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A controversial shift on phone data access sparks legal debate

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News

Judicial overreach or privacy shield?

A controversial shift on phone data access sparks legal debate



TEBOHO KHATEBE MOLEFI

MASERU – A new procedure requiring telecom consent for surveillance orders draws criticism from prosecutors, police and magistrates, raising questions about legality, investigative efficacy and alignment with global standards.

This seismic shift in how Lesotho law enforcement agencies access crucial mobile phone data is causing a rift within the country's justice system, pitting judicial officers and telecom giants against prosecutors and police.

A new directive, set to take effect this month, will require police to formally apply to magistrates "on notice" and serve mobile network operators - primarily Vodacom Lesotho (VCL) and Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) - before obtaining court orders for subscriber records.

The operators will then have the right to stamp these applications as "Opposed" or "Not Opposed," a move critics argue dangerously outsources judicial discretion to private corporations and could cripple time-sensitive criminal investigations.

The controversy, revealed through internal correspondence obtained by this publication, centres on a fundamental question - does enhancing individual privacy justify potentially obstructing the state's duty to investigate and prosecute crime?

For decades, the procedure was straightforward. Under Section 46(1)(b) of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act (CP&E) of 1981, an investigating officer could submit an affidavit to a magistrate, convincing the judicial officer that the requested data was likely to afford evidence of an offence. If satisfied, the magistrate would issue a court order compelling the telecom provider to comply.

This changed following a 2011 Court of Appeal ruling (DPP vs Taole & Others), which found that call records had been "fraudulently obtained" because the order was not explicitly grounded in the correct legal section. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) subsequently advised police to refine their affidavits to cite the relevant law.

However, telecom companies, armed with the Data Protection Act No 5 of 2012, began pushing for more say. Vodacom Lesotho, citing fiduciary duty and human rights principles, initiated a "Legal requirements on data requests dialogue" in September 2020.

The meeting, attended by magistrates, revealed a split - some favoured the existing expedited process, while others, supported by Vodacom's legal team, argued for a formal, adversarial application where the company is notified in advance.

By November 2025, a new standard was unilaterally announced in a judicial officers' WhatsApp group.

Senior Resident Magistrate Tšeliso Bale of Qacha's Nek, in a passionate plea to the High Court Registrar, warned that this change, devised without consulting the DPP or the Commissioner of Police (COMPOL), amounted to an "eccentric violation of the law" and a de facto amendment of statute by magistrates and a private company.

"The primary stakeholders in this matter, the DPP and COMPOL have not been consulted," Bale wrote.

"Any departure from this, is an amendment of existing laws, which is the domain of Parliament, the highest courts or the Chief Justice."

A follow-up alignment meeting on November 20, 2025, between Vodacom, magistrates and the police solidified the new process. As outlined in a letter from Vodacom's Executive Head of Legal and

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Public Eye

P.O. Box 14129, House No. 14A3 Cnr Princess Margaret/Mabile Rds Old Europe, Maseru- Lesotho
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Tomorrow	Partly cloudy skies.	29°	20°	18 km/h	0.5mm
Saturday 17 Jan	Light rain with clear spells.	30°	18°	27 km/h	1.6mm
Sunday 18 Jan	Partly cloudy skies.	31°	17°	25 km/h	0mm
Monday 19 Jan	Light rain with clear spells.	30°	17°	22 km/h	1.3mm
Tuesday 20 Jan	Rain with clear spells.	29°	15°	26 km/h	2.6mm
Wednesday 21 Jan	Mostly clear with a chance of rain.	29°	15°	20 km/h	0.8mm
Thursday 22 Jan	Light rain with clear spells.	30°	16°	15 km/h	0.8mm
Friday 23 Jan	Partly cloudy skies.	32°	18°	16 km/h	0mm

METROPOLITAN

ANNOUNCEMENT OF **METROPOLITAN LESOTHO MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The Chairman and Board of Directors of Metropolitan Lesotho are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Rethabile Motsoahae as the new Managing Director of Metropolitan Lesotho, effective 2 January 2026.

Mr. Motsoahae joins Metropolitan Lesotho, as the next step in a distinguished career in the financial services sector, most recently serving as the Executive Head of Personal and Private Banking at one of the commercial banks in Lesotho. An accomplished leader with extensive expertise in retail channels and strategic growth, he has been instrumental in driving significant financial portfolios and fostering enduring relationships with stakeholders across the Kingdom.

With a deep understanding of the local market and a proven track record of delivering high-impact financial solutions, Mr. Motsoahae's leadership is expected to further solidify Metropolitan Lesotho's position as a leader in the insurance and investment industry. His unique blend of strategic vision and commitment to customer-centric innovation positions him well in continuing to build upon the company's legacy while navigating the modern financial landscape. As Metropolitan Lesotho celebrates its 59th year of operations, we reflect on nearly six decades of resilience and earned trust. This milestone symbolises Metropolitan Lesotho's integral role in driving the economic growth in Lesotho while safeguarding the financial wellbeing of Basotho. Under Mr. Motsoahae's leadership, the company aims to leverage this heritage to introduce more agile, technology-driven, and accessible insurance products to Basotho.

The Board extends its heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Kelello Rametse, who has served with distinction as the Acting Managing Director from December 2024 to December 2025. Under his steady guidance, the company maintained its momentum and continued to deliver on its strategic objectives during this transition period.

The Board and Management wish to express their unequivocal support to Mr. Motsoahae as he takes the reins and steers Metropolitan Lesotho into its next era of growth and excellence.

For and on behalf of the Metropolitan Lesotho Board

Media Contact:
Marina Maema – Brand Manager
Metropolitan Lesotho Holdings Limited
marketing@metropolitan.co.ls
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Rethabile Motsoahae
Managing Director

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News

Judicial overreach or privacy shield?

Story continues from page 02



Compliance, Rethabile Hoohlo, to the Police Commissioner, the old practice of direct written responses is discontinued.

Now, police must submit a tripartite "Standardised request package" - a Notice of Application, a detailed affidavit outlining the crime's specifics, and a formal request letter. Vodacom will then stamp the notice with its position.

While this is framed as ensuring "compliance with legal requirements, protection of due process, and operational efficiency," law enforcement sees it as an obstructive hurdle.

Acting Director of Public Prosecutions Lehlanako Mofilikoane at the time argued forcefully that "should the final decision... be that police should go by way of application/Notice of Motion, the delay in obtaining the Court Order would defeat the object of search and seizure." In criminal investigations, especially those involving trafficking, kidnapping, or terrorism, data decays in value by the hour.

A process that adds days or weeks for serving notices and awaiting a telecom company's legal review can render evidence useless.

Moreover, the spectre of a corporate "Opposed" stamp creates an unprecedented scenario. It grants a for-profit entity, with its own commercial and reputational interests, a quasi-judicial veto over a state investigation.

This blurs the lines of accountability and raises concerns about consistency and potential for challenge based on corporate policy rather than statute.

Lesotho's dilemma mirrors a global tension, but its proposed solution veers away from international best practices, which typically emphasize clear legal thresholds, independent judicial authorization, and direct compliance - not corporate consent. The African Union's Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention) emphasises data protection but also acknowledges the needs of law enforcement under legal safeguards. South Africa's Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) and Kenya's Data Protection Act allow processing for law enforcement purposes, provided it is necessary and under a legal authorisation - typically a warrant or court order issued by an independent body, not the data controller itself.

The process is between the state and the judiciary; the service provider is legally compelled to comply.

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is, also seen as the gold standard for privacy. Its Article 23 permits member states to restrict privacy rights for objectives including "the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences."

However, any such restriction must be "a necessary and proportionate measure in a democratic society" and be prescribed by law. The key is that the authorization comes from an independent judicial authority reviewing state requests, not from the telecom company assessing its own liability.

In the United Kingdom, the Investigatory Powers Act of 2016 requires law enforcement to obtain a "production order" from a judge for communications data, based on necessity and proportionality. In the United States, the Stored Communications Act compels providers to disclose records with a warrant, subpoena, or court order.

In both cases, while providers can challenge orders they believe are defective, the default is compliance with a valid judicial order, not pre-emptive approval.

The common thread is independent judicial oversight, not corporate gatekeeping. The judicial officer acts as the neutral arbiter between the state's investigative needs and the citizen's right to privacy.

This new model inserts a second, non-judicial filter, creating a bottleneck unseen in mature democracies.

In a firm response to mounting criticism from judicial and law enforcement authorities, leading telecommunications operators, ETL and Vodacom Lesotho, have defended the newly standardized procedure requiring formal telecom consent before complying with surveillance orders.

In response to detailed questions, both companies outlined their positions, framing the updated process not as a barrier to justice, but as a necessary safeguard for legal compliance and customer privacy. According to ETL's internal guidelines, the company will only release call detail records or other customer data upon presentation of a court order from a competent jurisdiction. The required documents include a draft court order, a sworn affidavit from the requesting officer, and a formal application letter from the Lesotho Mounted Police Service signed by a station commander.

ETL states that without these, "ETL will not release the data." VCL, in a more detailed public response, emphasized that the new requirements are not an alteration of the law, but a standardization of existing legal provisions.

"There has been no change to the law and no additional procedural hurdle imposed by Vodacom," the company asserted. The shift followed a formal dialogue with the national magistracy in September 2025, which revealed that data requests were often submitted in inconsistent formats, creating uncertainty for all parties.

However, the Director of Public Prosecutions' office has claimed it was not consulted before the changes were announced, raising questions about stakeholder engagement. Vodacom countered that the process was "collaborative and documented," involving meetings with magistrates, a joint task team, and written invitations to the Commissioner of Police.

Critics, including some magistrates and prosecutors, argue that the procedural layers could delay time-sensitive investigations, potentially obstructing justice. In response, Vodacom maintained that "improperly prepared requests create greater delays by risking rejection or later legal challenge."

The company contends that a clear, lawful process ultimately accelerates legitimate access and ensures that evidence is admissible in court.

Both operators framed their stance as a balance between dual legal obligations - protecting customer privacy under the Data Protection Act of 2011 and assisting law enforcement through due process.

"Our role is to ensure that any disclosure of customer data occurs strictly within the framework of lawful authority," Vodacom's statement read.

The telecoms also highlighted the need to shield their employees from legal risk.

"No employee should be placed in a position where they must choose between responding to an informal request and complying with statutory requirements," Vodacom noted.

As the debate continues, the core contention remains whether the procedural reaffirmation strengthens the country's justice system by reinforcing the rule of law and constitutional rights, or whether it introduces impractical hurdles in the pursuit of criminals. For now, ETL and Vodacom stand united in their message - they will only act when the law speaks clearly.

Magistrate Bale's central critique, however, holds weight - significant procedural changes affecting fundamental powers of the state should flow from legislative amendment or a definitive ruling by a superior court, not from a collaboration between a segment of the magistracy and a telecom company.

Parliament may need to modernise the CP&E Act and harmonise it explicitly with the Data Protection Act, creating a clear, statutory framework for obtaining communications data. This could prescribe strict timelines for judicial decisions, detail the required content of affidavits to ensure proportionality, and mandate expedited processes for urgent cases - all while keeping the ultimate decision firmly in the hands of a judicial officer.

"The procedure explained herein should remain the same," pleads the DPP.

"All the stakeholders... should at least be made aware of the decided cases and the relevant laws so that they should all apply the procedural uniformity."

As the January implementation date looms, the High Court, the Chief Justice, the Attorney General and parliament face a pressing constitutional and practical issue. The goal of protecting the public's privacy is noble and necessary.

However, achieving it by potentially erecting corporate roadblocks to justice risks creating a sanctuary for the digitally-savvy criminal while undermining the very rule of law the procedure claims to uphold. The balance must be struck by law, not by corporate stamp.

Digital dawn in the highlands

- T Connect impact launches at Soofia School, bringing Starlink-powered future to Botha-Bothe
- New initiative bridges connectivity gap, empowering education and healthcare in remote Lesotho

KEISO MOHLOBOLI

MASERU - In the quiet highlands of Butha-Buthe, a quiet revolution began on Wednesday, 15 January 15, 2025, as T-Connect Lesotho officially launched its social impact initiative, T-Connect Impact, at Soofia International School.

The event marked a pivotal step in Lesotho's digital transformation, aiming to deliver measurable social, educational, and economic progress through reliable, high-speed internet and energy solutions.

The launch introduced the T Connect Impact Account, powered by Starlink Priority Connectivity solutions, designed specifically for schools, clinics, and community centres.

This service promises to bring stable, high-speed satellite internet to regions long neglected by conventional infrastructure, enabling access to digital education, telehealth, e-administration, and innovation.

"This is not just about providing internet - it is about creating opportunity," said Advocate Phelane Phomane, Managing Director of T-Connect Lesotho, during the connectivity handover. "When we connect a school, we are connecting minds, dreams, and futures. Through T Connect Impact, Basotho learners can access global knowledge systems and stand shoulder to shoulder with students anywhere in the world."

The launch venue itself symbolises the fusion of education and technology. Soofia International School, nestled in Botha-Bothe, has grown into a leading educational institution with approximately 1400 students across Early Years, Primary, and Post-Primary levels.

Its Post-Primary stream follows the prestigious Cambridge curriculum, including Lower Secondary, IGCSE, and Advanced Levels (AS and A Levels).

The school employs 60 teachers, operates three computer labs with 120 computers, and runs a dedicated robotics hub.

It offers over 20 academic and enrichment courses and has maintained a 100 percent pass rate, reflecting its deep commitment to excellence.

"Reliable, high-speed satellite connectivity changes everything for us," said Jayant Vijayakumar, Academic Advisor at Soofia. "Starlink enables uninterrupted access to digital learning platforms, virtual labs, online assessments, and global resources.

Teachers can plan smarter lessons, and students learn beyond textbooks.

Parents also benefit through reduced printing costs and digital library access. It's a sustainable, cost-effective leap into the future."

T-Connect Lesotho has emerged as a key player in the nation's ICT sector, focusing on bridging the digital divide through innovative and affordable connectivity solutions.

The company's new T Connect Impact wing is specifically tailored to serve the social sector - schools, clinics, and community centres - with subsidised, high-impact connectivity packages.

The initiative is built on the understanding that internet access is not a luxury but a foundational service that underpins education, healthcare, and economic participation.

By prioritising underserved and remote areas, T-Connect aims to foster local development and integrate Lesotho more fully into the global digital economy.

The technological backbone of T-Connect Impact is Starlink, the satellite internet constellation operated by SpaceX. In Lesotho, where rugged terrain and sparse infrastructure have historically limited reliable internet access, Starlink's low-earth orbit satellites offer a transformative solution.

They deliver high-speed, low-latency broadband capable of supporting video conferencing, e-learning, real-time collaboration, and cloud-based services - even in the most isolated communities.

This partnership represents one of the first structured efforts to deploy Starlink for public service institutions in Lesotho, setting a precedent for scalable, future-ready connectivity.

T-Connect Impact is more than a technical rollout; it is a catalyst for systemic change. By equipping schools like Soofia with robust digital tools, the initiative enhances pedagogical innovation, expands curricular horizons, and prepares students for a competitive global landscape.

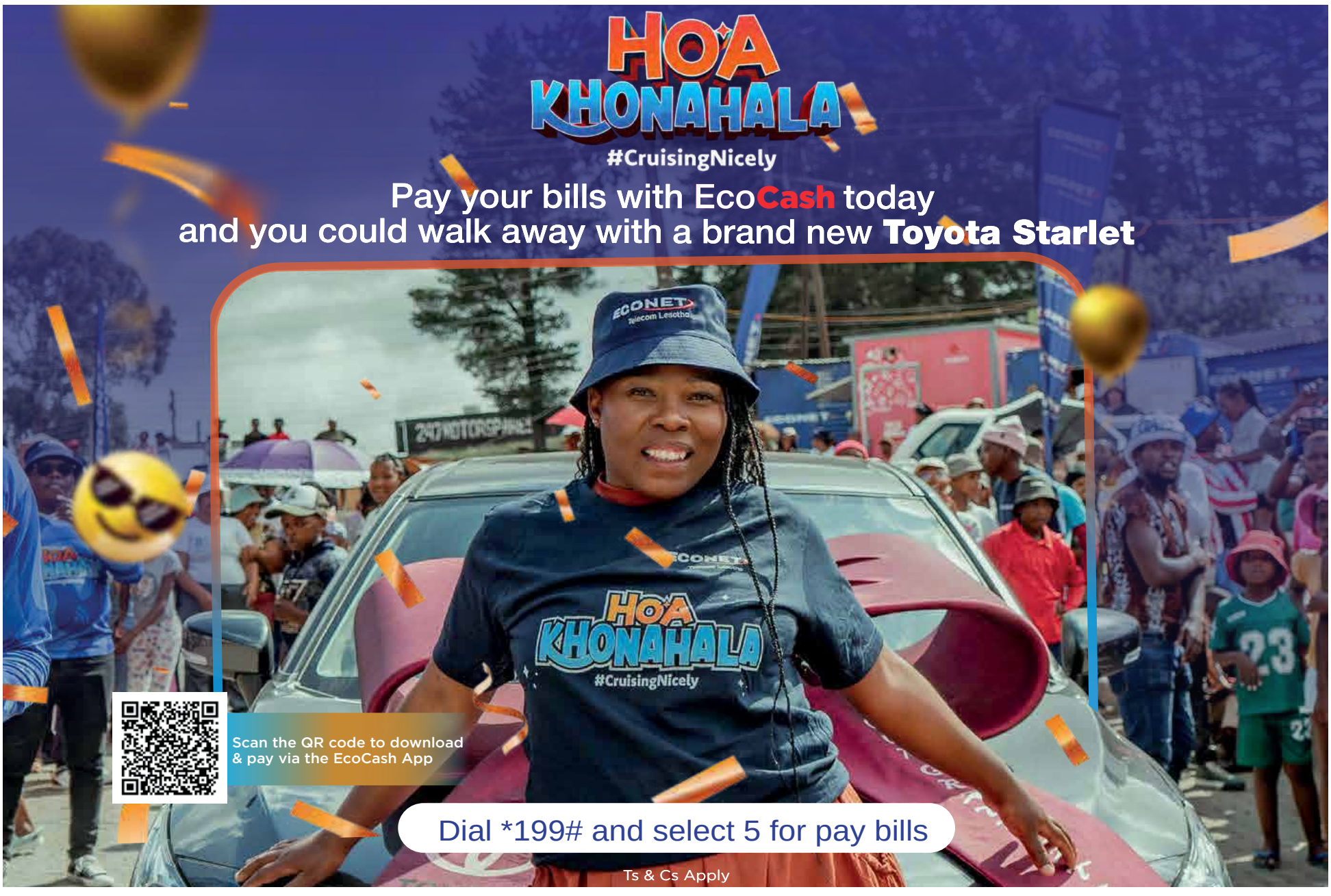
Clinics will gain access to telemedicine, digital health records, and remote specialist consultations, improving healthcare delivery in rural areas.

"Internet access, when delivered with purpose, becomes a catalyst for social change," Advocate Phomane reiterated.

"We are not merely connecting devices - we are connecting Lesotho to its potential."

With this launch, classrooms, clinics, and communities in Botha-Bothe and beyond are no longer side-lined by geography.

They are actively stepping into a digital future full of opportunity, proving that even from the highlands of Lesotho, the world is within reach.



News

Councillor imprisoned in Japan for drug smuggling

- Exposes diplomatic rifts and domestic scandal
- Tlapana Nthole's conviction and five-year sentence ignite political firestorm
- Reveal suspected cover-up, and leave constituency in limbo



TEBOHO KHATEBE MOLEFI and MOTSAMAI MOKOTJO

MASERU — A senior local councillor from Lesotho's ruling Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) party is serving a five-year prison sentence in Japan for drug smuggling, a case that has laid bare deep fractures within the country's diplomatic corps, triggered allegations of a governmental cover-up, and raised urgent questions about accountability, governance and the shadowy intersection of public office and criminal enterprise.

Latest Public Eye investigations, adding to previous reports by this paper suggesting that Nthole was arrested in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, have revealed that Nthole, was actually arrested in December 2024 upon arrival at Tokyo's Narita Airport after narcotics were found in his possession.

After losing his court case, he was convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment, a fact confirmed to this publication by Lesotho's embassy in Japan.

The revelation, pieced together from diplomatic admissions, ministerial outbursts and council records, not only tells the story of one man's downfall but also exposes a troubling pattern of evasion, contradiction and political protection at the highest levels of Lesotho's government.

Lesotho's chargé d'affaires in Tokyo, Retšelisitsoe Theko, provided a detailed, if cautious, account of Nthole's ordeal.

"I can state that there is such a matter. Nthole was arrested in December 2024, a month before I arrived in Tokyo," Theko stated. He explained that the embassy monitored the case alongside Japanese authorities, treating it as they would any involving a Lesotho national.

"He eventually lost the case in which drugs were found on him when he entered the country," Theko said, though he noted ignorance of the specific narcotics involved.

"We didn't get the details of the case, however, we went to see him when he went to court and during the judgement last year. He was convicted for five years."

Theko recounted a visit to Nthole late last year, just before his transfer to another facility. When queried on whether the embassy had sought to repatriate the councillor under a prisoner transfer agreement, Theko treaded carefully.

"We had talks with Tlapana, who indicated that he has accepted his sentence. He had discussions with his lawyer for an appeal, however, he insisted that he wants to serve his sentence," the diplomat revealed, adding, "We did not have any reason to engage in talks about such a matter... No, we have not talked with the Japanese government."

Theko's initial reluctance to speak further underscored a palpable fear within the foreign service. "Are you trying to say that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lejone Mpotjoane, is not telling the truth? This issue of Tlapana made a lot of noise - we need to address it accordingly.

At this point, I can't confirm anything. I am not at liberty right now to address this matter. I don't want a similar issue which happened to 'M'e Ntšiuoa Sekete, Lesotho's Ambassador in Ethiopia," he confided, hinting at a culture of reprisal against diplomats who speak out of turn.

This diplomatic hesitancy stands in stark contrast to the volatile and contradictory responses foreign affairs minister, Mpotjoane, himself. In a heated exchange with Public Eye, Mpotjoane accused the newspaper of selective reporting and attempting to ruin his reputation.

"Your problem is that you are not looking deeply into this issue - you publish what suits you. You have published the matter on numerous occasions when you have been making mistakes, then you ultimately ruin my reputation," he retorted coldly.

He sought to deflect responsibility, stating, "Tlapana's matter is not the Ministry of Foreign Affairs subject. I told you that he was not arrested in Ethiopia - you wanted me to confirm the issue. Let me help: Tlapana was arrested in Japan. As Foreign Affairs, we are aware that he is safe."

Yet, these defensive denials clash sharply with the minister's own previous acknowledgements. Last year, Mpotjoane had publicly recognized the arrest while delineating diplomatic boundaries.

"I know of the issue. Our role is to engage and understand the circumstances of his arrest, not to dictate another country's laws. Our priority is ensuring he isn't mistreated," he stated, adding, "It's painful and shameful that a councillor faces such charges, but we hope for his eventual release."

This earlier admission makes the ministry's subsequent hands-off approach and the minister's aggressive defensiveness all the more puzzling.

Critics argue that the lack of aggressive diplomatic advocacy - such as appeals for clemency, transfer, or even consistent consular protection - betrays Nthole's constituents and sets a dangerous precedent for elected officials in trouble abroad.

The scandal's shockwaves have reverberated powerfully back home. Nthole's unexplained absence since late 2024 has paralyzed council business in Boribeng and ignited fury among his political colleagues.

Khotsi Motseki, the legislator for Leribe Constituency, which encompasses Boribeng, lambasted the ministry's inertia.

"Nthole is my constituent. The Sephokong Council informed me months ago. How can the minister work with diplomats who are oblivious? This requires high-level engagement," Motseki fumed, calling for immediate action to secure Nthole's welfare and explore repatriation. His intervention highlights a critical disconnect between local representation and national diplomacy.

Within the RFP, a party that rose to power on promises of clean governance, the reaction has been one of apparent collective amnesia. Party committee chairs Mokhothu Makhalanyane and Makotoko Moshe disclaimed knowledge of the arrest, while deputy spokesperson Thabo Maretlane pleaded ignorance when approached.

This silence is deafening given Nthole's prominence and the scandal's severity.

The vacancy of the Boribeng council seat has become a flashpoint. The Local Government Act of 1997 mandates forfeiture of a seat after three consecutive missed meetings without valid excuse. Fellow councillors confirm repeated failed summonses, including direct approaches to Nthole's wife, who claimed ignorance of his whereabouts.

Sephokong Council Chairperson, Phooko Phooko, escalated the matter formally, writing to local government minister, Lephema Lephema, after their December sitting to notify him of Nthole's disappearance and request by-elections for Boribeng.

Minister Lephema has deferred Public Eye to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

However, the IEC's recent announcement of by-elections in eight other electoral divisions conspicuously omitted Boribeng. This omission fuels intense speculation of political protection, given the RFP's dominance in the Leribe region.

The delay leaves Boribeng voters effectively disenfranchised and council business stalled, while allowing the RFP to avoid a potentially embarrassing by-election contest.

IEC Media and Communications Liaison Officer, 'Marafaele Mohloboli, indicated in an interview that the electoral body was not yet in a position to act on Nthole's situation even if they might be aware of latest developments – unless the Ministry of Local Government officially refers the matter to them.

Public Eye investigations suggest Nthole's legal troubles in Japan are not an isolated incident but the culmination of deeper misadventures. Well-placed sources allege prior involvement in drug trafficking networks, with the Japanese episode allegedly triggered by double-crossing dealers after a botched deal originating in the Horn of Africa.

Back in Lesotho, Nthole's legal woes are compounded by allegations of corruption tied to his office. Armed individuals have reportedly frequented his home demanding repayment for debts linked to land allocation scams within the Sephokong Council. Sources claim Nthole exploited his position to favour cronies in land deals, accruing debts that he allegedly sought to settle through drug proceeds.

"Land deals were his side hustle; when drugs failed, enforcers came calling," an insider alleged, painting a picture of a public official deeply entangled in illicit enterprises.

The Nthole scandal transcends a single councillor's crime. It strikes at the heart of Lesotho's international reputation and the integrity of its governance structures. A drug smuggling conviction involving an elected official strains bilateral relations, particularly with Japan - a key development partner providing aid exceeding M500 million annually to Lesotho.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' tepid, contradictory response risks perceptions of either complicity or gross incompetence. Former diplomats note that standard protocol demands vigorous consular access, welfare checks, and advocacy for fair treatment, yet Nthole's case appears tragically mired in domestic political manoeuvring and fear.

Motseki's call for transparency echoes a growing public demand: "Constituents deserve answers. Is the government shielding a criminal or abandoning a citizen? High-level intervention is overdue."

As Nthole serves his sentence in a Japanese prison, the questions multiply. Will the IEC finally schedule by-elections for Boribeng to restore representation?

Will the Foreign Affairs Ministry ever pursue prisoner transfer protocols or provide a clear, consistent account of its actions?

And most critically, will the RFP government address the profound issues of accountability and ethical governance this scandal has exposed, or will Boribeng's vacant seat remain a silent monument to political failure?

The fate of Nthole has become a litmus test for Lesotho's commitment to the rule of law, both at home and abroad.

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News

'MATHATO SEBOKA

A King's enduring vision

Moshoeshoe II's legacy of thoughtful leadership resonates 30 years on, says Mbeki

MASERU – In a gathering that blended solemn remembrance with urgent contemporary reflection, Lesotho this week commemorated the 30th anniversary of the passing of its revered monarch, King Moshoeshoe II.

The ceremony, held at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre on Wednesday, January 14, was not merely a retrospective but a platform to reinvigorate a late king's penetrating analysis of Africa's perennial challenges.

The event, attended by King Letsie III, the Royal Family, government officials and regional dignitaries including former South African President Thabo Mbeki, centred on the enduring relevance of Moshoeshoe II's political thought.

In a powerful keynote lecture, Mbeki positioned the late king not only as a national figure but as a Pan-African intellectual whose written work, 'A call for a second liberation', remains a vital blueprint for the continent.

"The serious problems on our Continent identified decades ago persist to this day," stated Mbeki, listing "continuing violent conflicts, fragile democracies, global marginalisation of Africa and a weak Continental organisation."

It is in this persistent struggle, he argued, that Moshoeshoe II's document "constitutes a text which should be compulsory reading for all of us as Africans." To understand the weight of Mbeki's tribute, one must revisit the life of the man born Constantine Bereng Seeiso in 1938. Ascending to the throne in 1960 as Paramount Chief, he became the first King of the newly independent Kingdom of Lesotho in 1966.

His reign, spanning from 1966 to 1990 and a brief restoration in 1995, was defined by navigating the treacherous waters of the Cold War in Southern Africa, maintaining Basotho sovereignty encircled by apartheid South Africa, and grappling with internal political instability.

King Moshoeshoe II's political life was marked by a consistent, often controversial, commitment to active constitutional monarchy. He believed the throne should be a moral compass and a stabilising force, not a ceremonial relic.

This frequently brought him into tension with military and political authorities, leading to periods of exile in 1970 and after the 1990 military coup. His return in 1995 was a testament to his enduring symbolic hold on the nation's identity, making his tragic death in a car accident on January 15, 1996, a profound national tragedy.

Former President Mbeki's lecture served as a masterful exegesis of the king's philosophy, extracting timeless principles from his writings. Mbeki highlighted the king's insistence on "effective quality political leadership which enjoys legitimacy in the eyes of the people."

For Moshoeshoe II, such leadership was not about power but service: focused on "helping to remove all domestic and international obstacles to development," striving for self-reliance, and "activating and empowering the masses."

This was a lesson drawn from his own experience of ruling within, and often against, the constraints of successive governments.

Perhaps the most resonant theme Mbeki drew out was the king's democratic vision of progress.

"Plan with the people, not for the people; and we must act with the people, not for them," Mbeki quoted. This was not mere rhetoric. It underscored the king's belief that "the involvement of the masses of the people as a conscious and informed force for development" was non-negotiable.

He specifically emphasised, as Mbeki noted, the critical role of women as drivers of development - a progressive stance for its time. The king, an Oxford University graduate himself, saw education as the great enabler. But, as Mbeki explained, he advocated for "'the kind of education that creates not only academic skills, but which also creates awareness of what is needed to transform the nation socially and economically for the good of all.'"

This called on institutions like the National University of Lesotho to align with societal needs and conduct relevant, problem-solving research.

With most Africans living in rural areas, Moshoeshoe II argued that any credible strategy must centre on "rural development and the agrarian revolution," with the state playing a proactive role. Crucially, as Mbeki reminded the audience, the king tied this to accountable governance: "civil servants, public offices, local leaders... are all subject to review procedures regarding their performances."

This foresight highlighted his understanding that corruption and inefficiency were fundamental roadblocks to progress. Mbeki expertly connected Moshoeshoe II's vision to broader African frameworks, notably the Lagos Plan of Action of 1980. The king, he said, was "deeply committed" to its principle of collective self-sufficiency and economic integration.

In doing so, Mbeki placed the Mosotho monarch within the pantheon of post-independence African thinkers who sought genuine economic decolonisation, framing his legacy as part of a coherent, though unrealised, continental project.

"When His Majesty... tragically passed away almost exactly 30 years ago," Mbeki reflected, "not only Lesotho but also the entirety of our Continent, Africa, lost an outstanding leader



and Pan Africanist."

He then issued a compelling challenge: "though very sadly we lost the man, we should never allow that we lose his ideas." The commemoration, Mbeki suggested, must be more than ritual. It must be a catalyst for action.

"Africa must constantly and practically ask itself the question — what did His Majesty King Moshoeshoe II say?" In a continent still wrestling with the very issues the king diagnosed - conflict, marginalisation, and leadership deficits - his call for a "second liberation" through people-centred development, ethical leadership, and intellectual honesty remains painfully urgent.

On Thursday, the commemoration moved to the spiritual and historical heart of the Basotho nation - Thaba-Bosiu. This mountain fortress, the birthplace of the nation and the burial site of its kings, provided a fitting backdrop for final reflections.

Here, amidst the graves of monarchs, the legacy of Moshoeshoe II was anchored not just in words, but in the very landscape he fought to preserve. King Moshoeshoe II's reign was a testament to the power of thoughtful engagement in tumultuous times.

He ruled a country buffeted by geopolitical storms, yet his lasting contribution, as Thabo Mbeki powerfully affirmed this week, may well be his intellectual legacy: a clear-eyed, optimistic, and profoundly humanistic roadmap for Lesotho and Africa - a roadmap that, 30 years after his passing, still awaits its full and faithful journey.

Socialist Revolutionaries consolidate power

Dual party absorption and strategic alliance ahead of elections



BOKANG MOSHOESHOE

MASERU - In a significant reshaping of Lesotho's political landscape, the Socialist Revolutionaries (SR), led by Advocate Teboho Mojapela, have effectively swallowed two smaller parties this week following their formal dissolution.

The Alliance for Free Movement (AFM) and the African Unity Movement (AUM) have ceased to exist as independent entities, with their leaders and members folding into the SR's ranks in what insiders describe as a "well-calculated and opportunistic" move aimed at consolidating leftist and progressive voters ahead of the upcoming national elections.

The dual dissolution marks a decisive step in the SR's aggressive expansion strategy, which was further amplified by the announcement of a formal alliance with the National Independent Party (NIP). Together, these developments position the SR not merely as a party, but as a burgeoning coalition - one that hopes to present itself as a united, disciplined, and credible alternative to Lesotho's established political forces.

Founded in 2018 by Advocate Mojapela, a lawyer and long-time activist, the Socialist Revolutionaries emerged from a wave of grassroots dissatisfaction with traditional party politics. Mojapela, who cut his teeth in student unionism and labour advocacy, positioned the SR as a movement for "systemic change, economic justice, and true popular democracy."

The party's founding manifesto called for land reform, nationalisation of key industries, anti-corruption structural overhauls, and a foreign policy centred on pan-African solidarity.

Initially regarded as a fringe movement, the SR gained traction among youth, urban workers, and intellectuals disillusioned by recurring coalition instabilities and perceived elite capture within the government. Through organised community programmes and a strong social media presence, the party built a reputation for clarity and ideological consistency, distinguishing itself from more fluid and personality-driven rivals. The formal integration of the Alliance for Free Movement (AFM) and the African Unity Movement (AUM) was announced at a joint press conference in Maseru. Both parties' leaders framed the decision as a necessary sacrifice for greater unity and political effectiveness. AFM leader Tšoanelo Ramakeoana stated, "We realised that standing alone would not help us achieve what we want for this country. By dissolving AFM and joining SR, we are strengthening a common cause. This is about putting the interests of the nation before party names."

The AFM, which had focused primarily on labour mobility and cross-border trade issues, shared considerable ideological overlap with the SR's economic policies.

Similarly, the deputy leader of the African Unity Movement, which had advocated for greater regional integration and cultural solidarity, described the merger as "strategic and necessary." He added, "We believe in unity and collective leadership. This merger gives our supporters a stronger voice within a broader, more organised structure."

Political analysts note that these dissolutions are less a hostile takeover and more a tactical realignment. With limited resources and overlapping constituencies, AFM and AUM faced dwindling prospects running alone. By joining the SR, their leaders secure influence within a larger bloc, while the SR gains seasoned organisers, local networks, and a boost in perceived momentum.

Simultaneously, the SR unveiled a major alliance with the NIP, a move expected to further alter electoral calculations. Unlike the absorption of AFM and AUM, the NIP will remain a distinct entity but will contest the forthcoming elections under a single banner and leader with the SR.

NIP leader Kimetso Mathaba welcomed the pact, stating, "This partnership with SR is built on mutual respect and shared principles. Together, we will contest the elections with one leader and one message, offering Basotho a united front." The alliance suggests a pragmatic recognition that cooperation increases both parties' chances of securing seats and potentially entering a coalition government.

SR leader Mojapela echoed this sentiment: "This alliance with NIP is about unity and progress. Contesting together under one leader will give Basotho a clear and strong alternative. Our focus is building a movement that truly represents the needs and aspirations of the people." He confirmed that the SR name will appear on the ballot, representing the unified alliance. The consolidations signal a growing trend toward political amalgamation as Lesotho's election season intensifies. Fragmentation has long plagued the country's politics, leading to unstable coalition governments. The SR's moves are a direct attempt to overcome this weakness by presenting a more cohesive and broadly based option.

Supporters argue that such mergers reduce division, streamline campaign resources, and present voters with a simplified, stronger choice. The SR is now tasked with integrating new members, harmonising policy platforms, and managing the expectations of incoming leaders from AFM, AUM, and NIP.

However, questions remain. It is unclear what specific roles former AFM and AUM leaders will hold within the SR's hierarchy, or how the power-sharing dynamic with the NIP will function post-election.

The history of Lesotho's politics is littered with alliances that fractured under pressure, and whether this new bloc can "weather the political storm of disintegration" will be a key test of Mojapela's leadership.

As the campaign begins in earnest, the Socialist Revolutionaries have positioned themselves at the centre of a newly forged political axis. Their narrative is no longer merely about socialist ideals, but about pragmatic unity and political stability. By swallowing two parties and allying with a third, the SR has demonstrated strategic ambition and a keen understanding of the electoral math required for success.

For voters, the emerging SR-led bloc offers a distinct proposition: a unified movement claiming to transcend the personalist and volatile politics of the past. Whether this promise will translate into electoral victory - and sustainable governance - remains to be seen. What is certain is that the political map of Lesotho has been redrawn, and the Socialist Revolutionaries are now a force that cannot be ignored.

MALUTI MOUNTAIN BREWERY
Proudly part of ABInBev

Maluti Mountain Brewery Appoints 'Mapeete Ntjana as Managing Director for Lesotho

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Maseru, Lesotho 12 January 2026 — Maluti Mountain Brewery (MMB) has announced the appointment of **'Mapeete Ntjana,** as **Managing Director for Lesotho**, effective **1st January 2025.**

Mrs. Ntjana brings over 15 years of executive leadership experience across FMCG, manufacturing, and high-performance commercial environments. She has held senior finance and comercial leadership roles within AB InBev and Maluti Mountain Brewery, where she played a key role in strengthening financial governance, driving business performance, and leading organisational transformation across multiple markets.

Her track record includes restoring liquidity, improving operational discipline, and implementing performance systems that delivered strong improvements in business results. She is also recognised for building high-performing teams and fostering a culture of accountability and execution.

A Chartered Accountant by training, Mrs. Ntjana holds advanced qualifications in business and management and is currently completing her MBA. She combines strong technical expertise with people-centred leadership, enabling consistent performance in complex operating environments.

In her new role, Mrs Ntjana will lead Maluti Mountain Brewery's overall business strategy in Lesotho, with a focus on driving commercial performance, strengthening competitiveness, and delivering sustainable value for employees, partners, and the broader economy.

Commenting on the appointment, Board Chair said:

"We are pleased with the appointment of 'Mapeete Ntjana as Managing Director. Her deep understanding of the country, business and strong leadership credentials positions her well to lead Maluti Mountain Brewery into its next phase".

Mrs. Ntjana added:

"I am honoured to take on this role and look forward to working with the MMB team to build on the strong foundation already in place."

About Maluti Mountain Brewery (MMB)

Maluti Mountain Brewery (MMB) has reimagined what a beer company can be in Lesotho, anchored in a clear purpose to brew beers that create shared value for consumers, employees, partners, and the country.

At MMB, it is always about more than the beer. The company is committed to building a resilient, high-performing business that contributes meaningfully to Lesotho's economy through local manufacturing, employment, and responsible business practices.

Established over four decades ago, Maluti Mountain Brewery is Lesotho's only brewer and a significant contributor to the local economy. The brewery in Maseru, employs a skilled local workforce, and supports a broad value chain that creates economic opportunity beyond its direct operations.

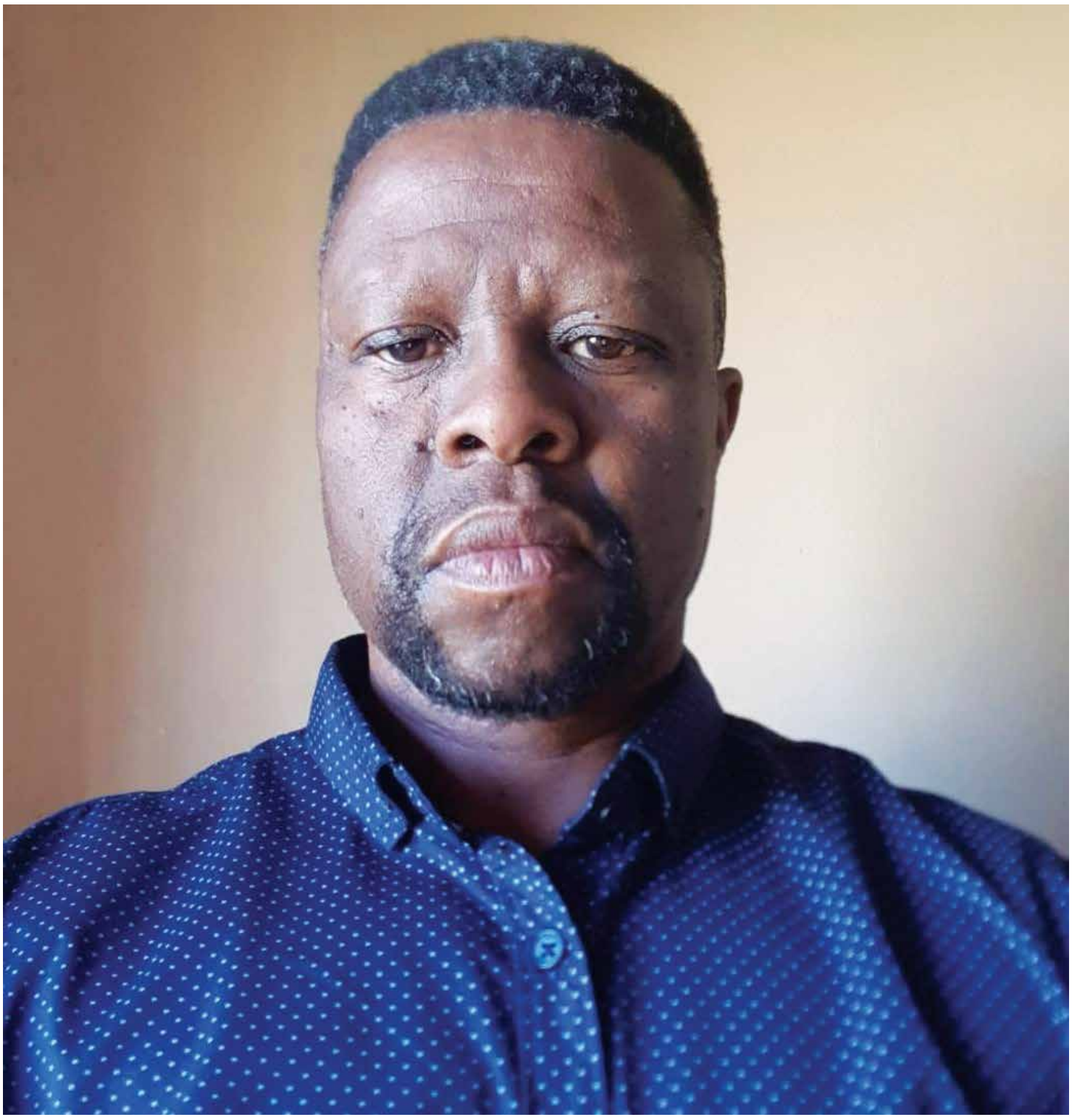


LESOTHO BE SHARP, NOT FOR PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

18+ ENJOY RESPONSIBLY

Digital diamonds: Architect of Lesotho's tokenized wealth

An outline of a radical plan for economic sovereignty



In an exclusive interview with ***Public Eye's reporter***, **Mosa Maoeng (PE), Teboho Matsinyane (TM),** the architect behind the ground-breaking Lesotho Diamond-Backed Token (LDBT) Protocol, unveils a bold digital blueprint to redefine the nation's economic future. Faced with a 56.8 percent debt-to-GDP ratio and stagnant traditional industries, Matsinyane argues that decades of aid and conventional reforms have failed.

His solution: tokenize Lesotho's sovereign assets - starting with diamonds - to convert frozen national wealth into liquid, publicly accessible digital tokens. This proposal aims to shift Lesotho from a raw material exporter to a sovereign financial entity, directly placing diamond wealth into citizens' hands.

In this detailed discussion, Matsinyane addresses critical concerns around cybersecurity, regulatory frameworks, and inclusive access, while outlining the practical steps, from legislative pillars to a controlled regulatory sandbox, intended to launch Africa's first diamond-backed digital asset.

The LDBT Protocol presents a vision where technology, transparency, and citizen oversight converge to forge a new path toward financial independence and democratized wealth.

PE: What was the primary catalyst for developing the LDBT Protocol, and why is tokenizing national assets the right solution for Lesotho now, as opposed to traditional economic reforms?

TM: Lesotho is at an economic crossroads, with a 56.8 percent debt-to-GDP ratio and stagnant growth. The mining industry is contracting, and our textile sector is being outpaced by automated foreign competition. Traditional reforms and billions in aid since 1966 have failed to break our cycle of dependency.

We are tokenizing assets now because the current system is not built to address our poverty. Tokenization positions our diamond wealth to reach citizens' pockets. It is time to transform from an exporter of raw materials into a sovereign owner of our financial future.

PE: The plan relies heavily on converting physical assets into digital tokens. How do you address core risks like market volatility, cybersecurity, or fraud to protect national resources and public trust?

TM: The LDBT is built on a "Digital Twin" model. Every physical diamond in our Sovereign Diamond Reserve will be graded, laser-inscribed, and recorded as a Non-Fungible Token (NFT) on the block-chain, creating a permanent, verifiable audit trail.

A Sovereign Oversight Council - including the Central Bank and independent auditors - will oversee multi-signature protocols, ensuring no single entity can compromise our assets.

We mitigate market volatility by only ever selling a maximum of 80 percent of any tokenized asset; 20 percent is permanently held, ensuring the physical diamond always remains in the vault. Basotho will have trust because their elected officials will oversee the wealth, and they will see direct improvements in their lives.

PE: How will everyday Basotho, especially those in rural areas or with limited digital literacy, access and benefit from tools like tokenized leases or micro-investing?

TM: We are not asking people to become tech experts. The system will operate through a simple smartphone app called ***Khetsi***, displaying a clear statement like a bank balance.

They won't need to understand the underlying technology, just as we don't need to know how SWIFT works to make a transaction. A user-friendly dashboard will show all activities clearly.

PE: What specific new laws or regulatory bodies does Lesotho need to govern this Sovereign Asset Trust, and how will you navigate international financial regulations?

TM: We propose a Regulatory Sandbox - a controlled environment where the platform can operate under supervision to demonstrate full compliance with Anti-Money Laundering standards before a nationwide launch. The LDBT is designed as an Asset-Referenced Security Token to comply with international securities laws.

We need new legal pillars:

1. The Sovereign Asset Trust Act (SATA): This "ring-fences" diamonds, land, and water, moving them from "government-owned" to "Basotho-owned." It prevents any official from selling resources without citizens' direct digital consent.

2. The Digital Securities and Tokenization Act: This legally defines the LDBT as a financial instrument, granting it "Good Standing" globally and recognizing token holders as fractional owners of real diamonds under Lesotho's law.

3. The Automated Redistribution Protocol (ARP) Bill: This codifies the wealth split – 40 percent to the miner/owner, 30 percent to the Sovereign Fund, 10% to the mining community, and 20 percent retained (never sold) - into law, making redistribution a legal requirement for tokenized diamonds.

4. The National Digital Identity and Signatures Act: This authorizes secure, block-chain-based digital IDs, making a rural citizen's digital signature as legally binding as a thumbprint for trading or voting.

We also require new independent regulatory bodies:

· **The Sovereign Oversight Council (SOC):** A 15-member board including the Central Bank, international auditors, and elected citizen representatives to ensure physical assets match digital tokens.

· **The Digital Asset Authority (DAA):** A technical body overseeing block-chain infrastructure, security, and compliance with international "Travel Rules."

· **The Community DAO (Decentralized Autonomous Organization):** A «People›s Parliament» where every LDBT holder can vote on recommendations for spending community funds.

To navigate international regulations, we will fully comply with FATF (Financial Action Task Force) Recommendation 15 on Anti-Money Laundering, positioning Lesotho as a leader in transparent digital finance. The Regulatory Sandbox will serve as a 6-month ***"Live Lab"*** to build confidence with global regulators.

PE: Can you outline the first concrete steps for launching the LDBT? Which asset will be tokenized first, and what is the realistic timeline?

TM: Diamonds will be first, as they are our economic cornerstone and most liquid asset. The first steps involve establishing the Sovereign Asset Reserves (SAR) vault and the digital governance framework. Through our "Race for the Crown" catalyst event - a two-month series of sporting tournaments - we project generating over M50 million in economic activity and creating significant jobs within a 60-day

Story continues to page 11...

Digital diamonds: Architect of Lesotho's tokenized wealth

Story continues from page 10…

operational window. This event will also drive youth engagement in digital media, merchandising, and logistics, managed via block-chain for transparency.

PE: Does Lesotho have the technical expertise to execute this, or will it require foreign partnership? Who are the intended key partners?

TM: We are building on trusted enterprise technology, not reinventing the wheel. We propose using Oracle Systems as our core foundation: Oracle ERP to manage physical inventory and financial records with precision, and the Oracle Block-chain Platform to provide a secure, 'bank-grade' ledger for the LDBT tokens.

We will integrate collaborative tools like Google Workspace for seamless communication. A contracted implementation partner will work with Oracle Academy to train local youth to manage this infrastructure, ensuring long-term technical sovereignty.

PE: How do you balance attracting foreign investment with the goal of "absolute sovereignty"?

TM: The LDBT is a bridge to financial freedom. Unlike foreign debt, this represents investment in our assets governed by transparent, unchangeable code.

Absolute sovereignty is maintained because the physical assets remain in our national reserve. Digital tokens allow us to attract global capital without becoming indebted. Sovereignty means engaging investors as partners, not closing our doors.

PE: What enforceable mechanisms will ensure wealth from tokenized resources directly improves local livelihoods and prevents community displacement?

TM: Our Automated Redistribution Protocol (ARP) is hard-coded into the system. Of transaction fees, 40 percent goes to a Miner Ecosystem Fund, 30 percent to a Sovereign Development Fund, and 10 percent to the local mining community.

Citizens will then use quadratic voting - a system that allows people to express the intensity of their preferences - to decide which local projects (like clinics or water systems) are funded first, ensuring fair and direct community benefit.

PE: What parallel education or digital infrastructure initiatives are planned to prepare youth for this new economy?

TM: The "Race for the Crown" initiative is a national vocational training ground, designed to create 180 000 earning opportunities for youth in digital marketing, e-commerce, and logistics. It will directly fund a National Youth Digital Skills Fund.

We will also partner with Oracle Academy and Oracle University to provide free training in AI, cybersecurity, and other critical skills for a tokenized economy.

PE: What are the key tangible metrics and the timeframe for the public to see undeniable results from the LDBT Protocol?

TM: The public should look for:

· **Within 60 Days:** The creation of 30 000+ jobs and M50 million in traceable economic activity from the launch catalyst.

· **Long-term:** A measurable reduction in national debt, the establishment of Fourth Industrial Revolution centres in every district, and a sustained decrease in youth unemployment through self-employment.

PE: The whitepaper proposes large-scale tourism development. What environmental safeguards will protect Lesotho's delicate ecosystems?

TM: Our alpine ecosystems and water are "White Gold." Any development under the Sovereign Asset Trust will be subject to strict, mandated sustainability frameworks and environmental impact assessments to ensure modernization never comes at the cost of our natural heritage.

PE: What makes the LDBT Protocol uniquely competitive compared to other digital asset platforms?

TM: Its sovereign backing and automated fairness set it apart. Unlike private tokens, this is a national instrument. Our model, including the permanent 20 percent reserve, creates continuous deflationary pressure, meaning the value of each citizen's holding is engineered to grow with the ecosystem. The LDBT will likely be Africa's first tokenized real-world diamond asset.

PE: What happens if the global market for a tokenized asset crashes? Is there a stabilization mechanism?

TM: The LDBT is backed by physical diamonds, not speculation. A smart contract ensures the token's value is always proportional to the independently audited value of the Sovereign Asset Reserve.

Automated arbitrage mechanisms and redemption options for institutional holders will help stabilize the peg and protect the national treasury. We will always possess the underlying physical asset.

PE: What level of government commitment have you secured, and how will you overcome bureaucratic inertia?

TM: Innovation often faces scepticism, but the opportunity is clear for the private sector and all Basotho.

When Members of Parliament see youth creating jobs, single mothers receiving unprecedented financial support, and small businesses accessing growth capital, understanding and commitment will follow.

PE: What formal role will parliament and the public have in overseeing the Sovereign Asset Trust?

TM: This is a Sovereign Asset Trust, not a private fund. We propose a hybrid governance model where a citizen-led DAO works alongside the Sovereign Oversight Council.

Every Mosotho will have a voice in how funds are allocated through a transparent, democratic process, making this the most open financial system in our history.

WASCO
SAVE EVERY DROP

TENDER NOTICE:
INSTALLATION OF NEW WATER CONNECTIONS
REFERENCE:
WASCO/SCM/01/012026

Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) invites interested and qualified entities to submit proposals for the "**INSTALLATION OF NEW WATER CONNECTIONS**". All interested bidders must be in possession of a proven track record and must be licensed for providing services of this nature.

All bidders must attach certified copies of valid Tax Clearance Certificates and Company Registration Licences as the bids without these documents shall be disqualified.

The full Request for Bids (RFB) indicating all requirements and specifications may be collected from the address stated below. All Requests for Bids (RFBs) shall be sent to suppliers by email after their request and register as stated below and the contacts below shall be utilised for assistance.

Conditions:

1. Tender documents shall be available for free to all the bidders who intend to participate in this tender process through request and register at WASCO stated address below.

   Tender registration shall be at WASCO Supply Chain Office, WASCO Head Office, Off Moshoeshoe Road, Industrial Area, near Barloworld before e-mailing to the prospective bidders. Request and registration shall be at 08:00hrs to 16:00hrs Lesotho time, from Monday to Friday.

2. The Bids must be submitted in English.

3. Tenders received later than the mentioned deadline below, telegraphic, faxed or electronic tenders **shall not be accepted**.

4. Detailed tender packaging and labelling requirements in the Request for Bids (RFB) must be adhered to otherwise non- adherence shall lead to **disqualification**.

5. Bid Security shall be at 60, 000.00LSL for the tender and shall be submitted together bidding document (enclosed in the Technical Proposal).

6. Important dates:

Action	Date
Issue of RFP	16th January 2026, WASCO Supply Chain Office, WASCO Head Office @ 09:00hrs
Final date to submit written questions only by email	30th January 2026
Distribution of questions and answers to all bidders by email	06th February, 2026
Final date for submission of Bids in response to the RFP and opening of the bids	20th February 2026, WASCO Head Office Technical Boardroom @ 09:00hrs and opening @ 09:30hrs at WASCO Head Office Technical Boardroom on the 20th February, 2026

7. All tenders should then be delivered and deposited in the tender box situated at Supply Chain Management, WASCO Head Office Technical Boardroom, not later than the stated date above. The Bids submission address is a shown below.

NB: Tender documents will be available from Tuesday (2026/01/20)

WASCO Supply Chain Management
P.O. Box 426
Industrial Area, (off Moshoeshoe Road)
Maseru, Lesotho 100

Tel: **+266 22262151, +266 22262130; +266 22262132**

Any queries concerning this tender should be addressed to Supply Chain Manager Office at these e-mail address; **supplychainmanagement@wasco.co.ls.** Cc **lekhotlan@wasco.co.ls** All queries and questions shall be attended in writing and submitted to the bidders who registered to get the document on the day specified for submission of questions and answers.

Public Eye
Workplace & Careers

FRIDAY JANUARY 16, 2026

- Top jobs for top people
- Positions wanted and Positions vacant
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TEL: +266 2232 1414 CELL: +266 6288 1414 EMAIL: workplace@publiceyenews.com OR marketing@publiceyenews.com

Why client tell is the new competitive currency



Staff Repoter

In today's fast-moving business environment, success is no longer driven solely by products or pricing. One of the most valuable assets a company can possess is client tell — the ability to listen carefully to what clients say, read between the lines, and act on those insights with purpose.

Client tell goes beyond formal feedback forms or annual surveys. It is found in everyday conversations, email tone, response times, repeat requests and even silence. When clients speak, they often reveal their expectations, frustrations and future needs. Businesses that pay attention gain an early warning system and a powerful guide for decision-making.

Organisations that embrace client tell tend to be more agile and customer-focused. By analysing client feedback consistently, companies can identify service gaps, improve product quality and strengthen relationships. A complaint, when handled correctly, becomes an opportunity to build trust rather than lose it. Likewise, positive feedback highlights what should be protected and scaled.

In competitive markets, client tell can also shape innovation. Many of the most successful product improvements and service enhancements originate directly from customer insights. Clients often know what they want long before it appears in market reports. Businesses that listen closely are better positioned to anticipate change rather than react to it.

However, collecting feedback is not enough. The true value of client tell lies in action. Clients quickly notice when their concerns are ignored or repeatedly acknowledged without resolution. Turning insight into visible improvement reinforces credibility and demonstrates commitment to service excellence.

Ultimately, client tell is about respect and partnership. It signals that a business values its clients not just as sources of revenue, but as contributors to growth and sustainability. In an era where trust is currency, organisations that listen — and respond — will continue to stand out, retain loyalty and secure long-term success.

GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO

Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture (MTSAC)
Request for Proposal

Country**:** **The Kingdom of Lesotho**

Name of Projects: **Sehlabathebe National Park (SNP) Lodge Concession** and **Nazareth Caravan Park (NCP)Concession**

Sector: **Consultancy**

Reference No.**:** **RFP No. MTSAC/5/5/2/SNP – For SNP**
RFP No. MTSAC/6/5/1/NCP – For NCP

(a) 1. The Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture (MTSAC), invites Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure services of a Private Party through a Concession contract for the Sehlabathebe National Park **(**SNP) Lodge and Nazareth Caravan Park (NCP)Concession.

(b) 2. The Projects are being procured and this RFP is being issued in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2023.

3. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from the MTSAC at the address below during office hours **8:30 a.m. to 16:00 p.m.** A complete set of tender documents in the English Language for either **Sehlabathebe National Park/and Nazareth Caravan Park** may be obtained by interested Applicants on the submission of a written application to the address below.

Email Address: ***tenders.mtsac@gov.ls*** *Cc:* ***procurement.mtsac@gov.ls.***
The document will be sent by Electronic Mail.

Pre-Bid Meeting will be held: **Yes**

Date: **3rd February 2026** Location: **Nazareth Caravan Park** – Maseru - Nazareth Time: **10:15 a.m.**

Date: **5th February 2026** Location: **Sehlabathebe National Park** – Qacha's Nek Time: **10:15 a.m.**

2.1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW FOR SEHLABATHEBE NATIONAL PARK

The Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture has proposed to:

(i) Engage a Private Party through a Concession contract to manage the new SNP Lodge and the old lodge (as one facility) for a **15-year Service Period.**

(ii) The Private Party will be contractually responsible for the upgrade and operate of the SNP Lodge and Old Lodge facilities, which include financing the costs of all developments, repairs and necessary rehabilitation for the infrastructure and facilities on the site.

2.1.2 This RFP is intended to solicit bid submissions from private firms that are interested in assuming responsibility for overseeing the upgrade and management of commercial operations at then New SNP Lodge and Old Lodge facilities through a Concession contract with the Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture

2.1.3 PROJECT OVERVIEW FOR NAZARETH CARAVAN PARK

The Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture has proposed to:

(iii) Engage a Company / Consortium through a Concession contract to develop, manage and operate the Nazareth Caravan Park for a **15-year Service Period.**

(iv) The Company / Consortium will be contractually responsible for the design, development, maintenance and operation of the Nazareth Caravan Park, which includes financing the costs of all construction developments of the infrastructure and facilities on the site.

2.1.4 This RFP is intended to solicit bid submissions from private firms that are interested in assuming responsibility for overseeing the upgrade and management of commercial operations at then Nazareth Caravan Park (formerly Toll Gate) facilities through a Concession contract with the Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture

DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSIONS
All bidders must submit **Valid Traders License, Tax Clearance and Value Added Tax (VAT) Certificate** where applicable. Applications for Request for Proposal MUST be submitted in clearly marked "**Sehlabathebe National Park (SNP) Lodge Concession"** envelopes for Sehlabathebe National Park **(**SNP) Lodge tender and **"Nazareth Caravan Park (NCP) Concession"** envelopes for Nazareth Caravan Park (NCP) tender and be delivered to the address below by **10:00 a.m. on 27thFebruary 2026.** The opening of the Applications shall be at: **27thFebruary 2026, 10:30 a.m. Local Time at the Boardroom, 3rd Floor, Post Office Building, Corner Constitution and Palace Road.** In addition to the original, the number of copies to be submitted with the Application is**: two (2) copies of the original.**

Late applications shall be rejected.

Name of PE: **The Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture**

Name of Officer and Title: **The Principal Secretary**

Postal address: **P.O. BOX 729, Maseru, Lesotho, 3rd Floor, Reception Area, Post Office Building, Corner Constitution Road, and Palace Road.** Telephone Number*:* **+266) 2232 1208**

The Government of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders/bids, or to annul the tender at any time without incurring any liability to any bidder /tenderer

Principal Secretary
Government of Lesotho – Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture

KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

MINISTRY OF ENERGY

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION UNIT (REU)

BACKGROUND
The Ministry of Energy, under the Project Implementing Unit called Rural Electrification Unit (REU), is charged with the mandate and responsibility of increasing access to energy services in rural and semi-rural areas of Lesotho. To complete the identified projects for the current financial year, the Ministry requires additional human capacity. It is thus based on the foregoing that the Ministry invites applications from suitably qualified Basotho nationals for the following positions tenable at Rural Electrification Unit (REU).

JOB TITLE: **PROCUREMENT MANAGER**
REPORT TO: **PROJECT MANAGER**
LOCATION: **MASERU**
DURATION: **SIX (6) MONTHS CONTRACT (Renewable based on project continuity)**

OBJECTIVE
Organise and carry out procurement of goods, works and services in line with the Public Procurement Act 2023.

KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- Oversee all procurement functions within the unit, ensuring efficiency and compliance.
- Ensure procurement processes adhere strictly to the Public Procurement Act 2023.
- Prepare, review, and manage bidding documents, Requests for Proposals (RFPs), and contracts.
- Assist in the compilation and review of project contracts to ensure compliance with legal and technical requirements.
- Manage the full procurement cycle, including advertisement, bid opening, evaluation, contract award, and contract management.
- Assess potential suppliers' ability to meet the Unit's requirements in terms of design, performance, price, and delivery; provide input to the Government-approved Supplier's Scheme.
- Maintain accurate records of costs, deliveries, and supplier performance; address defects with user sections to facilitate rectification, specification changes, or supplier replacement.
- Conduct regular checks of store facilities to ensure stock placement aligns with ledger records.
- Prepare and submit comprehensive monthly reports on procurement activities to the Project Manager.
- Manage, supervise, and evaluate the performance of subordinate staff.
- Implement measures to uphold and enhance ethical behavior within the procurement function.
- Coordinate with project teams to ensure procurement aligns with project timelines and requirements.
- Support negotiations with suppliers and contractors for key purchases or project-related procurements.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
Masters in Supply Chain Management, Commerce or Business Administration. Five (5) years relevant experience in tender process administration and procurement of goods and services. **CIPS** level 6 is a prerequisite.

OR

Bachelor's Degree in Supply Chain Management, Commerce or Business Administration and eight (8) years relevant experience in tender process administration and procurement of goods and services. **CIPS** level 6 is a prerequisite.

JOB TITLE: **ELECTRICAL ENGINEER x 3**
REPORT TO: **PROJECT MANAGER**
LOCATION: **MASERU**
DURATION: **SIX (6) MONTHS CONTRACT (Renewable based on project continuity)**

OBJECTIVE
To oversee the implementation of grid and off grid electrification projects.

KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- Designs the grid network for new projects using Microstation, Retic Master and GIS tools.
- Prepares preliminary and detailed designs, including load estimates, line routing, transformer sizing, bill of quantities, and produces design reports.
- Ensures that designs comply with LEC standards, national grid codes, and Rural Electrification Unit guidelines.
- Prepares technical inputs for procurement processes, including TORs, specifications, evaluation criteria, and BoQs.
- Participates in technical evaluation of bids and provides recommendations in line with the Public Procurement Act.
- Identifies and assesses potential electrification projects through field reconnaissance, stakeholder consultations, and review of community requests.
- Reviews and updates project ranking criteria to ensure alignment with the National Electrification Strategy (NES) and government priorities.
- Contributes to policy development, guidelines, and frameworks, including for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and off-grid solutions.
- Supervises implementation of electrification projects by the private contractors.
- Assists in the project management activities of electrification projects.
- Maintains database on existing distribution networks in GIS.
- Supervises compilation of community-based information for management of distribution network.
- Works with consultants engaged by the Unit.
- Provides technical assistance as may be needed.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES
Ability to work with a team and with minimum supervision
Self-motivation
Excellent communication skills,
Innovative and Creative
Analytical skills,
Good interpersonal skills
Supervision skills

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
BSc Eng or BEng in Electrical Engineering plus three (3) years' experience in the energy field.

OR

BTech in Electrical Engineering plus five (5) years' experience in the energy field.

NB: Experience in electrification projects will be an added advantage. BSc Eng or BEng degrees are highly desired.

JOB TITLE: **ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER x 2**
REPORT TO: **PROJECT MANAGER**
LOCATION: **MASERU**
DURATION: **SIX (6) MONTHS CONTRACT (Renewable based on project continuity)**

OBJECTIVE
To ensure that REU projects are implemented in full compliance with environmental and social safeguards, promoting sustainable, safe, and inclusive development through effective monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and integration of environmental and social standards into all project activities.

KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- Develop and manage environmental and social assessments, safeguards plans and related instruments to support project preparation and implementation.
- Oversee environmental and social compliance for all REU projects, including site supervision, monitoring, reporting and working with consultants.
- Prepares tender documents for environmental and social safeguards plans and related instruments.
- Support stakeholder engagement, grievance mechanisms, and community consultations.
- Review and ensure project contracts, procurement plans, and consultants' proposals integrate environmental and social safeguards requirements.
- Promote and monitor gender, child protection, GBV, SEA, HIV/AIDS, and social inclusion considerations in project activities.
- Advise REU on environmental and social impacts of projects and support policy dialogue.
- Coordinate with the Finance, Procurement, and Technical teams to ensure environmental and social measures are implemented effectively.
- Conduct field visits to verify compliance and recommend corrective actions.
- Assist in training and orientation of REU staff and partners on environmental and social safeguards.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES
Fluent in Sesotho and English.
Strong leadership, teamwork, and interpersonal skills.
Ability to work independently.
Strategic thinking with practical problem-solving adapted to Lesotho's context.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
Master's degree in Environmental Science or related field with two (2) years' experience.

OR

Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science or related field with four (4) years' experience.

NB: Field experience in Lesotho projects is highly desirable.

JOB TITLE: **TECHNICIAN x 6**
REPORT TO: **ELECTRICAL ENGINEER**
LOCATION: **MASERU (With frequent field work to districts)**
DURATION: **SIX (6) MONTHS CONTRACT (Renewable based on project continuity)**

KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- Carries out field surveys and assists in the design of electrification networks, including collection of GPS data, line routing verification, and basic layout measurements.
- Prepares and compiles Bills of Quantities (BoQs) for electrification projects to be constructed.
- Peggs and marks electrification line routes and supervises contractors during construction to ensure adherence to approved designs and standards.
- Quantifies, verifies, and certifies work completed on site, preparing documentation for progress payments.
- Monitors and ensures completion of snag lists; follows up with contractors to close outstanding items.
- Updates electrification network information using CAD and GIS tools, including as-built drawings and field modifications.
- Supports customer database management, verifying meter installation, sealing, and checking for tampering.
- Monitors electricity purchase patterns, identifies irregularities, and assists in investigations of suspected fraud or meter bypassing.
- Assists in the preparation of REU reports, including monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports.
- Handles customer queries related to electrification works, new connections, outages, and construction-related concerns.
- Monitors progress of electrification projects jointly with LEC Planning and Projects teams.
- Carries out routine and emergency maintenance on distribution network components within REU-supported areas.
- Enforces safety rules and regulations, ensuring compliance with LEC and REU safety standards during all field activities.
- Conducts daily, weekly, and monthly reporting of site activities, technical issues, progress, and anomalies to the Engineer.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES
Knowledge of CAD software such as Microstation
Excellent writing and communication skills
Good knowledge of data collection, analysis and interpretation
Good time management
Ability to work under pressure
Self-driven and highly motivated person
Troubleshooting skills

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
Diploma in Electrical Engineering with three (3) years of experience.
NB: Experience in electrification projects will be an added advantage.

JOB TITLE: **ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER**
REPORT TO: **FINANCE OFFICER**
LOCATION: **MASERU**
DURATION: **SIX (6) MONTHS CONTRACT (Renewable based on project continuity)**

OBJECTIVE
Under the general supervision of the Finance Officer, the incumbent is responsible for maintaining accounting records, processing payments, collecting revenues and banking revenue

KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- Enter invoice details into the system.
- Process payment vouchers and attach supporting documents.
- Generate payments and submit payment vouchers and payment lists.
- Record payments made and reconcile with records.
- Collect revenue at site offices in the districts.
- Process payment adjustments.
- Deposit revenue collected, including monthly collections at site offices.
- Maintain records of income and expenses.
- Assist in preparation of expenditure and revenue returns.
- Update and maintain asset registers.
- Assist in implementing internal control procedures.
- Ensure all transactions comply with REU financial policies.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES
Ability to work with a team
Self motivation
Good interpersonal skills
Stress tolerance

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
BCom degree with three (3) years experience in accounting field.

OR

General Accountant with three (3) years experience in accounting field.

JOB TITLE: **DRIVER x 3**
REPORT TO: **ADMINISTRATION OFFICER**
LOCATION: **MASERU**
DURATION: **SIX (6) MONTHS (Renewable based on project continuity)**

KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- Transport officers to designated locations, ensuring timely and safe arrival.
- Wash and maintain unit vehicles to uphold cleanliness and presentation standards.
- Inspect vehicles regularly, checking oil, water, tires, and other essentials to ensure roadworthiness.
- Maintain accurate vehicle logbooks, recording usage, mileage, and other required information.
- Track and schedule vehicle maintenance in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.
- Report any vehicle malfunctions, damages, or accidents promptly.
- Deliver and collect mail, documents, and other official items efficiently.
- Safeguard all vehicle property, tools, and equipment in a secure manner.
- Operate basic document reproduction equipment, including binding, photocopying, and collating.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
C.O.S.C./LGCSE
Valid Driver's Licence – Code B
Experience of not less than five (5) years in the position

NB – Defensive driving certification is an added advantage

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES
Knowledge of road traffic laws, rules and regulations
Verbal and written communication in Sesotho and English
Be ready to travel at short notice and to work beyond normal working hours
Ability to drive in mountainous terrain

NB: Interested applicants should submit their detailed CV's, certified copies of educational certificates, application letter and national identity document to the Human Resources Department, Ministry Of Energy, Development Planning Building, Second Floor, on or before the 23rd January, 2026 by 16H00.

Disclaimer: Only short-listed candidates shall be communicated to for interviews.

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

Procurement of:

DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTOR FOR SEAKA IRRIGATION SCHEME QUTHING DISTRICT, LESOTHO

Employer: Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, SADP II Project

Project: Tsikoane Irrigation Scheme

Contract title: Design-Build of Seaka Irrigation Scheme

Country: Lesotho

Loan No. /Credit No. / Grant No.: *P165228*

RFB No: *LS-MAFS-530022-CW-RFB*

Issued on: 24th December 2025

1. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, SADP II Project *has received* financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the SADP II Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contractfor Design-Build of Tsikoane Irrigation Scheme.

2. The *Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, SADP II* now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Design-Build of Tsikoane Irrigation Scheme, construction period Four months, Seaka, Quthing No margin of preference applicable, etc.].

3. Bidding will be conducted through ***open international competitive procurement*** using Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers *February 2025 Procurement Regulations edition as per legal agreement* ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the ***Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, SADP II Project,*** *and* ***procurement@sadpii.org.ls*** and inspect the bidding document during office hours ***0800 to 16:30*** *hours or download the bid document* at the address given below ;
https://www.sadpii.org.ls/procurement/

5. Bids must be delivered to the address below *[state address at the end of this RFB]* on or before **30th *January 2026 at 12:00hrs***. Electronic bidding **will *not*** be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked **"ORIGINAL BID"**, and the inner envelopes marked **"TECHNICAL PART"** will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below *[state address at the end of this RFB* on ***[Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Livestock offices SADP II , Moshoeshoe II Maseru 14:00hrs and 30th January 2026]***. All envelopes marked **"FINANCIAL PART"** shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Employer until the second public Bid opening.

6. All Bids must be accompanied by a *Bid Security* of *LSL400,000.00.*

7. The address(es) referred to above is :

Procurement Office
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Livestock offices, SADP II Project,Moshoeshoe II
P.O.Box 24, Maseru 100, Lesotho
procurement@sadpii.org.ls, +266 22312578
www.sadpii.co.ls

Kingdom of Lesotho

MINISTRY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NAME: JOB EVALUATION AND SALARY REVIEW FOR SECURITY SERVICES

RFP REF: MPS/001 OF 2025/2026

Proposals are invited from eligible Consultants and or firms to conduct a **JOB EVALUATION AND SALARY REVIEW FOR SECURITY SERVICES**-Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), National Security Services (NSS), Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), and Lesotho Correctional Services (LCS)

A detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) document shall be obtainable from Tuesday the 13th January 2026 at Procurement Unit 1st Floor, Office No. 1013/1014, The Sun Gardens Unit 1, Nightingale Road, Opposite Palace of Justice, Maseru at a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Maloti Only (M1,000.00)**. Payment must be made to the following banking details: **ACCOUNT HOLDER: Central Bank of Lesotho, Maseru Lesotho, Account Name: Main Revenue Epicor 10, ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0101403715016, BRANCH CODE: 586611, CODE: CBLELSMXXX, REFERENCE: 343 Tender and company name.**

Last date for submission of proposals is **Thursday the 5th February 2026 at 12:00hrs.**

KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
ESSENTIAL PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION (EPI)
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)
TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)
DATE

Contract Title: Vaccine Wastage Assessment

1. Background
The Ministry of Health (MoH), through the Essential Programme on Immunization (EPI), is mandated to ensure uninterrupted access to potent and safe vaccines for all eligible populations in Lesotho. To achieve this, the end-to-end vaccine supply chain from forecasting, procurement, storage, and distribution to administration and disposal must function efficiently and transparently. With increasing population growth and the introduction of new vaccines, the budgetary requirements for procurement have risen, demanding enhanced accountability and optimization of available resources.

2. Rationale for Conducting the Vaccine Wastage Assessment
Vaccine wastage defined by WHO as the sum of doses discarded, lost, damaged, or destroyed remains a major challenge in vaccine management. Minimizing wastage is crucial for sustaining immunization coverage, optimizing resources, and improving forecasting accuracy. This assessment will provide data-driven insights into the magnitude, trends, and root causes of vaccine wastage in Lesotho and recommend interventions aligned with global best practices, including the WHO/UNICEF Vaccine Wastage Reduction Strategy.

3. Overall Objective
To conduct a comprehensive national assessment of vaccine wastage across all levels of the immunization supply chain and develop an actionable improvement plan aligned with WHO's global strategies for minimizing vaccine wastage and improving vaccine management efficiency.

4. Specific Objectives
- Determine open and closed vial wastage rates for all EPI vaccines at national, district, and facility levels.
- Assess the adequacy and functionality of existing systems for recording, monitoring, and reporting vaccine wastage.
- Evaluate health worker capacity and practices related to vaccine handling, stock management, and documentation.
- Analyze systemic factors contributing to wastage, including cold chain performance, stock distribution, and data gaps.
- Review alignment with WHO Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) standards and global frameworks for wastage reduction.
- Develop a National Vaccine Wastage Reduction and Improvement Plan outlining actionable interventions.

5. Scope of Work / Tasks
- Develop a detailed roadmap and inception report outlining the assessment design, data sources, and implementation plan.
- Conduct a desk review of national, regional, and global vaccine management guidelines.
- Design and validate data collection tools for district and facility assessments.
- Conduct field visits in four districts and selected facilities representing varied service delivery volumes.
- Analyze and triangulate EPI routine data, vaccine stock records, and DHIS2 reports.
- Develop a comprehensive assessment report and PowerPoint presentation for stakeholder validation.
- Facilitate a validation meeting and finalize the Lesotho Vaccine Wastage Assessment and Improvement Plan.

6. Expected Deliverables

Ref	Deliverable	Description	Timeline
1	Inception Report	Validated roadmap and methodology	Week 1
2	Field Assessment Report	Preliminary field findings	Week 3
3	Draft Assessment Report	Comprehensive analysis and plan	Week 4
4	Validation Workshop	Presentation of findings	Week 5
5	Final Report & Plan	Validated final deliverables	Week 6

7. Required Qualifications and Experience
- Master's degree in Data Analytics, Statistics, Public Health, Supply Chain Management, or related field.
- At least five years of experience in immunization logistics, data analysis, or supply chain management.
- Proven experience with WHO, UNICEF, or GAVI vaccine management frameworks.
- Excellent analytical and communication skills.
- Fluency in English (written and spoken).

8. Contract Modality and Duration
This is a short-term consultancy of 6 weeks where payment schedule is based on deliverables as per below table

Payment schedule per deliverable.

Ref	Deliverable description	Payment percentage
1	Inception report	**15%**
2	Data collection training report, data collection, data analysis and report writing	**35%**
3	Validation workshop with report	**15%**
4	Final report with recommendation with road map and costed implementation plan	**35%**

9. Reporting and Supervision
The consultant will report to the EPI Manager, with day-to-day alignment and planning with immunization supply chain responsible officer, Ministry of Health. Regular updates will be required.

10. Application Process
Interested candidates are invited to submit proposals comprising the following mandatory documents: a signed cover letter, detailed curriculum vitae (CV), certified copies of relevant qualifications and certificates, samples of previous similar assignments or publications, and a brief Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal quoted as a lump sum.

All proposals shall be prepared and submitted in English, be duly completed, and comply with the requirements of this solicitation. Proposals must be submitted no later than **29th January 2026** and may be delivered either electronically via email to **mokhoabo.moeketsi@gov.ls ,** copied to **tseliso.masilo@gov.ls,** or in hard copy to the address indicated below.

Address for Submission:
Attention: Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Health Ground Floor Procurement Unit, Left wing
Corner of Constitutional and Linare Roads
Maseru, Lesotho

The Ministry of Health, in accordance with the Lesotho Public Procurement Act, 2023, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, to annul the procurement process at any stage, and to award the contract in whole or in part, without incurring any liability to the affected bidders.

LEC
LESOTHO ELECTRICITY COMPANY
WE LIGHT THE NATION

Invitation to tender
Reference: LEC/PO-1144/2025/26

Lesotho Electricity Company (PTY) LTD (LEC) invites interested relevant entities to tender for the Procurement of Supply, installation and servicing of fire equipment. All interested bidders must be in possession of a proven track record and must be licensed for providing services and goods of this nature.

All bidders must attach copies of valid Tax Clearance Certificates and Company Registration Licences or equivalents as the bids without these documents shall be disqualified.

The full Tender Document indicating all requirements and specifications may be downloaded on LEC website **(www.lec.co.ls).**

Conditions:
All Interested entities shall pay a non-refundable participation fee of Five Hundred Maloti only (M500.00).

The Bids must be submitted in English.
Tenders received later than the mentioned deadline below, telegraphic, faxed or emails **shall not be accepted**.

Detailed tender packaging and labelling requirements in the Tender Document must be adhered to or this shall lead to **disqualification**.

Interested bidders may make payment at a Speed Point facility at LEC Customer Services or via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) using the banking details provided in the tender document.

Proof of payment must be submitted to the Procurement Office via email at **procurement@lec.co.ls** in order to request the Pre-Bid Meeting link.

Important dates:

Action	Date
Issue of ITT (Tender document)	16th January 2026
Final date to submit written questions only (email format)	05 February 2026
Virtual Pre – bid meeting: Non – compulsory (link shall be shared to bidders who purchased the document only)	06 February 2026@14:30hrs
Distribution of questions and answers to all bidders (email format)	10 February 2026
Final date for submission of bidder proposals in response to the RFP	20 February 2026@ 10:00hrs
Public opening of the bids (LEC Head Office)	20 February 2026@ 10:30hrs
Tender evaluation	24 February 2026

All tenders must be delivered to:

Procurement Office
Lesotho Electricity Company (PTY) LTD (LEC)
53 Moshoeshoe Road
PO Box 423
Maseru
Tel: +266 22322236/ +266 52272127

Any queries concerning this request for bids should be addressed to Procurement Office at this e-mail address: procurement@lec.co.ls; tender reference should be used as email reference

LEC
LESOTHO ELECTRICITY COMPANY
WE LIGHT THE NATION

Invitation to tender
Reference: LEC/PO-1145/2025/26

Lesotho Electricity Company (PTY) LTD (LEC) invites interested relevant entities to tender for the Procurement of PROVISION OF INSURANCE BROKERAGE AND RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES. All interested bidders must be in possession of a proven track record and must be licensed for providing services of this nature.

All bidders must attach copies of valid Tax Clearance Certificates and Company Registration Licences or equivalents as the bids without these documents shall be disqualified.

The full Tender Document indicating all requirements and specifications may be downloaded on LEC website **(www.lec.co.ls).**

Conditions:
All Interested entities shall pay a non-refundable participation fee of Five Hundred Maloti only (M500.00).

The Bids must be submitted in English.
Tenders received later than the mentioned deadline below, telegraphic, faxed or emails **shall not be accepted**.

Detailed tender packaging and labelling requirements in the Tender Document must be adhered to or this shall lead to **disqualification**.

Interested bidders may make payment at a Speed Point facility at LEC Customer Services or via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) using the banking details provided in the tender document.

Proof of payment must be submitted to the Procurement Office via email at **procurement@lec.co.ls** in order to request the Pre-Bid Meeting link.

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53 Moshoeshoe Road
PO Box 423
Maseru
Tel: +266 22322236/ +266 52272127

Any queries concerning this request for bids should be addressed to Procurement Office at this e-mail address: procurement@lec.co.ls; tender reference should be used as email reference.

N D S O

National Drug Service Organisation

P O Box 1167
Mafeteng 900
Lesotho
Tel:(+266)2221 5300
Fax:(+266)2270 1340

INVITATION TO REGISTER AS AN APPROVED SUPPLIER ON THE NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE ORGANISATION'S PREQUALIFIED SUPPLIER DATABASE

1. The National Drug Service Organization (NDSO) is a Trading Account for the Ministry of Health in Lesotho. It is mandated to procure, store and distribute Medicines, Medical Supplies and Laboratory Consumables for the Health Institutions in Lesotho. NDSO was legally established through a gazette Supplement No.4 to Gazette No.19 of the 2nd March 2007.

2. NDSO invites legally registered suppliers interested in doing business with the organisation to register on its database. The Organisation specifically request service providers in the following categories:

NO.	CATEGORY	SCOPE OF SUPPLY / SERVICES
1	Travel, and Transport Services	Travel agency services, transport hire, including airline
2	Valuation and Asset Disposal Services	Asset valuation, auctioneering and disposal services
3	Branding, Media and Communication Services	Corporate branding and promotional materials, graphic design, print media and advertising agencies, radio advertising, photography and videography
4	Accommodation, Catering, Conferencing and Events Services	Accommodation,Catering services, conferencing facilities, event management
5	Logistics, Courier and Clearing Services	Courier services, customs clearing and forwarding
6	ICT Equipment and Electronics	ICT equipment, electronics, and related accessories
7	Office Equipment, Furniture and General Supplies	Office equipment and stationery, furniture and fixtures, general supplies
8	Printing, Publishing and Content Services	Printing and photocopying, editing and publishing
9	Facilities Management and Maintenance Services	Facility maintenance and repairs, fumigation and pest control
10	Utilities, Power and Environmental Systems	Power supply solutions (generators, UPS, solar), HVAC systems including cold rooms and refrigeration units
11	Fleet Maintenance and Vehicle Support Services	Tyres, spare parts, panel beating, repairs and service, towing and accessories
12	Legal and Professional Services	Legal advisory and related professional services
13	Health, Safety and Environmental Services	Personal protective equipment (PPE), Pharmaceutical waste management services
14	Construction, Engineering and Technical Works	Construction and renovation of building facilities, electrical installations and repairs, plumbing and sanitation works, fire detection and suppression systems, cold room construction and maintenance
15	Insurance service	Staff/employees Property Fleet and equipment

3. Mandatory Documents for submission

Interested vendors must submit the following mandatory documents:

a. Company Profile
b. A valid Tax Clearance certificate
c. A valid Traders' License or equivalent
d. Three Reference letters for services recently provided

4. Submission Instruction:

Mandatory documents should be send in **PDF format** not exceeding 9MB by e-mail to **tenders@ndso.org.ls**. The e-mail subject should be **Supplier Database 2026.**

Suppliers should on the body of the email explicitly show the category and scope of supply that they fall under for proper classification. If one supply falls in more than one category, all those categories must be listed.

The deadline for registration and submission of mandatory documents is **Thursday, February 12th, 2026, at 17:00 pm.**

For further clarification, please contact the Assistant Procurement manager by email at **tenders@ndso.org.ls** Telephone **+266 2221 5300.**

LESOTHO FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Coach Education Officer

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced individuals for the position of **Coach Education Officer**. This is a strategic technical role responsible for strengthening the quality, consistency, and professionalism of coaching across all levels of football in Lesotho.

Key Responsibilities
The Coach Education Officer will:
- Lead the planning, delivery, and evaluation of LeFA coaching courses in line with CAF Coaching Convention standards.
- Develop and implement national coaching pathways, curricula, and certification structures.
- Train, mentor, and supervise coaching instructors and course facilitators.
- Ensure alignment between grassroots, youth, and elite coaching methodologies.
- Maintain accurate records of coaching licenses, renewals, and compliance.
- Support technical development programmes, including youth academies and regional structures.
- Represent LeFA in CAF/FIFA technical development initiatives when required.

Minimum Requirements
Applicants **must** meet the following criteria:
- **CAF A Licence** (mandatory).
- **Recognised Coach Instructor Qualification** (CAF/FIFA).
- **Experience coaching a National Team** (Head Coach).
- **Experience coaching in a Senior League** (Premier League or equivalent).
- Strong understanding of modern coaching methodologies and player development models.
- Excellent communication, presentation, and facilitation skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively with regional structures, clubs, and technical departments.
- High levels of integrity, professionalism, and commitment to football development.

Added Advantages
- Experience as a Coach Educator in CAF/FIFA courses.
- Experience in curriculum design or technical development programmes.
- Strong administrative and reporting skills.

Contract Type
Fixed-term contract, renewable based on performance and organisational needs.

How to Apply
Interested candidates should submit:
- A detailed CV
- Certified copies of qualifications
- A cover letter outlining suitability for the role
- Contact details of three referees

Applications must be emailed to: **ntatemohapi@yahoo.co.uk OR ntatemohapi@lefa.co.ls**
Deadline: **28th January 2026**

LeFA is an equal opportunity employer.
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT – PHASE II

Construction of Polihali Transfer Tunnel
Contract No. LHDA C4021

VACANCIES

KKM JV, a joint venture comprising Yellow River Co. Ltd., Sinohydro Bureau 3 Co. Ltd., and Unik Civil Engineering Pty Ltd, is honored to be the appointed contractor for the Construction of the Polihali Transfer Tunnel, a critical component of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project – Phase II.This ambitious project facilitates water transfer via the Katse Reservoir, through the Transfer Tunnel and Delivery Tunnel, to the Ash River Outfall located between Clarens and Bethlehem in South Africa. From there, the water flows into the Liebenbergsvlei River, joins the Wilge River near Frankfort, and ultimately reaches the Vaal Dam in Gauteng, South Africa. We now invite applications from qualified local candidates (Lesotho) and South African nationals for the positions listed in the table below:

NO	POSITION	QUANTITY	QUALIFICATION	EXPERIENCE	DURATION	ADDED ADVANTAGE
1	STEEL FIXERS	150	· CERTIFICATE IN STEEL FIXING/ SHUTTERHAND	AT LEAST 1 YEAR WORKING EXPERIENCE	9 MONTHS	TRADE TEST
2	GROUTING WORKERS	13	· HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE AND ABOVE	AT LEAST 1 YEAR WORKING EXPERIENCE	9 MONTHS	TRADE TEST
3	CARPENTERS	120	· CERTIFICATE IN CARPENTRY	AT LEAST 1 YEAR WORKING EXPERIENCE	9 MONTHS	TRADE TEST
4	WELDERS	10	· CERTIFICATE IN WELDING	AT LEAST 1 YEAR WORKING EXPERIENCE	9 MONTHS	TRADE TEST
5	LATHE OPERATOR	3	· CERTIFICATE IN FITTING AND TURNING	AT LEAST 5 YEARS WORKING EXPERIENCE	1 YEAR	TRADE TEST
6	TBM EMERGENCY COORDINATOR	6	· DIPLOMA IN EMERGENCY CARE	AT LEAST 3 YEARS WORKING EXPERIENCE	1 YEAR	
7	VISA OFFICER	2	· DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	AT LEAST 1 YEAR WORKING EXPERIENCE	1 YEAR	
8	BOILER OPERATOR	6	· DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	AT LEAST 3 YEARS WORKING EXPERIENCE	1 YEAR	CERTIFICATE IN BOILER OPERATION

How to apply
Applications must be accompanied by application letter detailing which position is being applied for, detailed CV, Certified Copies of educational certificates, three work related referees with contact details (one should be from current/previous supervisor or employer). Applications should be emailed in read only PDF format to:
recruitment@kkm-jv.co.ls

Closing date for applications is **Saturday, 14th February 2026 @ 16:30hours**. Applications received after closing date will not be considered.

Disclaimer: The response period is 14 days after the closing date, the applicants should regard the applications as unsuccessful in not been conducted during the response period.

LESOTHO FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Procurement and Compliance Officer

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) invites applications from suitably qualified, disciplined, and highly ethical individuals for the position of **Procurement and Compliance Officer**. This role is central to strengthening transparency, accountability, and value-for-money procurement across the Association.

The incumbent will serve directly under the **Secretary General** and will ensure that all procurement and compliance processes meet national regulations, CAF/FIFA standards, and LeFA's internal governance frameworks.

Key Responsibilities
The Procurement and Compliance Officer will:
- Manage and coordinate all procurement processes in line with LeFA policies and national procurement regulations.
- Prepare and issue requests for quotations, tenders, and supplier evaluations.
- Maintain accurate procurement records, contracts, and supplier databases.
- Ensure compliance with financial controls, audit requirements, and governance standards.
- Monitor supplier performance and enforce contractual obligations.
- Advise the Secretary General on procurement risks, compliance gaps, and mitigation strategies.
- Support internal audits and ensure timely implementation of audit recommendations.
- Promote transparency, fairness, and ethical conduct in all procurement activities.

Minimum Requirements
Applicants **must** meet the following criteria:
- Qualification (Diploma), Degree will be an added advantage) in Logistics, Procurement, Supply Chain Management, or a related field (mandatory).
- Demonstrated experience in procurement, compliance, or supply chain operations.
- Proven ability to uphold extremely high levels of integrity, honesty, and ethical conduct.
- Strong understanding of procurement regulations, financial controls, and compliance frameworks.
- Excellent organizational, analytical, and reporting skills.
- Ability to work under pressure, meet deadlines, and maintain confidentiality.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to engage suppliers and internal stakeholders professionally.

Added Advantages
- Experience in procurement within a sports organization, NGO, or public sector environment.
- Knowledge of CAF/FIFA governance and compliance requirements.
- Experience supporting audits or risk management processes.

Contract Type
- Fixed-term contract, renewable based on performance and organisational needs.

How to Apply
Interested candidates should submit:
- A detailed CV
- Certified copies of qualifications
- A cover letter demonstrating suitability for the role
- Contact details of three referees

Applications must be emailed to: **ntatemohapi@yahoo.co.uk OR ntatemohapi@lefa.co.ls**
Deadline: **28th January 2026**

LeFA is an equal opportunity employer.
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

LESOTHO FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Handyman

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) invites applications from suitably qualified and reliable individuals for the position of **Handyman**. The successful candidate will support the upkeep, functionality, and safety of LeFA facilities and assets.

The position reports directly to the Facilities and Assets Manager.

Key Responsibilities
The Handyman will:
- Perform routine maintenance and minor repairs across LeFA facilities.
- Conduct basic carpentry, plumbing, painting, and electrical tasks within scope of competence.
- Assist in the upkeep of buildings, grounds, and equipment.
- Support the Facilities and Assets Manager in inspections and maintenance planning.
- Respond to repair requests promptly and professionally.
- Ensure safe use of tools, equipment, and materials.
- Maintain cleanliness and order in maintenance areas and workshops.
- Assist with logistical tasks, including movement of equipment and event setup.

Minimum Requirements
Applicants must meet the following criteria:
- Recognised Trade Certificate in a technical field (e.g., carpentry, plumbing, electrical, building maintenance).
- Valid Driver's Licence (mandatory).
- Demonstrated experience performing minor repairs and routine maintenance.
- Ability to work independently and follow instructions.
- Strong reliability, honesty, and attention to detail.
- Basic understanding of workplace safety practices.

Added Advantages
- Experience working in facility maintenance or asset management.
- Ability to operate maintenance tools and small machinery.
- Experience in a sports facility environment.

Contract Type
- Fixed-term contract, renewable based on performance and organisational needs.

How to Apply
Interested candidates should submit:
- A detailed CV
- Certified copies of qualifications
- A cover letter outlining suitability for the role
- Contact details of two referees

Applications must be emailed to: **ntatemohapi@yahoo.co.uk OR ntatemohapi@lefa.co.ls**
Deadline: **[28th January 2026**

LeFA is an equal opportunity employer.
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Liqhobong Mining Development Company

13 January 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Alert: Fraudulent Procurement Scam

Liqhobong Mining Development Company (LMDC) wishes to alert the public, suppliers, contractors, and service providers to a **fraudulent procurement scam** being conducted by individuals and/or entities falsely claiming to act on behalf of the Company.

LMDC has been made aware of unauthorised communications sent to businesses and members of the public purporting to issue procurement requests, tender awards, or payment instructions in the name of LMDC. These communications may be transmitted via email, WhatsApp, SMS, telephone calls, or forged documents and may unlawfully use the LMDC name, logo, or purported staff identities. In one instance, the individual falsely claims to be **Nicholas Ramoholi, Head of Procurement and Supply Chain**.

LMDC **strongly condemns** any attempt to mislead or defraud the public using its name. The Company confirms that all such communications are **fraudulent and unauthorised**. Any party in doubt as to the authenticity of a communication is urged to verify it directly with LMDC using the official contact details provided below.

Steps Taken by LMDC

LMDC has taken proactive steps to alert potentially affected parties to the existence of these scams and reports all fraudulent activities brought to its attention to the **Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS)** for investigation.

Public Advisory

Members of the public, suppliers, and contractors are strongly advised to:

- **Not engage with or respond to** suspected fraudulent communications.
- **Not make any payments** or share personal, financial, business, proprietary, or confidential information.
- **Verify all procurement-related communications** directly with LMDC through its official channels.
- **Report any suspected fraudulent activity immediately** to the LMPS.

LMDC urges all stakeholders to remain vigilant and to rely solely on **official LMDC communications** when engaging with the Company.

Verification and Reporting

To verify legitimate procurement communications or to report suspected fraudulent activity, please contact LMDC's Procurement Department:

Email : Admin2@tmprocurement.co.ls

Tel: + 266 224 31755

LNIG Hollard.



Unsure No. 201: Who Leads Employee Protection?

Unemployed.

Head Employee Benefits & Partnerships.

Deadline: 30th January 2026

For more information, visit our **LinkedIn page**.
https://ls.linkedin.com/company/lnig-hollard

Interested in joining our team? Send your application and CV to *recruitment@lnighollard.co.ls*

www.lnighollard.co.ls

jhpiego

JOB VACANCY

EXTERNAL JOB VACANCY

Overview:

Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, builds global and local partnerships to enhance to translate cutting-edge science and innovation into practical, scalable solutions so that every woman, man, and child, no matter where they live, can access quality life-saving care. Jhpiego is a non-profit organization, operating in Lesotho since 2012, by supporting the government of Lesotho in delivering health services to the Basotho people.

Jhpiego is seeking a **Data Officer** to support the implementation of the PrEP-eMTCT project in Lesotho. This project focuses on integrating HIV prevention options into maternal health services to reduce HIV transmission during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

The Data Officer will be responsible for managing and maintaining high-quality data in line with project protocols and procedures.

Jhpiego is looking for a suitable candidate for the below vacant position:

	Responsibilities	Qualifications
Data Officer **Fixed Term Contract** **Maseru**	· Oversee data from start to finish, working with data collectors to ensure reliable, statistically sound results that support patient safety and new therapies. · Oversee data collection, cleaning, and support analysis. · Support development and maintenance of an electronic REDCap database for the project. · Ensure accurate and timely data collection at project sites in line with study protocols and standard operating procedures. · Provide on-site support for data collection teams, including troubleshooting data entry issues and managing data collection devices. · Assist in the preparation and contextualization of data collection tools, ensuring correct translations where necessary. · Collect and compile monthly data from health facilities, including retrospective data up to six months before study implementation. · Maintain data integrity and confidentiality in line with study protocols and ethical standards. · Generate routine summaries to aid understanding of changes in PrEP uptake during the intervention period. · Experience in conducting In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)	· University degree in public health, demography, statistics, other social sciences, or related field from any recognized institution. · Must have at least 5-6 years of experience in data management in REDCap or a similar database system · Experience with data collection and management in REDCap or a similar database system strongly preferred **Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities** · Data collection, processing, and analysis skills · Proficiency in data analysis tools and statistical applications · Excellent communication and presentation skills · Non-judgmental attitude, humanitarian values, and ethics are absolute preconditions · Energetic, independent and self-motivated · Good knowledge of spoken and written English and Sesotho

Jhpiego offers competitive salaries and a comprehensive employee benefits package.

Note: The successful candidate selected for this position will be subject to a pre-employment background investigation. Correspondence will be communicated with shortlisted candidates only.

Jhpiego is an Equal Opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its selection and employment practices based on race, color, religion sex, national origin, political affiliation sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factors.

NOTE: All staff members of Jhpiego, regardless of the level of their responsibilities, are expected to:

- Model Jhpiego's mission and values.
- Participate in the business development processes.
- Contribute to knowledge sharing and transfer.
- Make responsible decisions that ensure time and cost efficiency and accountability.
- Engage in team activities, adopt a team spirit, take responsibility for assigned action items, and provide feedback as necessary.

Prioritize tasks to meet program and organizational objectives. *Interested candidates should submit cover letter, CVs, certified copies of certificates, transcripts and certified copy of identity documents in* ***PDF FORMAT ONLY.*** *All applications addressed for the attention of Human Resources Officer must be delivered to:* ***LesothoHR@jhpiego.org by 12 pm on 23 January 2025.***

METROPOLITAN



We Are Hiring

Sales Manager - Quthing
https://shorturl.at/87XAu

Interested candidates should apply online before or on the
30th January 2026

Apply Now

Together we can
#WeArePartners

Metropolitan Lesotho Holdings Limited Pty Ltd is part of Momentum Group Limited . Reg no 92600

Letter of Invitation

Construction Supervision, and Post Construction Services for the Upgrading to Bitumen Standard of Matlali to Lebakeng Road Project (±45km)

The Roads Directorate (RD) has set aside funds from Government of Lesotho towards the cost of Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision and Post Construction Services for the Upgrading to Bitumen Standard from **Matlali to Lebakeng Road Project (±45km)** and intends to apply a portion of these funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which this RFP is issued.

The Roads Directorate now invites proposals from suitably qualified International and Local Civil Engineering Consulting firms with a minimum of **Fifteen (15) years of experience in road design and construction**. In addition, the consulting firm must hold a **valid ISO 9001 Certification** to demonstrate the implementation of Quality Management Systems. The services to be provided are as set out in the **Request for Proposals to be issued in Hard Copy (soft copy will only be issued as a supplementary document for document control purposes) upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Maloti and Zero Lisente only (M3,000.00). The method of payment will be by transfer or deposit into the following Bank Account: Roads Directorate Operating Revenue, Account Number No.: 021000067633, Swift Code: NEDLLSMX, Branch Code: 390161, Nedbank, Lesotho and proof therefore be presented to the Roads Directorate. Facility shall be made available for purchasing the documents by POS/Swiping at the Finance Division (Room G03), Roads Directorate Headquarters.**

A firm will be selected under "Least Cost" Selection (LCS) and procedures described in this RFP. Contract format for the shall be a 'Time Based Type".

The Proposals **(both Technical & Financial in separate envelopes)** which must be accompanied by

A valid Tax Clearance Certificate
A valid Trader's License

Submission of the Proposals shall comprise an original , three copies and a soft copy for technical and 1 Original, 1 copy and a soft copy for financial, in sealed envelopes and a soft copy(flash) (bearing the name **"Construction Supervision, and Post Construction Services for the Upgrading to Bitumen Standard of Matlali to Lebakeng Road Project (±45km), TECHNICAL PROPOSAL "OR" FINANCIAL PROPOSAL"** together with the additional mandatory information (listed above) should be deposited in the Tender Box near the Procurement Office (Room G11) of the Roads Directorate on or before **Thursday 12th February 2026 at 10:00hrs** Lesotho Time and the tender opening will be on the same on the date, **Thursday 12th February 2026 at 10:30hrs.**

Any correspondence regarding this Proposal shall be addressed to:

Postal Address
The Procurement Specialist
Roads Directorate
P.O. Box 194, Maseru 100, Lesotho

Telephone: **+ (266) 5222 9000/ 52229137**
Mobile: **+266 5803 6700/6348 9643/5881 2805**
Email: **manoelin@rd.org.ls,**
Cc: **marek@rd.org.ls;**
mahiritonaf@rd.org.ls

Physical Address
Procurement Section, Ground Floor (Room G11)
Roads Directorate
Corner Senate and Lepoqo Street
Industrial Area (Opposite Browns Wholesalers)

The Roads Directorate reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders for reasons that may be advanced.

Roads Directorate @Roads_LS Road Directorate Lesotho

Quality Roads, Improving Connectivity

ZUTARI
IMPACT. ENGINEERED.

concor CONSTRUCTION NB

LHDA

VACANCY

Concor–Nthane Brothers M&K JV has been awarded the contract for the construction of Mabunyaneng and Khubelu Bridges on behalf of the Lesotho Highlands Water Authority. The Project entails the engineering and contracting services which is inclusive of construction of two bridges and associated ancillary works, on the A1 road in Mapholaneng.

Thus, a suitably qualified and experienced individuals are required for the following position/s, to join the Joint Venture on a **Limited Duration Contract**. The successful candidate/s shall be site based.

Reference No	Position	Quantity	Qualification/s Required (Minimum)	Competencies Required	Experience Required
C N B - J V - PA-022	Environmental Control Officer	1	A recognised Degree in Environmental Studies	Strong knowledge on Effluent Treatment. Strong communication skills (writing, oral). Strong Management Skills. Self-driven and self-management skills. Strong knowledge of Lesotho Environmental Standards and LHDA Environmental specifications. Strong – problem solving skills, and interpersonal skills. Strong skills in dealing with communities or engaging with various stakeholders. Strong public engagement skills. Planning skills, budget formulation and control. Drawing up and presenting a strategy to assist projects on Environmental compliance. Excellent presentation skills. Team Player and Target-driven individual. Water resources management; Excellent Computer and Record Keeping Skills; Excellent communication (Oral and Writing) and interpersonal skills; Fluent in Sesotho; Competent in training others, and also in community and stakeholders engagement; Valid drivers' licence; Medically fit. Strong Method Statements and Report Writing Skills.	Minimum 6 years' experience formulation, implementing and monitoring of Environmental Management Systems on Construction Projects; Training construction personnel on Environmental Management Systems; Water resources management; Pre-construction assessments and dealing directly with communities, engineer and client representatives; LHDA processes. Proven track record on dealing with Effluent treatment, and other various water resources. Experience dealing with Environmental Ministries. Proven experience in dealing with Client representatives. Proven track record of successfully achieving environmental compliance and consistently meeting requirements of monthly client audits. Environmentally solution driven. Proven experience in successfully managing environmental compliance, and dealing various stakeholders. Experience in managing a small environmental teams, and dealing with various project departments to get a buy-in on compliance. knowledge in LHDA construction projects will be an added advantage. Experience in dealing with non-compliances and success in closing them out. Experience in Client audits and Client meetings. Strong experience in Project Close out stage.

Submissions of applications:

Application letters must be accompanied by CV's with minimum three contactable references, certified copies of relevant qualifications, confirmation of physical address and driver's licence should be submitted to the Mokhotlong DA's office, LHDA Polihali Operations offices and Mphokojoane Council offices, Seate Community Council, Mokhotlong Urban Council, Menoaneng Community Council, Principal Chief of Malingoanang Office, Principal Chief of Mokhotlong Office **OR** emailed to **cv@cnbjv.co.za**

Each application should be addressed to Concor-Nthane Brothers M&K JV Recruitment, and specify the position, and applicable reference number.

1. Enquiries (Only via email): **cv@cnbjv.co.za**.
2. Closing Date: **31 January 2026 at 12:00**.
3. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE LATE 'MAKOSE BLANDINA MONYAKANE E224/2024

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 44 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon all persons having claims against the deceased or the estate of the late 'Makose Blandina Monyakane to lodge their claims with the Executor. Advocate Napo Khatala within 30 (thirty) days of publication of this notice.

DATED AT MASERU THIS 13TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

THAROLLO CHAMBERS
SECOND FLOOR, LENYORA HOUSE
NIGHTINGALE RD, MASERU

CONTACT NUMBER:
+266 5251 2345

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE LATE PEO ABNER MAKARA – E420/2024

Notice in terms of Section 63 (6) of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act 2024
Kindly take notice that the Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above-mentioned estate shall lie open for inspection at the offices of the Master of the High Court for three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. The Account can be inspected on working days from 08:00am till 4:30 pm.
The offices of the Master of the High Court are situated at the following address:
Magistrate Court Premises
Magistrate Court Building
1ST Floor
Maseru 100, Lesotho

DATED AT MASERU ON THIS 9TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026

THELISI MOSHOESHOE
EXECUTRIX

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024

ESTATE LATE MOTLATSI FRANCIS RAMAKOAE E1769/2025

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon all heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court in Maseru on **THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY 2026 at 11:00 AM for** the purpose of;

Proposing some person/persons to be appointed by the Master as Executor dative.

Dated at Maseru on this 18TH day of DECEMBER 2025.

Master of the High Court
Magistrate Court
Old Prosecutors Office
Maseru

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024

ESTATE LATE RETHABILE SAMSON MALATALIANA E1805/2025

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon all heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court in Maseru on **TUESDAY, O6TH FEBRUARY 2026** at **10:00 am for** the purpose of;

Proposing some person/persons to be appointed by the Master as Executor dative.

Dated at Maseru on this 12TH JANUARY 2026.

Master of the High Court
Magistrate Court
Old Prosecutors Office
Maseru

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE LATE NTHABISENG ELIZABETH MABITLE - E39/2019

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 63(6) of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No. 2 of 2024. The First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account of the abovementioned estate shall lie open for inspection at the Master of the High Court office, Magistrate's Court Building, Maseru, near Lesotho Funeral Services HQ, for a period of three (3) weeks from the date of this publication. Any person interested in the estate may lodge an objection in writing to the Master of the High Court within the period.

ADDRESS:
Ha-Leqele, Likarapeng
MASERU

Refiloe 'Maphuthi Mabejane
EXECUTRIX
CELL: **(+266) 58696923**

IN THE HIGH COURT OF LESOTHO

HELD AT MASERU **CIV/T/0093/2025**

In the matter between

LERATO JOSEPHINE TSATSI (Nee Mofammere) **APPLICANT**

AND

TEFO TSATSI **RESPONDENT**

RESTITUTION ORDER

BEFORE HONOURABLE JUSTICE MALEBANYE (AJ)

ON THE 26TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025

HAVING HEARD: ADV. NTOLOANE (COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT)
AND
HAVING READ: PAPERS FILED OF RECORD

IT IS HEREBY ORDRED THAT:

1. Respondent to restore conjugal rights to the Applicant on or before the 30th JANUARY **2026**, failing which to show cause on the 11th day of FEBRUARY **2026** why a decree of divorce cannot be granted on the grounds of Respondent's malicious desertion.

BY ORDER OF COURT

SEKAKE MALEBANYE **'MAKATISO MAPETJA**
HONOURABLE JUDGE FULL NAMES **REGISTRAR FULLNAMES**

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 61(b) of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024;

ESTATE LATE LIREKO AGNES LETSIE EG03/2026

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

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

NAME: Kuenane Stephen Letsie
ADMINISTRATOR
ADDRESS: Cocobe
Quthing

CELL NO. (+266) 57119544

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024

ESTATE LATE KHOMONYANE THETSANE E66/2026

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling upon all heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court in Maseru on **TUESDAY, 17th FEBRUARY 2026** at **11:00 am for** the purpose of;

Proposing some person/persons to be appointed by the Master as Executor dative.

Dated at Maseru on this 13TH JANUARY 2026.

Master of the High Court
Magistrate Court
Old Prosecutors Office
Maseru

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 61(b) of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024;

ESTATE LATE BASIA MORRIS RAKUBUTU EF/267/2025

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

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

NAME: **MAKUBUTU C. RAKUBUTU**
ADMINISTRATOR
ADDRESS: **MATAOENG**
HA SEKOATI
MOHALE'S HOEK
CELL NO. **(+266) 57022234**

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice in terms of section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024

ESTATE LATE MALIBA PUTSOA E1786/2025

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 37 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No.2 of 2024 calling cspouse, all heirs, legatees and creditors of the deceased to attend a meeting before the Master of the High Court in Maseru on **THURSDAY 29th JANUARY 2026 at 09:00 AM for** the purpose of;

Proposing some person/persons to be appointed by the Master as Executor dative.

Dated at Maseru on this 23rd day of DECEMBER 2025.

Master of the High Court
Magistrate Court
Old Prosecutors Office
Maseru

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE LATE MOLEFI ISHMAEL THELEJANE E8/2023

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 63 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No. 21 of 2024 that the First and final Liquidation and Distribution account of the deceased shall be open for inspection at the office of the Master of High Court, Magistrate's Building, Maseru for a period of three (3) weeks from the date of publication of this notice and any person interested in the Estate may lodge an objection in writing to the Master of the High Court within that period.

DATED AT MASERU THIS 16TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

ADDRESS:
257 New Europa
PO Box 725
Maseru 100
Cell: +266 5931 0455
Nthethe Thelejane
The Executor

NOTICE OF LOST LEASE

Notice is hereby given that I intend to apply for a certified copy of a registered **Title Deed/ Lease** to immovable property registered under **No. 25122 – 166** on the **13/ SEPTEMBER/1992** in favour **of TEBA PROPERTY TRUST** in respect of every right or interest on and to the building(s) and other developments express or implied in certain Plot **No. 25122-166** situated at **LERIBE URBAN AREA** on Plan **No. 25122** as held by the Chief Surveyor.

All persons having objection to the issue of the said copy are requested to lodge such in writing to the Land Registrar **within three weeks** from the last publication of the notice.

ADDRESS:
Land Registrar
Land Administration Authority
Lerotholi Road
P. O. Box 11856
MASERU 100

APPLICANT'S NAMES AND ADDRESS:
SAMUEL K. MOELETSI
226 MOSHOESHOE ROAD
P.O BOX 39
MASERU, LESOTHO
CONTACT NUMBERS: **57 120 896**

UNIK CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING LESOTHO (PTY) LTD

VACANCY

Unik Construction has obtained a new project – Rehabilitation of the A1 Road from Kotsie to Mokhotlong Hospital (Contract No.RD/REHB-08/2025), therefore we are looking for suitably qualified candidate for the following position;

POSITION; Contractor Representative

QTY; 1

QUALIFICATIONS & WORK EXPERIENCE
Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering with 15 years post qualification experience in similar road works experience in FIDIC contracts

SUBMISSION;
Applications accompanied by detailed CV, Two reference letters, certified copies of certificates should be submitted to Unik Construction Office at Katlehong not later than the **23rd January 2026 @ 16:30hrs.**

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Leaders

Corporate stamp or court order?

Why Lesotho's new surveillance rules undermine justice

In the delicate balance between state power and individual liberty, the scales are never set. They are perpetually adjusted by laws, interpreted by courts, and tested by new technologies.

Lesotho now faces a profound test, not from a foreign power or an internal crisis, but from a procedural shift that threatens to outsource a core function of justice to corporate boardrooms.

The newly standardized process for police to access mobile phone data - requiring telecom companies to formally stamp applications as "Opposed" or "Not Opposed" - is a dangerous precedent disguised as bureaucratic reform. It confuses compliance with consent, elevates corporate policy over statute, and ultimately risks shielding criminals under the guise of protecting privacy. The core of any democratic society's investigative power is the principle of independent judicial oversight. For decades, Lesotho's system, under the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, adhered to this: police convinced a magistrate of necessity, and the magistrate issued an order. The telecom provider, as a neutral conduit, was compelled to comply. This placed the critical "yes" or "no" decision in the hands of a judicial officer, whose duty is to weigh the state's need against the citizen's right to privacy.

The new procedure fundamentally corrupts this dynamic. By requiring service on the telecom company before the order is issued and granting it a right to stamp its opposition, the process inserts a for-profit entity as a quasi-judicial gatekeeper. The implications are alarming. A Vodacom or Econet legal team, weighing fiduciary duties, commercial reputation, and potential liability, now holds a de facto veto over a state investigation.

This is not theoretical.

As prosecutors warn, in cases of kidnapping, trafficking, or terrorism, evidence decays by the hour. A process that adds days or weeks for corporate legal review can render an investigation inert. More insidiously, it creates a system of inconsistent justice. Will a company be more likely to "oppose" a request targeting a prominent business figure? Will its threshold for compliance shift with public sentiment or internal policy? Accountability becomes blurred, resting not on the clear text of law but on the shifting sands of corporate risk assessment. Telecom operators defend the move as standardizing compliance and protecting employees from legal peril. These concerns are not invalid. The Data Protection Act imposes obligations. However, the solution to poorly drafted police affidavits is better training and judicial scrutiny, not handing a stamp to a private corporation.

The operators' stance - that they will only act "when the law speaks clearly" - is precisely the problem. The law does speak clearly: a valid court order from a magistrate is the ultimate instruction.

Their role is to obey it, not to adjudicate its merit beforehand. As seen in frameworks from the EU's GDPR to South Africa's POPIA, the global standard is unambiguous: independent judicial authorisation is the trigger for compliance. The service provider is not a co-judge; it is a legally compelled respondent.

The most troubling aspect of this affair is its genesis. As Senior Resident Magistrate Tšeliso Bale courageously highlighted, this significant procedural change was devised without consulting the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Police Commissioner.

It emerged from dialogues between a segment of the magistracy and telecom legal teams, later solidified in a WhatsApp group and a meeting. This is governance by clique, not by law. Magistrate Bale is correct: amending the practical application of fundamental state powers is the domain of parliament or a definitive ruling by a superior court, not a collaboration between some judicial officers and a corporate entity. This process itself represents a form of judicial overreach, creating a de facto amendment that sidesteps democratic and legal channels. Lesotho's dilemma is real. Privacy protections are essential in the digital age, and the old system may have needed refinement for clarity and consistency. But the answer lies in strengthening the law, not circumventing it.

Parliament must urgently modernize the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, explicitly harmonizing it with the Data Protection Act. A new statutory framework should prescribe strict timelines for judicial decisions, detail requirements for affidavits to ensure proportionality, and mandate expedited "ex parte" processes for urgent cases - all while keeping the decisive authority firmly with the judiciary.

The goal of protecting privacy is noble. But achieving it by erecting corporate roadblocks to lawful investigation is a Faustian bargain. It trades the clear, albeit imperfect, authority of the state under the law for the opaque discretion of commercial interests.

It risks creating a sanctuary for the digitally savvy criminal while undermining the very rule of law it claims to uphold. The balance between investigative necessity and personal privacy must be struck by the sober hand of justice, not by the rubber stamp of a telecom company.



A web of lies

The Nthole case exposes a crisis of truth and governance



FRANK TALK

TEBOHO KHATEBE MOLEFI

The unsettling case of Tlapana Nthole, the Lesotho councillor now serving a five-year sentence in a Japanese prison for drug smuggling, has evolved from a mere criminal scandal into a profound litmus test for the integrity of our government.

At its core, this saga is no longer just about one man's crime; it is about the alarming contradiction at the highest levels of power and what it signifies for accountability in Lesotho.

Recall, if you will, the initial narrative presented to the public. When questions first swirled around Councillor Nthole's mysterious disappearance in late 2024, the official line from foreign minister Lejone Mpotjoane was specific and definitive: Nthole had been arrested in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This was not a vague rumour but a statement presented as fact by the minister tasked with overseeing our international relations. The public, and indeed Nthole's bewildered constituents in Boribeng, were left to digest this piece of information, trusting it to be the product of diligent diplomatic channels.

Now, enter the power of diligent journalism.

Through persistent investigation, Public Eye has unearthed a starkly different reality. Nthole was not detained in Ethiopia. He was arrested in December 2024 at Tokyo's Narita Airport, with narcotics in his possession, tried under Japanese law, and is now imprisoned there.

This fact has been cautiously confirmed by Lesotho's own chargé d'affaires in Tokyo. The chasm between these two truths is not a minor discrepancy; it is a gulf that swallows public trust.

This contradiction forces upon us several uncomfortable questions. Did Minister Mpotjoane knowingly mislead the nation? Or was he, as the head of the foreign ministry, so profoundly disconnected from his own diplomatic corps that he was operating on grossly incorrect information?

Both possibilities are deeply troubling. The first suggests a deliberate cover-up, an attempt to obfuscate the embarrassing reality of an elected official being convicted for drug trafficking in a major ally and donor nation like Japan.

The second suggests staggering incompetence at a ministry whose fundamental role is to know and manage the welfare of Basotho abroad.

Minister Mpotjoane's subsequent aggressive defensiveness - attacking the media for "selective reporting" while his own story shifted - only deepens the stain. It reflects a pattern of evasion that has characterised the government's entire response: from the foreign ministry's apparent "hands-off" approach and failure to pursue prisoner transfer protocols, to the ruling RFP party's collective amnesia, and the inexplicable delay in triggering a by-election for the now-vacant Boribeng seat.

The implications are severe.

Domestically, it reveals a government seemingly more interested in political protection than in the rule of law.

The people of Boribeng are left disenfranchised, their council business stalled, while the IEC awaits a referral that the Ministry of Local Government seems reluctant to make. Internationally, it projects an image of either complicity or shocking negligence.

Japan, a critical development partner, must now view its relations with Lesotho through the lens of a convicted drug smuggler who was a sitting councillor, and a government that cannot provide a straight story about his case.

The Nthole scandal is a tragedy on multiple levels. It is the story of a public official allegedly deep in both corruption and illicit trade. But more damningly, it is the story of a government's failure to confront the truth. The initial lie about Addis Ababa is a symbol of a deeper decay - a preference for shadow over light, for evasion over accountability.

For the sake of Boribeng's voters, for the integrity of our diplomatic service, and for the future of ethical governance in Lesotho, we must demand answers. The foreign minister owes the nation a clear explanation for his contradictory statements. The government must act transparently to secure Nthole's welfare under international law, and it must immediately rectify the democratic deficit in Boribeng.

A nation cannot be built on a foundation of official falsehoods. The Nthole case has held up a mirror, and the reflection it shows is one we can no longer afford to ignore.

Local farm cultivates community and growth





MOTSAMAI MOKOTJO

BEREA – Beneath the crisp January skies of 2026, where the Maluti Mountains cradle Lesotho's Berea District like ancient guardians - whispered about locally as Thuoathe Fruit Farm - unfolds as a poignant tableau of ambition unmet.

This 13-16-hectare expanse, once heralded as a cornerstone of national horticultural revival, now bears the scars of neglect: orchards choked with weeds, irrigation pipes corroded by years of exposure, storage sheds leaning precariously under the weight of disuse.

Apple trees, their branches heavy with potential fruit, droop alongside plums, peaches, apricots, and cherries - crops that should symbolize the country's leap into export markets.

Yet, as Public Eye traversed the muddy paths during a recent dawn visit, the air hung heavy with frustration, not the sweet tang of ripening produce.

Tlhonolofatso Nkhasi, the farm's weathered head and sole driving force, paused amid the overgrowth, wiping sweat from his brow. His calloused hands, marked by solitary toil, gestured toward the horizon where sister farms gleam with promise.

"I am doing everything on my own," Nkhasi confided to Public Eye, his voice a mix of defiance and weariness.

"What I subscribe to is a different way of doing things. I am producing apples and other fruits as a pioneer farmer, not some pilot project pawn."

Nkhasi's words echo the farm's tortured journey, a narrative rooted in the glittering allure of international aid. It all began in 2007 with Phase I of the Private Sector Competitiveness and Economic Diversification Project (PSCEDP), a World Bank initiative that pumped USD 8.1 million into Lesotho's rural areas.

The vision was audacious: transform barren highlands into thriving orchards of deciduous fruits - apples, cherries, plums, peaches, apricots - slashing food imports, birthing thousands of jobs, and thrusting Lesotho into South Africa's lucrative markets.

Phase II arrived in October 2013, swelling to USD 13.1 million, but Thuoathe Fruit Farm was cruelly benched, while the support flowed to MaoaMafubelu, Likhothola at Mahobong, and Likhetlane, seeding 10-16 hectare pilots each with GLOBALG.A.P. certifications for global trade.

By early 2026, the divergence is glaring, a split-screen of success and stagnation. Picture Likhothola Fruit Farm at Mahobong: 10.7 hectares pulsing with life, its GLOBALG.A.P.-stamped apples, apricots, plums, peaches, and cherries destined for domestic shelves and South African exporters.

Here, the Lesotho Horticultural Incubation and Training Centre, unveiled in late 2024, buzzes as a beacon for aspiring farmers - hosting 2025 tours for producers, embedding climate-smart techniques like drip irrigation and drought-resistant rootstocks.

A fresh manager hunt, slated for a February 2026 start-up, underscores evolution, not entropy. Shift to Likhetlane Fruits Farm, its 16 hectares a testament to viability: apples, pears, plums, peaches, cherries yielding 5-10 percent ROI within five years of full throttle. Audits for export compliance, market linkage programmes, and another February manager posting signal a farm firing on all cylinders. Thuoathe Fruit Farm?

It apes their crops and badges but falters - its manager vacancy a distress flare amid unresolved droughts, patched elsewhere with replanting and upgraded systems. Nkhasi lays blame squarely at CAFI's door, decrying its favouritism toward farms tethered to heavyweights like former finance minister, Dr Timothy Thahane, and ex-Principal Secretary Mosito Khethisa.

In a nation where horticulture could halve import bills and forge export pride, this lopsided aid reeks of selective nurturing. Nkhasi's isolation cuts deeper when politics enters the frame, casting long shadows over sun-dappled groves. Last week,

Public Eye unravelled a recruitment advert at Likhothola that ignited fury. Chairperson Mosito Khethisa - Finance Principal Secretary during the project's cradle - bristled like a cornered lion when conflict-of interest queries landed.

"We have closed applications," he barked, his curtness slicing the air. Accusations flew: "Your mistake is that you guys look into negative issues. You can't be positive when things have gone accordingly."

Desperate to shed his past, he snapped, "You shouldn't indicate in your story that I was Principal Secretary of Finance. I was not involved at all in the process; the people involved are distant from the project."

His crescendo damned the press: "You destroy people, and to repair such issues is not easy. You have destroyed their businesses." Khethisa anchors Likhothola's shareholder roster alongside locals, a blend unremarkable until allocation details vanish into opacity.

Likhetlane, cradled in Thahane's erstwhile constituency, mirrors this unease. The ex-minister, architect of budgets during PSCEDP's birth, swatted impropriety claims with disdain.

"You are asking the wrong question," he retorted to Public Eye. "It's a government programme. The Ministry of Agriculture looked at the conditions and the willingness of the people to cooperate on the farms."

Influence? Preposterous.

"How can I go and influence people to offer their fields if they don't want to engage?"

For Thahane, the interrogation bordered on insolence, due process his unassailable shield. Community shareholders mingle with era-linked figures, legal yet shrouded - much like Maoa-Mafubelu's own mix of locals and influencers. No illegality stains these ledgers, but the fog over share values and grants erodes faith, a plague on Lesotho's donor dossier. Officialdom's dodgeball only thickens the plot. Finance Information Officer, Litemoso Thatho, vanished into unavailability, mute on loan repayments that underpin this multi-million gamble.

CAFI Project Manager, Chaba Mokuku, detonated: "Finance is best placed to answer questions about servicing the loan and supporting the farm. I am focusing on my work; go and get an answer from Finance, I'm busy with my work," before the line went dead.

These deflections leave citizens adrift on a sea of supposition, pondering the farms' Jekyll-and-Hyde act: World Bank heraldry flaunted for donor dazzle, private ramparts raised against probes.

It's a chameleon trick endemic to Lesotho's aid landscape -public largesse morphing into untouchable enterprises once checks clear.

Zoom out, and Thuoathe's tale transcends orchards, mirroring Lesotho's tango with development dollars. PSCEDP pilots were peddled as alchemists: rural jobs blooming like spring blossoms, imports withering, exports soaring under CAFI's green banner. Wins abound - drought defiance via resilient tech, training pipelines churning skilled hands, market bridges spanning borders.

Yet cracks spider-web: governance quagmires, managerial merry-go-rounds, favouritism's whisper.

Nkhasi personifies the unsung pioneer, furrowing earth sans spotlight while rivals bask in incubators, audits, and hires. The economic pledge sours: uplift patchy, employment ephemeral, integration askew.

Consider the human pulse. At Likhothola, tours in 2025 drew dozens, seeding a horticultural renaissance; youth apprentices master grafting under expert eyes. Likhetlane's ROI funds community reinvestment - schools, clinics edging closer.

Thuoathe Fruit Farm? Nkhasi solos, bartering meagre yields at roadside stalls, dreams deferred. Broader still, Lesotho's highlands, primed by altitude for premium fruits, are idle as politics pilfers potential. World Bank blueprints envisioned 2028 as harvest zenith: thousands employed, imports halved, forex flowing. Reality? Stalled by shadows.

This advert-fuelled tempest unmasks transitional torment - from aid crutches to market steeds. Political vines choke equity; transparency's absence breeds cynicism.

Farms flaunt donor pedigrees for grants, then privatize pain. Lesotho's track record bristles with parallels: mills shuttered, textiles frayed, aid phantoms haunting exchequers.

Thuoathe pleads for parity - audits dissecting loans, shares, subsidies. Nkhasi's grit inspires: a lone sentinel against odds, proving viability sans velvet ropes.

In Berea's embrace, where frost-kissed mornings herald possibility, redemption beckons. Mandate disclosures: shareholder ledgers public, repayments tracked, aid equitably sown. Empower pioneers universally, not selectively. Let orchards bear fruit for all - reducing plates' import burden, swelling coffers with exports, kindling jobs that endure.

As Nkhasi tills alone, Lesotho's future ripens in the balance: mistrust's blight or equity's bounty.

Opinion

My crazy thought on the double-edged sword of success

How aid dependency shapes the narrative of Lesotho's HIV fight

TEBOHO KHATEBE MOLEFI



In the high-stakes world of international health funding, success is not merely measured in lives saved but in statistics reported. For developing nations like Lesotho, which have faced some of the world's most severe HIV epidemics, a complex and often contradictory dynamic exists.

While celebrating genuine, hard-won public health victories, they remain caught in a system where donor funds are inextricably linked to the scale of the problem. This creates a precarious balancing act - demonstrating tangible progress to justify past investments while simultaneously illustrating a persistent need to secure future support.

This analysis examines this paradox, with Lesotho as a central case study. I am trying to analyze whether the country's touted successes in combating HIV/Aids represent a true epidemiological turnaround or if the enduring narrative of high prevalence is a necessary currency in a donor-driven ecosystem.

By comparing data across two decades and scrutinizing the alignment between claimed achievements and ground-level statistics, allow me to explore the tension between real public health gains and the perpetuation of a crisis narrative for financial survival.

The aid dependency dilemma

The relationship between high-disease-burden countries and international donors is foundational to global health but fraught with inherent contradictions.

Major initiatives like the US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria allocate resources based on disease burden and unmet need. A country that declares its epidemic "under control" risks a catastrophic reduction in the foreign aid that underpins its entire health response.

As noted by the Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric Aids Foundation (EGPAF) recently, "Global resources for HIV are at their lowest level in more than a decade. PEPFAR faces unprecedented uncertainty." In this climate, the pressure to demonstrate continued need is acute.

The international community's metrics have evolved, creating a pathway for nations to showcase success without minimizing the problem. The shift from focusing solely on reducing prevalence to achieving the UNAIDS 90-90-90 and then 95-95-95 targets (knowledge of status, treatment access and viral suppression) is pivotal.

A country can now report "extraordinary success" in treatment while still having one of the world's highest prevalence rates. This allows for positive headlines that satisfy donor requirements for results, without altering the fundamental narrative of a severe, ongoing crisis that requires sustained investment.

A vast ecosystem of government agencies, international NGOs and local civil society organizations is built around the management and disbursement of HIV aid. This creates a powerful constituency with a vested interest in the continuation of funding flows, potentially discouraging a premature declaration of victory that could dismantle this infrastructure.

Lesotho: A case study in contrasts

Lesotho presents the perfect lens through which to examine this dynamic. It is consistently cited as both a profound success story and a nation still in the throes of a devastating epidemic.

Tracing Lesotho's journey reveals the stark difference between the slow movement of prevalence and the rapid acceleration of treatment programmes.

Our dramatic narrative arc from global epicentre to a "model for control" invites critical scrutiny. Is the progress real, and are the numbers trustworthy?

I would like to first talk to several factors that argue against systematic data manipulation and for authentic achievement: the gold-standard data, such as the LePHIA 2020 survey, was conducted by ICAP at Columbia University, an independent academic institution, not the Lesotho government alone. This external validation makes widespread doctoring of core prevalence and treatment metrics highly improbable.

The logic of the treatment cascade is internally consistent. Achieving 92 percent viral suppression among those on treatment (as per the 2020 data) is a biologically plausible outcome of having 97 percent of diagnosed people on ART. These may be difficult numbers to fabricate coherently across a decentralized health system.

The infrastructure built for HIV - laboratory networks, supply chains and health worker training - has tangible spill-over effects, improving care for other diseases. This institutional strengthening is also a real, if indirect, marker of effective investment.

These lead me to concede, to a degree, that the continued emphasis on Lesotho's severe epidemic may not be manufactured; that it is rooted in a stubborn reality; that even with a decline, an 18.5 percent adult prevalence rate is catastrophic by global standards, representing hundreds of thousands of people requiring lifelong care.

The "success" is entirely relative to an unimaginably high baseline. Furthermore, as EGPAF highlights, crises persist in specific populations, like children and adolescents, who remain "the most neglected group in the HIV response."

This allows partners and the government to legitimately point to both overarching success and acute, ongoing needs.

The issue may be less about falsifying spreadsheets and more about strategic narrative framing.

The government and its partners have a compelling incentive to amplify treatment success metrics (90-90-90) to validate donor spending; selectively highlight prevalence data that shows decline (e.g., the 2023 estimate) while acknowledging the overall rate remains among the world's highest and to continuously identify new frontiers for intervention - paediatric HIV and youth prevention - to maintain programme relevance and funding streams.

Which leads me to argue that this is deception; a high quality art of storytelling in a competitive aid environment. My real critique is that the system incentivizes a perpetual "emergency plus success" narrative that may, over decades, hinder a transition to sustainable, locally-financed health management.

In this complex calculus of international aid, a devastating disease can become a perverse kind of strategic resource. For the governments of some poor nations, the relentless narrative of an uncontrolled HIV epidemic is not a mark of failure but a critical financial asset.

Mounting evidence suggests that in countries like Lesotho, where donor aid forms a lifeline for both public health and political patronage, the temptation to manipulate, exaggerate, or deliberately sustain the appearance of high disease prevalence is not merely a risk - it is an operational reality.

This exploration argues that the celebrated "success story" of Lesotho's HIV response is built on a foundation of unreliable and potentially falsified data, a mirage maintained to ensure the continued flow of hundreds of millions in donor Dollars that benefit the state and a vast network of NGOs more than they deliver sustainable health for Basotho.

When crisis equals cash

To understand the motive for data manipulation, one must first understand the machinery of global health funding. Programmes like the US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund allocate resources based on objective burden-of-disease metrics.

A falling prevalence rate is not just a public health victory; in a system with rigid performance frameworks and competitive funding rounds, it is a direct threat to future revenue.

HIV/Aids funding is not merely a health budget line item for Lesotho; it is a cornerstone of our public sector and a significant portion of our health GDP. This funding supports salaries, vehicles, offices and local subcontracts, creating a powerful domestic constituency with a vested interest in the epidemic's perceived intractability.

The international community, on the other hand, demands success stories to justify taxpayer investments back in Washington, London, or Geneva.

This has led to a sophisticated dual narrative - showcase dramatic improvements on specific, hard-to-independently-verify "process" metrics (like treatment targets) while ensuring the overarching "outcome" metric (prevalence) remains alarmingly high. It is a shell game of statistics - highlighting the 95-95-95 targets while whispering about a persistent "crisis."

Lesotho's statistical mirage

In my view, a critical longitudinal analysis of Lesotho's HIV data reveals inconsistencies and patterns that defy epidemiological plausibility, pointing toward political management of numbers rather than transparent reporting.

During the baseline catastrophe, the early 2000s, Lesotho's HIV prevalence was consistently reported at around 25 to 26 percent among adults. A Demographic and Health Survey found that 23.4 percent of Basotho adults were HIV positive.

This shocking figure, while devastating, successfully positioned the country as a global priority, unlocking massive, sustained donor inflows from PEPFAR, the Global Fund and major NGOs.

The 2010s were the era of scaling up as treatment programmes expanded, the prevalence rate entered a period of curious inertia. Despite massive roll-out of antiretroviral therapy (ART), which should begin to lower population-level prevalence within 5 to 7 years, official estimates remained stubbornly high.

This period saw the rise of the "treatment success" narrative focused on the 90-90-90 cascade, metrics largely controlled and reported by the very health facilities funded by the aid.

The 2020 breakthrough, as highlighted by the 2020 Lesotho Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (LePHIA) survey, conducted by ICAP at Columbia University, was hailed as a triumph. It reported an adult prevalence of 22.7 percent - a modest decline - and astonishingly, claimed Lesotho had surpassed the 90-90-90 targets.

However, sceptics like me note the timing - this "validation" arrived just as major donor funding cycles were due for review, providing the perfect "proof" of both continued need and effective use of funds.

But on a positive note the National AIDS Commission (NAC) released new data indicating that Lesotho's HIV epidemic is continuing a positive downward trend.

The 2025 National HIV Estimates Report, which analyzes 2024 data, reveals a decline in both overall prevalence and new infections.

Among the adult population aged 15-49, HIV prevalence has fallen from 19.3 percent in 2022 to an estimated 18.5 percent in 2023.

This translates to approximately 270 000 people of all ages living with HIV nationwide. The country also recorded a 6 percent reduction in new infections, which dropped to 4 800 in 2023.

Critically, Lesotho is making substantial progress toward the global UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets. The report shows that 95 percent of people living with HIV are aware

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of their status.

Of those, 94 percent are on life-saving antiretroviral treatment (ART), and an impressive 98 percent of people on treatment have achieved viral suppression, meaning the virus is untransmittable and their health is protected.

The data shows variation across districts, with Maseru having the highest prevalence at 20.1 percent and Mokhotlong the lowest at 15.4 percent.

This sharp drop raises a critical question. Is this the result of genuine epidemiological progress, or a carefully calibrated "adjustment" to demonstrate progress while keeping the rate high enough to remain a top-tier funding priority?

Reported success vs Sceptical scrutiny

Adult prevalence (15-49) fell from 25 percent in 2005 to 22.7 percent in 2020 to 18.5 percent in 2023. A clear success trajectory. The pace of decline is epidemiologically strange without a massive prevention breakthrough.

Why did it stall for 15 years then suddenly accelerate? Does the 2023 figure reflect reality or a strategic downward revision?

90-90-90/95-95-95 was achieved and surpassed targets and hailed a global model for control.

These are programmatic metrics. They measure the health system's performance for people already identified as HIV-positive. They are vulnerable to reporting bias at clinic levels seeking to meet targets and are silent on whether the overall infected population is being accurately counted.

Estimation models for incidence are highly sensitive to the prevalence data fed into them. If baseline prevalence is misstated, incidence models become unreliable, creating a closed loop of unverifiable "success."

And this lead me to highlight that the entire national HIV response is externally financed. The government, therefore, has a multi-million-Dollar incentive to maintain the narrative that requires this partnership to continue indefinitely.

The mechanics of manipulation

The falsification is rarely a crude act of inventing numbers wholesale; it is a more insidious process of strategic distortion. Population-based surveys (like LePHIA) can be designed with sampling frames that over-represent high-prevalence urban areas or under-sample harder-to-reach, potentially lower-prevalence rural populations, artificially inflating the final estimate.

Health facilities graded on performance - e.g. number of patients on treatment and/or viral suppression rates - face immense pressure to report optimistic data. Missing patient files can be counted as "suppressed" to meet targets; patients who have died or migrated remain on active registers.

This inflates treatment success metrics, which are then used to validate the overall response.

By focusing donor attention on the treatment cascade (the 95-95-95), the debate shifts away from the foundational, controversial number - total prevalence. Governments can be lauded for "programmatic excellence" even if the core estimate of people living with HIV is flawed.

Many annual estimates are not from new surveys but from mathematical models (like Spectrum/EPP). Governments can influence the assumptions and input data fed into these models, steering outputs to desired levels.

A slight tweak in mortality assumptions or treatment efficacy can produce a declining prevalence trend on schedule.

Scholarly and institutional suspicions

While few will speak on the record for fear of losing access, an undercurrent of scepticism exists among researchers and within agencies. Scholars like Alex de Waal have written extensively on the humanitarian marketplace, where crises become commodities.

In this framework, accurate data that shows a resolved crisis is a liability. The incentive is to perpetually "manage" the crisis, not solve it.

Internal audits from major donors, often confidential, routinely find "weaknesses in data quality," "over-reporting of achievements," and "inaccurate patient registers" in recipient countries. I find these to be sanitized bureaucratic terms for systemic data inflation.

NGOs on the ground, whose contracts depend on the continued state of emergency, are complicit in the charade. They must report success to their donors but cannot declare the problem solved, lest they work themselves out of a job.

Their reports thus become masterpieces of contradiction - "we have achieved incredible milestones, but the situation remains dire."

A kingdom built on a statistical fault line

I, therefore, driven to conclude that Lesotho's celebrated HIV success is a Potemkin village erected on a foundation of suspect statistics. The decline in prevalence from a likely inflated peak to a still-conveniently-high current level follows a politically and financially convenient arc, not an epidemiological one.

The government is not alone in this deception; it is aided by a donor architecture that requires crisis to justify its existence and an NGO sector that thrives on perpetual struggle.

We are the real victims. First, we suffer from a genuine, severe epidemic. Second, we are robbed of an honest assessment of our plight, which impedes truly effective, targeted prevention. Third, we are disempowered, treated as passive recipients in a donor-driven theatre where our health is a bargaining chip.

The billions spent have built a sprawling "HIV industry," but whether they have built a sustainable, honest health system capable of ending the epidemic, remains deeply doubtful.

Until funding is decoupled from disease burden metrics and tied instead to transparent, audited health system capacity and universal health coverage outcomes, the temptation for poor governments to treat prevalence rates as a renewable financial resource - rather than a tragic human reality to be solved - will remain overwhelming.

Lesotho's HIV story cannot be reduced to a simple choice between "real success" and "doctored data." The truth is more nuanced, we have achieved remarkable, verified successes in treatment access and viral suppression, saving countless lives and strengthening our health system. These achievements are real.

Concurrently, we continue to host one of the planet's most severe HIV epidemics, a fact that is not exaggerated but is essential to our country's economic relationship with the donor world.

The system creates a powerful, perhaps unavoidable, incentive to manage a dual identity - a model student of global health and a perpetual patient in critical care.

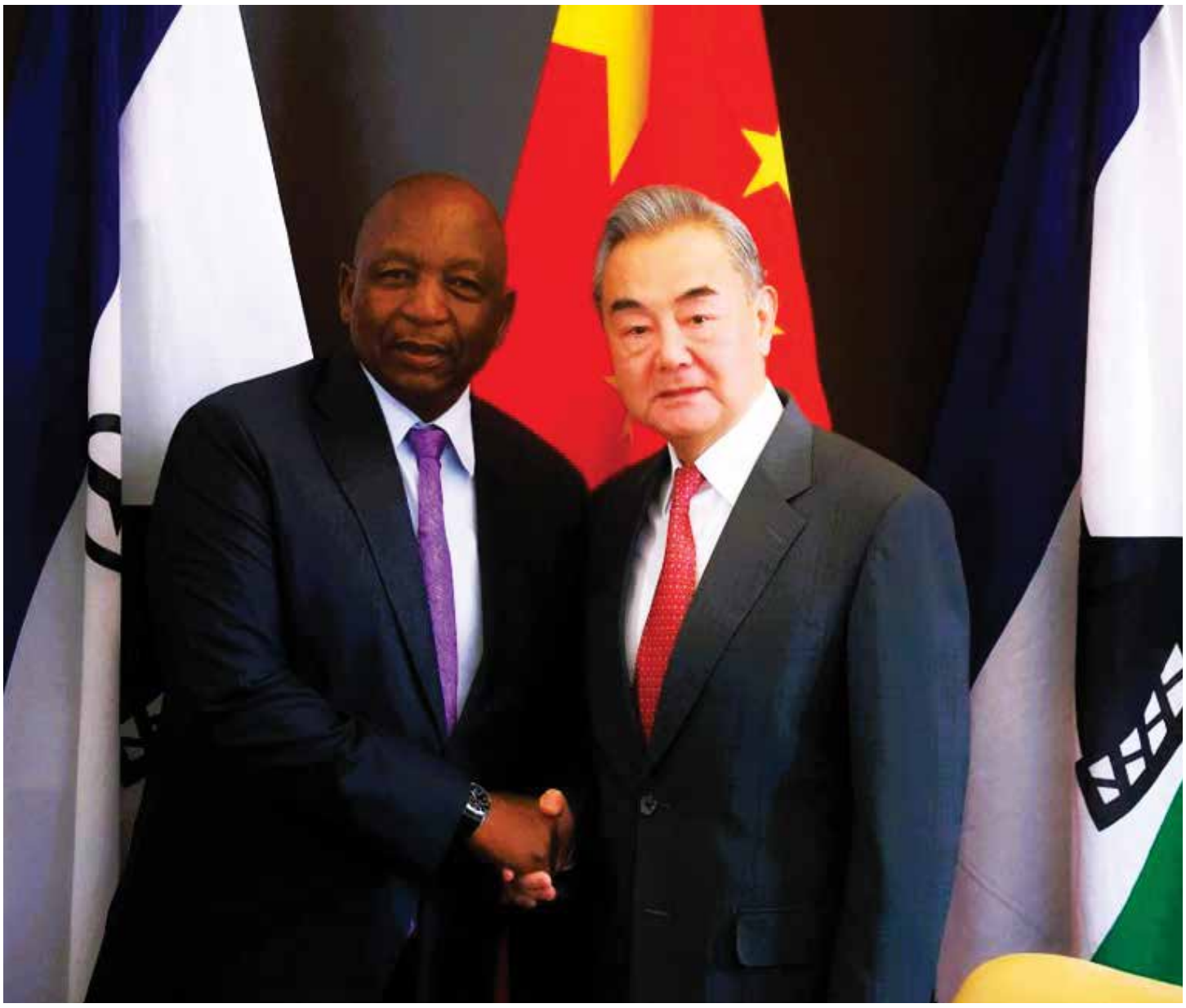
The epidemic in the country is not just a medical condition, it is a political and economic institution, and its reported statistics are its carefully guarded currency.

My ultimate critique, therefore, is not of Lesotho but of the international aid architecture that makes this contradictory position the most rational strategy for survival.

Until the model evolves to reward the transition from emergency relief to sustainable health security, nations like ours will remain trapped in a cycle of celebrating success while forever proving they are still sick enough to deserve the medicine.

China deepens economic ties with Lesotho

Fast-tracks zero-tariff access amid global realignments



NEO SENOKO

MASERU– In a move set to reshape Lesotho's economic landscape, the People's Republic of China has pledged to accelerate the implementation of its zero-tariff policy for African goods within the country, while expanding bilateral cooperation across trade, investment and industrial sectors.

The commitment was solidified during a high-level visit this week by China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, marking a pivotal moment in a relationship increasingly viewed as strategic for both nations.

The engagement with China comes at a critical juncture, as Lesotho actively seeks to diversify its international partnerships and insulate its economy from external shocks, including recent shifts in United States trade policy.

This recalibration positions China not merely as a development partner, but as a central pillar in Lesotho's strategy for national revitalization and sustainable growth. The diplomatic foundations between China and Lesotho, established upon the resumption of ties in 1994, have evolved into a robust and multifaceted partnership.

Historically rooted in principles of mutual respect and non-interference, the relationship has progressively deepened under the broader umbrella of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

For Lesotho, a small, landlocked nation with economic vulnerabilities, China has emerged as a consistent partner in addressing developmental challenges.

The bilateral dynamic is characterized as a model of South-South cooperation, emphasizing shared development goals. Lesotho has consistently supported China's core interests and major initiatives on global platforms, reciprocating Beijing's diplomatic and economic outreach.

This mutual backing forms the bedrock upon which recent accelerations in economic policy are being built.

The centrepiece of the latest discussions is the expedited implementation of China's zero-tariff treatment for 98 percent of taxable items originating from least-developed countries, a policy announced at the 2021 FOCAC summit.

For Lesotho, this offers a vital gateway for its key exports -such as textiles, wool, mohair, and agricultural products - to access the world's second-largest consumer market without duty barriers.

This policy is a direct catalyst for job creation, industrial growth, and export diversification within Lesotho.

Beyond tariffs, the two nations outlined an ambitious roadmap to elevate cooperation. The focus will expand into sectors like technology transfer, vocational training, industrial park development, and green energy.

China has pledged to encourage its enterprises to increase investment in Lesotho, particularly in value-added manufacturing that moves beyond raw material extraction.

This shift aims to foster greater economic complexity and resilience in the local.

The promise of future cooperation is bolstered by a tangible track record of Chinese-assisted projects that have directly impacted Lesotho's development landscape. In recent years, Chinese engagement has been highly visible in critical infrastructure.

The construction of the state-of-the-art Maseru District Hospital have significantly bolstered national healthcare capacity; key road projects, including the upgrading of the Ha Mpiti-Sehlabathebe Road and segments of the national road network, have enhanced connectivity and internal trade.

Support for renewable energy initiatives, including feasibility studies for solar power plants, aligns with Lesotho's goals for energy security and sustainability, while the construction of the new Parliament Building and the National Convention Centre in Maseru have also stood as iconic symbols of the partnership.

These projects, often financed through a mix of Chinese grants, concessional loans and commercial investment, have been instrumental in addressing infrastructure deficits.

They are complemented by agricultural technical assistance, scholarship programmes for Basotho students and humanitarian aid.

Lesotho's renewed drive to strengthen ties with China is strategically motivated. Facing uncertainty from shifting global trade dynamics, including changes in US policy under acts like the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), Lesotho is proactively building economic alternatives.

Deepening relations with China provides a counterbalance and a stable, predictable partnership framework.

In return, Lesotho has been a steadfast supporter of China on multilateral stages. Notably, Lesotho has publicly endorsed China's positions within forums such as BRICS (where China is a key member), the United Nations, and other international bodies.

The Kingdom has also supported the One-China Principle and collaborated with China to address global challenges, advocating for a more equitable, multipolar world order and opposing what both nations term "unilateralism and bullying acts."

This diplomatic reciprocity strengthens the political trust that underpins economic agreements.

Lesotho has been a direct beneficiary of the FOCAC mechanism. Outcomes from the 2021 and 2024 Beijing Summits have translated into concrete projects and financial flows. The "ten partnership actions" outlined by FOCAC, covering areas from digital innovation to peace and security, provide a structured platform for Lesotho's engagement.

Looking forward to the next FOCAC cycle, Lesotho should aim to strategically leverage the forum to develop a national strategy to boost production capacity and quality standards for goods destined for the Chinese market, ensuring local businesses can fully capitalize on tariff-free access; negotiate for more technology-intensive joint ventures, particularly in agro-processing, textile finishing and mineral beneficiation, to capture more value domestically.

There should also be increased focus on human capital – with government advocating for expanded scholarships and vocational training programmes tailored to the skills needed for national industrial and digital transformation while also formalising partnerships in hydropower and solar energy development - positioning Lesotho as a potential green energy exporter in the region with Chinese technical and financial support.

In his remarks, foreign minister Wang framed the partnership within China's broader global vision.

"China is ready to work with Lesotho to strengthen exchanges on governance experience, enhance cooperation in multilateral fields, and promote greater development of the China-Lesotho strategic partnership," he stated.

He reiterated China's commitment to "stand firmly with African countries, uphold justice for the Global South... and work together to promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity."

Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane echoed this sentiment, affirming, "Our partnership is genuine, remaining beneficial as well as producing more results." He emphasized Lesotho's willingness to deepen strategic trust and jointly implement FOCAC outcomes.

As the world order undergoes realignment, the accelerated partnership between Maseru and Beijing signals a confident step by Lesotho to secure its economic future through diversified, substantive alliances.

The success of this deepened cooperation will ultimately be measured by its translation into sustainable jobs, industrial growth, and enhanced resilience for the Basotho people.

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Econet and Sasai deliver life-changing prize

First Toyota Starlet awarded in Ho'a Khonahala Festive Campaign

BOKANG MOSHOESHOE

QACHA'S NEK – In a moment of life-altering celebration, Nkamoheleng Tsekela became the first grand prize winner of the highly anticipated Ho'a Khonahala Festive Campaign, driving away in a brand-new Toyota Starlet.

The handover, conducted by Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) and Sasai Econet Financial Services (SEFS), marks a pivotal milestone in a promotion designed to reward everyday digital transactions with extraordinary opportunities.

The event was more than a simple prize giveaway; it was a powerful testament to a campaign that has captivated the nation since its October 2025 launch. Tsekela's win symbolizes the core promise of Ho'a Khonahala ("It's Possible"): that routine engagements with EcoCash and selected voice and data bundles can indeed translate into transformative rewards.

The Ho'a Khonahala Festive Campaign is not an isolated promotion but a cornerstone of Econet's broader, customer-centric strategy. It forms part of a sustained commitment to financial inclusion, digital empowerment, and tangible community reward.

By incentivizing the use of EcoCash - Lesotho's leading mobile money service - and affordable connectivity bundles, ETL and SEFS are actively driving the nation's digital economy forward while directly giving back to its user base.

The campaign's structure is intentionally accessible. Customers automatically enter draws by using EcoCash for transactions or purchasing designated voice and data bundles. This low-barrier participation has fuelled widespread engagement across all ten districts of Lesotho.

The prize pool, a substantial M6 million dedicated solely to this festive initiative, underscores the scale of Econet's investment in its customers' loyalty.

Before the headline-grabbing car handover, the Ho'a Khonahala campaign had already begun altering fortunes across Lesotho. As highlighted by ETL's Acting General Manager for Products and Services, Ketja Nhlapo, the campaign's success is measured in both value and reach.



"The numbers behind Ho'a Khonahala tell a very powerful story," Nhlapo stated. "We have seen 44 daily cash prize winners, 16 weekly cash prize winners, and 24 customers receiving smart devices, including smartphones and televisions. This is in addition to significant monthly cash awards, such as the M20 000 and M50 000 prizes awarded in November and December respectively."

Perhaps most impactful has been the campaign's grassroots approach. Weekly district activations have taken the excitement directly to communities, resulting in 28 local cash prize winners (over M30 000 awarded), 56 smartphone winners, and 132 recipients of airtime.

"These are not just statistics," Nhlapo emphasized.

"They represent real people in towns, villages, and districts whose lives are being positively impacted."

This campaign aligns seamlessly with Econet's long-standing corporate social responsibility (CSR) and promotional philosophy. The group has consistently launched initiatives that blend commercial activity with social good, from supporting education and health projects to promoting digital literacy. Ho'a Khonahala fits into this framework by using the mechanism of a promotion to advance financial inclusion - encouraging the unbanked and underbanked to participate in the formal digital economy with the immediate incentive of life-changing rewards.

"Today's handover of this Toyota Starlet is further proof that we are truly #CruisingNicely with our customers," Nhlapo said during the ceremony. "It shows that when customers trust our platforms and actively engage with our products, we make sure that trust is rewarded in a meaningful and substantial way."

He reiterated that the excitement is far from over, with the campaign running until February. Two more Toyota Starlets, alongside continued daily, weekly, and monthly cash and device prizes, remain to be won, urging customers to maintain their participation.

For Nkamoheleng Tsekela, the reality of her win was profoundly emotional. Standing beside her gleaming new vehicle, she described the moment as overwhelming.

"This campaign has truly changed my life for the better," she shared. "I never imagined that by simply using EcoCash for my daily needs and purchasing voice and data bundles, I could end up owning a brand-new car. It still feels like a dream."

She extended heartfelt gratitude to ETL and SEFS for creating an initiative that levels the playing field, giving ordinary Basotho a genuine chance at extraordinary gains. Her story is poised to inspire countless others to engage with the digital tools that are increasingly central to economic life in Lesotho.

ETL and Sasai confirm that the Ho'a Khonahala campaign is a key part of their ongoing strategy to deliver innovative, customer-focused initiatives. The goal is to create a lasting impact that extends beyond the festive season, fostering a culture of digital transaction comfort, rewarding loyalty, and continuously demonstrating that corporate growth and community advancement are mutually reinforcing goals.

As the first Toyota Starlet finds its home, the message is clear - with Econet and Sasai, participation in the digital economy is not just a utility - it's a gateway to possibility. The Ho'a Khonahala campaign continues to roll out, promising more dreams to be realized and more lives

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Business

US House backs three-year AGOA lifeline, offering critical reprieve to Lesotho's textile

Trade programme's fate now rests with Senate and president after months of lapse threaten African economies

RETHABILE MOHONO

MASERU – In a decisive move that brings hope to thousands of Basotho textile workers and the broader Southern African trade community, the United States House of Representatives has overwhelmingly approved a three-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

The vote, passed 340 to 54 this week, sets the stage for a potential reinstatement of duty-free access to the lucrative US market for eligible sub-Saharan African nations, crucially including Lesotho.

The AGOA Extension Act now advances to the US Senate, marking a pivotal step in resuscitating a program that had lain dormant since its expiration on September 30, 2025. For Lesotho, where the textile and apparel industry forms the backbone of the economy and depends overwhelmingly on American buyers, the legislative progress offers a chance to halt a looming economic crisis. The path to this point has been fraught with uncertainty, a process meticulously outlined by Basotho National Party (BNP) leader, Machesetsa Mofomobe.

He detailed the four-stage US legislative journey required for AGOA's renewal.

The first hurdle was cleared on December 10, 2025, when the powerful House Ways and Means Committee approved the draft bill. The second and most recent stage was the full House vote on January 13.

"The approval by the House means that AGOA renewal has now passed two of the four critical stages, with two still outstanding," Mofomobe told local media.

The Bill now enters the third stage: consideration by the US Senate.

This process is notoriously variable, potentially taking a month or longer as senators debate, possibly amend, and eventually vote on the legislation. The final and most critical stage rests with the executive branch.

"The fourth and most important stage will be when President Donald Trump either signs the bill into law or vetoes it," Mofomobe emphasized.

This procedural clarity is cold comfort for exporters who have been operating in a state of limbo. The months-long lapse of AGOA since September 2025 disrupted established supply chains, created financial strain for both African manufacturers and US importers, and injected severe instability into a vital transcontinental economic relationship.

To understand the relief this extension promises, one must grasp AGOA's transformative role since its inception in 2000. Conceived as a tool to spur economic growth, support good governance, and facilitate Africa's integration into the global trading system, AGOA grants duty-free, quota-free access to the US market for over 1 800 products from qualifying sub-Saharan African countries.

For the mountain kingdom of Lesotho, AGOA has been nothing short of revolutionary. It catalysed the growth of a formidable textile and apparel sector, transforming the nation into a significant exporter.

According to Minister of Trade, Industry and Business Development, Mokhethi Shelile, approximately 45 percent of Lesotho's total merchandise exports are destined for the United States, with garments constituting a staggering 80 percent of those shipments. The industry's footprint is immense. It directly employs between 30 000 and 40 000 Basotho, the majority of whom are women, providing vital income and economic empowerment.

Beyond payroll, the sector contributes roughly one-third of Lesotho's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), making it a primary pillar of national economic stability and development.

The recent lobbying mission to Washington by a high-level delegation led by Ministers Shelile and Tšeliso Mokhosi of Labour and Employment underscored the program's critical importance. Their urgent advocacy highlighted what was at stake - the survival of an entire industry.

The expiration of AGOA laid bare the profound vulnerability inherent in such preferential trade dependency. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had previously sounded the alarm, warning that a loss of AGOA preferences could slash Lesotho's exports by up to 70 percent and trigger widespread factory closures.

The mere threat of expiration over recent years had already chilled new investment in the sector, as manufacturers hesitated to commit capital without certainty of future market access.

Furthermore, the current renewal process occurs against a backdrop of broader trade tensions. Uncertainty specifically clouds South Africa's continued eligibility under AGOA due to its ongoing diplomatic and trade frictions with Washington.

Given the integrated nature of regional supply chains - where Lesotho often sources materials and shares logistics - instability in a major regional economy like South Africa poses an additional, indirect threat to Basotho operations.

The proposed AGOA Extension Act is not merely a simple renewal. It contains several tailored provisions aimed at strengthening and adjusting the programme.

· Core extension: It extends AGOA benefits retroactively from the lapse date of September 30, 2025, to December 31, 2028.
· Apparel sector boost: It amends regional apparel provisions by increasing the limits on successive apparel articles from 21 to 24, allowing for greater export volumes of popular items.

· Flexibility on fabrics: It adjusts rules for third-country fabric programs, enabling manufacturers to use a wider variety of fabrics in garments destined for the U.S. This enhances competitiveness and design flexibility for textile-producing nations like Lesotho.

· Retroactive relief: A crucial provision allows for the retroactive application of duty-free treatment. Goods that entered the US during the lapse period (from September 30, 2025, until the law's enactment) can be reclassified as duty-free. Importers have 180 days to submit claims for refunds, which the



US government is mandated to pay within 90 days, sans interest.

· Ancillary fee extensions: The bill also extends certain customs user fees, aligning their expiration with the new AGOA timeline.

While the House vote has put AGOA back on track, its ultimate fate is not yet sealed. The coming weeks of Senate deliberation and potential presidential action will be watched with bated breath across Lesotho's factory floors and in government corridors. If fully enacted, this three-year extension offers more than just a resumption of business as usual. It provides a vital and finite window of opportunity. For Lesotho, it is a period to solidify export relationships, protect tens of thousands of jobs, and, most importantly, engage in strategic repositioning.

The industry and the government must use this time to enhance competitiveness, diversify product lines, explore more regional fabric sourcing to meet rules of origin, and invest in skills development.

The goal must be to build a more resilient economic sector that, while still benefiting from AGOA, is less catastrophically vulnerable to its political cycles. The programme has been a cornerstone of growth, but the recent lapse is a stark reminder that foundations built on external policy can shift.

The approved extension is a lifeline; how Lesotho uses the next three years will determine the long-term strength and sustainability of its most critical industry.

Econet Lesotho invests M1.5m in 7th Edition of APICA

- Boosting culture and tourism
- Flagship festival set to return to Ramabanta with music, camping, and economic opportunities in February 2026

'MAKERESEMESE LETUKA

MASERU – Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) has announced a sponsorship of M1.5 million for the 7th edition of the African Picnic and Camping festival (APICA), reinforcing its longstanding commitment to blending music, culture and tourism in the country.

Since its inception, APICA has grown from a modest outdoor gathering into one of Lesotho's premier cultural events, designed to celebrate local artistry while attracting regional and international visitors. The festival was founded to create a unique space where music, heritage, and nature intersect, offering an authentic Basotho experience while stimulating local business and tourism.

This year's instalment is scheduled from February 27 to March 1, at the scenic Ramabanta Trading Post, known for its stunning landscapes and adventure-friendly setting.

Puleng 'Mathabo Masoabi, Econet Lesotho's Acting General Manager for Marketing Communications and Customer Experience, highlighted the company's sustained partnership with APICA dating back to 2019.

"Our investment in Econet APICA goes beyond entertainment. It is about supporting local talent, creating opportunities, and contributing meaningfully to Lesotho's economic growth while remaining steadfast in our vision of a digitally enabled future," Masoabi stated.

She also revealed that this year's festival





will feature a dedicated VIP section on the second day, available to loyal customers.

Montoeli 'Moleli of Global Events, the festival organizer, emphasized APICA's role as an economic catalyst. "From local vendors and security personnel to transport operators and SMMEs, the festival creates tangible opportunities and livelihoods while showcasing the best of Lesotho."

Phomolo Lebotsa, Head of Marketing at the Lesotho Tourism and Development Corporation (LTDC), praised APICA's growing influence.

"Econet APICA has become a flagship event on Lesotho's cultural calendar. It plays a critical role in positioning Lesotho as a compelling tourism destination."

The festival will feature an impressive lineup of local and international artists, including legendary South African musician Sipho "Hotstix" Mabuse, Mawhoo, Sannere, Kelvin Momo, and Mookho Moqhali, with more acts to be confirmed.

Beyond music, APICA 2026 promises a fully immersive experience, complete with comedy nights, starlit camping, mountain hiking, horseback riding, and soothing R&B and soul sessions - cementing its reputation as more than just a concert, but a holistic cultural and tourism showcase.

As Lesotho continues to promote itself as a unique travel destination, Econet's continued backing of APICA signals a confident investment in the nation's creative and economic potential.

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Youth demand seat at the table

- Lesotho's 2026 budget under pressure to address national unemployment crisis
- As advocacy group YDI petitions finance minister for concrete commitments, constitutional watchdog SECTION 2 threatens to block budget over audit transparency

MOSA MAOENG

MASERU - In a powerful convergence of civic pressure, Lesotho's 2026/2027 National Budget is caught between the urgent, heartfelt pleas of its disillusioned youth and the stern, procedural demands of constitutional guardians.

With youth unemployment officially declared a national disaster, the upcoming fiscal plan is being scrutinized as a potential turning point - or another missed opportunity - for the country's future.

The Youth Dialogue Initiative (YDI), a prominent youth advocacy group, has formally petitioned finance minister, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, demanding that the forthcoming budget move beyond rhetoric to deliver "clear direction and concrete budgetary commitments" for young Basotho.

This appeal, detailed in a January 6 letter, comes amidst a parallel threat from the Advocates for the Supremacy of the Constitution (commonly known as SECTION 2), who have vowed to block the budget's passage unless Parliament receives proper audited financial statements from the previous year.

For Lesotho's youth, the stakes could not be higher. The YDI's letter outlines a comprehensive blueprint for national recovery centered on young people. At its core is the demand for a clear, funded, and accountable plan to tackle the unemployment emergency declared by the prime minister on June 18, 2025.

The group calls for specific programmes with timelines, focusing on large-scale job creation, market-aligned skills development, and sustainable livelihoods.

"This is not business as usual," said Tumelo Moteuli, speaking for YDI. "The declaration of a state of emergency means there is a need for immediate implementation. Our letter is a plea that issues of the young people be included in the budget for this fiscal year."

The YDI's demands extend beyond immediate job creation. They are advocating for the finalization of the long-awaited National Youth Development Bill of 2024 and the holding of Youth Council Elections.

The Bill is envisioned as a foundational policy framework that would institutionalize youth rights, development priorities, and government accountability.

The elected Youth Council would provide a legitimate, representative voice for young people in national decision-making, moving youth engagement from ad-hoc consultation to structured participation.

Other critical items on their budgetary wish-list include the establishment of a rehabilitation centre, to address gaps in social support; and a youth-friendly finance and business support to catalyse entrepreneurship and the capacitation of existing, often under-resourced, youth programmes within the government.

There is also the integration of indigenous knowledge systems into development strategies, education reform aligned with Lesotho and SADC market needs to curb the skills mismatch as well as the finalization and implementation of the National Reforms agenda, linking broader governance improvements to youth outcomes.

"Policy certainty is crucial for political stability, investor confidence, and national cohesion," the YDI stressed in its missive, framing youth investment as the cornerstone of national progress.

The urgency of YDI's appeal is rooted in a harsh daily reality. Lesotho's youth face a vortex of challenges: one of the highest youth unemployment rates globally, limited arable land, an economy heavily dependent on migrant labour to South Africa, and an education system that often fails to equip graduates with relevant skills.

This has led to widespread disillusionment, a brain drain of talented young professionals, and a sense of alienation from the political process.

Many young Basotho feel their potential is stifled by a lack of access to capital for entrepreneurship, inadequate support for agriculture and creative industries, and a perceived indifference from successive governments.

The declaration of youth unemployment as a national disaster was a stark admission of this systemic failure, raising expectations that the 2026 budget must be the vehicle for transformative action.

While the youth lobby for inclusion, another battle over budgetary integrity is brewing. SECTION 2 has issued a stark warning, threatening to derail the passage of the 2026/27 budget unless Parliament first "properly scrutinizes the Audited Financial Statements for the 2024/2025 Financial Year."

The group argues that a dangerous breach of constitutional procedure has become routine. Section 111 of the Constitution grants parliament exclusive authority to approve withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund.

SECTION 2 contends that this power is being reduced to a "ceremonial" ritual, as parliament approves new spending without having received or studied reports on how previously allocated funds were actually spent.

"Once the funds have been used, a report must be submitted explaining how they were spent. Parliament is required to study this report before approving the use of additional funds," SECTION 2 stated.

"Our argument is that Parliament is not receiving these reports, yet it continues to approve further spending. This is irresponsible."

In a January 7 press release, the group cautioned that passing a budget without the latest audited accounts "collapses this constitutional cycle and reduces parliamentary oversight to a procedural ritual."

They asserted that any budget passed without the required audit reports would "lack a rational basis."

This dual pressure creates a defining moment for the Ntsokoane Matekane administration and Minister Matlanyane. The government must navigate the legitimate constitutional concerns about fiscal transparency and accountability raised by SECTION 2, while simultaneously crafting a budget that speaks directly to the nation's most urgent and destabilizing crisis: the desperation of its youth.

For YDI, the hope is that their detailed proposals will be heeded. "We believe that a government that invests in its youth can lead to the growth of the economy of the country," Moteuli asserted.

He noted that while the group has not yet decided on escalation tactics if their letter is ignored, they plan to follow up with the minister's office imminently.

The 2026/27 budget process, therefore, is more than an accounting exercise. It is a test of governance, a measure of political will, and a referendum on whether Lesotho's institutions can effectively channel the demands of its people - especially its youth - into actionable, funded, and accountable policy.

The outcome will signal whether the country is ready to build its future with its young people, or continue to risk their hope and potential on the sidelines of national planning.

As the debates begin, the eyes of a generation are fixed on the halls of power, waiting to see if this budget will finally be for them.

From farm to fortune

How Motjopi Molise built Delight Supermarket on a foundation of local dreams and resilience

'MATHATO SEBOKA

MASERU - A story of entrepreneurial grit and community-focused vision is unfolding - Delight Supermarket, which opened its doors on November 29, 2023, is more than just a retail outlet; it is the embodiment of one man's mission to solve a generational challenge and redefine local shopping.

Its founder, Motjopi Molise, a 45-year-old Mosotho man from Roma now residing in Khubetsoana, has carved a distinct path from corporate management to business ownership, driven by a deeply personal inspiration.

Molise's journey began not in a boardroom, but in the fields of his father's farm. Witnessing the struggles of local farmers - harvests rotting due to lack of market access and predatory pricing - planted a seed. "I realised that after he had harvested, he did not have enough market to sell his harvest," Molise recalls in an interview with Public Eye.

This stark reality ignited his vision: to create a platform for farmers and offer customers an "international experience in their own environment."

Before venturing out, Molise honed his skills in the retail sector, with a career spanning Woolworths, Mr Price, and Game Store, where he ascended to store manager.

This corporate tenure, coupled with short courses in entrepreneurship and labour law, provided the backbone for his ambitious leap. In 2023, he resigned to fully pursue his dream, translating years of observation into action.

The transition from concept to concrete reality was fraught with hurdles, the first being capital. The M10 million needed was a mountain to climb.

"Financial institutions are reluctant to finance small businesses," Molise found. Undeterred, he turned to his network, pooling contributions from ten friends. While the sum fell short, it was enough to launch a scaled-down version, necessitating tough cuts to initial plans but proving the power of collective belief.

Operational challenges emerged swiftly. Securing reliable, affordable suppliers as a start-up was difficult.

Furthermore, initial stock purchasing was done without a precise budget, leading to imbalances - some departments were overstocked with slow-moving items, while others were critically understocked.

"To beat that challenge, we had to reduce the overstocked stock... leading to some losses," Molise admits, a painful but crucial lesson in inventory management and data-driven purchasing. Despite these early trials, Delight Supermarket has achieved significant milestones.

A key strategic pivot involved adapting the initial vision to market reality. While hoping to source primarily locally, supply inconsistencies forced a blend with international goods to meet customer demand.

This flexibility became a strength. The business also undertook rigorous performance reviews, cutting unnecessary inherited costs and ruthlessly focusing investment on what customers demonstrably needed, tracked through sales data.

From an initial staff of 30, adjustments led to a current team of 16, with a commitment to prioritising local job creation where possible. Molise identifies the supermarket's core competitive advantage as its local relevance.

Unlike larger chains with standardised operations, Delight Supermarket actively seeks to accommodate local brands and respond directly to community needs.

This customer-centric philosophy is its shield in a challenging economic climate marked by inflation.

"We have to cut down the standard of the product to make it easily reachable to the customers," Molise notes, demonstrating pragmatic adaptation.

Looking ahead, Molise is not resting.

Even while serving as Managing Director of Delight, he has taken on the role of CEO at Mountain Kingdom Drops and plans to launch a consulting firm, Motjopi All Business Solution (MABS).

For the supermarket, the goals are expansion through stakeholder partnerships to open stores countrywide.

His ultimate vision is one of legacy.

"I envision Delight Supermarket to build generational wealth; I want our children to benefit from it," he states.

For aspiring Basotho entrepreneurs, his advice is rooted in his journey: "People should not be scared to face challenges, the business only exists to solve challenges... every challenge can be turned into an opportunity."

Delight Supermarket's story is still being written, but its first chapters reveal a powerful narrative: that local insight, resilience in the face of funding and operational headwinds, and an unwavering focus on community can build not just a store, but a lasting institution.

In Molise's journey from his father's farm to the helm of a growing enterprise, Lesotho sees a reflection of its own potential - one solved challenge at a time.

European troops arrive in Greenland as talks with US highlight 'disagreement' over island's future



NUUK, Greenland— Troops from several European countries continued to arrive in Greenland on yesterday in a show of support for Denmark as talks between representatives of Denmark, Greenland and the US highlighted "fundamental disagreement" over the future of the Arctic island.

Denmark announced it would increase its military presence in Greenland on Wednesday as foreign ministers from Denmark and Greenland were preparing to meet with White House representatives in Washington. Several European partners - including France, Germany, the UK, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands - started sending symbolic numbers of troops already on Wednesday or promised to do so in the following days.

The troop movements were intended to portray unity among Europeans and send a signal to President Donald Trump that an American takeover of Greenland is not necessary as NATO together can safeguard the security of the Arctic region amid rising Russian and Chinese interest.

"The first French military elements are already en route" and "others will follow," French President Emmanuel Macron announced Wednesday, as French authorities said about 15 soldiers from the mountain infantry unit were already in Nuuk for a military exercise.

Germany was poised to deploy a reconnaissance team of 13 personnel to Greenland by Thursday (yesterday), the Defense Ministry said.

The same day Danish Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen said the intention was "to establish a more permanent military presence with a larger Danish contribution," according to Danish broadcaster. He said soldiers from several NATO countries will be in Greenland on a rotation system.

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen, flanked by his Greenlandic counterpart Vivian Motzfeldt, said Wednesday that a "fundamental disagreement" over Greenland remains with Trump after they held highly anticipated talks at the White House with Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Rasmussen added that it remains "clear that the president has this wish of conquering over Greenland" but that dialogue with the US would continue at a high level over the following weeks.

'Greenland does not want to be part of the United States'

Inhabitants of Greenland and Denmark reacted with anxiety but also some relief that negotiations with the US would go on and European support was becoming visible.

Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen welcomed the continuation of "dialogue and diplomacy."

"Greenland is not for sale," he said.

"Greenland does not want to be owned by the United States. Greenland does not want to be governed from the United States. Greenland does not want to be part of the United States."

In Greenland's capital, Nuuk, local residents told The Associated Press they were glad the first meeting between Greenlandic, Danish and American officials had taken place but suggested it left more questions than answers.

Several people said they viewed Denmark's decision to send more troops, and promises of support from other NATO allies, as protection against possible US military action. But European military officials have not suggested the goal is to deter a US move against the island.

Maya Martinsen, 21, said it was "comforting to know that the Nordic countries are sending reinforcements" because Greenland is a part of Denmark and NATO.

The dispute, she said, is not about "national security" but rather about "the oils and minerals that we have that are untouched."

On Wednesday, Poulsen announced a stepped-up military presence in the Arctic "in close cooperation with our allies," calling it a necessity in a security environment in which "no one can predict what will happen tomorrow."

"This means that from today and in the coming time there will be an increased military presence in and around Greenland of aircraft, ships and soldiers, including from other NATO allies," Poulsen said.

Asked whether the European troop movements were coordinated with NATO or what role the US-led military alliance might play in the exercises, NATO referred all questions to the Danish authorities. However, NATO is currently studying ways to bolster security in the Arctic.

The Russian embassy in Brussels lambasted what it called the West's "bellicose plans" in response to "phantom threats that they generate themselves".

It said the planned military actions were part of an "anti-Russian and anti-Chinese agenda" by NATO.

"Russia has consistently maintained that the Arctic should remain a territory of peace, dialogue and equal cooperation," the embassy said.

Rasmussen announced the creation of a working group with the Americans to discuss ways to work through differences.

"The group, in our view, should focus on how to address the American security concerns, while at the same time respecting the red lines of the Kingdom of Denmark," he said.

Commenting on the outcome of the Washington meeting yesterday, Poulsen said the working group was "better than no working group" and "a step in the right direction."

He added nevertheless that the dialogue with the US did not mean "the danger has passed."

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said the American ambition to take over Greenland remains intact despite the Washington meeting, but she welcomed the creation of the working group.

The most important thing for Greenlanders is that they were directly represented at the meeting in the White House and that "the diplomatic dialogue has begun now," Juno Berthelsen, a lawmaker for the pro-independence Naleraq opposition party, told AP.

A relationship with the US is beneficial for Greenlanders and Americans and is "vital to the security and stability of the Arctic and the Western Alliance," Berthelsen said.

He suggested the US could be involved in the creation of a coast guard for Greenland, providing funding and creating jobs for local people who can help to patrol the Arctic.

In Washington, Rasmussen and Motzfeldt met with a bipartisan group of senators at the US Capitol.

"We really appreciate that we have close friends in the Senate and the House as well," Rasmussen told reporters, adding that Denmark would work to "accommodate any reasonable American requests" with Greenland.

There has been significant concern among lawmakers of both political parties that Trump could upend the NATO alliance by insisting on using military force to possess Greenland. Key Republicans lawmakers have pushed back on those plans and suggested that the Trump administration should work with Denmark to enhance mutual security in the Arctic.

Line McGee, 38, from Copenhagen, told AP that she was glad to see some diplomatic progress.

"I don't think the threat has gone away," she said. "But I feel slightly better than I did yesterday."

Trump, in his Oval Office meeting with reporters, said: "We'll see how it all works out. I think something will work out."

-APN

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Hosts Morocco set up Senegal AFCON final showdown

Hosts Morocco and Senegal will fight it out in a heavyweight Africa Cup of Nations final this weekend after tense last-four victories on Wednesday



RABAT - Hosts Morocco will play Sadio Mane's Senegal in this weekend's Africa Cup of Nations final after both emerged victorious in tense last-four ties on Wednesday as Mohamed Salah's dreams of winning the title were again dashed.

Morocco beat Nigeria 4-2 on penalties after their semi-final showdown of few chances in capital Rabat finished 0-0 at the end of extra time, with goalkeeper Yassine Bounou performing heroics by saving twice in the shoot-out.

Bounou, of Saudi side Al-Hilal, saved from Samuel Chukwueze and Bruno Onyemaechi, allowing Youssef En-Nesyri to convert the winning kick and spark wild celebrations among over 65,000 fans inside the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium.

As well as joy there was relief for Hamza Igamane, who had appeared distraught after his kick - Morocco's second in the shoot-out - was saved by Nigeria goalkeeper Stanley Nwabali.

He was the only Moroccan player to fail to score in the shoot-out, however, with captain and talisman Achraf Hakimi among those who converted their penalties.

"It was one of the hardest matches we have had against a very solid and talented team," said Morocco coach Walid Regragui, who played in the last Atlas Lions team to reach the AFCON final when they lost to Tunisia in 2004.

"I am very happy for the players and for the Moroccan people who really deserve this.

"It is a great gift for them to be in the final but we will need to recover quickly because we put a lot of energy into the game."

The shoot-out came after a cagey encounter, with almost all the chances of note coming in the first half and Nigeria mustering just two shots in the entire game.

Morocco have been under enormous pressure to deliver a first AFCON title for their country in half a century and just their second overall.

However, as their dream remains alive it is an agonising way for Nigeria's hopes to end, two years after they lost the final to the hosts in Ivory Coast. Led by two recent winners of the African player of the year prize in Victor Osimhen and Ademola Lookman, Nigeria had been arguably the best team at the tournament up to the semi-finals and the top scorers with 14 goals in their first five matches.

"The players fought for every ball and it is difficult to lose on penalties, but this is football and we have to accept it," said Nigeria coach Eric Chelle.

He added: "I am proud of my players but I am disappointed for them because the reality is we were maybe the best team that there has been in this AFCON." Earlier, Mane scored a 78th-minute winner to give Senegal a 1-0 victory over Egypt in Tangiers, then said he was playing in the tournament for the last time.

"I'm very happy to be able to play in my very last AFCON. I hope to win it (the final) and bring (the trophy) back to Dakar," the 33-year-old said.

Senegal, champions in 2022, dominated possession against cautious Egypt as the Cup of Nations title continues to elude Liverpool superstar Salah.

This was Salah's fifth AFCON and the closest he has come to a winners' medal is finishing a runner-up twice.

It will be Senegal's fourth Cup of Nations final appearance overall and their third in the last four editions.

"I think we managed the game well from start to finish and, overall, we deserved to win. We'll try to be ready for the final, above all to give our best," said Mane.

"The most important thing for me is that Senegal wins every time... I am a soldier of the nation. I try to give my all every day, whether in training or in matches.

"The Africa Cup of Nations is the most difficult competition in the world. All the teams are evenly matched."

Referring to his former Liverpool teammate Salah, Mane said the Egyptian is "one of the best players in the world".

The goal that decided the game came with 12 minutes remaining, as Mane's low shot flew past the goalkeeper and into the net.

-Newarab

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