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# Sunday Express

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May 15- 21 2022

Best Sunday in Lesotho

**Tšolo blasts 'hypocrite' Majoro**

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SAKOANE Sakoane.

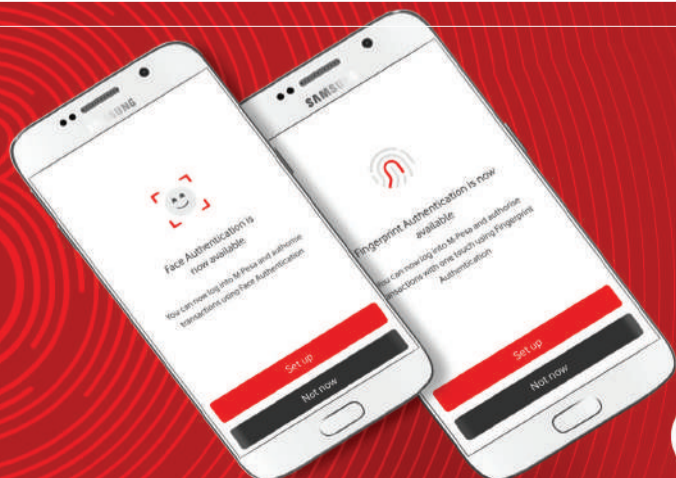
## Hammer blow for Sakoane, victory for DPP Motinyane

- As Appeal Court grants application for his recusal from Kamoli & others' treason and murder trial,
- Adv Abrahams given green light to continue prosecuting the high-profile case.

Story on page 2

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# Hammer blow for Sakoane, victory for DPP Motinyane

Moorosi Tsiane

**T**HE Court of Appeal has nullified Chief Justice Sakoane's January 2022 judgment wherein the top judge refused to recuse himself from presiding over the treason and murder trial of former army commander, Tlali Kamoli, and others.

The apex court also granted the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Hlalefang Motinyane's application to rescind Justice Sakoane's decision to bar South African Shaun Abrahams from prosecuting the case.

The appeal court further ordered the Registrar of the High Court and Court of Appeal, Mathato Sekoai, to allocate the trial to any other judge besides Justice Sakoane. This can either be a foreign or local judge, the apex court ordered.

Although this fell short of the order for a foreign judge as per DPP Motinyane's prayer, the decision is nevertheless a hammer blow to Justice Sakoane in that it specifically bars him from presiding over the case while leaving the door open for any of his subordinates to take over the case.

DPP Motinyane had in January 2022 unsuccessfully petitioned Justice Sakoane to recuse himself from the case on allegations that he was biased against the prosecution.

However, in delivering his verdict in the same month, Justice Sakoane said the DPP's fears that he was unlikely to be impartial, merely because he had castigated her and barred Adv Abrahams from prosecuting the case, were unjustified.

The DPP, who had been angered by what she described as intemperate and injudicious language by the chief justice against her, including Judge Sakoane's insinuation that she should go back to law school, did not take the judgement lying down.

She subsequently approached the Court of Appeal to reverse Justice Sakoane's decision. The appeal was heard on 23 April 2022 by the apex court bench comprising Justices Johan Van Der Westhuizen of South Africa and the Zimbabwean duo of Tapfuma Mtshiyi and Moses Chinhengo.

Reading out a summary of the judgment which was written by Justice Chinhengo, Appeal Court President Kananelo Mosito said DPP Motinyane's appeal had been upheld and Justice Sakoane should stop presiding over the treason and murder trial.

"I have carefully considered the complaints by the DPP in the light of the facts of this case," read Justice Mosito.

"I have kept in mind that it is not a small matter for the Crown to apply for the recusal of a chief justice of the country from presiding over a case of such high-profile nature.

"I have considered the predicament in which the DPP will be placed by the removal of the lead counsel (Abrahams) in such an important trial and the prejudice that the Crown is likely to suffer. I have also considered the ramifications and untenability of a finding on the one hand that the exclusion of Adv Abrahams was not justified and directing on the other, that he continues with his mandate in a court presided over by the chief justice without requiring him to recuse himself. All this I have considered in seeking to answer the question whether or not the DPP's apprehension that the chief justice will not bring an impartial mind to bear on the trial is reasonable.

"I have come to conclusion that in all the circumstances of this case the Chief Justice could have acceded to the request of his recusal," Justice Mosito said.

Although the apex court did not grant the DPP's prayer for the trial to be allocated to a foreign judge, it left the door open for this to happen by ordering Adv Sekoai to reallocate it to any other judge besides Justice Sakoane.

"The DPP prayed that the case should be allocated to and presided over by a foreign judge. I decline to give this. This court directs that the matter be placed before a different judge. The decision whether it will be a foreign or local judge is left to the relevant authorities to make, as convenience and interest of justice dictate.

"In the result the appeal succeeds accordingly and the order of court is as follows... The judgement of the chief justice refusing to recuse himself from adjudicating the trial is set aside with the result for avoidance of doubt. The trial for the respondents shall be allocated by the Registrar (Sekoai) to another judge who maybe a judge recruited for a purpose from outside a jurisdiction or any other judge of the High Court of the Kingdom of Lesotho."

The apex court judgment closes the acrimonious chapter between Justice Sakoane and DPP Motinyane and the latter's subsequent court applications which had stalled the treason trial of Kamoli and others.



SAKOANE  
Sakoane.



HLALEFANG  
Motinyane.

Kamoli is accused alongside politicians, Mothetjoa Metsing, Selibe Mochoboroane, Captain Litekanyo Nyakane, Lance Corporals Motloheloa Ntsane and Leutsoa Motsieloa.

The treason and murder charges are in connection with the 30 August 2014 attempted coup against the first government of former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane.

After unsuccessfully petitioning Justice Sakoane to recuse himself from the case on the grounds that he could be biased against the prosecution, DPP Motinyane subsequently appealed to the apex court.

In her heads of argument filed in the apex court, DPP Motinyane reiterated that Justice Sakoane could not be trusted to bring an impartial mind to bear if he was allowed to continue presiding over the case.

She also slammed the top judge for his insistence on forging ahead with the trial in the absence of the fugitive Mr Metsing when he was allegedly the chief instigator of the criminal events of 29-30 August 2014, which form the basis of the treason and murder case.

Justice Sakoane's determination to proceed with the trial "without regard to the central role played by the fifth respondent (Metsing) in the charges" makes a compelling argument why he should not be allowed to preside over the case, DPP Motinyane argued.

She also accused Justice Sakoane of unilaterally allocating the case to himself without consulting the executive or anyone else. This is despite the chief justice's knowledge of a government-SADC agreement that all high-profile trials involving politicians, serving and former members of the security agencies be tried by foreign judges.

Three foreign judges, namely, Charles Hungwe (Zimbabwe), Kabelo Lebotse and Onkemetse Tshosa (both from Botswana) were engaged by the government and the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) in 2019 to try the high-profile trials.

Former Justice and Correctional Services Minister, Mokhele Moletsane, explained at the time that the government and SADC felt it necessary to engage foreign judges because the cases in question were politically sensitive and the verdicts of the foreign judges were less likely to be viewed as biased.

Justices Lebotse and Tshosa subsequently resigned in May 2020 and August 2021 respectively, citing poor working conditions, among other things. They were also unhappy about the scorched earth tactics of the suspects aimed at stalling their trials.

Their resignations left Justice Hungwe with the gargantuan task of presiding over some of the high-profile trials by himself. Some of the cases were then allocated to local judges.

The logic behind the appointment of foreign judges to handle the high-profile cases was lost on Justice Sakoane when he made the unilateral decision to take over the treason and murder trial in the aftermath of Justice Tshosa's resignation, the DPP had argued.

"The chief justice erred and misdirected himself in appointing himself as the trial judge in CRI/T/0001/2018 (treason and murder trial). More specifically, the learned judge failed to have regard to the underlying pro-



SHAUN  
Abrahams.

cesses, rationale and policy considerations followed in the appointment of foreign judges to adjudicate in the matter of the respondents (Kamoli and his co-accused) as articulated and considered by the Constitutional Court in Mokhosi & 15 Others v Justice Charles Hungwe & 5 others when he appointed himself to preside over the trial of the respondents.

"The learned judge failed to consult the executive and the Judicial Service Commission prior to what amounts to self-reviewing the decision to appoint foreign judges by appointing himself as the trial judge in CRI/T/0001/2018," DPP Motinyane argued.

She had also been adamant that the chief justice should not have set the 10 to 20 January 2022 dates for the treason trial when he had been told Mr Abrahams would be absent.

Indeed on 10 January 2022, Adv Abrahams did not show up in court as had been anticipated and DPP Motinyane then sought a postponement of the trial. This did not go down well with Justice Sakoane who refused to postpone the case and then went ballistic and attacked both Adv Abrahams and the DPP.

The top judge even warned that he could end up freeing the suspects if the prosecution continued to delay.

The DPP had then resolved that Adv Naki Nku would prosecute the case in Adv Abrahams' absence. But Adv Abrahams showed up in court on 17 January 2022, ready to resume his role, only for Justice Sakoane to bar him. He said it was "untenable" for Advocate Abrahams, who had been absent from court to suddenly return and take over as lead prosecutor from Adv Nku, who had replaced him in his absence.

Justice Sakoane also charged DPP Motinyane with perjury for "lying" to him that Adv Abrahams would not be available.

Although Justice Sakoane eventually cleared Advocate Motinyane of perjury, the DPP was still unhappy with his conduct. She subsequently filed the ultimately unsuccessful application for the recusal of the chief justice from presiding over the treason trial.

In her apex court application, DPP Motinyane insisted that Justice Sakoane would not bring an impartial mind to the trial. She argued that Justice Sakoane is the one who actually double-booked Adv Abrahams by imposing the January 2022 trial dates yet the latter had already indicated his unavailability.

However, Adv Letuka Molati, who represents Kamoli, argued before the Court of Appeal that DPP Motinyane could not seek recusal of a presiding judge only when matters were not going her way.

He argued that if the DPP Motinyane had genuinely been against local judges taking over the high-profile trials, she would have raised the issue when local judges took over some of the cases last year not now as she was doing.

Mr Mochoboroane's lawyer, Motiea Teele, concurred. He argued that the DPP had not initially sought the postponement of the trial due to his other client, Mr Metsing's absence. She had only raised the issue during Adv Abrahams' absence to buy time, Adv Teele argued.

Now that the appeal has been decided, Adv Sekoai has to move with speed to reallocate the treason and murder trial to another judge to enable it to begin without further ado.

Bereng Mpaki

# Seleke case referred back to High Court

**T**HE Court of Appeal has ruled that the High Court has the jurisdiction to hear former Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) CEO, Mohato Seleke's application challenging the government's refusal to renew his contract.

The matter will therefore proceed in the High Court as per the apex court decision.

The appeal court judgment was read out on Friday by the court's president Kananelo Mosito. Justice Mosito had heard the matter together with fellow judges Tapfuma Mtshiya and Johann Van der Westhuizen.

Trade and Industry Minister, Thabiso Molapo; Attorney General Rapelang Motsieloa, the LNDC board of directors and the LNDC were the respondents in Mr Seleke's initial High Court application against Minister Molapo's refusal to renew his contract.

They approached the apex court to determine whether or not the High Court had jurisdiction to hear Mr Seleke's application.

They had argued that the High Court did not have jurisdiction to hear the matter on the grounds that it was a labour issue which should be heard by the Labour Court.

This is despite that in most countries the High Court is considered to have unlimited jurisdiction over all cases except for constitutional matters which are heard by the Constitutional Court.

Reading a summary of the judgement, Justice Mosito said the High Court had jurisdiction to hear Mr Seleke's application.

"The case involved the LNDC CEO, whose contract had come to an end, and the Minister had to decide whether to renew the contract or not," Justice Mosito said.

"The High Court decided it had the jurisdiction to hear the matter, while the Minister said it did not have jurisdiction. It is ordered that the appeal is dismissed with costs, which means the matter has to proceed in the High Court."

In his court papers, Mr Seleke alleges that Dr Molapo disregarded the LNDC board's decision to recommend the renewal of his contract by a further three years when it met on 7 September 2020.

He argues that Dr Molapo's refusal to renew his contract was irrational, arbitrary and



MOHATO Seleke.

done in bad faith.

Mr Seleke was appointed LNDC CEO on 1 December 2017 by then Trade and Industry Minister, Tefo Mapesela. His contract expired on 30 November 2020 and it was not renewed.

He argued that clause 2 of his contract of employment specifically provides for an option of renewal. He said the LNDC board as-

sessed and evaluated his performance and found it to have been more than satisfactory. He thus expected his contract to be renewed.

He said he formally submitted his application for renewal to the LNDC board on 18 August 2020

"The (LNDC) board, based on their assessment and evaluation of my performance over the past three years, did consider my re-

quest in its meeting of 7 September 2020 and reached a resolution that it be recommended to the Minister (Molapo) that my contract be renewed for a further period of three years," Mr Seleke states in his court papers.

"Due to the apparent conflict of interest if I sat in the meetings I was always excused from the board's deliberations when the issue of the renewal of my contract was considered. However, and based on the purported response by the Minister, it is beyond doubt that the Board did advise the Minister to renew my contract of employment based on my more than satisfactory performance and meeting of set targets over my tenure."

The term of the board which purportedly renewed Mr Seleke's contract ended in September 2020. The current board was appointed a month later in October, five months after the collapse of the former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's administration.

The Thabane government collapsed after the former premier's All Basotho Convention (ABC) party agreed to form a new coalition with the Democratic Congress (DC).

As per the ABC, DC coalition agreement, each party has the responsibility of filling key positions in any of the institutions falling under the ministries it controls. The LNDC falls under the trade ministry which is controlled by the DC. Mr Seleke is not a DC member. He is said to be an ABC member.

He was subsequently appointed to head the LEC, an institution which is controlled by the ABC as per the terms of the coalition agreement.

Energy and Meteorology Minister, Mohapi Mohapinyane, is the ABC's legislator for the Rothe constituency.



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR MAFETENG HOSPITAL MEDICAL GAS PIPING SYSTEM

Reference	RFP/CHAI/ PIP/LES0122
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In support of the ongoing efforts by the Government of Lesotho through the Ministry of Health (MOH), to strengthen the National Medical Oxygen Ecosystem, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) is supporting the improvement of medical oxygen availability and supply systems for Mafeteng District and the neighboring districts.

The Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) seeks interested and capable vendors to submit quotations for the supply of a Medical Gas Pipeline System (MGPS) including distribution manifold system for Mafeteng Hospital as detailed in the specification package of this RFP. The scope of work includes system design, sourcing of project materials, installation, testing, and commissioning of the MGPS at Mafeteng Hospital. Full solicitation is available online at this link below.

[www.clintonhealthaccess.org/request-for-proposals-rfp-for-mafeteng-hospital-medical-gas-piping-system](http://www.clintonhealthaccess.org/request-for-proposals-rfp-for-mafeteng-hospital-medical-gas-piping-system)

When preparing the RFP, please be guided by the technical specifications as detailed in the online version of this solicitation.

**The DEADLINE to submit quotations is midnight SAST 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Quotations submitted after the deadline will not be considered.**

For any inquiries of additional information send an email to [lesothoprocurement@clintonhealthaccess.org](mailto:lesothoprocurement@clintonhealthaccess.org).

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

<b>Delivery Terms</b> [INCOTERMS 2020]	<b>DAP</b>
Customs clearance and Duties of Material, if needed, shall be done by:	CHAI in coordination and cooperation with vendor
Project site	Mafeteng Regional Hospital P O Box 16 Mafeteng, Lesotho
Project duration	Scope of project must not exceed 45 days from date of award
Preferred Currency of Quotation	<b>United States Dollars (Euro accepted)</b>
Warranty	5 years (Annex B)
Deadline for the Submission of Quotation	<b>30/05/2022</b>
All documentations, including catalogs, instructions, and operating manuals, shall be in this language	<b>English</b>
Documents to be submitted	1. Product information and Vendor detail ( <b>Annex A</b> ) 2. Technical specifications ( <b>Annex B</b> ) 3. Legal Documentation (Business Registration and Tax Clearance) to operate in Home Country applicable to both local and international supplier, Business Registration, Tax Certificate (This is in addition to completed vendor details in Annex A) If documents are not in English, please provide translation.
Payment Terms	100 % after supply and inspection preferred but other terms can be negotiated
Liquidated Damages	1% of total contract amount for each day of delay and maximum of 30 days after which contract will be terminated.
Evaluation Criteria	1. Technical responsiveness/Full compliance to requirements and lowest evaluated price 2. Acceptance of project period 3. Full acceptance of the PO/Contract General Terms and Conditions
Type of Contract to be Signed	Purchase Order
Special conditions of Contract	Failure to comply with delivery date above shall be a basis for cancellation. Forfeiture of bid security if submitted with the bids if applicable. CHAI reserves the right to select any supplier
Proposal validity	90 days
Conditions for Release of Payment	Passing Inspection/Verification of Supplies Written Acceptance of Goods based on full compliance with RFP requirements by the end user

Bereng Mpaki

# US, Lesotho finally sign US\$300 million compact

... US Ambassador Brewer hails progress in fighting human trafficking, ... demands more action including prosecution of suspects

**T**HE United States (US) and Lesotho have finally signed the long-awaited agreement for the US' Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to provide a US\$300 million (about M4, 8 billion) grant to Lesotho.

The signing ceremony was held at 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre with MCC CEO Alice Albright signing on behalf of the Corporation.

Foreign Affairs and International Relations Minister, Matšepo Ramakoa, signed on behalf of the government. Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro was on hand to witness the momentous occasion along with several cabinet ministers and other government officials.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, US Ambassador to Lesotho, Maria Brewer, hailed Lesotho's progress towards addressing human trafficking concerns.

She however, said much more needed to be done to combat the scourge.

Tackling human trafficking is part of the key criteria demanded by the US for eligibility for the second MCC Compact grant.

Other criteria include upholding the rule of law, tackling rampant police brutality and implementing the multi-sector reforms recommended by SADC in 2016.

While Lesotho is still to meet all the eligibility criteria, the US has nevertheless agreed to the second compact in recognition of the strides by the Majoro administration towards fulfilling the criteria.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ms Brewer said although Lesotho had made important progress in tackling human trafficking, more needed to be done. She said there was need to try and convict perpetrators and complicit government officials.

"The government has made important progress on human trafficking," Ms Brewer said.

"However, we acknowledge the need for further progress, particularly more convictions against offenders and complicit officials. The record of progress - in these areas of good governance is key to the success of this MCC compact.

"Today's signing is an incredibly important step, but it is just one step toward achieving the nation's goals. More steps remain.

"But I can assure you, the United States is committed - as it has been



MARIA Brewer.

for more than 56 years - to being a strong, enduring, and supportive partner to the people of Lesotho in reaching that brighter future," she said.

Lesotho got the first compact grant worth US\$362, 6 million (about M3 billion) back in 2007. It was used to fund various projects to reduce poverty and spur economic growth.

However, in 2015, the MCC refused to renew the compact programme over rampant human rights abuses under then Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili's regime.

Lesotho's eligibility for the second compact was initially confirmed by the MCC Board in December 2017 after the ouster of the Mosisili coalition in the June 2017 elections and the advent of former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's second coalition government.

However, the Thabane administration, which lasted until May 2020 when it was replaced by the current Majoro-led coalition, was accused of failing to tackle police brutality against citizens and corruption.

The former government also dragged its feet on the multi-sector reforms process. It even missed the May 2019 deadline set by SADC for the full implementation of the constitutional and security sector reforms. All of these issues were part of the eligibility criteria for the second MCC compact.

More importantly, the Thabane government was accused of ignoring repeated warnings to address human trafficking concerns.

The US government defines human trafficking as "modern-day slavery" which involves the movement of persons locally and beyond

a country's borders against their will to get them into forced labour, involuntary servitude and debt bondage.

Due to the Thabane administration's failure to address human trafficking concerns, Lesotho was in 2020 placed in Tier 3 - the lowest tier in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

This meant that Lesotho could not qualify for various forms of US development assistance.

To its credit, the Majoro administration, which took over the reins in May 2020, worked resolutely to get Lesotho off Tier 3.

Under the capable stewardship of Home Affairs Minister Motlaletoa Letsosa, the government began implementing the US Trafficking in Persons Report's recommendations for "increased efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict traffickers through independent and fair trials including officials complicit in trafficking in persons".

To that end, Mr Letsosa said cabinet had directed the police to establish regional focal points for the co-ordination of anti-trafficking activities "while the long-term strategic objective is to establish fully fledged anti-trafficking units, with sufficient resources at district level".

He also said that eight cases were referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Hlalefang Motinyane, for prosecution in 2021.

These efforts were acknowledged on Thursday by Ms Brewer who said, "We are happy that the government of Lesotho has made important progress on human trafficking".

She also praised Lesotho's commitment towards meeting other criteria to qualify for the compact, in particular, the recent approval by the National Assembly of the Laws of Lerotholi Amendment Bill and the Counter Domestic Violence Bill.

"The passage of these bills paves the way for concrete economic and social transformation, strengthening legal protections for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups.

"We have supported Lesotho's officially mandated reforms process, backed by SADC. These reforms support good governance and human rights, including human trafficking," Ms Brewer said.

The compact has three proposed projects — Market-Driven Irrigated Horticulture (MDIH), Business Environment and Technical Assistance (BETA), and the Health System Strengthening (HSS) project, and each project has several components.

On her part, Ms Albright praised Lesotho's own US\$20 million contribution to the compact funding.

"While MCC will invest US\$300 million dollars towards compact programmes, the Government of Lesotho has also pledged to invest US\$20 million towards the compact's projects, cementing their commitment to its success.

"With a combined investment of US\$320 million, we anticipate that this compact will benefit all Basotho people. The United States is proud to partner with Lesotho to generate inclusive economic growth for the country's people," Ms Albright said.

Dr Majoro said it was a relief to be finally signing the compact after a long wait.

"To our people who have waited patiently since 2013, the compact we signed today comprises three carefully selected interventions aimed to rapidly increase investment, economic growth, employment and to improve the delivery of health services to Basotho. With aggressive execution of the compact, between 80 000 and 90 000 jobs will be created," Dr Majoro noted.

## Temporary relief for Molibeli, 171 police officers

Mohalenyane Phakela/Moorosi Tsiane

**T**HE Court of Appeal has ordered Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli and 171 police officers' application for the rescission of Judge Molefi Makara's June 2021 judgement nullifying the officers' April 2020 promotions to be heard afresh in the High Court by a different judge.

The apex court heard their application on 19 April 2022 and delivered its verdict on Friday.

Reading out the summary of the judgement on Friday, Court of Appeal President Kananelo Mosito said the matter had been referred back to the High Court to be heard de novo (afresh) by a different judge.

"It is ordered that the appeal succeeds and the judgements and orders of the high court are set aside and the matter is remitted to High Court for hearing before another judge" Justice Mosito said.

"The parties shall bear their own costs. The judge to whom these matters are allocated to shall give directions in relation to the filing of any outstanding pleadings. No orders of appeal court is made the parties shall cover their own costs."

Justice Molefi Makara had on 17 June 2021 issued two orders reversing the April 2020 promotions of the 171 police officers. The first order reversed promotions of 44 senior officers while the other one nullified the 127 promotions of junior officers.

This after the Lesotho Police Staff Association (LEPOSA) had on 27 and 30 April 2020

filed two applications, challenging the aforementioned promotions.

These included the promotion of Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Beleme Lebajoa.

DCP Lebajoa was in 2018 promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP). He had been an Inspector. He skipped the ranks of Senior Inspector, Superintendent and Senior Superintendent. His 2018 promotion was challenged by LEPOSA. While the matter was pending before the now retired Justice Semapo Peete, he was again promoted to Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SACP) in 2020.

In June 2021, Commissioner Molibeli again promoted him to DCP and this prompted LEPOSA to go back to court to challenge his and other promotions.

On 17 June 2021, Justice Makara nullified the promotions on grounds that Commissioner Molibeli had effected them in violation of the laws that govern the police service. These are the Police Service Act of 1998 and the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (Administration) Regulations of 2003.

The net effect of the ruling was that the affected police officers had to go back to the ranks they held before the promotions. They also had to pay back the extra monies they had earned as a result of the illegal promotions.

However, Commissioner Molibeli failed to reverse the promotions. He and the officers also filed an appeal against Justice Makara's decision.

In their appeal, they had argued that LE-

POSA does not have the legal authority to challenge the decisions of the police command.

They also argued that in passing judgement, Justice Makara had not entertained the merits of the case but only dealt with the preliminary issues which included points of law such as that of LEPOSA lacking jurisdiction to challenge the said promotions.

While waiting the hearing of their appeal in the apex court, they also petitioned Justice Makara to rescind his June 2021 judgements and stay the execution of the judgements pending their appeal.

Justice Makara heard their applications on 3 November 2021 and dismissed them on 17 February 2022.

In his February 2022 judgement, Justice Makara ruled that the rescission application was "ridiculous" and an abuse of the court.

"It should suffice for the court to state that it finds no legal justification to grant the application for staying the execution of all the judgments which forms the subject matter of the relieves sought for in the application.

"Just for over-emphasis sake, to ask for the rescission of the judgment and for the staying of its execution is ridiculous. This is attributable to the fact that the applicants (171 police officers) have not, by any scintilla, filed the answering affidavit in which they refute or qualify the accusatory averments advanced by the respondents (LEPOSA) that the promotions were illegally and unlawfully made to the extent of violating their constitutional rights as citizens. This demonstrates the entrenched commitment by the applicants to

frustrate the course of justice in the matter and, thus, abusing the judicial process. In the premises, the application for rescission and staying of the execution of the judgments pending the appeal, is refused. The respondent is awarded the costs of the litigation," Justice Makara said at the time.

He also said that he did not think there were any chances that the police officers' appeal to the apex court would succeed.

"The predominantly points of law raised by the applicants in their pleadings and their reiteration in the heads of arguments are characteristically distortions of the law and more expressive of wishful thinking. The applicants have, from the onset, misconceived the law by arguing that Section 24 (1) (b) of the Constitution (The Heading Interpretations and Savings) limits the right of the members of the police service to form an association. Instead, the correct legal position is that it prohibits them from forming a labour organisation or secure its membership in any manner whatsoever...

"The material and determinative fact is that the Act allows members of the police service to form an association and not a trade union or any such formation. It inter alia, empowers the organisation to function by advancing the interests of its members and the efficiency in the Service. So, the argument that it is disqualified from questioning the unlawfulness in matters of promotions is without merit. It is inconceivable how the appeal would find that the LEPOSA had no locus standi (legal authority) in the matter," Justice Makara ruled.

Nthabiseng Libate

# EU to give Lesotho €83 million for various projects

**T**HE European Union (EU) will give Lesotho €83 million (about M1, 4 billion) for various initiatives to improve observance of human rights, peace and security, as well as developing renewable energy projects.

The funds will be disbursed under a new partnership between the two parties, covering the 2021-2027 period. The deal was announced in Maseru at a recent event to commemorate Europe Day. Europe Day is held annually on 9 May to celebrate peace and unity in Europe. The Day not only symbolises unity among EU member states, but it also celebrates the EU's partnerships with other countries throughout the world.

Speaking at the event, the EU head of Co-operation, Mario Varrenti, said the new partnership with Lesotho will greatly strengthen relations between the two parties.

"The funding will go towards the following priority areas: a green resilient economy, good governance and social protection, civil society and other support measures. These are critical areas for the country," Mr Varrenti said.

Programmes to promote a green resilient economy will receive €63 million, while €12 million will go towards governance projects. Another €8 million will be given to civil society organisations for support measures aimed at advancing human rights and democracy.

Mr Varrenti said the EU had collaborated with the government of Lesotho to come up with the cooperation strategy. He paid tribute to the media for its role in highlighting the partnership and areas of co-operation between the two parties.

He pointed out that although Lesotho provides the bulk of water to industries in South Africa's Gauteng province, villagers in some parts of the Mountain Kingdom still lacked access to safe drinking water.

This was due to demographic challenges which make it difficult to pump water to villages, especially in the country's lowlands, he said.

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) seeks to ensure water security of the Gauteng region and to improve the socio-economic development of Lesotho through



MARIO Varrenti.

improved infrastructure and hydropower generation. The treaty was signed by the two countries in 1986 and is one of the largest ongoing water development projects in the world.

Mr Varrenti said the EU had doubled resources for the first time to help Lesotho tackle one of its biggest challenges - effects of climate change.

"Climate change is a huge challenge in this country, which is why we have doubled re-

sources towards promoting a green economy. More than two thirds of the funding will go towards bettering the green resilient economy dealing with climate change," he said.

Although Lesotho contributed very little compared to other countries towards global warming, it stands to suffer worse consequences such as unpredictable rain patterns causing drought and floods.

"We were aware of all these challenges and it was reflected in the financial decisions

that informed the new strategic partnership between the EU and Lesotho," Mr Varrenti added.

On his part, the Deputy National Authorising Officer (DNAO) in the Ministry of Finance, Molise Koto, said Lesotho was grateful for the EU support mainly in the water sector.

The funding would go towards the rehabilitation of water treatment works and water supply network covering Maputsoe, Berea and Roma, he said.



## ADDENDUM 1

### RE-REGISTRATION OF PRIVATE HIRE FOR PLANT AND VEHICLES

The Roads Directorate (RD) was established through the Roads Directorate Act 2010 as a body corporate with perpetual succession as a non-profit making public institution governed by the Board of Directors. The Roads Directorate manages road infrastructure and ensures that existing roads and access routes are comprehensively and regularly maintained and rehabilitated when required, upgraded and extended in an efficient manner to meet the needs of the economy for the nation. The main functions of the Roads Directorate are Road Network Planning, Development and Maintenance; Quality assurance as well as construction and maintenance of footbridges.

The Roads Directorate wishes to invite all interested Lesotho bidders who did not register with Roads Directorate in 2021 registration, to register vehicles, and those who registered but want to add their plant and equipment for hire. All vehicles, plant and equipment should be registered in Lesotho.

#### Requirements:

1. 2016 make and later models (this applies to 4X4 double cabs only)
2. Proof of Equipment & Plant Ownership and/or Vehicle Registration Certificate/blue card
3. A valid certified copy of owner's Identification document
4. A valid copy of Tax Clearance Certificate (certified at source)
5. A valid copy of Trader's License (certified at source)

#### Plant and equipment to be registered:

Graders, Excavators, TLB, Water Tankers, Water Pumps, Water Bowsers, Air Compressors, Concrete Mixers, Pedestrian, Smooth and Pad Foot Rollers, Plate Compactors, Mechanical rammers, Asphalt cutters, Concrete cutters, 3m3, 6m3, 10m3 Tipper Trucks, Low beds and Tractors. We will also register Sets of Plant and Equipment.

Registration will be on the **17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to 02<sup>nd</sup> June 2022** in all ten districts at Roads Directorate Offices from **09:00am to 17:00pm**.

**For further details please contact:**

The Procurement Manager, Roads Directorate at email addresses: [ntlhakanam@rd.org.ls](mailto:ntlhakanam@rd.org.ls)

[ls/mahiritonaf@rd.org.ls](mailto:ls/mahiritonaf@rd.org.ls)

Tel: (+266) 22323024/ 22323029/ 52229000

website: <https://www.rd.org.ls>

Conquering Mountains and Streams for Prosperity



SanLei Trout a company based in Lesotho currently has vacancy for the following position

Position	Job Description/Purpose	Qualifications & Experience	Skills competencies & requirements
Processing Manager	<p><b>PURPOSE:</b> In consultation with Operations Manager, the Processing Manager is to facilitate the processing requirements of the farm. This includes the interaction with the team responsible for harvesting of fish, the movement of harvested fish into the processing plant, the processing activity, the packaging and labelling activity, and the logistics associated with dispatch of packaged product to the end user.</p> <p><b>KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Develop, implement, and maintain processing and packing techniques that are compliant to International Best Management Practice, HACCP and required international certification.</li> <li>1.2 Managing and coordinating training on processing equipment, Enforcing Good manufacturing practices. Ensure that SOPs are in place and being followed.</li> <li>1.3 Create, implement, and maintain a food safety culture for the whole team in conjunction with the food safety officer.</li> <li>1.4 To ensure that FIFO is maintained, and storage temperatures are within specifications. Guide activities that ensure product specifications are met, to assess raw materials suppliers to meet Sanlei's specifications.</li> <li>1.5 Produce best quality product, continually strive to improve product quality, record product quality and report thereof.</li> <li>1.6 Update production data daily and produce a monthly report on processing KPI's that is tracked through the weekly processing meetings.</li> <li>1.7 Ensure and maintain good stock control on processed stock and consumables with daily updates and reporting thereof.</li> </ol>	<p>Bachelors or Master's degree in Food Processing, and/or Microbiology and</p> <p>Prior fish processing experience is an added advantage</p> <p>At least 3 years management experience</p> <p>Minimum 3 years' experience in a quality control and/or food processing environment</p> <p>Certificate in FSSC Version 5 is an added advantage</p> <p>FSSC 22000 certification</p> <p>In-depth understanding of HACCP</p> <p>Ability and willingness to work collaboratively under a variety of hydrological and climate condition</p> <p>Proven ability to lead and manage a small team and to work as part of a bigger team</p> <p>24/7 Management attitude with a proactive approach.</p> <p>Team player and good communicator</p>	<p>Valid Driver's license</p> <p>Innovative, inventive, and analytical, able to pre-empt, resolve problems and compliance conscious</p> <p>Deadline focussed and able to make critical decisions under pressure while maintaining safety of the staff you are working with</p> <p>Good record keeping and planning skills and attention to detail and computer literate (Excel, PowerPoint, and word)</p> <p>Proven record of ability to manage time and work to strict deadlines</p> <p>Willing to work during weekends and longer hours when required</p> <p>Fluency in English, written and spoken, driving continuous improvement</p>

Contact: Should you meet the requirements for this position, please e-mail your CV to [hr@sanleitrou.com](mailto:hr@sanleitrou.com). Deadline for applications is 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

DISCLAIMERS: Only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted.

# DCP Mokete cleared of sexual assault charges

## Moorosi Tsiane

**D**EPUTY Commissioner of Police (DCP) Paseka Mokete can finally sleep easy after more than two years of being saddled with damaging allegations of sexually assaulting one of his subordinates, Inspector 'Makatlheho Mphetho.

This after his Thursday acquittal of the sexual assault charges by Maseru Senior Resident Magistrate Peter Murenzi.

His acquittal on the grounds that the Crown had failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt is the latest manifestation of the worrying trend of high-profile acquittals due to the shoddy police investigations of alleged crimes and the equally shoddy prosecution of the cases thereafter.

Two months ago, DCP Mokete applied to be acquitted of the charges of sexually assaulting a subordinate, saying the Crown had failed to prove that he committed any crime.

However, the prosecution had opposed the application, arguing that the senior cop has a case to answer. Therefore, he should take the stand

to defend himself instead of seeking acquittal before his side of the story is heard, prosecutor Motene Rafoneke had argued.

Magistrate Murenzi had then said he would deliver judgement on DCP Mokete's application on 12 May 2022.

DCP Mokete was accused of sexually assaulting Inspector Mphetho on 30 April 2020. On the said date, Inspector Mphetho was on duty at parliament. It was alleged that DCP Mokete forcibly touched her buttocks, broke her trouser buttons and manhandled her.

Inspector Mphetho is the deputy secretary general of LEPOSA, the militant police union which has been at war with DCP Mokete, Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli, and the rest of the police command over the past three years. LEPOSA accuses the police management of incompetence and cronyism. In turn, the police command accuses LEPOSA of insubordination.

DCP Mokete's lawyer, Attorney Monaheng Rasekoai, had argued that his client should be acquitted on the grounds that no state witness

had provided any compelling evidence warranting DCP Mokete to be put to his defence at the close of the case last month.

But the Crown had insisted that DCP Mokete should take the stand and defend himself.

The torn pair of trousers worn by Inspector Mphetho on the day of the alleged abuse — presented as evidence in court — proved that a crime had indeed been committed, said Adv Rafoneke, among other arguments on why DCP Mokete should take the stand.

"The accused must justify that he did not damage the trousers and until we hear his evidence, the court must believe he committed those crimes. We pray that this application (for discharge) be dismissed," Adv Rafoneke said when opposing the discharge application last month.

However, Mr Rasekoai argued there was no basis for the charges, and they were being used to humiliate DCP Mokete because of differences between Inspector Mphetho's LEPOSA and the police command.

"Can we safely conclude that Mr

Mokete is an evil, violent, sexual predator who would stop at nothing, leave his office and go straight to the National Assembly premises, to target the buttocks of the complainant?"

"My humble submission is that this evidence is inadequate to sustain a case to answer. There is absolutely no case to answer," Mr Rasekoai argued.

In acquitting DCP Mokete on Thursday, Magistrate Murenzi agreed with Mr Rasekoai that the Crown failed to present any evidence warranting the top cop to be put to his defence.

"I have had ample time to read and understand the written submissions filed by both sides and I am grateful to the learned counsels for the multitude of cases cited," Magistrate Murenzi said.

"The accused is under no obligation to make out a case against himself. In the event, no *prima facie* case was made against him. Therefore the application for his discharge and a verdict of not guilty must be granted.

"With regard to the alleged crime

of malicious damage to property, it is alleged that the trousers worn by the complainant was torn as a result of the altercation between her and the accused, although after the mishap, she resumed her work as usual and concealed from onlookers.

"The extent of damage and how she walked around in ripped trousers for the whole day was not made clear to the court. The other issue brought to the court's attention is that the exhibit (torn trousers) might have been tempered with seeing that the second witness who seized it did not give a clear picture of how, when and where the exhibit was kept and why it took so long to hand it over to the police.

"Thus, the court is not satisfied that the evidence advanced might secure a conviction against the accused. It is not necessary to drag the accused and put him to his defence when no *prima facie* case has been made against him.

"The application for a discharge is therefore granted in favour of the accused. He is thus discharged and acquitted," Magistrate Murenzi ruled.

# Textile industry's competitiveness waning



## CAREER OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Position:** Head of Human Resource Management & Organizational Development  
**Reports to:** Executive Director

### Job summary

The Head Human Resource Management & Organizational Development shall be focused on issues of management of human capital of the organisation. S/he must also facilitate implementation of financial sustainability initiatives, fundraising and investments projects, financial oversight and risk management, membership, and property development of the Centre. The Head of Human Resources Management & Organizational Development will be a strategic thought-partner and assists the Executive Director (ED) in strengthening internal capacity of TRC to be respected and become a high-impact organization.

### KEY AREAS OF ACCOUNTABILITY:

#### As a member of the Senior Management Team, contribute to:

- Supervising all HR activities, communications, reports, requests and documents created and received by the team.
- Promote and supervise staff's observance to TRC mandate and values systems, their alignment with human resource management policies that embraces professionalism, performance based and / or result oriented human capital.
- Supervise the Centre's business processes and human resource management to identify how effectively shortfalls of the human resource management and organizational development processes should be corrected.
- Researching compensation standards set in the NGOs sector by governing bodies (Board of Directors) in order to create salary structures and administer employee benefits.
- Encourage human resource management teams to develop ideas for improvement. In order to assist her/his teams to improve.
- The Head of Human Resource should have ability to direct, delegate and/or coach her/his to efficiently achieve organizational polices of the Centre.

### Administration supervision

- Head of Human Resources & Organizational Development is responsible for any planning regarding the human resources and development of TRC human resource, and must be able to transform all policies into executable plans and departmental procedures.
- Creating recruitment plans, interview schedules and evaluation standards, overseeing exit interviews and procedures in accordance with HR methodologies and labor laws
- Suggesting changes in policies and procedures based on employee and organizational needs
- Ensuring employees follow all policies and procedures and attend interdepartmental meetings with other managers.
- Oversee organizational development functions as well as facilities to ensure efficient and consistent administration systems and human resource management policies are well functional.
- Supervise periodic development partners / donors 'reporting system(s); ensure that the agreements / contracts' provisions such as reporting schedules are adhered to and that operational requirements are satisfied as required by Board of Directors.
- Assessing reports provided by Head of Programmes Management, Head of Finance and Administration, Programmes Managers and team leaders to determine employee performance and training needs.
- Ensure that appropriate policies are in place regarding human resource management.

### Human resource management

- Communicate expectations, follow-up on actions, and evaluate results to recognize extraordinary effort and significant

contributions or hold individuals accountable for insufficient effort or results unachieved.

- Follow and enforce TRC policies to assist in maintaining professional and stable working conditions.
- Develop and manage Human Resource (performance / appraisals) systems that enforce compliance, attract, and retain quality employees by training Heads of Programmes Implementing Departments (HPID) to coach and discipline their teams, schedules meetings with programmes officers, preside on individuals' grievances and provide counselling to both teams and supervisors.
- Communicate expectations, follow-up on actions, and evaluate results to recognize extraordinary effort and significant contributions or hold employees accountable for insufficient effort or results.
- Manage, in conjunction with the Executive Director, staff contracts and HR matters.
- Facilitate development of procedures and systems in relation to recruitment, training, holidays, and appraisals, ensuring these are properly documented, and advises on relevant policies.
- Retains historical human resource records by designing a filing and retrieval system and keeping past and current records.

### Qualifications and Experience

- University degree in business with a specialization in human resource management.
- Business law, management, leadership, ethics, communication and data analysis.
- An advanced degree will significantly increase your marketability as a head of human resource management & organizational development.
- An M.A. in human resource management includes in-depth knowledge of organizational assessment, employment law, diversity and inclusion practices, executive communication and labor relations
- Excellent communication and relationship building skills with an ability to prioritize, negotiate, and work with a variety of internal and external stakeholders.
- A multi-tasker with the ability to wear many hats in a fast-paced environment.
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, and dedication to the mission of TRC.
- Valid driver's license and demonstrable experience in consistent driving is very desirable.

Please submit a consolidated PDF converted cover letter, curriculum vitae, and certified certificates, addressed to Executive Director to the following email address, [director@trc.org.ls](mailto:director@trc.org.ls) on or before Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 at 12:00 noon

Only shortlisted applicant will be contacted.

## Bereng Mpaki

**L**ESOTHO'S textile and apparel manufacturing industry is fast losing its competitive edge due to an inconsistent and unresponsive legislative environment.

Rising operational costs like wages, water, electricity and transport are some of the factors also found to be affecting the sector's competitiveness.

These issues were highlighted during a recent textile sector dialogue hosted by the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC).

The forum sought to find solutions to sustain the sector since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Attendants included officials from the Lesotho Water and Electricity Authority (LEWA), the Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA), the Central Bank of Lesotho and Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC).

Speaking at the forum, LNDC interim CEO, Molise Ramaili, expressed concern over the state of the textile sector.

He called for stakeholders to come up with strategies to turn the situation around. This after over 11 000 workers lost their jobs between May 2020 and May 2022 following the closure of nine factories around the country.

The jobs bloodbath was a result of declining and cancellation of orders due to the Covid-19 pandemic impact.

Adv Ramaili said that the competitiveness problem started way before the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said World Bank records showed that the sector's exports and employment had been stagnant since 2017, with a 37, 4 percent cumulative wage increase in the process.

"There is an overall loss of competitiveness by the Lesotho textiles and apparel manufacturing industry," Adv Ramaili noted.

"Lesotho has lost its investment climate advantage. Also, the legislative environment has become inconsistent and non-consultative, and very slow to respond to emerging challenges," he added.

Increasing costs in wages, transportation — especially after Covid-19 and Russia-Ukraine war — water, and electricity were also contributing to the gradual decline of the textile industry.

Adv Ramaili said regular industrial strikes over wages increments were also not helping the country's competitiveness.

In 2021, a violent industrial strike over a salary hike left two people dead as workers

clashed with the police.

The workers were eventually awarded a massive 14 percent wage hike.

"The industry is dependent on a few large manufacturers that subcontract their orders to the medium and small manufacturers — high concentration risk," noted Adv Ramaili.

There were also not enough local skills to domesticate the industry, which is dominated by foreign investors.

"There is lack of cohesive vision and collaboration amongst stakeholders such as the government, labour investors, civil society etc. stakeholders vilify each other," he added.

Trade and Industry Minister, Thabiso Molapo, during the dialogue also revealed more challenges for the sector.

He said that Lesotho had slid from being the top exporter to the US market under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), where it used to employ 54 000 workers around 2003, down to the current 40 000.

He noted that some of the adverse consequences that compounded the situation include declining tax revenue for government.

About 45 percent of companies reported 10 percent or more in revenue losses during hard lockdown, averaging around 22 percent for most of the Covid-19 period.

There was also decreased rental revenue collection for LNDC, while some companies scaled down or totally closed, leading to losses in jobs and export earnings.

Dr Molapo said utility companies, LEC and WASCO also experienced decreased revenue collection.

He called for stakeholders to play a role in attracting investors into the textile industry.

"I wish to call your attention to the gravity of this matter, and make a clarion call for you to work closely with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, through LNDC, to contribute to efforts to attract and retain investment in the textile and garment industry.

"Each of you, distinguished guests, has a unique opportunity to create a conducive investment climate for prospective investors, both local and foreign.

"We are operating in different areas of government service delivery and regulation from revenue collection, water and electricity distribution, financial sector, and so forth.

"But we are all geared towards developing Lesotho and building her into a prosperous nation.

"Let us collectively gear towards developing systems that will move us in that direction," Dr Molapo added.

# Tšolo blasts 'hypocrite' Majoro

## ... accuses him of trying to throw him under the bus in Frazer Solar debacle

**Marafaele Mohloboli**

**F**ORMER cabinet minister Temeki Tšolo has launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro, calling him a "hypocrite" and a "rag".

In a weekend interview, Mr Tšolo said even though he and Dr Majoro are both members of the ruling but fractious All Basotho Convention (ABC), he hates the premier with a passion for allegedly throwing him under the bus over the government's botched 2018 M1, 7 billion solar energy deal with Frazer Solar.

Mr Tšolo, who was a minister in then Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's office at the time, allegedly appended his signature to a deal with the Germany company for the latter to provide solar power to Lesotho over a four-year-period.

The deal was not implemented after Dr Majoro, who was finance minister at the time, refused to sign the financing agreement for the project on the grounds that Mr Tšolo had signed without cabinet approval.

Frazer Solar was later awarded M856 million in damages by a South African arbitrator in 2019 for breach of contract after the deal fell through. The Lesotho government is challenging the award in both the Lesotho High Court and Gauteng High Court.

In his court papers, Dr Majoro accuses Mr Tšolo of "fraudulently and corruptly" signing the botched deal on behalf of the government.

Dr Majoro says he had no right to negotiate and sign such an agreement. Mr Tšolo has denied signing the deal on behalf of the government.

But Dr Majoro insists that he signed and, in the process, violated national laws which stipulate how such contracts are agreed and how payments to third parties are made.

He accuses the former minister of acting outside his powers by "clandestinely" signing the agreement without the knowledge and approval

of parliament, cabinet and himself as the finance minister at the time.

It was against this background that Mr Tšolo made his scathing attack on Dr Majoro.

The attack was initially made on Thursday. His acerbic remarks were captured in a leaked WhatsApp audio clip. He was speaking ahead of the handing over of a building to Mafeteng Community Radio on Friday.

The construction of the building was funded by opposition Socialist Revolutionaries (SR) leader, Teboho Mojapela. Advocate Mojapela is a former ABC activist and funder. He had invited Mr Tšolo to the handover event as guest of honour.

"There will be a handing over of a building to Mafeteng Community Radio and I have been invited as the Mafeteng legislator," Mr Tšolo is heard saying in the leaked audio.

"I will grace the event in honour of the Mafeteng community and the owners of the radio station. If it so happens that the hypocrite premier and his cabinet ministers attend, he should cushion himself well and know that I am going to greet His Majesty, and immediately after that my tongue will be tight.

"As for his government, Majoro should leave me out of it because I don't even know whose government it is and where it is from, even where he originates. Majoro should know that I will never recognise him and he should know that we're like a dog and wolf. I'm not going to recognise him, I don't know him," Mr Tšolo said.

The foul-mouthed ex-minister reserved some of his venom for Dr Majoro's wife, 'Masekoalane Majoro, who he described as having strange hair and earrings.

"He (Majoro) is prime minister to his wife. His wife has strange hair and earrings. I am not going to recognise that man. If he has been invited too, he must know that I don't give a f\*\*\*k about him. I don't understand him and I will never understand his way of thinking. PhD or no PhD, he

is a rag. He is just a rag.

"He should know that I don't like him. I will single out everyone else including the donor at the (handover) event. As for him (Majoro) and all his friends like (Sam) Rapapa, they must *voetsek*" Mr Tšolo said.

Over the weekend, Mr Tšolo told this publication that he stood by every word he had said in the leaked audio.

"I stand by my words and I'm unapologetic. I hate Majoro for trying to throw me under the bus in the Frazer Solar saga. I will never like him and I don't want anything to do with him. If I die before him, he should never set foot in my yard and I will not set foot in his.

"I hate Majoro with my all and I have never minced my words. I have even told my wife not to allow Majoro on my compound if I die before him. I will never sit on the same table with Majoro even if our party were to reunite. I don't mind being jailed because of this recording, I am ready. I hate him and I don't even need to be informed of his passing if he dies before me. I have discarded him," Mr Tšolo said.

Contacted for comment, Dr Majoro's press attaché, Buta Moseme, said Dr Majoro would not respond to Mr Tšolo's utterances.

"Mr Tšolo's utterances have come to the attention of the premier but he is not going to comment on them," said Mr Moseme.

Mr Rapapa, who is also Communications, Science and Technology Minister, also said he would not respond to Mr Tšolo's comments.



TEMEKI TŠOLO.

# Vodacom donates lab, computers to Leribe school

**Tokelo Khausela**

**V**ODACOM Lesotho has donated a new computer laboratory to Tšehla Primary in Leribe.

The new laboratory has 10 computers. It was handed over to the school authorities over the weekend by Vodacom director of finance, Mamoosi Raditapole.

The school is a lucky beneficiary because Vodacom constructed the laboratory as part of its corporate social initiative to provide internet connectivity to engineers working on the nearby Polihali Dam project to supply water to South Africa and generate hydro power for Lesotho in terms of the second phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP II).

In their assessments, it was found that the school offered the best site for the construction of the laboratory and setting up of the internet facilities. This was explained to the *Sunday Express* by Vodacom Lesotho's Executive Head - Legal, Regulatory and External Affairs, Tšepo Ntaopane.

"The contractors who are involved in the Polihali project need internet access but, in their camps, they struggle to access it," Mr Ntaopane said.

"A survey that we conducted showed that the only point the workers could access the internet would be at the primary school's premises. We then spoke to the school's principal and offered to build a computer laboratory and the principal agreed.

"We often donate computer laboratories to high schools, but this initiative has opened our eyes to the need for similar facilities for

younger learners so that they grow up exposed to technology. When I was in primary school, I didn't know how to use a computer and I only learnt to use it in tertiary school. I now know that it is important to invest in younger children," Mr Ntaopane said.

On her part, Ms Raditapole said the laboratory would set up the young pupils at the school for a better future.

"Vodacom management and the school both want to achieve greater things. When we are united, we can conquer everything. I think the computers will come in handy for the pupils because they will be connected to the internet," Ms Raditapole said.

Leribe district education manager, Motlatsi Mosoang, thanked Vodacom for the donation.

He said the computers would enable the learners to access the internet. He said the government did not have the funds to purchase computers for schools, hence the Vodacom donation was a welcome gesture.

"I am thankful to Vodacom for the support because the government doesn't have enough funds to buy all pupils computers. We hope that in the future, the company can donate more computers," Mr Mosoang noted. He urged the pupils not to misuse the computers.

The school's science and technology teacher, Seabata Kobeli, said that Vodacom had pledged to give the school unlimited internet access and computer training for the teachers.

"Vodacom has pledged a three-week training exercise to all teachers on how to use computers," Mr Kobeli said.



### LESOTHO HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ADVERTISEMENT

The bi-national Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), of the Kingdom of Lesotho (KOL) and the Republic of South Africa (RSA) is aimed at harnessing the water resources of the highlands of Lesotho for the mutual advantage of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) was set up to implement and operate that part of the LHWP that falls within the borders of Lesotho. LHDA is to embark on Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), a multi-billion-rand Phase involving large scale civil engineering and socio-environmental aspects. In ensuring that it achieves its mandate, the LHDA places emphasis on its values of caring, professionalism, execution, team work, communication and customer focus. If you are a Lesotho National espousing the above values and who is interested in progressing their career to the next level, please submit your application for the following fixed term contract position tenable at the LHDA:

BRANCH	POSITION/LOCATION	GRADE	SUMMARY JOB PURPOSE	REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE
Environment Branch	Range Management Officer (5 year fixed term contract)  HR/ RMO/14A/14/04/22	C3 Paterson Grading System	To implement the Range Management programmes in line with the LHWP ICM Strategy and in collaboration with communities and Local authorities.	Degree in Rangeland Science/ Grassland Science/Natural Resources Management/Environmental Science/ General Agriculture with five (5) years' experience in Range and land management or related environment.
<b>CLOSING DATE: 27 MAY 2022</b>				
Reply Instruction			Application Forms are obtainable on the Ground Floor, LHDA Tower Building or at <a href="http://www.lhda.org.ls">www.lhda.org.ls</a> . Application Forms, Curriculum Vitae's and certified copies of academic certificates, identification and two (2) reference letters are to be hand delivered to the Ground Floor, LHDA Tower Building, Maseru or posted to the Chief Executive, Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, P. O. Box 7332, MASERU 100, Lesotho or alternatively e-mailed in read only PDF format files not exceeding 4 MB to <a href="mailto:recruitment@lhda.org.ls">recruitment@lhda.org.ls</a> . For further information that may be required about any of the positions, please visit the Human Resources Branch, on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, LHDA Tower Building, Kingsway, Maseru, or view the advertisements on the website <a href="http://www.lhda.org.ls">www.lhda.org.ls</a> .	
Disclaimers:			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Only applications received on or before the closing date and in the prescribed format will be considered.</li> <li>▶ Applicants must use the LHDA Application Form.</li> <li>▶ <b>QUOTE THE REFERENCE NUMBER OF THE SPECIFIC POSITION ON THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED.</b></li> <li>▶ Attach Curriculum Vitae (CV), certified copies of certificates and <b>valid manual transmission Motor Vehicle Driver's Licence;</b></li> <li>▶ Correspondence will only be conducted with short-listed candidates.</li> <li>▶ Selection interviews for short-listed candidates will be at a date, time and place determined by LHDA.</li> <li>▶ Short-listed candidates will be required to authenticate information provided in the Curriculum Vitae (CV).</li> <li>▶ LHDA reserves the right to leave an advertised position unfilled if no suitable candidate is identified.</li> <li>▶ The employment of successful candidates is subject to positive security clearance and other requirements as may be stipulated by the LHDA.</li> </ul>	

# Comment

## MCC Compact: Congratulations all around

ELSEWHERE in this edition, we report that the United States (US) and Lesotho have finally signed the long-awaited agreement for the US' Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to provide a US\$300 million (about M4, 8 billion) grant to Lesotho.

The lucrative second compact grant will be used to fund Lesotho's healthcare system, agriculture and small businesses.

The signing ceremony was held on Thursday at 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre with MCC CEO Alice Albright signing on behalf of the Corporation.

Foreign Affairs and International Relations Minister, Matšepo Ramakoae, signed on behalf of the government. Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro was on hand to witness the momentous occasion along with several cabinet ministers and other government officials.

A definitive agreement on a second compact has been long in coming.

Lesotho got the first compact grant worth US\$362, 6 million (about M3 billion) back in 2007. It was used to fund various projects to reduce poverty and spur economic growth.

However, in 2015, the MCC refused to renew the compact programme over rampant human rights abuses under then Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili's regime.

Lesotho's eligibility for the second compact was initially confirmed by the MCC Board in December 2017 after the ouster of the Mosisili coalition in the June 2017 elections and the advent of former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's second coalition government.

However, the Thabane administration, which lasted until May 2020 when it was replaced by the current Majoro-led coalition, was accused of failing to tackle police brutality against citizens and corruption.

The former government also dragged its feet on the multi-sector reforms process. It even missed the May 2019 deadline set by SADC for the full implementation of the constitutional and security sector reforms. All of these issues were part of the eligibility criteria for the second MCC compact.

More importantly, the Thabane government was accused of ignoring repeated warnings to address human trafficking concerns.

Now that the compact has been signed, we cannot begrudge any Mosotho who decides to take out the champagne glasses. It's congratulations all around for the sterling work by the government which has ended the lengthy wait for a lucrative compact with all its attendant benefits.

But even as we indulge in this merriment, we must never lose sight of the fact that it could all change and the compact can be withdrawn at any time if we do not stay the course in terms of fulfilling key eligibility criteria.

US Ambassador to Lesotho, Maria Brewer, allude to this in her speech at the signing ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ms Brewer said although Lesotho had made important progress in tackling human trafficking, more needed to be done. She said there was need to try and convict perpetrators and complicit government officials.

"The government has made important progress on human trafficking," Ms Brewer said.

"However, we acknowledge the need for further progress, particularly more convictions against offenders and complicit officials. The record of progress - in these areas of good governance is key to the success of this MCC compact," Ms Brewer said.

On several occasions, her predecessor, Rebecca Gonzales, emphasised that a deal on the Compact II funding package would not immediately translate into a release of the money.

At any moment the compact could be suspended if the US felt Lesotho was renegeing on its commitment to fulfilling eligibility criteria, Ms Gonzales frequently said.

And so our joy must be tempered by that sobering reality. We urge our government leaders not to betray long-suffering Basotho.

We urge them to continue fighting human trafficking. There must be tangible and clear progress towards prosecuting perpetrators regardless of their status.

Police brutality must be stopped. Reforms should be implemented.



## State capacity undermined by crime, corruption

ON May 10, 1994, Nelson Mandela became the first democratically elected black president of South Africa. The moment stood out for many in the world as a miracle, and the expected descent into a civil war was never to be seen.

The country beamed with hope, of a new day, a new moment in which the aspirations of the black majority would be realised in shaping a new country. The day marked the end of 350 years of colonialism and apartheid.

The moment heightened expectations that the day of freedom had ushered in a wave of better opportunities and that poverty, unemployment, and inequality experienced by black people had come to an end.

The new environment was characterised by a democratic system that was founded on the Constitution, free press, an independent civil society and the rule of law.

A future, where we ask: Does the country truly have a future under the current political and economic climate? The question about the future must be asked and agitated for continuously. It is in this context of thinking about it that we give ourselves the opportunity to create it, and to recreate it.

The debate about the future gives hope and establishes purpose among the people, coupled with a love for the development of the country. The future is as bright as the thoughts and expectations we hold dear, whether they are plainly manifested is another debate all together.

The threats to our country are many,



### Monde Ndlovu

and yet particular. The World Economic Forum had warned South Africa that there were mainly five threats to the country's progress, and that the issues needed speedy attention.

State collapse, as the first threat and probably the greatest threat to democracy. State capacity has been undermined by rampant corruption, many policy positions and conversations that lead to little progress, and a leadership that lacks boldness in being decisive when it matters most.

The culture of cutting corners which is present in the public and private sectors, has taken root even in society at large.

It can be argued that the cable-theft syndicates form part of the legacy of dark leadership behaviour that has taken residence in the minds of people.

We should not take lightly the impact of suppression on the behaviour of people, both the suppressor and the suppressed, especially those who have become blindsided by power.

Whether it is price-fixing, competition issues, tender corruption, floating transformational laws, criminal activity, organised crime, these are part of the harvest of dark leadership behaviour.

The second threat is prolonged eco-

nomical stagnation, which has been the case in the country for many years.

The continuous appearance of economic recovery, yet the lack of economic growth, with an increase in unemployment, poverty and inequality, has also led to some people considering criminal activity as a vocation.

The sharp contrasts of complete opulence and abject poverty are glaring for all to see. Where an economy produces wealthy people yet widens inequality. The third threat is failure of public infrastructure, which has been on the rise in the recent past.

The organised crimes of cable theft cripple the economy and cost the State billions of rand in repairing infrastructure. According to Rens Bindeman, who is a technical adviser at the Southern African Revenue Protection Association, argues that criminal syndicates have organised schools where they teach one another other how to navigate theft.

The State needs to tighten the legislative framework to deal with criminal elements. Scrapyards form part of this highly sophisticated network of crime, and curbing the demand for scrap metal will need action to be taken.

The fourth threat is employment and livelihood crisis. The threat plays itself out in organised crime, the alternative ways of funding livelihoods become attractive when the economic system lacks the ability to provide opportunities for its people.

Even when the government promulgates a law against scrap metal dealers, if the economic system remains the same, criminal elements will find expression in other areas of the economy because without fundamental transformation in society, the environment remains vulnerable to degeneration of any kind.

The last threat is the proliferation of illicit economic activity. The shadow economy, which is fast becoming the alternative way of living, will take root in the heart of the county if the people remain outside the formal economy and out of economic opportunities.

It must be clearly stated that the legacy of dark leadership has opened the door all forms of illicit activity. The downright disregard for the livelihoods of the people, the blatant public display of opulence in the presence of poverty, in one of the most unequal societies in the world calls for leaders to restore the dignity of the rule of law.

Everything begins and ends with leadership. The future beckons, it speaks, but are we listening and learning from it?

● Ndlovu is Black Management Forum Head of Advocacy and Thought Leadership

# Sunday Express

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# Have your say

Sunday Express

May 15 - 21 2022

The Sunday Express welcomes readers' feedback on topical issues. Send us Whatsapp, post on our Facebook page or write to:

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## Preserving beauty and richness of natural world

THE beauty, richness and diversity of the natural world are all expressions of the attributes of God. We as human beings, in the Bahá'í view, are custodians of the earth and have the obligation to ensure that nature is protected as part of a divine trust, for which humanity is ultimately answerable.

More than a century ago Bahá'u'lláh. The founder of the Bahá'í Faith, wrote: "Nature in its essence is the embodiment of (God's) Name, the Maker, the Creator ... Nature is God's Will and its expression in and through the contingent world".

There is a need to preserve order and balance in nature. The endless acquisition of material goods, resulting from greed, aggravates the destruction of the environment.

Our current health crisis and environmental challenges show how individuals, communities and governments need to come together to address all our common concerns. Such challenges call for a united action based on both scientific evidence and ethical considerations.

The Bahá'í International Community states that, a "fundamental component of resolving the climate change challenge will be the cultivation of values, attitudes and skills that give rise to just and sustainable patterns of human interaction with the environment," and, "As consciousness of the oneness of humankind increases, so too does the recognition that the wealth and wonders of the earth are the common heritage of all people, who deserve just and equitable access to its resources".

### Moral and ethical dimensions to overcome environmental challenges

Focussing mainly on the material aspects of en-

vironmental challenges, while ignoring their moral and ethical dimensions, is counterproductive to humanity's long-term well-being. Instead of exploiting the earth's resources without due regard to sustainability, we should be asking how to live with an ethic of respect, care and justice towards all life and nature.

It is the Bahá'í view that solutions to serious environmental challenges, including climate change, will require a globally-accepted vision for the future, based on unity and willing cooperation among the nations, races, creeds, and classes of the human family. Unity and cooperation amongst the nations is necessary, because as long as one group of nations perceives its interests in opposition to another, progress will be limited and short-lived.

In one of its statements The Bahá'í International Community makes the following observation: "The rapid progress in science and technology that has united the world physically has also greatly accelerated destruction of the biological diversity and rich natural heritage with which the planet has been endowed. ... Only a comprehensive vision of a global society, supported by universal values and principles, can inspire individuals to take responsibility for the long-term care and protection of the natural environment".

### Attitude towards nature — the source of our sustenance

We will always need material resources to sustain civilisation. As we learn how best to use the earth's raw materials for the advancement of civilisation, we must be conscious of our attitudes towards the source of our sustenance and wealth.

## Religion

A Bahá'í Perspective

with  
Flora Teckie

entitled: "Shared Vision, Shared Volition: Choosing Our Global Future Together".

### Cooperation and justice utilising the earth's resources

The need for international cooperation to protect the environment cannot be over-emphasised. The local, national and the international communities are very much linked through the environment.

There is need for justice in utilising the earth's resources. Upholding justice implies moving from the self-interest that dominates our world today to a mode of sharing and caring for our natural resources.

Furthermore, in the Bahá'í view, there is a need for a world federal system to enable mankind to arrange its economic, material and social life with justice for all peoples and reverence towards the earth.

It is an obvious fact that the future prosperity and the peaceful co-existence of peoples will depend on access to, and conservation of, natural resources abundantly provided to humanity by the Almighty Creator.

We need to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to have access to natural resources as a basic human right.

"The shift to sustainable modes of production and consumption is a further expression of this principle: put simply, to consume more than one's fair share is to deplete the resources needed by others".

For feedback please contact:  
bahai@leo.co.ls; or  
call +266 56715009  
Website: www.bahai.org



GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO

## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND LAW

### ADDENDUM NO.1

This Addendum is dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2022

#### Background

- The Ministry of Justice and Law had invited the legally registered and suitably qualified companies for the supplier and delivery of food commodities, cleaning material, toiletries, domestic fuel and animal feeds through an advert **Tender Notice LCS no.1 of 2022/2023**.
- The closing date for submissions of tender was on or before the **13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022 at 12.00 noon**.
- This is the first Addendum.
- The Ministry wishes to amend the above mentioned Tender Notice Advert.

#### Amendments

- The Tender Notice Advert **LCS no.1 of 2022/2023** is amended as follows;
  - The closing date for submissions of tenders shall be the **20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022 at 12.00 noon**.
  - The opening of tenders shall be on the same day at 14.00p.mm at the Ministry's boardroom, opposite LTDC, next to Old Parliament.
  - Supplier should provide a refundable **Bid security to the tune of hundred thousand Maloti (M100, 000.00)** from a recognised financial institution.

#### No Other Changes

- Except as otherwise expressly provided in this amendment, all other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in full force and effect.



## TENDER NOTICE

LES/ IEC/TEN/PAN/ 2022-2023/02

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) invites tenders from interested companies or individuals for supply of **meals and accommodation services**. The database for service providers will be for a period of two (2) years.

- LOT 1- Hotels
- LOT 2- Guest house
- LOT 3- Bed & Breakfast
- LOT 4- Catering services
- LOT 5- Franchises
- LOT 6- Restaurants
- LOT 7- Lodges

#### BIDDING DOCUMENT

Tender document is obtainable from Procurement Unit 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor at MGC Park during working hours from 09:00am to 16:00 hours. Bidders must purchase a copy of tender document at a **NON-Refundable fee of M2 200.00 (two thousand, two hundred maloti)**. The procedure for obtaining the Tender document is as follows: **Payment of bid document must be made at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor MGC Park, Accounts section. The receipt issued must be taken to the office of Procurement where document will be issued.**

#### EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Price.
- Financial capabilities; - Current bank statement for three months and letter from the bank as an assurance that the supplier will be financed for incapable suppliers.  
**OR** - Tenderers own current financial statements together with an audit opinion from a qualified independent Auditor.
- Specifications.
- IEC is not bound to lowest price.

#### Additional requirements

- Price should include VAT, for suppliers who qualify to collect VAT (attach VAT registration certificate).
- Price should be quoted in Maloti currency.
- The Bonafide certificate should be filled.
- Attach valid **relevant** Trading License.
- Attach valid copy of Tax Clearance.
- Attach certified Share Certificate of shareholders from Registrar of companies (NOT COMPANY'S EXTRACT).
- The specifications should be written in full on the quotation.
- Catering Companies should fill the provided form (Company or Individual).

Sealed bids bearing no identification of the suppliers should be deposited in the tender box at the IEC 2nd Floor MGC **On or before 12:30 pm Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022** and will be opened on the same date at **14:30hours**. Envelopes should be clearly marked the type of service provider and name of district (e.g; Hotel- Maseru, Guest House- Maseru, Bed and Breakfast- Maseru, Franchise- Maseru, Restaurant- Maseru, Lodge- Maseru). For Catering services, envelopes should be clearly marked the type of service provider, Constituency and District (e.g; Catering service, Thetsane, Maseru).

For further information, relating to the above information please contact,  
**The Procurement Unit**

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The Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.

Procurement Unit-IEC

# Sekatle to review outdated nurses' law

Limpho Sello/Khothatso Sehloho

**H**EALTH Minister Semano Sekatle says he will push for the review of outdated laws regulating the nursing profession.

Stakeholders have expressed concern that the Nurses and Midwives Act of 1998 is outdated as it no longer captures the current scope of work by nurses and midwives.

They said that the current law also restricted the Lesotho Nursing Council (LNC) from fully protecting the profession and the public.

Gaps in the country's health system had also led to the mushroom of illegal health practices.

In an interview, LNC Registrar, Mamohapi Flavia Poka, said that the current law was outdated and needed to be reviewed to address current challenges.

"The work of nursing professionals changes from time to time. For instance, it has expanded as nurses can now provide services such as prescribing antiretroviral therapy (ART) and medical male circumcision, which were initially carried out by doctors.

"Nurses have more responsibilities on their shoulders now. Members of the public in some hard-to-reach areas are attended to by nurses because of a shortage of doctors. Owing to our country's topography, there are some remote places where you cannot find doctors, but nurses only," Ms Poka said.

Ms Poka added that there were a lot of gaps in the Nurses and Midwives Act of 1998, rendering the LNC powerless in reprimanding wayward professionals under its watch.

"As the LCN one of our duties is to discipline nurses but you would find that most of our guidelines have gaps in that area and most nurses take advantage of this," she said.

The law was also silent about holding private practices accountable for their actions.

It was also difficult to ensure that nurses are fully registered with the LCN and that they renew their annual licenses.

"A new law will allow us to sue employers if they do not take full responsibility for their actions and execute their duties professionally," Ms Poka said.

Speaking on such concerns at the recent International Nurses Day commemorations in Maseru, Mr Sekatle said he would do everything in his power to facilitate the enactment of an amended law.

"I will do everything in my power to facilitate enactment of a reviewed law.

"The Ministry of Health is committed to promote, prevent, cure, rehabilitate and control diseases at all levels with special focus on the primary health level, through well-developed health systems by competent health workers," Mr Sekatle said.



SEMANO Sekatle.



PULENG Masoabi.

## Econet launches telecoms tower in Mafeteng

Khothatso Sehloho

**M**OBILE Communications giant, Econet Telecom Lesotho, has launched a new telecommunication tower in Thabana-Morena, Mafeteng.

Launched on Friday, the tower is expected to improve connectivity in the area.

Econet public relations manager, Puleng Masoabi, urged the Thabana-Morena community to guard the tower jealously to ensure that it is not vandalised.

She said the presence of the tower would improve internet access and also enable subscribers to register for services like Ecocash and Ecosure. Improved communication would attract investors to the area, she said.

"You must guard this tower jealously so that you can continue enjoying Econet

services," Ms Masoabi said.

"With this tower, you will enjoy services like internet access, Ecocash and Ecosure. But if you do not protect the facilities and they are demolished, investors will lose interest in investing in your community. Even police work will be difficult without communication facilities like this tower," she noted.

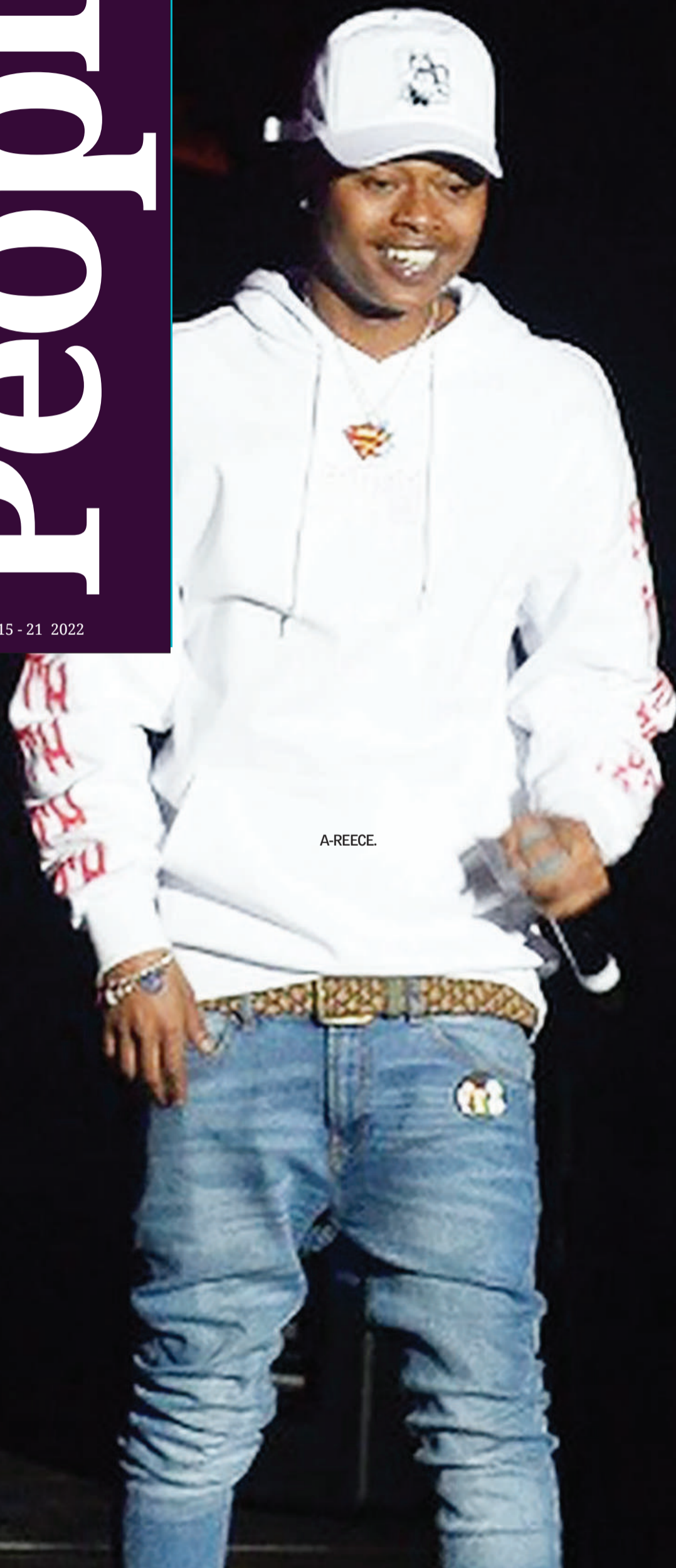
Communications, Science and Technology Minister, Sam Rapapa, thanked Econet for the infrastructure.

Mr Rapapa said Econet's drive to increase telecommunications infrastructure augurs well with the government's goal to get internet connection for all post offices nationwide.

Thabana-Morena legislator and Movement for Economic Change (MEC) leader, Selibe Mochoboroane, said the tower would alleviate network problems in the area.

May 15 - 21 2022

# 'I'm the best rapper in Africa': A-Reece



A-REECE.

**A**-REECE has long maintained a high level of reverence among local music fans for his skilful and articulate approach to his music.

The 25-year-old has often had to play second fiddle to his rival Nasty C, an artist who rose to prominence around the same time as he did but who's perceived to have achieved a lot more.

Critics regularly bemoan the fact that despite being an impeccable rapper, A-Reece has not always made great career decisions.

Despite this, A-Reece has built a cult following and has often stated in his music that he doesn't want to be compared with anyone, instead insisting that he's charting his own path.

After a recent impressive run that's seen him release tons of music over the past few years, he seems to be finding his stride. With a head of steam behind his back, today he took the bold step of pronouncing himself the best rapper on the continent.

Internet rapper and occasional troll Big Xhosa didn't take kindly to this and chimed in: "Not while I'm still here babes."

This isn't the first time Big Xhosa has come for A-Reece unprovoked. Last year, he insulted the "Calabasas" hitmaker, along with the majority of South African rappers in his viral song "Ninyile".

Shortly afterwards, he decided to cheekily apologise to A-Reece in particular through a tweet.

"A-Reece, I'm sorry bro. Lol I'm saying sorry because I listened to that diss song and I realised that line about him is the most violating and impactful. It can never be undone."

Following A-Reece's viral tweet earlier, *Twitter* users have been responding in their numbers, thrusting A-Reece towards the top of the trends list.

Here are some of the funniest ones:

"Best rapper to those *obhema nabo intsango*," posted @ChrisExcel102, suggesting that A-Reece was only the best rapper to those who smoke *marijuana*.

"You're the best rapper in Atteridgeville my guy," added @tintswalomegacy.

"Dawg you've been an upcoming rapper for about 8 years now," tweeted @lwazikay1. — IOL

# A view of the Ukraine War from an African perspective

Peter Hain

**W**HEN the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to condemn Vladimir Putin's barbaric invasion of Ukraine, only Eritrea, Belarus, North Korea and Syria dissented — hardly an endearing group. But 35 countries, including India and China, abstained.

Kenya's UN ambassador made a powerful speech against the invasion: "We must complete our recovery from the embers of dead empires in a way that does not plunge us back into new forms of domination and oppression," he said.

South Africa initially called for the withdrawal of Russian troops, but then blamed NATO expansion for the war, ending up abstaining with 16 other African countries, its President Cyril Ramaphosa, explaining it hoped to play a peacemaking role.

Russia's growing role in Africa, as well as its past support for southern African liberation movements, was clearly a factor here.

The Ukraine War has magnified a shifting geopolitical dynamic, including Russia's expanding influence in the Middle East after its decisive role in the Syrian war, with Saudi Arabia and UAE rulers refusing to take Joe Biden's phone call. Donald Trump massively damaged the US's global standing and China of course is practising quasi economic colonialism across Africa. And the Iraq War provoked resentment at double standards.

Although Russia's deployment of cluster munitions against Ukraine citizens has rightly horrified, Biden hasn't so far reversed Trump's endorsement of their use. Kenya's denunciation of Russia's naked violence in Ukraine was notably accompanied by a condemnation of "the trend in the last few decades of



MOST African countries have decided to remain neutral in the Russia-Ukraine war.

powerful states, including members of this security council, breaching international law with little regard".

Although no democrat or humanitarian can defend Putin's brutal aggression in Ukraine, the West has questions to answer, too. Why on Earth did NATO ever entertain Ukraine's ambitions to join — a demand even Ukraine's admirably brave president is willing to abandon?

In medieval times Kyiv was the capital of a kingdom that spread to become the Russian Empire, and

it was only after the 9th century that the capital shifted to Moscow. Ukraine and Russia have therefore been tied to one another for centuries. Even such famed dissidents as Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Joseph Brodsky insisted that Ukraine was an integral part of Russia.

When the Russian Austria-Hungary empires collapsed towards the end of World War 1, Ukraine declared itself an independent state for the first time, lasting until 1922 when it was incorporated into the Soviet Union. After a very painful

World War 2 which again tore the country apart, and a great deal of suffering during the Cold War, 90 percent of Ukrainians voted in 1991 to separate from the defunct Soviet Union.

In 1994, the US, Russia and the UK signed the Budapest Memorandum which guaranteed Ukraine's territorial integrity in return for its neutrality.

A negotiated agreement could reassert that neutrality, guaranteed by Moscow, Washington and Brussels, with no further NATO enlargement

or encirclement around Russia's borders, in return for no more illegal or aggressive moves by Russia in Ukraine, Moldova or any other of its neighbours.

Surely small prices to concede for both sides to end the slaughter and devastation? — DM

**Lord Peter Hain is a former anti-apartheid leader and British Cabinet Minister. His new memoir, *A Pretoria Boy: South Africa's 'Public Enemy Number One'*, has just been published by Jonathan Ball.**

Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

**O**NE of the main goals that US President Joe Biden has set for his administration is to empower US workers and the country's middle class. Many believe that globalisation (along with several other factors) contributed to stagnating real wages, rising inequality, and the sense that US workers have lost out to workers in other countries with lower labour standards. But in its attempt to reverse these trends, the Biden administration has embraced protectionist rhetoric and policies that will cause US workers to lose once again.

Though any mention of the word "openness" is met with suspicion nowadays, the surge in inflation — the US Consumer Price Index was up 8.3 percent in April — has nonetheless prompted a discussion among economists about whether trade liberalisation (and openness more generally) could be used to rein in rising prices. Since one of the main arguments for free trade is that it lowers prices for consumers, the link between open borders and inflation is worth contemplating.

To be clear, no reasonable economist claims that the recent inflation is the result of trade restrictions. By now, the causes are well understood to be a combination of pandemic-driven supply-side shortages, policy-fuelled demand, and further supply-side disruptions caused by Russia's war in Ukraine. But as policymakers struggle to contain inflation without causing a recession, they must recognise that "Buy American" requirements, tariffs, and immigration restrictions may be making a bad situation worse.

According to a recent Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) policy brief, a feasible reduction of trade barriers "could deliver a one-time reduction in [CPI] inflation

## To fight inflation, it is necessary to fight protectionism

of around 1.3 percentage points". The study is conservative, focusing only on trade restrictions that can plausibly be lifted in the short term, and its authors are careful to emphasise that the result would be a one-time outcome. The proposed reduction of trade barriers would not solve the problem of rising prices, but it would make today's high prices lower.

US consumers would welcome such short-term relief. If the Biden administration finds it necessary to sell oil out of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve despite its commitment to addressing climate change, why shouldn't it also recognise the need to reverse Donald Trump's tariffs? In 2021, according to the PIIE brief, these duties still applied to more than half of US imports "subject to high tariffs, penalty duties, or severe quotas".

Perhaps more importantly, openness, whether it is free trade or immigration, also contributes to consumer welfare in indirect ways. Though these effects are often hard to quantify, they are of first-order importance, which is why economists often turn to first principles when debating them.

One of the most important benefits of free trade is that it exposes domestic firms (and labour markets) to greater competition, which induces them to keep prices low and to innovate constantly to stay ahead of the curve.

Similarly, immigration eases labour-supply shortages, and high-skilled newcomers can boost productivity and innovation. Forward-

looking countries understand this and embrace immigration. The UK, for example, has adopted a new skilled-worker visa programme that welcomes graduates of top global universities.

It is deeply misguided to restrict trade and immigration at a time when rising domestic prices are of paramount concern. Now that everyone is fixated on inflation, it is worth considering why inflation was so low these past two decades, despite full employment in the US (prior to the pandemic) and despite ultra-expansionary monetary policies. Globalisation (now a loaded term) arguably had a lot to do with it, as did automation (another loaded term).

The prospect of outsourcing jobs to lower-wage countries or to machines constrained workers' bargaining power. At the same time, foreign competition constrained domestic firms' pricing power (though there is ample evidence that the cost reductions they achieved by globalising production still allowed them to make hefty profits).

Workers and firms face a different reality today. Their jobs and businesses seem more secure now that the US has turned inward and embraced protectionism. The "Great Resignation" and other developments have reduced the supply of workers, increasing the bargaining power of those still in the labour force.

This could be a positive development,

except that the high inflation rate has undermined efforts to make the average US worker better off. While nominal wages in the US rose by 5.6 percent in the year ending in March (more than an extrapolation of the earlier trend would have implied), that month's 8.5% inflation rate implied that real wages fell by 2.7 percent.

If there is any silver lining to today's inflation, it lies in the lessons that this episode has provided to policymakers and the public alike. Because the benefits of open borders (lower prices) are less salient than the costs (lost jobs or lower wages), and because consumer interests are not organised, while worker interests often are, there is a bias toward protectionist sentiment. Today's inflation highlights the need to resist this bias.

The current decline in real wages is a reminder that our wellbeing depends not only on the nominal wages we earn as workers but also on the prices we pay as consumers. Open borders can help keep prices low during a challenging time.

Reversing the tariffs imposed by the Trump administration would be a step in the right direction. — DM/BM

**Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, a former World Bank Group chief economist and editor-in-chief of the *American Economic Review*, is Professor of Economics at Yale University.**

**Weekend  
Girl**



**LERATO** Nyapholi is a 24-year-old Institute of Extra Mural Studies (IEMS) Mass Communication studies student. She is currently interning at DoPE FM as a news reader and presenter. She is inspired by Oprah Winfrey and her motto is: "Each day has its own gifts."

# Yourstars

## Aries - March 21 - April 20

Exhaustion will lead to minor injury if you don't know when to quit. Try a barbecue or a day at the beach. Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. You may find that someone you live with is not too happy, but you can't really do anything about that right now.

Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

## Taurus - April 21 - May 20

Remain calm and you'll shine. Passion should be your goal. Your hard work will payoff; advancement looks positive. You will have a great deal of insight when dealing with others. Underhandedness will affect your reputation.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

## Gemini - May 21 - June 21

Use your obvious talent to work with detail and you can come up with something great. You'll get to your destination just as quickly. You can expect your mate to get fed up and make the choices for you or back off completely. Purchases will be well worth it and they will last a long time.

Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

## Cancer - June 22 - July 22

You can make money if you concentrate on producing services or goods that will make domestic chores easier. You can't make things better if you don't know what to fix. The talk you have may be eye-opening with regard to your present situation. Love and romance are evident.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## Leo - July 23 - August 22

You'll be dropping friends for no apparent reason. Make sure to arrange in advance to spend quality time together. Too much talk will lead to disputes. You may have major blow-ups with someone you love if you don't back down.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## Virgo - August 23 - September 22

Try to be patient and understanding. Take time to look at any outdated papers or possible investments. Be careful not to get roped into uncertain joint financial deals. You need to look into ways to change your self-image.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

## Libra - September 23 - October 22

Consider making residential changes; either moves or renovations could payoff. Past partners may try to come back into your life. Do whatever your mate wants; it really doesn't matter as long as you're together. If you haven't planned a vacation, then at least try to get away for the weekend.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## Scorpio - October 23 - November 21

Take advantage of moneymaking ventures. Don't reveal anything about your personal life that could be used adversely. Sudden changes in your financial situation are likely. Don't make promises that you can't possibly keep.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## Sagittarius - November 22 - December 20

This is a great day to get out and enjoy an entertaining evening with friends or lovers. Opportunities for love will develop while travelling or while attending religious functions. Don't get upset. If your lover tries to curtail your freedom, it may lead to conflict.

Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

## Capricorn - December 21 - January 19

Don't start a dispute unless you're prepared to accept irreversible results. Face any emotional problems head-on to avoid situations getting out of hand. Co-workers may not be on your side. Promote your ideas now.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## Aquarius - January 20 - February 18

Don't take offense at comments made by co-workers. You need time to rejuvenate. Your mate needs extra attention and is feeling rather insecure when you're not in sight. Your support and concern will help. Don't let your jealousy be the reason for a decaying relationship.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

## Pisces - February 19 - March 20

Your tendency to overreact could get you into trouble. Your ability to come up with good solutions for problems related to work will no doubt help you in getting a promotion. Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable and should lead to new and lasting friendships. You need to mingle with people who can spark enthusiasm and confidence in you.

Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

# Trump inquired if China could make hurricanes to harm US, ex-officials say



DONALD Trump.

**A**S president, Donald Trump repeatedly asked aides if China could be manufacturing hurricanes and sending them to damage the United States, three unnamed former senior officials told Rolling Stone on Tuesday.

Trump also reportedly wanted to know if using such a "hurricane gun" would constitute an act of war, and if so, whether the US could retaliate militarily.

China is a major nuclear power.

"It was almost too stupid for words," one source told the magazine, which said the speaker was "intimately familiar with the then sitting president's inquiry".

"I did not get the sense he was joking at all," the source added.

The news comes on the tail of former defence secretary Mark Esper's claim, in a new book, that Trump wanted to hit "drug labs" in Mexico with missiles and then deny responsibility, and other hair-raising accounts of near foreign policy disaster.

Rolling Stone quoted a second former official as saying: "I was present [once] when he asked if China 'made' hurricanes to send to us."

(Trump) wanted to know if the technology existed. One guy in the room responded,

**Stranger than Fiction**

'Not to the best of my knowledge, sir.'

"I kept it together until I got back to my office ..."

"I do not know where the [then]-president would have heard about that ... He was asking about it around the time, maybe a little before, he asked people about nuking hurricanes."

In August 2019, the website Axios reported that in a briefing on hurricanes, Trump told top officials: "I got it. I got it. Why don't we nuke them?"

Trump was reportedly told that aides would "look into" the notion of destroying large storms with nuclear weapons, which

in 2016 *National Geographic* called "a really bad idea" with "a surprising history".

Trump called the Axios story "ridiculous".

But his interest in hurricanes reared its head again the following week, in what would come to be known as "Sharpiegate".

At an Oval Office briefing on Hurricane Dorian, Trump held up a National Hurricane Centre map that appeared to have been altered with a Sharpie pen, to show the storm hitting Alabama — a baseless claim previously made by Trump.

Trump did not comment to Rolling Stone about its "hurricane gun" story.

Stephanie Grisham, his press secretary at the time of Sharpiegate and his reported remark about "nuking" hurricanes, told the magazine she did not hear conversation about China making hurricanes, but it would not have surprised her if she had.

"Stuff like that was not unusual for him," Grisham said. "He would blurt out crazy things all the time, and tell aides to look into it or do something about it."

"His staff would say they'd look into, knowing that more often than not, he'd forget about it quickly — much like a toddler." — The Guardian



MILLENNIUM Challenge Corporation CEO Alice Paterson Albright (left) and Foreign Affairs and International Relations Minister 'Matšepo Molise-Ramakoae at the signing of the US\$300 million Compact II at 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre on Thursday.



DANCERS entertain guests at 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre.



PRIME Minister Moeketsi Majoro and First Lady 'Masekoalane Majoro follow proceedings at 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre.



MINISTER of Finance Thabo Sophonia (right) hands over a present to US Ambassador to Lesotho, Maria Brewer, at 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre.

# Two years into the Covid disaster, where do we stand?

# Health

Sunday Express

May 15 - 21 2022



Nathan Geffen and Marcus Low

**T**HE Medical Research Council (MRC) has diligently tracked the excess deaths in South Africa that have come in the wake of the pandemic. It was two years ago this month that the number of deaths in the country started exceeding what was expected, based on historical numbers.

As of 7 May, 310,000 more people have died than expected over the past two years. Conservatively, 85 percent of these deaths are estimated to be directly caused by SARS-CoV-2.

This means that more than 260,000 people in this country have died of Covid.

Our excess death rate has been high, but quite a few countries have had it far worse. Also, since we're the only sub-Saharan African country that measures excess deaths with much accuracy and consistency, it's quite possible other African countries have been hit as badly, or worse.

For the past six months or so, despite the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, the excess death rate has dropped a lot. Although Omicron and its sub-variants are more infectious than any previous variant, a combination of vaccination – more than 21 million people have been vaccinated at least once — the high rate of previous infection (most people who are most susceptible to serious Covid disease have already died), and changes to the virus itself have all contributed to making the disease less deadly.

The drop in lethality is good news. Also, there are new medicines like Paxlovid (which contains the drugs nirmatrelvir and ritonavir), that are promising treatments for Covid. But they are expensive. The US government pays more than R7,500 for a five-day course of Paxlovid, for example. Also, these treatments are not available in South Africa.

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority should get moving by approving these drugs as well as rapid tests for home use, and pharmaceutical companies should drop their prices and allow generic manufacture of these medicines.

There are important caveats to the good news, though. Barring some technological breakthrough, Covid is with us for the long run. It'll continue mutating and continue infecting us. Epidemiologists use the word "endemic" to describe this.

Many of us have had Covid at least once, and most of us will get it several times in the course of our lives. As we get older, we may become more likely to die of Covid. Repeated vaccinations will almost certainly be necessary to reduce the risk of infection, hospitalisation and death.

The life expectancy estimates used to construct the graph above are from the Thembeisa model.

## Covid vs influenza

From the start of the pandemic, influenza has

been a useful disease to compare with Covid. That's because nearly all of us have had the flu, usually a few times by adulthood. We know what it feels like to be sick with flu and we have a good idea of how many people die of flu every year.

Flu kills about 6,000 to 11,000 people in South Africa a year (though this dropped dramatically during Covid). So, in a typical two-year period, we'd expect about 20,000 people to die of the flu. This means Covid has been more than 10 times as deadly. In fact, Covid has — unequivocally and by a long way — killed more people in the past two years than any other disease, not just in South Africa, but worldwide.

But now that Covid, like flu, is also endemic and not as deadly as it once was, where do we stand? We are only in May and there have been nearly 23,000 excess deaths this year; certainly, most of those have been Covid.

Covid is still far deadlier than flu. It remains one of the three deadliest epidemics in the country, along with HIV and TB.

Over the long run, SARS-CoV-2 will probably become like the other four coronaviruses that give us a two or three-day common cold which is easy to manage and rarely fatal. But with our current knowledge, anyone who predicts how many years this will take is just guessing.

In the meantime, it's even possible that variants will arise that cause a serious spike in the death rate.

There's another serious way in which SARS-CoV-2 currently differs from the flu virus. It is mutating and spreading extraordinarily quickly.

The percentage of the population that contracts flu varies quite a bit from year to year, and the illness is concentrated in winter. But 10 percent is a reasonable average estimate.

Covid variants appear to be coming along at a much faster rate than flu variants, and a lot more than 10 percent of the population is being infected annually. Also, there isn't yet convincing evidence that Covid has much of a seasonal preference — our fifth wave started in April and our previous one was in summer.

In other words, Covid also results in a lot more illness and, consequently, sick leave, than flu. Nevertheless, the Covid death rate is at a point where, in our view, we have to live with it.

Vaccination, good ventilation — keep the windows open in your workplace, carpool, bus, train, taxi — and prudent behaviour, such as staying at home when you're symptomatic, are advisable.

There's some debate to be had on how much longer mask-wearing can be kept up, but beyond this, nothing much more can be done by the public.

We are very likely beyond the worst, but Covid remains very infectious and still rather deadly. — DM/MC

Geffen is the editor of GroundUp. Low is the editor of Spotlight.

## North Korea reports first Covid-19 death as fever spreads 'explosively'

Hyonhee Shin and Josh Smith

**T**HE data represents an unprecedented admission of an "explosive" outbreak in a country that had reported no previous confirmed cases since the pandemic began, and could mark a grave public health, economic and political crisis for the isolated regime.

South Korea's new president, Yoon Suk-yeol, who took office this week, plans to provide Covid-19 vaccines and other medical support to North Koreans, and his government would discuss details with Pyongyang, his spokeswoman said on Friday, without elaborating.

Yoon told reporters later on Friday he plans to propose holding working-level talks with North Korea via the country's unification ministry which handles inter-Korean affairs, South Korea's News1 said.

Experts said that given North Korea's limited testing capabilities, the numbers released so far probably represent a small fraction of the infections, which could lead to thousands of deaths in one of only two countries in the world without a Covid-19 vaccination campaign.

About 187,800 people are being treated in isolation after a fever of unidentified origin has "explosively spread nationwide" since late April, the official KCNA news agency re-

ported. Roughly 350,000 people have shown signs of that fever, including 18,000 who newly reported such symptoms on Thursday, KCNA said. About 162,200 have been treated, but it did not specify how many had tested positive for Covid-19.

At least six people with fever symptoms have died, with one of those cases confirmed to have contracted the Omicron variant of the virus, KCNA said.

Harvard Medical School's Kee Park, who has worked on health care projects in North Korea, said the country has been testing about 1,400 people each week, which is not nearly enough to survey 350,000 people with symptoms.

"What is more worrisome is the sheer number of symptomatic people," he added. "Using a conservative case fatality rate of 1% and assuming the surge is due to an Omicron variant of Covid-19, North Korea can expect 3,500 deaths from this outbreak."

### 'Gravest emergency'

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited the anti-virus command centre on Thursday to check the situation and responses after declaring a "gravest state of emergency" and ordering a national lockdown, KCNA said.

State media has said the outbreak began in the capital, Pyongyang, in late April, without elaborating on potential causes. The city hosted several massive public events on April 15 and 25, including a military parade and large gatherings where most people did not wear masks.

Kim, who attended some of those events, "criticised that the simultaneous spread of fever with the capital area as a centre show that there is a vulnerable point in the epidemic prevention system we have already established," KCNA said.

Kim said isolating and treating people with fevers is a top priority, while calling for scientific treatment methods and tactics, and measures

to supply medication.

In another dispatch, KCNA said health authorities were trying to organise testing and treatment systems and bolster disinfection work. The rapid spread of the virus highlights the potential for a major crisis in a country that lacks medical resources and has refused international help with vaccinations while keeping its borders shut.

Analysts said the outbreak could worsen the country's already tough food situation this year, with the lockdown hampering its "all-out fight" against drought and the mobilisation of labour.

### Calls for aid

North Korea said last year it had developed its own polymerase chain reaction (PCR) equipment for Covid-19 tests. But it declined vaccine supplies from the COVAX global sharing programme and China, possibly leaving the vast majority of people in a relatively young society at higher risk of infection.

North Korea has so far not publicised any new calls for help in countering the outbreak, but some observers were optimistic that the disclosure was a signal that the government would soon accept vaccines or other aid.

Yoon's pledge for support came a day after Kwon Young-se, his nominee to be the unification minister, said at his confirmation hearing that he would push for humanitarian assistance for the North, including Covid-19 treatment, syringes and other medical supplies.

A unification ministry spokesman said on Friday that about 95.4 billion won (\$74.1 million) from an inter-Korean cooperation fund was earmarked to facilitate exchanges in the health and medical area.

A U.S. State Department spokesperson said it had no plans to send vaccines to North Korea but supported international efforts to provide aid to vulnerable people there, urging Pyongyang to facilitate that work. — Reuters



# 'Pretoria has submitted to 'bullying' by Rwanda's President Paul Kagame'

Peter Fabricius

**S**OUTH Africa, like most countries, is failing to stand up to the bullying of Rwandan President Paul Kagame and is allowing him to increasingly become the dominant African leader.

"And that's something I find both puzzling and depressing," says Michela Wrong, the British author of *Do Not Disturb*, an investigation of the Rwandan government's assassinations of opponents in foreign countries and other crimes.

Kagame's ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) "has gone from a band of brothers who invaded Rwanda in 1990 and toppled a genocidal regime, to a revolution eating its own", Wrong told the *Cape Town Press Club* on Wednesday.

"One of my aims was to point out that recent Rwandan history is not a simplistic story of Hutus versus Tutsis, as we tend to assume. It's a story of a dictator who is determined to cut down any possible challengers, whatever their ethnicity. He doesn't care whether they are Hutus or Tutsis, the question is whether they pose a viable threat."

The book chronicles Kagame's remarkable success in persuading the world that the RPF are still the heroes who came to the rescue of Rwanda's Tutsi minority when they were being slaughtered by Hutu extremists in 1994.

Wrong details how Kagame has seduced her own British government and many others into believing he was the exemplary leader of a model African developmental state.

"In the process, they become complicit in the democratic recession that is sweeping not just across Africa, but across large swathes of the world," Wrong commented.

"My country is certainly not standing up for the values it professes to cherish," Wrong said, noting that Prince Charles would be travelling to Rwanda's capital, Kigali, next month to open the Commonwealth summit there. She added that the UK had just done a controversial deal with Kagame's government to send asylum seekers who cross the English Channel to Rwanda to be processed.

Wrong said that to its credit, South Africa had given a safe haven to Kagame's former Rwandan intelligence chief Patrick Karegeya and former military chief General Kayumba Nyamwasa when they fled from Rwanda to South Africa more than a decade ago.

"But we constantly hear how your administration is attempting to normalise relations with Rwanda," she said, asking how it was



**SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa (right) heads a government delegation on a visit to ASPEN Pharmaceuticals in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.**

possible to do that despite repeated murders and attempts on the lives of Rwandan dissidents in South Africa "and the startling revelation that Rwanda has been bugging Cyril Ramaphosa's own phone".

An investigation by a consortium of human rights groups last year suggested Rwanda was monitoring the mobile phone numbers of top military officials and civilian politicians in Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Africa, including Ramaphosa.

*Do Not Disturb* documents in startling detail how Karegeya was murdered — almost certainly by assassins sent by Kigali — in Sandton's Michelangelo Hotel on New Year's Eve 2013. And how other assassins — also surely ordered by Kagame's government — had tried four times to kill Nyamwasa in South Africa.

The book also vividly describes how other Rwandan officials who fell out with Kagame have been hunted down and killed, in Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique and other African countries as well as being targeted in Europe and North America.

"In matters political, strategic and diplomatic, Africa should surely be looking to South Africa and Nigeria, the continent's giants, for moral leadership and guidance. But your presidents, whether Zuma or Ramaphosa, seem to have been happy to allow Kagame to usurp that role," commented Wrong after her talk.

"Kagame's swift deployment of troops to Mozambique [last year] after jihadists captured Cabo Delgado put SADC to shame. Through daring operations of that sort, Kagame has presented himself as the dynamic African leader par excellence. Human rights abuses at home, targeted assassinations abroad are all forgotten as African officials fall over themselves to gush over Kagame's effectiveness."

Wrong cited South Africa's former finance minister Tito Mboweni as one of the many African officials who had gushed publicly over Kagame's governance.

She said South Africa used to be the hub of Rwanda's operations in southern Africa, but after Pretoria had expelled three Rwandan diplomats implicated in the assassination of Karegeya and the fourth attempt on the life of Nyamwasa, Kigali appeared to have made Mozambique its new hub of operations.

Wrong noted that one of the Rwandan diplomats who had been expelled from Pretoria was now Rwanda's high commissioner (ambassador) in Maputo. About 3,000 Rwandans fled to Mozambique after the 1994 genocide and many had done well in business and felt safe in the country.

But that was changing. Even before the Rwandan military deployed in Mozambique last July, the Rwandan journalist Cassien Ntamuhanga, a critic of Kigali, had disappeared and was presumed dead. And the Hutu busi-

nessman Revocat Karemangingo, the de facto head of the Rwandan community in Mozambique, was shot dead in Maputo in September last year, shortly after Rwandan troops arrived in the country.

Wrong was asked how it was possible that the likes of former US president Bill Clinton, former British prime minister Tony Blair and Microsoft founder and major philanthropist Bill Gates could regard Kagame as a worthy partner — when she describes him in her book as throwing tantrums and whipping and assaulting senior members of his own government.

Wrong said that Kagame had perfected the art of presenting two faces to the world. The face he presented to Rwanda, expressed in the local language Kinyarwanda, was often brutal and to the point. But the face he presented to the international community at places like the World Economic Forum in Davos, expressed in English and using the jargon of the development industry, won over Westerners.

She agreed with a questioner that Kagame had managed to "throw fairy dust" in the eyes of Western governments particularly or, put differently, to persuade them to "drink the Kool-Aid". This love affair was largely the result of understandable Western guilt about its failure to prevent the Tutsi genocide, Wrong said.

She recalled how she had interviewed a former Kagame aide and later ambassador to the US — who later established an opposition party — who admitted that he and his diplomatic colleagues shamelessly played on Western guilt.

"But on top of that you are getting the cynicism of realpolitik," Wrong added, citing the deals which not only the UK, but also Denmark and Israel, had done or were doing with Rwanda to process asylum seekers.

"You have a problem, we can solve it," was Rwanda's persuasive offer to Western governments, she said. This included Rwanda's readiness to send its efficient military and police to Mozambique, Darfur, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Mali — places where Western governments had no desire to send their own troops.

"So, he's a problem-solver," she noted. Kagame also played to the popular notion that development could be delivered better by dictators than by democrats. This, though false, was very appealing to donor countries who hoped this would ensure their development dollars were well spent. — DM

**J**OHANNESBURG — The first factory to produce Covid-19 vaccines in Africa says it has not received enough orders and may stop production within weeks, in what a senior World Health Organisation (WHO) official described Thursday as a "failure" in efforts to achieve vaccine equity.

South Africa's Aspen Pharmacare said that it cannot let its large-scale sterile manufacturing facilities sit idle, and will return instead to making anaesthetics. At the outset of the Covid pandemic, the company shifted its production and achieved capacity to produce more than 200 million doses annually of the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

"It was widely hailed as a great achievement for Africa, a game-changer for the continent. But it has not been followed up with orders. We have not received any orders from the big multilateral agencies," Stavros Nicolaou, senior executive for strategic trade development at Aspen Pharmacare, told *The Associated Press* Thursday.

"COVAX has placed orders for 2.1 billion doses of Covid vaccines and not a single one has been placed with Aspen or any other African manufacturers," said Nicolaou, referring to the U.N.-backed effort to distribute coronavirus vaccines to poorer countries.

## South African firm says it may close its Covid vaccine plant

"It's a cardinal sin to have valuable sterile manufacturing capacity and not put it to use," said Nicolaou. "We cannot leave this production capacity idle. We will have to pivot from vaccine manufacturing and return to producing anaesthetics unless in the short term we get firm orders for our Covid-19 vaccine."

Nicolaou said the lack of orders "is not great for Africa's ambition to reduce its dependence on imported vaccines from 99 percent to 40 percent. If we fail at this first step, this is bad not just for Aspen but for all others aspiring to make vaccines in Africa."

At a press briefing on Thursday, Dr. Abdou Salam Gueye, the WHO's emergencies chief in Africa said: "it may be a failure but we will learn from it." He added that if orders were to ramp up, the factory could likely be restarted relatively quickly.

"It is unfortunate that this plant did not receive enough orders," he said, saying that Africa got two-

thirds of its vaccines via COVAX and that those vaccines were ordered by vaccines alliance Gavi.

In a statement, Gavi said Aspen was "an active part" of J&J's manufacturing network and that the vaccines alliance was "extremely enthusiastic" about buying Covid shots made in Africa.

But it said when J&J fulfilled its COVAX order, those shots came from outside the continent.

"COVAX is still under contract with J&J and we would be very happy for any doses that we are still expecting to be supplied by Aspen," Gavi said. "We have communicated this to J&J. However, again this is solely a decision that rests with J&J."

J&J did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Health officials have repeatedly decried the concentration of vaccine production in rich countries, saying the lack of manufacturing capacity in poorer countries was among several factors that put them at the

back of the line when Covid-19 vaccines were initially made last year.

Some experts said Aspen's imminent closure should change the world's approach to health security.

"The global community spends billions of dollars to shore up military defences that might never get used, but refuses to spend a fraction of that to support global health defence," said Zain Rizvi, research director at the advocacy group, Public Citizen.

He said global purchasers like COVAX should support manufacturers in poorer countries and described globally distributed vaccine manufacturing as "our protection against this virus."

Francois Venter of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg said the "cheap rhetoric" from politicians and drug makers about helping Africa make its own vaccines had clearly not translated into orders.

"Africans have been totally failed

by the global community, their governments, and agencies," he lamented, noting that as rich countries roll out their fourth doses, most Africans haven't even had one.

The production of locally-made shots at Aspen's factory was heralded as a first step toward Africa's efforts to meet its own vaccine needs — but there was significant criticism after reports emerged last year that the majority of its shots were being exported to Europe, according to its deal with J&J.

While nearly 70 percent of people in rich countries have been immunized against the coronavirus, just 17 percent of Africa's 1.3 billion people have been vaccinated, according to statistics issued by the Africa CDC on Thursday.

In South Africa, 45 percent of adults are fully vaccinated, although about 85 percent of the population is thought to have some immunity based on past exposure to the virus. — AP

# Ramaphosa calls on global agencies to help boost Covid vaccine manufacturing in Africa



CYRIL Ramaphosa.

Tamsin Metelerkamp

**I**F the capabilities for vaccine manufacturing in Africa are to be retained, there is a need for multilateral agencies and philanthropic organisations to procure vaccines and boosters from African vaccine manufacturers, says President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Speaking at the Second Global Covid-19 Summit on Thursday, Ramaphosa detailed the progress that the African continent had made in advancing its vaccine manufacturing capacity, including

the opening of the continent's largest Covid-19 vaccine manufacturing plant in South Africa in 2021.

The World Health Organisation has provided support for South Africa to become the "centre of the mRNA process", with hubs for tech transfer in countries such as Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal and Tunisia, said Ramaphosa.

In February, the African Union summit endorsed a common agenda for the manufacturing of vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and health products in Africa.

"However, this progress may be

reversed because international agencies... that have had a lot of money donated to [them] for purchasing and procuring vaccines for developing economy countries, are not buying vaccines from African vaccine manufacturers — even for those vaccines that are destined for African countries," he said.

"This immediately just devalues the whole process of local manufacturing and local production of vaccines."

As a number of African countries are "stepping up" to produce vaccines for those who live on the con-

continent, Ramaphosa called for vaccines to be purchased "for Africans on African soil".

"As South Africa and as the African Union Champion for Covid-19 Response, we call on the international community to ensure that solidarity and equity underpin this next phase in our management of the pandemic," he said.

"This means that vaccines produced in Africa must be procured in Africa for Africa's people. This is vital for the continent's health security, now and into the future."

**Low vaccination and testing rates**  
To prevent a regression into the "catastrophic early days" of the Covid-19 pandemic, many more people needed to have access to vaccinations, testing and treatment across the world, according to Ramaphosa.

"The global health recovery will not be inclusive as long as millions of people in developing economy countries remain unvaccinated. Africa has one of the world's lowest vaccination rates at 16 percent, and coverage in low-income countries is still under 13 percent," said Ramaphosa.

The total number of adults vaccinated in South Africa stands at 19,744,446, according to the latest statistics.

This amounts to about 49.61 percent of the country's adult population.

Ramaphosa emphasised that African leaders were committed to achieving 70 percent vaccine coverage through mass campaigns across the continent.

He further voiced their continued support for a waiver of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement in the World Trade Organisation, which would see an improvement in global access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

"South Africa is donating five million doses of Pfizer vaccines and 10 million doses of (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine to other African countries to pledge our solidarity with those countries that are not able to access vaccines easily," he continued.

In light of low Covid testing rates, African Union member states have committed to a target of 200 million Covid tests by the end of 2022, said Ramaphosa.

This commitment will be coupled with the implementation of an enhanced surveillance strategy for community-based testing, wastewater testing and sentinel surveillance by the Africa Centre for Disease Control.

Ramaphosa spoke of South Africa's \$10-million contribution to the Global Fund, adding that the country would also continue to provide financial support for the Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.

"We need to be better prepared for future health crises and generate the financing to do so," he said.

"South Africa therefore supports the formation of the Financial Intermediary Fund as a mechanism to finance global health security."

— DM/MC

## African Mining Indaba: Didn't attend the event?

### ... Here's what you need to know

**C**APE Town — The 2022 edition of the African Mining Indaba, which was held in Cape Town, has come to a close, with African governments pulling out all the stops to woo investors from investing in Africa's mining sector.

The Indaba was filled with networking, deal-making, and pioneering discussions from influential leaders.

This year's overarching theme was the 'Evolution of African Mining: Investing in the Energy Transition, ESG, and the Economies', looking to the future with hard-hitting streams that bring change to the industry.

Green mining is the industry's new frontier, and there are significant financial pressures driving the change apart from climate change, mining industry speakers and conference delegates said at the Mining Indaba in Cape Town, writes Edward West from *IOL Business*.

"We also welcomed three Heads of State and

one Prime Minister: the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, President of Botswana Mokgweetsi Masisi and the newly elected President of the Republic of Zambia Hakainde Hichilema, and the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge, who all shared their visions for the future directly to the Mining Indaba community," organisers said in a statement on Thursday.

Zambia's president Hakainde Hichelema said that mining could play a catalytic role in promoting industrialisation and job creation, further adding that the country is ready to engage partners who support their efforts to re-establish Zambia as a world class mining destination.

Zambia's Hichilema announced a "new dawn"

that would aim to push copper production to 3 million tons per year from around 800 000 tons last year, that there would be no "mining nationalism", and that the moratorium on the granting of new mining licences would be lifted soon.

South Africa's mining sector was recently ranked as one of the 10 worst mining investment countries in the world, according to the 2021 Fraser Institute Investment Attractiveness Index. South Africa fell to 75th place out of 84 countries (down from 40 in 2019) and was ranked 12th out of 15 countries in Africa. Speaking on the second day of the event on Tuesday, President Cyril Ramaphosa said, across the world, almost every industry had to adapt to new circumstances and confront new challenges and be prepared to seize new

opportunities, adding that the mining industry in Africa is no different.

"Like many other parts of our continent, our country is abundantly blessed with vast mineral deposits that form the basis of the most important applications used in society and economies today.

Mining companies see the potential in South Africa.

At the fourth South Africa Investment Conference earlier this year, investments valued at around R46.5 billion were pledged towards mining and mineral beneficiation.

Mining Indaba is a platform for engagement and collaboration between all stakeholders in the industry.

The 2023 edition of the event will take place between 6 - 9 February 2023. — IOL

# Ukraine says Russia withdraws from Kharkiv, batters east

**K**YIV, Ukraine — Russian troops are withdrawing from Ukraine's second-largest city after weeks of heavy bombardment, the Ukrainian military said Saturday as Kyiv and Moscow's forces engaged in a grinding battle for the country's east.

Ukraine's general staff said the Russians were pulling back from the north-eastern city of Kharkiv and focusing on guarding supply routes, while launching mortar, artillery and airstrikes in the eastern Donetsk region in order to "deplete Ukrainian forces and destroy fortifications."

Défense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said Ukraine was "entering a new - long-term - phase of the war."

As the country's top prosecutor put a Russian soldier on trial for war crimes, the first of dozens that could face charges, President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukrainians were doing their "maximum" to drive out the invaders and that the outcome of the war would depend on support from Europe and other allies.

"No one today can predict how long this war will last," Zelensky said in his nightly video address late Friday.

Russia's offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, appeared to be turning into a village-by-village, back-and-forth slog with no major breakthroughs on either side. After failing to capture Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, the Russian military decided to concentrate on the Donbas, but its troops have struggled to gain ground.

Zelensky said Ukraine's forces made progress, retaking six Ukrainian towns or villages in the past day. Western officials said Ukraine had driven Russian forces back around Kharkiv, which was a key target for Moscow's troops.

"The Russians really haven't made much in the way of tactical gains recently," one Western official said, describing the war's front line as "oscillating."

"The Ukrainians continue to launch counterattacks, particularly around Kherson and Kharkiv. We expect this to settle into a long attritional battle," the official said on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence.

The Ukrainian military chief for the Luhansk region of the Donbas said Friday that troops had nearly full control of Rubizhne, a city with a prewar population of around 55,000.

Fighting was fierce on the Siversky Donets River near the city of Severodonetsk, where Ukraine has launched counterattacks but failed to halt Russia's advance, said Oleh Zhdanov, an independent Ukrainian military analyst.

"The fate of a large portion of the Ukrainian army is being decided — there are about 40,000 Ukrainian soldiers," he said.

However, Russian forces suffered heavy losses in a Ukrainian attack that destroyed a pontoon bridge they were using to try to cross the river in Bilohorivka, Ukrainian and British officials said, in another sign of Moscow's struggle to salvage a war gone awry.

Ukraine's airborne command released photos and video of what it said was a damaged Russian pontoon bridge over the Siversky Donets River and at least 73 destroyed or damaged Russian military vehicles nearby.

Britain's Defence Ministry said Russia lost "significant armoured manoeuvre elements" of at least one battalion tactical group in the attack. A Russian battalion tactical group consists of about 1,000 troops. It said the risky river crossing was a sign of "the pressure the Russian commanders are under to make progress in their operations in eastern Ukraine."

In other developments, a move by Finland and, potentially, Sweden to join NATO was thrown into question when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country is "not of a favourable opinion" toward the idea. He accused Sweden and other Scandinavian countries of supporting Kurdish militants and others Turkey considers terrorists.

Russian President Vladimir Putin undertook the war aiming to thwart NATO's eastward advance. The invasion of Ukraine has other countries along Russia's flank worried they could be next.

Zelensky said in his nightly video address

## Russia takes losses in failed river crossing, officials say

**K**YIV, Ukraine — Russian forces suffered heavy losses in a Ukrainian attack that destroyed a pontoon bridge they were using to try to cross a river in the east, Ukrainian and British officials said in another sign of Moscow's struggle to salvage a war gone awry.

Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, opened the first war crimes trial of the conflict Friday. The defendant, a captured Russian soldier, stands accused of shooting to death a 62-year-old civilian in the early days of the war.

The trial got underway as Russia's offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, seemed to turn increasingly into a grinding war of attrition.

Ukraine's airborne command released photos and video of what it said was a damaged Russian pontoon bridge over the Siversky Donets River in Bilohorivka and several destroyed or damaged Russian military vehicles nearby — the Ukrainians said they destroyed at least 73 tanks and other military equipment during the two-day battle earlier this week. The command said its troops "drowned the Russian occupiers."

Britain's Défense Ministry said Russia lost "significant armoured manoeuvre elements" of at least one battalion tactical group in the attack. A Russian battalion tactical group consists of about 1,000 troops.

"Conducting river crossings in a contested environment is a highly risky manoeuvre and speaks to the pressure the Russian commanders are under to make progress in their operations in eastern Ukraine," the ministry said in its daily intelligence update.

In other developments, a move by Finland and, potentially, Sweden to join NATO was thrown into question when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country is "not of a favourable opinion" toward the idea. He accused Sweden and other Scandinavian countries of supporting Kurdish militants and others Turkey considers terrorists.

Erdogan did not say outright that he would block the two nations from joining NATO. But the military alliance makes its decisions by consensus, meaning that each of its 30 member countries has a veto over who can join.

An expansion of NATO would be a blow to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who undertook the war in what he said was a bid to thwart the alliance's eastward advance. But in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine, other countries along Russia's flank fear they could be next.

With Ukraine pleading for more arms to fend off the invasion, the European Un-

to the nation that Ukrainians were doing everything they could to drive out the Russians, but "no one today can predict how long this war will last."

"This will depend, unfortunately, not only on our people, who are already giving their maximum," he said. "This will depend on our partners, on European countries, on the entire free world."

With Ukraine pleading for more arms to fend off the better-equipped Russians, the European Union's foreign affairs chief announced plans to give Kyiv an additional 500 million euros (\$520 million) to buy heavy weapons.

Reznikov, Ukraine's defence minister, welcomed the heavy weapons making their way to the front lines but also said no quick end to the war was in sight.

"Extremely difficult weeks await us. How many there will be? No one can say for sure," he wrote in a Facebook post.



OLEKSII Reznikov.

ion's foreign affairs chief announced plans to give Kyiv an additional 500 million euros (\$520 million) to buy heavy weapons.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov welcomed the heavy weapons making their way to the front lines but admitted there is no quick end to the war in sight.

"We are entering a new, long-term phase of the war," he wrote in a Facebook post. "Extremely difficult weeks await us. How many there will be? No one can say for sure."

The battle for the Donbas has turned into a village-by-village, back-and-forth slog with no major breakthroughs on either side and little ground gained. In his nightly address Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said no one can predict how long the war will last but that his country's forces have been making progress, including retaking six Ukrainian towns or villages in the past day.

Fierce fighting has been taking place on the Siversky Donets River near the city of Severodonetsk, said Oleh Zhdanov, an independent Ukrainian military analyst. The Ukrainian military has launched counterattacks but has failed to halt Russia's advance, he said.

"The fate of a large portion of the Ukrainian army is being decided — there are about 40,000 Ukrainian soldiers," he said.

The Ukrainian military chief for the Lu-

hansk region of the Donbas said Friday that Russian forces opened fire 31 times on residential areas the day before, destroying dozens of homes, notably in Hirske and Popasnianska villages. He said Russian troops have taken nearly full control of Rubizhne, a city with a pre-war population of around 55,000.

In the ruined southern port of Mariupol, Ukrainian fighters holed up in a steel plant faced continued Russian attacks on the last stronghold of resistance in the city. Sviatoslav Palamar, deputy commander of Ukraine's Azov Regiment, said his troops will hold out "as long as they can" despite shortages of ammunition, food, water and medicine.

Justin Crump, a former British tank commander who is now a security consultant, said Moscow's losses have forced it to downsize its objectives in Ukraine. He said the Russians have had to use hastily patched-together units that haven't trained together.

"This is not going to be quick. So, we're settled in for a summer of fighting at least. I think the Russian side is very clear that this is going to take a long time," he said.

In the first war crimes case brought to trial, Russian Sgt. Vadim Shyshmarin, 21, could get life in prison if convicted of shooting a Ukrainian man in the head through an open car window in a village in the north-eastern Sumy region on Feb. 28, four days into the invasion.

Ukrainian Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova said she is readying war crimes cases against 41 Russian soldiers for offenses including bombing civilian infrastructure, killing civilians, rape and looting. It was not immediately clear how many of the suspects are in Ukrainian hands and how many would be tried in absentia.

In a small Kyiv courtroom, scores of journalists witnessed the start of the wartime proceedings, which will be closely watched by international observers to make sure the trial is fair.

The defendant, dressed in blue and grey hoodie and grey sweatpants, sat in a small glass cage during the proceedings, which lasted about 15 minutes and will resume on Wednesday.

Shyshmarin was asked a series of questions, including whether he understood his rights and whether he wanted a jury trial. He declined the latter.

His Ukraine-assigned attorney, Victor Ovsyanikov, has acknowledged that the case against Shyshmarin is strong and has not indicated what the soldier's defence will be.

— AP

In the ruined southern port of Mariupol, Ukrainian fighters holed up in a steel plant faced continued Russian attacks on the last stronghold of resistance in the city. Sviatoslav Palamar, deputy commander of Ukraine's Azov Regiment, said his troops will hold out "as long as they can" despite shortages of ammunition, food, water and medicine.

And in Kyiv, Ukrainian soldiers dressed in white protective suits loaded bodies of Russian soldiers onto refrigerated train cars. The bodies were wrapped in white body bags and stacked several layers deep.

Col. Volodymyr Lyanzin, who supervised the operation, said several hundred bodies were being stored on the trains in the capital and in several other storage trains elsewhere. He said Ukraine was ready to hand the bodies over to Russia, but so far there was no agreement to do so.

Journalists packed a small courtroom in Kyiv on Friday for the trial of a captured Rus-

sian soldier accused of killing a Ukrainian civilian in the early days of the war — the first of dozens of war crimes cases that Ukraine's top prosecutor said her office is pursuing.

Shyshmarin could get life in prison if convicted of shooting a 62-year-old Ukrainian man in the head through an open car window in a village in the northeastern Sumy region on Feb. 28, four days into the invasion.

Shyshmarin, a member of a tank unit that was captured by Ukrainian forces, admitted that he shot the civilian in a video posted by the Security Service of Ukraine, saying he was ordered to do so.

The trial, which resumes Wednesday, will be closely watched by international observers to ensure its fairness.

Ukrainian Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova said she is readying war crimes cases against 41 Russian soldiers for offenses including bombing civilian infrastructure, killing civilians, rape and looting. — AP

# Pursuing a career in social psychology

**S**Ocial psychologists study how individuals think about, influence and relate to one another and how those interactions affect issues as wide-ranging as prejudice, romantic attraction, persuasion, friendship and aggression.

## All about social psychology

Social psychology is the study of how individuals affect and are affected by other people and by their social and physical environments.

The work of social psychologists allows us to have a better grasp of how group dynamics influence our choices and actions and provides insight into how our social perceptions affect our interactions with other people.

Social psychologists study interpersonal and group dynamics and social challenges, such as prejudice, implicit bias, bullying, criminal activity and substance abuse.

They research social interactions and the factors that influence them, such as group behaviour, attitudes, public perceptions and leadership.

## What you can do

Most social psychologists go into teaching or conduct research at a college or university. A doctoral degree is usually required to become a college or university professor.

Employers outside of academia may accept a master's degree as sufficient in some cases.

Social psychologists are also employed in the private sector in roles as varied as consultants, researchers, marketing directors, managers, political strategists and technology designers.

Social psychologists also work in government and non-profit organisations, designing and evaluating policy and programs in education, conflict resolution and environmental

protection.

## Making it happen

The path to becoming a social psychologist usually begins with a bachelor's degree in general psychology, social psychology or another related field.

Although some social psychologists focus on earning a master's degree, most seek a doctoral degree.

PhD programs in social psychology typically take five years to complete.

## What you can earn

Salaries for social psychologists depend on geographic location, industry and job experience.

According to the Bureau of Labour Statistics, social psychologists earned an average annual salary of \$85,830 as of May 2011.

— apa.org



# Liverpool keep quadruple hopes alive with FA Cup win



LIVERPOOL players with FA Cup after beating Chelsea on penalties.

**L**IVERPOOL remain in the hunt for a historic quadruple after winning the FA Cup following another Wembley penalty shootout against Chelsea.

Jürgen Klopp's side repeated their Carabao Cup final victory in February, the decisive moment coming when Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson saved Mason Mount's spot-kick, leaving Kostas Tsimikas to secure Liverpool's second trophy of the season.

The Reds are still in the Premier League title race and have the Champions League final to come against Real Madrid.

Liverpool had the better of an eventful final, with the outstanding Luis Díaz and Andrew Robertson hitting the woodwork, although it may come at a price with Mohamed Salah going off injured in the first half and Virgil van Dijk going off after 90 minutes.

It is a devastating blow for Chelsea and manager Thomas Tuchel to lose in this manner yet again, having had chances with Marcos Alonso hitting the post and also being denied by Alisson.

When Edouard Mendy saved Senegal teammate Sadio Mane's penalty in the shootout, when the Liverpool forward only needed to

score to win the FA Cup, it just seemed for one moment that the Reds' assault on four trophies might just be interrupted.

Alisson put Liverpool back on course when he saved from Mount, who was inconsolable as Tsimikas sent the Liverpool fans wild by converting the final penalty.

Once again Liverpool had prevailed against fiercely disciplined and determined opponents, even though they lost Salah to what looked like a muscle injury before half-time and Van Dijk did not emerge for extra time.

It remains to be seen how serious those problems are but at present it looks like Liverpool can overcome most obstacles put in front of them, even though it once again took penalties to claim their first FA Cup since 2006.

Luis Díaz was the game's outstanding player, running Chelsea ragged and peppering Mendy's goal with efforts until he was substituted, exhausted, to a standing ovation.

Klopp refers to his players as "mentality monsters" and this illustrates why. Players from both sides gave so much that they were almost out on their feet at the final whistle.

Manchester City remain favourites in the

Premier League, three points ahead and with a superior goal difference, and this was a strength-sapping occasion that will have taken much out of Liverpool before they face Southampton at St Mary's on Tuesday.

What we do know, though, is that Liverpool possess remarkable powers of resilience and recovery as they continue their march on history.

### Chelsea suffer more Wembley agony

Chelsea manager Tuchel thought redemption was at hand when Mendy saved from Mane, bringing the shootout scoreline back level after Cesar Azpilicueta had hit the post earlier.

It was not to be though and the German understandably looked utterly disconsolate as he walked up to collect another Wembley losers' medal.

This was a chance to set the record straight after losing the EFL Cup final on penalties in February, instead it was only more agony for Tuchel and his players after they gave everything in search of victory.

It will be of no consolation whatsoever that Chelsea have now matched Liverpool in two

Wembley finals — and drawn both Premier League games — only to end empty-handed when it came to the four main trophies on offer this season.

Chelsea have won the Club World Cup and the Uefa Super Cup but they will not be factored into what has ultimately been a disappointing season.

They had their chances once again but could not cash in, with both Mount and Alonso denied crucially by Alisson.

Tuchel gave Romelu Lukaku a start but once again the £97.5m striker could not deliver.

There was no lack of effort but no spark and he was eventually substituted.

There will now be a period of rebuilding, with Antonio Rudiger off to Real Madrid and captain Azpilicueta also expected to leave as the club embarks on a new era under Roman Abramovich's successor as owner Todd Boehly.

Chelsea will have a place in next season's Champions League as reward for their efforts this term but, make no mistake, this will have been a very bitter pill for Tuchel and his players to swallow. — BBC

# Vodacom Premier League

Leemisa Thuseho

**L**ESOTHO'S longest premier league season has just ended with Matlama claiming their 11<sup>th</sup> title and pocketing M550 000 for their exploits.

The season took two years because of Covid-19 induced disruptions.

The relegation battle was also settled a few games before the league ended and Likhopo were relegated for the first time since 2003/04 season. They were relegated alongside Sefo-tha-Fo-tha.

Goal scoring is still an issue in the premier league and the just ended season also left Lire Phiri's 22-year-old record of 30 league goals scored in the 2000/01 season intact. The top goal scorer in the just ended season was LDF's Katleho Makateng with 20 goals.

In this review, the *Sunday Express* analyses the performances of each of the league's 16 teams in the order of their log standings.

**Matlama** — Despite starting the season with fine straight wins, the Sea-Point outfit went to lose two consecutive matches (2-1 to LDF and 0-2 to Linare).

Matlama management were quick to act by firing the then coach, Charles Manda, and replacing him with Molebatsi Mothobi who has now steered the team to its 11<sup>th</sup> title. When he joined Matlama, Mothobi had just left the now relegated Sefo-tha-Fo-tha. It was unthinkable that he could win the league.

Worse still, at the time, former champions, Bantu, were leading the league race. Bantu were the defending champions who had won the title the previous season without a loss. The side had only dropped points in two draws against Matlama in the previous season. And it was predicted the side would also replicate its performance from the previous season.

Before the beginning of the season, Matlama did not sign any high-profile names. However, senior players like Jane Thabantšo, Phafa Tšosane, Lisema Lebokollane, Monaheng Ramalefane and Salebone Lekhooa and new signing Thabo Matšoele rose to the occasion. Thabantšo was even in the race for the golden boot but ended up finishing third with 14 goals.

Out of 30 games, Matlama won 23, lost four, and drew two reaching 72 points.

**LDF** — The army side was for most part of the season challenging for the title. This was the side's best finish in eight seasons having finished second in 2012.

The Motheo Mohapi coached side started well but became inconsistent along the way. However, the team was excellent towards the end of the season. The side will need to be more clinical if it is to finally end its league trophy drought having last won it in the 2003/04 season.

LDF made some good signings bringing in Makateng who went on to win the golden boot race with 20 goals. This was his maiden season in the premier league.

The other outstanding performers for LDF include Tšepo Toloane, Letlatsa Moshoeshe, Tšiamo Ramabele and Lehlohonolo Matsau.

**LCS** — Once again, the team showed commendable improvement by coming third and can now easily be considered one of the country's top four teams.

The side started well going for eight games without a loss. At one point, the team was in contention for the title but it dithered midway through the season.

LCS ended the campaign on a



KATLEHO Makateng.

high note losing just once in the last 10 games of the season. They were also the highest scoring team with 59 goals followed by Matlama with 50. LCS' highest winning margins include a 5-0 win over Swallows, 6-0 against Likhopo and 7-0 against Sefo-tha-Fo-tha.

Finishing third is not a bad result for Shalane Lehohla in his first season as head coach.

The best performers were Thabang Malane, Makara Ntaitsane, who finished second on the top goal scorers table with 18 goals, Tumelo Ngatane and Refiloe Mothae.

**Bantu** — The Mafeteng side failed to defend the title it won in style in the preceding season despite a sober start to the season. Things started turning south when the team lost some key players during the peak of the Covid-19. Captain, Litšepe Marabe also left for India.

But the biggest challenge was losing coach Bob Mafoso at the end of last year. The team brought in South African, Thabo Tšutšulupa, but he barely lasted two months due to poor performances.

To rescue the sinking boat, Bantu appointed former assistant coach,

Teboho Tšiu, but the results did not come. In 15 games played since December last year, Bantu only won five, a huge departure from the previous season when the team did not register a single loss.

Bantu's best performers include Itumeleng Falene, Thabo Lesaoana, Hlompho Kalake, Tau Masiu and Tšoanelo Koetle.

**Lioli** — For the third season in a row, *Tse Nala* has failed to make it into the top four.

The Teyateyaneng side's season was filled with controversies that included clashes within the administration after the current president Lebohlang Thotanyana was re-elected before the beginning of the season. Lioli were also in trouble with FIFA over unfair labour practices involving their former defender, Thato Sefoli.

Lioli had a poor first round but improved in the second round where they lost just three of 15 games. The team's best performers were Tanki Seoli, Tieho Ntulo and Sihle Maso.

**LMPS** — Having finished fourth last season, there was hope for better a

performance this time around. Under new coach, Seephephe Matete, LMPS started their season on the back foot losing 1-2 to league newbies CCX. Despite the side's inconsistencies, it ended the season well losing just two of its last 10 games.

The best performers were Sekhoane Moerane, Monyatheli Ntobo, Tšoarello Mokoaleli, Ngaka Lenka and Basia Makepe.

**Lijabatho** — The Morija outfit has shown some improvement compared to last season when they finished second from bottom.

They started well under Thabile Secker, who left in June last year, leaving the team in eighth.

Former Matlama coach, Charles Manda, took over and the team proved to be one of the most competitive sides holding sides like Lioli, LCS, Linare and LMPS and the eventual winners, Matlama.

The best performers were veteran Ralekoti Mokhahlane, Retšelisitsoe Mopeli and Thabo Mafatle.

**Linare** — The team managed to maintain its spot in the top eight after finishing seventh last season. Expectations were high when Or-

lando Pirates legend, Teboho Molo, took the reins at the beginning of the season. Although he lost his first two games, the side later found its footing and at one point went for five games without a loss.

Just after the beginning of the second round, the team appointed Motebang Makhatha as Molo's replacement. This after Molo got a job in South Africa.

However, Makhatha was quick to quit after a string of poor results and Molo returned.

Since his return in March, Linare have fared well losing just one of their seven matches.

Linare was also hit by lack of discipline, and this saw five players: Sele Thetsane, Basia Tseki, Rethabile Selonyane, Makhabane Mpele, and Lebajoa Mosehlyane were dragged to a disciplinary hearing.

The best performers were Tšeoletse Ranthimo, Rethabile Rasethuntša, Siyabonga Mkhize and Mabuti Potloane.

**Kick4Life** — The side was arguably the best run side in the league but was equally inconsistent throughout the season.

**Continues on page 23 . . .**

# 2020/21 season review



JANE Thabantšo.

... From page 22

While it was becoming enjoyable to watch the side annually, the management has now decided to sell its premier league.

The best performers were Thapelo Mohale, Teboho Montlha, Sanele Phantše and Teboho Lekhoaa.

Farewell to the Old Europa side.

**Liphakoe** — Another disappointing season for the Quthing outfit. Scoring goals was once again the biggest challenge for Liphakoe. They are among the least scoring teams this season with just 17 goals. The tally was just two goals more than Sefotha-Fotha's 15 goals.

At one point, the side went for a massive 12 games without a single goal before scoring three goals against Sefotha-Fotha this month. The last time they had scored was in June last year against Likhopo. The saving grace was that the side did not concede many goals.

The side was also unfortunate that its main man, attacker, Tšepang Makapa, was troubled with injuries.

New coach, Mpitsa Marai, will therefore be under pressure to deliver next season.

The best performers were young players Thamae Katiso and Retselisitsoe Moepi.

**Lifofane** — They were one of the favorites for the top eight or top four this season after their promising performance last season when they finished sixth.

They lost top players at the end of last season with the likes of John Mofokeng joining Linare while Monaheng Velaphe joined Lioli.

Shali Lekhotla joined Matlama. Despite the departures, they have proved to be capable and even held Bantu and Matlama.

The best performers were, Rethabile Senkoto, Liteboho Nkune, Thato Moabi and Itumeleng Leche.

**CCX** — The league newbies successfully fought for their stay in the elite league. It was their learning curve but there is hope that they will come better next season.

The team had the most draws recording 12. Out of 30 games, they only won five and lost 13.

**Manonyane** — The side also managed to maintain its pre-

mier league status. Despite this being their maiden campaign in the topflight, Manonyane was above the relegation scrap for most of this season.

The Roma outfit roped in several experienced players when it was promoted last season bringing balance to the squad.

However, finishing just two steps above the relegation zone should be a warning that more needs to be done. The other positive achievement for the side was holding LCS and Linare in some of their games.

**Swallows** — Once again the team has escaped relegation. Two seasons ago, the side finished third from bottom having escaped relegation in the last few games of the season.

Last season they finished at the bottom. However, they were lucky that the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) resolved to end the season prematurely due to Covid-19 challenges. Additionally, no teams were relegated that season.

There is a lot of work that needs to be done for the team if they want to keep their status in the topflight next season.

Credit must be given to Teele Ntšonyana, who proved to be one of the best local coaches. He joined the team in February and helped them survive the chop. Best performers included veteran striker Mohau Khali, captain Tebelo Leshoella, and Katleho Lekaka.

**Likhopo** — It is sad to see a team that has been supplying the national under-17 and 20 teams with players for a long time. This was their worst season having won only three games, lost 17 and drawn 10.

The best performers include Thabiso Mari, Leluma Posholi, and Mokhejane Moetsuoa and Mashale Mahooana.

**Sefotha-Fotha** — The lack of investment is one of the major factors that contributed to the side's failure. The writing was always on the wall since two seasons ago.

In the just ended season, the side was persistently a candidate for relegation. Even the former top goal scorer and player of the season, Tšepo Seturumane, who joined the team at beginning of the season failed to rescue the side.

The priority now is to go and regroup, challenge for promotion again and hope to do things differently next time.

## Rotary charity golf day raises M31k

Leemisa Thuseho

**T**HE Rotary Club of Maloti's charity golf day raised M31 300 at the Maseru Golf Club on Friday.

The money was collected through corporate sponsors and individual pledges made during the prize giving ceremony held at the same venue.

This was the first edition of the tournament organised to raise funds to ship books donated by an Australia based organisation, Books for Lesotho.

Rotary is an international service

organisation which brings together business and professional leaders to provide community service, promote integrity and advance goodwill, peace, and understanding in the world.

It is a non-political and non-religious organisation.

In an interview with the *Sunday Express*, Rotary Club of Maloti president, Leheshane Serobanyane, said the money raised would go towards customs duties and other shipping costs.

The books will then be donated to various schools.

"The funds will be used to pay

for shipping and customs duties for books donated to Lesotho in Australia," Serobanyane said.

"The books are going to be donated to schools that we have already identified in the country.

"This money is going to help us a lot because it is expensive for us to transport the books. This is the first time that we are using golf to raise funds and we are happy with the success.

"Previously, we have raised funds through hosting gala dinners, but we are already looking forward to hosting another golfing event next year."

Serobanyane thanked golfers and sponsors for honouring the invitation tournament and contributing towards the charitable initiative. She called on more to come on board for future initiatives.

Targeted recipients for the books are Mount Royal High School (Hlotse), St Catherine Ha-Abia and Motsekuoa High School (both in Maseru).

Thirty-six golfers participated in the event and Setsabe Lefosa was crowned the champion with 35 points.

Masuhla Leteka came second with 34 points while Ntsimane Len-

ko settled for third with 33 points.

Speaking to the *Sunday Express*, Lefosa said he was delighted to have bagged his first win for the year and he was happy to contribute towards a good cause.

"I am happy to have won the tournament.

"I was not expecting it at first, but I realised midway that I had a chance of winning it.

"Above all, the most important thing is that golfers have contributed towards a good cause by playing and making pledges to help the Rotary Club of Maloti to achieve its mission," Lefosa said.



# Khatala ready for Cape Town race

Leemisa Thuseho

**M**ARATHONER, 'Neheng Khatala (pictured), will today be among the big names that will battle for honours in this year's 10km Absa Run Your City race in Cape Town.

After finishing second in last year's race (32:18), Khatala told the *Sunday Express* that she was targeting to record 31:50.

"I am ready for the race, and I want to improve my time to 31:50 or below," Khatala said yesterday.

The Olympian will be facing a tough challenge against the likes of Genzebe Dibaba, the current 1500m world record holder and Rio 2016 Olympics 1500m silver medalist.

Khatala will also be taking on South African, Glenrose Xaba, who was last month crowned the champion of Athletics South Africa Championships in 10 km.

However, she said she was hoping for a good performance as she has had good preparations.

"My preparations have been going very well and I have been working hard because I am going to compete against tough athletes like Dibaba."

This will be Khatala's third race this year. Her first race was the inaugural Phalaborwa Mining Company half-marathon in Limpopo in February. She won it recording 1:10:30.

In March she went on to win the Race to Equality half-marathon in Johannesburg clocking 1:16:08.

Khatala is one of the local athletes who are preparing for the 2022 Commonwealth Games to be held Birmingham, England, from 28 July to 8 August.

She qualified for the Commonwealth Games last year during the Retail Langa Marathon in Cape Town where she clocked 2:28:06. That is the same event that saw her qualifying for last year's Tokyo Olympics.

She is also one of the beneficiaries of the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC)'s Olympic Solidarity Athletes Scholarships for 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

