

**COVER YOU AND YOUR FAMILY UNDER ONE PLAN**

**DIAL \*100# SELECT 5 TO REGISTER**

T's & C's apply



[www.etl.co.ls](http://www.etl.co.ls)



**EcoSure**  
Re Bolokehile

**LNIG**

Get up to **50k** cover from as little as **48 cents** per day

UNDERWRITTEN BY LESOTHO NATIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Inspired to change your world

**ECONET**  
Telecom Lesotho

# Lesotho Times

News without fear or favour

Apr 9 - 15 2020  
Vol 13 Issue 2

 M7.00  R10.00

**Medigrow retrenches 72 workers**  
page 10



**SADC backs Metsing, Selibe**  
page 8

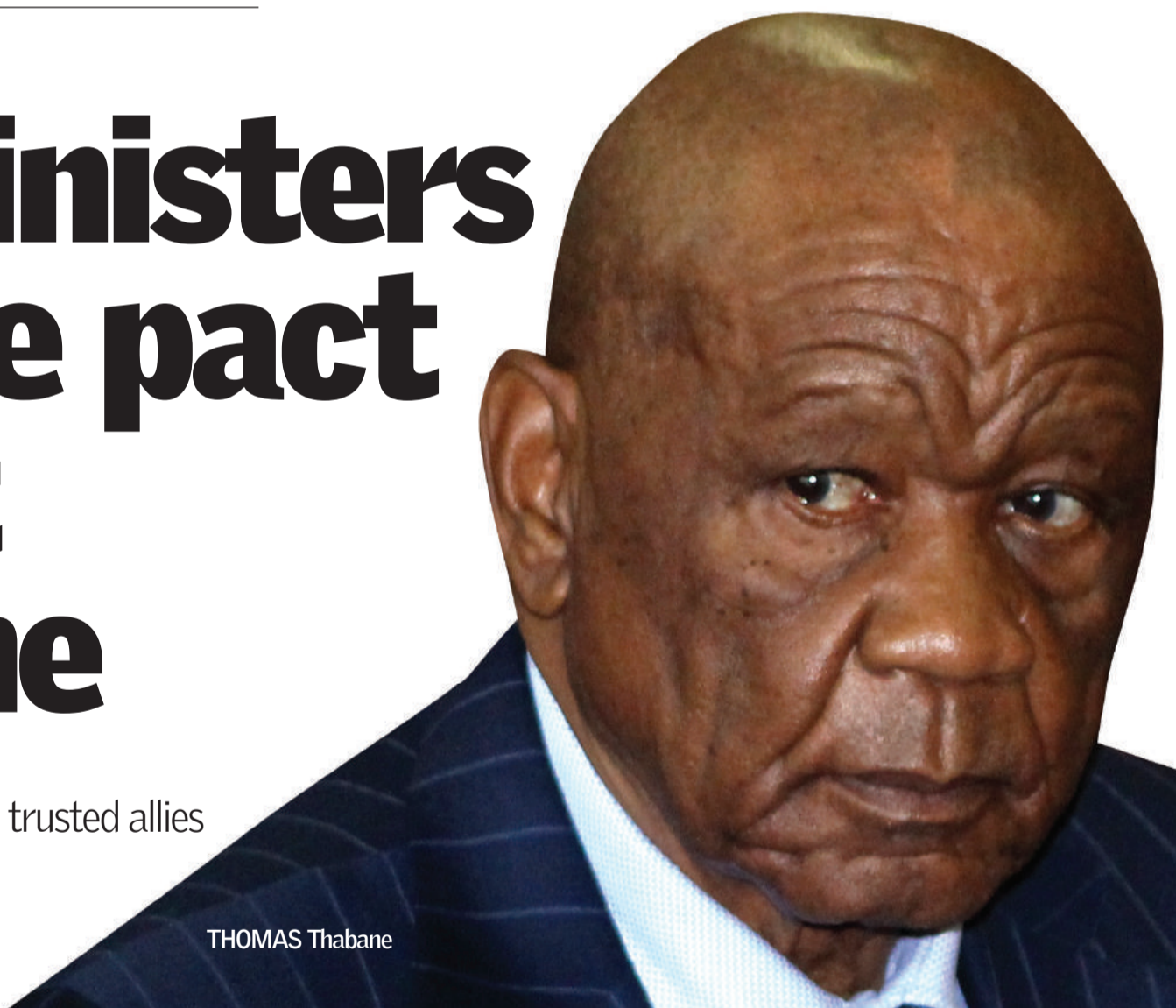


**Doctors, nurses strike**  
page 9



ABC/DC pact; our likely saviour **Scrutator:** P14

# ABC ministers endorse pact to oust Thabane



THOMAS Thabane

● ... as PM loses the support of trusted allies

**Story on page 2**

Catch the latest music and news updates in the comfort of your own home with **Vodacom Music Ticket**

Hourly	200MB	M3
Daily	750MB	M10

Dial **\*114\*123#** to buy Vodacom Music Ticket data bundles

T&Cs apply. Applicable to your existing and active subscription where required

Only works with subscriptions on




The future is exciting. **Ready?**





# Six ABC ministers endorse pact to oust Thabane



THOMAS Thabane.

that he remains a prime minister while Mokhotho would become deputy prime minister when parliament re-opens," Mr Mapesela said over the weekend.

ABC chairperson Samuel Rapapa confirmed that 34 ABC legislators had endorsed the ABC-DC deal. Officials have previously said that 35 legislators endorsed the deal but Mr Rapapa told this publication that the figure is 34. "Immediately after the 34th member signed; I gave the list to (ABC secretary general) Ntate (Lebohlang) Hlaele".

Mr Rapapa said he and fellow legislators, Lepota Sekola and Likopo Mahase, had traversed the country and "collected signatures from Mokhotlong to Mafeteng in support of the coalition agreement with the DC".

He however, refused to reveal the names of those who had signed, saying that the media had no business knowing the contents of confidential ABC documents.

While 34 ABC legislators have so far endorsed the proposed ABC-DC deal, 18 others, including Dr Thabane himself, either support the current coalition or moves to rope in the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) and Movement for Economic Change (MEC) to replace the BNP and RCL whose leaders recently broke ranks with Dr Thabane and sued him over his decision to prorogue parliament.

According to another source, the ABC legislators who have not endorsed the ABC-DC pact are Dr Thabane, Samonyane Ntsekele (Tsikoane constituency), Lekhethe Mosito (Likhetlane), Halebonoe Setšabi (Kolonyama), Litšoane Litšoane (Bela-Bela), Tšehlo Ramarou (Leribe), Leshoboro Mohlajoa (Malmong), Habofanoeh Lehana (Khafung), Prince Maliehe (Teyateyaneng), Tšoeu Molise (Tšoaana-Makhulo), Thabang Mafojane (Motimposo), Mokherane Tsatsanyane (Stadium Area), Lesego Makgothi (Maseru Central), Chalane Phori (Qoaling), Lehlohonolo Moramotse (Lithoteng), Temeki Tšolo (Mafeteng), Sello

to remain in office and that King Letsie III be ordered to fire him and appoint a new prime minister in his place.

Mr Moshoeshoe said those who opposed the ABC-DC pact were unhappy with the BNP for dragging Dr Thabane to court over his decision to prorogue parliament.

He also attacked the move to form a new government with the DC when there was a "legitimate government" in place.

He said a new government could only be formed after Dr Thabane had clearly stated that he was no longer willing to continue with his current coalition partners.

He said he would not take sides but instead strive for unity within the ABC because unity had helped them win so many battles in the past. He said the ABC NEC should have openly discussed its plans to forge a coalition with the DC instead of secretly approaching individual MPs.

"As politicians, ABC MPs will discuss issues in different forums but at the end of the day they have to come to me (as chairperson of the party caucus) and communicate their decisions so that I can talk to the leader (Dr Thabane) to sanction a meeting to discuss a particular issue.

"On this particular issue (with the DC), this process was never followed. I don't know the motive. This is where I have a problem. I want to be the champion of uniting the ABC. I want that to be my legacy when I retire from politics. If we mess up this opportunity, other parties will take advantage and snatch the government away from us.

"They are saying I have taken another side and I have not. I am neutral and I support whatever is decided by the majority. I wanted this matter to be discussed by the ABC caucus. I am not taking any side. I stood with the NEC when people didn't want it to take over. I am on the side of the truth and stand with the majority.

"This list must be out in the open and allow people who no longer want the party to remain in a coalition with the AD to freely sign. We need to follow proper procedures," Mr Moshoeshoe said.

Mr Moshoeshoe said he only learnt of the ABC-DC coalition pact from Mr Mapesela who also informed him that the Mahao faction believed that he could no longer be trusted.

He said they now regarded him as untrustworthy because he always consulted Dr Thabane whenever there was a decision to call a caucus meeting to deliberate on issues affecting the ABC. However, Mr Rapapa denied Mr Moshoeshoe's claims and insisted the latter was fully aware of the meetings to discuss a deal with the DC but chose not to attend.

"I called him on a Friday (27 March) and informed him of the meeting... "He (Moshoeshoe) knows that MPs (Lepota) Sekola, (Likopo) Mahase and I were traveling the country requesting for people's signatures. We collected signatures from Mokhotlong to Mafeteng for the coalition agreement with the DC," Mr Rapapa said.

It remains to be seen whether the proposed ABC-DC partnership actually materialises after the prorogation of parliament ends on 19 June 2020.

Over the weekend the embattled premier pleaded with the security agencies to deal with his ABC rivals and the opposition for plotting his ouster.



## LESOTHO ELECTRICITY AND WATER AUTHORITY

The Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA) is the organisation established in terms of the Lesotho Electricity Authority Act No.12 of 2002, as amended, to regulate electricity sector and urban water and sewerage services sub-sector.

### Functions of the Authority:

- \* Monitor provision of the Quality of Service and Supply Standards (QoSSS) in the Electricity Supply Industry (ESI), Urban Water and Sewerage Services (UWSS) industry
- \* Issue licenses in the regulated business of generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity and water and sewerage services
- \* Resolve customer complaints failed to have been resolved by the regulated utilities (LEC & WASCO)
- \* Determine Electricity, Urban Water and Sewerage services tariffs

Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority, Private Bag A315

7<sup>th</sup> Floor Moposo House, Maseru or call (+266) 22312479. Email: [secretary@lewa.org.ls](mailto:secretary@lewa.org.ls) Website: [www.lewa.org.ls](http://www.lewa.org.ls)





# Buy goods of up to M50 for FREE with M-Pesa!

To support you and curb the spread of COVID-19 conveniently pay with M-Pesa FREE of charge, for goods or services of up to M50.

The future is exciting.  
**Ready?**

**To initiate payment ask cashier for assistance**

Terms & Conditions apply. E&OE. Promotion valid until 30th April 2020. Pay bills, airtime, bundles & School fees are not included





# Major boost for Thabane

## ... as ConCourt judge says courts cannot remove a prime minister

Mohalenyane Phakela

**T**HE courts do not have the powers to order the removal of a prime minister as the latter is appointed by His Majesty the King and not the judiciary, Constitutional Court Judge Sakoane Sakoane (pictured) has said.

He said this on Tuesday while hearing arguments in a case filed by Dr Thabane's own All Basotho Convention (ABC), fellow coalition partner the Basotho National Party (BNP) and the opposition Democratic Congress (DC) seeking the ouster of the premier for proroguing parliament without consulting them and obtaining permission from King Letsie III.

They also want Dr Thabane's decision to prorogue parliament from 20 March to 19 June 2020 nullified on the grounds that it was done without the approval of the King and without notifying parliament. (See story below).

On Tuesday, a three-member Constitutional Court bench comprising of Justices Sakoane (presiding), Moroke Mokhesi and Polo Banyane reserved judgement to 17 April 2020 after hearing arguments from both the applicants and defendants' lawyers.

It now appears certain that particular relief sought by the applicants for Dr Thabane's ouster will now be thrown out by the Constitutional Court after Justice Sakoane's orbiter remarks. The judge made it categorically clear that the courts did not have the power to order the King to fire a prime minister. There was no viable argument from the applicants' lawyers to counter that remark. The ABC's lawyer, Attorney Kuili Ndebele, had argued that King Letsie III has the power to dismiss the prime minister and appoint a new one.

"Section 87(5) allows the King to remove the prime minister in accordance with the advice of the Council of State, therefore His Majesty has powers to dismiss the prime minister," Attorney Ndebele



submitted.

But Justice Sakoane replied by saying that the courts did not appoint prime ministers and therefore did not have any power to order their removal.

"The court does not appoint the prime minister and therefore cannot fire him. If this court orders the removal of the prime minister and the King does not obey, can this court send him to jail for contempt of court," asked Justice Sakoane.

Attorney Ndebele did not respond to the judge's question.

Before Justice Sakoane's response, Attorney Ndebele had quoted Section 87(5) of the constitution which states that:

"The King may, acting in accordance with the advice of the Council of State remove the prime minister from office; if a resolution of no confidence in the government is passed by the National Assembly and the prime minister does not within

three days thereafter, either resign from office or advise a dissolution of parliament; or if at any time between the holding of a general election ... the King considers that ... the prime minister will no longer be the leader of a political party or coalition of political parties that will command the support of a majority of the members of the National Assembly..."

This clearly means that a prime minister can only be removed by

the King in accordance with the advice of the Council of State provided the premier loses a no confidence vote in parliament or if he ceases to be a member of the national assembly.

Justice Sakoane's Tuesday declaration suggests that the parties' bid to oust Dr Thabane through their application will be thrown out. They could however, still remove him from office if they win their bid to nullify the prorogation of parliament and thereafter, the senate approves a constitutional amendment bill which seeks to clip his powers to advise the King to dissolve parliament whenever he loses a no confidence vote. If that happens, they could proceed to pass a no confidence vote against him in parliament and recommend the appointment of Finance Minister Moeketsi Majoro in his place. The ABC has inked a deal with the DC to form a new coalition whenever parliament re-opens. Dr Majoro will be deputised by DC leader Mathibeli Mokhothu in that proposed new coalition which will replace the current four party government comprising of the ABC, Deputy Prime Minister Monyane Moleleki's Alliance of Democrats (AD), Communications, Science and Technology Minister Thesele 'Maseribane's Basotho National Party (BNP) and Labour and Employment Minister Keketso Rantšo's Reformed Congress of Lesotho (RCL).

It is understood at least 34 members of parliament (MPs) from the ABC's total tally of 52 have already signed a pledge supporting the new proposed coalition. The 34 together with the 26 from the DC give them 60 seats and together with those of the BNP and other smaller parties, they will be able to surpass the 61-majority required to form government. It is likely other ABC MPs will come on board, giving the proposed coalition an unassailable advantage. The BNP, the Popular Front for Democracy (PFD) and other smaller parties have also been earmarked in to stabilise the proposed coalition.

## ConCourt reserves judgement in prorogation case



Mohalenyane Phakela

**B**ELEAGUERED Prime Minister Thomas Thabane (pictured) will find out on 17 April 2020 if his decision to prorogue parliament stands.

This after the Constitutional Court reserved judgement in the case in which his own All Basotho Convention (ABC) and other political parties are demanding the nullification of his decision to prorogue parliament from 20 March 2020 to 19 June 2020.

The applicants argued that Dr Thabane acted unlawfully by proroguing parliament without consulting them and obtaining permission from King Letsie III.

On Tuesday, a three-member Constitutional Court bench comprising of Justices Sakoane (presiding), Moroke Mokhesi and Polo Banyane reserved judgement to Friday next week after hearing arguments from both the applicants and defendants' lawyers.

Justice Sakoane said they needed to apply their minds after hearing "weighty submissions" from both sides.

Dr Thabane faces a fight to remain in power after his own ABC party joined hands with the BNP, the DC and several other individual ABC and BNP MPs and a senator to file the unprecedented constitutional challenge a fortnight ago.

All in all, there are 10 applicants in the case; namely the ABC, the BNP, the DC, Nthabiseng Makoae (BNP MP), 'Matšepo

Ramakoae, 'Matebatso Doti, Lepota Sekola (all ABC MPs), DC deputy leader Motlalentoa Letsosa, DC MP Lethusang Kompfi and senator Kemiso Mosenene.

They all accuse Dr Thabane of conniving with another coalition partner, Alliance of Democrats (AD) leader and Deputy Prime Minister Monyane Moleleki, to "unlawfully" prorogue parliament.

Dr Thabane, Dr Moleleki, King Letsie III and the Attorney General Haae Phoofolo are first to fourth respondents respectively.

Even though fellow coalition partner, the Reformed Congress of Lesotho (RCL) is not an applicant, BNP leader Thesele 'Maseribane states in his supporting affidavit that RCL leader Keketso Rantšo is backing the court action.

If that is true, since Ms Rantšo did not file her on separate affidavit, it means the coalition of four is now split through the middle. Ms Rantšo remains a key cabinet member despite her disputed leadership of the RCL.

The applicants not only want the Constitutional Court to nullify Dr Thabane's 20 March 2020 government gazette proroguing parliament.

They also want the premier declared unfit to continue in office and an order for his removal. That relief however appear tenuous after remarks from Judge Sakoane during the hearing (see story above) that courts cannot order the removal of a prime minister.

They want the court to rule that "the collu-

sion" of Dr Thabane and Dr Moleleki to prorogue parliament without the unanimous consent of the other coalition partners and the specific consent of King Letsie III was "unconstitutional and unlawful", among other reliefs sought.

The case got underway on Friday and continued on Monday and Tuesday before the judges reserved judgement to next Friday.

The applicants were represented by Attorneys Kuili Ndebele, Monaheng Rasekoai and Advocates Christopher Lephuthing and Letuka Molati.

Senior counsel, Advocate Motiea Teele (KC), appeared on behalf of all the respondents. He was supported by the Attorney General Adv Haae Phoofolo, Adv Salemane Phafane and Attorney Qhalehang Letsika.

Dr Thabane prorogued parliament from 20 March to 19 June 2020 on the grounds

One of the applicants' lawyers, Attorney Rasekoai, on Friday told the court that Dr Thabane had acted irresponsibly through his failure to observe the requirements of section 91(3) of the constitution. The section requires the premier to inform parliament and the King of his intention to act on his own if the King has not acted on his advice by a certain date.

"The Prime Minister should have followed all mandatory requirements of section 91(3) of the constitution," argued Attorney Rasekoai.

Continues on page 8...



# PAY WITH ECOCASH ANYWHERE ANYTIME

**EcoCash**  
Spache - Fono

**SEND  
MONEY**

**PAY  
BILLS**

**BUY AIRTIME  
& BUNDLES**



**DIAL \*100# TO TRANSACT**

Inspired to change *your* world

**ECONET**  
Telecom Lesotho

T's and C's apply



[www.etl.co.ls](http://www.etl.co.ls)



# Stop Metsing, Selibe treason trial, SADC tells govt



DIKGANG Moseneke.

allegedly orchestrating the 30 August 2014 attempted coup allegedly with the support of Messrs Metsing, Mochoboroane and Captain Nyakane. Dr Thabane and Mr Metsing had fallen out after the latter alleged that he was not being consulted on key decisions.

Lt-Gen Kamoli and Captain Nyakane are already in prison charged with the murder of police Sub-Inspector Mokheseng Ramahloko during the attempted coup. In that murder trial, they are charged along with other soldiers, Lance Corporal Motloheloa Ntsane and Lance Corporal Leutsoa Motsieloa.

The treason trial however failed to take off in the High Court on 25 February 2020 after Messrs Metsing and Mochoboroane filed a Constitutional Court application for an order barring Adv Motinyane from prosecuting them because of the October 2018 agreement halting any trials until after the completion of the reforms.

Clause 10 of that agreement states that "Mr Metsing and similarly placed persons in exile will not be subjected to any pending criminal proceedings during the dialogue and reforms process".

The agreement had paved the way for their return from self-imposed exile.

The Constitutional Court has previously outlawed this particular clause 10 after the late police constable Mokalekale Khetheng's

father, Thabo Khetheng, petitioned the court to declare it unconstitutional saying self-serving agreements between politicians could not outstrip the constitution. PC Khetheng was killed by fellow police officers on 26 March 2016.

In their latest constitutional application, Messrs Metsing and Mochoboroane want the Constitutional Court judges to rescind their 22 November 2018 judgement.

Their quest to stop the trial has received a massive boost from Justice Moseneke who insist that criminal trials of politicians covered in the agreement must be deferred.

"As you may recall... the SADC facilitation process is a political process which was necessitated by the political events of August 2014 in the Kingdom of Lesotho. A political decision was taken by the regional body, jointly with all Lesotho stakeholders, to seek for a political process in order to end the political impasse. This political decision led to the adoption of the reforms process as the chosen route for the resolution of the problem," reads Judge Moseneke's 29 March 2020 letter to Dr Thabane.

"However, I have learnt with surprise and concern about the charges of high treason against the leader of the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD), Mr Mothetjoa Metsing, and the leader of the Movement for Economic

Change, Mr Selibe Mochoboroane, for their alleged involvement in an attempted coup in August 2014," Justice Moseneke states.

He adds: "I wish to remind you of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed between the government of...Lesotho and the coalition of opposition parties on 16 October 2018, which was facilitated by the SADC Facilitation Team to...Lesotho.

"Article 10 of this MOU states that the government of...Lesotho shall ensure the safety of all citizens in exile and must provide adequate security to Mr Metsing and similarly placed exiled persons. Mr Metsing and similarly placed persons in exile will not be subjected to any criminal proceedings during the dialogue and reform process.

"In view of this, it is my considered and firm view of the rest of the SADC Facilitation Team that no political leaders should be charged or prosecuted until the dialogue and reforms process...has been duly and fully completed. I am therefore appealing to you and the government of...Lesotho to adhere to the letter and spirit of the MOU."

It remains to be seen if Adv Motinyane will agree to defer or completely stop the trial in the event that Messrs Metsing and Mochoboroane's Constitutional Court application fails.

In her answering affidavit, Adv Motinyane said the treason trial should go ahead because it would not affect the reforms process as the LCD and MEC have other members to represent the two parties in Messrs Metsing and Mochoboroane's absence.

"Proceeding with the criminal charges against the applicants (Messrs Metsing and Mochoboroane) does not in any way undermine the reform process and this is demonstrated by the advanced in-roads already made (towards the implementation of the reforms) as shown by the promulgation of the National Reforms Dialogue Act of 2018 and the National Reforms Authority Act of 2019," Adv Motinyane states in her affidavit.

"The applicants are elected leaders of their respective political parties; hence representatives of their respective parties can represent their parties' interests during the reforms process. As political leaders, the applicants should lead by example in demonstrating to their respective supporters that everyone is equal before the law by challenging the merits of the charges head-on in a criminal trial.

"It is a well-known fact that there are other politicians who are presently facing extremely serious criminal charges and whose matters are pending in various criminal courts. Instead (of standing trial), the applicants would prefer the former army commander (Lt-Gen Kamoli) and other soldiers, to stand trial (for treason) on the same facts with the same witnesses and on the same charges whilst they enjoy a temporary reprieve for the duration of the reforms?"

Adv Motinyane also dismisses Messrs Metsing and Mochoboroane's Constitutional Court application as a delaying tactic "to frustrate the commencement of their trial".

## NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION OF COMPANY

**LEHAOKO RECREATION AND CULTURAL CENTRE (PTY) LTD**

Registration Number 2014/1289

("the Company")

**KINDLY TAKE NOTICE THAT**, the Company hereby requests persons with claims against the dissolving Company to present their claims in accordance with Section 167 (5) of the Companies Act.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT** the claims must be submitted to Webber Newdigate Attorneys, 2nd Floor, Metropolitan Life Building, Kingsway Road, Maseru, for the attention of Mr. N. Fraser.

The claims must state the name of the claimant, the claimant's contact details and full particulars of the claim supported by documents proving the claim.

These claims must be submitted on or before the 30th June 2020, failing which, claims against the dissolving Company shall be barred unless proceedings to enforce the claims are commenced within 1 (one) year after the publication date of this notice.

### CONTACT DETAILS

MR NEIL FRASER  
WEBBER NEWDIGATE  
TEL: 2231 3916 / 2231 5811  
FAX: 2231 0066  
2ND FLOOR  
METROPOLITAN BUILDING  
KINGSWAY  
MASERU  
LESOTHO

webber ATTORNEYS  
newdigate

## NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION OF COMPANY

**DEKRA LESOTHO (PTY) LTD**

Registration Number: 51748

("the company")

**KINDLY TAKE NOTICE THAT**, the Company hereby requests persons with claims against the dissolving Company to present their claims in accordance with Section 167 (5) of the Companies Act.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT** the claims must be submitted to Webber Newdigate Attorneys, 2nd Floor, Metropolitan Life Building, Kingsway Road, Maseru, for the attention of Mr. N. Fraser.

The claims must state the name of the claimant, the claimant's contact details and full particulars of the claim supported by documents proving the claim.

These claims must be submitted on or before the 30th June 2020, failing which, claims against the dissolving Company shall be barred unless proceedings to enforce the claims are commenced within 1 (one) year after the publication date of this notice.

### CONTACT DETAILS

MR NEIL FRASER  
WEBBER NEWDIGATE  
TEL: 2231 3916 / 2231 5811  
FAX: 2231 0066  
2ND FLOOR  
METROPOLITAN BUILDING  
KINGSWAY  
MASERU  
LESOTHO

webber ATTORNEYS  
newdigate



# Govt restores lockdown operating hours



**Ntsebeng Motsaoli**

**T**HE government has restored the six hour opening times for some essential service providers during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) induced lockdown.

Trade and Industry minister Halebonoe Setšabi (pictured) yesterday told the *Lesotho Times* that retail outlets and other essential service providers will now open at 8am and close at 2pm. This after the government had slashed the operating hours to three hours (8am to 11am) last week.

Prime Minister Thomas Thabane last month imposed a 21-day national lockdown on all non-essential services ending on 21 April 2020. The lockdown is a precautionary measure to combat infections. People are expected to stay at home during the lockdown except for those working in gazetted essential services.

Among the essential services are banks, general cafes, supermarkets, farm feeds, wholesalers, meat wholesalers, domestic fuel dealers, bakeries, butcheries, green grocers and dairy shops. These were initially expected to open 10am to 4pm.

Funeral homes, pharmacies, food and medicine manufacturing companies and garages were allowed to open for 24 hours.

However, hundreds of people in Maseru disregarded the lockdown and continued moving around freely in the first week.

This prompted the army to lobby the government to review the closing times. Health Minister Nkaku Kabi on 3 April 2020 published a gazette that revised the operating times from 8am to 11am. Mr Kabi's gazette came into effect this week.

The move was met with mixed feelings as most businesses were left with only

five hours to operate. This also resulted in serious congestion at supermarkets and wholesales starting Monday.

And now the government has reverted to the original six operating hours.

Mr Setšabi yesterday said cabinet had directed him to extend the operating times by another three hours from 8am to 2pm.

Lesotho is in the second week of the lockdown and the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) and the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) have deployed their officers onto the roads to restrict non-essential.

But Mr Setšabi said his tours of Maseru had proven that there were still large numbers of people roaming the streets. He said Mr Kabi's gazette was published after army commander Major General Mojalefa Letsoela's recommendation to limit the operating hours of essential services and curb excessive movement of people.

"The army commander (Major Gen Letsoela) also recommended that we cut down the operating hours for them to successfully monitor the movement of people during the lockdown," Mr Setšabi said.

He however, said while adhering to Major Gen Letsoela's advice worked, he also noted that the congestion of shoppers disregarded the World Health Organisation's (WHO) social-distancing protocols as shoppers scrambled to beat the 11am closing time in grocery shops. The WHO has recommended that people keep at least a metre apart to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Therefore, the government has now extended the closing time to 2pm daily while providers of essential services will be closed on Sundays and holidays.

"The gazette is at the government printers... we hope to publish it today (yesterday)," Mr Setšabi said.



**LESOTHO  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AUTHORITY**

## SCALE-DOWN OF OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS HIGH ALERT

Lesotho Communications Authority encourages all to use communications services to connect with friends and family to minimize human-to-human contact in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. We also encourage our stakeholders to use the same services to communicate with us.

Contact us by email as follows:

**Licensing:** [licensing@lca.org.ls](mailto:licensing@lca.org.ls)

**Regulatory and Compliance:** [registrar@lca.org.ls](mailto:registrar@lca.org.ls)

**Consumer Complaints:** [complaints@lca.org.ls](mailto:complaints@lca.org.ls)

**Admin:** [admin@lca.org.ls](mailto:admin@lca.org.ls) and

**General Enquiries:** [info@lca.org.ls](mailto:info@lca.org.ls)

Our telephone numbers:

**Main Switchboard:** +266 2222 4300 / 5222 1300

**Customer-Care:** 2232 6784

**Website:** [www.lca.org.ls](http://www.lca.org.ls)

Remember to wash hands frequently with soap and running water; keep social distancing, observe coughing and sneezing etiquette, follow quarantine measures for suspected cases and frequently disinfect your mobile and computing devices.

**Be safe and observe protocols for the prevention of COVID-19.**

## PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

# AGAINST

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

**DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE**

**AVOID CLOSE, PERSONAL CONTACT WITH ANYONE**

**WHEN COUGHING & SNEEZING, COVER YOUR MOUTH & NOSE WITH A FLEXED ELBOW OR TISSUE & DISCARD TISSUE IMMEDIATELY & WASH YOUR HANDS**

**WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP & RUNNING WATER FOR 20 SECONDS**



# Abide by SADC decisions, Metsing tells govt



MOTHETJOA Metsing.

Pascalinah Kabi

**O**PPPOSITION Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) leader Mothetjoa Metsing says Lesotho must choose between complying with SADC decisions and being isolated from the regional bloc.

Mr Metsing said this in an interview with a local radio this week. His remarks were in response to the head of SADC Facilitation Team to Lesotho Justice Dikgang Moseneke's demands that the government stops the courts from trying the LCD leader and fellow opposition politician Selibe Mochoboroane for treason.

Messrs Metsing and Mochoboroane have been charged with treason alongside former army commander Lieutenant General Tlali Kamoli and an army officer, Captain Litekanyo Nyakane, over their alleged roles in the 30 August 2014 attempted coup.

But in a strongly worded 29 March 2020 letter to Prime Minister Thomas Thabane, Justice Moseneke insists the trial of the two politicians would contravene the government-opposition agreement to halt all criminal trials against all politicians until after the implementation of the multi-sector reforms. He vows such a trial "will not be welcomed by the SADC".

Director of Prosecutions (DPP), Advocate Hlalefang Motinyane, equally insists hers is an independent office that cannot be stopped from doing its work for political expediency.

Mr Metsing has nonetheless welcomed the SADC stance on the treason trial. He said that past governments had always respected

SADC decisions even if there were court rulings to the contrary.

"We have to choose between respecting SADC decisions or saying we are a sovereign country and end up being an island within SADC," Mr Metsing said.

He said he only returned from exile in South Africa in November 2018 to participate in the reforms process because the government-opposition agreement protected them from prosecution.

He said after they were charged with treason, he and Mr Mochoboroane travelled to South Africa and met with the SADC facilitation team to air their concerns.

"We needed to remind each other of these issues and make them (SADC) aware this (of the treason charges) because I came to Lesotho on the terms of SADC.

"We went there to remind them of this (2018 agreement) and ask for protection (from prosecution). This (Justice Moseneke's) letter is as a result of that meeting," Mr Metsing said.

He said the South African-led SADC facilitation team had been seized with Lesotho's problems since 2014 when he fell out with his then coalition partners, Dr Thabane and Basotho National Party (BNP) leader Thesele Maseribane.

Mr Metsing was deputy prime minister in that coalition but fell out with Dr Thabane over the latter's alleged failure to consult him in decision-making processes. The fallout led to the attempted coup of 30 August 2014 after Dr Thabane fired then army commander Tlali Kamoli, without consulting Mr Metsing.

The attempted coup is now the basis for the current treason charges against Messrs Metsing and Mochoboroane.

Mr Metsing said the then Thabane government had attempted to charge him with treason in 2014 but South Africa made it clear that it was only interested in brokering peace between him and his erstwhile coalition partners and it did not support any criminal prosecutions in connection with their fallout and the subsequent political instability.

"The then government even requested assistance in their quest to charge me at that time (2014). At that time, the facilitator (South African President Cyril Ramaphosa) said he could not come to Lesotho to assist the government to go after certain individuals while others were left to go free.

"He (Ramaphosa) said he would rather come to broker peace among us. He told us to make up our minds and choose between peace and going after one another."

Mr Metsing said after Mr Ramaphosa's intervention the then government of the ABC, LCD and BNP agreed to abandon the plans to charge him with treason only for the charges to be revived this year.

He said he has since engaged Dr Thabane and Deputy Prime Minister Monyane Moleleki and the two assured him of their commitment to the 2018 government-opposition deal not to try him and other politicians for any crimes.

"I think we are of the same opinion on this matter. Now that there is that (Justice Moseneke's) letter, I think it will empower them (Drs Thabane and Moleleki) to reprimand

those who may be doing all of this (pressing treason charges) without the involvement of the leadership of this government...

"Governments have been toppled before in Lesotho. There have been coup attempts but I have never attempted to topple the government... We are here today as a country because of the agreements between SADC and Lesotho...I have no reason to suspect that they (Drs Thabane and Moleleki) will go against that letter (by Justice Moseneke)," said Mr Metsing. The opposition leader fled into exile in 2017 and only returned in November 2018 to participate in the multi-sector reforms after the government agreed not to prosecute him for any crimes until after the implementation of the reforms.

Pascalinah Kabi

**T**HE much-delayed demolition of Queen Elizabeth II Hospital to pave the way for the construction of a new M800 million hospital finally began on Friday.

The Ministry of Public Works' principal secretary, Mothabathe Hlalele, said work started after the nine companies contracted to do the job agreed to a proposal to lower their tender prices by almost 50 percent.

Mr Hlalele did not reveal the names of the nine companies contracted to do the work.

This is despite that the demolition work is way behind schedule as it had been envisaged that the job would be completed by the end of January 2020 as per the demands of the Chinese government which is funding the construction of the proposed Maseru Hospital and Eye Clinic to replace Queen Elizabeth II Hospital.

The much bigger Maseru Hospital is expected to benefit at least 400 000 people in Maseru and other districts.

Construction was initially sup-

## M16 million Queen II demolition begins



QUEEN Elizabeth II Hospital demolition work is behind schedule.

posed to have begun in 2018 but that did not happen due to the government's delay in demolishing Queen Elizabeth II Hospital.

The delays were largely due to the disagreements between the Ministry of Health and that of Public Works over the costs of demolishing Queen Elizabeth II Hospital which had been pegged at M29 million

by the Public Works ministry after inviting tender bids from different companies.

The ministries eventually agreed to rope in the army to demolish Queen Elizabeth II Hospital at a much cheaper cost but according to Mr Hlalele, the plan was dropped due to what he said was a "logistical nightmare".

He said the demolition work finally began on Friday after his ministry successfully persuaded the nine companies to slash their prices by half.

"The hospital is being demolished by nine construction companies owned by indigenous Basotho," Mr Hlalele told the *Lesotho Times* this week.

"They (companies) were engaged by the Ministry of Public Works. The tender is now M16 million after they all agreed to have their prices slashed by half.

"We advised ourselves to take this route (of engaging the companies instead of the army) because there were too many logistical nightmares. This is a much quicker process and the construction companies are much faster. Work began on Friday and there has been huge progress."

Mr Hlalele said they aimed to complete the demolition before the end of the nationwide lockdown on 21 April 2020.

"Demolitions can be hazardous to the people, especially in a town like ours (Maseru) when people will be going on with their business just next to the building being demolished. In this case, the demolition will not be hazardous to the public because of the lockdown."

The lockdown began on 29 March 2020. It was announced on 25 March 2020 by Prime Minister Thomas Thabane as part of efforts to curb the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

## ConCourt reserves judgement in prorogation case

... from page 4

"Therefore he (Dr Thabane) was in utter breach of the same clause which he relies on to prorogue parliament. Section 91(3) of the constitution requires him to inform His Majesty that he (Dr Thabane) intends to do the act after the expiration of the time he had given His Majesty lapses. The Prime Minister never informed the King that he intends to act on his own and he also failed to report to the parliament which he is accountable to."

He was supported by Adv Molati who insisted that the prorogation was illegal on the grounds that Dr Thabane failed to adhere to all the provisions of section 91(3) of the constitution which require him to report to parliament after he has acted without the consent of the King.

"The prime minister failed to report the is-

sue of prorogation to parliament and even this very moment, he has not done so and that is unlawful. The same section 91(3) requires him to report to parliament (after he has acted in place of the King)," Adv Molati said.

Section 91(3) of the constitution states that: "Where the King is required by the constitution to do any act in accordance with the advice of any person or authority other than the Council of State, and the Prime Minister is satisfied that the King has not done that act, the Prime Minister may inform the King that it is the intention of the Prime Minister to do that act himself after the expiration of that period to be specified by the Prime Minister, and if at the expiration of that period the King has not done that act, the Prime Minister may do that act himself and shall, at the earliest opportunity thereafter, report the matter to parliament; and any act so

done by the Prime Minister shall be deemed to have been done by the King and to be his act".

Adv Teele however, argued that Dr Thabane acted within his constitutional powers when he prorogued parliament. He said section 91(3) empowered Dr Thabane to act on his own if the King did not act on his advice.

"There are no facts put before court that the prime minister acted unlawfully as the applicants' argument is based on theory. The government did its part and informed the speaker of parliament therefore the failure of the speaker to inform members of parliament about the prorogation must not be put on the doorstep of the prime minister.

"It cannot be that members of parliament are immune to Coronavirus. The prorogation has achieved its purpose to safeguard the health of parliamentarians. Prorogation is the

discretion of the prime minister when he is convinced there is danger. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure safety of people and prime minister acted by proroguing parliament," argued Adv Teele.

He also accused coalition partners and ministers Chief Maseribane and Ms Rantšo of breaking their oath of secrecy by "disclosing what they ought not to disclose" when they disclosed to the court details of their 20 March meeting with King Letsie III and Dr Thabane.

He further argued that ABC and BNP did not have the legal authority to sue Dr Thabane on issues relating to parliament as political parties were not members of parliament.

Justice Sakoane reserved judgement to enable the judges to apply their minds to the strong submissions made by both sides.

"The submissions were very weighty and need time to consider while bearing in mind that the matter is of national importance. Judgement is reserved to next week Friday," said Justice Sakoane.



# Doctors, nurses strike amid coronavirus pandemic

## ... action leaves the country at severe risk of the deadly virus

Limpho Sello

**D**OCTORS, nurses and other health staff have downed tools demanding protective gear and risk allowances from the government.

The strike action has plunged the health system into crisis amid fears that the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic will wreak havoc if it spreads into poor African countries with weak health systems like Lesotho. It is killing thousands of people daily in countries with advanced health systems like Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. The government has called the striking workers for talks. A meeting is expected in Maseru today.

Although Lesotho is yet to record any cases, the virus has killed 13 people in neighbouring South Africa while infections there are at 1700 and increasing daily. It has also killed over 83 000 people globally and had by yesterday infected a staggering 1, 4 million people.

Local doctors, nurses and other health workers had last week threatened to strike after giving the government until 3 April 2020 to pay them risk allowances and also provide protective gear to shield them from the virus.

The ultimatum came just two days after Dr Thabane announced a 21-day nationwide lockdown to curb the virus's spread.

The doctors and nurses were joined by anaesthetists, laboratory scientists, pharmacists and technicians and nursing assistants in issuing the demands to deputy health minister 'Mantabiseng Phohleli on 27 March 2020.

The health workers have grouped themselves under the banner; Coalition of Health Professionals in Lesotho.

Secretary of the coalition, 'Mamonica Mokhesi Makhonzonke, recently told the *Lesotho Times* sister paper, the *Sunday Express*, that "if we are not protected as we deliver health care services, we shall be forced to protect ourselves".

Ms Makhonzonke said as front liners in the provision of healthcare, health profession-



'MANTHABISENG Phohleli.

als were at risk of acquiring and transmitting COVID-19 as they spent long periods with patients. The professionals want a risk allowance calculated at 30 percent of their gross salaries. They want the allowances and protective gear because they work around the clock with patients and therefore have higher chances of contracting the rampaging Covid-19.

They also want equipment and training in dealing with the virus. They want sick leave regulations to be reviewed to ensure that all health professionals who contract coronavirus while on duty are paid in full until they recover. The Ministry of Health will today (Thursday) meet the striking health professionals to map the way forward.

Ms Phohleli confirmed the meeting yesterday.

day.

"We have called them for a meeting tomorrow (today) and I am sure in that meeting, we will know if they want to continue with the strike," Ms Phohleli said.

"I will only be able to communicate the resolutions after the meeting."

Three Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital filter clinics and the main referral hospital Tšepong were teeming with patients when our news crew visited them yesterday. This has been worsened by the fact that most Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL) health centers only offer emergency services.

Most of the clinics were using the traditional method of measuring temperature using axillary (armpit) thermometers which

they sterilised with methylated spirit. Mabote, Qoaling and Likotsi filter clinics had one non-contact infrared laser thermometer each. Their medical staff were fully dressed in protective gear.

However, at Domiciliary Clinic in Maseru's Stadium Area, the nurses were still using armpit thermometers for the few patients they attended to. The nurses only had face masks and surgical gloves and no protective gowns. Some patients who were queued outside the clinic complained that they were failing to access their medication for different chronic conditions due to the strike.

Staff who spoke to the *Lesotho Times* from 'Mapoteng Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Hospital in Berea, Paray Hospital in Thaba-Tseka and St Mary's and Seboche hospitals (both in Butha-Butha), said they were only attending to emergency cases because of the strike.

CHAL director Lebohlang Mothae said most of their staffers were members of the Coalition of Health Professionals in Lesotho and were on strike.

"The said staffers are front liners who have direct contact with the patients including nurses, nurses' assistants, laboratory technicians and pharmacists," Ms Mothae said.

She said some of their facilities like Mapoteng and Paray Mission were crowded because of the large volumes of patients from outside their respective catchment areas. She added they were worried they would soon run out of their protective gear posing further challenges.

Coalition of Health Professionals deputy public relations officer Mojakisane Ramafikeng told the *Lesotho Times* yesterday that he had only heard rumours of today's meeting.

"I hope to receive an invitation by the end of day today (yesterday)," Dr Ramafikeng said.

## Matekane pledges millions to enable Lesotho to test for COVID-19

Bereng Mpaki

**P**ROMINENT business tycoon and philanthropist Sam Matekane has pledged to fund the government to upgrade its laboratories to enable them to test for suspected cases of the deadly Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19).

Lesotho does not have any testing facilities of its own and currently depends on South Africa to test its suspected cases of the virus.

But this will soon come to an end after Mr Matekane this week pledged to spend as much as M300 million to assist the government to upgrade its laboratories dotted around the country's districts so that they are able to test for the virus.

So far Lesotho has not recorded any infections although there are fears that the disease could be brought in from South Africa by people who illegally cross the two countries' borders.

Addressing the media this week, Mr Matekane said it was important for Lesotho to quickly develop its own testing capabilities to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Matekane Group of Companies (MGC) founder said he was working with the Ministry of Health to capacitate the laboratories.

"I decided to do something after observing the plight of my country when it comes to testing suspects for COVID-19," Mr Matekane said.

"We need to test our people so that we can know their status. It may that we do not have any confirmed COVID-19 cases because we have not tested a substantial number of the people.

"Testing locally will help us to know how many people are infected for sure and that information will make it easier for us to come up with appropriate courses of action."

"We are going to upgrade existing government laboratories and equip them with equipment for testing COVID 19. We will also ensure that the testing equipment donated from China is usable."

Last month Mr Matekane donated 3000 face masks and 40 containers of 25 litre hand

sanitisers worth M250 000 to the Ministry of Health to help fight the virus.

He also appealed to the nation to join him and other stakeholders in the fight against COVID-19.

"This is a global challenge and it calls for all of us to stand together. We all need to play a role in fighting this monster which is threatening to wipe us out. We are nothing without one another."

He also appealed to the public to restrict their movements and stay at home in line with the nationwide lockdown ordered by the government as part of measures to prevent the spread of the virus. The lockdown began on 30 March 2020 and is expected to end on the 21st of this month.



SAM Matekane.



### Press Release: MG Health Limited (formerly Medigrow Lesotho Ltd) Announces Retrenchments

MG Health Limited (formerly Medigrow Lesotho Ltd) a licensed medical cannabis cultivator and manufacturer of cannabis derived products such as Cann9, Cann9 Liverton, C+BD, S.NCE and Apex has announced that, due to the unprecedented spread of COVID-19 and the subsequent stock market fall, the Company found itself in the same financial position as many other companies around the globe and had to make urgent cost cutting measures to ensure its survival over the next year or more.

The Company initiated a joint problem-solving exercise with its employees in an attempt to bolster its financial viability. This resulted in MG Health's initial plans for rapid expansion immediately being halted, considerable cuts on operational expenses and the unfortunate retrenchment of 72 staff members, remaining with 271.

Contact

Mpho Sefali

MG Health Marketing and Communications

[mphos@mghealth.com](mailto:mphos@mghealth.com)

+266 62440444 /+266 59283336



Bereng Mpaki

**M**EDICAL cannabis producer MG Health, formerly known as Medigrow Lesotho, has retrenched 72 workers citing cashflow challenges due to the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The company said it was unable to secure investment due to the pandemic which has slowed down business and caused significant declines in stock markets around the world.

The retrenchments are with effect from 31 March 2020. MG Health's chief executive officer, Andre Bothma, communicated the decision to the retrenched workers this week.

"Following the unprecedented spread of COVID-19, the stock market took an unforeseen fall on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 and the capital raise that MG Health Ltd was in the process of came to an abrupt halt," Mr Bothma states in the letter.

"The closing date for the capital raise was 31 March 2020 but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the lockdown of many countries and stock market fall, investors have withdrawn their commitments. As a result, MG Health Ltd now finds itself in a poor cash flow position.

"It is for this reason that we regret to inform you that your employment with MG Health Limited has been terminated with effect from the 31st day of March 2020.

"The selection criteria (for the retrenchment) that has been used was agreed between the company and your representative and it was fair and objective. In the event that there is a vacancy of the position that you qualify for within a period of one year commencing from May 2020 to April 2021, the company will give you preference."

The company also undertook to pay the retrenched workers what it calls a notice pay, a severance pay and compensation for leave days not taken. It also undertook to foot bills for the medical examinations of all retrenched workers to be used in the event of the former employees claiming compensation from the company for medical conditions that could have arisen as a result of their employment.

MG Health was licensed in 2016 to cultivate and process medical cannabis and hemp for export.

According to its website, MG Health's "cultivation and state-of-the-art processing facilities are based 2000 metres above sea-level" in Marakabei "where clean air and a pristine environment contribute towards the growth of high quality, pesticide-free cannabis prod-

# Medical Cannabis giant retrenches workers



MPHO Sefali.

ucts".

"Our young company has already had a significant social impact on the local community and has the potential of creating inter-generational wealth for many families. MG Health will be a catalyst for lifting many out of poverty through the creation of new jobs and other wealth creation initiatives," the company states on its website.

But the company's aims of ending poverty through job creation risk being derailed after the latest retrenchments and the 17 September 2019 dismissals of workers who had gone on what the company described as an illegal

strike. The workers went on strike to protest the company's alleged failure to address their demands for better working conditions. They have since petitioned the Labour Court to nullify their dismissals.

Yesterday, MG Health's marketing and communications officer Mpho Sefali confirmed the retrenchments in a statement to the *Lesotho Times*.

"MG Health Limited (formerly Medigrow Lesotho Ltd) a licensed medical cannabis cultivator and manufacturer of cannabis derived products such as Cann9, Cann9 Liver-tonic, C+BD, S.NCE and Apex has announced

that, due to the unprecedented spread of COVID-19 and the subsequent stock market fall, the company found itself in the same financial position as many other companies around the globe and had to make urgent cost cutting measures to ensure its survival over the next year.

"The company initiated a joint problem-solving exercise with its employees in an attempt to bolster its financial viability. This resulted in MG Health's initial plans for rapid expansion immediately being halted, considerable cuts on operational expenses and the unfortunate retrenchment of 72 staff members, remaining with 271," Ms Sefali said.

The retrenchment of the 72 workers represents a huge reduction of the company's workforce considering that another 24 workers were fired for going on strike in September 2019. This all means the company has lost about a third of its original workforce.

The beleaguered firm is also locked in a dispute with Marakabei villagers who are accusing it of paying them as little as M84 per month each for land the company leased to set up its production facilities.

Villagers employed by the company allege MG Health had reneged on promises to pay them at least M4000 each per month.

The locals say the below market compensation rates for their land and the woefully inadequate wages have left them worse off than they were when they used their land to grow their own crops.

MG Health acquired about 66 land parcels from individual landholders to set up its multi-million investment in the Marakabei area. The leases are for 20 years.

In exchange for leasing their land to the company, the landholders get an annual compensation depending on the size of their plots. However, the villagers who initially agreed to the compensation rates have performed an about-turn and are now claiming that the company pays them M0, 82 per square metre of land and this is not enough.

## RCL backs Thabane on party prorogation

Mohalenyane Phakela

**S**OME members of the fractious Reformed Congress of Lesotho (RCL)'s national executive committee (RCL) have distanced the party from embattled party leader Keketso Rantšo's affidavit in support of the Constitutional Court application challenging Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's decision to prorogue parliament.

They have instead professed support for Dr Thabane's move to prorogue parliament from 20 March to 19 June 2020 on the grounds that large gatherings should be banned to prevent the spread of the deadly Coronavirus.

With its one seat, the RCL is the most junior member of the current four party governing coalition which also includes Dr Thabane's All Basotho Convention (ABC), Deputy Prime Minister Monyane Moleleki's Alliance of Democrats (AD) and Communications, Science and Technology Minister Thesele Maseribane's Basotho National Party (BNP).

The ABC and BNP joined forces with the main opposition Democratic Congress (DC) to challenge the prorogation on the grounds that it was done without the approval of His Majesty King Letsie III and without consulting the coalition partners.

Although RCL is not among the applicants, its leader Ms Rantšo submitted an affidavit in support of the application. (See story on page 4).

Ms Rantšo, who is also the Labour and Employment Minister, said she supported the application to nullify the

prorogation because she was not consulted before the decision was made.

"As a minister responsible for labour, it is my responsibility to protect tens of thousands of workers and employers throughout the country," Ms Rantšo states in her affidavit.

"These (workers and employers) are the people who are likely to be hit hard by the Coronavirus pandemic.

"Under normal circumstances, the prime minister and deputy prime minister (Monyane Moleleki) would consult and engage my ministry on issues that affect the masses. I confirm that they have never consulted with my ministry when advising for the prorogation of parliament on the basis of the Coronavirus.

"I further wish to state that we it would be unfair to take measures to protect members of parliament leaving multitude of other employees unattended. I fully support the cause and reliefs sought."

However, Ms Rantšo's affidavit has been opposed by RCL officials who insist she cannot speak and act on behalf of the party after they "replaced" her as party leader with Home Affairs principal secretary 'Mamahapela Letsie at a "special conference" in Berea on 29 February 2020.

RCL "secretary general" Retšelisitsoe Lesane this week issued a statement on behalf of the NEC saying they did not support Ms Rantšo's affidavit.

"The RCL is not part of the matter in court challenging the prorogation of parliament.

"We are aware that Honourable

Rantšo appears to be in support of such a litigation on behalf of the RCL.

"She did that on her own accord and was not authorised by the leadership of the party.

"Honourable Rantšo is the former leader although she is still representing the RCL in cabinet. However, she does not have powers to make such drastic decisions without the consent of the party.

"The RCL is still part of the four-party government and therefore supports decisions made by the government which are supported by the constitution and other laws of the country. The RCL supports the lawful decision of the prime minister to prorogue parliament," Mr Lesane said in his 5 April 2020 statement.

The prorogation issue is merely the latest theatre for the claimants to the RCL leadership to do battle.

This after Ms Rantšo was "ousted" at the 29 February 2020 "special conference" and replaced by Ms Lemphane-Letsie.

However, there is a pending High Court application for the nullification of the "special conference" and Ms Rantšo's "ouster".

The applicants are Michael Keele, 'Mamahapela Letsie and Katleho Mohapi. They are secretaries of the RCL's Hlotse, Matsieng and Mafeteng constituency committees respectively. The matter was scheduled for hearing on 1 April 2020 it was postponed indefinitely on account of the national lockdown declared by Dr Thabane to fight the Coronavirus pandemic.



KEKETSO Rantšo.





## IS YOUR FINANCIAL STABILITY AFFECTED BY THE LOCKDOWN?

## DEBT RELIEF SOLUTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

As our valued clients, Standard Lesotho Bank recognizes that the lockdowns declared by both the governments of Lesotho and South Africa will inevitably have a negative effect on your personal and business finances. To that end, we have introduced the below measures to help you manage your business and personal needs during these trying times.

For clients who have been impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown, these personalised debt relief measures could include payment holidays as follows:



- Deferring payments or part payment thereof for a suitable period or
- Extending existing loan periods or
- Extending additional credit to manage short-term cash shortfalls

These offers will be extended to clients who are in good standing with the Bank. Customers who are already in arrears are urged to contact the Bank for personalised solutions other than those mentioned above.

To access this relief, please contact your dedicated Relationship Manager or contact us on:

### Contact Details

#### Enterprise Direct

Toll-free: **8002 2122**

E-mail: [bizdirect.lesotho@stanbic.com](mailto:bizdirect.lesotho@stanbic.com)

#### Customer Contact Centre

Toll-free: **8002 2221**

E-mail: [lesothoccc@stanbic.com](mailto:lesothoccc@stanbic.com)

#### Prestige Direct

Toll-free: **8002 2121**

E-mail: [lesothoprestigedirect@stanbic.com](mailto:lesothoprestigedirect@stanbic.com)

Visit: [www.standardlesothobank.co.ls](http://www.standardlesothobank.co.ls) for more information.

Ipoloke **#FightCovid-19**

Standard Lesotho Bank™



# Lesotho Times

News without fear or favour

A2220 Lower Thetsane, Maseru 100

Tel: +266 2231 5356, Tel: +266 52500 600

News: editor@lestimes.co.ls

Advertising: sales@lestimes.co.ls

Distribution: circulation@lestimes.co.ls

Website: www.lestimes.co.ls

## Publisher & CEO

Basildon Peta

Editor

Herbert Moyo

## Newsroom

Mohalenyane Phakela

'Marafaele Mohloboli

Pascalinah Kabi

Moorosi Tsiane

Bereng Mpaki

Thabelo Monamane

Ntatoua Koeshe

Limpho Sello

Ntsebeng Motsoeli

## Production

Tlali Khaula

Thabo Thoahlane

Moletsane Makhabane

Rethabile Monyake

## Marketing

Ntebohelong Ramphale

Nthabiseng Sepipi

Lindiwe Shongwe

Lehana Mokhatolane

Seisa Peete

## Accounts

Limpho Snyman

Letsabisa Seeiso

## Circulation

Nthelle Molotsi



## Comment

### Govt must urgently address health workers' demands

**T**HE government must understand that Lesotho or any country cannot win the war against the deadly coronavirus without the contribution of qualified health professionals.

Doctors, nurses, anaesthetists, laboratory scientists, pharmacists and nursing assistants will always be in the frontline of the war against the virus which has infected more than a million people worldwide.

Obvious as it is, it appears this fact is lost on the government as evidenced by its refusal or failure to address the health workers' demands for risk allowances and protective clothing to prevent them from contracting the virus from the patients they attend to on a daily basis. The health professionals' demands for protective clothing are an obvious pre-requisite of their work. The authorities did not even need to be reminded of this obvious fact. In fact it's a huge shame that they need to be reminded of it.

The demands for risk allowances in these critical times of a deadly pandemic are also reasonable, particularly given the numerous reports of doctors and other health workers dying in their hundreds in more advanced economies like Britain, Spain and Italy after coming into contact with infected patients. Even Zimbabwe, of all countries, has acknowledged this fact and announced a US\$37 (about M680) monthly allowance for its health staff dealing with the coronavirus.

But almost a fortnight after Lesotho's health workers presented their demands to the government, the authorities are still quiet. They appear unmoved by the threats of work stoppage at this critical time when every country is doing everything in its power to confront the pandemic head-on.

The government's failure to act on the health professionals' demands is all the more baffling because a fortnight ago the same government announced an M698 million budget to fight the virus. Despite numerous emails and phone calls requesting information about how this money will be expended, all we have been told by the relevant authorities is that the budget will be used to increase the number of health workers at the country's ports of entry.

So, are we going to station more professionals without giving them the necessary equipment to perform their tasks?

Will they just be required to work in the frontline of the war without even a loti as a risk allowance for the dangerous work they are expected to perform in service of the nation?

As we report elsewhere in this edition, the health workers have resolved to down tools beginning this week due to the government's failure to address their grievances.

Beginning on 6 April 2020, the health professionals will not attend to suspected coronavirus cases until they have been given appropriate protective clothing and they have received training on how to deal with the suspected cases. Regarding other medical conditions, the health workers say they will only attend to emergencies across the country until their demands are met. This means we now have a full-blown crisis on our hands. This could all have been averted if the government had quickly addressed or at least promised to address the health workers' demands.

Perhaps the government will now act after the health workers' decision to strike. But by the time the government eventually decides to act, enormous damage could probably have been done. We cannot afford to lose a single hour of time during a deadly pandemic like this. The government needs to understand that dilly-dallying especially at critical times like these gives the impression that they just don't care. And perceptions can be as powerful as reality.

Politicians need to read the times and get their priorities right. In the past we have seen how seen how Lesotho's leaders have not hesitated to allocate unbudgeted funds for snap elections whenever their hold on power is threatened. We have also seen successive governments allocate millions of maloti for unnecessary foreign trips to enable politicians and officials to cash in on hefty per diems.

But when it comes to really important issues like assisting the fight against epidemics and pandemics such as the coronavirus they have been found wanting. What a shame. They would rather wait for bailouts and donations from international development partners and other well-wishers like Chinese businessman and philanthropist Jack Ma. All the while sparing the government's own resources for their self-aggrandisement.

The government had done well to declare a lockdown to restrict the movement of people as part of efforts to curb the spread of the virus. But that alone is not enough. Hospitals must be equipped with human and material resources to fight the scourge.

Health workers need protection because once infected, they will become catalysts for the spread of the virus instead of helping to end it. We therefore call on the government to act fast to address the health workers' concerns. It is either that or we risk succumbing to Covid-19 in our thousands when it finally reaches our ill-equipped shores.



## Cutting Edge

### Covid-19: Investing in health journalism is critical

**E**XCELLENCE in political reporting, business and sport does not necessarily translate into excellence in a field like health, which demands not only an understanding of the human issues, but also a command of the health policy field, of the science and of the history and context of each individual area of health.

In an article for The Media Online on 2 April 2020, editor Glenda Nevill presciently wrote: "never has there been such an urgent need for proper, fact-checked reporting. With social networks adding an element of pandemonium to the pandemic with the proliferation of fake news, trusted news brands have never been more important in ensuring the public has the facts at hand."

Three days later, *News24* found itself in the midst of the pandemonium. One of its journalists falsely reported that Bill Gates wants to test a Covid-19 vaccine in Africa. The story was based on a tweet by President Cyril Ramaphosa that linked to an interview Trevor Noah conducted with Gates. Ramaphosa tweeted "The Gates Foundation has supported our health needs for many years. They have offered assistance with innovative mass-based testing kits and research. I spoke to Bill Gates and he commended the swift and decisive action South Africa has taken on Covid-19."

Both the tweet and actual interview made no mention of a vaccine. But few went to the source. The mistake was taken as fact. Coming off the back of a racism row, where two French doctors said a potential vaccine for the coronavirus should first be tested in Africa, anger was kindled into a raging fire, erupting in a social media inferno. There was righteous anger at being the "West's guinea pig", conspiracy theories about Gates, and hate-filled invective directed at Gates, Ramaphosa and Noah. By Sunday evening, *News24* had removed the story, and issued an apology:

"On Saturday, we published a story about philanthropist Bill Gates' support for SA with Covid-19. We wrongly reported that Gates wants to test a 'vaccine' in Africa. This is false. The Gates Foundation will support SA with testing kits and research. We apologise for the mistake."

**Bibi-Aisha Wadvalla  
and Mandi Smallhorne**

We live in an age of misinformation and fake news, where journalists have to be extra cautious about the content they put out. But we also live in an age of dwindling media resources, shortened news cycles, increased content output, retrenched subeditors and specialist beat reporters.

*News24* wasn't the only media outlet that got it wrong. The Saturday Star incorrectly claimed Drs Helen Rees and Jeremy Nel were leading a team, "racing to develop a vaccine". But the story referred to the World Health Organisation's solidarity trial, which is comparing the effectiveness of four types of treatment regimens. In another minor incident, a senior radio presenter referred to a vaccine as "treatment" — which of course, it isn't: it's prevention, and cannot be used to treat those already ill.

Globally, journalists thrust into the deep end of a specialised health beat, with scant knowledge of complex subjects, are making mistakes. Often, those mistakes reveal that, not only have they not been trained to understand the science, but they don't understand the terminology and they don't know what questions they need to ask. While some would argue that the journalists are at fault for failing in their basic duty to communicate reliable information, it can also be argued that newsrooms are at fault for prioritising political reporting above all else, and for failing to invest in training for those they intend to send into the frontline of reporting on health issues. It's a critical beat that's undervalued.

Various research studies show that the general public relies on the media as their primary source of health information. It's well recognised that the media plays an enormously influential role in public responses to health issues. The mass media — print, television, radio and internet — has an unparalleled reach as a communication mechanism. News reports on new medical research and health issues have the potential to impact on people's health — not only by influencing individual behaviour, but also by informing health

professionals and policymakers.

In South Africa, as in many other parts of the world, health journalism is under-resourced. With the exception of the donor-funded Bhekisisa and Health-e, which are dedicated to exclusively focusing on health, understaffed newsrooms don't have the resources to employ specialist health reporters who can provide regular coverage of health issues that are relevant to South Africans.

Excellence in political reporting, business and sport does not necessarily translate into excellence in a field like health, which demands not only an understanding of the human issues, but also a command of the health policy field, of the science and of the history and context of each individual area of health. It's not that easy, as many media platforms around the world are finding, to send journalists who've been covering politics and crime off to cover a massive health story. It's like sending a journalist who has been nose-deep in corruption stories for years to cover some scandal at a soccer club. Mistakes will be, and are being made, especially when editors are also learning on the go.

The coronavirus, Sars-CoV-2, will dominate headlines for months to come. It's important that journalists get it right, especially when it comes to reporting on medical trials and new research. This is not just pedantry. Health reporting deals with matters of life and death — and that's more than a cliché when it comes to topics like Covid-19.

Getting it wrong can have a far-reaching impact, and not just in individual lives. The World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) has collected many of these resources for journalists in an online project that also provides links to relevant science as it comes out, at <https://wfsj-briefing.org/>.

—DM

*Bibi-Aisha Wadvalla and Mandi Smallhorne are health journalists working on a project to equip all general reporters with a basic grounding in reporting on medical science, and improve health and media literacy amongst news consumers. Smallhorne is curating the WFSJ Briefing.*





## Lockdown delays mohair shearing season



MOHAIR farmers say that an extended delay in shearing goats could result to losses.

Bereng Mpaki

**T**HE ongoing national lockdown could spell doom for local mohair farmers as they have been barred from shearing their animals until 21 April 2020.

The farmers say if they fail to shear their animals before the end of May 2020, then some of their animals may miscarry as they would be unable to adjust to Lesotho's punishing colds.

Lesotho's winter is at its peak in June and July and the farmers fear that the ongoing lockdown may scuttle their plans.

The government last month declared a 21-day national lockdown ending on 21 April in an effort to keep the Coronavirus (Covid-19) epidemic at bay.

So far, Lesotho is yet to record any cases but neighbouring South Africa has so far recorded 13 deaths and over 1 700 cases. Globally, it has killed over 80 000 people while infections are nearly 1.5 million.

The lockdown was imposed on all non-essential economic players and mohair farmers fall in this category.

Normally, the farmers start shearing their animals in April until May. If they go beyond May, there is a high chance that their breeding would be affected and some of their animals may even miscarry as they try to adjust to with extreme colds of Lesotho. If the goats are sheared early, they

have enough time to grow new mohair while also adjusting to the progressing winter.

Chairperson of the Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association (LNWMGA), Mokuenihi Thinyane said the farmers fear that they could encounter losses if they fail to shear all their goats within the normal shearing season.

"We are unable to shear goats during the lockdown and will have to wait until it is over," Mr Thinyane said.

"The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security (Litšoane Litšoane) has told us to wait for the lockdown to end.

"If the lockdown was to be extended and we continue to shear our animals afterwards; then our animals may have miscarriages due to the colds.

"It is not wise to shear goats very close to June, the peak of the winter season, because once it becomes too cold, then the animals will miscarry.

"If it comes to that, we may need to approach the government to permit us to start shearing but bearing in mind the recommended safety protocols to avoid COVID-19 infections."

He also expressed worry that they are failing to import medicines that they require to treat their sick animals.

"We buy medical supplies for our small stock in South Africa and right now it is impossible to access those supplies because of the lockdown," Mr Thinyane said.

## Standard Lesotho Bank appoints new CEO

Staff Writer

**S**TANDARD Lesotho Bank has appointed Kenrick Cockerill as its new chief executive officer.

Mr Cockerill's appointment is with effect from 1 April 2020.

He replaces Mpho Vumbukani, who resigned last August after eight years of service having become the first Mosotho in that position since January 2011.

"The board of directors of Standard Lesotho Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Cockerill as chief executive of Standard Lesotho Bank effective 1 April 2020," a statement from the bank reads.

The bank said Mr Cockerill has a successful 32-year career history with the Standard Bank Group. He fulfilled several key leadership and specialist roles in South Africa, Botswana, DRC, Nigeria, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique and most recently in Tanzania. We look forward to fully tapping his leadership skills to enhance our customer experiences.

"The board also extends its sincere appreciation to Mr Thabiso Tsenki, who has been the acting chief executive for Standard Lesotho Bank, while the recruitment process for a substantive chief executive was underway; to our staff for their dedication and commitment; and most importantly, to our customers and other stakeholders for their unwavering support during this transition period," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the banking sector recently donated M2 million to help the country fight the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

Although Lesotho is yet to record any cases, Lesotho is especially at risk as neighbouring South Africa has now recorded 1500 cases and nine deaths.

The country is currently on a three-week lockdown that ends on 21 April 2020.

And the local banks namely, the Central Bank of Lesotho, FNB Lesotho, Lesotho Post-Bank, Nedbank Lesotho and Standard Lesotho Bank have collectively donated M2 million towards the fight against the outbreak of COVID-19 in Lesotho.

The contribution will be used primarily to support advocacy and educational messages to ensure that Basotho are aware and empowered to take precautionary measures to limit the spread of this deadly virus, which has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"Public education has been considered critical at this stage because prevention is one of the best ways to manage the pandemic; hence the country's dire need to mobilise Basotho to be aware of the virus and to encourage them to take preventative measures against its spread," a statement from the banks said.

The banks said the support was in response to a clarion call by the government for all stakeholders to join efforts in preventing or combating the spread of this pandemic, which can otherwise become a national crisis affect-

ing the lives of all the citizens.

"The banking fraternity also applauds the government for taking the lead by declaring a national lockdown as announced by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, which is necessary intervention to control the spread of COVID-19 in the country. The sector also continues to reaffirm its commitment to join the world in combating COVID-19 and to cooperate with the Ministry of Health and other interest groups to arrest this pandemic."

The banks said they were committed to remaining open during the lockdown as they are one of the essential services that were identified by the government. Banks are opening at 9am to 3pm starting on Wednesday.

"However, all clients are strongly advised to minimise branch visits and use all electronic banking channels for their banking as much as possible. These include internet banking, mobile banking, and app services. The use of these channels will limit their visits to branches to reduce exposure.

"Furthermore, clients are encouraged to use banks' call centres for other services like enquiries, queries, etc. Branches and ATMs are being regularly sanitised to ensure a safe environment for clients whilst visiting branches. As advised by WHO, the banking fraternity also emphasises on the message for all residents in Lesotho to stay at home, stay safe and wash hands with soap and water or sanitiser regularly in order to curb the spread of COVID-19," the banks said.



KENRICK Cockerill.









6232 4586

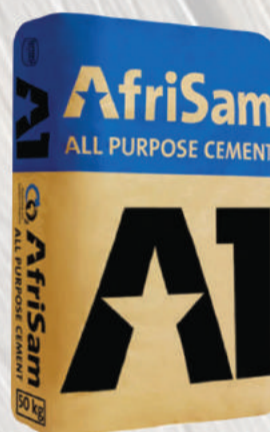
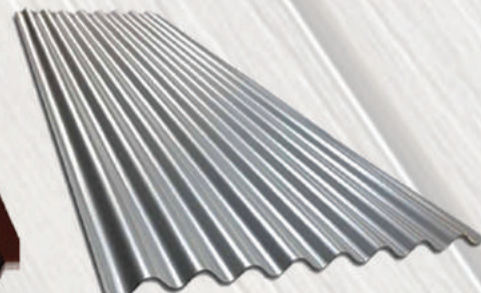
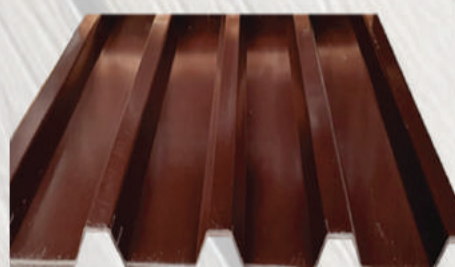
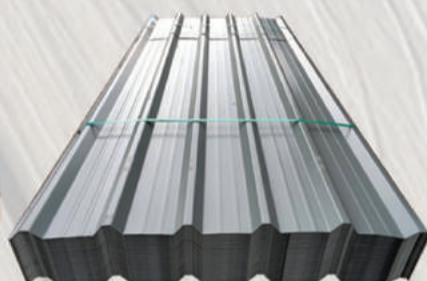
MAIN SOUTH ROAD BOROKHOANENG

PO BOX 1217



**LUCKY HARDWARE**

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME WITH LUCKY HARDWARE



# COVID-19 AWARENESS

## #YOUARETHECHANGE

### WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

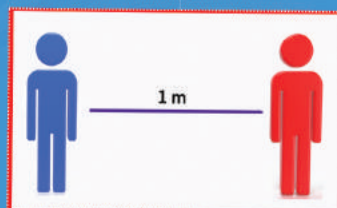
**Why?** Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.



### MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

**Why?** When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease



### AVOID TOUCHING EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH

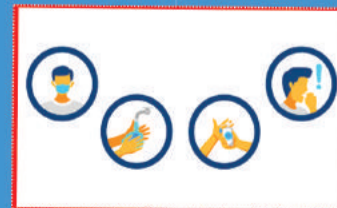
**Why?** Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.



### PRACTICE RESPIRATORY HYGIENE

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

**Why?** Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

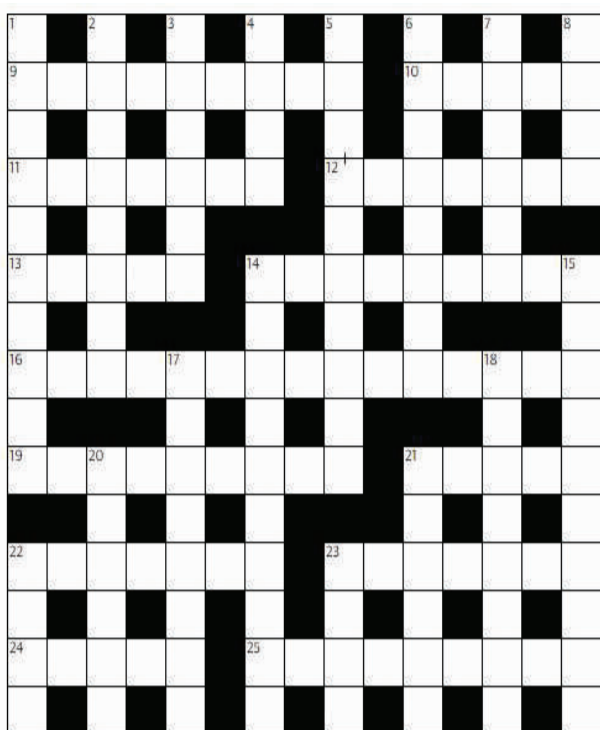


SOURCE OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION | ▼

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>



# Cryptic Crossword



**Across**

- 9 Hear simple story swapped on an aircraft (9)
- 10 Man has trip, one in France (5)
- 11 Saint even broke into two churches? Yes, that's risky (7)
- 12 Touches margins, moving right towards the end (7)
- 13 Welsh party rejected holding hands with everyone (5)
- 14 Children's workspaces? Just the opposite (9)
- 16 Around court, Michael Corleone's worried, giving away no type of reaction (15)
- 19 More clean than a mouse? (9)
- 21 Not better with sore bum (5)
- 22 Amount of fancy stiff upper lip, for starters (7)
- 23 Clubs and diamonds: bridge often going over these (7)
- 24 Menageries house mass of flies (5)
- 25 Touring Panama, cooks get this food (9)

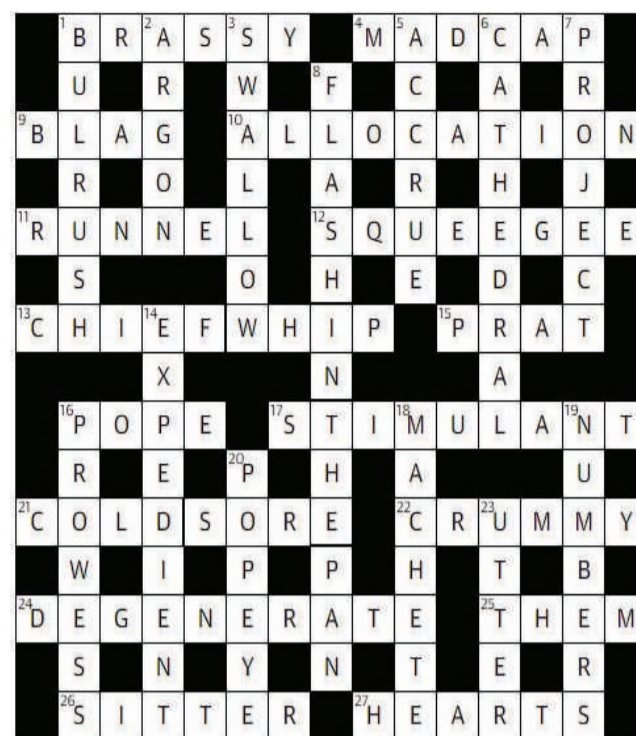
**Down**

- 1 Small parasite sits on small bark of deciduous plants (10)

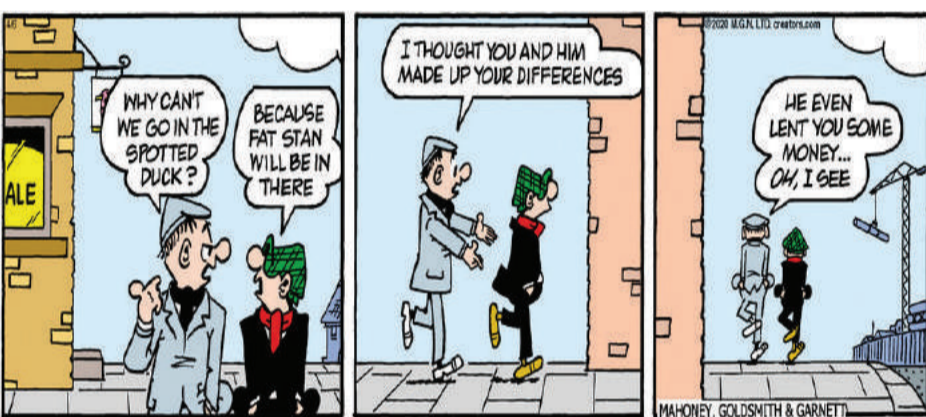
**Across**

- 2 Compile grid with ease? No way! (8)
- 3 Arranged walk round Scotland's borders? On the contrary (6)
- 4 Young horse born inside (4)
- 5 Training note after he translated for old writer (3-7)
- 6 Reynard's enemy is initially enjoying music over Ring cycle (8)
- 7 Greta trades her soul for unknown European summer house (6)
- 8 Finishes post from top to bottom (4)
- 14 Expert is left gambling on dollar with no gain (10)
- 15 Argentine's family has type of small white onion (10)
- 17 Marine creature reportedly towed fellow by his pants (8)
- 18 Instrument, somewhat forgotten, rockets to the sky (8)
- 20 Result involved in hitting a six? (6)
- 21 First flyer bearing straight (6)
- 22 The Boys in Blue, or Blur? (4)
- 23 After injecting drug, parent is numb (4)

# Last Week Solution



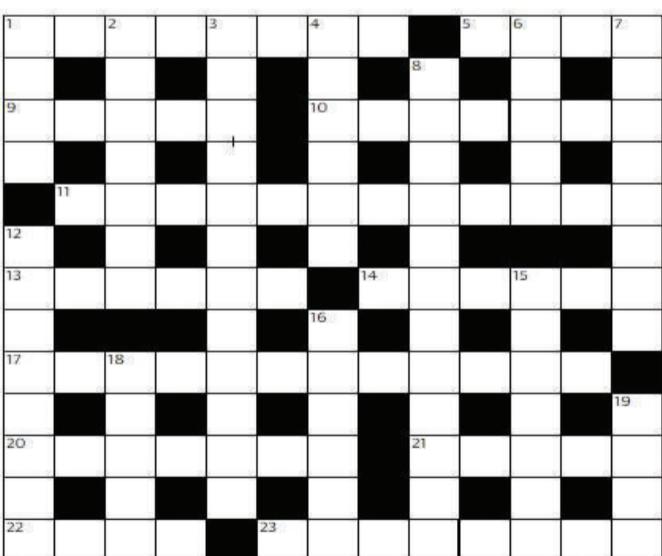
# Andy Capp



# Hagar the Horrible



# Quick Crossword



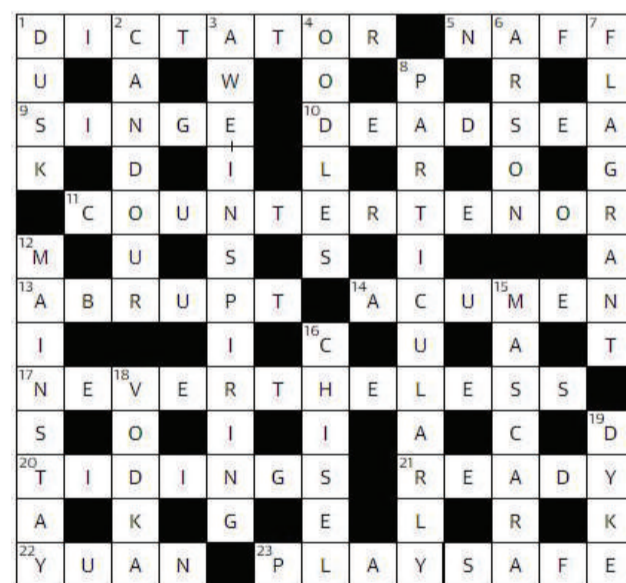
**Across**

- 1 Gauche fool (6)
- 4 Child with no living parent (6)
- 9 25 sound (7)
- 10 Plague (5)
- 11 Conch, perhaps (5)
- 12 File (7)
- 13 Not in harmony — turning once (anag) (11)
- 18 With elaborate ornamentation (7)
- 20 Exceed (5)
- 22 Petroleum (5)
- 23 Colourful arc (7)
- 24 Israel's money (6)
- 25 Sternutatory dwarf (6)

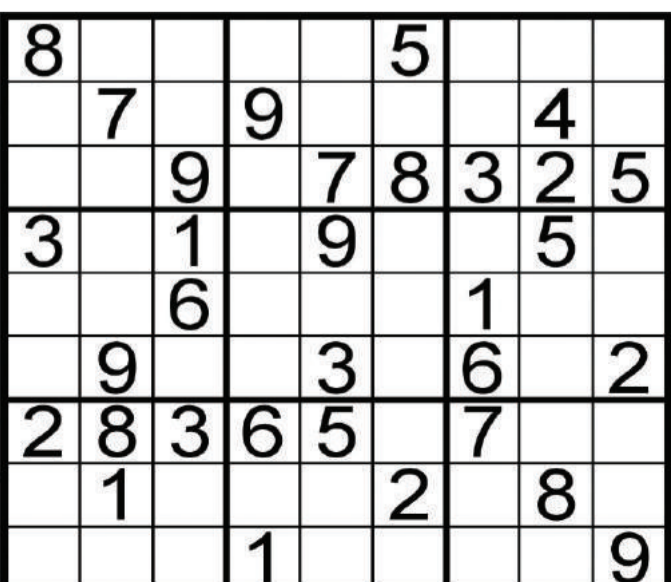
**Down**

- 1 Collaborate (6)
- 2 Indian corn (5)
- 3 The Moor of Venice (7)
- 5 Ceremonial clothing (5)
- 6 Coarse jute fabric (7)
- 7 Inherent character (6)
- 8 Assumed name (3,2,6)
- 14 Help to grow (7)
- 15 Idealistic (7)
- 16 Old counter (6)
- 17 Edvard Munch's homeland (6)
- 19 Waiting line (5)
- 21 Eating surface (5)

# Last Week Solution



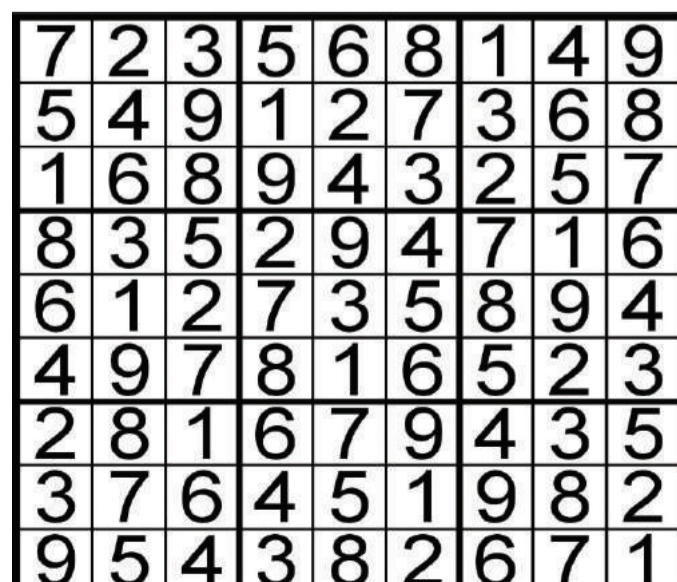
# Sudoku



**How to solve**

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits from 1 to 9 with no repeats.

# Last Week Solution





Leonard Nyambuya

## Correct diagnosis: a response to Covid-19 pandemic

**M**ANY comparisons have been made between the coronavirus crisis and the systemic global financial in 2008. The systemic crisis of 2008 was an endogenous risk and the coronavirus, although it is having a strong impact on the financial markets it remains exogenous the global financial system and will unlikely cause a global systemic crisis, and the policy response should be totally different.

Whilst the financial crisis of 2008 required decisive action of fiscal and monetary policy, the coronavirus chaos requires more attention on effective healthcare to stimulate the economy. There are certain similarities, like liquidity shortages, large market falls some financial institutions may fail. That still in itself does not mean a systemic crisis is inevitable or even likely. The focus must be on virus containment, testing public-health infrastructure to the limit. If employees are not healthy and able to go to work, the economy will slip further towards a recession. Even the largest stimuli in history proved not enough to combat the consequences of the pandemic.

In an effort to get a handle on the economic and financial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the first instinct is to search for precedents and remedies in earlier crisis. Many have pointed to the 2008 global financial crisis as the most relevant example, especially in the aftermath of the extraordinary monetary policy actions by central banks globally. Unfortunately, that is a mistake. What worked 11 years ago won't work today, it is policy remedy directed at a different type of crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic is the mirror image of the global financial crisis.

The current crisis is unprecedented as all countries globally are affected, from developed, emerging markets and developing countries. The current crisis is likely to be more severe than the 2008 financial crisis crash because it is affecting the entire economy, with collapse in supply due to the shuttering of factories and a similar crash in demand with billions of people in lockdown. Unlike the 2008 financial crisis, which hit banks and financial institutions, the non-financial corporate sector is the epicentre of the current crisis. The policy response needs to be crafted accordingly.

The global financial crisis was, first and foremost, a financial shock that took severe toll on

the real economy. It came from human problems, monetary and financial shocks. This has some of the same feel, some of the feel of volatility with the current crisis. However, COVID-19 crisis is almost the opposite of the financial crisis, where problems in the banking system infected the broader economy. This time, issues in the broader economy brought on by the coronavirus are infecting the banks and financial markets. It is a public health crisis. Draconian containment measures- lockdowns, transportation bans, and restrictions on public assembly are producing a shock to the real economy, with devastating consequences for businesses, their workers, and the financial sector.

During the global financial crisis, unprecedented actions were taken by central banks and governments mostly in developed countries were both appropriate and decisive in addressing the primary source of the shock: a devastating blow to the financial system. In the COVID-19 crisis, the central banks and central governments cannot play the same role, because they are addressing a secondary shock: the financial repercussions of the primary shock to the real economy.

Instead, the central banks and fiscal responses must be seen as necessary, but not a panacea to address the COVID-19 crisis. Their actions are meant to help keep markets functioning, monetary policy transmission, hasten recovery and avoid longer-term market damage. Central banks interventions should tackle critical systemic issues around the financial system continuing to be able to function while the actual problem (virus) is being dealt with. It is a delicate role, to say the least. Central banks policymaking at moments of crisis must always be managed judiciously.

As the crisis intensifies, it will certainly be a tough place. For example, in a rare Sunday announcement of emergency actions on March 15, just two days before a regularly scheduled policy meeting, the US's Fed conveyed a sense of urgency that undoubtedly heightened investors' fears and stoked rumours of an imminent liquidity crisis. Despite the action US markets recorded some of worst falls in subsequent sessions since the global financial crisis. It will remain anyone's guess, if the Fed would have been wiser to wait a couple of days.

Given historically low financing rates, lead-



ers from Washington to Berlin consigned fiscal orthodoxy to the dustbin and announced budget busting rescue plans for their economies, the US set up a staggering \$2 trillion package, but market reactions prove that it is not sufficient. London appears to be heeding the call as well, by crafting rescue packages worth billions despite its high debt to GDP ratio. Policy makers interventions though important, we have to figure out how to prevent the atrocious moral hazard that such interventions produce. Pandemics are going to be a regular thing. Ex-post bailout reduces further the incentive for ex-ante precautionary measures, investment in necessary infrastructure and planning.

This episode underscores an uncomfortable truth for humanity: we have become far more dependent on monetary fixes for all that ails the world. In the days that followed the Fed's Sunday surprise, the added carnage in financial markets sent a strong message: the "big bazooka" of central banks that worked effectively in putting a floor beneath plummeting markets in late 2008 and early 2009 is not only the wrong weapon to address a public-health crisis; unfortunately, it also lacks live ammunition.

This of course, was a big risk all along for the developed world. After having failed to normalise policy rates in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, central banks had limited options to address the inevitable next shock. Time and again, we find out that the next shock is never the same as the last. Yet we always seem to fixate on a redesign of policies, regulations and economic structures that is conditioned by the last crisis, this mentality leaves us woefully unprepared for the one to come.

Crises can be arrested only by attacking their source. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the focus must be on the virus containment. That will require creative expeditious actions, focusing first and foremost on the public-health

infrastructure and the science of the COVID-19 containment and mitigation. Some have turned to wartime analogy to emphasise the magnitude and scope of the policy response now required globally. While this is appropriate, it assumes a degree of political consensus that is sorely lacking in today's polarised environment. Sadly, the combination of domestic polarisation, national protectionism, and global fragmentation is especially problematic in fighting a global problem.

It is important to get the coronavirus under control so that monetary and fiscal policies can do their work. Decisive health action matters more than financial decisions in the COVID-19 crisis. Nothing is going to work, central banks are not going to help much, fiscal policies are not going to help if we don't get the public health right, if the problem of the virus remain unsolved, the problem of infection, so making sure that the risk has declined sufficiently before the people are back at work globally. Public health is the most important thing, if that is sorted out, it will be easier to get the economy working again.

The global financial crisis playbook was designed for a world facing threats to the quality of economic growth. It cannot be the answer for a world facing a shock stemming from the deficiencies in the quality of that growth. Monetary and fiscal policies can temper short-term distress in financial markets and hard-hit businesses and communities. But they don't address the urgent priority of disease containment and mitigation. Unless we direct our expenditures with laser-like focus at the root of the crisis, the growth-depressing lockdowns and social distancing that will be required will severely undermine investors' assessments of share values until a vaccine is developed.

Until next week enjoy making money on capital markets. Thinking of raising capital (issuing shares or bonds), listing shares on the securities market, buying or discounting bonds, Treasury bills, equity trading and capital markets news and information? Contact us today.

**Katleho Securities, (Member of Maseru Securities Market) +266 27002418, 53230700, 68730055 [lnyambuya@katleho.co.ls](mailto:lnyambuya@katleho.co.ls), [securities@katleho.co.ls](mailto:securities@katleho.co.ls), [www.katleho.co.ls](http://www.katleho.co.ls)**

# TRANSFORM YOUR BUSINESS

with a Professional Website



FIND OUT >

220A LOWER THETSANE, MASERU

[ART@MOHALEMEDIA.COM](mailto:ART@MOHALEMEDIA.COM)

63989677







**Vacancy Announcement**

POSITION TITLE	JOB SUMMARY	REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS	EXPERIENCE
1. <b>Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL) Officer</b>	<p><b>Key Performance Area</b>  <b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participates in coordination of the design and implementation of baseline, mid-term and end of project evaluations, surveys, special studies, and other components of the M&amp;E system.</li> <li>Supports Sub-Recipients in developing their respective Monitoring and Evaluation Plans</li> <li>Assists MERL Manager in developing data collection and reporting tools; and ensures that all Sub-Recipients have sufficient updated data collection tools.</li> <li>Assists in the preparation of work plans (including those of Sub-Recipients) and ensure consistency with the strategic objectives and results expected of the project.</li> <li>Assists in identification and follow-up on any limitations to program monitoring and the development of quality assessment procedures for all project monitoring systems.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides input to ensure that donor reporting requirements are met and assist Sub-Recipients in setting up reporting and tracking systems to provide such information in an efficient and timely manner.</li> <li>Participates in the development of Program quarterly, semi-annual and annual progress reports and their dissemination.</li> <li>Participates in review of the Sub-Recipients progress reports.</li> <li>Ensures management and maintenance of the M&amp;E database.</li> <li>Provides data for donor quarterly Quality Assessment, reporting as well as for future concept paper proposal development and other purposes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performs regular field visits to ensure the quality of data being collected by Sub-recipients and;</li> <li>Performs regular data verification of Sub-Recipients reported data.</li> <li>Supports Sub-Recipients in identification and documentation of lessons learned, case studies and technical program innovations to be reported upon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelor's Degree in social science discipline preferably Public Health, Population Studies, Demography or related with practical experience in developing and implementing, monitoring and evaluation activities in the HIV and AIDS sector.</li> <li>Minimum of 3 years of relevant professional experience in international humanitarian organization in monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning is required.</li> <li>Computer skills with work experience using MS Excel, Word, and Outlook is required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 3 years of relevant professional experience in international humanitarian organization in monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning is required.</li> <li>Competence in programming and analysis using programs such as, SPSS, STATA or any other is an advantage.</li> <li>Excellent time management skills.</li> <li>Experience in evaluation methods and results-based reporting.</li> <li>Expertise in quantitative and qualitative health related research is required.</li> </ul>

**Applications**  
 All applications must be accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae, Certified Educational Certificates and names of three (3) professional referees to:

The Human Resources Office  
 Pact Lesotho  
 MGC Office Park, Level 4  
 Corner Mpilo Boulevard and Pope John Paul II Road  
 Maseru  
 Or via email to [hmathealira@pactworld.org](mailto:hmathealira@pactworld.org)

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2020  
 Disclaimer: Only successful candidates will be contacted.



**Lesotho Local Partners Technical Assistance (LLPTA) Project**

**Position Summary:**

Working under the supervision of the MER Officer: The Data Capturer will provide efficient data entry and analytical support in all aspects of the Strategic Information. This initiative is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), as part of the Lesotho Local Partner Technical Assistance program project managed by FHI360 Capacity Development and Support (CDS) program.

**Data Capturer**

**Job ID: 2020200598**

**Core Roles and Responsibilities:**

The Data Capturer shall from time to time:

- Ensure accurate daily data capturing and compilation from designated project components i.e. FCI and OD
- Capture weekly and monthly data on summary sheets respectively
- Ensure that all project outputs are captured in the database as per Standard Operating Procedures
- Print standard reports as and when requested by the MER Officer
- Validate the quality of data captured by performing systems verification
- Verify the integrity of data provided by sub awardees by comparing with previously submitted records
- Perform data quality assurance and control measures and timely submission of report
- Implement effective and secure procedures for data handling and analysis
- Performs additional duties assigned by the MER Officer.

**Qualification Summary and Experience/ Skills required:**

- At least a Diploma in Social Sciences and Data Informatics
- Experience with data collection, capturing and analysis within the public health sector will be advantageous
- Good understanding of data management systems
- Good knowledge of HIV program data and information management
- Training in data management will be an added advantage
- High degree of proficiency in written and spoken English communication, including presentation and training skills.
- Ability to manage work independently, set realistic priorities, and plan for the successful implementation of activities
- Ability to pay attention to detail, good time management and monitoring skills
- High level communication, collaboration and interpersonal skills and willingness to undertake additional responsibilities as necessary, and ability to work under pressure and meet tight deadlines
- Well-developed computer skills.
- Capacity to and willingness to work with the Community of Faith structures and Civil Society Organizations. **Travel** – 40% of travel time in Lesotho

This job description summarizes the main duties of the job. It neither prescribes nor restricts the exact tasks that may be assigned to carry out these duties. This document should not be construed in any way to represent a contract of employment. Management reserves the right to review and revise this document at any time.

**NOTICE**

Re: Change of Name of the Company  
**TANGERINE INC. (PTY) LTD**  
 Registration Number: 68709  
 ("the Company")

Registered Office: Betloane Street, Maseru East, Maseru, Lesotho  
 Telephone: (+266) 53702654  
 Email: [admin@tangerine.co.ls](mailto:admin@tangerine.co.ls) Website: [www.citrusgroup.co](http://www.citrusgroup.co)

**KINDLY TAKE NOTICE THAT,** the Company is changing its name from Tangerine Inc. (Pty) Ltd to **TANGERINE CO (PTY) LTD** in accordance with section 16 of the Companies Act.

**TRANSFORM YOUR BUSINESS**  
 with a Professional Website



FIND OUT >

220A LOWER THETSANE, MASERU  
 ART@MOHALEMEDIA.COM  
 63989677



Advertise with us  
 and reach millions

[sales@lestimes.co.ls](mailto:sales@lestimes.co.ls)

**Lesotho Times**



# Jobs & Tenders

Lesotho Times April 9 - 15 2020

## Career as a physical education teacher

**P**HYSICAL education teachers teach grade-school age children physical fitness techniques, sports playing, and guide them toward living a healthy and active lifestyle.

They typically instruct and coach students to play on interactive sports teams against each other, motivate them during exercises such as running or weight lifting, and teach them fun active techniques such as rope climbing.

Physical education teachers construct different lesson plans for classes of different aged children to help them develop athletic skills and enjoy exercising. Many teachers also coach after school sports teams and events.

### Education and training requirements

Physical education teachers are required to have a Bachelor's degree and be certified to teach physical education through a state administered exam. Many teachers who want to teach physical education obtain a Bachelor's in sports management or personal training and take other courses such as nutrition or psychology.

Once a degree is obtained, students who plan to teach physical education are required to take a state administered examination. Most states require teachers of any kind to work as an assistant to an experienced teacher in the field they plan to teach.

They will be required to student teach for a specific number of hours, usually over several months, before they are qualified to take the state exam. Once they receive a passing grade on the exam, they will receive a teaching certificate and be able to work as a physical education teacher.

### Getting the job

In order to be a physical education teacher to

grade school students, the right person will most importantly be excellent at dealing with kids. They will have a great deal of patience and be willing to help kids with activities if they struggle or really don't want to participate.

They will have a positive attitude that encourages children to participate in sports activities without making them feel uncomfortable if they are not good at the particular activity.

Physical education teachers also need to have an understanding of rules behind playing several different sports, as well as how to teach children proper techniques for weight lifting, running, rope climbing, stretching, and other activities. In a way, the physical education teachers work as a personal trainer for students.

Physical education teachers also need to understand how to deal with students that injure themselves in class or who have special needs.

Most schools have a nurse that will help any children who get injured, but the teacher will also need to understand how to deal with a child who has fallen and sprained an ankle or hit their head. It is important for them to have a basic understanding to prevent kids from getting injured or making their injuries worse.

### Employment outlook and career development

Teaching jobs are slowly being cut back, so the job market for physical education teachers is not necessarily growing rapidly. However, many schools are hiring an extra gym teacher or two to add to their staff to help promote physical activities in schools due to the rise in



child obesity and lack of physical activity kids are receiving.

Once a physical education teacher has experience working with children and teaching them physical fitness techniques, they may move on to teaching high school or college courses in physical fitness or even coaching sports teams.

Many high school teachers are also in charge of coaching the school sports teams, where they can then move on to eventually coaching college sports. In most cases, a Master's degree is needed in order to teach at a college level.

### Working conditions and environment

Physical education teachers spend most of their time working in the school gymnasium. They

have a schedule that rotates and teaches each class in the school on specific days each week.

Physical education teachers need to be able to handle working in a stressful environment with young children who can easily become unruly or wound up at the thought of playing sports. They will have to be able to teach the children discipline while still making sure they have fun.

Physical education teachers can also incorporate playing outdoors into their activities if the weather permits. Unlike other teachers who are confined to a classroom, gym teachers have the opportunity to work outside and play with kids.

### Benefits

The average salary for a physical education teacher is about \$43,000 per year. This is the average salary for most teachers, as physical education teachers do not typically make more or less than any other teacher.

Teacher salaries usually depend on seniority and experience.

Teachers also have the benefit of a full health insurance plan as well as weekends, holidays and summer off from school.

Physical education teachers who also coach sports often coach for no extra salary, but because they truly enjoy doing it. Some private schools may pay teachers to coach teams, but the reason most do it in the first place is because they truly enjoy working with children and teaching them a sport they once played and enjoyed with passion.

— *careers.stateuniversity*



Kingdom of Lesotho

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY  
SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P165228  
CREDIT NO: IDA -64220-LS  
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROJECT ACCOUNTANT  
REFERENCE NO: LS-MAFS- 161927 -CS-INDV  
DURATION: THIRTY-SIX MONTHS  
DUTY STATION: MASERU

### BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mhale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

Under the supervision of Finance Manager, Project Accountant will be responsible for assisting in the entire SADP financial, accounting management and reporting.

### Duties

- Participate in the preparation of the project's Annual Work Plans and Budgets
- Prepare withdrawal applications for replenishment of the Special Account to facilitate timely disbursements and payments to key project partners and service providers
- Preparations of Requests to incur Expenditure (RIEs) for the government of Lesotho (GoL) and transferring funds from Treasury to the project bank accounts
- Checking of all supplier's invoices before making payments
- Preparation of all payment vouchers for payments to suppliers and staff salaries
- Posting of transactions in the vote book both manual and computerised
- Preparation of the status of funds as dictated by the Ministry of Finance and as required by the project management and Ministry management (weekly, monthly & quarterly)
- Maintenance of books of accounts e.g., Vote book and others relevant to the project
- Drawing of cheques for suppliers
- Preparation of grant beneficiary payments records manually/computerised
- Provide support to Finance Manager.
- Assisting Finance Manager on any accounting function from time.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Degree in Accounting/Business Administration or any related field.

### EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

- 10 years relevant experience in a multi donor project
- Proficient in computer applications
- Proficient in accounting packages specifically TOMPRO and IFMIS

### SKILLS / ABILITIES:

- Have a good working knowledge of accounting, personnel and procurement policies and procedures;
- Have a good working knowledge on: (a) banking, and (b) financial control;

- Have strong communication skills.
- Be fluent in both English and Sesotho languages;

### CONDITIONS

- Renewal of the contract will be subject to satisfactory performance and funds availability.
- The Client shall render the Project Accountant with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the Project Accountant to discharge his/her duties that is office space, laptop/computer, landline telephone, and transport.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III paragraph 3.14 to 3.17 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated July 2016 and revised in November 2017 and August 2018, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in Procurement Regulations.

### SUBMISSION

Expressions of interest accompanied by detailed CV must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person or by email by 16:00hrs local time on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020 clearly marked " **Expression of Interest for Consulting Services" LS- MAFS-161927-CS-INDV.**

To: Project Manager-SADP

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security  
Department of Livestock Services -Moshoeshe 11

P.O. Box 24

Maseru 100 Lesotho.

Email: [pheko.daniel@gmail.com](mailto:pheko.daniel@gmail.com) copied to [ramaqelef@gmail.com](mailto:ramaqelef@gmail.com)

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.





MINOPEX LESOTHO (PTY) LTD

## 2020 Internships offered (x 2)

Minopex Lesotho (Pty)Ltd is a leading specialist in the field of outsourced operation and maintenance (O&M) of metal and mineral processing facilities.

Our business is growing, and we would like to invest in our future talent by offering Internship Programmes to top-performing students in need of Experiential Training/ Practicum in their field of study. Through the Internship Programme we will steadily produce and nurture tomorrow's leaders in their chosen career.

Therefore, applications are invited from suitably qualifying students for the 2020 academic year in the following fields of study at an undergraduate level:

- **Extraction Metallurgy or Chemical Engineering**
- **Process Control or Mechatronics**

### Applicants must:

- be Lesotho Nationals.
- be required to have practical/internship as part of his/her study programme.
- be less than 25 years of age.
- be an active student enrolled / registered in the above disciplines in a recognised institution.

Interested applicants must apply by submitting their clear and detailed applications, accompanied by the following documents:

- Certified Copy of your ID;
- Introductory Letter from the Faculty of his/her study;
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- Certified copies of academic certificates and transcripts (both High School leaving and Tertiary respectively);
- Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programme from Faculty.

This internship is available for a period of 6 to 12 months, depending on the requirements of the learning Institution.

Applications to be submitted to: [lesrecruitment@minopex.com](mailto:lesrecruitment@minopex.com) noting "2020 INTERNSHIP" as the reference in the subject line of the email.

**PLEASE NOTE: Incomplete applications or applications recording areas of study not advertised will not be considered.**

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2020**



## Lesotho Flour Mills SAFETY OFFICER

Lesotho Flour Mills, a leading FMCG company, is looking for a dynamic and pro-active individual in order to fill the position of **Safety Officer**. The incumbent will be reporting to the Executive Manager Operations.

### Key Performance Areas/Expected Outputs

The successful incumbent will be responsible for the following:

- Prevent and manage occupational health and safety matters
- Develop, implement and administer health and safety programmes
- Provide advice and guidance to management and staff on safety, health and environmental issues
- Ensure compliance with all safety standards by staff and management
- Maintain, review and continually improve the existing occupational health and safety system
- Report, investigate and implement appropriate corrective measures for all incidents
- Conduct and coordinate health and safety training
- Conduct health and safety audits
- Plan preventative and remedial methods to promote health and safety
- Provide effective supervision to site services personnel
- Conduct daily inspections of the plant and premises

### Qualifications Required

- Diploma in Health and Safety Management or equivalent
- Registration with the Ministry of Labour is strictly required
- Five years experience working in a plant environment
- Thorough knowledge of Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment is an essential requirement

### Key Competences

- At least five years relevant experience on a supervisory level in a FMCG environment
- Highly motivated and self-disciplined individual
- Strong leadership skills and very innovative person
- Strong IT skills is a requirement for the position
- Thorough knowledge of NOSA, HACCP and ISO standards

### To Apply

A detailed CV of not more than four (4) pages should be submitted to the Human Resources Director, Lesotho Flour Mills Ltd, Private Bag A62, Maseru or emailed to [khitsanel@lfm.co.ls](mailto:khitsanel@lfm.co.ls) on or before **Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020**.

**084 124**

Medical Emergency Call  
24 Hour Service  
Ambulance Taxis  
R200 - 400  
Minimum 1 Hour  
www.ER24.co.za

### ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT - LETSENG MINE (FIXED TERM CONTRACT)

Advertising Reference Number:	ER24_50241
Requirements:	A qualification as an Advanced Life Support Practitioner (CCA, Ndip) essential. Professional registration with the HPCSA as an ALS/ Paramedic. A valid driver's license (including a Public Drivers Permit). A valid passport. Proven operational experience as a Paramedic or newly qualified Paramedic. 1 years ALS operational experience will be advantageous. Sound knowledge of the EMS environment. Knowledge and application of HPCSA guidelines and scope of practice. Working knowledge and experience of Patient Report Forms. Upholds high ethical and professional standards. Responds constructively to pressure and perseveres through challenges. Provides direction to direct reports by ensuring that individual goals and responsibilities are clear. Drives own development and maximises learning. Collaborates with and supports colleagues in order to achieve shared goals. Reaches sound decisions through evaluation of relevant information. Strives to identify and deliver on client's needs and continuously focus on the client experience. Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
Key Outputs:	Oversees and ensures operational readiness for emergency calls. Administers patient care in line with scope of practice. Markets and maintains a positive image of ER24. Provides basic shift administration services.
Kindly attach proof of your qualification and any other supporting documents.	
Applications to be emailed using the above advertising reference number to:	<a href="mailto:Aveshnie.Gaunden@er24.co.za">Aveshnie.Gaunden@er24.co.za</a>
Closing date for applications:	17 April 2020

ER24 EMS (Pty) Ltd t/a ER24 Registration Number 2000/005657/07  
VAT Registration No. 4730193887

# Talk to our friendly marketing team **today**

## Lesotho Times

NEWS WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

Offices No. 220 Lower Thetsane, Maseru 100, Lesotho, Tel: +266 2231 5356, +266 5200 0600/1, +266 2226 7725,

Email us [marketing@lestimes.co.ls](mailto:marketing@lestimes.co.ls) | [sales@lestimes.co.ls](mailto:sales@lestimes.co.ls)



Implemented by  
**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

<b>Salary band 4 A</b>	<b>Finance Officer</b>
Reports to:	Finance Manager
Contract duration	1 June 2020 – 30 May 2022

### 1. Project Background

The BMZ-financed programme „Transboundary Water Management in SADC“ supports the SADC Secretariat in the implementation of its regional strategy for Integrated Water Resource Management. In its next phase, the focus lies on supporting the national programme for Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) in Lesotho, which is co-financed by the EU. ICM is conceived as a multi-stakeholder initiative that includes ministries, civil society and the private sector. The programme aims at developing capacities of Basotho stakeholders and implementing concrete rehabilitation and prevention measures at catchment level. GIZ has a programme office in Maseru with a finance and admin (F&A) units that serves several projects implemented in Lesotho. The Finance Officer will serve the ICM programme as well as other GIZ projects from the GIZ office in Maseru according to GIZ standards and regulations of the commissioning parties BMZ and EU.

### 2. Overall Responsibilities

The Finance Officer works in close cooperation with the Finance Manager overseeing the F&A unit and the respective Technical Staff in the various projects and is responsible for providing effective financial processes required for the successful implementation of projects, while ensuring that regulations are fully complied with and processes coordinated effectively with other units in the GIZ Country Office and Headquarters

### 3. Tasks

#### Accounting and Financial Processes

- Producing and checking vouchers and receipts and correcting these where necessary
- Carrying out accounting tasks using WINPACCS accounting software and preparing daily and month end closures and bank reconciliation vouchers
- Submitting month end closures from the project accounting, cash books and account balance vouchers (through or from WINPACCS) to programme management and ensuring acceptance via WINPACCS online
- Using WINPACCS online to set up project bookkeeping and cashbook changes
- Assisting with the transfer of funds to projects
- Monitoring income, expenditure and the monthly bank reconciliation
- Monitoring real accounts (payables, receivables) and reports regularly to the programme management
- Preparing papers for all VAT claims for submission to LRA via E-Filing
- Advising technical advisors and programme management on financial aspects of the projects

#### Travel Claims

- Calculating national and international travel claims
- Calculating travel advances
- Processing settlement of applications for the reimbursement of travel expenses;
- Following up on outstanding travel advances
- Invoice checking and payments
- Checking all invoices for Services, Consultant and Logistics Contracts, Procurement of Goods
- Checking all accountability for Financing Agreements and Local Subsidies;
- Being responsible for the material and arithmetical correctness of each invoice according to the relevant contract file

- Being responsible for the maintenance of the SAP data relating to Invoice Check
- Obtaining the confirmation of performance from the relevant technical officers

#### Other Duties

- Reporting all problems with financial administration and compliance without delay
- Being responsible for regular filing in accordance with GIZ rules
- Performing other duties and tasks at the request of management

### 4. Required qualifications, competences and experience

- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent qualification in Accounting, Auditing, Business Administration or related field, additional qualifications in project management is considered an asset
- At least 5 years professional experience in a comparable position
- Good working knowledge of ICT technologies, including software (related accounting software, phone, fax, email, the internet) and computer applications. (e.g. MS Office)
- Strong social skills, including the ability to work in a diverse team, solve problems independently, develop rapport and inspire trust, cope with changing environments
- Willingness to update skills, including use of digital tools, as required by the tasks to be performed (corresponding measures are agreed with management)

This position is based the GIZ programme office in Maseru, Lesotho.

Suitable candidates should apply as follows:  
Please apply by submitting a **motivational letter and a detailed CV to [recruit-pretoria@giz.de](mailto:recruit-pretoria@giz.de)** with the job title quoted on the email subject line for the attention of Head of Unit: Human Resource: "Application for Finance Officer"

**Closing date for applications: 15 April 2020**

Interviews will be held in Maseru if possible, otherwise they will be held by videoconferencing technology (e.g. Skype). Only Permanent Residence holders and/or Lesotho Citizens will be considered. **Only shortlisted candidates will be informed. Applications without a motivation letter will not be considered.**



# PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor says he will not take cut to his £2m salary



GORDON Taylor.

**T**HE chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, Gordon Taylor, has said he will not take a cut to his £2m salary, as the continuing dispute over footballers' wages appeared still some distance from being resolved.

Despite continued pressure from politicians, another meeting between league representatives and the PFA ended without any resolution on Monday, with both sides now looking to individual clubs to secure agreement with their players.

As Manchester United announced they would not use the government's furlough system and Liverpool reversed their decision to do so, each club is increasingly taking their own route, with some adopting a wait-and-see approach until it is clear how the season, currently suspended, might end.

This goes contrary to the hopes of the Premier League, which suggested all clubs consider a reduction of up to 30 percent in their players' wages after an extraordinary shareholders' meeting last Friday. But it is closer to the approach advised by the PFA, which asked that clubs should reveal their financial situation before players consider a pay cut.

Speaking to the Guardian, Taylor said: "What [the players] are saying is that it needs every club in its own locality to work things out for themselves — you can't have one suit fitting all sizes because there is such a variance in income and expenditure."

"It needs to be rounded the table with all the facts revealed and then I can assure you that players will come to a position that is mindful about keeping their club alive and in good health as well as their jobs alive."

Asked if he would take a pay cut, Taylor said: "The PFA will make donations and the PFA is involved in the players' charity. At the moment

the PFA position is that we will continue to be paying all our staff of over 60 in full."

As clubs continue to formulate their own plans in response to the coronavirus crisis, Manchester United have written to their staff to confirm that all of their circa 900 full-time employees are to be paid as normal and that no one will be furloughed.

Staff who are unable to work from home or have reduced hours have instead been encouraged to volunteer with the NHS or in their local communities.

Burnley also confirmed they would not be furloughing staff or cutting wages, despite the prospect — according to their chairman, Mike Garlick — of a possible £50m hole in club revenues. Elsewhere, David Moyes announced he would take a 30 percent cut in his wages at West Ham, becoming the third Premier League manager to do so after Bournemouth's Eddie Howe and Graham Potter of Brighton.

The prospect of a financially straitened future for all Premier League clubs continued to move closer, however, with the news that the online broadcaster DAZN, which holds the rights to stream matches in Brazil, Canada, Japan and Spain, had begun negotiations to suspend payments.

DAZN said: "We don't discuss commercial conversations but we are, of course, in the process of working closely with partners to reach reasonable solutions given the unprecedented circumstances."

— The Guardian

# FIFA exco members took bribes for Qatar World Cup votes, US prosecutors allege

**P**ROSECUTORS in New York have revealed new details of alleged bribes paid to Fifa executive committee members to gain their votes for Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup.

An indictment unsealed on Monday in the US District Court in Brooklyn says Nicolás Leoz, the Paraguayan then president of the South American governing body, Conmebol, and the former Brazil federation president Ricardo Teixeira received bribes to vote for

Qatar at the 2010 Fifa executive committee meeting.

Jack Warner, the former president of Concacaf, the governing body for North and Central America, is said to have received \$5m in bribes to vote for Russia to host in 2018. The money allegedly came from 10 different shell companies, including entities in Anguilla, Cyprus and the British Virgin Islands.

The Guatemala federation president, Rafael Salguero, was also promised a \$1m bribe

to vote for Russia, according to the indictment. Leoz, who died last August, avoided extradition, as have Warner, from Trinidad & Tobago, and Teixeira. Salguero pleaded guilty in 2018 to two counts of wire fraud conspiracy, and one count each of racketeering conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy.

Alejandro Burzaco, the Argentinian former head of the marketing company Torneos y Competencias, testified in 2017 that all three

South Americans on the Fifa executive committee took million-dollar bribes to support Qatar, which beat the US in the final vote.

In a statement, William F Sweeney Jr., assistant director in charge of the FBI's New York field office, said: "The profiteering and bribery in international soccer have been deep-seated and commonly known practices for decades."

He added: "The defendants and their co-conspirators corrupted the governance and business of international soccer with bribes and kickbacks, and engaged in criminal fraudulent schemes that caused significant harm to the sport of soccer."

Since the first indictments were announced in May 2015, there have been 26 publicly announced guilty pleas, many from former soccer officials, including the American general secretary of Concacaf, Chuck Blazer. The Conmebol president, Juan Ángel Napout of Paraguay, and Brazil federation president José Maria Marin were convicted following trials.

The US Department of Justice also announced that two former 21st Century Fox executives, Hernan Lopez and Carlos Martinez, have been charged with making payments to Conmebol officials in order to obtain broadcast rights bidding information. Fox gained the broadcast rights for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments in 2011, with Fifa later awarded Fox rights for 2026 without competitive bidding.

Lopez and Martinez are also accused of joining with a Uruguayan company, Full Play Group SA, to pay million of dollars in bribes to Conmebol executives in exchange for rights to the Copa Libertadores, South America's annual club championship.

Gerard Romy, the Spanish former CEO of Imagina Media Audiovisual, is accused with joining his alleged co-conspirators to pay a \$3m bribe to Jeffrey Webb, the former president of Concacaf, for media and marketing rights to home World Cup qualifiers in the Caribbean. Webb, from the Cayman Islands, pleaded guilty in November 2015 to several counts and awaits sentencing.

— The Guardian



THE Lusail stadium, one of several new venues under construction for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.



# CUCSA games postponed

Leemisa Thuseho

**T**HE Confederation of University and College Sports Association (CUCSA) Region 5 has postponed the 2020 edition of its games due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The games were penned in for Lesotho from 27 July to 2 August 2020.

The resolution was made during a CUCSA teleconference last week. However, the Lesotho University and College Sports Association (LUCSA) president Tšepang Mantutle told this publication that the resolution would be ratified as they are still monitoring the situation.

"We will monitor the situation in the next weeks and decide the next step," Mantutle said.

"However, LUCSA has already opted for the postponement of the games beyond 2020 because closing schools for two months has already affected our academic calendar and we need enough time to recover the lost time.

"We foresee the possibility of schools closing late in July while there are still supplementary examinations to follow. That means we will not have accommodation if we continue with the games as planned."

The situation is also exacerbated by the fact that LUCSA is yet to receive the funds of hosting the games from the Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sport and Recreation.

The country is also yet to finalise the teams for the different sporting codes.

Initially, LUCSA had requested for M4.4 million but the budget was trimmed to M2.5 million.

The games were launched in February this year during the CUCSA annual general meeting (AGM) in Lesotho.

Lesotho is expected to host Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, eSwatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe in the games. The countries will compete in athletics, basketball, chess, soccer, netball, table tennis, lawn tennis, volleyball, karate and boxing.

The games are held biennially and this will be Lesotho's first time to host the games.

Botswana hosted the 2018 edition while the next edition will be held in Malawi in 2022.



TŠEPANG Mantutle.

## Time for LeFA to step up

**T**HE Sierra Leone Football Association (SLFA) last week announced that it would hand a US\$67 500 (about M1.3 million) boost to its premier, first division and second division leagues in the wake of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak.

About M793 000 will go to the premier league teams while the remaining M482 000 will be shared among the lower tier clubs.

This is an interesting move and I wish our own Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) could emulate and implement the same.

It is a given that teams are losing a lot during this Coronavirus induced break which will continue for most of this month; if not beyond. That however, does not mean the teams can temporarily suspend their contracts with their players.

The Econet Premier League, the Post-Bank league and other lower divisions have been put on hold by LeFA from 16 March to curb the spread of the Coronavirus which has killed 11 people in neighbouring South Africa and infected over 1 600 others.

Globally, the epidemic has claimed over 70 000 people while infections have surpassed 1.3 million.

Soccer leagues and other sporting ac-

**Talking Sports**

Moorosi Tsiane



tivities have either been cancelled or postponed across the world. For soccer, the lockdowns mean huge financial challenges for clubs that rely on gate takings and sponsors for revenue. While a few clubs that are fortunate will have their sponsors continuing to release the funds that they have committed to, the bulk of the teams are in dire straits.

This follows for several local teams as their sponsors are also struggling amid the coronavirus scourge.

An intervention from LeFA in this time would be timely.

The global footballing mother body, FIFA, recently proposed to release US\$2.7 billion that is meant to assist the footballing community.

"FIFA is in a strong financial situation and it's our duty to do the utmost to help

them (teams) in their hour of need," FIFA said in an interview with the *New York Times* last week.

"Therefore, we confirm (that) FIFA is working on possibilities to provide assistance to the football community around the world after making a comprehensive assessment of the financial impact this pandemic will have on football."

If LeFA doesn't have funds to spare on their subvention, I believe they can still apply to FIFA for assistance.

If teams like Spain's Barcelona and Juventus (Italy) have already announced pay reductions for their players, one can only imagine how other smaller teams like our own Linare or Qoaling Highlanders will fare.

The players and staff may indeed understand that there is no revenue but their financial obligations remain.

In the past five years, local teams have started paying their players monthly allowances but given that they are bleeding from the break, it only makes sense that LeFA steps up.

The future of the bulk of the clubs depends solely on the benevolence of LeFA. The association must ensure the standard achieved in the last four years does not fall given it has taken close to two decades to achieve.



SALEMANE Phafane.



# Olympic Solidarity extends athletes' scholarships



MOHOLO Lekomola.

**Leemisa Thuseho**

**T**HE Olympic Solidarity has extended scholarships of athletes who are beneficiaries of its training programmes to 2021.

The athletes were training for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics that have now been postponed to next year.

The move was confirmed by a recent statement from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes Commission.

All the athletes who had already qualified for the Olympics will not need to go through another qualification round next year as their quota of places remain secured. Age restrictions will be discussed later to allow for neces-

sary adaptations.

The development came on the back of the recent postponement of the Olympics to next year due to the global outbreak of coronavirus (Covid-19).

The Athletes Commission chairperson in the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) Moholo Lekomola told the *Lesotho Times* that they are happy with the IOC resolutions. He said the resolutions take into cognisance their recent requests to the IOC through the international athletes' commission. He said they had already communicated the resolutions to the athletes.

"On behalf of Lesotho athletes, we support the resolutions and soon after the news was revealed by the IOC athletes commission, I

informed the athletes," Lekomola said.

Lekomola has earlier told this publication of their desire to have athletes who are in different sponsorship programmes being financially sponsored until the Olympics are finally held.

He said they also wanted the qualified athletes to be assisted with individual training equipment, remote personal trainers and financial support to sustain their respective diets.

Lesotho has six athletes who are under four-year Olympic Solidarity scholarships. The six athletes are Moroke Mokhotho (boxing), Tumelo Makae (cycling), Marumo Moloisane (Taekwondo), Mosito Lehata, Lerato Sechele and Tšepang Sello (all

from athletics).

The scholarships started in 2017 and were to end in August this year.

So far, only one Lesotho athlete has qualified for the Olympics namely Seutloali Khoarahlane.

LNOC high-performance coordinator Likeleko Lepitla told the *Lesotho Times* that after the scholarships extension, there will be no changes in athletes' placement for their preparation. Some athletes are based in Lesotho while others are placed outside the country.

Other athletes are being supported by the LNOC outside the Olympic solidarity programme in preparing for the games. However, the LNOC is yet to decide the way forward for the athletes.

# Senong speaks on AFCON qualifiers preps

**Moorosi Tsiane**

**T**HE senior national soccer coach, Thabo Senong, says the coronavirus (Covid-19) break will give his players ample time to prepare for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers against Benin and Nigeria. Likuena were meant to play back to back ties against Benin on 25 May 2020 away in Porto-Novo with the return clash set for three days later at Setso Stadium.

However, the games have been postponed due to the raging Corona-

virus outbreak that has now killed over 70 000 people globally. The virus has forced different leagues to break since last month.

This week Senong said every challenge presented an opportunity and he was happy that some of the players that he hopes to select would get time to recover from injuries of different magnitudes.

"Every challenge presents opportunities and as much as this looks bad, it is giving some players time to recover from injuries so that they can be eligible for selection," Senong said.

"Players like Letlatsa Moshoeshe and Lepheana Mofolo of LDF who were already in the system but had to be left out due to injuries are now going to recover because they are also not playing in the league.

"Other players also have the opportunity to impress so that they can be called into the team."

Senong urged players not to treat the break as a holiday but instead use it to reflect on themselves while refocusing their goals.

"This is not a Christmas holiday. We shouldn't relax. Every player must use this break to reflect on

themselves and their goals and see if they are in the right direction. If not, then they must refocus."

To monitor their players, they have created a WhatsApp group where their physical trainer has been sharing some videos with the players on how to keep fit during the break.

"We have a *WhatsApp* group with players and the physical trainer is sharing with them some videos on what to do in their own space to keep fit while staying withing the government's guidelines. As much as they must stay at home, they

should remain active and fit. They must always be ready for action.

"I also believe coaches of different teams also have their own programmes that they are following."

The break, Senong said, has also given them more time to monitor their opponents through watching their videos. This will enable them to know the areas of focus when the preparations resume.

"We have shared the videos of our opponents with the players because we want them to know what to expect and the areas to focus on when preparations resume," Senong said.

**Gbets** SPORTS BETTING  
Gbets.co.ls

vodacom | m-pesa

**Withdrawals paid within 60 minutes or a M25 Bonus!**

Register on **Gbets.co.ls**  
**100% match up to M500 on your 1<sup>st</sup> Deposit**

TCS apply





**Lesotho Times**  
April 9 - 15 2020

# Sport



## Too early to talk about clubs' rescue package-Mohapi

**Moorosi Tsiane**

**L**ESOTHO Football Association (LeFA) secretary General MOKHOSI Mohapi says it is premature for the association to commit to helping local clubs financially in the wake of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

Mohapi said this to the *Lesotho Times* this week.

This comes after the FIFA Gianni Infantino president recently proposed that the football mother body fork out US\$2.7 billion from its reserves to help the footballing community to recover from the pandemic.

For the fund to be released, it would however, require the approval of the FIFA Council, a 36-member group made up of soccer officials from the sport's six regional confederations.

The Coronavirus pandemic has so far killed over 70 000 people globally while infections have surpassed 1.2 million. Closer to home in South Africa, the virus has so far killed 11 people while over 1 600 infections have been recorded.

Although Lesotho is yet to record any cases, the government has been on high alert since last month declaring a national lockdown which ends on 21 April 2020. Prior to the lockdown, the government had declared a moratorium on all gatherings of above 100 people and closed schools. LeFA also followed suit banning all matches.

However, the reality is that while the Coronavirus has so far been successfully kept at bay in Lesotho, the economic effects will have lasting effects. The teams are not mak-

ing money because they are not getting any gate takings but their financial obligations regarding their players and staff remain constant.

Mohapi told the *Lesotho Times* this week that the LeFA national executive committee is yet to discuss an assistance package matter hence they were not yet in a position to make any commitments.

"It is premature for us to say anything regarding that issue because I cannot make that decision on my own," Mohapi said.

"The NEC must decide and for now, that matter has not been discussed, so I can't commit to anything."

Meanwhile, Sierra Leone Football Association (SLFA) president Isha Johansen has confirmed that the association will donate about M1.2 million to help their premier league and the first and second divisions to assist them survive the Coronavirus scourge.

About M800 000 of that money will go to the premier league teams while the remaining M480 000 will be shared among the lower tier clubs.

Mohapi said if they are to implement the same measure in Lesotho, then they may have to trim their budgets for other projects.

"If we are to give teams money now, we might as well be forced to cut some of our interventions like the assistance for teams participating in the CAF Champions' League.

"However, I don't want to say anything definitive because the executive will have to decide. I must say though, for now; there is nothing of that nature on the table," Mohapi said.



MOKHOSI Mohapi.



- Na u batla ho rekisa sets'a kapa ntlo?
- Na u batla ho reka sets'a kapa ntlo?
- Na u batla ho reka ts'imo?
- Na u batla ho rekisa ts'imo?

### KOPANA LE RONA

Maseru

Hlotse

Khabetsoana Main North 1  
Opposite Puma Garage  
+266 2733 0074  
+266 5912 1509

Main Street  
Metro Building room B6  
+266 5975 3060  
+266 2740 0074



Re sebetsa ka ponaletso