proposed schedule table below in this notice.

Lot	Name of Hospital	District	Site Visit Date & Time	Bid Security
1	Mohlomi	Maseru	19-08-2026 @ 11:00am	2% of bid amount
2	Senkatana	Maseru	19-08-2026 @ 09:00am	2% of bid amount
3	Berea	Berea	20-08-2026 @ 14:30pm	2% of bid amount
4	Leribe	Leribe	20-08-2026 @ 14:30pm	2% of bid amount
5	Dr. ST Makenete	Butha-Bothe	20-08-2026 @ 09:00am	2% of bid amount
6	Mafeteng	Mafeteng	21-08-2026 @ 09:00am	2% of bid amount
7	Nts'ekhe	Mohale's Hoek	21-08-2026 @ 12:00am	2% of bid amount
8	Qacha'snek	Qacha'snek	24-08-2026 @ 11:00am	2% of bid amount

8. (a) Documents information may be found at: Ministry of Health Head Quarters, Procurement Unit, Corner Constitutional Road and Linare Road, Maseru, Lesotho. health.procurement@gov.ls
   (b) Documents will be issued from: Ministry of Health Head Quarters, Procurement Unit, Corner Constitutional Road and Linare Road, Maseru, Lesotho.

   (c) Bids must be delivered to: Ministry of Health Head Quarters, Procurement Unit, Corner Constitutional Road and Linare Road, Maseru, Lesotho.

   (d) Address of bid opening: Ministry of Health Head Quarters, Procurement Unit, Corner Constitutional Road and Linare Road, Maseru, Lesotho.

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

Activity	Date
a. Publish bid notice	14 August 2026
b. Pre-bid meeting where applicable	N/A
c. Bid closing date	14 September 2026
d. Evaluation process	*(Within 10 working days from bid closing date)*
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	05 October 2026
f. Contract signature	04 November 2026.

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 accept the lowest or any bid.
Signature:
Name: Mantsoanelo Monyobi
Principal Secretary MoH:

LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER COMMISSION

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF ADVERTISEMENT

RE: "REQUEST FOR APPLICATION – APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LHDA), STAKEHOLDER PORTFOLIO"

The Lesotho Highlands Water Commission ("the Commission") hereby gives notice that the advertisement titled "Request for Application – Appointment of a Member of the Board of Directors for the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), Stakeholder Portfolio", which was published in Newsday newspaper in Lesotho on Friday, 5th June 2026, is hereby withdrawn with immediate effect.

Members of the public and any parties who may have submitted applications pursuant to the said advertisement are kindly advised that the process has been withdrawn, and that any such applications will not be considered further under that advertisement.

The Commission apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Lesotho Highlands Water Commission

11th August 2026

Invitation to Bidders

BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN NATIONAL COMPETITIVE TENDERING

3 August 2026

Tender For Supply and Delivery of Metrology Equipment - MTIBD/26-27/01

1. The *Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development* has been allocated/received funds *from Government of Lesotho* to be used for the acquisition of *Metrology Equipment*.
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 *competitive bidding* method contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all national bidders.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below at 8(a) from *9:00 am to 4:00 pm*.
5. The Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at 8(b) and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *M1000.00*. The method of payment will be *cash*.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at 8(c) at or before *10:00 am on the 7 September 2026*. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of M20, 000.00. Bid securities or bid securing declarations must be valid until 7 December 2026. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 8(d) at 10.00 am on the 7 September 2026
7. There *shall not be* a pre – bid meeting.
8. (a) Documents may be inspected at: Procurement Unit Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development, 2nd Floor, Old LNDC Office Block Maseru Lesotho. Contact person is Head of Procurement Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development email address ghoase.morakabi@gov.ls

   (b) Documents will be issued from: Procurement Unit Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development, 2nd Floor, Old LNDC Office Block Maseru Lesotho.

   (c) Bids must be delivered to: Procurement Unit Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development, 2nd Floor, Old LNDC Office Block Maseru Lesotho.

   (d) Address of bid opening: Ministry's Main Boardroom, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development, 2nd Floor, Old LNDC Office Block Maseru Lesotho.

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

Activity	Date
a. Publish bid notice	3 August 2026
b. Pre-bid meeting where applicable	Not applicable
c. Bid closing date	7 September 2026
d. Evaluation process	14 September 2026
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	17 September 2026
f. Contract signature	30 September 2026

WORLD BANK GROUP | IFAD Investing in rural people | JICA | SADPII

Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP II)

Matching Grant Programme

Call for Applications

Background:
The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSN) has received financial support from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) under the supervision of Internation Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). The financial support will be managed by the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II) under Matching Grants Programme (MGP) to support investment by commodity-based producer groups and agri-businesses for agriculture-related businesses to support access to markets by formally or informally linking producers to value chain actors through vertical alliance building.

Priorities:
Grant Financing:
Two grant windows are available to applicants:

i. qualifying supported commodity-based producer groups for investments up to LSL1,000,000.00
ii. agri-businesses in win-win partnerships with groups for investments of up to LSL1,500,000.00

Eligible Applicants:
The commodity-based producer groups and/or agri-business activities operating in all ten districts of Lesotho are eligible for grants. Eligible applicants include a) qualifying commodity-based producer groups; b) agribusiness firms willing to make investments that demonstrate win-win partnership with commodity groups. The commodity-based producer groups with women in leadership roles within the group and have a quota of at least 40% youth and at least 50% women will receive priority for grant support. Government Employees are not eligible. Commodity groups and agri-businesses should be registered with Law Office and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development. The land on which the operations will be conducted should be registered in the name of the enterprise (commodity group, agri-business, etc.). Investment support should will be on production and post-harvest equipment.

Beneficiary contribution:
In all cases, successful applicants will be required to make a co-finance contribution in cash to engender ownership and demonstrate commitment. Co-finance cash contributions for the commodity-based producer groups grants for registered associations and cooperatives will be 20% of the funds requested. Agri-business grants for registered agriculture-oriented and privately-owned enterprises, associations and cooperatives will require a 30% co-finance contribution. In both cases, 100% of such contribution MUST BE available before SADP II disburses funds to beneficiaries.

The participation and contribution from different partners should be confirmed by written agreement reached between the principal applicant, the service provider (World Vision International, Lesotho) and/or other partners. In the application, the lead firm must clearly identify and mention the commodity group that it will be working with to implement the grant. The number of group members to benefit from the grant should be clearly outlined and disparaged by sex, age and other parameters

Eligible Expenditures under Grant:
Eligible expenditures shall relate to long term capital assets relevant to the activity. This include costs associated with the purchase and installation of equipment for production, harvesting, post-harvest handling, processing, preservation, storage, grading, packaging etc., the construction of necessary buildings storage, processing, marketing; the purchase and installation pumps, boreholes, tanks etc; product development; alignment with national and international food and safety standards; and marketing campaigns.

Non-Eligible Expenditures under Grant:
The following items would not be covered by the grant amount: (a) Salaries or payment for works and services provided to the project by the grant applicants or its members; b) any expenditures made prior to the date of signature of the Grant Agreement or after closure date of the project; c) land surveys; purchase, rent or leasing of land and existing buildings; d) any expenditure related to operating costs, which are expected to be the direct responsibility of the applicant; e) any expenditure with a hazardous impact on the environment. Each proposal should have an environmental social impact assessment and safeguards management plan as part of its design

Applications should be submitted in four copies (one original plus three photocopies) and delivered by hand at the office of the MGP Secretariat in the District Agricultural Office (DAO) in the 10 districts of Lesotho. Applications submitted after deadline will not be accepted.

Evaluation of the Applications:
All applications received within the deadline will be screened by the MGP Secretariat for compliance with the above rules. The successful applications will then be evaluated by specialized Technical and Financial Reviewers, submitted to the MGC for approval of financial and technical review and finally field verifications will be conducted. The list of successful applicants will be published through public posting at the MGP Secretariat's office. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed by letter, and their original project documents could be returned to them on request.

Application Documentation:
The official application will be managed by World Vision International, Lesotho, in all the 10 districts.

Deadline and Place for Submission of Applications:
The deadline for submission of applications is on or before **August 26, 2026, at 1630hrs**.

US rapper T.I. inspires Africa's creatives

Chris Theko

For an hour, creatives from across Africa had the opportunity to engage directly with one of hip hop's most recognisable global figures, American rapper, actor and entrepreneur Clifford Joseph Harris Jr, professionally known as T.I., in a Fireside Chat that explored creativity, collaboration and the growing influence of African culture on the global stage.

The virtual engagement brought together just 13 representatives from across the continent, creating a rare opportunity for emerging voices within Africa's creative ecosystem to exchange ideas with an artist whose own journey mirrors many of the questions confronting today's young creatives.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, T.I. went on to become a global hip hop star and one of the pioneers of the trap music movement, alongside fellow Georgia artists Jeezy and Gucci Mane.

His career provided a particularly valuable perspective for African creatives looking to build careers in increasingly competitive global markets.

One of the questions directed at T.I. centred on the challenges faced by creatives from smaller and developing markets such as Lesotho.

Asked what he would advise a young creative from a country like Lesotho, where the industry is still developing, to focus on first, building locally, building digitally for the global market or finding strategic international partnerships, his response was unequivocal: start locally.

"I would say locally. That establishes a foundation of support system locally that you can take with you as you broaden your horizons."

For T.I., building a career does not necessarily begin with chasing an international audience. It begins with building a relationship with the people closest to you.

"Simply start where you are. Build your fan base from the people you have access to, immediate access to, and you expand upon that consistently and organically," he said.

The advice carries particular weight coming from an artist who transformed a regional identity into a globally recognised career.

Rather than viewing a smaller market as a limitation, T.I.'s message suggests that it can become the foundation from which an artist grows.

For African creatives, this approach could mean developing strong local audiences, creating quality work consistently, understanding the business of creativity and building sustainable support systems before looking outward.

The conversation also turned to one of the most significant developments in contemporary global entertainment: the growing appetite for African music and culture.

T.I. emphasised the importance of African musicians and creatives working together and creating stronger connections across the continent.

"There's so much talent coming out of Africa and there's so much hunger for African music and musicians globally, especially in the US," he said.

The global rise of Amapiano and Afrobeats, he suggested, is evidence of that growing appetite.

African artists are increasingly demonstrating that music originating from the continent can travel across borders without having to abandon its identity.

T.I. pointed to artists including South Africa's Nasty C, Tyla and Black Coffee, as well as Nigeria's Davido, Burna Boy, Wizkid and Tems, whose international success demonstrates the growing appetite for African sounds and artists in global markets.

The significance of this development goes beyond music. It speaks to the broader potential of Africa's creative economy, from film and television to fashion, visual arts, digital content, literature and other cultural industries.

African creatives are no longer simply trying to gain access to global platforms. They are increasingly helping to shape what audiences around the world consume.

But with that opportunity comes another responsibility: collaboration.

Africa has one of the world's youngest populations and an enormous pool of creative talent, yet its creative industries remain fragmented across national and linguistic borders.

Collaboration could therefore become one of the continent's most powerful tools for growth.

For a young artist in Lesotho, for example, collaboration with artists in South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana or elsewhere on the continent can provide access to new audiences while strengthening the broader African creative ecosystem.

The same principle applies beyond music. Filmmakers, fashion designers, photographers, writers, producers, digital creators and other cultural practitioners can build networks that allow African creativity to travel further while retaining its authenticity.

A global audience is already listening. Perhaps the most important message from the conversation was that Africa does not necessarily need to reinvent itself to become globally relevant.

The international success of Afrobeats, Amapiano and individual African artists has demonstrated that global audiences are willing to embrace sounds, stories and cultural expressions originating on the continent.

The challenge now is for African creatives to build sustainable careers around that interest.

That requires more than talent. It requires investment, infrastructure, professional development, intellectual property awareness, strong local ecosystems and, perhaps most importantly, collaboration.

T.I.'s message to "start where you are" for smaller creative markets such as Lesotho may be particularly relevant. The road to the global stage does not necessarily begin in Los Angeles, New York, London or Johannesburg. It can begin in Maseru.

Fundraising festival for Nnete draws closer

Chris Theko

The Basotho Business Community (We Care) Fundraising Initiative has thrown open its doors to the public ahead of the Nnete Leotlela Fundraising Festival, a one-day event set to take place on Saturday, 29 August 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until late, at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre in Maseru.

The initiative held an official press conference on 13 August 2026, at the same venue, to brief the media on the campaign's objectives and answering questions on how the public and fellow creatives can get involved.

According to organisers, Nnete requires specialised medical treatment, including facial reconstructive surgery, along with recovery support and related care following serious injuries he sustained. The festival has been framed as a national humanitarian call aimed at mobilising financial support and bringing Basotho together in solidarity with Nnete and his family.

Coordinating Representative Selimo Thabane, speaking on behalf of the organising committee, said the initiative hopes the campaign will put smiles back on faces and that the response so far has been hopeful. The target for the campaign is set at M1 Million.

"We are having this as a day event festival to accommodate people from all walks of life and also have kids from as young as five years old. Our aim is to raise at least M1 Million from the event," Thabane said.

Beyond the fundraising drive itself, the festival will feature a full entertainment programme, including a kids' corner, a lineup of DJs and artists, and an MC-led programme for the day. The lineup will host some of Lesotho's heavyweights such as Selimo, Dj Thizozo, Karma, Sentšo, Mavele & Tash, just to name a few.

Also on the programme is a debate competition for primary and high school learners, which organisers say is intended to encourage youth participation while raising awareness around the issue at the heart of the campaign.

The committee also confirmed plans for a community give-back element to follow after the main event.

Organisations named as being behind the initiative include the Lady M Foundation, Cool Vibes Music and Lifestyle, Glasses Entertainment, Mzimba, Soft Sounds Production and Creative Hub, Credit Events, and Distance Music and Entertainment.

The organisers confirmed that "the doors remains open for other performers and creatives who wish to take part, though that could be limited due to the nature of the single-day event, stage time will need to be carefully managed".

On sponsorship, Thabane's team was unequivocal, "the door is wide open, and we are actively seeking more sponsors and partners to come on board. While the current organising committee comprises the founders of the initiative, we are still open to any willingness to bring in more individuals to support the cause," Thabane said.

How the Public Can Contribute

Organisers outlined several ways for the public to support the campaign:

- **Attending the festival** on 29 August, with ticket prices set at M100 for general and M500 for VIP.
- **Buying a ticket without attending** — organisers confirmed that supporters do not need to be physically present at the event to purchase a ticket, and said this option is actively encouraged for those who wish to contribute but cannot attend.

The public is still encouraged to donate in anyway possible if they wish to make this campaign a success.

With just over two weeks until the festival, organisers say they remain hopeful the Basotho community, and beyond will rally behind the cause. Further updates on the final artist lineup, ticket pricing and contribution details are expected to be released by the organising committee in the coming days.

For more information, contact Coordinator Selimo Thabane at +266 5764 9839 or selimo.thabane@gmail.com.

Invitation to Bidders

BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

13 August 2026

Provision of Security Services at Moshoeshoe I Airport (MIA) - PRO/2/2026/2027

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 security services at MIA.
2. The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above services.
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. 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 *15th September 2026, 1100Hrs.* All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of M10,000.00 Maloti. Bid securities or bid securing declarations must be valid until 15th December 2026. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 8(d) at 1200Hrs, 15th September 2026
7. There *shall be* a mandatory site visit to those who have obtained and signed for bidding document.
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

   (b) Documents will be issued from:
   Ministry of Public Works and Transport
   Old Traffic Department Building
   Next to St Catherines High School
   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	*13th August 2026*
b. Pre-bid meeting/ Site visit	*27th August 2026*
c. Bid closing date	*15th September 2026*
d. Evaluation process	*16th – 23rd September 2026*
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	*24th -30th September 2026*
f. Contract signature	*12th – 16th October 2026.*

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

Ramakongoana faces world's best in Sydney showdown

• debuts new Xtep racing shoe

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's long-distance star Tebello Ramakongoana will face one of the toughest fields of his career at the Sydney Marathon on 30 August, 2026, aiming to compete with the world's elite rather than simply chase a podium finish.

The Olympian arrives in Australia fresh off a stunning personal best of 2:04:18 at the Boston Marathon, a performance that shaped both his recovery and build-up to Sydney. His coach, James McKirdy, said the team deliberately gave Ramakongoana time to rest before ramping up training.

"Coming off of the Boston Marathon in a personal best of two hours, four minutes, and 18 seconds was a remarkable achievement and one that we really wanted to respect," McKirdy said.

"We took our time coming off of that marathon for rest and recovery, knowing that we eventually would start training for the Sydney Marathon."

That build-up has been intense, with Ramakongoana averaging close to 215 kilometres a week over an eight-week block. McKirdy believes the workload has taken his athlete to a new level.

"Every race we're trying to learn and every race we are trying to develop from our experiences in the past," he said.

"Now that he's risen to a level to be able to handle that type of work, we started experimenting with some of the training. And that's produced some amazing results in his training. I have never seen him faster," He added.

Sydney will also see the debut of a new racing shoe from sponsor Xtep, which McKirdy expects to rival top footwear from Adidas and Asics thanks to its reduced weight.

"That little detail might not seem that significant, but I think at this level of running, even a few ounces can change the feel of what you're running in," he said.

Lesotho's Olympic marathon star Tebello Ramakongoana

Ramakongoana will contend with a stacked field including world champion Alphonse Simbu and Cissé Lema, but McKirdy is targeting more than a top-three finish.

"The main focus is to run Sydney Marathon as fast as possible. We want to compete."

The coach believes Ramakongoana's experience on demanding courses gives him an edge over rivals whose personal bests came on flat, pace-controlled routes.

"The good thing is that he has the experience over the hills and his personal best come from some of the hardest courses in the world."

Sydney is one step in a longer journey toward the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, with the team prioritising championship-style racing over fast times on easy courses.

"We want to choose hard courses... because the Olympics is a championship concept," McKirdy explained.

He also urged Basotho to back their athletes consistently, not only in moments of glory, pointing to sprinter Majole's national 100m record as proof that support should extend beyond the spotlight.

McKirdy hopes Lesotho can send four or five athletes to LA 2028, and beyond that, to Brisbane 2032.

New lease of life for Special Olympics Lesotho

Seabata Mahao

Special Olympics Lesotho is set for a fresh start after more than a year of inactivity, with the Lesotho Sport and Recreation Commission (LSRC) appointing a new interim board to revive the association and restore opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

LSRC president Baba Malephane introduced the new board this week, following a prolonged leadership crisis marked by a power struggle and failure to account for funds.

The interim board, chaired by Palesa Mphohle, begins work immediately, with a handover from the outgoing administration expected and the regional Special Olympics body due in Lesotho soon to induct the new leadership.

Malephane said the appointment followed a directive from continental Special Olympics leadership to find people capable of rebuilding the association.

"When we got into the office we found the Special Olympics had been suspended by the international bodies because there was a mismanagement of funds.

"As the president, I tried to find out what their problems were and that's when we found out there was misuse of money and infighting," he said.

Special Olympics Lesotho gets new interim board after year-long paralysis

He said he deliberately looked beyond his personal network when selecting the new leadership, instead seeking people with relevant experience, including individuals who had previously served on other boards.

Malephane said the names of the appointees were submitted about two months ago after background checks were conducted to ensure the right people were brought on board.

The new interim board comprises Mphohle as chairperson, Dr Kellelo Lerotholi as vice-chairperson, and members Tankiso Phori, 'Mafumane Makhele, Rabasotho Moeletsi, Jobo Raswoko and 'Mampho Leshoele. Malephane said the interim board would serve for one year, after which a permanent board would be elected for a four-year term.

He expressed confidence that the new leadership would approach its responsibilities with commitment and help restore the association to functionality.

Mphohle brings longstanding experience to the task. She was among the founding members of Special Olympics Lesotho when the association was established in 1987.

She is also an advocate for inclusive services for people with intellectual disabilities and children with disabilities, and was one of the founders of the Lesotho Society of Mentally Handicapped Persons. Her experience, Malephane said, made her particularly suited to helping lead the revival of the association.

Mphohle acknowledged the weight of the responsibility placed on the new board, saying its priority would be to ensure athletes return to competition.

"We accept the responsibility we have been given. We don't take it lightly because we are talking about people with intellectual disability. They are delicate, our eyes have to be sharp to ensure the people we are representing are involved in sports," she said.

The new leadership now faces the task of rebuilding confidence in Special Olympics Lesotho while working to restore its standing with international bodies.

For athletes who have been left on the sidelines during the association's prolonged paralysis, the ultimate measure of the new board's success will be whether it can get them back into organised sport and competing on the international stage.

Malephane said that objective was central to the decision to intervene.

"I was asked by (the) continental president to identify people who can revive the Special Olympics Lesotho, and not deny our athletes an opportunity to compete internationally."

Newsday ...pacing standards

Sports

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PLMC governance crisis threatens kickoff

Former Chairperson, of PLMC, Hlompho Maitin (Picture Credit; Sports Gallery)

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's top flight football is hurtling towards a season opener on August 22 under the stewardship of a committee that cannot prove who its chairperson is, how he got there, or whether it even has enough validly seated members to make a lawful decision.

The Premier League Management Committee (PLMC) is a body operating outside its own rulebook, and the question the Lesotho football fraternity can no longer avoid is whether the PLMC in its current form, has any legal standing to run the league at all.

On August 5, the PLMC informed clubs that Litsie Nokoane had become Chairperson of the Premier League "with immediate effect," replacing Hlompho Maitin after Lioli FC withdrew Maitin.

A club withdrawing its own representative is normal and squarely within its rights under the league's regulations, but what is not in order is the PLMC filling the chairmanship without showing the due processes that the regulations require.

The Premier League and A-Division League Rules and Regulations 2023, as amended, on Clause 8.6 state that any vacancy in the seven-member executive, arising from death, relegation, resignation, dismissal or "another cause," must be filled through elections among the nominated members. Not appointment or co-opting but elections.

Bantu FC has since demanded the paperwork that would prove such an election happened: the notice convening the meeting, the list of eligible voters, an attendance register, nomination records, minutes, voting results and a signed resolution.

As of now, none of that has been produced. If it exists, publishing it would end the dispute in a single afternoon. Its absence, so far, speaks for itself.

Clause 8.6 exists precisely so that the chairmanship of a national league cannot be handed over informally, by memo, on the say-so of whichever club happens to hold leverage at the time.

If the PLMC cannot show that Nokoane's ascension followed this process, then strictly by the league's own regulations, he is not lawfully the chairperson, and every decision he signs off on inherits that defect.

Remarkably, the PLMC's own paperwork concedes the problem. A memo dated August 10 referred to a "PLMC structural transition" and a "slight shift" in its composition, promising a "formal communique" once unspecified internal processes were concluded.

In the very same breath, the committee declared itself "fully functional" and available to push ahead with preparations for the 2026/27 season.

Read plainly, the PLMC is telling stakeholders two contradictory things at once: that its own leadership structure is unresolved and under review, and that it retains full authority to launch a season, sanction fixtures and bind clubs to obligations in the meantime.

A body cannot simultaneously be mid-transition on the question of who legitimately sits on it and be exercising untrammelled executive power. That is not transition. That is a committee governing in a legal vacuum and hoping no one notices before the first whistle blows.

The composition question goes further than the chair. Bantu has pointed out that after a string of withdrawals and unresolved vacancies, the PLMC may have as few as four members left, and possibly fewer who are validly in office, depending on how those vacancies were actually handled.

That matters because the regulations set quorum at four members, provided the chairperson or deputy chairperson is among them. If Nokoane's chairmanship is legally contestable and the deputy chairperson's position is also vacant or disputed, then the PLMC cannot simply count warm bodies in a room and declare itself quorate.

A quorum built on a disputed chair is not a quorum; it is an assumption dressed up as one. Every resolution passed under those conditions, including the fixture list already released, sits on uncertain legal ground.

Bantu has also challenged the PLMC's instruction that it replace its withdrawn representative within 48 hours, asking the committee to cite the specific rule that empowers it to impose such a deadline. No provision has been produced.

A committee that invents deadlines it cannot source from its own regulations is not administering the rules it is improvising authority it does not clearly have.

Compounding all of this is the postponement of an Annual General Meeting (AGM), initially scheduled for 8 August 2026. An AGM is a mechanism through which member clubs receive reports, scrutinise the previous season, examine finances and hold the league's administrators to account.

Skipping it before a new season begins removes the one formal setting in which clubs could compel the PLMC to answer exactly the questions now being asked through letters and public disputes instead.

A committee cannot invoke the rulebook to legitimise a fixture list while ignoring the same rulebook's requirements on elections, vacancies and accountability meetings. Either the regulations bind the PLMC or they don't. It cannot be both ways depending on convenience.

Lesotho's Premier League is not a private, self-governing corporation like England's Premier League, where clubs sit as shareholders in an autonomous company. Nor is it structured like South Africa's PSL, an affiliate of a national federation but still a distinct administrative entity.

The PLMC operates inside the LeFA's own structure, meaning LeFA, which describes itself as the sole custodian of football in the country, carries direct responsibility for what happens when the body beneath it stops following its own rules.

That is precisely why this is not simply an internal squabble for clubs to sort out among themselves. Clubs have already sunk money into player recruitment, coaching staff, transport and preparations for August 22.

This also means that the league's title sponsor is bankrolling a competition currently administered by a committee that cannot prove its own leadership is lawfully constituted. Sponsors, broadcasters and players are all being asked to trust an institution whose legal footing is, at minimum, seriously in question.

The danger here is not that August 22 might be delayed, it probably won't be. The danger is precedent.

If a chairmanship can change hands without a documented election, if a committee can call itself quorate while its own membership is disputed, if deadlines can be issued with no rules behind them, and if an AGM can simply be skipped while the season proceeds regardless, then Lesotho football will have quietly rewritten its own governing culture, rules as suggestions, process as optional, accountability as something to promise "once processes are concluded" and never quite deliver.

Every exception normalised now becomes the baseline the next committee inherits. That is how footballing institutions hollow themselves out, not through one dramatic scandal, but through a accumulation of unanswered questions that everyone eventually stops asking.

The remedy is neither complicated nor dramatic. The PLMC must publish its full current composition and the legal basis for each seat. It must produce the election record for the chairmanship, or admit that none exists.

It must cite the rule behind the 48-hour ultimatum to Bantu, or withdraw it. And it must convene the postponed AGM before, not after, a ball is kicked.

LeFA, for its part, cannot continue watching from the sidelines. Oversight is not interference, it is the federation doing the job its own statutes assign it. A season opening on schedule means nothing if the body running it cannot answer the most basic question in football governance: by what lawful authority do you hold office?

Until the PLMC can answer that, in documents rather than in memos, Lesotho football is not being governed. It is being administered by default, and default is not the same thing as legitimacy.