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Sunday Express

M6 VOL 14 ISSUE 09
June 5 - 11 2022

Best Sunday in Lesotho

IMF blow for civil servants

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Molibeli, Majoro war escalates

● As under-fire police boss petitions High Court to save his job.

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Further Together



Molibeli, Majoro war escalates

'Marafaele Mohloboli

... as under-fire police boss petitions High Court to save his job

EMBATTLED Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli has wasted no time in petitioning the High Court to stop Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro from sacking him.

For a long time, Dr Majoro had been accused by the Lesotho Mounted Police Service Staff Association (LEPOSA) of protecting the police boss despite his alleged incompetence and failure to rein in his subordinates who tortured citizens and engaged in other acts of brutality.

He has surprised all and sundry with his 1 June 2022 letter to Commissioner Molibeli demanding that the police boss "show cause" why he should not be fired on various charges including his failure to discipline rogue officers who have committed gross human rights violations against ordinary citizens as well as prominent people like lawyer Napo Mafaesa who was tortured in January this year.

"In terms of section 5(3) of Police Service Act No.7 of 1998, The King, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister may require the Commissioner to retire in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness.

"As the Prime Minister and acting in terms of the above section, I intend to advise the King to retire you in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness in the Police Service. But before doing that I want to give you the opportunity to make representations with regard to the following (issues)," Dr Majoro states in his letter to Commissioner Molibeli.

The premier goes on to list several allegations against the commissioner including the latter's "unbecoming conduct" as exemplified by his failure to comply with a 2021 High Court order to reverse some police promotions that he made in 2018.

Not only has Commissioner Molibeli been in contempt of court, he has even ignored the laws requiring him to consult the Police and Public Safety Minister before promoting anyone to the senior ranks within the force, the premier alleges.

Incidentally, the same allegation has been levelled against the police chief by Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Beleme Leba-joa, who is challenging the former's decision to reshuffle him from the Criminal Investigations Department (CID)

to the police's Finance and In-

frastructure Department (FID). (See story on Page 4).

This and other failings on Commissioner Molibeli's part, are "rendering the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) inefficient, if not ineffective," Dr Majoro states.

"You are therefore required to make representations indicating why I should not advise the King to retire you as the Commissioner of Police in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness within 48 hours of receipt of this letter," the prime minister concludes.

But just as he did in December 2020 when the then Prime Minister Thomas Thabane sought to fire him over similar allegations of incompetence and allowing police brutality to go unchecked, Commissioner Molibeli on Friday approached the High Court to stop Dr Majoro from advising King Letsie III to sack him.

In his application, Commissioner Molibeli cites Dr Majoro, Police Minister Lepota Sekola, Attorney General Rapelang Motsieloa and King Letsie III as the first to fourth respondents.

Although the *Sunday Express* was unable to access the commissioner's application last night, this publication has it on good authority that the police boss indeed filed the application over the weekend.

This publication has however, seen letters that were exchanged by Dr Majoro and Commissioner Molibeli's lawyer, Tekane Maqakachane, on Thursday. This was before the commissioner approached the High Court in his desperate bid to keep his job.

Writing on behalf of Commissioner Molibeli, Advocate Maqakachane demands what he says are further explanations from the premier before his client can respond to Dr Majoro's "show cause" letter.

"In that ('show cause') letter, the Honourable Prime Minister required the Commissioner to show cause, on the basis of section 5(3) of the Police Service Act 1998 why the Prime Minister cannot advise His Majesty the King to require the Commissioner to retire.

"We have consulted with the Commissioner and the Commissioner requires certain specific particulars which are necessary to enable him to respond to your (Majoro's) letter," Adv Maqakachane states.

"These particulars are as follows: first, section 5(3) of the Police Service Act 1998 grants the power to the Honourable Prime Minister to advise His Majesty the King to require the Commissioner to retire 'in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness'. It is clear that the interests of efficiency or the interests of effectiveness are, disjunctively, conditions for exercise of such powers by the Hon Prime Minister.

"Both linguistically and legally, the terms are not synonymous and the metrics to measure effi-

ciency, on the one hand, and effectiveness, on the other, are diametrically not the same and factors that are considered in the determination of effectiveness or efficiency are clearly dissimilar. In your letter aforesaid, Hon Prime Minister, it is not clear to the Commissioner whether you rely for exercise of power under section 5(3) aforesaid, on the interests of efficiency or the interests of effectiveness or even both as the basis for your intended advice to His Majesty.

"Second, the Commissioner would want to be informed of the facts that led to your inference that the Commissioner is 'perpetually disregarding the Police Authority', which 'misbehaviour' you allege is to render 'LMPS inefficient, if not ineffective'. This is precisely because the alleged contempt of court you cite has everything to do with the respect or disrespect of the courts, and nothing to do with the Police Authority.

"In the circumstance, the Hon Prime Minister is required to provide the above requested particulars on or before 12 Noon on Friday 3 June 2022 at our offices...to enable the Commissioner to respond to your letter by 09h45 hours on Saturday the 4th June 2022.

"Your failure to provide these necessary particulars as required in the preceding paragraphs will leave the Commissioner with no alternative but to seek judicial intervention in the matter," Adv Maqakachane states in his letter to Dr Majoro.

Seemingly unhappy with the wordplay, Dr Majoro dismisses the request for further particulars as an unhelpful attempt to dwell on semantics instead of 'showing cause' why he should not advise the King to fire the commissioner.

"The Commissioner is afforded an opportunity to address facts presented to him in terms of my letter dated 1 June 2022," Dr Majoro fires back in his reply.

"The Commissioner, instead of making representations, raises semantics about 'efficiency' and 'effectiveness'. This does not lead to any change in facts presented to him to answer if he so wishes.

"It is unnecessary to reiterate facts which I have already outlined in my previous letter that when he promoted police officers, he did so without consultations with Police Authority.

"The due date and time of your representations is Saturday 4 June 2022 at 8: 45am. Please deliver your representations at State House. Failure to comply with time stipulated shall be taken as a waiver of his (Molibeli) right to make representations and I will be left no option but to advise the King to retire him," Dr Majoro further states.

In the face of Dr Majoro doubling down on his plan to advise His Majesty to fire him, Commissioner Molibeli proceeded to file an urgent application at the High Court to stop him. It is not clear when the application will be heard.

It remains

to be seen whether Commissioner Molibeli, who survived a similar attempt to oust him by then Prime Minister Thabane, will survive this time around.

Starting in December 2019, Mr Thabane launched several albeit unsuccessful bids to oust Commissioner Molibeli on the grounds of his alleged incompetence. In his court papers at the time, Commissioner Molibeli accused Mr Thabane of seeking to get rid of him to avoid prosecution for the 14 June 2014 murder of the latter's ex-wife, Lipolelo. The police chief said investigations into Lipolelo's murder pointed to Mr Thabane's involvement.

Mr Thabane denied attempting to fire Commissioner Molibeli to stop the Lipolelo murder probe. The former premier claimed his decision was driven by his desire to rejuvenate the police force which was being hamstrung by what he described as Commissioner Molibeli's incompetence.

The police boss is widely viewed as having played a key role in the eventual ouster of Mr Thabane from power by his own All Basotho Convention (ABC) party in May 2020.

Barely two months after Dr Majoro took power, LEPOSA petitioned him to fire the commissioner for alleged incompetence. In August 2020, the premier set up an inter-ministerial committee to probe LEPOSA's allegations as well as other causes of instability within the police force.

Much to LEPOSA's chagrin, the committee cleared the police boss of any wrong-doing.

Commissioner Molibeli has been widely regarded as a Majoro loyalist and the latter was seen in many quarters as protecting him despite mounting evidence of police brutality and allegations of police complicity in the theft of guns as happened at Mafeteng Police Station in November 2021.

Incidentally, the very issues that LEPOSA cited for demanding Commissioner Molibeli's ouster are the same issues that Dr Majoro is raising against him. It is thus unclear what has finally led to the premier to act when all this time he had refrained from wielding the axe on the commissioner's head.



MOEKETSI Majoro.



HOLOMO Molibeli.

Another massive fuel hike

Bereng Mpaki

LOCAL consumers, who are already reeling from the impact of massive increases in the prices of most basic commodities, will have to dig even deeper into their pockets.

This after petrol prices yesterday shot up by a massive M3, 20 per litre. The prices of diesel and other petroleum products also skyrocketed.

Announcing the increments, the Petroleum Fund said the cost of petrol95 had gone up by M3, 20 per litre while that of petrol93 had risen by M3 per litre.

Diesel price went up by 75 lisente per litre and that of illuminating paraffin rose by M1, 10 per litre.

“The pump price of petrol93 is going up by M3 to M23, 70 per litre and that of petrol95 is increasing by M3, 20 per litre to M24, 15 per litre.

“The price of diesel50 increases by 75 lisente per litre to M24, 55 per litre while the wholesale price of illuminating paraffin rises by M1, 10 to M18, 90 per litre,” the Petroleum Fund said in a Friday statement.

In an interview, Petroleum Fund's operations manager, Lebohang Makhoali yesterday said the increments were part of a global hike in fuel prices that were a direct result

of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Some western and other nations have imposed economic sanctions on Russia, a major crude oil producer within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). This has led to disruptions to the global fuel supply chain and ultimately to fuel hikes.

“The Russia-Ukraine war is putting pressure on economies that are reliant on energy imports hence global fuel prices have gone up as a result. This is a serious challenge for small economies around the world like Lesotho which do not have adequate fuel storage facilities,” Mr Makhoali

said.

Nkareng Letsie, the executive secretary for Consumers Protection Association (CPA), said the latest fuel increase would worsen the cost burden that consumers were already experiencing due to price hikes of most basic commodities.

“These are difficult times for consumers who are already struggling with the general inflation. We are a net importing country, and the majority of our goods are transported using petroleum fuels. The latest fuel increases are going to make the cost of living more unbearable for consumers especially because any fuel price hike leads to increases in

the prices of other commodities,” Mr Letsie said.

The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) last month said general inflation rose to 7, 3 percent during April 2022, with increases in the prices of food, non-alcoholic beverages, energy and transport costs as the main drivers.

Mr Letsie said while the doubling of fuel prices over the past few months called for urgent government intervention to relieve consumers, it was unlikely that the state would be able to do anything.

....continues on page 4



Kingdom of Lesotho

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES –FIRM SELECTION)

SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II

LOAN NO: P165228
CREDIT NO: IDA 64220-LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: MARKET INFORMATION AND FARMERS DATABASE SYSTEM
REFERENCE No.: LS- MAFS-252505 -CS- CQS

BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho (GoL) has acquired funds totaling \$57 million from the International Development Association, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the Japanese Policy and Human Resources Development (PHRD) Grant to finance the second phase of Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP 2). The GoL intends to utilize part of the funds to finance the cost of developing and disseminating climate and agroweather information for improved decision making for smallholder farmers, value chain actors and other stakeholders targeted by the project.

SADP 2 supports a new paradigm shift that puts climate resilience, productivity, commercialization and nutrition at the core of agriculture growth in Lesotho. The project seeks to: (i) introduce transformational changes in the agriculture sector by promoting solutions for agricultural productivity and resilience at farm and landscape levels; (ii) provide longer-term solutions at institutional level to ensure the sustainability of the outcomes achieved in the field; (iii) promote commercialization that would contribute to improved livelihoods; and (iv) promote better nutritional outcomes towards improved human capital development. The project development objective of SADP 2 is to support the increased adoption of climate smart agricultural technologies in Lesotho's agriculture, enhanced commercialization and improved dietary diversity among targeted beneficiaries.

The project will strengthen the existing Market Information System and Statistical database of farmers in the country. The project will work with the consult in financing the up-grade and improvement of this systems with the view of promoting and sharing actionable knowledge to the farmers. Through this initiative, farmers will know the market gaps, estimated number of farmers in a particular crop production, the prices of the market and when exactly the commodity is highly in demand amongst other things. This type of information will inform the production plan of the farmer and enhance commercialization and resilience due to the fact that production is geared towards consumer needs as such, increasing profitability of the farmer.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the assignment or consultant includes upgrading the existing market information system in the country and expansion of the coverage of agricultural commodities and markets. Furthermore, the consultant is expected to segment and register farmers and other value chain stakeholders and digitization of agricultural statistics.

The Lesotho Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security invites eligible consultancy firms in providing the required services. Interested consultancy firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified and experienced to provide the services for which they are expressing their interest. Expression of interest should include the following which also constitutes the shortlisting criteria:

- Company profile including the name of the country where a firm is registered and field of specialisation.
- Demonstrated experience in successfully completing four similar assignments. (Firms should include a brief description of most recent and relevant assignments (location, cost, client and staff involved).
- Experience in Marketing Information and database system
- Training of individuals or groups of people.

The consultancy firm will be selected in accordance with Consultants Qualification Selection Method (CQS method) set out in the procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated July 2016 and revised in November 2017 and August 2018.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.14 to 3.17 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated July 2016 and revised in November 2017 and setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Consultancies may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications. Where firms are associating, the submission must include verifiable evidence of association from all the parties.

Interested firms may obtain further information at the address below, during office hours: 09: 00hours to 12:00hours and 1430hours to 1600hours from Mondays to Fridays.

SUBMISSION

Expressions of interest must be submitted by email to the address below, on or before 14:00hrs local time June 27th 2022 clearly marked “Expression of Interest for Marketing Information and Farmers Database System.”

To: Project Director-SADP II
 Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
 Department of Livestock Services -Moshoeshoe 11
 P.O. Box 24
 Maseru 100 Lesotho.

Email: mnkhethoa@sadpii.org.ls copied to procurement@sadpii.org.ls

More woes for Molibeli

'Marafaele Mohloboli

THE fight that had been simmering behind the scenes between under-fire Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli and Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Beleme Lebajoa has finally exploded into the open.

This after DCP Lebajoa, who is currently in charge of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID), on Wednesday petitioned the High Court to stop Commissioner Molibeli from moving him to the police's Finance and Infrastructure Department (FID). DCP Lebajoa was supposed to have swapped desks with DCP Paseka Mokete, the man who he took over the CID from in July 2021.

The reshuffle ought to have been with effect from Thursday 2 June 2022. However, Commissioner Molibeli was stopped in his tracks by DCP Lebajoa who approached the courts the day before and obtained an interim order against the police boss.

The interim order capped off a miserable week for Commissioner Molibeli who was on that same Wednesday given a 48 hour ultimatum by Prime Minister Moeletsi Majoro to "show cause why" he should not be fired on various charges including his failure to deal with the thorny issue of police brutality.

The police boss, who has since approached the courts in his desperate bid to keep his job, is fighting on several fronts.

In addition to his fight to keep his job, Commissioner Molibeli is in another nasty fight with his subordinate, DCP Lebajoa, who is challenging the commissioner's decision to transfer him to the FID desk.

On Wednesday, DCP Lebajoa's

lawyer, Rethabile Setlojoane, obtained an interim order barring Commissioner Molibeli from transferring the DCP to the FID until the finalisation of the latter's application for a final order against the commissioner's decision.

Justice Tšelis Mokoko's interim order lapses on 13 June 2022 when both DCP Lebajoa and Commissioner Molibeli's legal teams are expected back in court to argue why the order should not be made final.

Commissioner Molibeli and Attorney General Rapelang Motsieola are first and second respondents respectively in DCP Lebajoa's application.

In his court papers, DCP Lebajoa accuses Commissioner Molibeli of acting unilaterally and outside his powers by transferring him to the FID.

He argues that only the Police and Public Safety Minister, Lepota Sekola, has such powers of transferring senior officers in the police command, not the commissioner. Not only did the Commissioner Molibeli usurp Mr Sekola's powers but he also ignored the minister's orders that the transfer should be effected, DCP Lebajoa argues.

He alleges that from the onset Commissioner Molibeli was not happy when he was transferred to the CID in July 2021 by the police minister.

As a result of his opposition to him, DCP Lebajoa alleges that Commissioner Molibeli went as far as interfering with his work by creating a parallel team to perform the same duties that he (Lebajoa) was supposed to perform.

"I wish to disclose that the first respondent (Molibeli) has never been pleased with my (July 2021) appointment (to head CID)," DCP Lebajoa states in his court papers. He says as proof of the commis-

sioner's unhappiness with his appointment, he was only allowed to occupy the CID office three weeks after his transfer to that desk "and my benefits were delayed".

"Immediately after I occupied the office, the first respondent established a team doing a parallel assignment with my office and the same (parallel team) was commanded by my junior, one Mr Makoetlane, who was directly answerable to the first respondent (Molibeli). The said junior officer who is under the command of my office would tell me that he is not answerable to me.

"As if that was not enough, the first respondent would transfer police officers under my watch without even notifying me. While I appreciate that it is his sole duty to transfer police officers; that was not good governance and a proper administration for the betterment of the police service as a whole.

"The first respondent also dismantled a unit referred to as Theft Detection and Counter Robbery Crime Unit Police Station (RCTS)), also under my watch, and transferred 30 police officers who were specifically assigned to that unit. All these things were done by the first respondent without even notifying and/or consulting me yet all these adversely incapacitated the office of CID."

DCP Lebajoa says although Commissioner Molibeli wrote to him on 20 May 2022 about the transfer, he only received the police boss' letter on 31 May 2022.

He alleges that he subsequently discovered that Minister Sekola had written a memorandum to Commissioner Molibeli informing the latter that he (Sekola) had declined to act on the police boss' recommendation to transfer him (Lebajoa).

He argues that Commissioner

Molibeli went ahead to transfer him in contravention of Minister Sekola's directive that he should stay put at the CID.

Commissioner Molibeli's conduct amounted to a usurpation of the minister's powers, DCP Lebajoa argues. He says he was then given up to 2 June 2022 to make way for DCP Mokete hence his decision to petition the High Court.

"I aver that the first respondent duly recommended to the Police Authority (Sekola) that I be redeployed and correctly so because the first respondent was aware that he has no such power to re-deploy me hence his wise move to recommend to the appointing authority being the Police Authority.

"The first respondent is aware that he had no such power to re-deploy me regard being had to the fact that I was appointed by the Police Authority in terms of Section 6 of the Police Act 1998. The provisions of section 6 of the Act clearly state who has an authority to appoint Deputy Commissioners and I had been advised that the same Police Authority is vested with the power to remove and/or deploy me.

"It is my contention therefore that the first respondent usurped the functions and duties of the Police Authority by redeploying me to the office of FID and giving me only 48 hours to have vacated the office. The first respondent's decision, therefore, stands to be reviewed, corrected and set aside even on this ground alone," DCP Lebajoa states.

He further argues that it was illegal for Commissioner Molibeli to have sought to transfer him without affording him a hearing.

"The entire Commissioner of Police then made this decision without affording me any hearing whatsoever to make presenta-



Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli

tion as to why I should not be redeployed. I have since been legally advised and I verily believe same to be true that this was the climax of travesty of justice on the part of the first respondent. The rules of natural justice require that a person who may be adversely affected by a decision must be given a fair hearing before the decision is taken.

"The decision is unlawful in every respect including but not limited to the fact that the first respondent has no authority whatsoever to deploy me as I had indicated. The first respondent's decision aforesaid is furthermore unlawful in that I was not given any hearing whatsoever before such a drastic decision was taken against me," DCP Lebajoa argues.

He therefore wants the High Court to revoke Commissioner Molibeli's decision to transfer him from the CID to the FID.

Another massive fuel hike

... from page 3

"The authorities must urgently do something because we can expect fuel prices to continue increasing as long as the Russia-Ukraine war continues.

"Unfortunately, the government is already struggling to meet its own financial obligations at the moment and I do not see it doing much to

cushion petroleum fuel consumers," Mr Letsie said.

The lack of adequate fuel storage facilities in Lesotho has made it difficult for Lesotho to stockpile fuel to cushion the nation whenever there are increments. In the absence of stockpiled fuel, the suppliers have no choice to pass on the costs when

ever there are global fuel price hikes.

Back in March this year, Petroleum Fund CEO, Thato Mohasoa, called on the government to expedite the construction of national fuel storage facilities to cushion the country against disruptions to the global supply chain.

Mr Mohasoa said that the stocking up refined fuels would help the country to stabilise its prices for a few months whenever there are global price hikes.

"We have been slow in establishing fuel storage facilities. Some countries have fuel reserves which help them in times of fuel crises

such as we are in now because of the Russia-Ukraine war.

"We do not have such fuel reserves in Lesotho. However, the process of establishing a strategic fuel facility that can last up to two months is at an advanced stage and it must now be expedited," Mr Mohasoa said.

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- Focus on quality, safety, environmental and production
- Ability to handle emotional demands - long durations away from home

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- Physical demands - long and sometimes abnormal working hours; hazardous or high-risk work activities in difficult conditions
- Ability to handle emotional demands - long durations away from home
- Relevant Knowledge legislation and construction regulations

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Any response to this advertisement places the company under no obligation to interview or make an appointment

Political parties re-affirm commitment to national reforms



Law and Justice Minister,
Lekhetho Rakuoane

Tšoloane Mohlomi

ELEVEN political parties represented in parliament have signed a pledge re-affirming their commitment to the national reforms process.

The parties met in Maseru on Friday and committed to work together in removing obstacles and impediments that have potential to derail the passing of the 11th Amendment to the Constitution Bill.

The Bill contains a raft of constitutional changes that the government proposes to enact in line with the 2016 recommendations by SADC for constitutional reforms.

SADC had also recommended the implementation of security sector, media, judicial and governance reforms as part of efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability in Lesotho.

Law and Justice Minister, Lekhetho Rakuoane, is on record saying they decided to prioritise the implementation of constitutional reforms since the constitution is the supreme law of the land. The rest of the reforms would be implemented afterwards, he said.

The reforms are long overdue largely because of bickering among various political parties.

It was against this background that 11 parties represented in parliament recently met in Maseru as part of efforts to break the logjam.

The 11 are the main ruling All Basotho Convention (ABC), Democratic Congress (DC), Alliance of Democrats (AD), Basotho Action Party (BAP), Basotho Congress Party (BCP), Basotho National Party (BNP), Basotho Patriotic Party (BPP), National Independent Party, (NIP), Popular Front for Democracy (PFD) and the Reformed Congress for Lesotho (RCL).

They recently met and signed a pledge re-affirming their commitment to the reforms process.

The parties pledged to press parliament to pass the 11th Amendment Bill before the end of June 2022. They said it was important to do so before the elections due in October 2022.

The parties said that the reforms process requires the highest priority in order to achieve lasting stability, security, peace and reconciliation in the country.

"We re-affirm our commitment to the National Reforms Process, and constructive engagement and expeditious implementation of the reforms," the parties state in

their pledge.

"We also commit to co-operate with all parties and stakeholders in the processing and passing of the 11th Amendment to the Constitution Bill."

The parties further pledged to work together to ensure that the forthcoming elections are successful.

They commended the National Reforms Authority (NRA) for making significant strides in implementing reforms under the constitutional, security sector, economic, judicial, public service, parliament and media thematic areas.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro said the parties' pledge was clear testament of their commitment to the peace and the transformation of Lesotho into a better country.

Dr Majoro said that the reforms were important as they sought to address the sources of all the political conflicts the country has endured over the years.

"This 11th Amendment to the Constitution Bill also modernises the constitution and introduces checks and balances in government to ensure that everybody carries out their duties in line with their mandates.

"I thank the National Reforms Authority (NRA) for the work they have done in ensuring we have a Bill to address all previously identified problems.

"We can write laws all we want and pass them in parliament, but what is of outmost importance is the sustenance of peace in Lesotho. What we did today goes beyond just signing a piece of paper.

"We must work hard to ensure the implementation of everything we have agreed. Our nation was founded on the values of peace and we should continue maintaining it," Dr Majoro said.

SADC representative, Envy Surty, thanked the parties for their commitment towards peace, saying the pledge was a remarkable achievement for Basotho and the Southern African region as a whole.

"I'm really happy. I'm sure (SADC Facilitation Team head) retired Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke would have been very delighted if he was here," Mr Surty said.

In a subsequent interview with the *Sunday Express*, the principal secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice, Retšelisitsoe Mohale, said that had not yet signed the pledge to do so without further delay.

The Movement of Economic (MEC), Marematlou Freedom Party (MFP) and the Democratic Party of Lesotho are some of the parties that are still to sign the pledge.



Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

P.O. Box 7332, Maseru 100, Lesotho. Telephone: 22246000 Fax: 22310632

CONTRACT LHDA NO. 1370

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR KATSE DAM 3D FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) invites tenders from competent service providers to Tender for the PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR KATSE DAM 3D FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS.

Tender documents can be downloaded at NO COST from LHDA website: <http://www.lhda.org.ls/lhda/tenders.php>

A Non-Compulsory pre-tender meeting will be held virtually on Friday the 10th June 2021, at 11H00. Pre-tender Site Visit will be held through requests by interested Tenderers due to uncertainty posed by COVID 19. Those who are interested in attending the non-compulsory virtual pre-tender meeting will e-mail their request to attend the meeting to the LHDA procurement at this email procurement@lhda.org.ls and request the meeting link.

Sealed tenders clearly marked Tender for PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR KATSE DAM 3D FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS, bearing no identification of the bidder should be deposited at Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, 7th Floor, LHDA Tower Building, Kingsway; Maseru not later than 12:00hrs on the 8th July 2022.

LDF troops return from Mozambique mission



'Marafaele Mohloboli

PART of the contingent of Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) troops who have been fighting Islamic insurgents in Mozambique since August 2021 are back home.

The soldiers were part of the SADC mission to assist the Mozambican government in the fight against Islamic terrorists in the northern parts of that country.

Moshoeshoe I International Airport was a hive of activity on Monday and Tuesday as families of the soldiers were on hand to receive them.

Some relatives openly shed tears of joy to see the returning soldiers as

emotions ran high at the airport.

Prior to being reunited with their families, the soldiers were screened by port of health officials and declared free of any diseases.

Deputy army commander, Major General Matela Matobakele, said so far the ongoing SADC mission against the Islamic insurgents was a success.

Major Gen Matobakele said Lesotho, Angola, South Africa, Botswana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe are some of the SADC countries that have sent troops to help the Mozambican army to fight the Islamic rebels. The east African nation of Rwanda also deployed soldiers to help Mozambique.

Major Gen Matobakele said they had sent another batch of troops to Mozambique to replace their return-

ing colleagues last week.

This is the first time Lesotho has replaced its troops since they were deployed last year, Major Gen Matobakele said.

"All the other countries have had a chance to rotate their troops except us, hence this exercise. It is routine.

"Once the fighting has subsided we hope to take some journalists there so that they can report from the front.

"As of now, it is not safe and we wouldn't want to risk endangering your lives," Major-Gen Matobakele said.

On his part, LDF spokesperson, Captain Sakeng Lekola said they were expecting more soldiers from the initial deployees to fly back once the logistics for their return had

been completed.

He however, would not reveal their numbers and dates of their return for safety reasons.

"There was no specific criteria that was used to decide which of the soldiers should return home first. The selection was done by their immediate supervisors back in Mozambique. All those who were deployed last year will soon be returning home," Captain Lekola said.

He said the returning officers would first of all be sent for counselling before returning to work at their stations.

"Those who came home have all been declared fit and healthy upon arrival at the Moshoeshoe I International Airport health port.

"They will be taken for counsel-

ling by professionals. This is important given the nature of the mission they have been through. We cannot give a definite time frame as to how long the process will take but once it is done they will go back to work," Captain Lekola said.

Defence Minister, Halebonoe Setšabi, welcomed the troops and thanked their families for their unwavering support.

"We welcome you back home, and we know that had it not been for the support of your families, this wouldn't have been easy for you," he said.

The Islamic insurgency broke out in the northern province of Cabo Delgado in 2017. Thousands of people have either been killed or displaced by the fighting.

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TENDER – BEARINGS, ANTI-FRICTION DEVICES & ASSOCIATED PRODUCTS

Minopex Lesotho (Pty) Ltd, invites Lesotho registered companies for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BEARINGS, ANTI-FRICTION DEVICES & ASSOCIATED PRODUCTS** for the Letšeng Diamonds treatment plant. The contracting company is required to supply the required products in line with the product specifications.

COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Tender documents may be requested electronically from tenders.lesotho@minopex.com from 8h:00AM on Tuesday 07 June 2022 to Monday 13 June 2022 at 16h:00. Tender documents will be issued within 24 hours and no Tender documents will be issued on requests received after the closing deadline. The request for Tender document must include the following mandatory documents;

- Distribution Agreements or Partnership Agreements with either OEM or other leading distributors (or Proof of Previous Supply of Tender Items).
- Traders License (Must be valid and not expired)
- Tax Clearance (Must be valid and not expired)
- Proof of Vat Registration (All Imported Items to adhere to Customs which requires Vat Registration)

All mandatory documents must be submitted before the deadline for the request of Tender documents on Monday 13 June 2022 at 16h:00.

Submissions must be made in ONE ELECTRONIC COPY via email, with the subject "EN/BEARINGS/0522". All Tender submissions must be submitted before Friday 24 June 2022 at 16h:00.

INTERESTED RESPONDENTS MUST COMPLY WITH THE SUBMISSION CRITERIA AND FORMAT AS DETAILED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS

Should you experience any difficulty in requesting the documents, please contact Mr Thapelo Holoane at Thapelo.holoane@minopex.com or email tenders.lesotho@minopex.com

Commodity / Service	Closing Date for Tender Requests	Closing Date for Tender Submissions	Reference
Supply and Delivery of BEARINGS, ANTI-FRICTION DEVICES & ASSOCIATED PRODUCTS	Monday, 13 June 2022 at 16H:00	Friday, 24 June 2022 at 16H:00	EN/BEARINGS/0522

Disclaimer: Minopex Lesotho (Pty) Ltd reserves the right to withdraw this tender at any stage without notice and will neither be responsible for nor pay any expenses or losses which the Proposer may incur in response to this invitation.

Minopex Offices / Lenyora house #11, 190 Nightingale Road, New Europa, Maseru // P.O. Box 865, Buthe-Buthe, 400
Tel: +266 2222 1334 // Email: minopex@minopex.com

www.minopex.com

Directors: J.A.H. Smith / M.J. Van Wyk

Registration No: 2003/518



Kingdom of Lesotho

Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology

INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER NO. 3 OF 2022/23

Contract Title: Tender for Provision of LENA Website Upgrade Services

1. The Government of Lesotho through Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (MCST) invites sealed tenders from eligible suppliers for provision of LENA Website Upgrade Services.
2. Tender documents are obtainable from Procurement office of the MCST, Moposo House 3rd Floor, Kingsway, Maseru from 24 May 2022 from 08:30hrs to 15:30hrs. Documents will be offered after payment of non-refundable tender participation fee of M2,000.00.
3. Prospective bidders must attach the following to their tenders:
 - a) Valid Trader's License certified at source
 - b) Valid Tax Clearance certified at source
 - c) Refundable Bid Security of 2% of the tender price
 - d) Signed Certificate of Bonafide Tendering
4. Sealed tenders (1original and 4 copies) bearing no identification of the tenderer, clearly marked "**Provision of LENA Website Upgrade Services**" must be deposited in the Ministry's tender box situated at the reception area on or before 06 July 2022 at 12:30hrs.
5. Interested eligible suppliers may request clarification in writing from the MSCT Procurement Unit Moposo House 3rd Floor or email Miss 'Mamokhethi Moshabe at the following email address: mamokhethi.moshabe@gov.ls copy to mcst.procurement@yahoo.com
6. MCST is not bound to accept the lowest or any price.

Letšeng recovers 125-carat diamond

Bereng Mpaki

LETŠENG Diamond mine has recovered a massive 125-carat diamond, majority shareholder, Gem Diamonds, has revealed.

The company said the latest recovery was “a top-quality white diamond”.

“Gem Diamonds announces the recovery of a 125-carat top-quality white diamond from the Letšeng mine on 31 May 2022,” the company said in a statement.

The recovery of the diamond follows another high-quality white diamond weighing 129 carats, unearthed on 23 May 2022.

The United Kingdom-based Gem Diamonds owns 70 percent of Letšeng mine, while the remaining 30 percent is held by the government.

The mine recently paid out a dividend of US\$13, 4 million for the first quarter 2021, with US\$8, 9 million of that amount going to the majority shareholder, Gem Diamonds.

Letšeng mine is the highest dollar per carat kimberlite diamond mine in the world.

In keeping with its reputation for high value output, the latest trading update released by Gem Diamonds for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022 shows that 28 461 carats of diamonds were sold at an average price of US\$1831 per carat.

The number of carats sold this

year reflects a six percent increase on the 26 961 carats that were sold in the first quarter of 2021. The 2022 first quarter average price per carat is 12 percent higher than the 2021 first quarter price of US\$1630 per carat.

These impressive sales enabled Letšeng to rake in US\$52, 1 million from the sale of the rough diamonds - a 19 percent increase from the US\$43, 9 million achieved from sales for the first quarter of 2021.

The 28 461 carats sold during the first quarter of 2022 also compare favourably with the 24 790 carats sold in the fourth quarter of 2021 (October to December 2021) at US\$50 million.

“During the period (first quarter of 2022), Letšeng paid a dividend of US\$13, 4 million.

“This resulted in a net cash flow of US\$8, 9 million to Gem Diamonds and a cash outflow from the Group of US\$0, 5 million relating to withholding taxes and US\$4 million in respect of the government of Lesotho’s share of the dividend.

“The highest price achieved in the period was US\$66 059 per carat for an 8, 41 carat pink diamond. The highest price achieved during the period for a white diamond was US\$53 834 per carat for a Type Ila white diamond. Nine diamonds sold for more than US\$1 million each, generating revenue of US\$16, 2 million during the period,” Gem Diamonds said in the trading update.



The highest price achieved in the period was US\$66 059 per carat for an 8, 41 carat pink diamond.



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LESOTHO - MASERU

We invite Alumni, current / prospective parents and students to meet with our CEO / Headmaster, Mr. Bruce Wells at the following venues:

10 June 2022 - Meeting with prospective parents at American International School of Lesotho From: 12h15

11 June 2022- Meeting with alumni, current and prospective parents at [Avani Hotel](#) 10h30 - 19h30

RSVP:
Mr. Bruce Wells: Phone: +27-79 018 0603
E-mail: bwells@issa.co.za
PA to the CEO: jrae@issa.co.za

THE SCHOOL

The International School of South Africa, established in 1990, occupies 54 hectares of superbly landscaped estate in the historically significant city of Mahikeng, North West Province. We are founded on traditional moral values and welcome students of all faiths.

We have excellent teaching, residential and sports facilities. These include specialist areas for art, music, drama, dance, design and technology studies, science laboratories, a technology centre, a completely equipped gymnasium, swimming pool, professional theatre and state of the art educational equipment.

The school is a co-educational, boarding and day school and ranges from primary to post-matriculation, A-Level. The Primary (300 students) and Senior (250 students) schools are integrated on the same site.

ACADEMIC, SPORTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMME

The Primary and Senior Schools offer the world renowned Cambridge Assessment International Education taught by professional South African and International staff.

The Cambridge system has the following benchmarks: IGCSE (International General Certificate in Secondary Education), AS-Level (Advanced Subsidiary Level), a matric equivalent A-Level (Advanced Level), a post-matric year. South African Universities welcome AS-Level as an entry qualification and A-Levels is accepted world-wide.

In 2023, we will be offering the IEB Curriculum from Grade 10 - 12 parallel to the Cambridge Curriculum. The school offers a rich variety of sporting and cultural activities.





**Private Bag X2233 Mafikeng South Africa
Cnr William Dick Avenue and Nelson Mandela Dr
Libertas, Mahikeng 2745
Telephone +27-18 381 1102
E-mail: deputyhead@issa.co.za
Website: www.issa.co.za**

Admissions for 2022/2023 are still open.

Comment

IMF findings emphasise need for austerity

ELSEWHERE in this edition, we report on the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s exhortation to the government to curb its huge spending as part of efforts to achieve macroeconomic stability.

In a weekend statement, the IMF said there is need for Lesotho to contain its public spending as it is not sustainable.

"The IMF directors have emphasised the need for a growth-friendly fiscal consolidation to reduce imbalances, rein in public debt, and rebuild policy space.

"They called for measures to contain current spending, including the public sector wage bill, reprioritize social spending to focus on the most vulnerable, and rationalise capital spending," the IMF statement says.

It notes that since 2020, Lesotho had been adversely affected by a host of challenges including the Covid-19 induced slump in economic activity, declining revenues from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the impact of Russia's war with Ukraine which has resulted in price hikes of most basic commodities.

The IMF's call for a reduction in the public service wage bill, which has been repeated over the years, will certainly be sweet music in the ears of the government. However, it will most likely sound like a jarring and discordant cacophony to restive civil servants who are pressing for salary increments in the face of ever escalating prices of basic goods and services.

The public servants were awarded a five percent hike for the 2022/23 financial year. But they are unhappy with what they consider to be a "paltry" increment.

At their 26 May 2022 meeting, the civil servants vowed not to vote for current coalition government parties over their failure to award them the massive 25 percent wage which they are demanding.

The civil servants, who met under the auspices of Coalition of Lesotho Public Employees (COLEPE), said withholding their votes from the current coalition parties would represent their best form of protest. COLEPE comprises the Lesotho Police Staff Association (LEPOSA), Lesotho Public Service Association (LEPSA), Lesotho Association of Teachers (LAT), Lesotho Teachers Trade Union (LTTU), Lesotho Schools Principals' Associations (LESPA), Qiloane Nursing Assistants Association (QINUASA), and the Lesotho Nurses Association (LNA).

The elections are due in October this year and only then will the civil servants get their opportunity to vote against the governing parties. In the meantime, they vowed to stage protests to press their demands. They nonetheless did not indicate when their protests would begin. On several occasions, the government has said it is broke and cannot meet the civil servants' wage demands.

But the public servants are in no mood to listen to the 'stories and excuses' about the precarious financial situation that the country finds itself in.

Their anger feeds on the fact that while they were not awarded any increments in the 2021/22 financial year, the government awarded legislators monthly fuel allowances of M5000 each.

While they are understandably angered by the selfishness on the part of the politicians, the truth of the matter is that a 25 percent salary hike is not sustainable under the current economic conditions.

The economy has generally been performing poorly for a number of years now. The situation has not been helped by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. The Covid-19 induced slump on the global economy did not spare Lesotho. We all know that locally, the slump led to reduced demand for Lesotho textiles in its main United States (US) market. The result was the massive retrenchments of a staggering 11 500 factory workers between 2020 and 2021. In other words, a massive 25 percent of textile workers have lost their jobs since the pandemic began. Unless things improve soon, more textile jobs could be lost.

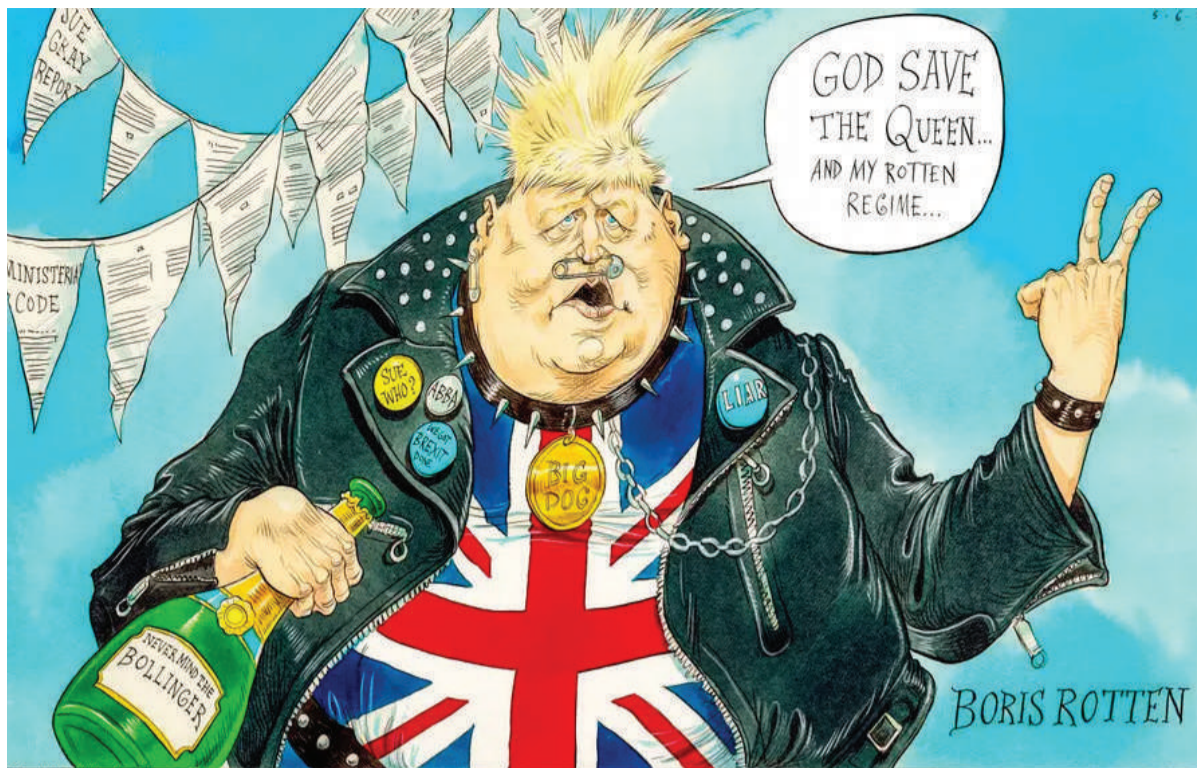
On several occasions, we have pointed out that while they have genuine grievances, the civil servants' demands cannot be fulfilled without completely bringing down the country's fragile economy.

Even now, we repeat this warning. In as much as we call for cool heads among the civil servants, we also urge the government leaders to practice the very austerity they prescribe for everyone else.

We cannot go on having politicians awarding themselves massive salary increments and allowances like they did when they dished out M5000 fuel allowances to each MP last year. The government cannot continue allowing the theft of public funds by those in positions of power to go unpunished. These are the kind of issues that incense long-suffering civil servants and push them to demand unrealistic increments. Austerity must be practiced by all not just some of us.

Sunday Express

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The Queen, the great uniter, couldn't make it. Alas, Boris the great divider could

Zoe Williams

THE archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, couldn't attend the service of thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral, having tested positive for Covid a few days before, which was not a problem, since it was for this very purpose that the centuries-long enmity with York was cultivated — so there would be a Stephen Cottrell waiting in the wings, with a sermon ready to go.

Then Prince Andrew also got Covid; it is unclear who could understudy his role in the proceedings, let's hope nobody. By the morning of the event, the first platinum jubilee in the nation's history, the Queen wasn't feeling very well, either, and would not be attending. By 2022 protocol, they should have got Prince Charles to speak on behalf of everybody, surrounded by their hats.

Maybe it raised the Genesis question: how many people can you swap out of this lineup before it ceases to be Genesis? Or maybe holding a massive service of thanksgiving for someone who isn't there, assured that they are watching from afar, is exactly what the Church of England, and indeed all churches, are all about.

With 400 public servants — teachers, NHS and charity workers — already seated, David Dimbleby and Sophie Raworth did a game call-and-response buildup to which royals we should expect. It would be a bigger crowd than on Thursday, Raworth said, which was just "working royals".

The phrase always reminds me of the New Yorker cartoon, a man saying to his beseeching collie: "I know you're a working dog, Angus, I just don't have anything for you right now." It's not exactly work, is it? It's more of a breed standard.

This reign, the third longest in history, after Louis XIV and the recently departed King of Thailand, has spanned 14 prime ministers, four of whom — Major, Blair, Brown and Cameron — were chatting nicely, or at least they were to one another's wives, mindful that royal events are when we pretend we all get on (or, to be more precise, in the phrase of a royal biographer beforehand, "the prime minister represents all that divides us; the Queen represents all that unites us"). This mood lasted up to the arrival of Boris and Carrie Johnson, which the crowd greeted with noise, and a lot of it. Were they booing or cheering? Did it (a personal view) start with booing, which the more respectful mob members tried to drown out with cheering? It would have been useful to have some kind of commentator there, maybe one with his own very long pedigree of saying news. Dimbleby resolutely

ended up looking chilly and out of place, just by being normal. Those are the rules, I'm afraid, nobody knows who made them.

The prime minister read an appositely inane verse from Philipians, crescendoing: "The lord is near. Do not worry about anything." Cottrell's sermon tickled a metaphor nearly to death, drawing on Her Majesty's love of horse racing, marrying it to the scriptures' description of life as a "race before us", observing that "your reign represents the distance of Aintree rather than the sprint of Epsom ... Thank you for staying the course, thank you for showing us how service and faithfulness matter." "Please stop," begged the horse, "I'm actually not ticklish."

The dead zones between each arrival were filled with interviews, on site and in the studio, decent, civic-spirited people trying their utmost to say something that was at once true, meaningful, original and personal about the monarch, the monarchy and the occasion. The impossibility of that was outweighed, for the most part, by their sheer niceness — the poet laureate, Simon Armitage; the master of the Queen's music, Judith Weir; the retired archbishop John Sentamu: all these thoughtful, reflective people, dredging their creative brains for a non-platitude. Ishmael the 11-year-old choirboy said it best — asked by Raworth how he felt, he replied with feeling: "It's been very stressful." A huge number of people, bringing great stress upon themselves, then trying with all their valour not to show it — that's pomp for you.

— The Guardian



'The arrival of Boris and Carrie Johnson, which the crowd greeted with noise, and a lot of it. Were they booing or cheering?

Top school suspends teachers over improper relationships with learners

Limpho Sello

SOOFIA International School in Butha-Buthe district has suspended two male teachers over allegations of engaging in “improper relationships” with some female learners at the school.

The top school is a multi-racial, multi-religious and mixed institution that offers the University of Cambridge schools curricular in various subjects up to advanced level.

In a recent interview, the school principal, Vijayakumar Bhaskaran, confirmed that the school had suspended the teachers to pave way for investigations into the claims.

“It is still an allegation at this point that the teachers had proposed or were actually in some unacceptable relationships with some learners. We are currently investigating those claims, that is why we have suspended the duo,” Mr Bhaskaran said.

He said the school was working hard to get to the gist of the claims because it does not condone teachers engaging in romantic relationships with learners.

He said it would be premature to disclose more information as investigations were still underway. Details would be made available once the investigations were complete, he added.

It appears that some teachers routinely propose love to learners at the school.

In a separate interview, a parent who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals against her child, said her daughter had informed her that one of the teachers had been pestering her for a relationship.

She said her daughter reported that the same teacher often told her that she looked “hot” whenever she wore a skirt to school.

The same teacher is also said to have told the learner that she “owed” him and they some “unfinished business” together.

“I learnt all this from my daughter who is in grade 10. I just hope that the school’s management will work hard to protect our children from such teachers and provide a safer learning environment for them,” the learner’s mother said.

When her allegations were put to Mr Bhaskaran, he said the school “opposes in the strongest terms, any improper associations between teachers and learners”.

He said apart from being illegal, such behaviour could not be tolerated as it tainted the image of the school.

“We are finalising investigations and once we are through we will inform the parents. We will continue working hard to ensure that children are safe in our hands. We can’t allow any situations which might put them in any kind of danger. We will not tolerate it,” Mr Bhaskaran said.



VIJAYAKUMAR Bhaskaran.



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ANNUAL AWARDS COMPETITION FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The 2022 Exporter of the Year Award

Call for Applications and General Terms and Conditions

- a) The Lesotho National Development Corporation in partnership with Lesotho Post-Bank with support from the USAID TradeHub will hold the second Annual Exporters Awards to recognize and honour outstanding export performance into the South Africa and U.S markets and to stimulate export growth and innovation among local exporters.
- b) Nominations are invited from companies who are **exporting to or are discussing deals with buyers in the South African and US Markets** to participate in this second Annual Exporter Awards Competition event. The awards ceremony will be held on the 22 June 2022.
- c) **Categories**
This year’s competition will focus on the following categories:
 - Innovation and Versatility
 - Market sustainability
 - Market and Product Diversification
 - Best Emerging Exporter
 - High Impact Exporter
- d) **Award**
The Overall National Exporter Award winner will automatically qualify to represent Lesotho in the Regional Awards with exporters from (SACU +Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia)
- e) **Eligibility criteria**
 - Locally registered Exporters, SMEs and emerging exporters
 - Supplying or Targeting SA and US market.
 - Supplying manufactured and agricultural products
 - Complying with the national legal regulations and business requirements
- f) **How to Apply**

Eligible companies must collect the **Exporter Awards Entry Information Forms** outlining the **selection criteria in detail**, from the LNDC Headquarters, Development House Block A, ground reception. **Electronic copy can be shared upon request) or download by clicking on www.lndc.org.ls**

The application together with the company registration certificate, and tax certificate must be sent to Moeketsi Khuele on khuele@lndc.org.ls; copied to Malira Sekonyela on sekonyela@lndc.org.ls by end of business on the **June 10, 2022**. For further clarification please call +266 22312012.

Bereng Mpaki

Chaperone driving financial inclusion through technology

CHAPERONE Ltd is one of only five fintech (financial technology) companies that are licensed to offer mobile money services by the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) in the country.

Founded in 2020 at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, Chaperone is currently well known for providing the mobile money platform called C-Pay, although it also has other digital financial solutions.

The platform is fast gaining traction and has already registered over 100 000 users and has also landed the government as one of its clients.

The company has provided the government with a bulk payment solution to disburse payments to its beneficiaries and workers.

Through C-Pay, users can deposit, send and receive money at their convenience, including paying their different utility bills.

C-Pay is accessible by downloading the C-Pay App for android phones or by dialing *220*77# for Vodacom users and *130*77# for Econet subscribers to create a user account.

The company currently has 340 agents around the country and is planning to increase the number to 660. This will be done by adding another 320 agents in remote rural parts of the country by the end of 2022.

Mohau Mochebelele, Chaperone's founder and managing director, said the company's mission was to advance financial inclusion by harnessing the power of digital technology in and outside Lesotho.

"Chaperone is a financial technology company that provides digital platforms, and one of these platforms is C-Pay, which is our mobile money solution," Mr Mochebelele said.

"As an investment manager by profession, Chaperone was inspired

by my observation of financial exclusion and lack of innovation in the existing financial solutions in Lesotho. I saw mobile money as a tool through which these can be addressed and that is how we developed Chaperone."

The company attributes its remarkable development to the strategic partnerships it enjoys with international players through the influence of its South African and Canada shareholders.

"We are where we are today because we have benefited from two key business competitions where we competed with other business start-ups for technical support," Mr Mochebelele said.

The company has been featured in a pan African start-up competition where it was named among the best eight of 300 entrepreneurs after showcasing its services and growth.

"We made the top eight best start-ups in the competition, and we went on to receive technical support which allowed us to form strategic partnerships with international companies.

"The World Bank also ran a similar competition which focused on the Southern Africa region. Here between 160 and 200 start-ups participated and were selected we were among the best 14 finalists who received technical support," he said.

This support has helped the company to come up with innovative digital solutions to better serve their customers.



Mr Mochebelele said the company had adopted a business-to-business approach to target a niche currently uncatered for by existing players.

"The fin-tech market in Lesotho is mostly on business to customer business approach (B2C). While we are also into B2C, our primary focus is on business-to-business approach (B2B).

"This means that businesses are forced to consume existing mobile money services. There is never a time when the mobile money operators (MNO) will ask businesses about their actual needs. Businesses care a lot about whether services they get are the right fit for their needs.

"But through the B2B approach, we can create special businesses to

service the business customer fully. Through that, we have been able to bring on board many clients including the government, Alliance Insurance and Pulamaliboho Financial Services," said Mr Mochebelele said.

On her part, Chaperone's sales and distribution manager, Hlompho Hlalele, said the C-Pay mobile money platform did not discriminate between users of different network operators.

"Since we do not discriminate against mobile network operators, users can send money and buy airtime across different networks.

"Currently, we are onboarding about 320 agents from remote rural areas. This means we are looking to have 660 agents countrywide by the

end of this year," Ms Hlalele said.

The company is also introducing a new product offering, currently at pilot stage.

"We are not only focusing on mobile money, and we are bringing user friendly products to the market. They are very flexible and very innovative. One of these is a new advanced product which can allow our users to get an advance to buy things like electricity, pay insurance and other services. We are currently piloting it.

"The expectation is that a person should be able to pay it back within 30 days. The thinking is that now that we have digitised the operations of our partners, we will be able to do what is called alternative credit scoring. What it does is to rate the credit worthiness of our clients. In the back end we are supported by Amazon to bring financial inclusion to Africa."

The company also has the Market Place, a product which facilitates electronic commerce (e-commerce).

"Market Place helps people who would like to promote their business products online. The Covid-19 pandemic has opened our eyes to digital ways of selling our products. Any business is welcome. It can be used by individuals and companies. If you need to buy anything, you can go into our portal to order what you want and pay using your C-Pay or a Visa or Mastercard. You can also access cab services for delivery on the C-Pay App," Ms Hlalele said.



LESOTHO ELECTRICITY COMPANY (PTY) LTD

REF: LEC/PO-1062/2022/23
LETTER OF INVITATION

The Lesotho Electricity company hereby invites eligible registered companies to submit **PROPOSALS for the LEC Electrical Network Stability Study**. Tender document will be obtainable on request via emails at no costs, while there will be a non-refundable participation fee of M2000.00 (Two Thousand Maloti). Payment details and procedures will be explained in the bidding data sheet and Specifications of the services required for the Assignment will also be indicated in the Data sheet. The proposals could form the basis for future negotiations and ultimately signing of a contract between a consultant and LEC.

Sealed bids bearing no identification of the bidder endorsed "**PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTING SERVICES – LEC ELECTRICAL NETWORK STABILITY STUDY**" shall be hand delivered and deposited into the tender box located at LEC Management Office block, reception area on or before **30th June, 2022 at 10:00hrs** and opened the same day at 11:30hrs. Bidders or their representatives have a right to witness the tender opening. Please take the following into consideration:

1. The Compulsory pre-bid meeting will be on the **15th June, 2022 at 9:00hrs, Training Centre, LEC premises;**
2. The costs of preparing the proposal and of negotiating the contract, including any site visits are not reimbursable as a direct cost of the Assignment;
3. LEC also reserves the right to cancel the invitation before the submission or opening of proposals, postpone the proposal submission/opening date and to accept or reject any or all proposals at any time prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or any obligation to form the affected bidder of the grounds for LEC's action. LEC is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid and
4. Tender received after the closing date and time will not be considered.

For more information and clarifications, please contact procurement office at **22312236, 52272219, 52272360, and 52272146, mosaet@lec.co.ls, goanem@lec.co.ls, monyatsib@lec.co.ls**



LESOTHO ELECTRICITY COMPANY (PTY) LTD

REF: LEC/PO-1052/2022/23
LETTER OF INVITATION

1. The Lesotho Electricity Company has allocated funds from its approved budget for the financial year 2022/ 2023 and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **PROPOSED DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF TWO-WAY RADIOS SYSTEM**.
2. The Lesotho Electricity Company (Managing Director) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **turnkey** work for provision of necessary Goods and Works, design, labour, transport, materials, equipment, installation, commissioning, testing, and other technical and civil engineering services necessary for the successful completion of the **PROPOSED DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF TWO-WAY RADIOS SYSTEM**.
3. Bidding will be conducted through Open competitive procurement using the Lesotho Electricity Company's Procurement Policy and guidelines
4. Bid documents are obtainable upon request through email from Procurement Office of the Lesotho Electricity Company 53 Moshoeshoe Road Maseru. To participate in this tender, bidders will be required to pay a non-refundable participation fee of M2, 000 (Two thousand) maloti only. Payment details are specified in the bidding data sheet.
5. Bidders may obtain further information from procurement office at 52272434 52272219, 52272360, and 52272146 or email at mosaet@lec.co.ls; goanem@lec.co.ls; monyatsib@lec.co.ls
6. Sealed bids, bearing no identification of the Bidder, original and four (3) copies clearly marked "**TENDER FOR PROPOSED DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF TWO-WAY RADIOS SYSTEM**" must be deposited in a **tender box situated at LEC Management Office block, reception area** to the address shown below **on or before 07th July at 10:00hrs**, Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address stated below **on 07th July, 2022 at 11hrs:30mins**. All Bids must be accompanied by a refundable bid security of 2% of total bidding price.
7. The address referred to above is:
Procurement Office
53 Moshoeshoe road, industrial area, Maseru, Lesotho
P.O Box 423
Maseru 100
Telephone Numbers: (+266) 22312236, 52272219, 52272360, and 52272146
Email address: mosaet@lec.co.ls; goanem@lec.co.ls; monyatsib@lec.co.ls
8. **SITE VISIT: Site Visit:** There will be a pre-bid meeting and a site visit on the **14th June 2022 at 10:00hrs**, the meeting point will be MAFETENG LEC OFFICES. The bidder is advised that it is his/her responsibility to visit and examine the site of works and its surroundings and obtain for himself/herself, all information that may be necessary for preparing the tender and entering into a contract. The costs of visiting the site and obtaining the necessary information shall be borne by the bidder
9. **DISCLAIMER:** LEC is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid. The Company also reserves the right to cancel the tenders before the submission or opening of tenders, postpone the tender submission/opening date and to accept or reject any or all tenders.

Senate Lerotholi

WHEN Ketumile Princess Mabote was growing up, she had to fight both stigma and depression because of psoriasis, a rare skin condition which causes scales and dry patches on her body.

Her peers would look and jeer at her because she was different from the rest of the children. No one knew what the condition was until she was diagnosed five years ago. But the diagnosis did not give her any relief. In fact, just last year, she was diagnosed with depression, one of the resultant effects of the condition.

Psoriasis is a condition in which skin cells build up and form scales and itchy, dry patches and is often attributed to immune system problems that are triggered by infections, stress and colds among others.

Symptoms include skin rash which sometimes involve the nails or joints.

People with psoriasis often feel pain in the joints while their skin becomes dry, develops rashes, fissures, flakiness, peeling, small bump, thickness, or redness.

Apart from depression, enthesitis, itching, joint stiffness, nail pitting, or plaque are also common.

According to www.mayoclinic.org, the treatment is meant to remove scales and stop skin cells from growing so quickly while topical ointments, light therapy and medication can offer relief.

Now 20, Ketumile has now learnt to embrace her condition and is now relishing opportunities coming her way because of the condition.

Born in Ha-Mabote but now residing in Katlhong, Ketumile is a third year Health Information Management student at Botho University.

While she has grown into a confident young woman who is comfortable in her own skin, she admits it was never a walk in the park in the beginning.

"The condition has affected me mentally, emotionally and physically," Ketumile says.

"We live in a world where people are expected to be perfect, so growing up with a skin condition like mine has been very difficult.

"I cannot walk on the streets without people asking me what is wrong with my skin. At some point, I would refrain from wearing clothes that show my skin like sleeveless

Ketumile speaks learning to live in her own skin



KETUMILE Mabote.

cells in my brain. The depression did not only come from how the community treated me and related with me."

And now she must regularly see a psychologist to manage her depression.

Yet despite the battles, Ketumile is embracing the condition and seizing all opportunities that come with it.

She says researching about psoriasis and other different skin conditions has helped her accept it and become comfortable.

She also follows different social media handles that have information about different skin conditions. Among these is Rock Scars on Facebook which posts lots of information about different skin conditions. She also follows Canadian fashion model, Winnie Harlow, who has a skin condition called vitiligo. This helps her express herself "unapologetically".

"I have grown to realise that the best way to deal with my insecurities is to learn how other people cope with theirs. That way, you will know the best way to cope with it because we learn from other people every day. Looking at how other people expose themselves to the world has helped me lift myself.

"It is imperative not to let the society define you. You must just go out and be who you are then the society will adjust to the fact that there is someone like you existing with a certain skin condition who loves herself, they will also fall in love with you because you first loved yourself.

"The most important thing that I've gained is talking freely about my skin condition. People should know having a rare skin condition is difficult; it is not as easy as I make it seem, every day is a struggle but at the end of the day, I must be me and love myself the way I am. Others have motivated me to be myself whenever my morale and confidence is low," Ketumile says.

Among other opportunities, she has been named the brand ambassador of courier company, Skyberg, and MTAB Travel & Adventure and she says she has been receiving enquiries from multiple organisations needing her modelling services.



World Health Organization

OFFICE OF THE WHO REPRESENTATIVE FOR LESOTHO
Tel: (+266) 22312122
Fax: (+266) 22310213

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mission of WHO is the Attainment of the highest possible level of health by all people.

Title: Health Promotion/Social Determinants Officer
Duty Station: WHO, Lesotho
Duration: 2 years
Deadline of Applications: 14 June 2022

Grade: NOC
Contract Type: Fixed Term
Vacancy Notice No.: 2204574

Applications are invited from suitably qualified **Basotho candidates** for the position of Health Promotion /Social Determinants Officer in the WHO Country Office – Lesotho.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

1. Provide guidance on review/development of national policies, programs and structures for health promotion and nutrition; 2. Coordinate actions aimed at addressing the broad determinants of health that influence health and well-being, including water and sanitation as well as environmental health in light of sustainable development; 3. Support priority health programs to strengthen community engagement, social mobilization, communication for behavioral change and support multi sectoral actions to address health inequities; 4. Provide technical support on application of methods such as health literacy, behavior change communication, health education, social mobilization and advocacy in health programs; 5. Increase individual, community and societal participation in health action through empowerment; 6. Provide technical support for the development of guidelines to promote use of community-based approaches, affordable strategies and technologies for the delivery of quality care services particularly primary and secondary prevention, integrating health promotion in chronic illness management; 7. Provide technical support on application of methods such as behavior change communication, health education, social mobilization and advocacy in health programs; 8. Support the national capacity to integrate and mainstream Gender, Equity and Rights (GER) into health to ensure equitable healthcare and close coverage gaps. 9. Perform other activities assigned by the WHO representative

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Education: University degree in Health Promotion or basic degree in health-related field, a health development subject area such as health education, health communication, medical sociology/ anthropology, education, population studies or public health field with good knowledge of health promotion theory and practice or epidemiology training.

Desirable: Knowledge of or qualification in health or health related discipline, ability to write well, implementation of multi sectorial interventions, policy development skills.

Experience: At least 5 years of experience in public health and program management of disease control, working with national /international organizations that deal with health promotion, public health or development.

Applications are to be submitted online at WHO's Recruitment website: <http://www.who.int/careers/en/>. Direct link to the position: <https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=2204574&tz=GMT%2B02%3A00&tzname=Africa%2FJohannesburg>

The system provides instructions for online application procedures.

Note: Only short listed Candidates will be acknowledged. Any appointment /extension of appointment is subject to WHO Staff Regulations, Rules and Procedures.

WHO is a tobacco-free environment

The candidate should have no history of sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment and bullying.

South Africa's youth deserve better role models



THE youth have so much to learn if they can always commit to arriving with humility, having an open mind, showing appreciation and never giving up.

Khuthala Gala Holten

IT'S been 28 years since our country became a democracy, yet the legacy of colonialism and apartheid, rooted in racial and spatial segregation, continues to reinforce inequality and hamper transformation. With just 15.8 percent of top management positions occupied by black people, despite making up 79.3 percent of the economically active population (according to the 2021 Commission for Employment report), the legacy of apartheid is still very much alive.

Thousands of young black men and women entered the new South Africa at the end of 1994 as the country's first "free" black matriculants, and I am one of them. It was an incredible time, and we were all filled with a flood of emotions. The future looked bright and I, like so many others, was hopeful for the future.

It felt like the shackles had been removed and that we were on a path to achieve anything we could once only dream of. Dignity had been restored for us, our parents and our elders. We really thought that everything was going to change overnight. Some may say we were naive to believe things would change so quickly, but it's understandable why people feel they have been let down

by the promises of 1994. The biggest downfall of our transformation journey has been the low quality of education, then the lack of access to acquiring entrepreneurial skills, mindset and spirit. I blame this on the shortage of positive black role models within communities, especially those that have been affected by the systemic issues inherited from apartheid.

I have been fortunate to have had incredible role models, not only growing up but also in the early stages of my career, for whom I thank daily for encouraging me to never give up on my dreams. Their influence cultivated a mindset in me that has allowed me to excel in my journey thus far. I started out as a receptionist in a below-the-line agency and today I am a co-managing director and a company shareholder of the largest independent South African owned advertising agency, Joe Public.

Thanks to the belief of those around me who invested their time in nurturing my entrepreneurial spirit, I have worked my way up the corporate ladder. Not too many black women in South Africa hold top management positions. It's my calling as a business leader to use my role to empower the next generation. Our industry, like many others,

is a tough environment to work in and requires a thick skin. But more so, a solid belief in oneself and an intense work ethic.

I know, thanks to my upbringing and role models, that positivity and hard work are at the core of personal and professional success. Yet there appears to be a growing trend among our youth that they are entitled to success and don't believe it must be earned.

This I blame largely on their exposure to social media where celebrities flaunt their wealth and create a desire for a lifestyle that is not realistic or attainable. As a volunteer lecturer at Boston House College, I drive home the message to my students that success has to be earned, that it cannot be achieved alone, and that their mindset plays a critical role in how they respond to their circumstances.

From early on in my life, I was adamant that I was going to survive and achieve great things. I quickly realised and accepted that I was going to need help, and so I opened myself up to it. Leveraging every opportunity, big or small, can be used to gain experience and improve one's circumstances. The youth have so much to learn if they can always commit to arriving with humility, having an open mind, showing ap-

preciation and never giving up.

The latest employment data, released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) revealed that unemployment in the fourth quarter of last year rose to 35.3 per cent from 34.9 per cent in the previous quarter. This was the highest level since the start of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey in 2008. The youth unemployment rate remains at a staggering 65.5 per cent. How can this be? In the 28 years since I left school, why are there just 15.9 per cent of black men and women in top management positions? These are, after all, the role models our youth need so that they too believe they too can dream big.

We live in a multiracial, multicultural country with so many opportunities to learn from each other. Our cultural foundations and our truly African principle of ubuntu provide a relevant foundation for having a global mindset, which according to a study by the Gordon Institute of Business Science is the common denominator among senior black South African executives who managed to break away from the norms they were brought up with.

I wonder how many of our youth consider their own stories and believe that their traditional and cultural values and life experiences are worthy of something significant and

meaningful in the global corporate space. I believe that South Africa's youth already possess a global mindset and, as the study concludes, it's essential that corporate South Africa begin to harness that.

At Joe Public, we are driven by our purpose, which is growth, and incorporate it into all elements of our business strategy. The first is the growth of our people. We invest in employees' studies, workshops, mentorships, courses and business coaching.

Second is the growth of our clients where we measure strategy and creative products using excellence tools we have developed. And lastly, we are driven by the growth of our country and support non-profit organisations, job creation, transformation and diversity within. We are currently 60 per cent black owned and have 40 per cent women on our board.

I believe that putting the spotlight on role models is one solution to help encourage a better self-belief in our youth — one that will positively impact South Africa's transformation.

— Mail & Guardian

The views expressed are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Mail & Guardian.

**Weekend
Girl**



TšEPANG Khuze is a 24-year-old model signed to Sotho Kids. She is an entrepreneur and also a makeup artist. Her hobbies include dancing and cooking. Her motto is: "Black child, the sky is no longer the limit, never give up". She has a degree in Education.

Yourstars

Aries - March 21 - April 20

Your fight for those less fortunate is not likely to end in sweet victory. You can continue to make gains if you call a few people who can help you close an important deal. You may need to make a few alterations to your living arrangements. Secret affairs will only lead to heartache. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

Taurus - April 21 - May 20

Don't confront the situation if you don't feel you can keep your cool. Be cautious and use your head wisely in situations that deal with the use of machinery or vehicles. Be prepared to lose friends or alienate other people if you insist on being stubborn. You can buy or sell if you're so inclined. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

Gemini - May 21 - June 21

Plan a trip to the country or take a drive to the beach. You may not see your situation clearly. Get together with friends and catch up on reading and letter writing. Helping children may be rewarding and challenging. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

Cancer - June 22 - July 22

Don't let an incident at work play on your mind. You can enjoy short trips. Don't let your personal dilemmas interfere with your goals. Throw yourself into your work. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

Leo - July 23 - August 22

Relatives may be less than easy to deal with. Your temper may get the better of you if a colleague has tried to ruin your reputation. Don't turn down an invitation or a challenge that could enhance your chances of meeting someone special. You may feel a need to make changes to your legal documents. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

Virgo - August 23 - September 22

Don't expect romantic encounters to be lasting. You should follow through on educational endeavours you have wanted to pursue for some time. Outings with relatives or good friends will provide you with stimulating conversation. You may want to get involved in some kind of creative group. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

Libra - September 23 - October 22

You must act quickly. Try not to judge too quickly. Be careful while traveling. Don't bother trying to make someone you live with see your point of view. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

Scorpio - October 23 - November 21

Keep important information to yourself. Get involved in groups and organizations that are of a distinguished nature. You can't lose this week unless you get involved in gossip or overwork to the point of exhaustion. You may find that you are a little lucky this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

Sagittarius - November 22 - December 20

You are going through a period of questioning. You need to clear up some important personal documents before the end of the year. Most partner problems are a result of both people not living up to their promises. Don't let relatives get the better of you. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

Capricorn - December 21 - January 19

You can help sort out problems that friends are facing. You don't like confrontations at the best of times; however, you may find them difficult to avoid. Don't be too quick to judge others. Try to slow down, and take another look. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

Aquarius - January 20 - February 18

Peers may not be on your side. Throw yourself into your work. Travel and educational pursuits may help alleviate the stress you have been feeling. Get back into a routine that promises a better looking, more aware individual. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

Pisces - February 19 - March 20

You can accomplish a lot if you direct your thoughts toward starting your own small business on the side. Your devotion will be persuasive. Your ability to help others will win you points. Remain calm and you'll shine. Passion should be your goal. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

The First Dog to Walk Around the World finishes after 7 years

HER name is Savannah. She lives in New Jersey. Seven years, nearly 40 countries, and almost one hundred thousand kilometers, she set off with her owner, Tom Turcich, on a walk across the globe.

This past Saturday the two of them walked into New Jersey, finishing the adventure.

Turchich became the 10th man to walk around the world. But Savannah is the first dog to do it.

Savannah has had quite the life.

Turchich rescued her from a shelter in Texas as a puppy. She's grown up on the road, never knowing what it means to get to know a place.

The most well-traveled dog in history is finally going to stop walking, turn around three or five times, then take a seat in her home.

Turchich embarked when he was 26. Two of his childhood friends unexpectedly died when he was a teenager, shocking Tur-

cich into a realization that life is unpredictable, occasionally short, and doesn't wait for you.

He felt like moving, exploring, experiencing. So he saved up money throughout his

early 20s, and just before his birthday, packed up gear and started walking southeast. "It was hard in the beginning," said his mom Catherine of watching her son grieve, then begin a monumental journey with no end in sight. "He was so young ... and I thought: what's he getting himself into? But once he got through South America I realised he knew what he was doing, and that's when I bought into it and embraced it."

Turchich began the trip by himself, but after sleepless nights and some loneliness on the road, he decided to find a dog as a partner. He pulled into a shelter in Austin and there was Savannah. Just a few months old, abandoned on the side of a Texas highway. Turchich found his buddy.

It was supposed to be a continuous five-year journey. But COVID restrictions, illnesses, and bureaucratic setbacks meant Turchich and Savannah had to be creative and piece together a route that circumnavigated the world.

Savannah nearly died of an illness in South America. She was held up at knifepoint with Turchich. The pair endured blistering heat in jungles. But still, little Savannah kept padding right alongside Turchich.

"There were these days in Peru when we'd be walking in the desert and I was really, really dragging, as the days were so monotonous ... and I remember looking down at Savannah wondering how she feels," Turchich told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"But she does the 24 miles, eight hours a day, without complaint – and her tail is always held high. She's a true professional."

— Adventure Blog

Stranger
than
Fiction



TOM Turcich and Savannah after crossing the Mexican border.



TURCICH has been walking around the world with his dog Savannah for the past 7 years.



A LESOTHO Defence Force (LDF) band member entertains guests at former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's birthday party at his Makhoakoeng home last weekend.



AN LDF officer is welcomed home nine months after he was deployed for a peace keeping mission in Mozambique.



FAMILY members with returning troops on arrival at the Moshoeshoe I International Airport on Monday.



HER Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso and World Vision National Director, James Chifwelu Nkamba commemorate the Menstrual and Hygiene Day at St Philips High School in Leribe on Monday.



PROMINENT businessman, Bothata Mahlala, donates a newly constructed classroom block to Maqokho Primary School on Thursday. Deputy Minister of Education, 'Maletsama Lenkoane, helps him to cut the ribbon to celebrate the event.



COVID vaccines may lose effectiveness against Omicron, but one more dose could remedy this.

Unvaccinated South Africans explain disinterest in Covid jabs

Katherine Eyal

South Africa is currently facing a new wave of infections related to the much higher transmissibility of the omicron Covid variant and its sub-variants.

The most recent spike has had similar characteristics as the fourth wave in January 2022: increases in infections have not been accompanied by similar increases in hospitalisations and deaths.

These changes present a challenge to policy makers trying to improve vaccine take-up, particularly in vulnerable groups. People more vulnerable to severe illness with Covid include the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions.

South Africa's government set a target of getting 67 percent of the population vaccinated by the end of 2021.

But rates have fallen far short of this. As of 22 May 2022 only 31.4 percent of the population had been vaccinated.

Understanding the depth of vaccine hesitancy, and the drivers behind the lack of take-up is critical to preventing further deaths, infections, and continuing harm to the economy.

Vaccine take-up is particularly crucial for the country because of the HIV prevalence rate of 13 percent as well as the fact that it has the highest rates link of TB and TB/HIV incidence in the world. Both are known correlates of Covid-19 mortality.

We have been involved in research to understand levels of vaccine hesitancy in the country with a view to providing in-

sights into how vaccine take-up can be boosted, particularly among high-risk groups.

Two surveys of unvaccinated South Africans have been conducted. The first took place from 15 November to 15 December 2021. The omicron variant had been announced a few weeks earlier.

The second survey consisted of 3,608 unvaccinated individuals, of whom approximately half were re-interviewed from Survey 1, as well as 386 individuals who were vaccinated between Surveys 1 and 2.

The dataset cannot be considered a prevalence survey, or nationally representative.

Nevertheless, it was a diverse sample with broad coverage over race, vaccine-eligible age categories, province, income levels and geographical area.

We found that vaccine hesitancy in our sample was high, and had become entrenched since December 2021.

We also tested the likely success of messaging and information campaigns, and how information should be framed and distributed.

Understanding the precise drivers of vaccine hesitancy is key to designing these interventions.

Vaccine hesitancy

Most people we spoke to did not want to be vaccinated. A small portion were still undecided.

Less than one in five intended to get vaccinated as soon as possible, half the number reported in December 2021.

More than a third definitely did not intend to be vaccinated.

A quarter of respondents said they would be vaccinated only if required to do so by a mandate.

Worryingly, those who have chronic illnesses were no more likely to get vaccinated than others.

Vaccine refusal was very high among older respondents.

And we found that access didn't feature at all as a reason for not getting vaccinated among the most reluctant (a large group).

Our results showed that it's imperative to spread awareness of need for the vaccine, despite the current context of omicron.

Few of the respondents we spoke to thought they needed the vaccine and many cited a very low personal risk of becoming very sick from Covid.

Many also thought that the vaccine doesn't work, and that it may kill them.

Few thought it would protect them against death.

Few people believed that the vaccine was safe for pregnant women or breastfeeding mothers, or the chronically ill. And only one in four of our entire sample say they trust government information about Covid-19 a lot.

A very high number of respondents opposed a vaccine mandate (nearly 75 percent of the entire sample) even though about half thought mandates would work well.

Opponents overwhelmingly cited that it was an individual's right to decide, with some saying the president said vaccina-

tion would not be mandated.

Next steps

Given that mandates are likely to be used at work or school, with South Africa's high rates of unemployment, mandates may not improve vaccination rates substantially, and will have to be approached with care.

Messaging campaigns are a tool often used to improve take-up, and are attractive due to their low-cost nature.

We tested two vaccine promotion messages (being part of the solution to ending the pandemic, or becoming vaccinated to enjoy greater freedoms), and found some small impacts on vaccine intentions.

The project also involved a proof of concept of testing policy messaging and receiving results in a rapid fashion.

Our results showed that targeted campaigns would be necessary among groups with greater hesitancy or risk.

The surveys enabled us to identify some key determinants of vaccination levels and established that policy action should not need to stop after vaccination – further communication should ensure people return for boosters, and share their positive vaccination experiences with others.

Fears about vaccine safety must be allayed, and improving belief in its efficacy is critical if vaccination rates are to increase.

This information will have to come from innovative sources given low trust in government Covid-19 information.

— The Conversation

Katherine Eyal is a Research Associate, Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), University of Cape Town.

Inflation in Zimbabwe surges to tripple digits

ZIMBABWE'S rate of annual inflation surged to triple digits, making life a misery for many people.

The skewed exchange rate also fuelled inflation, which reached a whopping 132% last month.

Basic goods have skyrocketed and prices in shops have been on an upward spiral.

Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said foreign and local contractors involved in big projects like building dams and rehabilitating roads were being paid half their money in US dollars and the other half in Zimbabwe dollars.

Ncube said staggering Zimbabwe dollar payments to them would prevent large sums of local money finding its way onto the black market, disrupting exchange rates and fuelling inflation.

The Zimbabwe dollar now currently trades at 308 to the US dollar, but it's still close to 500 dollars on the widely-used parallel market.

This is pushing up prices in shops beyond the reach of most people.

In May, President Emmerson Mnangagwa issued a directive, which was later reversed, to ban all bank lending so as to squeeze black market foreign currency trades.

—Eyewitness News



A BLACK market foreign currency dealer displays the new \$1 million banknote worth \$7 on the streets of Harare, October 6, 2008.



Court to rule on Shell offshore oil exploration

JOHANNESBURG — A South African court is to rule on efforts to stop British oil giant Shell from conducting any further seismic surveys in the country's Indian Ocean waters to explore for offshore oil and gas deposits.

Environmental and community groups in South Africa's Eastern Cape province won an urgent interdict to stop the surveys in December last year and are now asking the court to permanently halt the op-

erations.

This week lawyers representing the Xolobeni community in the Eastern Cape argued that they were not properly consulted by Shell and the government before permission was granted to conduct the survey. Environmental groups Sustaining the Wild Coast and Greenpeace Africa are also part of the lawsuit.

Seismic testing is the blasting of sound waves into the sea to determine the size of oil and gas de-

posits beneath the ocean floor.

Environmental groups in South Africa, particularly in the Cape Town area, have demonstrated against the seismic surveys.

Experts testified that seismic surveys could harm animals in the ocean, including whales and dolphins, contrary to Shell's submission that the surveys were not harmful to marine life.

Shell conceded that its seismic surveys would not economically benefit the Xolobeni community.

"Why should we endanger these animals in circumstances where we have been told by Shell that there will be no economic spinoffs during the survey itself?" advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, representing the Xolobeni community, told the court.

Shell failed to conduct proper consultations with the community as required by law, said Ngcukaitobi.

"There is no evidence that the views of the community were taken into

account, as they should have," he said. The original decision to allow the surveys was "unreasonable," said Ngcukaitobi.

The Xolobeni community regards the ocean as sacred and is part of their traditional rituals to communicate with their ancestors, he said.

The seismic testing would interfere with their culture, he said.

Shell and government lawyers argued in court that seismic surveys have

been conducted for many years and no harm had been recorded.

They also argued that the government had taken all factors into account when initially granting Shell approval to conduct the surveys.

The Eastern Cape High Court will consider the arguments before ruling on whether Shell should be allowed to continue the surveys or if they should be completely halted.

— AP

ANC Limpopo conference to bolster Ramaphosa's re-election campaign



CYRIL Ramaphosa.

AFRICAN National Congress (ANC) president Cyril Ramaphosa will undoubtedly be the biggest winner of the Limpopo leadership race as both contenders vying to chair the province have openly declared their support for his campaign to lead the party for a second term.

The current provincial chairperson, Stan Mathabatha, will fight for a third term against provincial executive committee member Dickson Masemola, at the conference scheduled to take place in Polokwane at The Ranch hotel this weekend.

Mathabatha was one of the first provincial chairs to have openly pronounced on Ramaphosa's second term at the ANC's 8 January birthday celebrations, which resulted in a backlash from those who felt it was a premature move.

Masemola has similarly expressed his support for Ramaphosa and taken a strong anti-corruption stance.

Limpopo will be the fourth province to endorse Ramaphosa after the Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga.

Ironically, some on Mathabatha's slate are known to have not endorsed Ramaphosa's bid to lead the party at the ANC's 2017 Nasrec conference.

The conference comes at a time when Ramaphosa is having to respond to charges relating to a robbery at his Limpopo farm.

Danny Msiza and Florence Radzilani, both staunch supporters of Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, are said to be contesting on Mathabatha's slate. However, Msiza will have to sit this one out because of the ANC's step-aside resolution which has forced him to relinquish his duties as provincial treasurer.

Both Radzilani and Msiza initially stepped down from their positions amid investigations into the VBS bank scandal and the ANC hauling Msiza before the party's integrity commission in 2018.

This was a result of the governing party's decision to implement the resolution from its 54th conference, which compels members who have been charged with corruption to step down from their posts.

They had still not been charged by 2020, which prompted the NEC to allow them to once again serve within its ranks.

However, last year ANC acting secretary-general Jessie Duarte instructed the party's Limpopo secretary, Soviet Lekganyane, to enforce the step-aside rule against Msiza

once again.

This was after Msiza and other politicians and VBS executives were formally indicted by the National Prosecuting Authority in March for allegedly looting nearly R2.3-billion from the bank.

Msiza was replaced in the position of secretary by Reuben Madadzhe.

Radzilani will contest the deputy

chair position, current deputy provincial secretary Basikopo Makamu is set to retain his position on Mathabatha's slate, and Peter Mokaba treasurer Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana is vying to be the next provincial treasurer.

On his slate, Masemola has current Mopani District mayor Pule Shayi as his deputy, the current sec-

retary Soviet Lekganyane hoping for re-election, Vhembe District's Livhuvani Legaraba and Faith Chauke, who are contesting the positions of deputy secretary and treasurer respectively.

Preparations ahead of the conference have been turbulent, with the Peter Mokaba region accusing Lekganyane of trying to replace the re-

gional executive committee with his "cronies".

The region held its conference last year but concerns about the legitimacy of the event were raised recently by the provincial secretary.

The region's spokesperson, Jimmy Machaka, has questioned why Lekganyane waited until the last minute to deal with this issue and believes it is a way to eliminate the region from involvement in the provincial conference.

"For the provincial secretary to come out and say that the conference was irregular, that is malicious... an attempt to cause instability in the region and illegitimise the leadership.

"The things that the provincial secretary has said are his own views. He is doing this because he realised that the regional leadership does not prefer him to be re-elected as the secretary.

"The intention is to dissolve the regional task team and replace it with their cronies... he wanted to prevent the regional executive committee from participating in the conference — technically just trying to reduce numbers. We are ready. All disputes were dismissed, except for the Se-fako Makgatho branch," he said.

The Waterberg region has also thrown a spanner into the works for the provincial executive committee, as they have put forward a request for a last-minute conference on Friday which will have no bearing on the provincial conference.

Waterberg is the only region in Limpopo which has not held a sitting to elect its leadership and is now awaiting a response from provincial leadership on the matter.

At least 1,200 members are expected to vote for the new leadership, with the Waterberg region having the fewest delegates attending the conference.

The Vhembe region is very important as it has the highest participation, closely followed by the Norman Mashabane region.

Three of the five regions — Vhembe, Sekhukhune and Peter Mokaba have previously endorsed both Mathabatha and Ramaphosa.

— DM

South Africa is not a peaceful country

Divine Katay

AT least every other year, there are campaigns or protests concerning gender-based violence, unemployment, poor service delivery and, of course, xenophobic attacks. History shows that South Africa has scored poorly because of high levels of criminality, easy access to weapons, relatively high levels of political terror as well as high levels of violent demonstrations.

In July last year, we witnessed how underprivileged South Africans used the opportunity of former president Jacob Zuma's imprisonment as motivation to loot stores and retaliate against the government for the persistent levels of poverty, poor service delivery, unbearable living conditions and the overall poor state of the economy.

This well-orchestrated economic sabotage led to deaths of about 350 people and R50-billion in damage. It is not surprising that matters of concern such as poverty, unemployment and relative deprivation "provide fuel for political entrepreneurs to light the spark of protests and insurrection".

One of the key findings in the study on intra-ANC rivalry to explain the 2021 July unrest showed that those most prepared for dissent and violence are ruling party members contesting positions and seeking better opportunities in the party and in the government as a whole.

During such occurrences, South Africans feel that their government is failing them and are always prepared to take matters into their own hands.

First it was the unrest caused by Zuma's imprisonment and now Operation Dudula, whose members have decided to replace the police and the home affairs department to get rid of all undocumented foreigners who they perceive as a threat to employment.

It is also argued by the government that the "police work more closely with government departments at district levels to ensure a plan is laid out to address the socioeconomic problems that make the population vulnerable to criminal conduct".

If that really is the case, can it then be said that the government is unprepared in handling social problems? And, the health of the economy has been at stake since the declaration of the Covid-19 pandemic, another question is, what are the effects of the ongoing social unrest on the society-state-economy relations?

The government should provide fair treatment to its citizens and protect the minority of law-abiding, documented foreigners.

The government has a huge responsibility to ensure peace and justice by putting South Africans first. But if South Africans reject jobs and these are accepted by hardworking and vulnerable documented foreigners, they should not be seen as a threat.

The drug dealers and human traffickers should definitely go but the poor documented low-wage workers (such as domestic workers, cleaners, security guards, waiters, et cetera) who contribute to the country's economy should not be victimised in the process.

One can argue that South Africans can do those jobs, but how many of them are actually willing to do the work? Most of the documented foreign workers are not protected by labour law and are exploited by their employers but still accept their poor working conditions because they have no option.

Most South Africans would never settle for such menial jobs and small business employers do not like the challenge and "choose" to hire foreigners who do not know South African labour law and can easily be exploited without becoming a threat to the company.

I also do not believe that some jobs are strictly meant for foreigners. What should security, cleaning and domestic work companies do when recruiting workers: wait for South Africans that are willing to accept this kind of work to get the position even when they lack the skills and experience? Or employ those that are fit or the position, be it citizens or skilled and documented foreigners? What would be considered fair in this matter?

From a foreigner's point of view, I understand the frustration of some South Africans who campaign against illegal foreigners. If an undocumented foreigner owns a busi-

ness, there is no way they are paying taxes, which weakens the economy because tax money is used to fund crucial services such as healthcare, safety, housing, roads, railways, education and social grants that documented foreign nationals should also benefit from by law.

From the beginning of Operation Dudula, it was clear that its supporters wanted illegal foreigners kicked out of the country. But South Africans are against Operation Dudula because they believe their actions against foreigners is xenophobic. This controversial operation has divided South Africans because people who feel marginalised by the government are taking matters into their own hands and are contributing to rising xenophobic tensions. The Operation Dudula supporters claim that: "I am African before I am South African and I always put humanity first. However, illegal immigration is criminality and a threat to national security" and argue that the government should deal with the problem.

Whether the government is able to do so without victimising documented and legal migrants remains to be seen.

Divine Katay is a master's candidate in industrial sociology at the University of Johannesburg. — Mail & Guardian.

The views expressed are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Mail & Guardian.

Queen's absence strikes symbolic note as royals gather at jubilee service

THE symbolism of a great state service of thanksgiving for an absent Queen was not lost beneath the imposing dome of St Paul's Cathedral. All the more so as the country was paying tribute to her seven decades of public service as Britain's now longest-reigning monarch.

The Prince of Wales was in her stead for the formal procession through a 2,000-strong congregation of prime minister's past and present, parliamentarians, diplomats, a full squad of other royals and 400 members of the public honoured for their community work.

As the archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said in his hastily rewritten sermon, the horse-loving Queen, 96, is "still in the saddle". But it seemed a moment to recognise that her presence, taken for granted at such grand public events, is no longer guaranteed due to the mobility problems that have plagued her platinum jubilee year.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who had flown in at the Queen's invitation, made their first public appearance with other members of the royal family since their exit from royal duties and relocation to California two years ago.

Necks craned as the couple walked to their seats, smiling and hand in hand, having arrived to cheers — and some jeers — from the crowd outside. They arrived by car shortly after the long line of other assorted royals who earlier had disgorged from a coach to file into the cathedral. The prime minister, Boris Johnson, read from the New Testament. As he and his wife, Carrie, had arrived at the cathedral, loud boos, followed by some cheers, could be heard from onlookers outside.

Seeing Charles in his mother's seat was as palpable an image of the quiet transition ongoing behind palace



PRINCE William, the Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Charles attend the national service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday.

walls as when he read the Queen's speech at the state opening of parliament. Harry, in morning dress, wore his medals, including a commemorative platinum jubilee medal, apparently distributed throughout working and non-working royals and funded privately. Harry and Meghan departed hand in hand too and were seen chatting easily to relatives such as Harry's cousin Zara Tindall and her brother Peter Phillips.

If Thursday's trooping the colour and Sunday's jubilee pageant provide the spectacle, then this procession at St Paul's, a cathedral to national celebration and commemoration, was the spiritual heart of the jubilee, as it has been for jubilees as far back as George III.

The Queen may have been watching it on TV, many miles away at Windsor Castle, but the rest of the family were out in force.

But for lip-readers and body-language experts hired to mine any morsels on the relations between Harry and Charles, said not to have been enhanced by the accusations of racism and indifference the couple have made in US TV interviews, there was little to go on.

Indicative of their new, more minor position within the royal family, the Sussexes were seated a row behind and on the other side of the aisle from William and Kate, and Charles and Camilla. It did not appear they interacted much throughout the service, though that would

have been difficult given the physical distance between them.

Nor did Harry and Meghan join other royals and dignitaries at a Guildhall reception immediately after the service. Instead the couple were seen returning to Frogmore Cottage, their Windsor home.

This was a service of deputies, Charles deputising for his mother, the archbishop of York called upon to deliver the sermon in place of the archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, indisposed through Covid. The Duke of York, also due to be present, was also absent after testing positive. Shortly after the service it was announced that the Queen would not attend the Epsom Derby on Saturday. Princess Anne is ex-

pected to go in her place.

Cottrell had earlier described his last-minute gig as "slightly terrifying". He would have hastily redrafted after the announcement on the eve of the service that the Queen would miss it, having experienced "some discomfort" during trooping the colour. He praised her as an example of "staunch constancy and a steadfast consistency; a faithfulness to God, an obedience to a vocation that is a bedrock of her life".

Drawing on her well-documented love of horse racing, he told the congregation that "her long reign reflects the distance of Aintree more than the sprints of Epsom. Certainly, less dressage than most people imagine."

He said: "Your Majesty, we're sorry you're not with us this morning in person, but you are still in the saddle. And we are all glad that there is still more to come. So, thank you for staying the course." His words were greeted by smiles and nods from the royal's present.

Other attenders included cabinet ministers, the Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer, former prime ministers, and the first ministers of Scotland and Wales. Key workers, charity volunteers and members of the armed forces were invited in recognition of their contributions to public life.

One of the country's largest bells, the Great Paul, was rung before the service and after, for the first time on a royal occasion.

After the service, as the congregation filed down the steps of St Paul's, they passed the spot marking another queen's absence from her own service. A 78-year-old Queen Victoria was too frail to attend the grand state service for her diamond jubilee inside the building in 1897, so a short second service was conducted on the steps outside while she sat in her carriage. — The Guardian

EU imposes sanctions on Russian oil boss linked to seized superyachts

THE European Union has imposed sanctions on a Russian oil boss who is separately alleged by the US authorities to be acting as a "straw owner" of two yachts linked to Vladimir Putin and his inner circle.

Eduard Khudainatov served as chairman and chief executive of the state-controlled oil company Rosneft before setting up his own energy business, Independent Oil and Gas Company, which has grown rapidly to become one of Russia's top oil producers with interests in extraction, refining and trading.

The EU said the 61-year-old businessman was associated with Putin, whose first presidential campaign he helped to organise in 2000, and his close ally Igor Sechin, who succeeded Khudainatov at the head of Rosneft. It said he had been blacklisted for "benefiting from the government of the Russian Federation" and being "associated with listed persons". Sechin and Putin have been under EU sanctions since the invasion of Ukraine.

Khudainatov has kept a low profile compared with Russian oligarchs such as Roman Abramovich. However, since the invasion he has come to international attention after being named in a court case as the owner of two luxury vessels — the \$325m (£260m) Amadea and the \$700m Scheherazade.

The European sanctions listing did not reference Khudainatov's alleged ownership of the superyachts.

The Amadea is the subject of a legal battle in Fiji, where it was seized on 19 April at the request of the US government, which claims it belongs to the sanctioned Russian oligarch



EDUARD Khudainatov.

Suleiman Kerimov.

A trail of offshore companies and trusts reportedly links Khudainatov to the Amadea and to the Scheherazade, which is alleged to

have been used by Putin. Lawyers acting for the British Virgin Islands company that owns the Amadea have told the court the legal owner is Khudainatov.

However, according to court filings seen by US media, the American government has dismissed Khudainatov as a "straw owner" who it says is standing in for the real owners of both vessels. Fiji's supreme court is set to rule on the case on 7 June.

The Scheherazade, which has six decks and two helipads, was seized by the Italian government in May. It had been undergoing repairs in the port of Marina di Carrara, and police swooped amid concerns it was about to set sail. In a statement announcing the seizure order, the Italian finance ministry did not name the owner, saying only that he had ties to "prominent elements of the Russian government".

The organisation set up by the imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny released a report in March saying it had evidence that the Scheherazade belonged to Putin.

Both yachts were reportedly managed and crewed by the Monaco-based specialist Imperial Yachts. The company was named in US sanctions on Thursday night along with its owner, Evgeniy Kochman.

The US treasury department said Kochman's company "provides yacht-related services to Russia's elites, including those in President Putin's inner circle". It identified four yachts "favoured by Putin" — the Nega, the Graceful, the Olympia and the Shellest — that the Russian leader had "taken numerous trips on", including as recently as last year. The Scheherazade was not named in the statement.

Khudainatov's oil business has acquired significant stakes in companies involved in the energy sector, together with their extraction licences, from the state-owned Rosneft, according to the EU sanctions listing. In the last few years Rosneft has paid \$9.6bn to Khudainatov in exchange for a company that owns an oil field in Taymyr, it said.

It was not possible to reach Khudainatov for comment.

— The Guardian

Careers

Sunday Express

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Job prospects to consider



for executives and stakeholders.

Accountants

Accountants work with individuals and organisations to make financial decisions through the collection, analysing and tracking of financial information.

They record financial transactions, perform audits, help with budget planning and perform tax filing and computation for entities.

Financial advisors

Financial advisors provide advising services to individuals and organisations regarding taxes, investments, insurance, estate planning and other financial activities. They speak with clients to determine their financial goals, analyse client financial data and implement financial plans to help clients reach their goals.

Mathematicians

Mathematicians are responsible for helping companies use mathematical techniques and theories to solve issues. Duties include collecting and analysing data, creating mathematical models to solve problems, develop mathematical theories and interpret mathematical data.

Statisticians

Statisticians are responsible for interpreting and analysing numerical data to help organisations make informed decisions. Duties include working with departments to collect data, designing and implementing statistical databases and assessing data using formulas, calculations and statistical techniques.

Respiratory therapists

Respiratory therapists help patients who have breathing issues or conditions. Duties include monitoring physiological responses of patients, working with other healthcare professionals to provide comprehensive treatment and maintaining patient records and noting progress.

Home health aides

Home health aides assist patients in their homes. Duties include performing daily tasks for patients such as cleaning and cooking, helping patients with grooming tasks, providing basic medical services and making transportation arrangements when necessary.

Physical therapists

Physical therapists help patients heal from injuries and disorders by implementing massage, exercise and functional movement techniques. They create patient treatment plans, monitor patient progress and administer prescribed physical therapy treatments to help improve pain and mobility.

Physician assistants

Physician assistants are medical professionals who work under the direct supervision of a doctor or surgeon. They diagnose and treat patients for various issues, illnesses and diseases, offer surgical assistance, prescribe medication and educate patients and family members on the patient's condition and needs.

Anaesthesiologists

Anaesthesiologists are responsible for monitoring patients before, during and after surgical procedures. They administer anaesthesia as needed as well as other medications when necessary. Duties include explaining the surgical process to patients, monitoring patient vital signs and maintaining patient records concerning medication given and the procedure performed.

Market research analysts

Market research analysts specialise in marketing and help determine a company's position within its marketplace. Common duties of these professionals include keeping up with and forecasting marketing trends, conducting research on market conditions, assessing customer preferences, measuring how effective marketing strategies are and implementing statistical software to interpret marketing data collected.

Marketing managers

Marketing managers are responsible for overseeing the promotion of an organisation, business, brand or individual. Duties include creating pricing strategies to increase revenue, developing programs to bring in new customers, supporting lead generation and sales efforts, building brand position and awareness and developing and implementing marketing strategies. — indeed.com

PURSUING a position with a good job prospect can help promote job security and the opportunity to advance within your career.

Several jobs have excellent career outlooks, include those in medicine, marketing and finance.

In this article, we explore what job prospect means and 20 of the top jobs with great outlooks.

What does job prospect mean?

A job prospect refers to a person's potential ability to apply for a particular job. It can also refer to the probability of future success in a position or career. Job prospects are directly related to the career outlook of the position.

Jobs with higher career outlooks are often easier to get than those with lower career outlooks. Additionally, a person's level of education and experience can impact job prospects, as those with more education and experience often have more job prospects than those with less education and experience.

Considering the job prospect is important when determining the career you wish to pursue.

Higher job prospects increase the likelihood you'll maintain a stable job and succeed in that position.

Web developer

Web developers create and build websites and are responsible for various aspects of a site including its appearance and technical functions.

They use authoring and scripting languages, work with teams to resolve conflicts and maintain web applications.

IT manager

IT managers are in charge of planning, coordinating and overseeing information technology systems within an organisation.

They lead IT projects and teams, monitor the performance of systems and troubleshoot software and hardware.

Information security analysts

Information security analysts create and implement security systems that secure an organisation's computer networks from cyber attacks.

Duties include monitoring computer networks for breaches or security problems, installing security software to protect systems and creating company-wide practices to promote IT security.

Database administrators

Database administrators oversee the maintenance and management of an organisation's databases.

Duties include monitoring system performance, securing databases against threats, reporting database metrics and making improvements to database systems.

Software developers

Software developers are responsible for writing code, maintaining and fixing software and improving and upgrading interfaces.

Duties include directing system testing, implementing software programming and working with departments to identify and resolve technical issues.

Environmental engineers

Environmental engineers work to find solutions to environmental problems. Duties include collecting and analysing data related to the environment, studying how humans impact the environment and working to improve environmental conservation management.

Civil engineers

Civil engineers are responsible for designing and building transportation-related projects. Duties include designing and constructing infrastructure projects and systems, building airports, roads and other transportation systems and overseeing construction.

Mechanical engineers

Mechanical engineers develop, design and build power-producing machines like engines and gas turbines. They assess problems and determine solutions, estimate budgets related to projects and collaborate with project managers to ensure the project is on track and the budget is adhered to.

Financial administrators

Financial administrators help manage accounting and financial processes within an organisation.

Duties include performing financial planning, overseeing company financial activities and creating and preparing financial reports

RE: NOTICE OF CHANGE OF COMPANY NAME

Notice is hereby given that Greenline Finance Ltd is changing its name to Greenline Ltd.

Anyone who is likely to be affected by this change and intends to object to it, must lodge his or her objection in writing with the Registrar of company at One Stop Business Facility Center, Kingsway Road Maseru Lesotho within 21 days.

Notice is hereby made by Management.

Bernard Parker to be offered new role at Chiefs: report

... Likely to coach Chiefs in the future

KAISER Chiefs may have opted not to renew Bernard Parker's contract, but that doesn't mean his role at the club is over.

The 36-year-old Parker is one of the greatest players to have ever laced up his boots for Kaizer Chiefs, having made over 300 appearances and winning several titles along the way, while he is said to have "set himself up to stay involved in the game" by going into coaching when he retires.

Chiefs stalwart Bernard Parker is set to start working towards his coaching badges, and is expected to one day move into the coaching ranks at Amakhosi.

On Friday, Chiefs confirmed they would not renew Parker's contract when it expires at the end of June 2022, but according to SABC Sport, he will instead be offered a position within the club's staff as he holds several qualifications in sports management and marketing.

"Parker, a bona fide Kaizer Chiefs legend, will leave the club he has served with distinction for 11 years," a statement read on Friday.

"He joined Chiefs in 2011 from the Eredivisie side, FC Twente and his glittering career saw him play 359 matches for Amakhosi and found the net 62 times.

"His exceptional talent and leadership helped Amakhosi to win four major trophies, including two league titles. His professionalism, both on and off the field, is an object example to any aspiring young footballer," another statement read.

"Thank you for your great service and dedication to the Club, 'Hond'. You remain a true legend."

Kaizer Chiefs interim coach Arthur Zwane has already recently suggested that if Parker "went into coaching tomorrow" he would be a success.

"I talk to each and every player and Bernard knows he won't play football forever," Zwane said.

"He has hinted that he wants to take up coaching and I would advise him to apply for coaching courses. There are opportunities left, right and centre.

"I told him that he can go to Ireland as well. That's where I got my coaching license and he can also get help from SAFA and I think CAF will now allow the coaches because the situation with Covid is getting better.

"We will try and help Bernard. If he wants to do coaching, we will most definitely help him. We need more people who are influential, people who can lead by example.

"He's never been a troublesome player, he's always been disciplined. If he becomes a coach tomorrow, he will be a good leader."

— The South African



BERNARD Parker.

UEFA apologises to fans for 'frightening events' at Champions League final



FANS had to cover their faces as police used pepper spray and tear gas.

UEFA have issued an apology to the fans who were affected by the events surrounding the Champions League final after ticket fraud and crowd trouble marred the showpiece event at the Stade de France in Paris.

The match was delayed by more than 30 minutes after officers forcefully held back people trying to enter the Stade de France while riot police had also sprayed tear gas on fans, including women and children.

"UEFA wishes to sincerely apologise to all spectators who had to experience or witness frightening and distressing events in the build-up to the UEFA Champions League final... on a night which should have been a celebration of European club football," it said in a statement on Friday.

"No football fan should be put in that situation and it must not happen again."

Much of the blame was placed

on Liverpool fans by France's Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin but he acknowledged police were caught off-guard by several hundred local "delinquents" who turned up to cause trouble.

Europe's soccer governing body had commissioned an independent report earlier this week. On Friday they outlined its scope as they look to establish a timeline of events, examine operational plans, assess roles and responsibilities and the response to events inside and outside the stadium.

"The Review will engage with UEFA and all relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, fan groups... the finalist clubs themselves, general spectators, the French Football Federation, the police and other public national and local authorities, and the stadium operator," it added.

Also on Friday, French President Emmanuel Macron told local media that ticket holders who were blocked from entering

the Stade de France by security personnel must be reimbursed "as fast as possible."

"I have a thought for the families who have been pushed around, who have not been able to access the seats they had paid for. This is why I hope that we can compensate them as soon as possible," Macron said in the interview.

"I have asked the government to clarify what happened, to determine the responsibilities and to explain them in detail to our compatriots, the British and the Spanish."

Real Madrid had demanded answers from organisers over measures taken to protect supporters while Liverpool CEO Billy Hogan had reiterated a call for an investigation, saying they had written to UEFA and raised specific questions.

Real Madrid won Saturday's final 1-0 to win a record-extending 14th European Cup.

— espn.com

Marabe finds new club in India

Leemisa Thuseho

FORMER Bantu captain, Litšepe Marabe, has found a new home in India's Calcutta Football League (CFL).

Marabe confirmed to the *Sunday Express* this weekend that he had signed a three months' contract with Southern Samity FC, which plays in the CFL.

The CFL is a professional football league in the Indian state of West Bengal.

"I have signed a three months' contract with Southern Samity," Marabe said.

Marabe had to find another team in India after parting ways with his former team, Brothers Arts and Sports Club Othukkungal (BASCO) in April when his three months' contract ended.

BASCO plays in the Kerala Soccer League. The Kerala League is a professional football league organised by the Kerala Football Association and played in the state of Kerala.

At BASCO, Marabe played three games and scored three goals.

In his first game, his side drew 2-2 with Parappur FC. In that game, he earned his team a penalty which resulted in the team's second goal.

He went to play his second game and was named man of the match after scoring a hat-trick to help his team win 3-0 over Kerala FC.

He played his last game against KSEB where he started from the bench.

The state leagues seasons only last three to four months.

The player said he was happy with the latest move as he had now moved from a fourth division team to second division side.

"This is an achievement because the team I was playing before was in the fourth division but now I am now in the second division in a different state.

"Again, my target is not to stay long in the lower divisions but to go up until I get offers from top leagues in other countries," Marabe said.

The CFL is expected to start later this month.



LITŠEPE Marabe.

Raswoko out of LSRC presidency race

Leemisa Thuseho

THE Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission (LSRC)'s incumbent president, Jobo Raswoko, will not stand for the commission's election next week, the *Sunday Express* can reveal.

Raswoko, who was elected in 2019, is not on the final list of nominees for the elections to be held on 12 June at a yet to be confirmed venue.

The elections will see the member federations electing 17 commissioners who are later expected to elect a five-member executive committee. The committee members will be selected from among the commissioners.

Raswoko confirmed this weekend that he was out of the race adding that he was also uninterested in running for office.

"I was not nominated but I also wasn't interested in standing for election again," Raswoko said.

"I was approached to stand but I refused and did not even submit my curriculum vitae. If I had been nominated, that could have been a waste of time because I was still going to decline," he added.

Raswoko said he decided to step aside to give others a chance to lead the commission. After all, the job was stressing because of lack of resources.

"It is stressing to be expected to develop and produce competitive athletes without resources. The money being allocated to sport is little and there are no facilities.

"I think it is also important for the commission to receive its subvention from the Finance ministry directly instead of the funds

to go through the Gender, Youth, Sport and Recreation ministry. The current procedure is ineffective."

Although his committee struggled because of the Covid-19 pandemic, Raswoko said he was proud that the LSRC had managed to clear all its debts and also managed to assemble a team for the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Games in Lesotho.

Among the nominees is Federation of Lesotho Rugby (FLR) secretary general, Litšitso Motšeremeli, Lesotho Cricket Association (LCA)'s Sepolo Mohlouoa, Dance Sport's Teboho Rakhomo and Chess Federation of Lesotho (CFL)'s Tšeliso Motloheloa.

Other nominees are Jobo Pulumo from the FLR, Lesotho Football Association (LeFA)'s Sekonyela Molefe and Federation of Athletics Lesotho (FAL)'s have and Tšeliso Pheta respectively. Women in Sport nominated Tšepiso Baholo, Mary Mokoatle, Sebolelo Nthokoe and 'Majobo Moshoeshe.

Primary schools nominated Phoka Thesele and Kefuoe Mokhethi. Secondary and high schools nominated Teboho Pholo and 'Malineo Makhang while tertiary schools submitted the names of Naleli Tšilo and Mpolokeng Tšenoli.

Disability sports nominees are Refiloe Maphallela, Khotso Qakhatha, Mpone Chale, Letšekha Ntlale, Thabiso Senyotong, Moretlo Letšoara, Liphlo Rakoto, and Thabiso Ratšoane.

Traditional sports; Tebello Kheo, Thabang Moelela, Matšelisio Koebela, and 'Masebeela Mosiea.

Lesotho National Olympic Committee; Letšatsi Ntsibolane and 'Mabokang Mdandalaza.



JOBO Raswoko.

Another national record for Nkhasi

Leemisa Thuseho

MARATHONER, Nama-koe Nkhasi, has won the 2022 Nelson Mandela Bay Half Marathon setting a new national record of 1:01:00.

The race was held in Pollok Beach, Eastern Cape yesterday.

In the process, Nkhasi broke a 32-year-old 1:02:41 record which was set by Ernest Tjela in 1990 in Durban.

This weekend's performance comes three weeks after he broke his national 10km record after clocking 28:24 to finish third in the Run Your City race in Cape Town. The new record, his personal best, was four seconds better than his five-year-old 28:28 record. The five-year-old record was set in 2016 during the African Championships in Durban.

Speaking to the Sunday Express yesterday after the race, Nkhasi said he was happy with his current form, and he was pushing hard to continue improving.

"I am happy with the result, especially because I have set a new national record," Nkhasi said.

"However, my target was to record at most 59:30."

Nkhasi's form had been declining since 2017.

That year, he recorded between 28:40 and 29:04 in 10km races.

The following year his personal best was 29:57.

Nkhasi is currently the national record holder in 5km (13:21:68). He also set the record in 2016.

He said he was confident of returning to his 2016 form of breaking records.

In his first race this year, Nkhasi finished second in the Central Gauteng Athletics Middle Distance Challenge 1 (5km) recording 14:08.

He finished first in the event's second challenge (14:19:15). Both races were in February in Gauteng.

In the same month, he went on to win the Nedbank Skosana Half Marathon in Pretoria recording 1:05:39.

"I am working hard to improve my performance and stay focused and with the current performance I think I am on the right track," he said.

On his part, Nkhasi's manager and coach, George Gundry, said he was happy with the athlete's performance.

"I am happy for him, but I know he can even go faster. Our main target is to improve his time in the 42km category. He will be running at Sanlam Cape Town Marathon later this year.

"This year, we have set the standard at 2:08:00 and today's (yesterday's) performance shows that is possible for him," Gundry said.

In yesterday race, South Africa's Melikhaya Frans finished behind Nkhasi clocking 1:01:10 while Daniel Paulus came third recording 1:01:10.

Another Mosotho, Tebello Ramakongoana, finished eighth crossing the finish line in 1:01:23 with Khoarahlane Seutloali at 39 in 1:04:56.

In the ladies' category, Olympian 'Neheng Khatala, clocked 1:09:57 to finish sixth. She also set a new national record breaking 'Mamoroallo Tjoka's 1:10:46 record set in 2018 during the Port Elizabeth Half Marathon.



NAMAKOE Nkhasi

Another
national record
for Nkhasi
P23



Likuena's AFCON qualifiers campaign off to a poor start

Leemisa Thuseho

LIKUENA have made a poor start to their 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) group stage qualifiers after losing 2-0 away at State Omnisports de Malouzi in Maroni in Comoros on Friday.

The hosts broke the deadlock on 59 minutes through Yousef M'Changama before Benjaloud Youssouf doubled the lead nine minutes before the final whistle.

Despite the loss, Likuena coach Veselin Jelušić, believes his side can still turn around its fortunes.

"I believe we can still improve and perform better in the coming games," Jelušić said.

"We will play Comoros again in the next three months and I think we will give them the needed challenge."

Comoros has a better team with more players in European leagues, therefore, they had an advantage, he said.

"Comoros have a very good team made up of players in professional European leagues, so they have an advantage.

"We tried our best, but it was not an easy game. Nevertheless, I am happy with the commitment of the players. They are amateurs but they acquitted themselves well on the field and it is unfortunate that the results were not better than this."

This was Jelušić's first loss since taking over the side in February this year.

On his first assignment in the AFCON preliminaries in March, Jelušić's side held Seychelles to goalless draw away before winning 3-1 in the return leg. The results helped Lesotho qualify for the group stages of the AFCON qualifiers.

Prior to the group stage qualifiers, Likuena beat Namibia 2-1 and went on to draw 1-1 twice with Ethiopia in international friendlies.

Likuena are looking forward to playing their next game of the qualifiers against Ivory Coast on Thursday at Dobsonville Stadium in Johannesburg.

The team left Comoros yesterday for South Africa and after the Thursday game, they return home to start preparing for the Council for Southern African Football Associations (COSAFA) Cup to be held in Durban from 5 to 17 July.

In other AFCON Group H qualifiers on Friday, Zambia lost 3-1 away to Ivory Coast.

Two-time African champions, Ivory Coast, are taking part in the qualifiers despite already being assured of a place at next year's tournament as hosts.

Zambia will host Comoros on Tuesday at the National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka.



VESELIN Jelušić.