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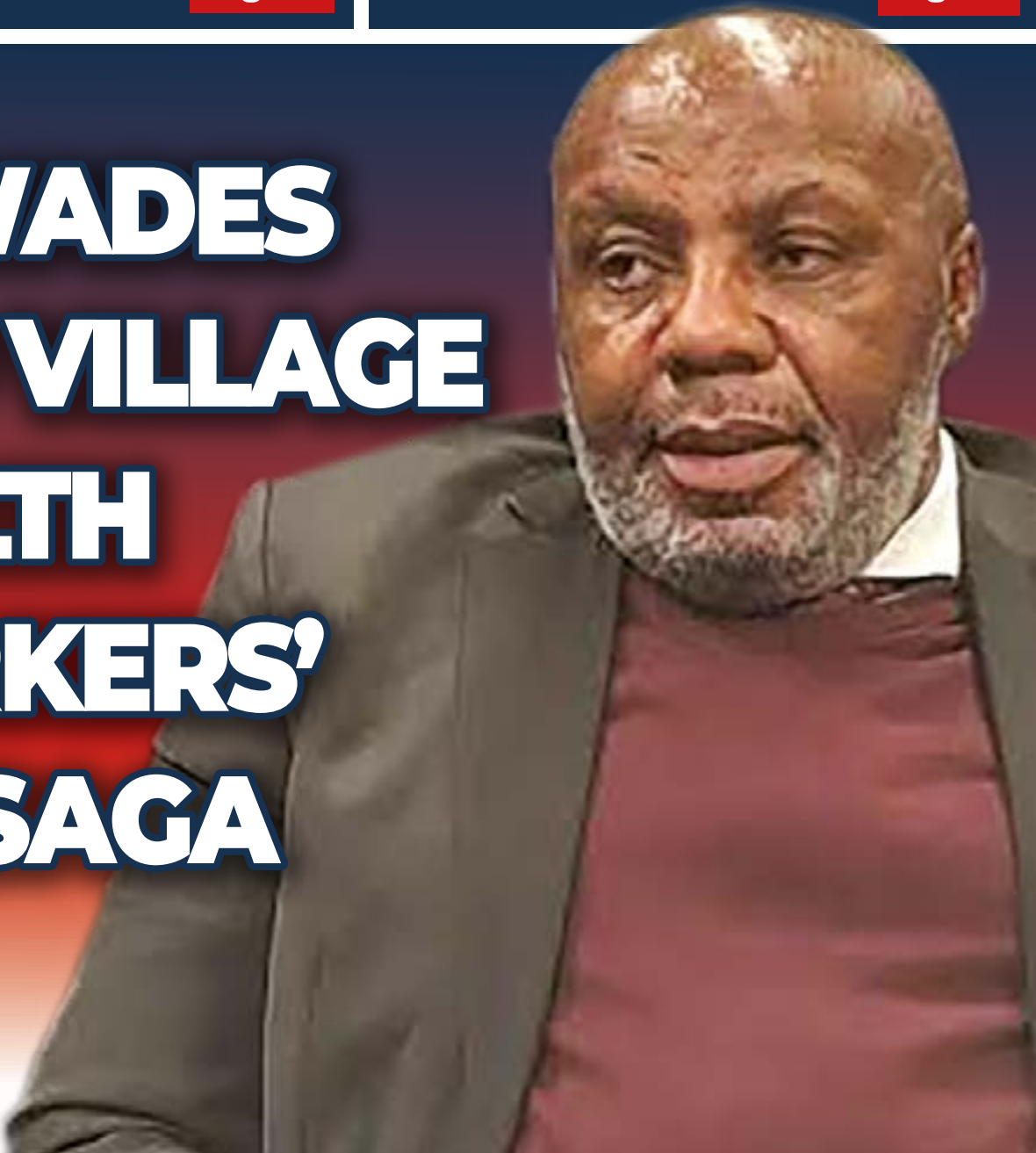
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AG wades into village health workers' pay saga

Lekhetho Makhanya

Attorney General Advocate Rapelang Motsieloa (KC) has until next month to advise the Ministry of Health on how to make Lesotho's 11,000 village health workers (VHWs) staff of the ministry and put them on a salary, as the Labour Court has ordered.

The court ruled in the workers' favour in November 2023, under case number LC/REV/57/22. It declared the VHWs to be employees of the Ministry of Health and ordered the ministry to pay them, "at least the minimum wage."

Almost three years later, the workers are still waiting. The order has not been carried out, and their pay remains a small monthly stipend.

The court has now turned to the government's top legal adviser to help break the deadlock. The move is the latest step in a long dispute that has drawn in the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance, Parliament and the workers' trade union.

According to a study by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Lesotho has about 11,000 active VHWs across the country. They monitor and respond to health problems in their communities, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malnutrition and immunisation campaigns. In many villages, they are the closest health help people can reach.

VHWs are often the first person a family turns to. UNICEF Lesotho says they bring health information, support and referrals closer to communities. The agency also notes that "digital tools are helping VHWs identify health risks, track referrals and connect children and families with the timely care they need," writes UNICEF Lesotho.

Yet the ministry pays each worker a stipend of only M800 a month. The pay scale agreed in the case is a bit higher. The requested monthly pay for a VHW was M1,200 for 2025/2026 and M2,500 for 2026/2027. The first figure is one and a half times the current stipend. The second is more than three times as much.

Despite the court ruling, the workers remain in hardship.

Because the ministry has not complied, the Labour Court has changed its approach. On 14 September 2026, it ordered the Office of the Attorney General to draft a legal opinion for the Ministry of Health, as custodian of the VHW programme. The opinion is to cover the "administrative process mandated to ensure legal compliance to the court order".

In plain terms, the court wants the Attorney General to tell the ministry how to place the VHWs on its staff roll and pay



The Attorney General, Advocate Rapelang Motsieloa (KC)-Photo Credit The Lesotho Judiciary

them. The aim is to give the ministry clear, technical guidance on the steps it must take.

Newsday has seen a copy of communication between ministry officials, dated 24 September 2026.

The court says the ministry cannot remain in contempt of its order indefinitely. It should be guided by the Attorney General towards compliance. Put simply, the court does not expect the ministry to ignore its order for ever, and it has asked the Attorney General's office to point the way.

The ministry has said before that it did not have enough money in its budget for the process. The VHWs, through their trade union, the Lesotho Workers Association (LEWA), asked Parliament's Social Cluster portfolio committee to step in last year. The matter was not resolved.

LEWA's Secretary General, Hlalefang Seoaholimo, told Newsday last night that the Attorney General has until 4 November to provide the legal opinion for the ministry, "because this is the same date we will all be back in court, for the court to make the final decision on this matter".

On 23 May 2025, the Ministry of Health formally asked the Ministry of Finance for money to pay the workers' minimum wage and the arrears owed to them. The request referred back to an earlier one made in January 2024. Despite this request and the court order, the Ministry of Finance did not

release the funds.

On 2 June 2025, the Ministry of Finance replied. It acknowledged the importance of following the court's ruling and paying the workers fairly, but raised some concerns of its own.

So for more than a year after the judgment, the case went back and forth between the ministries and the workers' union. The workers carried on with their duties in the villages while their pay stayed the same.

On 22 September 2025, the union and the Ministry of Health reached a settlement, which the court made an official order. Under it, the ministry was to request higher pay for the workers in two stages.

For the 2025/2026 financial year, the requested monthly pay was M2,500 for coordinators, M1,800 for supervisors and M1,200 for village health workers.

For 2026/2027, the requested monthly pay was to rise to M3,100 for coordinators, M2,800 for supervisors and M2,500 for village health workers.

The settlement said it "shall be served and/or attached to the documents submitted to the Ministry of Finance relating to payment of Village Health Workers," showing that the Ministry of Finance was meant to play a direct role in making the payments happen.

On 7 January 2026, the Ministry of Health again asked for the money needed to carry out the order. It explained that the increases

were meant to happen gradually over two years, from 2025/2026 to 2026/2027.

On 3 March 2026, the union wrote to the Ministry of Health, copying the Ministry of Finance. It raised concern that the workers had still not been placed on the agreed pay scale. The letter argued: "This explanation is legally untenable. A court order cannot be suspended or ignored on the grounds of budgetary inconvenience. The rules of law require strict and immediate compliance."

The Ministry of Health replied on 14 April 2026. It said it had asked the Ministry of Finance for the necessary budget but that the request "was not honoured."

The reply shows where the dispute now sits. The Ministry of Health says it has done its part by asking for the money. The workers say the court order must be obeyed whatever the budget position. Between the two, the VHWs are still paid a stipend.

By April 2026, the start of the new financial year, the workers' pay had still not gone up. The Ministry of Finance was then formally added to the case, because it controls the release of money to all government ministries.

The applicants argue that the Ministry of Health cannot carry out the court's order without funds from the Ministry of Finance. They say the continuing failure to pay amounts to "wilful contempt of a lawful court order." Contempt of court means refusing to obey an order of the court.

In their court papers, the applicants stated: "It is against this background that the Respondents are deliberately and intentionally disobeying the order of this court... This matter is extremely urgent because the respondents have been contemptuous against this court and they seem not to have an intention to adhere to this court."

The Labour Court postponed the case to 28 September to give the ministries time to study it and prepare their defence. This gave both ministries a chance to explain to the court why the order has not been carried out.

The Attorney General now has until next month to give the Ministry of Health its legal opinion. If the advice is clear and the ministry follows it, the VHWs could finally be placed on the ministry's staff roll and paid at least the minimum wage, as the court ordered in 2023.

Much will depend on money. The ministry has said it lacks the budget, and the Ministry of Finance, which controls the release of funds, is now a party to the case. The applicants say the ministries cannot use budget limits as a reason to ignore a court order.

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Chinese company warned over road construction quality

Refiloe Molise

Deputy Prime Minister Justice Nthomeng Majara has told the contractor that has been handed a M796 million road rehabilitation job, and the officials who must supervise it, that the money must buy quality work delivered on time.

Speaking at Ha Foso, where she announced that China Geo-Engineering Corporation Lesotho has won the contract, Majara said the government expects value for the public funds it is spending.

The Deputy Prime Minister's comments come after China Geo returned to redo work on a 2022 contract it was awarded to rehabilitate the A1 road between Ha 'Malesaoana and the Botha-Bothe traffic circle. The M214 million tender was expected to be completed within 18 months.

Potholes began to form not long after the road was completed, and the company is now back on site redoing it. This time, the foundation is visibly much deeper than it was the first time.

"The government is investing such a substantial amount of money and the expectation is that the contractor will deliver high-quality work within the stipulated timeframe," Majara said.

She said the quality of the work and sticking

to the agreed timeframe would decide whether the project succeeds, and that the investment must bring real benefits to Basotho.

Majara also put the Roads Directorate on notice, calling on its officials to monitor the contractor closely throughout construction.

"We expect the Roads Directorate to remain vigilant and ensure that the contractor delivers work that meets the required standards. This is a significant investment of public funds, and it must produce infrastructure that serves the people of Lesotho," she said.

The contract is to rehabilitate a 22-kilometre section of the A1 road from the Maseru Border Post to Maqhaka, and an 800-metre stretch of Pioneer Road in Maseru, from the Lancers Inn intersection to the Pioneer Mall traffic circle.

The work is expected to take 30 months and will be supervised by Elite Consulting Engineers. It will be paid for from the Government of Lesotho's main budget.

Majara said the project follows the mandate Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane gave the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to improve road access and make sure development benefits communities across the country.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the repairs would help move goods, particularly between Maseru and Leribe, where several businesses produce for local consumption and international markets.



Deputy Prime Minister Justice Nthomeng Majara

"The A1 Road is important to the movement of goods and the growth of our economy. Improving this route will make transportation more efficient and help businesses move their products to their intended destinations," she said.

She added that the government's long-term goal is to rehabilitate the A1 fully up to Mokhotlong District.

The A1 is a major corridor, carrying heavy truck traffic through the main border posts at Maseru and Maputsoe. Freight from Leribe businesses goes by road to the port of Durban in South Africa for shipment abroad. The route also carries construction materials for the Polihali Dam project and gives access to mining operations in Mokhotlong. The repairs are therefore expected to ease the movement of goods and people and support trade, construc-

tion and mining.

Minister of Public Works and Transport Matjato Moteane said the government has moved past planning and is now carrying out its infrastructure agenda.

"The government has reached the implementation stage of its plans to improve infrastructure and service delivery. What is important now is to ensure that these projects are implemented effectively and deliver the intended benefits to the people," Moteane said.

He said cooperation among ministries and institutions was essential.

"We need coordinated efforts among government ministries to ensure that projects designed to improve the livelihoods of Basotho achieve their objectives. Cooperation is important if we are to deliver meaningful and lasting development," he said.

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Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Former Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) Commissioner-General 'Mathabo Mokoko has taken her legal battle with the RSL board of directors to the Court of Appeal, seeking recourse over the board's failure to comply with a Labour Court order.

Mokoko is challenging a Labour Appeal Court ruling that reversed a Labour Court finding that the board was in contempt of court for allegedly defying an interim order not to terminate her contract.

The Labour Court had ordered that board members be committed to 30 days' imprisonment, but the Labour Appeal Court suspended that order indefinitely.

She now wants the original contempt findings reinstated. Her lawyer described her dismissal while the case was still pending in court as misconduct. Although her contract was due to end on 31 August 2026, she was expelled from work in November 2025.

Mokoko's lawyer, Advocate Motiea Teele KC, told the court that his client is not seeking reinstatement to her former position. Her grievance centres on the alleged contempt arising from the board's failure to comply with the lower court's directive.

The board reportedly did not act on the order because it was "not signed". Teele told the apex court that the order was made orally and that the board was served and notified by Mokoko via email.

He argued that the order became effective once it was delivered and served on those it was meant for. He also said it was issued

Unsigned, unserved, and unpunished?



ex parte, meaning without notice to the other party or an opportunity for them to be heard.

When the court asked whether the board's contention was that it did not understand the order, the answer was no. Teele said the

board understood the order but failed to carry it out because it was not signed.

The board's lawyer, Advocate Motebang Ramaili SC, argued that there was no order in place when his clients were notified. He told the court that what they received was

a "draft" and not the official court order. For the order to hold, argued that it had to be "signed and stamped".

The dispute has its roots in a fall-out last year between Mokoko and the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane. The board was aware of the conflict and acknowledged both the Minister and the then Commissioner-General.

Central to the conflict were allegations by Mokoko that the Minister had been issuing unlawful instructions, compromising the independence of the tax authority and exposing its leadership to possible criminal liability.

In a letter of demand dated 8 September 2025, Mokoko, through her lawyers Mei & Mei Attorneys Inc., accused Matlanyane of issuing "persistent unlawful instructions" that violate the secrecy and operational independence of the tax authority.

The letter, also copied to the RSL board chair on 9 September 2025, described what Mokoko calls "intolerable" working conditions created by the Minister's conduct. The Court of Appeal will hand down its ruling on 13 November 2026.

Matekane finally takes the hot seat

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane will field questions from Members of Parliament (MPs) in the National Assembly from next Tuesday, after Speaker Tlohang Sekhamane ruled this week that he must appear.

The ruling follows long-standing complaints from legislators that the Prime Minister has avoided answering to the House. Attention will also turn to Parliament next week as MPs and the public await an update on government policy and on bread-and-butter issues.

Government has made pronouncements on some issues, but Matekane has not updated the House on them or been questioned by lawmakers on whether his government can deliver. The Speaker indicated that the Prime Minister will answer questions already submitted by MPs.

The development was welcomed by legislators, although Leader of the Opposition Mathibeli Mokhothu asked the Speaker to clarify what kind of questions MPs will be allowed to put to the Prime Minister.

Under the amended rules, Section 27 of the Standing Orders sets aside up to one

hour on the first Tuesday of each month for questions to the Prime Minister. Parties that wish to submit questions must send them, with the names of participating MPs, through their whip or leader at least five days in advance.

Sekhamane had undertaken to ensure that the Prime Minister appears before the House and responds to MPs' questions, an undertaking he has now effectively fulfilled.

Earlier this week, parliamentarians were up in arms over Matekane's continued absence, which they described as a ploy to help him evade accountability. They

complained that he has not answered a single MP's question in the House since assuming office in October 2022.

The frustration prompted Mpulule Political Summit leader and opposition MP Remaketse Sehlabaka to file a motion seeking to compel the Prime Minister to answer MPs' questions.

Opposition MP Machesetsa Mofomobe said legislators have submitted several written questions to the Prime Minister that were never answered. He also accused those who "facilitated" the Prime Minister's absence from the House.



When Sehlabaka tried to revive the issue, Minister of Energy Lejone Mpotjoane rose on a point of order before he could present his arguments, saying the matter had already been decided and the opposition had lost the vote. Sehlabaka also accused the House of complicity when the Prime Minister "violates" the law.

Matlakeng legislator Dr Mahali Phamotse took a swipe at Matekane, saying he makes promises only at rallies and never addresses Parliament. She suggested this makes it difficult to hold him accountable.

Prof Nqosa Mahao challenged the Speaker to honour his promise to call the Prime Minister to the House, saying the nation is now "cynical". He said Parliament should be firm and hold everyone accountable.

This is not the first attempt to bring the Prime Minister before the House. Motlatsi Maqelepo, now a Minister, once moved a motion calling for the Prime Minister to appear and be questioned, so that he could account to the House and keep the nation informed on national developments and government interventions on critical issues such as the high crime rate and youth unemployment. The motion was defeated when the opposition lost the vote to the majority.

Even when questions are directed to Matekane, they are usually answered by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Office or another Minister he designates. In his four years in office, the Prime Minister has spoken in the House on only three occasions, and each time only to second the passing of the budget.

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King wants united action to improve Africa's food systems

Ntsoaki Motaung

At the opening of the World Food Forum (WFF) in Rome, His Majesty King Letsie III delivered a powerful speech calling for urgent and united action to improve Africa's agriculture and food systems.

King Letsie III said it is important to prepare for risks like climate change before they become big problems. He spoke about the need for better landscape restoration, climate information, and early warning systems to help farmers and protect communities.

Addressing the 8-day forum, which is ending today, the King highlighted Lesotho's recent achievements, such as hosting the International Day of Potato, which showed how the potato can help improve food security, create jobs, and support rural incomes.

He explained that Lesotho's high mountains are good for growing potatoes, but farmers need better seeds, technology, finance, and access to markets to succeed.

King Letsie III also called for more investment in areas like poultry, pig farming, and fish farming, which can help reduce food imports, improve nutrition, and create jobs, especially for young people and women.

He stressed that digital technology is essential for the future of farming in Africa. Digital agriculture can help farmers get the information they need about weather, prices, and markets, and make farming more efficient and profitable. He praised the FAO's Digital Villages Initiative in Lesotho but said much more investment is needed.

The King warned that working alone and having small, separate projects is not enough. He said that governments, businesses, and development partners must work together



King Letsie III of Lesotho delivers a keynote speech at the World Food Forum in Rome, urging united action and innovation to build a better future for Africa's food systems. Photo Credit LNBS

with clear plans, good leadership, and support for farmers, youth, and women. He asked for more help for young people to see farming as a modern and profitable job, with access to land, finance, digital tools, and education.

King Letsie III, who is also the FAO Ambassador for Nutrition, said that the goal should be not just to produce more food, but

to make sure everyone can afford healthy and nutritious diets. He called for better school feeding programs, nutrition education, and support for farmers to grow a wider variety of healthy foods.

He also said that new technologies should help local farmers and not replace their knowledge. Innovation must help Africa use

land and water wisely, restore the environment, and deal with climate change.

King Letsie III ended his speech by urging all leaders, organizations, and communities to join together, set clear goals, and measure success by the number of lives improved and opportunities created for future generations.

FAO Director-General QU Dongyu highlighted the importance of this year's theme, "The actions we take today, the new technologies we deploy, the traditional and indigenous wisdom we leverage, the young people we empower, will determine whether tomorrow's agrifood systems can truly nourish a growing and changing world."

Director-General Qu explained that innovation and faster action are needed more than ever because climate extremes are becoming more common, biodiversity is declining, water resources are under pressure, and many rural economies are struggling. Young people also face limited opportunities.

"We have to do more and better at scale," Qu said. "We need innovation in technology and business models, in how we think, in how we design, and work together. This is exactly what the World Food Forum was built to do."

The World Food Forum, now in its sixth year, brings together leaders, scientists, investors, farmers, and young people from around the world to find solutions for better food systems. This year's theme is "Innovate Today. Nourish Tomorrow." The event includes exhibitions, youth forums, and discussions on science, investment, water, and the vital role of Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge.

As King Letsie III said, "Let us invest with purpose and innovate with responsibility so that every child, every family, and every community may be nourished tomorrow."

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

The Court of Appeal wants retired Justice Tšeliso Monaphathi to state how much time he needs to clear his outstanding judgments, as his long-running legal battle with Chief Justice (CJ) Sakoane Sakoane was argued in the apex court this week.

When Monaphathi retired at the statutory age of 75 in 2024, he had about 128 undelivered judgments, some dating back to 1995. CJ Sakoane withheld his retirement benefits until the work was finalised. Monaphathi then petitioned the court to challenge that refusal.

The full bench, made up of Judge Kananelo Mosito (President), Judge Realeboha Mathaba, Judge 'Mabatšoeneng Hlaele, Judge Johann Van Der Westhuizen and Judge Tekane Maqakachane, asked whether Monaphathi was "willing and ready" to complete the outstanding judgments.

The bench directed his lawyer, Advocate Mokheta Makara, to consult him and provide an undertaking on the time he will need.

At stake is more than Monaphathi's financial entitlements. Litigants are also entitled to justice, and some have paid lawyers large sums to pursue their cases.

Monaphathi is appealing a Constitutional

Appeal Court to rule on Justice Monaphathi's unfinished business

Court ruling that found withholding his benefits unlawful and ordered that they be paid. The same ruling said he should undertake to complete his outstanding work.

"In the event that applicant complies with Section 121(2), he should be given the benefits of a Puisne Judge for the period he will be finalising the pending cases," reads the order, issued by Southern African Development Community (SADC) judges Mankhambira Mkandiwire (Malawi), Sylvester Salufu Maingu (Namibia) and David Mangota (Zimbabwe).

Advocate Makara told the court that his client has about 65 judgments pending. Some are part-heard and others await signature.

He argued that an employee cannot be barred from leaving his employer until he has concluded his outstanding work, and that his client cannot be prevented from retiring be-

cause work remains unfinished.

Monaphathi had previously argued that he could not complete the work without the resources to do so. Makara also noted that successive Chief Justices took no action against Monaphathi in the 31 years since his appointment to the bench, and that action is being considered only now that he is retiring.

He added that even when Monaphathi was holding the fort as CJ, other judges left the bench with unfinished business and faced no action.

He further argued that High Court judges are "under-resourced" and that there appeared to be an attempt to misinterpret the law to resolve Monaphathi's problem.

"Why are we not doing the doable? Why do we come and argue in court and embarrass ourselves?" enquired Judge Monaphathi.

The Court of Appeal, the second court of record, warned that Monaphathi could be held in contempt if he fails to complete the work.

Judge Mathaba asked how "committal" Monaphathi was, noting that he had not previously given a timeframe for completing the outstanding judgments. Judge Van Der Westhuizen said it is "absurd" that a judge can retire leaving unfinished judicial work.

Advocate Rudie Cronje, who represented the CJ, argued that Monaphathi has an obligation to complete his outstanding work. He said Monaphathi had accrued entitlements because he had already heard the cases.

The court also directed Cronje to provide the legal basis that empowers the CJ to withhold Monaphathi's retirement benefits. A ruling is awaited.

Low immunization fuels measles outbreak

Ntsoaki Motaung

The government has declared a measles outbreak in Botha-Bothe and Leribe districts, citing laboratory confirmation and a surge in cases among school-aged children.

‘Mamokete Ntšekhe, the Minister of Health, made the announcement in a press briefing, highlighting the urgent need for coordinated action.

She said as of 9 October 2026, Botha-Bothe and Leribe have reported a combined 331 cases of measles, 293 confirmed and 38 suspected, with no deaths thus far.

Ntšekhe said the majority of cases are among children aged 10 to 14. Botha-Bothe has seen 69 cases (48 confirmed, 21 linked), with the outbreak spreading to at least three schools and affecting all district councils.

In Leribe, 266 cases (249 confirmed, 17 linked) have been recorded, especially in communities such as Maputsoe, Ha Mathata, and Ha Moholisa.

The outbreak coincided with school closures, making contact tracing difficult and raising concerns that actual case numbers may be higher than reported.

She said the way Measles spreads is through airborne droplets from coughing, sneezing, or speaking, and the virus can linger in enclosed spaces for up to two hours.

Symptoms include high fever, rash, cough, runny nose, and red eyes. Complications can be severe, ranging from pneumonia to blindness, especially in unvaccinated or malnourished children. In rare cases, measles can cause encephalitis and death.

According to the Minister, low immunization rates have contributed to the outbreak. Botha-

Bothe and Leribe recorded measles vaccination coverage of just 78 percent and 69 percent in 2025, far below the 95 percent target needed for herd immunity.

“The national coverage stands at 79 percent,” she said.

WHO/UNICEF estimates (WUENIC) put the first dose (MCV1) coverage at 84 percent. However, the second dose (MCV2) remains lower, opening immunity gaps and fueling outbreaks.

The Minister said, the Ministry of Health has put in place emergency response teams at both national and district levels. Together with community health workers, chiefs, and councilors, they are tracing contacts, treating cases with Vitamin A, and referring suspected cases to health facilities, all at no cost.

A targeted vaccination campaign is underway for children aged five to fifteen in Botha-

Bothe and Leribe.

The WHO has announced it’s continued support to the Ministry’s response to the outbreak through targeted vaccination activities aimed at protecting children and preventing further spread.

According to the WHO, eligible learners at St Luke’s Primary School in Maputsoe, Leribe District, have received the Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine, Vitamin A, and Albendazole tablets for deworming as part of the outbreak response.

“WHO remains committed to working closely with the Ministry of Health and partners to ensure that every eligible child is reached and that future outbreaks are detected and controlled promptly,” WHO says.

Minister Ntšekhe urged parents, caregivers, teachers, and the wider community to ensure children are vaccinated and suspected cases are reported quickly. She also appealed to local and international partners for support and called on the media to counter misinformation.

“Measles is preventable. Together, we can stop this epidemic!” she concluded.

Africa’s farms need young hands - Mochoboroane

Ntsoaki Motaung

The Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Selibe Mochoboroane, has called on Africa and the world to see that changing Africa’s food systems is a job for young people.

He spoke at the Global Youth Action Event of the World Food Forum, in a session titled “Leading from the Front: Africa’s Youth Driving Agri-food Systems Transformation.”

“Africa’s agri-food systems transformation agenda is a youth agenda. There is no separating the two,” Mochoboroane said in his opening remarks.

Africa’s median age is just 19, and 60 percent of its people are under 25. By 2050, the continent’s youth population is expected to reach 830 million. The Minister said Africa’s future depends on the chances given to young people now.

“Africa’s future will be shaped by the opportunities that we create for our young people today,” he stressed.

Citing the proverb, “One generation plants the trees and another gets the shade,” he warned that failing to support young people would be a mistake that future generations will regret. He pointed to the barriers many young Africans face, including unemployment, limited access to land and other productive resources, and being left out of decision-making.

He said Lesotho feels this strongly. “In Lesotho, unemployment is a top priority and a matter of urgency,” he explained.

He noted that the government declared a state of emergency in July 2025 to fight high youth unemployment.

The Minister said his speech was not only about problems. He listed steps Lesotho is taking:

- The FLO-Hassan project and the World Bank-supported SADP II build the skills of young entrepreneurs and offer mentorship to help them run farming businesses that make a profit.
- The government’s Youth Mentorship Programme aims to support 1,000



young Basotho farmers.

- A recent purchase of 200 tractors, along with skills training, is opening new farming opportunities.

Mochoboroane also praised the creativity and determination of Lesotho’s youth. He told the story of a young Mosotho who started vegetable farming with just M300 and now runs a growing agribusiness. This person mentors others and promotes sustainable, indigenous farming.

“The story reminds us that young people do not lack ambition or ideas. They need an enabling environment in which their determination can translate into opportunity,” the Minister said.

The Minister stressed the value of platforms such as the World Food Forum National Youth Chapters, which link young people across sectors and strengthen their voice. In Lesotho, more than 60 young people from different parts of the food sector have joined to set up the WFF Lesotho Youth Chapter.

They aim to turn local priorities into solutions led by local people and to help reach national development goals.

Thirteen new National Youth Chapters were launched in Africa, including Lesotho’s, bringing the total to 33 across the continent. The chapters help young people network,

must continue.

“The real measure of success will be our ability to sustain this momentum, scale investment, and ensure that young people are not just beneficiaries of change, but architects of Africa’s agri-food systems transformation,” he said.

Youth leadership will also feature at the upcoming Africa Science and Innovation Forum in Addis Ababa, a sign that the push for youth-led change in food systems is growing.

Mochoboroane ended by urging African leaders and development partners to build youth participation into institutions and strategies, invest in young people’s skills, and provide the resources needed for lasting change.

“This is what meaningful youth engagement looks like,” he said, “moving from fragmented efforts to collective action, from consultation to contribution, and from promising ideas to practical results.”

build partnerships and take part in policy discussions.

FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Abebe Haile-Gabriel, said investment in young people



ANNOUNCEMENT

Provision of Insurance Broking Services to the Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Lesotho – middle value tender

Description: The Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Lesotho intends to conclude a contract for the provision of Insurance Broking Services for buildings and service vehicles.

Indicative time when invitations to tender will be sent : 30 October 2026

Deadline to express your interest (inscription): 23 October 2026

Contact e-mail address: DELEGATION-LESOTHO-ADMIN-TENDERS@eeas.europa.eu

Estimated contract value: between EUR 60 000 and EUR 100 000

Status: OPEN

Refiloe Molise

The construction industry has been challenged to create more jobs, grow local businesses and boost the economy as Lesotho speeds up infrastructure development.

Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane made the call on Wednesday when officially opening a three-day Roads Directorate's Construction Expo and Conference at Maseru Club grounds.

The event brings together government officials, contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, financial institutions, consultants and educational institutions. They are there to explore partnerships, showcase new ideas and discuss how to improve infrastructure development in Lesotho.

Matekane said building a better Lesotho requires cooperation between government, the private sector, financial institutions and educational institutions. He stressed that infrastructure development should go beyond building roads and bridges. It should also create lasting jobs and business opportunities across the construction value chain.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the need to give young people relevant skills, encourage innovation and make it easier for businesses to get finance for infrastructure projects. He added that development partners and communities have a part to play in making sure infrastructure investment contributes to national development.

Minister of Public Works and Transport Matjato Moteane said Lesotho needs to speed up infrastructure development to improve connectivity and support economic and social progress. He noted that roads connect farmers to markets, children to schools and patients to health facilities, which makes them essential to daily life and economic activity.

"Lesotho needs stronger cooperation among government, financial institutions and

Construction sector urged to drive jobs and local business growth

construction industry stakeholders to improve planning and ensure that infrastructure investment translated into meaningful employment opportunities," Moteane said.

Lesotho PostBank managing director Mabakoena Thamae said construction projects create business opportunities far beyond the main contractors, with demand for a wide range of goods and services. She listed transport operators, hardware suppliers, brick manufacturers, electricians, plumbers, equipment operators and consultants as some of the businesses that can benefit from road construction and other infrastructure projects.

However, she said access to finance is a major barrier for local businesses. Construction needs large amounts of capital, she explained, and some contractors struggle to get funding because they have limited working capital and too little collateral.

"Financial institutions could help local businesses expand their participation in the sector through financing solutions, including working capital, contract financing and guarantees," she said.

Her remarks underline the need for stronger links between the construction industry and

financial institutions, so that locally owned businesses can compete for and deliver infrastructure projects.

Roads Directorate director-general Linehella Ntšere said the event is especially significant because Lesotho is celebrating 60 years of independence and the directorate is marking its 15th anniversary. He said it is a chance to recognise the people and partners who help build and maintain the country's roads, and to openly discuss areas that need improvement.

Ntšere said the exhibition and conference are designed to bring together everyone involved in planning, financing, designing, supplying and building infrastructure. The exhibition lets participants see products and services first-hand, while the conference looks at how these can meet Lesotho's infrastructure needs.

He encouraged contractors, consultants, manufacturers and suppliers to use the platform to show the practical value of their products, explain the support they offer and meet potential clients. He also urged emerging and smaller businesses to make contacts, learn what clients need and look for opportunities to work with established companies.

Financial institutions, public agencies and

regulatory bodies are also taking part. Ntšere said this gives businesses a chance to get clarity on the services, processes and requirements that affect their operations.

Educational institutions and professional bodies are on the programme too. They include the National University of Lesotho, Lerotoli Polytechnic, the Lesotho Association of Engineers and the Women in Engineering Network. Ntšere encouraged students and young professionals to talk to industry practitioners to learn about career options and the skills the built environment requires. He also called on participants to share practical experiences, point out persistent challenges and propose solutions that could improve infrastructure delivery.

The expo is sponsored by Lesotho PostBank, Standard Lesotho Bank, Revenue Services Lesotho, LSP, Maluti Mountain Brewery and Maluti Mountain Cement.

Discussions at the event are expected to reinforce the importance of partnerships, financing, skills development and greater participation by local businesses in turning infrastructure investment into wider economic benefits.

New plan targets the cost of saying goodbye

Seabata Mahao

FNB Lesotho and LNIG Hollard have launched a funeral insurance product offering cover of up to M100,000, aimed at helping Basotho families manage funeral costs and strengthen their financial preparedness.

The FNB Funeral Plan, unveiled in Maseru this week, has premiums starting from M1.63 per day and allows customers to cover up to 21 family members under a single policy. It is designed to give families financial support during bereavement, when funeral costs can place heavy pressure on household budgets.

Speaking at the launch, FNB Lesotho Insurance Manager Gloria Senatsi said the plan reflected the bank's commitment to developing products that respond to customers' changing needs.

"The FNB Funeral Plan is an extension of our belief that Help Changes Everything. It includes inclusive features and benefits that are better suited to the changing needs of the market," Senatsi said.

She added that the bank remained committed to offering solutions that make a meaningful difference to customers and their families.

The plan includes family support and cash-back benefits, although the launch information did not provide details on the eligibility



FNB Lesotho Insurance Manager Gloria Senatsi

requirements or terms governing them.

Representing insurance partner LNIG Hollard, Head of Brand and Marketing Liepollo Tsekoa said the product was developed jointly by the two institutions, with a focus on understanding customers' needs.

"The FNB Funeral Plan is the result of collaboration and a shared dedication to under-

standing our clients' needs. As those needs evolve, so too must our products," Tsekoa said.

She said the plan was intended to make financial protection and support more accessible to families.

FNB Lesotho Retail Banking Executive Nthabeleng Khoali described the product as part of the bank's broader strategy of offering practi-

cal financial solutions to help customers navigate major life events.

"At FNB, we continually ask ourselves one forward question: How can we help? The FNB Funeral Plan is one of the answers to that question," Khoali said.

She said the plan showed the bank's commitment to supporting customers and their families with solutions that offer peace of mind and value when it matters most.

The launch comes as funeral cover remains an important consideration for households planning for the costs of losing a loved one. By allowing several family members to be insured under one policy, the product offers customers a way to consolidate their family's funeral cover.

However, prospective policyholders will need to weigh the premiums, benefits, eligibility criteria and policy conditions to determine whether the cover suits their household's needs.

The FNB Funeral Plan is available at FNB Lesotho branches nationwide. Customers who want more information or wish to sign up can visit their nearest branch or call the bank's toll-free number, 8004 1000.

The two institutions say the product forms part of their wider commitment to delivering accessible, relevant and customer-focused financial services in Lesotho.

Staff reporters

In every village, a chief is among the first people to be called when a dispute breaks out. They keep law and order and settle quarrels. Yet when death visits a chief's own home, many struggle to give their loved ones a decent farewell.

This week, Alliance Insurance moved to change that. On Wednesday it signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the national association of chiefs, *Mokhatlo Oa Marena A Lesotho*.

The partnership begins with a funeral policy designed exclusively for chiefs. It is meant to grow into legal insurance and a retirement plan. It also brings the company close to 4,000 new clients.

Chiefs are not a small group. Lesotho has about 22 Principal Chiefs, while area and local chiefs are estimated at around 4,000. Their work is guided by the Chieftainship Act of 1968 and the customary laws of Lerotholi among other statutes.

But the office comes with a gap. Chiefs are not government servants. They draw allowances from public funds, yet they are not formally treated as public servants. As a result, they are not enrolled in government pension schemes.

The state does not provide them with legal counsel either, even though they deal with legal matters daily. After many years, allowances have improved lately.

In August 2024, the Ministry of Local Government agreed to raise chiefs' allowances by up to 100 percent. But an allowance is not a salary, and it does not come with a pension or legal protection.

The first problem the agreement with Alliance Insurance tackles is the cost of burying a loved one. Mohapinyane Taole the Chief Financial Officer at Alliance said the cost of funerals keeps rising. Too often, a chief's household must sell property or fall into debt to give a family member a respectable burial.

Taole said the agreement is about trust and about lifting a heavy financial load from chiefs' families. He said it will have worked when widows are not crushed by funeral bills, orphans are well looked after and parents receive a dignified send-off.

Kekeletso Moshoeshoe said Alliance has dealt with chiefs for a long time and came to see the difficulties they face. He said the company noticed that chiefs often lose property to pay for funerals. They also keep working well into old age because there is no retirement provision for them.

Because they fall outside the public pension system, nothing is waiting for them when they step down.

Their work also exposes them to legal risk. Chiefs carry out duties of a legal nature and can face consequences that call for a lawyer, but they have no representation provided. Moshoeshoe added that chiefs also lack some of the key equip-

Ensuring dignity for guardians of the village



ment needed for their daily work.

For this reason, he said, Alliance decided to partner with the association and offer affordable products designed around chiefs' needs.

The funeral policy for all chiefs comes first. Families can choose a cash payout from Alliance or a funeral service from Lehae Funeral Services. They can also take a mix of both.

There are two cover levels. A policy that pays out M50,000 costs about M89 a month. A policy that pays out M40,000 costs around M50 a month.

The partnership will not stop at fu-

nerals. Alliance says it will build an affordable legal insurance policy for chiefs as the agreement develops. It will also work with chiefs on a retirement solution through its new Hola product, which is built around stokvels, the savings groups many Basotho already use. Savings and investment plans are also on the table.

The association's secretary general, Morena Leloko Mohalenyana, welcomed the deal. He said improving the welfare of chiefs is part of the association's mandate, and he thanked Alliance for standing with chiefs in their struggles. He said he is confident the partnership will improve

the wellbeing of traditional leaders.

He agreed that chiefs are not well prepared for the legal problems that come with their office. When they are sued, he said, they must pay legal costs out of their own pockets, which leaves their households struggling.

Whether the partnership delivers will be seen over time. But for chiefs who have spent a lifetime keeping the peace in their villages, the promise is simple. They want to be able to bury their own with dignity and to look forward to a retirement that does not depend on their families' savings.





Beyond the cash transfer: Dissecting the legacy of Ntlafatsa Bana



Children receive life saving vaccines- Photo Credit WHO

Ntsoaki Motaung

The NtlafatsaBana Project, a partnership between UNICEF, the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development and the European Union, will close in December 2026 after bringing new services and opportunities to thousands of children and families in five districts: Quthing, Thaba-Tseka, Leribe, Mophale's Hoek and Quthing's Nek.

Launched in April 2023, the project is part of a long-running effort to reduce child vulnerability, end malnutrition and fight rural poverty in Lesotho.

A new model

At a recent multi-stakeholder reflection meeting, UNICEF Lesotho Social Policy Specialist Sophia Shawa stressed the importance of working together to improve children's lives.

She thanked all partners for their hard work and praised the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development.

"Since 2005, UNICEF, the European Union, and the Ministry have worked together, but this latest phase uses a new 'Cash Plus' model.

Instead of only giving cash support to families, the project now also connects them with vital public services, including birth registration, nutrition support, clean water, and renewable energy," she said.

Shawa said the project has a budget of more than US\$7 million, funded mainly by the European Union and UNICEF. One of its main goals is to raise the share of children under five with birth certificates in the target areas from 45 percent to 75 percent.

"Birth registration is a crucial step, as it gives children legal identity and access to essential services, such as health care and protection," she added.

Birth registration

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Phaello Mosala outlined the project's progress, starting with birth registration. The aim was to expand services in rural areas and develop a policy to support them. Teams held planning meetings with the Department of Home Affairs, learned from visits to Tanzania, Rwanda and Mauritius, and invested in IT equipment, training and pilot testing.

Service providers were trained in civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) business processes. Joint campaigns, including direct outreach and special events, targeted areas with low registration. Digital health registration systems were also launched to make it easier for families to register births.

Nutrition

Mosala said nutrition was another major area of progress. The project worked with World Vision and other organisations to promote healthy eating and set up

nutrition clubs in rural communities.

The clubs teach parents about infant and young child feeding and support home gardens and poultry farming, helping to improve diets and food security. Nearly 4,500 people have joined so far, and the clubs provide seeds, tools and equipment. Children's growth is monitored, and families learn about child protection and immunisation. About 600 vulnerable children have been referred to community kitchens for meals.

The target was to reach 8,000 women, girls and young children with nutrition support. Mosala said the project has reached over half that number, with more data still to be validated.

Clean water

The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) component also made strong gains, according to Mosala. After technical and social assessments in the selected community councils, contractors were hired to rehabilitate rural water systems, creating new or improved water sources in many villages.

More than 9,000 people now have access to clean water, beating the original target. The number of children under five with clean water has risen too, with 737 benefiting so far, above the revised goal.

Solar power

"Bringing clean, renewable energy to households was another focus. The project

studied what families needed most, and a consultant devised a fair way to distribute 1,000 solar home systems and clean cookstoves across the nine community councils. Suppliers were contracted, products were tested and assembled, and training was given to make sure families could use and maintain their new equipment.

Awareness campaigns helped families understand the benefits and select the right solutions for their homes," he said.

Digital payments

Mosala added that a key innovation has been the shift to digital payments for social protection benefits. By using mobile money and bank transfers, the project aims to increase transparency, cut waiting times and get help to more families faster. The share of households receiving digital payments has already risen, and the goal is to reach 40 percent, or more than 20,000 households, by the end of the project.

Looking ahead

The workshop brought together people from national and district levels to reflect on the project, celebrate successes and discuss challenges. It was also a chance to share lessons and plan how to sustain the gains after the project ends.

Mophale's Hoek District Administrator Moleboheng Lebele spoke warmly about the changes she has seen.

"Not only did the project benefit children, it also benefited their families as well as the communities they live in. Projects like this one need to be supported. If they are, Lesotho will go far," she said.

A family in Mount Moorosi

The project's impact is clearest at household level. In an earlier story, "The Sun Comes to Mount Moorosi: How Solar is Giving Lesotho's Children Back Their Evenings," this publication showed how it changed life for one family.

Before solar power arrived, children struggled to do homework after dark, and the family relied on candles or paraffin lamps, which were costly and unsafe. Through the NtlafatsaBana Project, the family received a solar home system that lit their evenings and let the children study safely and comfortably after sunset. The mother said the solar kit saved the family money and improved their children's education, health and security.

Legislator Phooko urges inclusion of male sex workers in HIV fight

Ntsoaki Motaung

Member of Parliament Mamello Phooko made an impassioned plea at the 14th National Health Research Symposium, held under the theme “Advancing Universal Health Coverage,” for Lesotho’s HIV response to support male as well as female sex workers.

Her remarks came during a presentation of new research on the barriers and enablers to HIV prevention through Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) among sex workers in Maseru. As researcher ‘Matsopane Ramonotsi-Seconcoane presented findings that focused on female sex workers, Phooko stood to address what she saw as a significant oversight.

“This topic is so close to my heart. I feel for the girls. I feel for those women,” she said, her voice resonating with empathy. “But currently we still have male sex workers. The fact that we start concentrating on females, it is going to, I do not even know what to say.”

She paused, searching for words that would drive home her point. “At each station, there are female sex workers and there are male sex workers. So please, let us be objective,” Phooko continued, urging the room not to leave any group behind. “If we are talking about HIV risk, we must talk about everyone who is affected, not just the women. Male sex workers are also vulnerable and deserve our attention and care.”

Some in the audience nodded at her comments, while others responded with thoughtful silence. Phooko stressed the need for inclusive policies and research that reflect realities on the ground. “Let us not forget our brothers in this struggle. They are there, and their health matters too,” she concluded.

Ramonotsi-Seconcoane, a researcher with the Lesotho Planned Parenthood Association (LPPA), acknowledged the importance of the point. “We are looking at various numbers and demographics to prepare for the next phase of this work,” she said. “Veterans in the civil research unit know that our aim is to reach everyone at risk.”

She explained that the study was designed to explore barriers and enablers to PrEP use among female sex workers, but that its ultimate goal is to inform programmes serving all sex workers



Member of Parliament Mamello Phooko at the 14th National Health Research Symposium- Photo Credit SolidarMed Lesotho

in Lesotho. “The realities faced by sex workers are complex, and our research is a step toward understanding them,” she said.

She added that the findings highlighted challenges likely shared by female and male sex workers alike, including stigma, fear of side effects and difficulty staying on medication. “The need for privacy, respect, and client-centered approaches is universal,” Ramonotsi-Seconcoane noted.

The study, conducted by the LPPA and the University of Johannesburg, focused on female sex workers in Maseru be-

tween June and July 2025. Through in-depth interviews with ten participants, researchers sought to understand what helps or hinders sex workers in starting and continuing PrEP, a daily pill that can prevent HIV infection.

Participants said their main motivations for taking PrEP were the desire to stay HIV negative, uncertainty about their partners’ HIV status and the risks they face at work. Many learned about PrEP from friends, health workers or outreach programmes, and reminders such as alarms or pillboxes helped them remember to take their pills.

However, stigma, fear of being identified as HIV positive and concerns about side effects made it difficult for some to stay on the medication. Other obstacles included food insecurity, mobility and trouble accessing PrEP at clinics, barriers that likely affect male sex workers as well.

Peer support and community-based outreach were shown to help sex workers stay on PrEP. The study recommends expanding digital reminders, improving access to PrEP across borders and making services more flexible to fit sex workers’ real lives, regardless of gender.



Lesotho Needs Public Buses, But Is This the Right Time?

By: Dr. Theko Tlebere

This week, I found myself thinking about a question that sounds simple but carries serious economic consequences: if government has money to buy buses, does it necessarily mean that now is the right time to buy them?

I can already imagine my uncle in Ha Khohlopo, asking me to explain why I would question a project that could make transport easier for an ordinary Mosotho. After all, who would complain about having the choice to board a bus, a taxi or a 4+1 when travelling to work, school or town? Certainly not a student struggling with transport costs, a pensioner travelling to the hospital, or a worker whose salary disappears into daily commuting expenses.

My uncle would have a point. Public transport is not a luxury; it is an important part of economic infrastructure. But I would ask him another question: what happens when a country invests in buses while thousands of young people remain without jobs, businesses struggle to survive, and government itself has declared youth unemployment a national emergency?

This is where the debate about the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's proposed purchase of public buses becomes bigger than the buses themselves. It becomes a question of economic priorities, fiscal responsibility and the difficult choices governments must make when public resources are limited.

Let me be clear from the outset: I am not arguing against the Minister of Public Works and Transport, nor am I questioning the intentions of the Prime Minister ntate Sam. I am arguing that a good policy can still be introduced at the wrong time. Lesotho may need public buses, but in an economy confronting a youth unemployment crisis, we must ask not only what government wants to do, but what it needs to do first.

Public transport is an essential component of modern economic development. For those have traveled the world, cities like Johannesburg, Cape Town and Nairobi, buses help move large numbers of people between residential areas, workplaces, schools and commercial centers.

An effective bus network can reduce traffic congestion, lower commuting costs, improve accessibility and support economic productivity.

It also gives commuters a choice between buses, taxis and smaller vehicles commonly known as 4+1s in here in Lesotho.

For ordinary Basotho in Thaba-Tšoeu, that choice matters. A properly designed bus system could make daily travel more affordable for workers, students and pensioners. It could also improve mobility for people who struggle to afford private transport. Where demand is sufficient, a reliable service could complement existing transport operators rather than displace them.

Therefore, the idea itself is not misguided. The question is whether Lesotho has established the necessary economic, financial and institutional conditions to sustain such an undertaking?

Lesotho's experience with the Lesotho Freight and Bus Services Corporation offers an important cautionary tale. Established in 1987, the state-owned corporation was intended to provide passenger and freight transport, including services to remote and under-served communities.

Yet its history demonstrates how a public service with a legitimate social purpose can become a financial liability when procurement, management, maintenance and accountability are inadequate.

According to reports made by Lesotho Times, the corporation sought a government bailout of approximately M4.46 million to address several outstanding obligations. These included M855,532 in salary arrears for 54 employees, M169,786 in terminal benefits, M955,603 in unpaid Pay As You Earn taxes and M1.82 million owed to trade creditors.

The corporation also required M654,700 to repair five buses. The reported figures were a snapshot of the corporation's financial difficulties at that time, not a comprehensive calculation of its lifetime cost to the taxpayer. Nevertheless, they illustrate the scale of the obligations that can accumulate when a transport enterprise fails to manage its finances and operations effectively.

For me, and probably for many of us who look at issues with a developmental eye, these figures raise an uncomfortable question: if a previous public transport enterprise struggled to maintain

its fleet, meet its payroll and settle its obligations, what institutional changes will prevent a new initiative from reproducing the same difficulties?

Buying buses is the easy part. Keeping them on the road, paying drivers and mechanics, purchasing fuel, maintaining depots and replacing worn-out parts are the real tests of sustainability. If government cannot demonstrate how these recurrent expenses will be financed, the purchase price will represent only the beginning of its financial commitment.

To make matters worse, when a public enterprise collapses, its employees often bear the consequences through unpaid wages and benefits. Public investment must not create another generation of workers whose livelihoods depend on an enterprise that cannot honour its obligations.

The timing becomes even more consequential when viewed against Lesotho's youth unemployment crisis. The 48 per cent youth unemployment rate reflects the gravity of the challenge. In 2025, Ntate Sam publicly elevated youth unemployment to a national emergency by declaring a state of disaster concerning the socioeconomic effects of youth unemployment and job losses, extending to June 2027.

Hands down such a declaration must mean more than acknowledging the problem. It should influence the sequencing of public expenditure, the design of procurement programmes and the allocation of development resources.

Lets talk like political economists, every loti spent by government carries an opportunity cost. Money allocated to one project cannot simultaneously be allocated to another. The relevant question is therefore not simply whether buses are desirable, but whether purchasing them now offers a greater social return than alternative investments capable of generating employment and livelihoods.

Could the same resources support young entrepreneurs, expand technical and vocational training, improve access to business finance, or create employment-intensive infrastructure projects? Could government procure services from qualified local enterprises while developing the skills young Basotho need to participate in the

economy?

I should concede that these alternatives are not guaranteed to succeed. They, too, require careful planning, transparent procurement and measurable results. However, when a government has declared an emergency, it must explain why its expenditure decisions reflect that urgency.

I therefore propose a better sequence, not a permanent rejection. Lesotho does not need to abandon the idea of public buses. It needs to approach it as a long-term public transport policy rather than merely a procurement exercise. Before committing substantial public funds, government should publish a feasibility study establishing passenger demand, proposed routes, fares, projected revenue, operating subsidies and the full life cycle costs of the fleet.

It should also assess whether partnerships with existing operators could deliver the same service at a lower fiscal risk. Most importantly, the proposed investment should be assessed alongside the country's employment priorities. Where feasible, the procurement and operation of buses should create opportunities for local mechanics, technicians, drivers and other qualified young people without turning employment promises into politically allocated positions.

The principle is simple: public transport should complement the national development agenda, not compete blindly with its most urgent priorities. Ultimately, the issue is not whether buses belong in Lesotho's development future. They do, if they are properly planned and sustainably operated. The issue is whether this is the moment to prioritise their purchase over interventions that directly address a declared national emergency.

A government demonstrates economic prudence not only through the projects it undertakes, but also through the projects it chooses to postpone. Lesotho can build a public transport system while pursuing youth employment. But with limited resources and an urgent need to restore economic opportunity, the order in which those objectives are pursued matters. The buses may come. First, however, Lesotho must ensure that the people who need jobs are not left waiting at the bus stop of economic opportunity. The future is NOW!

Editorial: Better late than never, Prime Minister

Next Tuesday, Prime Minister Sam Matekane will do something that should be routine in a parliamentary democracy. He will stand before the National Assembly and answer questions from the people's representatives. That this is a rare moment says a good deal about how long it has taken to arrive.

Apart from a few occasions that can be counted on one hand, the Prime Minister has not faced the House to respond to pressing questions of national interest. His appearance did not come from habit or courtesy.

As this newspaper has reported, it took a motion to get him there. Opposition MP Remaketse Sehlabaka filed a notice of motion in May 2026, saying the Prime Minister had completed three years in office without addressing parliament.

A Prime Minister who has to be summoned by motion leaves a lot to be desired, and raises questions of accountability.

Silence has a price, and Matekane has been paying it. Over time he has earned a public reputation as the quiet one. A leader who rarely explains himself leaves a gap, and that gap is soon filled by rumour, speculation and the claims of his critics. That is not good for him, and it is worse for the country.

His supporters will say, with some force, that the Prime Minister is a man of action, not speeches, and that his record in office should speak for him. That argument has some appeal.

Basotho are tired of politicians who talk well and deliver little. But delivery and accountability are not rivals. A government that is delivering has every reason to say so in the one place where it can be questioned in return.

Nothing prevents the Prime Minister from addressing Parliament. The law of this country allows him to speak to the House and to update it on the work of the executive. It is a power he could have used at any time, on his own terms, without waiting to be asked. He did not.

Parliament is more than a place where laws are passed. It is where the executive explains itself to those elected to hold it to account, and, through them, to the voters. Questions put to ministers are

useful, but they are not the same as answers from the head of government. A Prime Minister cannot be held to account by proxy.

On Tuesday, the country will be watching for more than attendance. Showing up is the minimum. Basotho will want to see whether the Prime Minister answers the questions he is asked or retreats into general statements.

They will want to know whether he takes the House seriously, and whether this appearance is the start of a habit or a single concession.

MPs, for their part, have a duty too. Question time is not a stage for point-scoring or long speeches dressed as questions. If the opposition wants answers, it must ask clear questions on matters that touch the lives of ordinary people: jobs, prices, health services, the roads, corruption and the pace of national reforms. If the ruling side wants the Prime Minister to be heard, it must let him be

questioned properly.

The Speaker, too, has a responsibility to keep the exchange fair and to ensure that this day does not remain an exception.

We welcome the Prime Minister's decision to face the House, however it came about. But one day in Parliament does not make a habit of accountability. If Tuesday is treated as a box ticked, the old silence will return, and with it the old suspicion.

The best outcome would be for the Prime Minister to make regular appearances part of his office. A leader with a strong story to tell should want to tell it, often and in public. The Prime Minister who is judged on his record should be willing to put that record to the test.

Mr Matekane has a chance on Tuesday to change the impression that has followed him for years. He should use it well.

Drones of hope

Ntsoaki Motaung

Young people in Lesotho are being empowered with digital and technical skills thanks to a new drone and data training program led by UNICEF and its partners.

The training, which recently kicked off at the Lesotho College of Education, aims to give youth the tools they need to find jobs, start businesses, and help solve some of the country’s biggest problems.

Speaking at the event, UNICEF Lesotho Representative Dr. Bob Muchabaiwa called the young participants “trailblazers.” He explained that the training is part of the YOMA mission, a digital platform from UNICEF that connects young people to learning, skills development, and earning opportunities.

Muchabaiwa shared the story of how the idea began two years ago after a meeting with the Minister of Gender, Youth, and Social Development.

The Minister requested that young people be included in drone training, and UNICEF made it happen. Some local youths were even sent to Malawi to learn about drone technology, and now the training has come to Lesotho itself.

“We want to thank you, Honourable Minister, for your vision,” said Muchabaiwa. “Lesotho’s young people are a powerful resource. Their creativity and ability to use new technologies can help solve the country’s social and economic challenges.”

He emphasised that UNICEF believes in going beyond just education, giving young people practical skills and the chance to innovate, start businesses, and make a real difference. “We want to see young people engaging with technology in a way that is meaningful and transformative.”

Dr. Solomon Chibaya, Rector of the Lesotho College of Education, welcomed everyone warmly. “Anything to do with youth, social development, and gender, we are all for it as an institution,” she said. She thanked UNICEF and other partners, including the Vo-

dacom Foundation and African Drone and Data Academy, for coming together to support the program. “You are more than welcome to be within this place. Please enjoy your facility.”

Michael Scheibenreif, Regional Manager at the African Drone and Data Academy, explained how drones can be used for more than just flying. “A drone is a tool,” he said. “You can deliver medicine to hard-to-reach areas, analyze images after disasters or for farming, and even help connect people

in places without cell service.”

He shared how UNICEF started drone programs in Malawi and other countries, helping young people learn these skills. “We hope you are the ones taking this skill set and putting it to good use for the people in Lesotho.”

PalesaThetele, a young co-facilitator and graduate of the drone program, shared how the training changed her view of technology. “Before this program, I thought drones were just toys,” she said. “But I learned how they can help in agriculture, health, and many other fields. Drones can show farmers if their crops are healthy, deliver medicine, and even help in search and rescue.”

She encouraged others to see the bigger picture: “Everyone from any background can benefit from using these. This program will open doors for innovation and help fight youth unemployment.”

Participant BokangMajoro thanked

organizers and partners, calling the training a “huge opportunity” and a responsibility. “This is the first group in Lesotho,” he said. “We are the foundation to show what Basotho youth can do. The training has already taught us so much.” He added that drones could help in sectors like agriculture and construction, and called for the program to continue and expand.

The Honourable Minister of Gender, Youth, and Social Development, PitsoLesaoana, expressed pride in the initiative. He reminded youth that the goal is not just to use drones for fun or photography but to become creators and entrepreneurs. “We must move beyond just using technology. I want us to reach a point where you are creating companies and jobs for others,” he said.

He challenged young people to use their new skills to build businesses and help solve Lesotho’s challenges, especially youth unemployment.

Thoboloko Ntšonyane

A motion proposing a Commission of Inquiry into the abduction and torture of Newsday Editor and human rights defender Kananelo Boloetse has been blocked, after Speaker of the National Assembly Tlohang Sekhamane set it aside over funding concerns.

“There is no way that there will be a Commission and there is absence of funds to be used,” he said.

Matlakeng legislator and United Africans Transformation (UAT) leader Dr Mahali Phamotse had moved the urgent motion, asking the House to adjourn so that it could debate the matter.

“I move that this Honourable House be adjourned to allow a debate on a matter of urgent public importance namely the establishment of an independent enquiry into the abduction and torture of Mr Kananelo Boloetse which has caused national and international outcry and if there is no independent enquiry the image of the country is tarnished by this violation of human rights.

“Secondly, this occurrence of violation is bound to repeat itself continuously,” reads the motion.

By his own account, Boloetse was abducted on 5 September at his residence in Katilehong, Maseru, by three unknown men. They drove him to an unknown place, beat him and left him nearly deaf at Thaba-Bosiu.

The attackers remain unknown, and the police have made no breakthrough.

Blow for Boloetse

The case has drawn local and international attention, and Boloetse has since gone into hiding, fearing for his life.

International press freedom and human rights organisations, including Amnesty International, Front Line Defenders and Reporters Without Borders (RSF), have condemned the attack. The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), both regionally and in Lesotho, has also condemned it and called for an investigation that will bring his abductors to book.

The United Nations in Lesotho and the European Union have likewise condemned the abduction and torture and called for those responsible to be brought to justice.

In setting aside the motion, the Speaker referred to a statement by the Minister of Home Affairs and Police, Voeswa Tsheka. Some weeks ago, Tsheka told the House about the abduction and torture of Boloetse and promised that investigations were

ongoing.

Opposition MP Advocate Lekhetho Rakuoane said the motion was not a substantive one, which is why it was not numbered, and that the debate was effectively a challenge to the Speaker’s ruling. He argued that setting up a commission is the government’s prerogative, and that the motion merely sought a debate.

Chief of Police Advocate Borothis Matsoso had earlier asked journalists to tell Boloetse to come forward and fill gaps in the statement he gave police. He said police could make no progress in his absence, although they can reach Boloetse by phone whenever they need him.

Prime Minister Ntsokoane Sam Matekane has also echoed the call for Boloetse to come forward. Last week, police spokesperson Superintendent Thabo Mohai told this publication that police would update the public on any new developments in the investigation.



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MR. ROBERT LIKHANG

Chartered Accountant, Chartered Secretary and governance professional with extensive experience in boards, strategy, risk and finance. Played a key role in the development of the Mohlomi Corporate Governance Code and has served on several key boards and professional bodies in Lesotho.

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26 NOVEMBER 2026



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Government of Lesotho

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NO: 3 OF 2026/2027 (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

A CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

1. Introduction

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho (GoL), through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), is committed to building a skilled, knowledgeable, and adaptable human resource base that can drive sustainable national development, reduce poverty, and improve the quality of life for all Basotho. Human Resources Development (HRD) is central to achieving the targets set out in the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), the African Union's Agenda 2063, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is against this background that the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning seeks an individual consultant to develop a National Human Resource Development Policy.

A complete set of bidding documents in English will be available to interested bidders for collection at Planning Procurement Unit office number 124 during office hours (between 8:00 am until 4:30 pm).

Bids must be deposited on or before **27th October 2026 at 12:00HRS** in the tender box situated at Government Complex Phase 2 at Development Planning 2nd floor. Bids arriving after the closing date time shall be rejected. Tenders will be opened in the presence of bidders or representatives at **14: 30** hours on the same day.

Clarification requests and bid submissions

should be addressed to:

Secretary Procurement Committee
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Development Planning Africa House
P.O. Box 630
Maseru 100.
Tel no. 22 317433

Tender Timetable for the expression of interest

Activity	Dates
ITT Issued	1st October 2026
Clarifications dates	1st – 21st October 2026
Deadline for obtaining Tender Document	21st October 2026
ITT Close	27th October 2026 at 12:00 noon
Tender opening	27th October 2026 at 14:30 hours
Evaluation dates	2nd – 6th November 2026

To obtain the Expression of Interest (EOI), interested and eligible individuals should request the EOI document from thato.pokola@gov.ls. The request should include: Name of Applicant, telephone numbers and email address.



NOTICE OF SALE – RESIDENTIAL VILLA IN MASERU WEST

The European Union is selling its former staff accommodation in Maseru West and inviting individuals or entities interested in buying this property to submit an offer. The property is a residential villa of 472 m² on a 5 738 m² plot of land situated at [215 Tona-Kholo Road Maseru West](#).

The deadline to submit an offer is on 12 November 2026 at 23.59, local time.

Further information concerning the sales' conditions and visits to the property can be found on the following EU Delegation's webpage: <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lesotho/n-lesotho>

NOTICE OF SALE – RESIDENTIAL VILLA IN MASERU WEST

The European Union is selling its former staff accommodation in Maseru West and inviting individuals or entities interested in buying this property to submit an offer. The property is a residential villa of 264 m² on a 4 642 m² plot of land situated at [216 Tona-Kholo Road Maseru West](#).

The deadline to submit an offer is on 12 November 2026 at 23.59, local time.

Further information concerning the sales' conditions and visits to the property can be found on the following EU Delegation's webpage: <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lesotho/n-lesotho>



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Review of the National Agriculture Subsidy Policy (Individual Consultants)

LESOTHO
SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (SADP II)

Assignment Title: Engagement of an Individual consultant to Conduct Review of the National Agriculture Subsidy Policy
Reference No. (as per procurement plan): LSO-2000002563-0079-CS-ICS

The Government of Lesotho through the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSN) has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the recruitment of consulting services provided by an individual consultant as part of the post to review Subsidy policy.
The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II). The consulting services ("the services") include the review Subsidy policy
This request for expressions of interest (REOI) follows the general procurement notice that appeared on the IFAD website on 17/07/2026, on UNDB on 17/07/2026, on SADP II website on 23/07/2026 and on local newspapers.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to IFAD's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy and the Revised IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption its Activities and Operations . The latter sets forth IFAD's provisions on prohibited practices. IFAD further strives to ensure a safe working environment free of harassment, including sexual harassment, and free of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in its activities and operations as detailed in its IFAD Policy to Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. By entering in this document, you certify to have read, understood, and agreed to be bound by the Privacy Policy of IFAD.
Interested consultants shall not have any actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest.
The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition under Small Holder Agriculture Project (SADPII) now invites eligible
Individual consultants ("consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have

the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services in the form of a curriculum vitae (CV). A consultant will be selected in accordance with the individual consultant selection (ICS) method set out in IFAD' Project Procurement Handbook that can be accessed via the IFAD website at www.ifad.org/projectprocurement. Interviews will not be conducted as part of the selection process.

- The shortlisting criteria are:
- Education: Master's degree in Agricultural Economics, Economics, Public Policy, Development Economics, or related fields. PhD in the above will be an added advantage.
 - Experience and Skills:
 - Minimum 10 years of experience in agricultural policy research and consultancy.
 - Proven 5 years' expertise in fiscal policy, public finance management and agricultural marketing systems.
 - Demonstrated 5 years' experience in evaluating Government programmes.
 - 5 years' experience at Managerial level in the Agricultural and rural development sector
 - Strong analytical, report writing, stakeholder engagement and communication skills.
 - Familiarity with Lesotho's agricultural landscape is highly desirable or similar contexts.

For each assignment, the consultant should provide:

- Client name;
- Project title;
- Country;
- Contract value;
- Duration;
- Scope of work;
- Client contact details for reference.
- Skills Requirements

Interested consultants can find the Terms of References (ToRs) available on the following link <https://www.sadpii.org.ls/procurement/> or they can be requested via email at procurement@sadpii.org.ls and send it to the address indicated below.
Any request for clarification on this REOI should be sent via e-mail to the address below procurement@sadpii.org.ls no later than 9/10/2026 1500 hours UTC+2.The client will provide responses to all clarification requests by 16/10/2026 1500hrs UTC+2.
Expressions of interest in the form of curriculum vitae (CV), certified qualifications and cover letter must be hand delivered in a written form to the address below (in person) or sent via email to procurement@sadpii.org.ls by 19th October 2026 at 1500 hours.

Procurement Office
Attn: Procurement Specialist a.i
Livestock Services Moshoeshoe II
P.O. Box 24, Maseru, Lesotho
Tel: +266 22312578
E-mail: procurement@sadpii.org.ls

The Qualification and Evaluation criteria is as follows

Item	Criteria	Points
A.	General experience	30
1.	General experience: Minimum 10 years of experience in agricultural policy research and consultancy.	30
B.	Qualification and experience	70
1.	QUALIFICATION: Master's Degree Agricultural Economics, Economics, Public Policy, Development Economics, or related fields.	25
2.	5 years' expertise in fiscal policy, public finance management and agricultural marketing systems.	10
3.	5 years' experience at Managerial level in the Agricultural and rural development sector	10
4.	Knowledge of the agricultural sector in Lesotho or similar contexts.	5
5.	Strong analytical and report-writing skills.	10
6.	5 years' Experience working with Government programmes	10
Total Points		100
Minimum points required to pass		70 points

- The policy is accessible at <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/41942012>.
- The policy is accessible at www.ifad.org/anticorruption_policy.
- The policy is accessible at <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/40738506>.
- The policy is accessible at <https://www.ifad.org/en/privacy>.

TSEBISO!

Econet e Ntlafatsa Marang-rang a Litifiso

Econet Telecom Lesotho e ikemiselitse ka hohle-hohle ho ntlafatsa marang-rang le litšebeletso mol-emong oa boiketlo ba bareki ka linako tsohle.

Ke ka hona khafetsa, Econet Telecom Lesotho e lulang e tsetela haholo ho ntlafatsa le ho pharalatsa likhokahanyo tseo e fanang ka tsona, ho ikamahanya le mahlale le lihlaisoa tsa sejoale-joale tse ka sebelisoang joaloka **AI** ele hore bohle ba ntlafale le hona ho hatela-pele joaloka baahi ba linaha tse ling.

Ele karolo ea bona boitlamo bona le ntšetso-pele ea leeto lena, Econet Telecom Lesotho e tla ntlafatsa marang-rang a litefiso (Billing System) ka khoeli ea Mphalane 2026 molemong oa ho arabela litlhoko tsa linako tsena tseo re phelang ho tsona.

Ho tsoa Econet Telecom Lesotho, re motlotlo haholo ka ntlafatso ena kaha e tlo fetola tšobotsi eo baji ba lihlaisoa tsa rona ba fumanang litšebeletso ka teng.

Nakong eo Econet Telecom Lesotho e fetelang ho marang-rang ana a macha, ha rea lebella hore ho ka ba le tšitiso e kholo kapa hona ho khineha hoa litšebeletso nako e telele. Leha ho le joalo, re tla lula rele beha leseling nako-le nako le hore na le ka ikatela joang nakong ena ea tšebetso. Re tla lula re fumaneha ho **100, 199** kapa **6140** bakeng sa litlhakisetsa.

Re tla leboha tšebetso ea lona e sa thekeseleng ha re tsamaea leeto lena ‘moho.

NOTICE!

Econet Upgrades Billing System

Econet Telecom Lesotho is fully committed to continuously improving its network and services for the benefit and convenience of its customers.

For this reason, Econet Telecom Lesotho continues to invest significantly in improving and expanding the connectivity it provides, while also keeping pace with modern technologies and digital solutions such as Artificial Intelligence (**AI**), so that everyone can benefit from these advancements.

As part of this commitment and the continued progress of this journey, Econet Telecom Lesotho will upgrade its billing system during October 2026 to better respond to the evolving needs of the times in which we live.

Econet Telecom Lesotho is proud of this upgrade, as it will significantly improve the way we serve our customers and how they access and use our products and services. The aim is to ensure that customers enjoy greater benefits from these services and that they contribute even more to improving their everyday lives.

As Econet Telecom Lesotho transitions to this new system, we do not anticipate any major or prolonged interruptions to our services. However, we will continue to keep customers informed from time to time and provide guidance on how they can prepare during the migration process. We will also remain available on **100, 199 or 6140** for further clarification.

Thank you for continuing this journey with us

Invitation to Bidders

BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

18th October 2026

Supply and delivery of school furniture for 45 primary schools

Procurement reference No: LS –MOET-001-2026/2027-RFB

1.

The **Ministry of Education and Training** has been allocated funds from the Government to be used for the acquisition of school furniture.

2.

The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above Goods.

3.

Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the **open national bidding method** contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all bidders.

4.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below at 8(a) from **8:30hrs to 4:30hrs**.

5.

The Bidding document in English may be obtained by interested bidders to the address below at 8(b) **at no cost**.

6.

Bids must be delivered to the address below at 8(c) at or before **10:00hrs on the 16th NOVEMBER 2026**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **M 10,000.00** from the bank or a bid securing declaration. Bid securities must be valid until **(16th JANUARY 2027)**. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **10:30hrs** the address below at 8(d) at **10:30hrs** on the **16th NOVEMBER 2026**

7.

There shall be a pre – bid meeting at **EFU building, opposite NCDC next Lerotholi Polytechnic Fokothi** at **10:00hrs** on the dates indicated in the proposed schedule in this notice.

8.

(a) Procurement Unit, Education Facility Unit, Ministry of Education and Training
P.O. Box 1279 Maseru 100

(b) Documents will be issued from: Ministry of Education and Training, Procurement Unit, EFU Building next to Fokothi opposite NCDC

(c) Bids must be delivered to: Ministry of Education and Training Room 404 Inspectorate Building

(d) Address of bid Opening: Procurement Committee, Ministry of Education and Training headquarters, Inspectorate Building room 404

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

Activity	Date
a. Publish bid notice	16th October, 2026
b. Pre-bid meeting where applicable	23rd October, 2026
c. Bid closing date	1 6 t h November, 2026
d. Evaluation process	18 to 23rd November, 2026
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	4th December 2026
f. Contract signature	21st December 2026

Signature: 

Name: 

Position of Authorised Official:

Premier

Growing Together

Job Detail:

Job Title: Transport Admin Clerk

Location: Lesotho Bakery

Division: Bakery

Reporting To: Transport: Controller

About the Role

We are looking for a **Transport Admin Clerk** to join our **Transport** team. This role is ideal for someone who thrives in a fast-paced environment, enjoys challenges, and is eager to contribute to innovation and growth initiatives.

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- Be part of a high-performing, collaborative team focussing on growth
- Access learning and career development opportunities

High-Performance Growth Culture

We believe success comes from team members with a growth mindset, who values diverse thinking and talent, inclusion and belonging and sustainable high performance. As members of teams we:

- Are passionate about our responsibilities (and purpose)
- Seek personal growth to be our best
- Engage and make a difference
- Embrace continuous improvement to deliver excellence

Apply Now

Be part of Premier FMCG and help shape the future of FMCG industry. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply through our email: hr.lesotho@premierfmcg.com Documents should be sent together (Application, CV, and qualifications) on one email.

Alternatively, applications can be delivered at Blue Ribbon Offices, Thetsane Industrial, Maseru.

Closing Date: 16 October 2026



Premier FMCG - Join Our Team

Transport Admin Clerk

About Premier FMCG

Premier FMCG is at the heart of South Africa's FMCG industry, delivering trusted, iconic brands across our Bakery, Milling, Confectionery, Home & Personal Care and Culinary divisions. We are driven by innovation, collaboration, and a high-performance growth culture. We empower our people to strive for excellence ensuring that our products and people make a difference in the everyday lives of our consumers.

Job Purpose

To complete all administration, capture all transport related data for input to KPI reports, assist on site in the absence of the transport controller and to log vehicle breakdowns to the FML call Centre.

Key Responsibilities

The core functions define the key areas of responsibility for this role, reflecting the accountabilities and expected outputs outlined in the competency-based profile. These are the primary activities through which the role delivers value to the business.

- Maintenance and servicing of fleet
- Fleet control
- Fleet returns
- Fleet utilisation
- Tyre stock control
- Insurance claims
- Creditors
- Fines and traffic violation control
- Capturing of vehicle fuel consumption
- Ordering and generate order numbers from system
- Ensure Traffic Fines are redirected to drivers' name
- Prepare Invoices for payment
- Report vehicle accidents timelessly
- Ensures monthly kilometres remain within contractual limits
- Maintain Co-Driver information system and extract relevant information
- Maintains cleaning register and ensures vehicle cleaning in terms of outsourced contract

Experience and Qualifications

To perform effectively in this role, the following minimum qualifications and work experience are required:

- Grade 12 with numerical skills
- Technical (Diesel Mechanic) experience
- Driver's Licence code C with five years' experience
- PRDP- Public of three years' experience will be beneficial to the department

Skills and Competencies

To succeed in this role, the following capabilities—both technical and behavioural—are essential. These are drawn from the skills and competencies outlined in the role's competency-based profile:Dispatch standard operations and procedures for fresh products

- Good communication skills (verbal and written)
- Attention to detail
- Good listening skills
- Analytical thinker
- Deadline driven
- Proficiency in MS Office Excel and Word

Working Conditions

This role requires the incumbent to operate in the following environments and manage specific physical or operational demands:

- Pressurised environment
- 6-day position
- Required to work Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays as per shift roster
- Be prepared to work extra hours as a requirement

Diversity & Inclusion

Premier FMCG is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from all qualified individuals, including people living with disabilities. By applying, you consent to the processing of your personal information in line with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI Act) for recruitment purposes.

Invitation to Bidders

BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

Ministry of Education and Training

02-October 2026

Supply and Delivery of Printing Material- GOL/PRNT/TARL 26/27

1.

The **Ministry of Education and Training** has been allocated/received funds from the government of Lesotho to be used for the acquisition of **Printing Material**.

2.

The Entity invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the above Goods.

3.

Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open national bidding method contained in the Public Procurement Act and is open to all bidders.

4.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below at 8(a) from **8:00AM to 16:00 hrs** .

5.

The Bidding document in English may be purchased at no cost by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at 8(b).

6.

Bids must be **delivered** to the address below at 8(c) at **10:00hrs** on the 13th November 2026 .All bids must be accompanied by a **bid security of (M5000.00)** or a bid securing declaration..Bid securities or bid securing declarations must be valid until 90 days **(11/02/27)**.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 **10:30hrs** on the **13th November 2026**.

7.

There shall be a pre – bid meeting at **10:00hrs EFU Building** on the dates indicated in the proposed schedule in this notice.

8.

(a)Documents may be inspected at:Ministry of Education and

Training,Procurement Unit EFU Building next to Fokothi,opposite NCDC.

(b) Documents will be issued from:Ministry of Education and Training EFU Building next to Fokothi opposite NCDC.

(c) Bids must be **delivered** to:Ministry of Education and Training headquarters ,Inspectorate Building room 404 .

(d) **Address of bid opening:** Procurement committee Ministry of Education and Training headquarters ,Inspectorate Building room 404.

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

Activity	Date
a. Publish bid notice	02th October 2026
b. Pre-bid meeting where applicable	Tuesday 13th October 2026
c. Bid closing date	13th November 2026
d. Evaluation process	30 November 2026
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	30 November 2026
f. Contract signature	10 December 2026

Signature: 

Name: 

Position of Authorised Official:

Invitation to Bidders

BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING

Ministry of Education and Training

02-October 2026

Supply and Delivery of Science Chemicals and Equipment- OCB No: GOL/SCIENCE FUND 26/27

1.

The **Ministry of Education and Training** has been allocated/received funds from the government of Lesotho to be used for the acquisition of Science chemicals and 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 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 **8:00AM to 16:00 hrs** .

5.

The Bidding document in English may be purchased at **no cost** by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at 8(b).

6.

Bids must be **delivered** to the address below at 8(c) at **14:00hrs on the 13th November 2026** .All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **(M5000.00)** or a bid securing declaration.. Bid securities or bid securing declarations must be valid until 90 days **(11/02/27)**. 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 **10:30hrs** on the **13th November 2026**.

7.

There shall be a pre – bid meeting at 10:00hrs **EFU Building** on the dates indicated in the proposed schedule in this notice.

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c. Bid closing date	13th November 2026
d. Evaluation process	30 November 2026
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	30 November 2026
f. Contract signature	10 December 2026

Signature: 

Name: 

Position of Authorised Official:

Migrant workers question passport backlog “clearance”

• Association welcomes progress but asks Ministry for figures, a public dashboard and tougher action on diplomatic passports and fraudulent IDs

Staff Reporter

The Migrant Workers Association of Lesotho (MWA-Ls) has challenged the government’s claim that the passport backlog has been cleared.

The group wants hard figures and a public tracking system before Basotho are asked to take the Ministry of Home Affairs and Police at its word.

In an official statement issued on Wednesday this week, the association responded to a press statement by Home Affairs Minister Voeswa Tsheka dated 1 October 2026. The minister announced that the backlog had been cleared and gave an update on the audit of diplomatic passports.

Tsheka said the Prime Minister’s promise had been kept. “I am pleased to confirm that the passport backlog has been cleared across all ten districts, fulfilling the Right Honourable Prime Minister’s commitment within the promised three months,” she said.

Tsheka said the focus now shifts to speed. “With the backlog now cleared, our service delivery target is for every Mosotho’s passport to be ready for collection within four working days of submitting a complete application. We will monitor turnaround times closely and hold ourselves accountable for meeting this commitment.”

She also thanked the public and the officials involved. “I wish to sincerely thank Basotho for their patience and understanding. My appreciation also goes to the Passport Services management and staff, and accounts officers, who worked extended hours and weekends to serve the nation. I further thank the LMPS for their tireless efforts to uproot corruption within passport services.”

The statement did not say how many

passports were cleared, or how many applications are still waiting to be processed.

In response, the MWA-Ls congratulated the ministry, passport services management, staff, accounts officers and the LMPS for the work done. But it said the stakes for its members are too high for praise alone.

“For our members — Basotho migrant workers in South Africa whose livelihoods, work permits, and legal stay depend on a valid Lesotho passport — this is not an administrative matter; it is a matter of human dignity and survival,” the association said.

“However, goodwill statements must now be matched by results-based, evidence-based, and consistent service delivery,” the statement said. The association asked the ministry to publish three things.

First, it wants district-by-district data showing how many passports were cleared in each category: new, renewal and lost. Second, it wants the number of applications still pending because of system errors, photo problems or finance issues, noting that “our offices still receive such complaints daily”.

Third, it wants a public dashboard or weekly report to track the new commitment of “four working days” turnaround time.

“Hope must be sustained by intended services. Basotho should not be forced to pay premium fees to access what is a constitutional right,” it said.

The association also asked how the remaining backlog would be dealt with. “How will the remaining backlog, including failed prints and those stuck in ‘verification’, be fully cleared without reverting to old delays? Accountability requires consistency beyond the three-month directive,” it said.

On the diplomatic passport audit, the

ministry said 89 passports have been surrendered since it appealed for voluntary returns.

“A further 343 diplomatic passports remain in the hands of persons no longer entitled to hold them. The Ministry has started the process of contacting these holders, and will proceed with revocation where warranted, in accordance with the law and applicable procedures,” Tsheka said.

The MWA-Ls said it fully supports the recovery effort but wants firmer action.

“We urge the Ministry to move from voluntary appeal to lawful enforcement. A diplomatic passport is not a status symbol; it is a sovereign instrument governed by the Passports and Travel Documents Act No. 13 of 2016 and international protocol under the Vienna Convention,” it said.

The association warned that abuse of these documents hurts ordinary travelers. It said such abuse “undermines Lesotho’s credibility at borders where our ordinary migrants are already subjected to strict scrutiny”. It called for “transparent revocation procedures, publication of the legal criteria for entitlement, and prosecution where there is proven fraud or forgery, without fear or favour. Let the law prevail.”

The association went beyond the ministry’s statement to raise a deeper concern; Lesotho IDs, passports and citizenship obtained fraudulently by non-citizens.

“MWA-Ls continues to receive credible reports of foreign nationals holding Lesotho IDs and passports obtained through irregular means,” it said. It called this a grave violation of the Constitution, the Lesotho Citizenship Order of 1971 and the Identity Documents Act.

“If the Ministry can trace 343 diplomatic passports, it must also tell the na-

tion” how many IDs and passports have been identified as fraudulently acquired by foreigners, it said. It asked what legal process is being used to revoke them, including revoking citizenship obtained by misrepresentation under Section 8 of the Citizenship Order. It also asked how many people have been naturalised in the last five years, and how the ministry is ensuring “a cleared, clean, and biometrically de-duplicated National Population Register”.

“Our databases cannot be clean while they contain citizens who are not Basotho. This compromises national security, electoral integrity, and the very rights of genuine Basotho migrants who are denied services because their identity is questioned,” the statement said.

The association said the Aliens Control Act of 1966 and the Citizenship Order are “outdated, fragmented, and lack strong provisions for digital verification, dual citizenship management, and offences relating to identity fraud”.

It urged the ministry and Parliament to fast-track a comprehensive Lesotho Citizenship and Immigration Bill. It also wants mandatory biometric verification, criminal penalties for officials who aid and abet identity fraud, and an independent oversight mechanism for naturalisation and ID issuance.

The association said it stands ready to help, offering its community structures in all ten districts and in South Africa for public education and verification. But it insisted on “a truth-driven, accountable, and consistent approach — one that protects the value of being Mosotho”.

For its part, the ministry said it remains “committed to serving Basotho with dignity, fairness and efficiency, while safeguarding the credibility of our national documents”.



Chris Theko

One of Southern Africa's most recognisable street foods is set to take centre stage in Lesotho this December when the inaugural Lesotho Kota Festival brings food, music, entertainment and local enterprise to Thaba Bosiu Cultural Village for the fourth edition.

Scheduled for 5 December 2026, the 12-hour festival is expected to bring together food vendors, musicians, entrepreneurs, families and visitors from Lesotho and neighbouring countries for a celebration centred on the popular kota.

The kota, traditionally a hollowed-out quarter loaf filled with ingredients such as chips, polony, cheese, sauces and other toppings, has become a distinctive part of township and street-food culture in Southern Africa.

At the festival, organisers say visitors will be able to sample both traditional versions of the dish and more creative interpretations from participating vendors.

But organisers say the event is about more than food.

The programme will feature performances by South African artists including DJ Maphorisa, Emtee, Amanda Black and Mlindo The Vocalist, alongside Lesotho's Litshepe LR and other performers.

The festival will also feature competitions with prizes, a showcase of local businesses, family-oriented activities and spaces designed to encourage food bloggers, photographers and content creators to document the event.

According to organisers, one of the festival's key objectives is to create commercial oppor-

Thaba Bosiu gears for Kota Festival

tunities for small and emerging businesses.

They say participating entrepreneurs will have an opportunity to market their products directly to consumers, build brand visibility and potentially attract new customers, while the wider event is intended to contribute to Lesotho's food, tourism and creative economies.

"The Lesotho Kota Festival is where flavour meets culture and community," said Innocent Mashinini, the festival's marketing and PR specialist.

"We're creating a space where people can connect, celebrate local talent, support small businesses, and enjoy one of Southern Africa's most beloved street foods."

The choice of venue also gives the festival a cultural dimension.

Thaba Bosiu Cultural Village is situated near the historic Thaba Bosiu mountain, the stronghold of King Moshoeshoe I and one of Lesotho's most significant heritage sites. By staging the festival at the site, organisers are positioning the event at the intersection of food, entertainment, tourism and Basotho heritage.

Organisers say they want visitors to experi-



ence what they describe as "authentic Basotho hospitality", while also attracting audiences from across Lesotho and the region.

With the kota at its centre, the festival will

test whether a popular street-food concept can be transformed into a larger cultural and commercial platform for local entrepreneurs, artists and tourism stakeholders.

Chris Theko

When a song becomes a hit, the artist usually gets the applause. The producer is often somewhere behind the curtain.

Listeners remember the voice, the performance, the music video and the lyrics. The person who helped turn an idea into the final sound can remain largely invisible.

For Shev-Shengu (Kabelo Khomohali), however, that invisibility has never meant insignificance.

"From when I started I knew that I wanted to be part of the influence of music business and culture, I knew I would want to be a different kind of music producer," Shev-Shengu said.

Over the years, his production work has taken him across different chapters of Lesotho's music scene, from working with established names such as Cityzeen LS, Sannere and Phoka Ea Boroa to becoming part of the creative force behind the more recent rise of LitSepe LR.

Songs such as Hohle Ke Lesotho, Lerato La Ka and Natala have placed his production before a new generation of listeners, while his work across different styles has established him as one of the country's most active and versatile producers.

"I cannot say I have always wanted to be in production, my love was in being a rapper back in the day when I was in High School as the Lesotho hip hop and Sotho Hop scene was taking shape," he said.

"It was only later that I got curious about how the beats are made, the entire production process and what it takes to produce a masterpiece of a song. That curiosity got me to purchase some startup production equipment, and I never went back to rapping."

But his journey into music was not always the obvious career path. In 2018, Shev-

Shev-Shengu: The sound architect behind your favourite jam

Shengu was studying Mechanical Engineering at Lerotholi Polytechnic. Music, meanwhile, was beginning to pull him in another direction.

Shev-Shengu traces his professional journey in music to around 2018 and 2019.

"At the time I was studying Mechanical

Engineering at Fokothi, but production was increasingly becoming more than an interest. I was getting my name out there and working with big names such as SkebzaD, Robocop and others," he stated.

"What began as an exploration of music gradually developed into a professional pursuit and when I completed my studies now in formal employment, I started working with Sannere who at the time was known as RM

Leever."

The decision to pursue music meant stepping away from the more conventional career path represented by his studies and committing himself to an industry whose financial prospects were far less certain.

"When Sannere started booming, he was the one who convinced me to stop my day job and focus on music. It was risk considering music was known and still to some extent known to not be financially sustainable, but I took the risk, he explained. That decision would eventually define his career.

Rather than abandoning the technical mindset he had developed through engineering, he brought another kind of discipline into the studio: an interest in how

things work, how they fit together and how individual components can be transformed into a functioning whole.

In production, however, technical knowledge alone is not enough. Shev-Shengu says instinct has played an important role in his creative process.

"For me production is not simply about knowing which buttons to press or understanding the technical aspects of recording. It is also about feeling where a song should go and understanding what an artist is trying to communicate," Shev-Shengu said.

"That instinct has helped me avoid being confined to a single musical box. One of my most striking characteristics in my career is my versatility. I am unboxed when it comes to music production, it can be gospel, hip hop, sotho hop, famo, maskandi and so on."

His work has moved across different musical influences and styles, while retaining what he describes as a strong local influence. That distinction matters.

In an era when African musicians can access virtually any sound in the world with a few clicks, producing music that feels rooted in home while remaining contemporary is a delicate balance.

"I do not describe my sound as belonging exclusively to one genre. Instead, my approach always guided by the music itself and by the artist in front of me. The artist shares the vision or idea and I combine the beats," he says.

That flexibility has allowed him to work with artists from different generations and backgrounds without attempting to force them into one predetermined sonic formula.

It is also part of what makes his production journey a useful lens through which to examine the evolution of contemporary

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...FROM PAGE 19

Basotho music.

The music has changed. The technology has changed. The audience has changed. And producers like Shev-Shengu have had to change with it.

His work with artists such as Sannere and Phoka Ea Boroa forms part of that journey.

"Working with established musicians such as those has given me exposure into different approaches to songwriting, performance and recording, while also teaching me that production is fundamentally collaborative and that's the magic trick," he expressed.

"As a producer I may build the instrumental foundation, but the final record emerges from a conversation between myself and the artist."

Instead of treating recording as simply a technical exercise, the studio became a place where ideas could develop organically, where artists could experiment and where the producer could spend more time shaping the final product. It also brought challenges.

Creating music is rarely as straightforward as pressing record. Artists have different personalities, expectations and creative instincts. Producers must learn when to push an artist, when to compromise and when to allow an idea to develop without interference.

For Shev-Shengu, those experiences have been part of the education that no classroom could provide.

If his earlier collaborations established his credentials, his work with Litšepe Lr represents one of the most interesting chapters of his recent career.

The relationship developed into a creative partnership that would contribute to a sound increasingly associated with the group.

Rather than simply producing individual songs, Shev-Shengu became part of a broader creative process as he later left Metšoaka Group to start working with Grystal Group which also houses Litšepe Lr following his departure from Metšoaka Group as well.

The objective of Grystal group with Shev-Shengu was not merely to make music that sounded good. It was to create something that could carry a sense of place while still speaking to contemporary audiences.

That tension between local identity and modern sound is particularly evident in the music associated with Litšepe Lr.

Litšepe Lr's music draws from a broader Southern African musical vocabulary, while incorporating elements that speak to Basotho identity.

For Shev-Shengu, this is not necessarily about choosing between traditional and modern music. The sound that Motheo Album released earlier this year and subsequently the Maja-Samo EP was heavily influenced by the Zulu culture genre "Maskandi" and it was a result of a conversation between Litšepe and Shev-Shengu.

"It is mainly about understanding that Basotho music can absorb outside influences without losing its identity," Shev-Shengu explains.

"If you listen to those songs on both projects, they have both Sesotho and Zulu influences. There's accordion and there's that maskandi guitar which means we have strategically positioned to cultures in one sound."

Two songs that stand out from this period are Lerato La Ka and Natala. For listeners, the records exist as finished products.

For the people who created them, however, a song begins much earlier. "For me every song begins with an idea, an atmosphere, an instrumental, a melody or sometimes simply an experiment in the studio," Shev-Shengu said.

That is where the producer's contribution becomes difficult to separate from the final record. Shev-Shengu's role in these projects illustrates the often-overlooked complexity of production.

Shev-Shengu: The sound architect behind your favourite jam

The producer is not simply the person who creates a beat. He is involved in decisions about sound, arrangement, texture, musical direction and how an artist's idea eventually reaches an audience.

And when the song succeeds, the producer shares in that success even if the public recognition overwhelmingly goes to the artist.

Chev-Shengu does not appear particularly troubled by the fact that audiences often pay more attention to the artist than the producer.

"There is an acceptance that production is, by nature, a behind-the-scenes profession. But that does not make the contribution less important," he says.

"In fact, in my experience this is one of the persistent problems in Lesotho's music industry, the people who make the industry function are often not adequately recognised or compensated."

A successful song is rarely the work of one person. Behind an artist are producers, songwriters, engineers, managers, publicists, videographers, photographers and other creative professionals.

Yet the public conversation often begins and ends with the performer. For Shev-Shengu, changing that perception requires greater understanding of the music business.

"Producing good music is one thing. Building a sustainable career from it is another," Shev-Shengu says.

He says he has become increasingly conscious of the importance of educating artists and producers about the business side of music.

"Questions around compensation, ownership, producer credits, royalties, publishing and digital revenue are not peripheral concerns. They determine whether creative work can become a sustainable livelihood," he says.

"The rise of digital platforms has made the conversation even more urgent."

"Music can now travel beyond Lesotho through streaming services and social platforms, potentially reaching audiences that traditional radio could never reach."

"But access to a global audience does not automatically mean a sustainable income."

"Artists and producers need to understand how those platforms work, how their rights are protected and how revenue flows from a successful record."

For Chev-Shengu, education is therefore part of building the industry. Talent alone is not enough. Chev-Shengu's own career offers a complicated answer to whether a person can build a sustainable career in music in Lesotho. He chose music



despite having been trained in another field.

That choice has allowed him to establish himself professionally, but he is also candid about the challenges of building a sustainable music career in Lesotho.

"The problem is not necessarily a lack of talent. Lesotho has artists, producers, musicians and other creative professionals capable of producing work that can compete beyond the country's borders," Shev-Shengu says.

"The challenge is building the ecosystem around that talent."

"That includes stronger business knowledge, better structures for compensation, greater recognition of producers and more opportunities for artists to develop audiences beyond Lesotho."

Shev-Shengu also sees a role for government and industry institutions in developing the country's creative sector.

He believes Initiatives such as the National Music Awards, establishment of

LESCOSAA and broader government efforts around the creative economy can contribute to building recognition and opportunity.

"But recognition alone cannot create an industry. The bigger question is whether Lesotho can build systems that allow creative professionals to make a living from their work, he says.

"That means thinking beyond artists. Producers, engineers, managers, publishers, promoters and other professionals all form part of the creative economy."

According to him, if one part of that ecosystem remains weak, the entire industry struggles.

He believes the future of Basotho music therefore depends not only on producing better songs, but on producing a better environment in which those songs can become businesses.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of Shev-Shengu's philosophy is his apparent refusal to see local identity and international relevance as opposing ideas.

The contemporary Basotho sound can borrow from Southern African musical traditions, international production techniques and modern digital culture while still maintaining a recognisable sense of home.

That is particularly important at a time when music from across Africa is travelling further than ever.

For Lesotho, the question is no longer whether Basotho musicians can make music. They can.

The question is whether they can develop sounds, structures and business models capable of carrying that music beyond the country's borders.

"My work with Litšepe Lr provides one possible answer to that dilemma. The sound is contemporary, but it is not detached from its surroundings," he says with pride.

"It is influenced by the region, yet filtered through a Basotho creative sensibility."

And that may ultimately be his most important contribution, not simply producing songs, but participating in the ongoing conversation about what Basotho music can become.

When asked what advice he would give to a young producer entering the industry, Shev-Shengu does not offer a shortcut to success.

His message is consistency.

"Keep producing. Keep learning. Keep improving."

Keep showing up," he says.

It is perhaps fitting advice from a producer whose career has not been built around a single defining moment.

His story has been one of evolution, from a Mechanical Engineering student exploring production, to a professional producer working with established artists, to a key creative contributor in a newer generation of Basotho music.

The songs may belong to the artists. The applause may belong to the performers. But somewhere beneath the vocals, melodies and rhythms is the architecture of the record.

And for more about a decade, Shev-Shengu has been learning how to build that architecture.

The next chapter may be his most important yet.

Because if Lesotho is going to build a music industry rather than simply produce hit songs, it will need people who understand both sides of the equation: the music, and the business behind it.

Refiloe Molise

Kick4Life Women Football Club (FC) made an impressive start to their 2026/27 Lesotho Women’s Super League (WSL) campaign, recording a convincing 4–1 victory over Mphaki High School Ladies FC at the PTC Grounds.

Kick4Life took the lead in the 40th minute when defender Mahali Sepiriti’s corner kick went directly towards the Mphaki goal. In an attempt to save the delivery, the goalkeeper inadvertently deflected the ball into her own net, giving Kick4Life a 1–0 advantage at half-time. The visitors displayed good attacking intent and maintained pressure on the hosts throughout the first half.

Kick4Life doubled their lead within the first minute of the second half when TholoanaTs’oaeli found the back of the net to make it 2–0. Three minutes later, in the 49th minute, Kick4Life were awarded a penalty, which Sepiriti confidently converted to extend the lead to 3–0.

Mphaki pulled one back in the 73rd minute following a free kick, but Kick4Life responded four minutes later when Puseletso Jobo won and converted another penalty to seal an emphatic 4–1 victory.

Despite the convincing scoreline, Kick4Life head coach Shalane Lehohla believes there is still room for improvement, particularly in the team’s attacking play and ability to convert scoring opportunities.

Lehohla described the performance as positive but emphasised the need for greater confidence in front of goal, noting that the team creates numerous chances but does not always capitalise on them.

“The performance is good, but there is still room for improvement, especially when we are attacking. We create a lot of chances but fail to convert them, so we need to build confidence in that regard,” Lehohla said.

The coach attributed the team’s four-goal performance partly to its aggressive approach in attack, explaining that sustained pressure forced Mphaki into mistakes that resulted in two penalties.

“Being aggressive when attacking helped us score by that margin in the first game. It also led to Mphaki making a lot of mistakes, hence the two penalties,” he added.

Lehohla also pointed to the psychological aspect of the game, suggesting that players sometimes underestimate their opponents before kick-off, only to find themselves challenged when the match unfolds differently than expected.

He said developing greater confidence on the ball would be a key area of focus as the team continues its campaign.

Looking ahead, Lehohla said Kick4Life shared the ambition of every competing team to win the league but stressed that the players must remain focused on their strengths and give their best throughout the season.

“Every team’s expectation is to win the league, so we are no exception. We just

Kick4Life Women in rampant form



need to focus on our strengths and do our best,” he said.

The coach also acknowledged the importance of supporters in motivating the team, urging them to continue offering their backing throughout the campaign.

“We are nothing without our supporters. Their support will give us an edge to fight until the last minute of the last game,” Lehohla said.

The latest WSL catch-up fixtures, played on Sunday, 11 October 2026, produced several competitive encounters, underlining the intensity of the league as teams continue to battle for early-season positions.

LMPS Ladies defeated Emmanuel Queens 1–0, while Berea Ladies shared the spoils with FC Stoko in a 2–2 draw. LDF Ladies secured a 2–0 victory over Bokamoso C Ladies and Lijabatho Ladies edged Mphaki High School Ladies FC 1–0. Kick4Life Women also recorded a 1–1 draw against PK Stars Ladies in the catch-up fixtures.

According to the league standings published on 11 October 2026, LDF Ladies lead the table with six points from two matches. Berea Ladies occupy second place with four points, followed by Kick4Life Women in third position, also with four points. LMPS Ladies sit fourth with four points, while Lijabatho Ladies are

fifth with three points from one match.

Bokamoso C Ladies, PK Stars Ladies and FC Stoko occupy sixth, seventh and eighth positions respectively, each with one point. Emmanuel Queens and Mphaki High School Ladies FC sit ninth and tenth, having yet to register points in the matches reflected in the standings.

With the competition intensifying, teams will be under pressure to maintain consistency and secure valuable points as the season progresses.

Beyond the action on the pitch, the continued development of the Lesotho Women’s Super League remains an important concern, particularly regarding financial sustainability and the support available to participating clubs.

Speaking about the league’s development, WSL Vice-Secretary Reabetsoe Mokakehighlighted the progress made since its establishment in 2015.

According to Mokake, the league began with eight teams in 2015 before expanding to 10 teams in 2019. Promotion and relegation were subsequently introduced in the 2023/24 season, marking an important step towards strengthening competition and establishing a more structured pathway for clubs in women’s football.

However, Mokake noted that financial support has remained a major challenge,

with the responsibility of supporting the league’s development resting heavily on the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) since its early years.

The continued reliance on LeFA highlights the need for greater financial involvement from corporate sponsors and other stakeholders to ensure the sustainable growth of women’s football in Lesotho.

Adequate funding is essential for improving club operations, player welfare, coaching, transport, facilities and the overall standard of competition. Increased investment could also help clubs provide better opportunities for players to develop their skills and compete at a higher level.

As the WSL continues to grow, broader stakeholder participation and stronger financial backing will be crucial to ensuring that clubs have the resources needed to compete effectively and that women footballers receive greater opportunities to develop their talent.

While the latest results demonstrate the competitive spirit of the league, the long-term progress of women’s football in Lesotho will depend on sustained commitment from football authorities, clubs, sponsors and other partners to strengthen the game both on and off the pitch.

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho could benefit from increased investment in African football following commitments made at the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Strategy Conference held in Cabo Verde from October 7 to 9.

Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) president LijaneNthunya and Likuenta head coach Bob Mafoso were among the delegation representing the country at the three-day conference, which brought together football leaders, national team coaches and technical experts to discuss the development of the game ahead of the 2030 FIFA World Cup.

CAF president Dr Patrice Motsepe announced that annual grants to each of the organisation's 54 member associations had increased from M2 million to M12 million over four years, providing federations with greater financial capacity to invest in football development.

CAF has also increased its annual allocation for club football from M300 million to M900 million, while clubs qualifying for the preliminary rounds of its competitions have been receiving USD100,000 each from the 2025/26 season.

The funding increases could create opportunities for LeFA to strengthen football structures in Lesotho, particularly in infrastructure development, coaching, youth competitions and the administration of the game.

However, Motsepe cautioned that increased funding alone would not guarantee success, challenging member associations to demonstrate tangible results and raise the standard of football to world-class levels.

"There is a big gap between good plans, good intentions and what we do practically in terms of investments and results. We are judged by results," Motsepe told delegates.

He said CAF's priority was to ensure that all 54 member associations developed sustainable

LeFA's imminent cash bump set to boost football



CAF President, Dr. Patrice Motsepe

football systems capable of competing at the highest level.

For Lesotho, this presents an opportunity to translate increased continental investment into improved player development, stronger domestic competitions and better preparation for national teams.

The conference also highlighted the importance of infrastructure, with FIFA president Gianni Infantino calling for every African country to have the facilities required to host international matches on home soil.

Infantino said the number of African

countries unable to stage international matches at home had declined from 26 to 14, with 40 countries now able to host their matches domestically.

He stressed that young players should have opportunities to fulfil their potential regardless of where they were born, calling for continued investment in facilities, coaching and competitions.

"A child's opportunity cannot be limited by the place where he or she is born," Infantino said.

His remarks underline the importance of

ensuring that football facilities in Lesotho meet international standards, allowing national teams to play at home and reducing the challenges associated with hosting matches abroad.

The conference was held against the backdrop of Africa's strong showing at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, where nine of the continent's 10 representatives progressed beyond the group stage.

The achievement reinforced the need for African football authorities to build on the progress through better technical preparation, tactical development and sustainable investment.

FIFA chief of global football development Arsène Wenger, who joined the technical discussions, said African teams had improved their tactical organisation and discipline but warned that small details could determine results at the highest level.

CAF's strategy also focused on strengthening youth structures, improving refereeing, developing women's football and expanding commercial and broadcasting partnerships to support the long-term growth of the game.

For LeFA, the challenge will be to ensure that the country benefits from the continent's growing investment and converts available resources into measurable improvements across all levels of football.

As African football looks towards the 2030 World Cup, the message from Cabo Verde was that financial support must be matched by effective implementation, accountability and sustained development.

How long will the Premier League piggyback on LeFA?

Seabata Mahao

Lesotho's Premier League cannot become a truly professional competition while its administrative independence, financial sustainability and governance remain unresolved.

More than three decades after football administration was reorganised in 1994 to give the sport greater control over its affairs, a pressing question remains; how long will the country's top-flight league depend on the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA)?

The Premier League Management Committee (PLMC) is responsible for managing the elite competition as a direct LeFA subsidiary, yet questions about its governance and finances continue to cast doubt on its ability to operate independently.

The problem is not that the Premier League remains attached to LeFA. It is whether that relationship has become a substitute for developing the structures and resources needed to run the competition sustainably.

In August 2026, this publication reported disputes over the PLMC's composition, the appointment of its chairperson, vacancies and the postponement of its annual general meeting ahead of the season's scheduled August 22 kick-off.

Such uncertainty undermines the credibility of a league seeking to attract sponsors and build a professional product. Commercial partners need stable leadership, transparent decision-making and clear lines of accountability. Without these foundations, efforts to market the competition will

struggle to inspire confidence.

Financial dependence presents an even greater challenge. In October 2025, newly elected LeFA president LijaneNthunya said the association would explore financial subventions for Premier League and A-Division clubs while working towards greater autonomy for the PLMC.

The commitment acknowledged the financial pressures facing local football. However, it also exposed the difficulty of achieving independence when clubs themselves struggle to finance competitive teams.

Player salaries, transport, equipment and other operational expenses place considerable demands on club finances. Expecting the PLMC to become self-sufficient without addressing these pressures would be unrealistic. But continued dependence on LeFA cannot be a permanent solution either.

The league needs a business model that generates reliable income rather than relying on financial support whenever resources fall short.

There have been attempts to improve revenue. In November 2025, Lesotho Times reported that the PLMC introduced a triple-header at BambathaTšita Sports Arena to help clubs improve gate takings after studies found that separately staged matches generated low returns.

While such initiatives may improve match-day income, they cannot replace a comprehensive commercial strategy. The league must make its product more attractive to spectators and sponsors through effective

marketing, stronger club identities, improved match-day experiences and partnerships that generate value beyond ticket sales.

Crucially, it must also demonstrate how its finances are managed.

LeFA publishes financial statements and budgets through its official documents centre. However, the publicly accessible material reviewed for this article does not establish the PLMC's standalone revenue, expenditure, liabilities or level of financial dependence on the association.

Without separate financial reporting, clubs and potential investors cannot easily assess the league's financial position or measure its progress towards independence. The PLMC should publish its own accounts, identify its funding gaps and set measurable targets for increasing revenue.

There is an opportunity to accelerate this process. In September 2026, LeFA announced a commercialisation partnership with Radisol Global Investments to pursue sponsorships, media rights and other revenue streams across the football ecosystem.

The partnership could open new commercial opportunities, but the Premier League and its clubs must benefit directly. Clear revenue-sharing arrangements are essential to ensure that commercial growth strengthens the competition rather than concentrating resources at association level.

The PLMC should now publish a transition plan towards greater autonomy, with clear milestones covering governance, finances, staffing and commercial rights.

This should include a properly constituted and accountable committee, a professional secretariat, independently reported finances and realistic targets for sponsorships, gate receipts and media revenue. LeFA, in turn, must clarify which services and funding it will continue providing and what the PLMC must achieve before assuming greater responsibility.

Clubs must also take ownership of the process. An independent league requires members willing to support sound governance, meet their obligations and contribute to a sustainable competition.

There is no need to impose an arbitrary deadline for full independence. Local football's financial realities demand a gradual transition. But a gradual process must have measurable progress, not an indefinite promise.

LeFA can remain a strategic partner without carrying the Premier League's administrative and financial burdens indefinitely. Autonomy should mean the PLMC has the capacity to manage its affairs, account for its decisions and sustain its operations.

The real question, therefore, is not whether the Premier League should cut ties with LeFA tomorrow. It is whether its leadership can present a credible plan for standing on its own.

Until that plan is published and implemented, independence will remain an ambition rather than an achievement. Lesotho's top-flight football cannot build a professional future on dependence alone.



Seabata Mahao

Bantu and Lijabatho, two sides in rampant form, will meet at the LCS ground on Sunday in a clash that could shape the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) title race, after the leaders thrashed Lifofane 5-1 and Lijabatho beat Matlama 3-1 in a catch-up fixture.

Lijabatho's win handed Matlama their first defeat of the season, though the hosts also conceded their first goal of the campaign. The race for the summit remains finely poised, with Bantu one point ahead of Matlama, who have played one match fewer. Lijabatho now have the chance to dislodge the leaders and strengthen their position in the 2026/27 campaign.

Coach Tiisetso Molete said his side performed well despite missing some players. His technical team, he explained, had studied Matlama's previous two matches and devised a strategy to disrupt their midfield play.

"We were able to watch Matlama's two previous matches and how they played, so we realised that they hold their ball in the midfield while playing with a back three. We enforced pressure on the midfield while covering their mistakes," Molete said.

He said the win would help the team's ambitions, but admitted that conceding was not part of the plan.

"This win will assist us in our plan to retain our position. However, we did not plan to concede any goal. This match gave us another chance to prepare for Bantu, as they play similar football, so we are confident," he said.

Man of the Match Khosimotse Theko said Lijabatho went into the contest with a clear strategy and a determination to take maximum points.

"Our plan was to hold the ball and not let them take the ball, so we only let them play in front of us, not behind us. This match was also a preparation match for our upcoming match on Sunday against Bantu," Theko said.

Matlama coach Thabile Secker acknowledged that defensive errors had cost his side, despite what he considered a reasonable overall performance.

"The first half was not good because we made stupid mistakes at the back, given the calibre of our players, in contrast to the second half of the match," Secker said.

He added that suspensions and injuries had affected the squad, but that the available players remained capable of delivering.

"Even though our club has a lot of suspensions and injuries, we are one team and we work as a team, so available players will do the work," he said.

Secker said Matlama were punished for errors that their opponents converted into goals.

"We made mistakes and our opponents took chances and scored through our mistakes. This is how football matches are; a club loses

through its mistakes," he said.

Bantu, meanwhile, underlined their title credentials with a 5-1 win over Lifofane at Bambatha Stadium on Saturday, lifting their tally to 12 goals in six matches.

Little Chocholo scored twice, opening the scoring in the sixth minute and doubling the lead nine minutes later. Bakoena

Ramakatsa added a third before half-time, giving Bantu a 3-0 cushion at the

break.

Motse Khiba made it 4-0 in the 62nd minute after a defensive error by Lifofane, who pulled one back in the 70th minute. Hlompho Phalatsi completed the rout in the 86th.

Coach Motheo Mohapi said the club's aim was to restore Bantu to their former glory.

"The way this famous team used to play is the approach we always prepare for. It is how we want to continue playing as we work to restore the team to its former position," Mohapi said.

He said the team prepared thoroughly, mindful of the difficulties they faced against Lifofane last season.

"We came into this match highly motivated because things were not easy for us when we played Lifofane last season. We knew that if we relaxed even slightly, they would

Two hot streaks, one throne

punish us, so we prepared very seriously," he said.

Lifofane coach Nkosa Mabena admitted that defensive errors and a poor start undermined his side.

"We have identified all the mistakes we made, and we will go back, reorganise ourselves and return as a stronger team for our next match," Mabena said.

He also praised Bantu for making the most of their chances.

Elsewhere, LCS and LDF played out a goalless draw at the LCS ground on Sunday. LCS frustrated the army side with a disciplined defensive display, keeping highly rated striker Katleho Makateng at bay. They were the stronger side in the opening half but could not convert their dominance into goals.

Coach Sidwell 'City' Mothea said his players had done enough to win but lacked the finishing touch.

"I am very proud of my club's performance. We were in control of LDF in the first half. We created chances, controlled the tempo of the game, and were intentional with the ball, but we failed to score the goals," Mothea said.

LDF improved after the break and looked more dangerous, but could not capitalise. Midfielder Lehlohonolo Matsau, named Man of the Match, voiced concern about the team's struggles in front of goal.

"Honestly, our only concern is the lack of goals. Since the beginning of the week, we have worked very hard on our shooting practices and strategies for finding goals, but we still lacked the killer instinct today," Matsau said.

He welcomed the individual recognition, saying he was pleased with his contribution. The draw left both sides on seven points after six matches, with LCS seventh and LDF eighth on goal difference.

Machokha drew 1-1 with Mzamane, Lioli and Majantja played out a goalless draw, and LU FC lost 1-2 to Matlama. Lijabatho also beat Members 2-0. Scores for Villa v LMPS and Linare v Manonyane were not provided.

The VPL action continues on Saturday, with Lifofane facing Villa at Saxophone Thejane Technical Centre, Members taking on LU FC at the LCS ground, LMPS meeting LCS at the LCS ground, and Majantja hosting Machokha at Sebatana Russel Technical Centre. All four matches kick off at 15:00.

On Sunday, Mzamane face LDF, and the much-anticipated Lijabatho-Bantu clash takes place at the LCS ground, both at 15:00. At Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena, Manonyane meet Lioli at 13:00 before Matlama face Linare at 15:00.



Lijabatho and Matlama players in actions



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