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# Sunday Express

M6 VOL 14 ISSUE 18  
August 7 - 13 2022

Best Sunday read in Lesotho

**D-Day for DC, Mochoboroane** page 9

## Battle lines drawn in RFP

● Legal battle looms over aspiring candidates' demands to represent the party in the October polls.

Story on page 2



SAM Matekane.



### KOMISI E MEMA BAKHETHI HO HLAHLOBA LENANE

IEC e kopa bakhethi bohle ho itlaleha litsing tsa bona ho **hlahloba** le ho etsa **khanyetso** (objection) lenaneng la bakhethi ka ha phatlalatso ea lenane la pele e tla ba ho tloha ka la 08 - 12 Phato 2022.

HOPOLA HORE: "KHETHO EA HAO! KE MATLA A HAO!"

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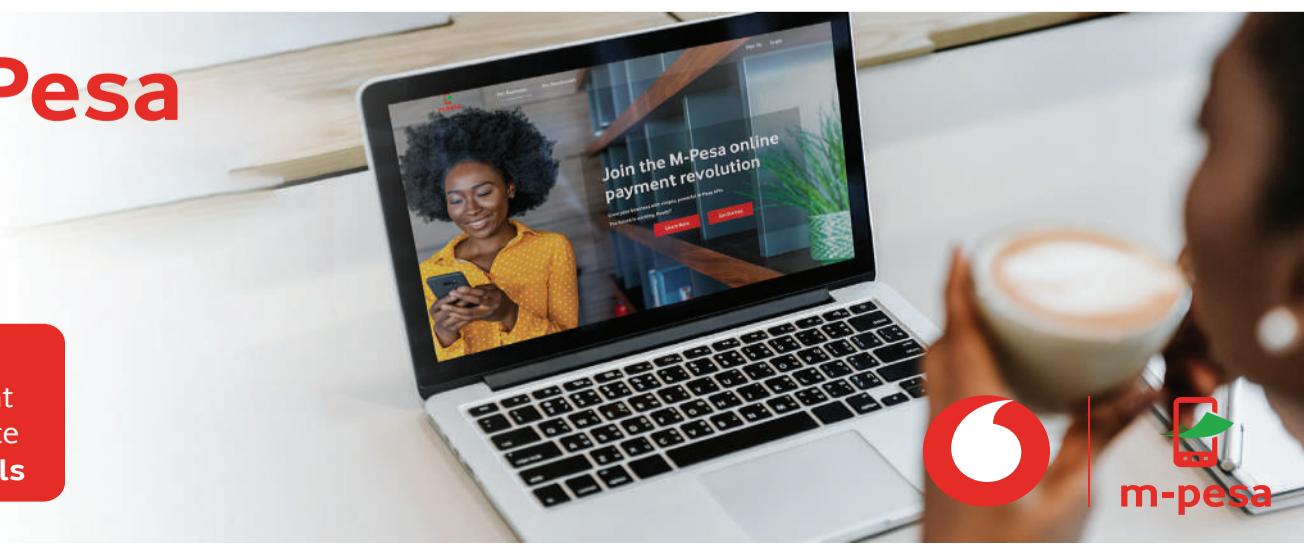
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'Marafaele Mohloboli

**T**HE fallout from the recent primary elections to choose candidates to represent the Sam Matekane-led Revolution For Prosperity (RFP) party in the upcoming 7 October 2022 general elections has intensified.

It is likely to end up in the courts of law unless Mr Matekane and his national executive committee (NEC) make a last minute u-turn and agree to demands by some of the candidates to be allowed to represent the party in the general elections.

The aggrieved candidates had won in the primaries, only for the NEC to snub them in subsequent interviews which formed the final part of the elaborate process to choose the final candidates to represent the party in 69 constituencies.

The 69 will join Mr Matekane and 10 of his closest allies as party candidates in 80 constituencies. Mr Matekane and his allies selected themselves as automatic candidates without undergoing the rigours of primary elections. This by virtue of their being founders of the RFP on 22 March this year.

Others who aspired to represent the party were then subjected to primaries last month, wherein the top four in each of the 69 constituencies had to undergo interviews by a panel of experts chosen by the

# Battle lines drawn in RFP

## ... legal battle looms over aspiring candidates' demands to represent the party in the October polls

NEC. In these interviews, some like former cabinet minister, Mahali Phamotse, who had won the primaries in their constituencies, were then snubbed by the NEC.

Dr Phamotse has made peace with the NEC decision. She even told the *Lesotho Times* last week that she would put the party's interests above her own.

Besides Dr Phamotse, 10 others who failed to make it to the final list of candidates also reaffirmed their allegiance to the RFP during last week's well-attended rally in Thaba-Tseke town.

However, others who were snubbed despite winning the primaries are not taking the NEC decision lying down.

Through their lawyers, Lejakane Chambers, aspiring candidates from the Tsikoane, Makhoroana, Tsoana-Makhulo, Khafung, Lithoteng, Thaba-Moea and Matelile constituencies have served the NEC with a joint letter of demand.

They want to be confirmed as party candidates in their constituencies by virtue of winning the primaries, failing which they will drag the fledgling party to court.

"We have consulted with our clients who are the complainants herein," Lejakane Chambers states in its letter on behalf of the unnamed candidates. This publication has established the identities of some of the candidates, namely, Teboho Notši (Tsoana-Makhulo constituency), Lejone Puseletso (Thaba-Moea) and Rethabile Letlailana (Litho-

teng).

"They inform us that they were denied an opportunity to represent their constituencies despite being the clear winners from the aforesaid constituencies in line with the electoral laws. Under these circumstances our clients instruct us to inform you (NEC) to reinstate and consider them to be candidates to represent the party in the coming national elections.

"It is further our clients' instructions that they have never violated any electoral laws and or by-laws in their constituencies when being appointed as candidates to be representatives of the party."

The candidates and their lawyers gave the party a 24 hour ultimatum to heed their demands, failing which they would take the matter to court.

"The complainants herein were candidates with clear majority and therefore eligible to represent the party in the national elections.

"You are therefore requested to reinstate and restore the status quo as before the interviews held during the month of July within a period of 24 hours upon receipt of this letter, failing which the complainants herein will be left with no option but to approach the courts of law."

In terms of their 5 August 2022 letter, the 24 hours would have expired yesterday. However, one of the aspiring candidates, Letlailana, yesterday said they had retracted the letter after assurances by RFP chairperson, Teboho Kobeli, that their grievances would be addressed. Mr Letlailana said Mr Kobeli had pleaded with them to retract their letter of demand as their grievances were already being addressed by the party and a circular would be released today.

His claims were however, denied by Mr Kobeli who said the NEC would have to consult its legal team before responding.

"We retracted the letter in the hope of getting redress through the party circular. But if it (circular) doesn't address our grievances and confirm our candidatures, we will still go to court," Mr Letlailana said.

However, Mr Kobeli denied ask-

ing the aggrieved party members to retract their letter of demand. Nor had the party promised them anything, Mr Kobeli added.

"I didn't ask them to retract their letter and I didn't promise anything. I just told them that there was nothing I could do now that the matter was with their lawyers. As the NEC, we will have to consult our legal team on the way forward," Mr Kobeli said.

His remarks have seemingly set the stage for a legal battle between the party and the aspiring candidates.

Last month, the disgruntled candidates held a press conference where they spoke about rallying behind those who had been chosen by the NEC to represent the party.

However, the press briefing and talk of unity was seemingly a show because some of the losing candidates subsequently told the *Lesotho Times* in confidence that they would contest their rejection by taking the party to the court in a bid to "teach Matekane about democracy and respect for the electorate".

Some like Semena legislator Tlohelang Aumane and Thaba-Phechela constituency hopeful, Selekenyane Tau, have dumped the RFP for the Socialist Revolutionaries (SR) and Alliance of Democrats (AD) respectively.

Mr Aumane, a former Development Planning minister, lost in the RFP's primaries to another former cabinet minister, Joshua Setipa. The SR is his fourth party in just five years.

H e

won the Semena constituency on a Democratic Congress (DC) ticket in the June 2017 elections. Shortly afterwards, he defected to the AD after being promised a cabinet post in the then Thomas Thabane-led four party coalition featuring the ABC, AD, Basotho National Party and the Reformed Congress of Lesotho (RCL).

In early April this year, he and several other AD bigwigs including Dr Phamotse, defected to the RFP. As a parting shot, Mr Aumane accused the RFP of ill-treating him and others during the primaries. He said the party neither cared about its members nor addressed their grievances, hence his decision to jump ship.

His claims were however, rejected by RFP deputy leader, Nthomeng Majara, who instead accused of sour grapes and seeking to besmirch the party's good image.



SAM Matekane.

TEBOHO Kobeli.





Kingdom of Lesotho

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**ADDENDUM 1  
to**

**REQUEST FOR BIDS - GOODS  
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)**

for

**SUPPLY, DISTRIBUTE, INSTALL, COMMISSION AND MAINTAIN ICT EQUIPMENT; TRAINING & SUPPORT ON BASIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) SKILLS**

Purchaser: Ministry of Education and Training

Project: Basic Education Strengthening Project (BESP)

Contract title: Supply, Distribute, Install, Commission and Maintain ICT Equipment; Training & Support on Basic Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Skills

Country: Lesotho

Grant No.: TF0B7784

RFB No: WB-BESP-G06

Issued on: August 03, 2022

1. The following are changes to the above-mentioned Request for Bids (RFB):

a. The following ITB clauses of Section II, Bid Data Sheet are amended to read as follows:

ITB 7.1	<p>For Clarification of bid purposes only, the Purchaser's address is:                  Ministry of Education and Training                  Address: Procurement Unit (EFU)                  Site 130 Fokothi,                  Off Moshoeshoe Road                  City: Maseru                  ZIP Code: 100                  Country: Lesotho                  Telephone: (+266) 22324968                  Attention: Procurement Specialist (Mrs. Malebohang Mou)                  Electronic mail address: <a href="mailto:malebomou@gmail.com">malebomou@gmail.com</a> with a copy to <a href="mailto:alicelentsoenyane@gmail.com">alicelentsoenyane@gmail.com</a> and <a href="mailto:tiisetsoramaisa1@gmail.com">tiisetsoramaisa1@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Requests for clarification should be received by the Employer no later than: <a href="#">August 12, 2022 at 12h00</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">A Pre-Bid meeting</a> shall be held on <a href="#">July 29, 2022 at 14h30</a>, (Lesotho Local Time). Interested firms shall participate in the Pre-Bid meeting at the following address:                   Central Inspectorate Building, Ministry of Education &amp; Training, Constitution Road.                  Floor-Room number: Room 404                  City: Maseru                  ZIP Code: 100                  Country: Lesotho  <a href="#">A pre-bid meeting is not compulsory but firms/companies are strongly encouraged to attend.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Sites Visit is non-Compulsory</a>. However, prospective bidders who wish to undertake sites visit to familiarize themselves with the schools where services are required, are welcome to do so. Locations and districts of the schools are shown in the Schedule of requirements in Section VII of this bidding document. The prospective bidders who choose to conduct site visits should request (via email to <a href="mailto:malebomou@gmail.com">malebomou@gmail.com</a> with a copy to <a href="mailto:alicelentsoenyane@gmail.com">alicelentsoenyane@gmail.com</a> and <a href="mailto:tiisetsoramaisa1@gmail.com">tiisetsoramaisa1@gmail.com</a>) and a letter of introduction from the MoET (EFU) Procurement Unit in order to obtain access to the targeted schools. The prospective bidders shall bear the costs of the site visits.</p>
ITB 19.1	<p>A Bid Security shall be required.                  A Bid-Securing Declaration shall not be required.                  The amount and currency of the bid security shall be <a href="#">M10,000.00</a> or <a href="#">equivalent on each Lot</a>.                  The bidder shall furnish as part of its bid, a bid security in original form as specified in Section IV (Form of Security) and in the amount and currency specified above.</p>
<b>D. Submission and Opening of Bids</b>	
ITB 22.1	<p>For bid submission purposes only, the Purchaser's address is:                  Attention: The Tender Panel Secretary                  Address: Central Inspectorate Building, Ministry of Education &amp; Training, Constitution Road.                  Floor-Room number: Room 404                  City: Maseru                  ZIP Code: 100                  Country: Lesotho                  The deadline for bid submission is:                  Date: August 30, 2022                  Time: 11h00                  Bidders shall not have the option of submitting their bids electronically.</p>
ITB 25.1	<p><a href="#">The bid opening shall take place at:</a>                  Street Address: Central Inspectorate Building, Ministry of Education &amp; Training, Constitution Road.                   Floor/ Room number: Room 404                  City: Maseru                  Country: Lesotho                  Date: <a href="#">August 30, 2022</a> Time: <a href="#">11h30</a></p>
ITB 32.1	<p>The currency that shall be used for Bid evaluation and comparison purposes to convert at the selling exchange rate all Bid prices expressed in various currencies into a single currency is: Maloti/South African Rand                   The source of exchange rate shall be: <a href="#">The Central Bank of Lesotho</a>  <a href="#">The date for the exchange rate shall be: August 30, 2022 (Deadline for submission of bids)</a></p>

- RAM: 4 GB RAM
- Hard-Disk: 512 GB Hard Disk
- Graphics: Intel UHD Graphics 620
- Screen Resolution: 15 inches, 1920 x 1080 pixels
- Operating System: Windows 10 OS (preinstall)
- Office suite: Microsoft Office 2019 (preinstall)
- Accessories: Inclusive of laptop bag, mouse and a charger

- c. The recommended bidder is not expected to provide repairs, as a result, repairs and reference to the word "repairs" in Section VII – Schedule of Requirements, Detailed task description (Related Services), heading and evaluation Criteria has been removed.
- d. 3.1 Qualification Criteria (ITB 37.1), Specific Experience: The Bidder shall demonstrate that it has successfully and substantially completed at least One (1) similar contracts within the last Seven (7) years prior to bid submission deadline, each with a value of at least US\$250,000 to participate in each lot and provide proof (attach Contracts or Purchase orders and Delivery Notes). The bidder is required to provide evidence (e.g. copy of contracts or delivery note to substantiate that they have completed contracts that are of similar in nature and complexity to the Goods and Related Services under the Contract. For a joint venture, this requirement may be met by all members combined.
- e. The following qualification requirement in the 3.1 Qualification Criteria (ITB 37.1), h) Qualifications and experience requirements of the key personnel of the supplier on page 45 has been amended to read as follows:

Network Administrator	CISCO or Information Technology	Networking certificate	At least 3 years	Ensures that there is internet connectivity for teachers and officers throughout the project
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f. Section VII – Schedule of Requirements, 2. List of Related Services and Completion Schedule has changed as follows:

2. List of Related Services and Completion Schedule					
Service	Description of Service	Quantity <sup>1</sup>	Physical Unit	Place where Services shall be performed	Final Completion Date(s) of Services
1	Detailed training program for both the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) officers and the selected Maths and Science teachers	1	1	Fourth Floor, CEO Secondary (Component Manager)'s Office, Central Inspectorate Building, Ministry of Education & Training, Constitution Road, Maseru	4 weeks after signing of the contract
2	Detailed training manual on basic ICT skills	1	1	Fourth Floor, CEO Secondary (Component Manager)'s Office, Central Inspectorate Building, Ministry of Education & Training, Constitution Road, Maseru	4 weeks after signing of the contract
3	Training Report (Train Maths and Science teachers and MoET officers)	1	1	Fourth Floor, CEO Secondary (Component Manager)'s Office, Central Inspectorate Building, Ministry of Education & Training, Constitution Road, Maseru	2 weeks after training
4	Support & Maintenance report (Provision of on-going support, repairs and maintenance to the Maths and Science teachers in targeted schools and MoET officers for the entire duration of the project).	1	1	Fourth Floor, CEO Secondary (Component Manager)'s Office, Central Inspectorate Building, Ministry of Education & Training, Constitution Road, Maseru	Quarterly from contract signing

g. All other sections of the RFB remain unchanged.

2. Additional information may be obtained at the address below:

Attention: Procurement Specialist  
 Procurement Unit, EFU,  
 Site 130 Fokothi, Off Moshoeshoe Road,  
 P. O. Box 1279, Maseru 100  
 Lesotho  
 Tel: (+266) 22324968  
 Email: [malebomou@gmail.com](mailto:malebomou@gmail.com) with a copy to [alicelentsoenyane@gmail.com](mailto:alicelentsoenyane@gmail.com) and [tiisetsoramaisa1@gmail.com](mailto:tiisetsoramaisa1@gmail.com)

b. Section VII – Schedule of Requirements, 3 Detailed task description (Related Services) – Annex 1: Specifications have been amended to read as follows:

**LAPTOP MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS**

- Processor: Intel Core i5 8th Gen Quad Core, 1.8 GHz Clock Speed



# Matobakele speaks out

... says LDF is in talks with SA for permission to snuff out criminals in the neighbouring country, ... vows to do "all it takes" to have criminals extradited to face justice in Lesotho.

MATELA Matobakele.

Tšoloane Mohlomi

**L**ESOTHO Defence Force (LDF) Deputy Commander, Major General (Maj-Gen) Matela Matobakele, says the army will stop at nothing to ensure that dangerous criminals, who have fled to South Africa after committing heinous crimes, are brought back to face justice in Lesotho.

In a recent interview with the South African media, Maj-Gen Matobakele said the LDF and the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) had on Wednesday engaged the South African authorities as part of renewed efforts to be allowed to flush out Basotho criminals hiding in various parts of the neighbouring country.

He said the army had previously visited Benoni, Randfontein and other parts of South Africa seeking to snuff out Basotho criminals. However, their efforts had failed due to complicated legal procedures barring them from conducting such operations in the neighbouring country.

However, the escalation of violent crimes by Basotho nationals in both countries in recent weeks, had led to renewed efforts to weed out criminals, Maj-Gen Matobakele said.

"We've heard of crimes apparently committed by Basotho in South Africa," Maj-Gen Matobakele said.

"We have in the past contacted our South African counterparts alerting them that there are merciless thugs who are killing people in Lesotho and fleeing to the neighbouring country after committing such heinous acts. We have appealed to them on countless occasions, saying we need to get those notorious thugs so that they can be brought back to face the full wrath of the law in Lesotho. But our efforts proved futile and now those thugs are now committing crimes in South Africa."

He said after the initial failures, they had on Wednesday sent some of their officers and

police representatives in a fresh bid to have the criminals extradited to Lesotho to face charges.

"We once sent our soldiers to meet with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and they were shown where those thugs were staying in Benoni and Randfontein. Our soldiers wanted to go there and search for them but we were restricted by South African laws from doing so. So, for now, these criminals are out of our hands.

"But they are still wanted in Lesotho. We are continuously engaging with our South African counterparts and on Wednesday we had our military personnel and police go over to Ladybrand to engage with SAPS over such issues.

"The instability in this country is caused by those people staying there (in South Africa) and they who possess very big guns which they are not shy to show off in public. We are surprised because here in Lesotho they wouldn't go around flaunting such big rifles but they do it freely in South Africa singing their songs. So keeping them is going to be very dangerous for South Africa because they are lethal. It's high time South Africa ensured they are handed over to us so they face the full might of the law."

Maj-Gen Matobakele's comments follow those of his boss, army commander, Lieutenant General (Lt-Gen) Mojalefa Letsoela, who also vowed to deal with the frighteningly rising crime levels which are threatening national security and rendering the country an unsafe investment destination.

Addressing a military parade this week at Makoanyane barracks, a visibly irate Lt-Gen Letsoela expressed concern about the high rate of crime including gun-related murders, armed robberies of businesses, private residences and thefts.

The army chief warned that the army would not sit idly by and watch criminals threaten the peace and scare away investors.

"These crimes should be stopped at the blink of an eye," Lt-Gen Letsoela said.

"We need to stop these criminals immediately. More so because we are a democratic state where everyone has a right to live freely. The crimes are a threat to a lawful democratic government and they are also badly affecting the economy. We will not be held at ransom by these criminals. I call upon the nation to come forward with information and tips to enable us to nab these criminals."

Lt-Gen Letsoela's comments followed the recent spike in violent crimes. The latest such incident occurred this week when a restaurant employee was robbed of over M100 000 at gunpoint in Maseru.

The employee, who works for the Stadium Food Court group of restaurants, was accosted by unknown gunmen as he was about to deposit the money at one of the banks

at Pioneer Mall.

After robbing the employee, the robbers shot a security guard who had attempted to block them from driving away in their getaway vehicle by closing a boomgate. The guard later succumbed to his injuries.

In the final week of July, five women were murdered in different parts of the country as Lesotho sunk to new depths of depravity and callousness.

Commenting on the escalation of crime locally, Maj-Gen Matobakele said, "We are seeing some criminal syndicates in Lesotho robbing financial institutions, shops, and individuals".

"These syndicates are a threat to state security and that's why the army is standing up to deal with them. We are going to do it robustly and sometimes cruelly," he added.

The escalation of crime and the subsequent army decision to act are both a sad indictment on the police's failure to execute its mandate.

Maj-Gen Matobakele has previously acknowledged the problem, saying the army had been forced to take on policing duties due to the incompetence of the LMPS.

Addressing an army parade at Makoanyane Barracks in October last year, Maj-Gen Matobakele said, "Our commander has given us instructions to perform duties everywhere because we honestly don't have a police force.

"I say this with my head held high, we don't have it (police force). If we had it, you (soldiers) would not be involving yourselves with the public in this country. A few days ago, the commander instructed me to go to the police on a certain assignment. I shared my views with them (police) that we don't have the police in this country," Maj-Gen Matobakele said.



HOLOMO Molibeli.



MOEKETSI Majoro.

Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro subsequently said he was unhappy with Maj-Gen Matobakele's comments.

Dr Majoro said Maj Gen Matobakele was out of line and he had undermined the police force with his comments. Therefore, he should retract his statements and apologise to Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli, the premier said.

It is not clear whether Maj-Gen Matobakele apologised to Commissioner Molibeli as directed by the prime minister.

However, the prime minister has since accepted that the police force is indeed incompetent. Two months ago on, 1 June 2022, Dr Majoro wrote to Commissioner Molibeli demanding that he "show cause" why he should not be fired over a plethora of charges including his failure to act decisively against rampant crimes which have caused so many deaths, financial ruin and brought untold suffering to the public.



Herbert Moyo

# LHDA awards M2 Billion Senqu Bridge construction tender

**T**HE Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has awarded WRES Senqu Bridge Joint Venture a massive M2 billion contract for the construction of the Senqu Bridge under Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

In a weekend statement to the *Sunday Express*, the LHDA said the joint venture comprises of includes Lesotho, South African and international companies “as per the requirements of the Phase II agreement between Lesotho and South Africa”.

“The primary partners are: We-build S.p.A. (from Italy); Raubex Construction (Pty) Ltd (South Africa); Enza Construction (Pty) Ltd (South Africa) and Sigma Construction (Pty) Ltd (Lesotho).

“The sub-contractors include: EXR Construction (Pty) Ltd (South Africa); Gleitbau-Gesellschaft (Austria); Post Tensioning and Structural Solutions (Pty) Ltd (South Africa) and Freyssinet International et Cie (France).”

The LHDA said construction of the bridge, which will span the proposed Polihali Dam, will begin soon and take three years to complete.

“Almost a kilometre long (825m) and at a height of 90m, the Senqu Bridge will be the first extradosed bridge in Lesotho and is larger than the Mphorosane Bridge on the Malibamatso River which spans the Katse Dam and was constructed under Phase I of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

“It is also the largest of the three bridges that will be constructed under Phase II to span the Polihali reservoir. The bridge design has taken into consideration the Mokhotlong highlands’ long, cold and harsh winter conditions.



AN artist's impression of the proposed Senqu Bridge.

“Experience and expertise are crucial in delivering a sophisticated, technically challenging project of this kind, which will be a first for the LHWP and Lesotho.

“Work on the bridge design started in 2018, led by Zutari, formerly Aurecon Lesotho. Zutari also designed the Mabunyaneng and Khubelu bridges, the other two major bridges to be constructed under Phase II.

“The tender for the construction of these two bridges is currently under evaluation. Zutari will also

supervise the construction of the three bridges,” the LHDA said.

The LHDA is the implementing authority of the second phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP II).

The LHWP is a multi-phased project to provide water to the Gauteng region of South Africa and to generate hydro-electricity for Lesotho. It was established by the 1986 Treaty signed by the governments of Lesotho and South Africa.

The project entails harnessing the waters of the Senqu/Orange

River in the Lesotho highlands through the construction of a series of dams for the mutual benefit of the two countries. Phase I of the LHWP, consisting of the Katse and Mohale dams, the ‘Muela hydro-power station and associated tunnels was completed in 2003 and inaugurated in 2004. Phase II of the LHWP is currently in progress. It consists of two separate but related components: water transfer and hydropower generation.

The bilateral project which is estimated to cost at least M23 billion,

is expected to provide about 3 000 jobs at the peak of its operations.

The water transfer component of Phase II comprises an approximately 165m high concrete faced rock fill Dam at Polihali downstream of the confluence of the Khubelu and Senqu (Orange) Rivers and an approximately 38km long concrete-lined gravity tunnel connecting the Polihali reservoir to the Katse reservoir.

Other Phase II activities include advance infrastructure (roads, accommodation, power lines and telecommunication) and the implementation of environmental and social mitigation measures.

Construction of the advance infrastructure works commenced in February 2019. An extradosed bridge employs a structure that combines the main elements of both a prestressed box girder bridge and a cable-stayed bridge.

The LHDA is raving about the proposed bridge which will not only serve a functional purpose but is likely to be a major tourist attraction due to its aesthetics which it says will be “pleasing to the eye”.

“With its unique features, the Senqu Bridge will not only form part of the safe and efficient road infrastructure network constructed under Phase II but it will be a major tourist attraction contributing to long term benefits in stimulating sustainable economic growth,” Ntsoli Maiketso, the Phase II Divisional Manager, said.



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Bongiwe Zihlangu

# Majoro slams own party, DC for “harbouring criminal elements”

PRIME Minister Moeketsi Majoro has slammed major political parties for fraternising with gun-toting *Famo* gangsters who have been implicated in murders and other violent crimes within Lesotho and in South Africa.

He said these parties had created fertile grounds for the escalation of crime by “harbouring and protecting perpetrators of violent crimes”.

Although he did not mention names, his remarks were certainly directed at his own All Basotho Convention (ABC) and the Democratic Congress (DC). The two parties’ ties to *Famo* gangs are well-known and the gangs have even appeared at party rallies as campaigning intensifies ahead of the general elections on 7 October this year.

The premier’s comments come against the background of the intensification of violent crimes in Lesotho and South Africa in the past few weeks. The latest such crime in South Africa, which has been blamed on Lesotho nationals, occurred a fortnight ago.

It is said that eight women, aged between 19 and 35, were filming a music video at an abandoned mine dump in West Village, Krugersdorp on 28 July when they were accosted, raped and robbed by a gang of illegal miners popularly known as Zama-zamas.

In a subsequent interview with the *Lesotho Times*, Gauteng police spokesperson, Brigadier Brenda Muridili, said some of the illegal miners were allegedly clad in the traditional blankets associated with Basotho, hence the widespread suspicion that Lesotho nationals were among the perpetrators of the heinous crimes.

Brigadier Muridili however, said she was not yet in a position to confirm whether the suspects were indeed Basotho. She said when they were arrested the suspects did not have any identity documents, hence she would only be able to confirm their identities after engaging South Africa’s Home Affairs ministry.

Lesotho has not been spared violent crimes. Just last week a restaurant employee was robbed of over M100 000 at gunpoint in Maseru.

While it is not yet known who was behind the Pioneer Mall heist, many of the violent crimes have

been blamed on *Famo* gangsters. Dr Majoro has previously labelled them terrorist organisations. Much to the premier’s chagrin, his own ABC and the DC are still fraternising with *Famo* gangs.

In a weekend televised address to the nation, Dr Majoro said, “What shocks us is that these violent *Famo* groups are harboured and protected by Lesotho’s key political parties”.

“Whenever these criminals are detained, the army or police are approached by leaders of these political parties and other prominent individuals, pleading for their release.

“One of the tragedies that have befallen us as a country, is the challenge brought about by these *Famo* gangs, who kill each other and intimidate people to subscribe to their gangs. They force people to pay them for protection and offer themselves as guns for hire. They also flaunt their ill-gotten wealth,” Dr Majoro said.

He said his government had observed with concern how members of Lesotho’s security agencies “subscribe to these groups” and help to secure the freedom of their criminal allies.

“Government has further observed that these crimes are committed by familiar *Famo* music gangs, and that members of security agencies who have transformed into criminals, subscribe to some of these groups. They work in collaboration with these gangs to ensure that their criminal operations succeed. We have learnt that when crime eradication campaigns are conducted, some members of the police service sabotage them. Some of those police officers have been arrested. Worse still, these members of security agencies are always in the forefront of helping these criminals to swiftly secure bail when they are detained,” Dr Majoro said.

His own ABC party openly fraternises with *Famo* gangs. ABC leader, Nkaku Kabi, has been open about



MOEKETSI Majoro.

his close links to hailed *Famo* gang leader, Sarele Sello.

Popularly known as Lehlanya, Mr Sello chose to stick with the ABC when his former boss, the late Mosotho Chakela, defected to the Democratic Congress (DC) in 2020. He is now the second-in-charge of the ABC-aligned *Terene* faction now led by one Mokata Lirope.

Lehlanya and his *Terene* faction are ever-present at ABC rallies. Mr Kabi has made no bones about his

close association with Lehlanya’s gang and his reliance on it to drum up support for the ABC. Just last month, Mr Kabi visited Lehlanya at his Klerksdorp base and glowingly described the faction as “a government on its own”.

At a recent rally in Thaba-Tseka, Mr Kabi praised Mr Sello for allegedly recruiting 46 003 “new members” to join the party.

At an ABC rally in Koro-Koro constituency, Mr Sello’s gang publicly

dished out M400 to all elderly people attending the event.

At that same rally, Mr Sello threatened unspecified action against Dr Majoro for repeatedly failing to attend ABC rallies alongside Mr Kabi.

A week before that at an ABC rally in Leribe, Mr Sello had berated DC leader and Deputy Prime Minister, Mathibeli Mokhothu, for allegedly choosing sides in the *Famo* gang wars. He warned the deputy premier against taking sides in their fights.

Back in May, stakeholders at a European Union (EU)-organised virtual meeting expressed fears that there was likely to be pre and post-election violence due to the main political parties’ association with deadly the *Famo* gangs.

When Dr Majoro’s comments were put to Mr Kabi yesterday, the ABC leader said his party’s dalliances with *Famo* gangs did not mean that they supported impunity. He said the law should take its course against *Famo* gangsters whenever they committed crimes, regardless of the fact that they were aligned to political parties.

“The prime minister is on point. It is wrong for *Famo* groups to be protected or given certain privileges simply because they are aligned to political parties. It is wrong for anyone to condone crime on the basis that the criminals are his friends or allies. It is wrong for political parties to protect criminals just because they associate with them. It is imperative that measures are taken to protect and uphold the rule of law. Politicians should not take advantage of their status to protect these people. They must stand firm in fighting and eradicating crime. They should not be part of such because by so doing they become accessories of crime,” Mr Kabi said.

On Wednesday, DC spokesperson, Serialong Qoo, said his party would not hesitate to cut ties with *Famo* gangs who were implicated in criminal activities.

## Mall offers M100k reward for info on killer criminals



MPHO Sefali.

‘Marafaele Mohloboli

PIONEER Mall management is dangling a M100 000 reward to anyone with information which could help nab the criminals behind last week’s heist at the mall and fatal shooting of a security guard.

Last week a restaurant employee was robbed of over M100 000 at gunpoint at the mall in Maseru.

The employee, who works for the Stadium Food Court group of restaurants, was accosted by unknown gunmen as he was about to deposit the money at one of the banks at Pioneer Mall.

After robbing the employee, the robbers shot a security guard who had attempted to block them from driving away in their getaway vehicle by closing a boomgate. The guard later succumbed to his injuries.

In a statement following the incident, Pioneer Mall management has offered its condolences to the deceased guard’s family. It has also assured the public of its commitment to their safety at all times whenever they visit the mall.

“The safety and security of our customers, tenants, employees and other stakeholders is of utmost importance to the Board and Management of Pioneer Mall,” the management said.

“We issue this statement while

we await the Lesotho Mounted Police Service’s investigations of the armed robbery and fatal shooting of the Mall’s security staff member. We wish to convey our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased.

“Pioneer Mall management announces a reward of M100 000 to any individual who will provide information that will lead to the arrest and subsequent prosecution of the person who shot and killed the security guard.”

In a subsequent interview, Pioneer Mall spokesperson, Mpho Sefali, the incident took place at about 9am on Monday.

“Three suspects robbed a customer who was carrying a large amount of cash. The Mall’s security responded as soon as they were aware of the incident and attempted to prevent the suspects from fleeing by closing the boom gate exits of the Mall. Sadly, this led to the fatal shooting of a security staff member by a fourth suspect. The four suspects subsequently fled the scene in their vehicle.

“All tip-offs will be treated with confidentiality. The reward will be split equally among those who come forward with useful information. However, police officers are not eligible for the reward as they would be executing their mandate,” Ms Sefali said.



# Women's rights group sues DCEO over confiscated property

Mohalenyane Phakela

**H**UMAN Rights body, Women in Law Southern Africa (WLSA) has petitioned the High Court for an order compelling the Directorate of Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) to return its assets.

The property, which includes computers and files containing information on staff salaries and tax returns, was seized last month by the anti-graft body as part of its probe into alleged financial impropriety by the directors of the women's rights organisation.

WILSA employees had complained that WILSA directors were allegedly misappropriating donor funds for their own use.

The accusations were levelled against WILSA Managing Director, Libakiso Matlho and Programmes Manager, Mamosa Mohlabula. Following the delivery of the disgruntled employees' petition to the Global Fund and the European Union (EU), the DCEO began investigations.

Armed with a search warrant granted by Senior Maseru resident Magistrate, Peter Murenzi, on 7 July 2022, the anti-corruption body stormed WILSA offices in Katlehong, Maseru, that same day and seized the group's property.

However, the WILSA directors now want their property returned as the indefinite seizure of the assets is allegedly affecting the smooth running of the organisation.

They also want the High Court to nullify the search warrant issued by Magistrate Murenzi.

Mr Murenzi; the DCEO; the Clerk of the Maseru Magistrates' Court; Attorney General Rapelang Motsiolo and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Hlalefang Motinyane are the first to fifth respondents respectively in the application.

In her court papers, WLSA's board chairperson, Keiso Matashane-Marite argues that the seizure of their property is illegal and stands to prejudice the organisation.

"The first applicant (WLSA) is a non-profit making organisation that serves less privileged and marginalised people," Ms Matashane-Marite states.

"The seized equipment is important and the information contained thereof, is of a privileged nature because the organisation provides legal services.

"The indefinite seizure of items sanctioned by the legal instrument (search warrant) bears the potential of affecting not only the organisation but also the clients. Even assuming for one moment that the information or items sought ought to have been seized as has happened, the law places an obligation on the DCEO to provide the relevant information (relating to the seizure of assets) within 48 hours after seizure thereof. That has not happened to date.

"It remains a mystery whether the items sought were tainted property or whether they were being sought and seized as part of the preliminary enquiry into acts related to an offence. None of the applicants have any qualms with any criminal investigation but it must be aligned to the structures of the law," Ms Matashane-Marite argues on behalf of herself and her co-applicants, Advocates Matlho and Mohlabula.

The application is yet to be allocated a hearing date in the High Court.

Despite its apparent zeal to tackle white

collar crime, the DCEO has over the past few years proved to be all bark and no bite.

It has seized or frozen assets of major companies and even high profile individuals as part of its probe. It has even attempted to prosecute some of these but it is yet to score a victory against any of the major companies or high profile individuals.

In a recent interview with the *Lesotho Times*, suspended DCEO boss, Mahlomola Manyokole, blamed the anti-graft body's woeful record on chronic underfunding by government, meddling by politicians and inadequate training of investigators. Adv Manyokole called for a reform of the DCEO to remove political meddling and guarantee its independence. He also called for more funding to be availed to the anti-graft body.



MAHLOMOLA Manyokole



## LESOTHO ELECTRICITY AND WATER AUTHORITY (LEWA)

### Notice to invite representations on an Application for generation, distribution and supply of renewable electricity by Sotho Minigrad Portfolio SPV (Pty) Ltd at Sehlabathebe in Qacha's Nek district

#### Notice

Pursuant to Section 52 of the Lesotho Electricity Authority Act of 2002, as amended, the Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA) intends to consider a Licence Exemption Application for renewable electricity generation, distribution and supply at Sehlabathebe, Qacha's Nek. The Licence Exemption Application is for a period of 25 years from the date of issue and it is lodged by Sotho Minigrad Portfolio SPV (Pty) Ltd.

Consideration of Renewable Electricity licences is driven mainly as part of implementing the Government's Energy Policy 2015-2025 initiatives of increasing electricity access, diversifying sources, promoting renewable energy and attracting private sector participation in the energy sector. A final determination will only be made after due consideration of all representations made in respect of the Application as required by the Lesotho Electricity Authority Act No. 12 of 2002 as amended.

#### Background

Sotho Minigrad Portfolio SPV (Pty) Ltd is a company incorporated in Lesotho that intends to build and operate two generating units consisting of one photovoltaic (PV) solar inverter-battery plant with the total capacity of 100 kW AC and one back-up liquid petroleum (LP) reciprocating generator with a total capacity of 110 kW AC. The maximum and minimum estimated energy output of the plant per month will be 0.033503 MWh and 0.016751 MWh, respectively. The electricity to be generated from the facility shall be supplied to the communities in the following villages: Ha Mavuka, Belebesi, Thamathu, Semenyane, Sehlabathebe, Ha Semenyane, Mpharane and Ha Moshebi, consisting of 3433 population, which comprises of 756 households, 53 small and medium enterprises and six institutions.

#### Connection

The solar PV facility will be an isolated mini-grid connected to the network by a thermoplastic heat-and-water-resistant nylon-coated wire, 11kV rated three-phase aerial bundle 90 Amp nominal ampacity (10mm<sup>2</sup>) suspended between 7 m and 9 m treated utility poles in compliance with the Lesotho Grid Code.

#### Tariffs

The Sotho Minigrad Portfolio SPV (Pty) Ltd proposes a tariff of 5.00 M/kWh.

#### Representations

Copies of the Application are available at LEWA Headquarters and District Administrators' offices. The public is requested to submit representations to LEWA on or before 31 August, 2022. Inputs and representations can be sent to [mkabi@lewa.org.ls](mailto:mkabi@lewa.org.ls) or hand delivered at 7th Floor Moposo House, Kingsway Street, Maseru.



### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LHDA)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Lesotho and South African nationals to serve on the Board of Directors of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) in the portfolio of Project Management. The LHDA is tasked with the implementation, operation and maintenance of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) within Lesotho. Members of the Board of Directors must be fluent in English and are required to have competence in analytics, communication, teamwork, management/leadership, and knowledge of the operating environment of the LHDA or of similar organizations. Remuneration of Members of the Board will be market related and shall cover preparation and attendance at Board Meetings, sub-committee work and ad-hoc work such as special delegated tasks or investigations. Applicants with any interest within and outside the LHDA that might compromise the performance of duties in the LHDA Board have to declare their interest in their application letters. A candidate who has a conflict of interest by being either a partner, shareholder, director, employee or family member of any LHDA's service provider shall not be considered for LHDA Board membership. Other key grounds for disqualification are delinquency, insolvency and convictions.

#### SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PORTFOLIO OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Main Purpose: The Project Management portfolio deals mainly with the implementation of Phase II of the LHWP and focuses on control and coordination of all material aspects of projects, as well as providing oversight on the projects' completion within budget and to specifications.

#### KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

1. Strategic Leadership: Overseeing and reviewing multi-disciplinary processes in the implementation of Phase II at all stages as well as providing technical leadership and advice to the Board.
2. Project Management: The individual will be the Chairperson of a multi-disciplinary Technical sub-committee of the Board which is made up of a multi-disciplinary team.
3. Financial Management: Continuous oversight of the annual project budgeting process and cash flow management.
4. Project Related Procurement: Overseeing the process for procurement of service providers for projects/contracts/programmes under Phase II of the LHWP.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- The ideal candidate shall be in possession of an internationally recognized university degree in any of the following engineering disciplines: Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering. or an equivalent built environment discipline.
- The candidate shall possess a minimum of fifteen (15) years' relevant post qualification experience, ten (10) of which shall have been in a senior management position on multi-disciplinary projects preferably in bulk water supply and/or hydropower generation.
- The candidate must have a demonstrable record and experience as a Project Manager in large civil engineering and construction related organisation.
- Registration as a Professional Engineer, Construction Project Manager or other recognized equivalent professional accreditation is mandatory.
- Board experience or insight is an essential attribute.
- High proficiency with computers in particular MS Project, MS Word, MS Excel, MS Outlook, and the Internet.

#### APPLICATION FOR THE PORTFOLIO

Interested individuals in serving on the Board of LHDA in the portfolio are requested to send their applications with a detailed CV, names and respective addresses of three referees by 31st August 2022 at 16:00 hours to:

Principal Secretary  
Ministry of Water  
P O Box 772  
Maseru  
Lesotho

e-mail address: [sec@lhwa.org.ls](mailto:sec@lhwa.org.ls)

Applications by e-mail only shall be accepted. No late applications shall be accepted.



# Comment

## Hats off to LDF

**W**E have previously excoriated the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) for turning into a rogue outfit which terrorised the public and engaged in human rights violations with impunity under the watch of former commander, Tlali Kamoli.

However, the army has turned over a new leaf under the able leadership of Lieutenant General (Lt-Gen) Mojalefa Letsoela. It deserves special praise for stepping up to the challenge of fighting rampant crime which has made the country unsafe to both locals and foreign investors.

Following the escalation of murders, rape, armed robberies and other violent crimes, both Lt-Gen Letsoela and his deputy, Major General (Maj-Gen) Matela Matobakele, have publicly spoke out against criminal elements. They have vowed to tackle crime both here and in South Africa.

They have backed their words with concrete actions as soldiers have become a reassuring presence at malls, roads and residential suburbs as part of efforts to protect the public and businesses from criminals.

In a recent interview with the South African media, Maj-Gen Matobakele said the army would stop at nothing to ensure that dangerous criminals, who have fled to South Africa after committing heinous crimes, are brought back to face justice in Lesotho.

He said the LDF and the police had on Wednesday engaged the South African authorities as part of renewed efforts to be allowed to flush out Basotho criminals hiding in various parts of the neighbouring country.

He said the army had previously visited Benoni, Randfontein and other parts of South Africa seeking to snuff out Basotho criminals but their efforts had failed due to complicated legal procedures barring them from conducting such operations in the neighbouring country.

However, the escalation of violent crimes by Basotho nationals in both countries in recent weeks, had led to renewed efforts to weed out criminals, Maj-Gen Matobakele said.

His comments follow those of his boss, Lt-Gen Letsoela, who also vowed to deal with the frighteningly rising crime levels which are threatening national security and rendering the country an unsafe investment destination.

Addressing a recent military parade at Makoanyane barracks, a visibly irate Lt-Gen Letsoela expressed concern about the high rate of crime including gun-related murders, armed robberies of businesses, private residences and thefts.

The army chief warned that the army would not sit idly by and watch criminals threaten the peace and scare away investors.

The army intervention is welcome more so because the crime syndicates are operating across borders and threatening the security and stability of both Lesotho and South Africa.

We therefore take our hats off to the army for taking their mandate seriously.

On the other hand, the escalation of crime and the subsequent army decision to act are both a sad indictment on the police's failure to execute its mandate.

Maj-Gen Matobakele has previously acknowledged the problem, saying the army had been forced to take on policing duties due to the incompetence of the police.

In the past few years, the nation has watched helplessly as the police service has lost its way under Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli's watch.

At one time, Maj-Gen Matobakele said the army had been forced to performing policing duties "because we honestly don't have a police force".

Even Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro, who was initially unhappy with Maj-Gen Matobakele's comments and wanted him to apologise to Commissioner Molibeli, has since accepted that the police force is indeed incompetent.

Two months ago on, 1 June 2022, Dr Majoro wrote to Commissioner Molibeli demanding that he "show cause" why he should not be fired over a plethora of charges including his failure to act decisively against rampant crimes which have caused so many deaths, financial ruin and brought untold suffering to the public.

Even in the face of such rampant crimes, the police boss has been conspicuous by his silence.

We thought he would speak out to condemn crime and reassure the public that the police will take decisive measures to protect them.

It has thus been left to the army to act and for this we take our

## South Africa's engagements with the world are informed by our national interest

**O**UR framework is broad in character and content in that we believe there is a variety of factors that shape what we have set out as our national interest. The document sets out these elements in what we hope provides a clear articulation of our aspirations.

In crisp terms, we define our national interest as encompassing national sovereignty and constitutional order, safety of our citizens, wellbeing of our citizens, economic prosperity and a better Africa and world. The document presents our fuller description of these in some detail.

It has taken several years for agreement to be reached on a national interest framework document, possibly due to the difficulties Yolanda Spies (2019) points to when she deliberates on the "not so pure concept of diplomacy". In a more recent book, Elizabeth Sidiropoulos suggests that reliance on the 2015 Foreign Policy White Paper may be a more sensible route than drafting a framework document. Nevertheless, we agreed that the changing global context which poses evermore complex challenges for our craft requires us to devote careful attention to defining our national interest. It also provides a useful template for our interlocutors to perhaps understand the decisions and choices we make.

### Challenges for Africa

The energy Dirco colleagues and others brought to this task probably lies in our awareness that the world is rapidly changing in difficult and complex ways and we need to confirm our tools as worthy of combat or get fresh sharper tools more suited to the emerging terrain of international relations. I use the term emerging advisedly as I believe none of us can be sure of what is next. An example of an amazing 'what next' is the unprecedented action of the US House of Representatives which adopted a draft bill intended to punish countries in Africa that have not towed the line on the Russia-Ukraine war. More stunning than that action is the loud silence of Africa political intellectuals who surely hold freedom of choice and sovereign status in high regard. How do developing countries exercise their sovereign rights as UN member states when confronted by such reactions?

The framework document provides our perspective on the challenges confronting Africa today. While recognising the strides the continent has made in the past two decades, the ever-present problem of insecurity, political conflict and poor progress on key development priorities is acknowledged. We confirm South Africa's belief that its national interest is closely intertwined with the goal of achieving progress in Africa. Linked to this is South Africa's support for the implementation of Africa's Agenda 2063. We also argue for stronger development links with a wider range of African countries, and redoubled effort at advancing regional and economic integration in SADC. The framework document moves beyond defining our national interest by proposing action we should focus on in our international work to give effect to our interest.

### History of struggle

Our framework identifies the foundations of our national interest as closely associated with our history of anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggle. We are part of a nation that has waged a mighty battle for freedom under the throes of oppression and our experience has resulted in strong bonds being established with all who strive for freedom. Our ideals of Pan Africanism, progressive international solidarity and Ubuntu underpin our national interest.

The nature and forms of that struggle have also contributed to shaping

## Naledi Pandor

our national interest. The document asserts a solid commitment to solidarity with those who are still striving for freedom. The important contribution of a well-coordinated international anti-apartheid movement has influenced the inclusion of global links of progressive solidarity as a strong element of our goal of building a better world that advances full enjoyment of human dignity, justice and freedom for all.

### Global decline in progressive ideals

Our analysis of the global environment and extensive ideological changes in different regions made this a strategic moment to reflect on and define our framework. While we continue to espouse progressive ideals, we highlight the decline in progressive ideals and diminishing opportunities for shared solidarity, especially with respect to the most powerful countries. We attempt to show that the world community often pretends at shared common ideals and objectives. This was evident as we battled Covid-19, isolated from the benefits of innovation in our powerful partner countries. In addition, the framework suggests we need to be astute in trade negotiations and not accept fair trade rules promises when made by the most powerful economies that sometimes breach these rules directly or by stealth. We see this in EU rules on our citrus products. We will pursue our interest by using international organisations whose remit is to ensure fairness in all trade.

The recent excellent leadership of India and South Africa on the trip's waiver proposal was an important lesson for the South in securing global support for the development of vaccine manufacturing capacity in Africa and other developing regions. This experience complements our national interest commitment to South-South solidarity and cooperation.

The ongoing struggle to begin United Nations negotiations reform is further evidence of the resistance to change powerful countries exhibit on the international stage.

Our document emphasises the possibilities offered by progressive international solidarity while also acknowledging that strenuous efforts have been directed at dividing developing nations and that the magic of Bandung has been shredded by national interests that focus on sovereign gain. So even as we promote South-South relations we are alert to the reality that interest may not always coalesce.

We assert that South Africa's libera-

tion movements artfully built a solid wall of global support against apartheid through direct persuasion, links to active organs of civil society in a wide range of sectors and clear articulation of the objectives desired by a free South Africa. As firm supporters of the Palestinian cause for freedom, we have been urging our friends in Palestine to do more to create similar bonds of global activism and assure them of our active support.

In very crisp terms our national interest document stresses that the values, principles and socio-political and socio-economic ambitions in our Constitution are the key foundation for our national interest.

The Constitution draws from the history and experience of the struggle for freedom, in particular it acknowledges progressive policy proposals from the ANC such as the African Claims document, the Freedom Charter and other descriptions of the post-apartheid nation. Its very preamble sets out the driving principles of post-apartheid South Africa. While we are careful not to be naive in our belief in our ability to influence others, we do think these instruments are an important part of nation formation that we could share with nations in transition to democracy. The democratic transformation of South Africa, while not perfect, forms a very important platform for entrenching good governance, democracy and development.

### Pan-African thought

Pan-African thought and consciousness are also acknowledged and incorporated, especially South Africa's commitment to the progress and development of Africa. This perspective has begun to inform our bilateral interaction with various countries on the continent that we consider strategic partners in the goal of creating a better Africa and we hope to be far more strategic and goal-oriented in our engagements.

South Africa recognises that the pursuit of our national interest takes place in an increasingly complex global context in which challenges, alliances, interests and commitments exist on shifting sands.

Even the important self-evident imperative of responding to climate change finds expression in this complexity. Debates on this subject and lack of action on conference agreements and attempted arm twisting indicate the dilemma developing countries have to overcome. We focus on these increasingly important emerging global tasks in our document.

In the final analysis, our national interests are the achievement of a better South Africa, Africa and world. We will pursue these in our foreign policy and practice focused primarily on our three significant national challenges for South Africa: unemployment, poverty and inequality. We will strive to achieve success while simultaneously promoting the values and principles I have referred to. We confirm that as the government of South Africa, our main responsibility is to South Africa. We do indicate in the policy that we have institutions, laws, and democratic practices in South Africa which create the basis for our country to be a force for good in Africa and in other parts of the world. We also have a robust civil society that has organisational capacity to play a progressive role in countries that are at very early stages of transition. These institutions include academic institutions, research bodies and others that could help promote an active progressive agenda in a range of settings. We hope our framework will persuade a wide range of actors to work with us to advance change, progress and development in South Africa, Africa and the world. — DM

**Naledi Pandor is the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation.**



NALEDI Pandor.

# Sunday Express

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# Moment of truth for DC, Mochoboroane



SELIBE Mochoboroane.

## Moorosi Tsiane

**T**HE eagerly awaited judgement on the Democratic Congress (DC) and Movement for Economic Change (MEC) leader, Selibe Mochoboroane's constitutional application to nullify the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)'s constituency delimitation exercise will finally be delivered tomorrow.

The judgment was supposed to have been delivered on Friday but it had to be postponed after the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) cut off electricity at the High Court (which sits as the Constitutional Court in constitutional matters) over an undisclosed debt on Thursday. Power was subsequently restored at around lunch time on Friday. It is not clear on whether the debt had been settled by that time.

Despite the restoration of power, the case did not proceed. A court official who spoke to the *Sunday Express* on condition of anonymity because he is not authorised to speak to the media, said judgement would be delivered tomorrow.

The DC and Mr Mochoboroane joined forces to petition the Constitutional Court to set aside the constituency delimitation process, arguing that it was done outside the 10-year period prescribed by section 67 of the constitution.

In their constitutional application filed in May this year, they want the court to nullify the recent delimitation of constituencies and order the IEC to hold the elections using the 2010 constituency boundaries model which was used

for the 2012, 2015 and 2017 general elections.

The IEC, Law and Justice Minister Lekhetho Rakuoane, Attorney General Rapelang Motsiela and 50 other political parties have been cited as first to 53rd respondents in the application. The cited parties include the All Basotho Convention (ABC) - the lead party in the governing coalition alongside the DC and MEC. The Basotho National Party (BNP), Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) and business mogul Sam Matekane's fledgling Revolutionary for Prosperity (RFP) have also been cited.

The case was heard by a Constitutional Court bench comprising of Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane (presiding) and Justices Realeboha Mathaba and 'Maliepollo Makheletha.

The electoral body has already lost the first part of the legal battle. It had sought to have the case thrown out on the grounds that the Constitutional Court did not have the jurisdiction to entertain the DC and Mr Mochoboroane's application.

The electoral body and its correspondents had argued that the applicants had jumped the gun by going straight to the Constitutional Court without having raised with the IEC.

But last month, the Constitutional Court threw out the IEC argument.

The bench had then promised to deliver the reasons for that judgement along with verdict in the main case on Friday. But this will now be done tomorrow after due to the power cut.



Serving You – Serving the Nation  
Re Sebeleetsa Uena – Re Sebeleetsa Sechaba

### TENDER NOTICE: 'Supply & Delivery of General Maintenance services for LRA offices in the 3 Regions'

Reference: **LRA/BE/01/07/2022**

The Lesotho Revenue Authority invites interested and qualified contractors/ companies to submit proposals for the 'call-off contract for general maintenance' for all its offices including regional ones and each region will have its own "handyman". The bidders must be ready to deliver the work upon the award of the tender. All potential Bidders must be in possession of a proven track record and must be licensed for providing services of this nature.

All bidders must attach certified copies of valid Tax Clearance Certificates, company registration licences, copy of shareholding certificates, and the most recent annual financial statements for LRA to access the financial strength and capability of the bidder to carry out the assignment. Bids without these required minimum documents shall be disqualified.

The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) document indicating all requirements and specifications shall, upon request, be sent through email from the 25 July 2022 10:00 am. Interested entities shall contact Supply Chain Management office through the email stated below.

#### Terms and Conditions:

1. Tender documents will be available at a non-refundable tender deposit of M500.00.
2. The price quoted in the Bids must be in Maloti/Rand and must include all applicable taxes and duties.
3. The Bids must be submitted not later than 12:00 hours on the 01 July 2022 and they shall be opened same day at 12:30 hours.
4. Tenders received later than the above-mentioned deadline shall not be accepted.
5. Due to COVID-19 guidelines non- electronic tenders shall not be accepted; and
6. Detailed tender packaging and labelling requirements in the Request for Proposal (RFP) must be adhered to or this shall lead to disqualification.

#### 1. Important indicative dates:

Action	Date
Issue RFP	25 July 2022
Final date to submit written questions only (email format)	11 August 2022
Compulsory Pre -bid meeting @LRA HQ	11 August 2022@10 am
Distribution of questions and answers to all bidders (email format)	15 August 2022
Final date for submission of Bidder proposals in response to the RFP electronic	19 August 2022@ 12:00 noon
Public opening of the bids (virtual)	19 August 2022 @ 12:30

All tenders/ queries must be addressed to: The Secretary – Tender Adjudication Committee  
Lesotho Revenue Authority at this e-mail address: [supplychainmanagement@lra.org.ls](mailto:supplychainmanagement@lra.org.ls)



## Lihobong Mining Development Company (Proprietary) Limited

5th Floor- Letsie Office Park, Constitution Road, Maseru West. Private Bag  
A 477, Maseru 100 LESOTHO. Tel: 00266 2231 4120



### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 50PPM DIESEL FUEL

Suitably qualified bidders are hereby invited to put forward expressions of interest in supplying and delivery of 50ppm diesel fuel at the Lihobong Diamond Mine ("the Mine") in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

#### Background

The Mine is owned and operated by Lihobong Mining and Development Company (Proprietary) Limited ("the Company") which is in turn owned by Firestone Diamonds plc (75%) and the Government of Lesotho (25%). The Company proposes to engage the services of a suitably qualified fuel supplier to carry out supply and delivery of fuel to the Mine, and management of fuel depot (together with all required supporting activities) at the Mine over a three year period. All bidders must be Kingdom of Lesotho registered entities.

#### Key Information

- The Company's mining operations will require on average between 400,000 and 500,000 litres per month during the contract period
- The successful bidder will be required to maintain sufficient fuel levels on site to ensure continuous mining operations
- The fuel depot comprises 6 tanks of 70,000 litres each with total capacity of 420,000 litres
- Temperature can run down to -10C in winter
- The successful bidder will be required sufficient personnel on site to manage the fuel depot
- It is anticipated that fuel dispensing will commence on 1 October 2022

#### Submissions of Expressions of Interest

Suitably qualified bidders should submit a written expression of interest to the Company electronically to [radoro@lihobong.co.ls](mailto:radoro@lihobong.co.ls) setting out the following:

- Full particulars of the bidder;
- A concise description of the bidder's technical ability and capacity to maintain a steady supply of fuel to the Mine, including (but not limited to) the bidder's financial status and fuel supply fleet; and
- A description of previous work of a similar nature carried out by (or presently still being carried out by) the bidder together with references in this regard.

The written expression of interest should not exceed three pages and should reach the Company by no later than noon on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Those bidders considered suitable by the Company at its sole and exclusive discretion will be notified accordingly within a reasonable period and will be invited to receive a complete tender proposal.

#### Non-binding

The information contained in this request for expressions of interest has been prepared solely to provide information to any interested bidders and is not in any way binding on the Company whatsoever. Furthermore, this request for expressions of interest in no way gives rise to any obligation on the part of Company to either undertake or to continue undertaking this expression of interest process in respect of supply and delivery of diesel fuel at the Mine, or to enter into any commercial negotiations or arrangement with any bidder who responds to this request. The Company reserves the right to terminate the process of requesting expressions of interest at any time at its sole discretion.



# Econet, Gem Institute launch tree planting campaign

**Nthabiseng Libate**

**E**CONET Telecom Lesotho (ETL) has partnered Gem Institute in launching a fruit tree planting campaign.

Launched at Lesotho and 'Mabathoana high schools in Maseru, the initiative saw 1408 apple and peach trees being planted at the two schools.

It is expected to create new jobs for the youths while also alleviating hunger and poverty.

ETL general manager marketing and

customer experience, 'Mapusetso Ntšekhe, urged learners and guests during the launch at Lesotho High School to guard the project jealously because it could not succeed without their support.

"We are excited fascinated by this project because we support local and believe in production projects because they play a vital role," Ms Ntšekhe said.

"I appeal to you to conserve and protect these trees. You must guard these fruit trees jealously because they are for your own benefit."

On her part, Gem Institute founder, Mpho 'Mateke Letima, said the learners should protect the trees for the benefit of future generations through the fruits they will produce.

"Gem Institute's aim has always been to encourage young people to have their own businesses, make youth engage in technology and agriculture for job creation. I applaud ETL for the great initiative and for choosing us in helping Basotho learn how to produce enough food," Ms Letima said.

Speaking on behalf of the teachers, Thabo Kabi, said trees help reduce the negative im-

pacts of climate change while also prevent soil erosion. He said the project would also prove to learners that agriculture was also a viable industry.

"Take charge of these trees because they contribute to a healthy ecosystem. These trees are not only for educational purposes but for provision of oxygen and food for a healthy lifestyle," Mr Kabi said.

The project will also help stimulate a culture of entrepreneurship among the learners, thereby contributing positively to the economy, Mr Kabi said.



DENNIS Platjies.

## HigherLife beneficiaries off to the US

**Nthabiseng Libate**

**E**CONET Telecom Lesotho (ETL) has bade farewell to two Basotho students who left the country to study in the United States (US) under full HigherLife Foundation scholarships. The farewell was held at Lancers Inn, in Maseru recently.

HigherLife Foundation is a social impact organisation which thrives in human capital to build thriving individuals, communities and sustainable livelihoods. It offers educational assistance to less privileged children, based on orphanhood, children living with disability, or children living with parents or guardians who are beyond effective working age and good academic records.

ETL CEO, Dennis Platjies, said the two students, Nthathi Lehloenyia and Mahali Mabesa, were from Leribe district and would enrol in separate different universities studying computer

engineering and statistics respectively.

Ms Lehloenyia will be studying at the University of Oklahoma and is leaving on Tuesday while Ms Mabesa will be studying at Colby College. She is expected to leave the country on 18 August 2022. On her part, ETL public relations manager, Puleng Masoabi, said since the launch of HigherLife Foundation in 2011, ETL had spent over M100 million in helping vulnerable Basotho children achieve high standard of education on full scholarship.

"ETL takes academics seriously especially in efforts to build Africa's human capital through education and to achieve this mission, we invest two percent of our annual revenue towards the foundation," Ms Masoabi said.

"We strictly take high school children from community, government and church schools to higher learning institutions of their choice."

Delivering remark on behalf of


Education and Training minister 'Mamookho Phiri Motsamai, Institute of Development Management (IDM) Country director, Moeketsi Letele, said the government appreciated the work being done by different organisations to invest in the education of Basotho.

"I would like to applaud HigherLife for this great gesture because the biggest problem in the country is money, which hinders education for Basotho. We welcome efforts done by organisations such as ETL," Dr Letele said.

Such initiatives by private sector players will help Lesotho achieve sustainable development, he said.

On her part, Ms Lehloenyia expressed gratitude to ETL saying the assistance would help them achieve their dreams.

"We have friends from all learning institutions in the country, but we were chosen for this opportunity to go abroad and study. I am short of words," Ms Lehloenyia said.




**SANLEI**  
PREMIUM TROUT  
LESOTHO

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

Position	Job Description/Purpose	Qualifications & Experience	Skills competencies & requirements
Health and Safety Officer	<p><b>PURPOSE:</b> Ensure that Sanlei Trout complies with health and safety standards, requirements and monitoring thereof.</p> <p><b>KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep abreast of changes to laws and regulations locally and internationally that may have relevance to fish farming.</li> <li>Investigate incidents and ensure adherence of safety measures.</li> <li>Compile accurate, corrective, and preventative reports.</li> <li>Establish acceptable standards of safety outputs and performance.</li> <li>Design, develop and implement emergency preparedness plans and training programs and emergency operations drill.</li> <li>Modelling and promoting an organisational culture that fosters safety practices through effective leadership</li> <li>Ensure all staff are fully equipped and trained in safety policies and procedures</li> <li>To carry out audits, to evaluate the effectiveness of health and safety systems, procedures and identify and implement improvements.</li> <li>Search, implement and procure appropriate PPE for each job activities across the farm</li> </ul>	<p>Certificate in SAMTRAC / Diploma in Occupational Health Safety Management or relevant qualification</p> <p>Minimum 1 year health and safety experience</p> <p>Advanced knowledge in Lesotho Labour Code Order (1992)</p> <p>Registered with Lesotho labour department</p>	<p>Has satisfactorily completed first aid level 2</p> <p>Compliance conscious</p> <p>Deadline focussed</p> <p>Good record keeping skills and attention to detail</p> <p>Fully computer literate with proficiency in Excel, Word, Outlook, and MS Teams.</p> <p>Maintain confidentiality of all farm activities</p> <p>Integrity and honesty</p> <p>Fluency in English, written and spoken</p> <p>Driving continuous improvement</p> <p>Team player and good communicator</p>

Contact: Should you meet the requirements for this position, please e-mail your CV to [hr@sanleitrou.com](mailto:hr@sanleitrou.com). Deadline for applications is 25th August 2022.

DISCLAIMERS: Only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted.



**SANLEI**  
PREMIUM TROUT  
LESOTHO

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

Position	Job Description/Purpose	Qualifications & Experience	Skills competencies & requirements
Food Safety Officer	<p><b>PURPOSE:</b> Ensure that Sanlei Trout complies with high food safety management standards (FSSC 22000), requirements and monitoring thereof.</p> <p><b>KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interact with the entire Sanlei team to continually improve, implement, and maintain harvest techniques and practices that are compliant with the company's Food Safety Management System and FSSC 22000</li> <li>Carry out GMP audits at the processing facility as set out, ensure that the findings have been acted upon and closed off</li> <li>Work closely with Microbiology and maintenance department on testing frequencies; ensure that non-conformances have been raised and corrective measures taken</li> <li>Training processing staff on food safety and hygiene, monitoring all paperwork and updating all food safety files</li> <li>Management of Food Safety policy, reviews and FSSC 22000 meetings</li> <li>Maintaining document control and FSMS updates hard copy and electronically</li> <li>Write and submit food safety monthly reports</li> <li>Document and implement quality and food safety procedures/SOP's</li> </ul>	<p>Diploma/Bachelor's degree in Food Technology or Microbiology</p> <p>FSSC 22000 Training certificate</p> <p>In depth understanding of FSSC 22000 protocols</p> <p>Minimum 3 years' experience in a quality control and/or food processing environment</p> <p>Knowledge on FDA standards and compliance protocols</p>	<p>Has satisfactorily completed a HACCP course or have sufficient practical HACCP experience demonstrating knowledge of food processing, hazards, and control measures.</p> <p>Compliance conscious</p> <p>Deadline focussed</p> <p>Good record keeping skills and attention to detail</p> <p>Fully computer literate with proficiency in Excel, Word, Outlook, and MS Teams.</p> <p>Maintain confidentiality of all processing activities</p> <p>Integrity and honesty</p> <p>Fluency in English, written and spoken</p> <p>Driving continuous improvement</p> <p>Team player and good communicator</p>

Contact: Should you meet the requirements for this position, please e-mail your CV to [hr@sanleitrou.com](mailto:hr@sanleitrou.com). Deadline for applications is 19 August 2022

DISCLAIMERS: Only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted.



August 7 - 13 2022

James Chikomborero Paradza

**B**EYONCÉ has released her seventh solo studio album, titled Renaissance (2022). The album, an event in global popular culture, is the first of a three-part project by the US artist. Her previous outing, the visual album Black is King (2020), collaborated with a host of African artists. Renaissance pays tribute to black dance music and again features African artists, including Nigerian singer-songwriter Tems, who is having a global moment of her own.

In history, the renaissance era (from the 1400s) was characterised by the rebirth and renewal of culture and scholarship in Europe following a period of stagnation. Today, still, art – paintings, music, fashion – contributes to how people dress and behave, what they choose to post and talk about, and how they perceive themselves and society.

For the last three decades, Beyoncé has played a major role in shaping global popular culture. She has continuously empowered listeners and sparked debate, and her lyrics have often been quoted in discussions on societal issues. Her views on monogamy on the album Dangerously in Love (2003), for example, offer a counter narrative to the patriarchal depiction of hypersexuality in black women.

On Lemonade (2016), Beyoncé uses music genres beyond those expected of a black female artist. In the process she challenges the discrimination she faces. On Black is King she reflects a renaissance of African art forms in a time when cultural norms dominated by western thinking are on the decline and Africa's star is rising in popular culture.

In this article, I argue that throughout her career, Beyoncé has contributed to a renewal of various narratives in popular music and has in so doing engaged meaningfully with African culture and music.

### African collaborations

Beyoncé has involved various African artists in her projects and many a time introduced them to international audiences. Before Black is King, these include poetry by Kenyan-born Warsan Shire on Lemonade, a quote by Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie on Flawless (2013) and choreography by Tofo Tofo – the Mozambique-based dance group – in the Run the World (Girls) video.

Though not as prominently as on Black is King, Beyoncé has included African artists on Renaissance too, particularly on the song Move, which has an Afrobeats-inspired style and fea-

# Beyoncé has helped usher in a renaissance for African artists

tures P2J (Nigeria) and GuiltyBeatz (Ghana) as producers, as well as Tems as a writer and performer.

Tems (Temilade Openiyi), a versatile vocalist who also writes songs, rose to fame after being featured on Essence (2020) by Nigerian star vocalist WizKid. Her discography consists of music across different genres, including alternative R&B, neo-soul and Afropop. Her debut single Mr Rebel (2018) displays her R&B talents (as both a producer and vocalist), while her 2021 feature on Canadian rapper Drake's Fountains shows her ability to convey emotions through her voice.

Tems' name is on everyone's lips following the release of the trailer for the Black Panther movie sequel set to her cover of Bob Marley's No Woman, No Cry. She has contributed to the renewal of perceptions towards Afropop and commercial African music, and its popularisation across the globe through her unique style of music.

### Black is King

I believe that when Black people tell our own stories, we can shift the axis of the world and tell our REAL history of generational wealth and richness of soul that are not told in our history books. – Beyoncé

Black is King, Beyoncé's previous album, is a celebration of African traditions with a "modern twist". In the visual album, she incorporates a Pan-African-inspired lens and integrates elements from several African countries. She partners with various African actors, directors, designers, choreographers and musicians, highlighting the continent's diversity.

Viewers are exposed to African elements ranging from music genres like Afrobeats (Nigeria) and gqom (South Africa) to popular dance styles like the Network (Ghana) and Kpakujemu (Nigeria). There are also visuals of landscapes across the continent.

Beyoncé must not mistakenly be credited with originating these elements, nor even popularising them. They existed and were appreciated by people long before she started filming. However, one cannot deny the instrumental role Beyoncé has played in bringing these elements to the forefront of global popular culture as a result of her platform as an international star.

Moreover, the visual album portrays a more accurate representation of the African continent and its diversity than other works that adopt an African label in global popular culture. Black is King has introduced a renaissance of Africa's image in popular media and empowered many African and black people as they finally feel more represented in mainstream popular culture.

### Renaissance

Beyoncé has once again incorporated an element of renewal on Renaissance. Through the 16 tracks on the album, she takes listeners on a journey with the stated intention of creating a safe space, free from judgement, perfectionism and overthinking. Listeners are exposed to music that channels the Studio 54 disco era of the 1970s with effortless transitions to more contemporary pop, R&B and house genres.

Early disco music was influenced by the funk, soul and jazz of the late 1960s, and combined these styles with technology such as synthesisers, multitrack recordings and drum machines. This created a lavish and decadent form of dance-orientated pop music characterised by a steady beat and vocals that are prominent, high and reverberated. The genre was at its peak between 1975 to early 1979, with artists such as Donna Summer and Gloria Gaynor dominating the charts.

On the appropriately titled Renaissance, Beyoncé has brought this style back to the forefront of pop culture, introducing many young listeners to it. From the outset of the lead single Break My Soul, listeners are exposed to the album's pervasive dance-pop and house-inspired style.

Beyoncé successfully integrates music genres including pop, electronic house, Afrobeats, trap and soul, to name a few, in combination with various disco influences. Through the lyrics on the album, an overarching sense of self-love and pride is portrayed. This resembles the music by one of South Africa's and the continent's most



prominent pop artists, Brenda Fassie (1964-2004).

Throughout her career, Fassie, one of the queens of African pop, made disco and pop music that was influenced by her township roots. Her iconic music narrated the stories of black South Africans during the country's apartheid era.

### Global stage

When considering how popular music acts as a locus for social change within popular cul-

ture, it is evident that Beyoncé plays a key role in shaping parts of popular societal thought.

Throughout her career, her music has challenged and renewed various narratives within the popular music industry.

Her work serves as a platform for African artists on a global stage, using various music genres as a method to counter people's perceptions of black female musicians. Her latest album continues to do this by introducing new listeners to a revival of disco with a contemporary flair. — The Conversation



Kimberley Schoeman

# Down to a vine art: Best of Wine Tourism and Ambassador Awards 2022

What makes great wine? Is it the grapes? The wisdom of a world class winemaker? Or is it the chance of all the environmental factors coming together for historical harvest?

South African wineries hit the right mix of curating a wine experience that transcends sipping and tasting the season's wines. That is why the *Best of Wine Tourism and Ambassador Awards* invite South African and international wineries to throw their hats into the awards across seven different categories: arts and culture, accommodation, restaurants, architecture and landscapes, wine tourism services, innovation and sustainability. To take it one step further, the *Ambassador Awards* showcase the best in authentic South African experiences, diversity, and the World Wildlife Fund Conservation Pioneer Awards.

The top five in each category will celebrate in October 2022. Entries close on Friday, 5 August 2022 on the Best of Wine Tourism website.

## Grape minds

Have you ever been offered the option to look at a pillow menu? At Delaire Graff, guests are offered options for different pillows because the quality of sleep during your stay is more memorable than one would think. Whether it's a "classic down, memory foam, or anything in between", this winery knows what it takes to curate the ultimate wine experience beyond the cellars.

Perched on the foot of the Helshoogte Pass, between the mountains of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, Delaire Graff is a not-so-hidden-gem of the Cape Wine-lands and they are fluent in the languages of luxury and perfection. Delaire Graff was awarded best in accommodation at last year's *Best in Wine Tourism Awards* for their im-

peccable luxury accommodation experiences that range from luxurious lodges to presidential villas with bespoke bedrooms, private art gallery, or offering [notoriously] indulgent products from Dr Barbara Sturm.

According to Damien Joubert-Winn, head of marketing at Delaire Graff, the award-winning lodgings are in continuous "pursuit of perfection".

"The team is always looking to elevate the experience. Every touchpoint is on another level," says Joubert-Winn. "Guests will come here and look at the labels of the pillows, of the mattresses, and think 'I cannot get this stuff anywhere else,'" he adds.

Sagacious curators of winery hospitality experiences at Delaire Graff do not hold back with offerings of private terraces with heated pools that overlook the Botmaskop mountain or a personal butler and chef to ensure every need is met. Surely this is the epitome of luxury.

Launched on 1 August 2022, Delaire Graff takes their experience of luxury to the next level as the exclusive retailer in Africa for Augustine Bader, another luxury skincare brand that many of Delaire Graff's guests are sure to be familiar with.

The *Best in Wine Tourism's* criteria for such an award goes beyond whether you offer a comfortable stay for guests, or how well curated the experience is as a whole. A rather self-reflective exercise, wineries who enter into the accommodation category are asked to differentiate the experience of guests from other wineries; the tourist economic effect on the region, as well as the qual-



SUMMER 2022 is looking bright for South African wineries and the tourism sector.

ity and type of accommodation offered.

"People come here to replenish. The vistas are breathtaking, and the level of staffing for one guest is on another level," explains Joubert-Winn, who compares the quality of service to that of Dubai's seven star Burj Al Arab.

To know good wine, one needs to drink a lot of it. But experiencing good wine does not take connoisseur level knowledge, especially with a passionate sommelier in the restaurant. Creation Wines took home the best restaurant award in the realm of wine tourism for their Tasting Room.

The Tasting Room, too, had to take a step back to reflect on their service and contribution to the tourism of Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, the style of the restaurants, menu philosophy as well as how the restaurant is marketed as a part of wine tourism

— a reason to visit the winery—a 360 view of an food and wine experience. Summer 2022 is looking bright for South African wineries and the tourism sector too. Since the increase in foreign tourists returning to South African wineries during the summer of 2021, Delaire Graff's lodgings are almost fully booked for this year's summer season thanks to the network of tourism boards pointing to South Africa on their maps.

## Message in a bottle

The great wine regions of the world, Bordeaux, Porto, Napa Valley and, of course, Stellenbosch offer something niche to their geography beyond their unique wine varieties. As part of the Great Wine Capitals, the Western Cape's winemakers are among the best in the world. Take a look at Kannonkop's head winemaker, Abrie Beeslaar, who

has been named the International Winemaker of the Year three times, or Babylonstoren, which received the top award for innovation wine experience by *Best of Wine Tourism*.

If a bottle of your favourite South African wine with a letter rolled up inside floated away from the shores of Cape Town to the shores of a foreign land, what would the letter say about that wine, the place where it comes from, or where the wine was last enjoyed?

If a bottle of Delaire Graff's 2019 Botmaskop had a letter inside to be found in a foreign land, it would read that "Delaire Graff is the most fabulous destination in the world", says Joubert-Winn.

"It [accommodation], is only a piece of a most fabulous puzzle. Botmaskop is a wine whose vineyards are only one of three that grow up against the Botmaskop mountain, 980 metres above sea level. You would taste the terroir: that this wine is from South Africa, from Stellenbosch, and specifically rooted in Botmaskop," explains Joubert-Winn.

The greatest challenge of making any wine is that it should speak to its sense of place. That is why the Best in Wine Tourism Awards speak to such an integral part of what keeps the global wine industry alive, the experience of that winery in connection to where it comes from. With that being said, award-winning wineries evolve the experiences offered to their guests as the environment surrounding them evolves too, much like the elements affecting each year's harvest.

— The Mail and Guardian



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

05 August 2022

ROBBERY AT PIONEER MALL – ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MALL MANAGEMENT

**M100 000.00 REWARD FOR ANYONE WHO HELPS TO ARREST THE SUSPECTS!**

"The safety and security of our customers, tenants, employees and other stakeholders is of utmost importance to the Board and Management of Pioneer Mall."

The Board of Directors of Pioneer Mall give this as a holding statement, while they await the Lesotho Mounted Police investigations of the armed robbery and fatal shooting of the Mall's security staff member. The Board takes this very seriously and condemns the behaviour noted below in the strongest terms and will use every and all means at their disposal to protect all our customers and tenants enjoying the benefits of the Mall. Several robberies have occurred in Maseru in the recent weeks, with criminals descending on shopping centers, fuel stations and community shops over the past month. Pioneer Mall confirms that it has fallen prey to these acts of crime; a robbery took place on Monday, 01 August 2022 at approximately 09:00AM at one of the entrances on the upper ground parking area of the mall. Three suspects robbed a customer who was carrying a large amount of cash. The Mall's security responded as soon as they were aware of the incident and attempted to prevent the suspects from fleeing by closing the boom gate exits of the Mall. Sadly, this led to the fatal shooting of a security staff member by a fourth suspect. The four suspects subsequently fled the scene in their vehicle. The Board of Directors and the Mall management wish to convey their sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased. The Mall's management is working closely with the LMPS to address the matter and finalize investigations.

Pioneer Mall management announces a reward of **M100 000.00** to any individual who can provide information that will lead to the arrest and subsequent conviction of the person who shot and killed the Security Guard. If more than one person is eligible for the reward, the reward will be apportioned in a manner deemed appropriate after consultations with LMPS. Naturally, any member of the LMPS will be excluded from this reward as this is in his/her line of duty. The person may confidentially contact LMPS on **+266 5884-9097**.



PHATLATSO

La 05 Phato 2022

**BOSHOLU BA BOQHOBANE SETSING SA MABENKELE SA PIONEER –PHATLATSO KA BOOKAMELI BA BOTO LE BOTSAMAISI BA SETSI**

**MOPUTSO OA M100 000 HO MOTHO EA KA THUSANG HORE LINOKOANE LI TŠOAROE**

Polokeho le tšireletso ea bareki ba rona, bahiri, basebetsi le mafapha a mang ke taba ea mantlha e ka sehlohlolong ho bookameli ba boto esita le ho botsamaisi ba setsi sena sa Pioneer.

Ka hona, ha bookameli ba boto le botsamaisi li sa emetse lipatlisiso tsa sepelesa sa Lesotho tse seng li thakhotsoe mabapi le ketsahalo ena e mali-mabe, e bakileng tahlehelo ea bophelo ba molebeli oa setsi seo, ho oa lokeleha hore re ntše polelo ena ho tiisa boitlamo ba rona holim'a tšireletseho le paballo ea bohle ba eang setsing seo ka mabaka ka ho fapakana.

Bookameli ba boto bo nketse taba ena hloohong haholo 'me bo sola ka matla boitšoarona bona bo lokolisitsoeng ka tlaasana, 'me bo tla etsa sohle se matleng a bona ho sireletsa bareki bohle ekasitana le bahiri ba sebelisang setsi sena. Libekeng tse fetileng, ho bile le liketsahalo tse 'maloa tsa bosholu ba boqhobane tse etsahetseng Maseru, moo litloko-tsebe li keneng litsing tsa mabenkele, moo ho noesoang likoloi le likhoebong tsa sechaba, 'me setsi sa Pioneer le sona ha e eaba mokhelo litlhaselong tse nonyetsang le ho nyotobetsa moruo oa naha.

Botsamaisi ba setsi bo netefatsa hore ka 'Mantaha oa la 01 Phato 2022, ha nako e ne ekaba hora ea borobong hoseng (09:00), ho e meng ea menyako e kenang kahar'a setsi mokatong o kaholimoo moo ho pakoang likoloi, ho bile le ketsahalo eo ho eona ho bileng le bosholu ba boqhobane.

Babelaelloa ba bararo ba ile ba nkela e mong oa batho ba neng ba isa bokholokhoho ba chelete polokelong ka moo kahar'a setsi chelete e joalo ka lihoka. Hang hoba balebeli ba hlokomela ketsahalo eo, ba ile ba tlola matjato ba leka ho thibela linokoane tseo ho baleha ka ho theola mokoallo, empa ka bomali-mabe bo tšabehang, se seng se bonahalang se ne se ipatile haufi le mokoallo, se ile sa thunya molebeli ea neng a leka ho etsa thibella, 'me eo o ile a timela hamorao a le tseleng e lebang sepetelele.

Ka bone ba tsona linokoane tseo, li ile tsa atleha ho baleha ka koloi eo li neng li ntse li tsamaea ka eona.

Bookameli ba boto le botsamaisi ba Pioneer, bo lakatsa ho fetisetisa matšelisano a tsoang botebong ba pelo ho lelapa la bo mofu.

Botsamaisi ba Pioneer bo thetsane ka mahetla le sepelesa ho sebetsana le taba ena ho fihlela liphuputso li phethetsoe, linokoane tseo li tšoeroe, li fetisetitsoe kapele ho makhotla a molao, 'me toka e abiloe.

Ke mothating oona ona, moo re ipiletsang ho sechaba sohle se neng liketso tsa botloko-tsebe ho fana ka monyenetsi, ho re thusa 'moho le sepelesa hore baetsi ba ketso ena e soto ba tšoaro.

Re kopa hore mang kapa mang ea ka bang le leseli a mpe a re hlabane malotsana, 'me re tšepisa ea hore monyenetsi oo o tla tšoaroa ka hloko le lekunutu lohle le o lokelang. Bookameli ba Pioneer bo itlamo hore bo tla fana ka moputso oa **M100 000.00** ho mang kapa mang ea ka fanang ka leseli le ka isang ho tšoaroeng le ho ahloleeng hoa motho ea thuntseng le ho bolaea molebeli eo.

Ebang monyenetsi oa 'nete o fanoa ke batho ba fetang bonngoe, moputso oo o tla khekethoa ho ea ka moo ho lokelehang ha sepelesa se ikhohisitse bonnete ba oona ka lipuisano. Ha ho lepelesa le tla putsoa ebang ele lona le faneng ka monyenetsi ka ha le tla be le entse mosebetsi oa lona. Motho ea ka bang le leseli o kopuoa ho letsetsa sepelesa nomorong ea **+266 5884-9097**.



**Weekend  
Girl**



**NEO** Lesekele is a 19-year-old model from Khubetsoana signed under Sothokids Modeling Agency. She is a third-year Law student at the National University of Lesotho. She is a dancer, writer and makes aesthetic crafts. She aspires to work with big brands internationally. Her motto is "Being exceptional is not dwelling in one's comfort zone, nor does change come by fluke. Give your best to attract more art-hungrier audiences and opportunities."



# Yourstars

# No humans are allowed on this Island covered in deadly snakes



ILHA Da Queimada Grande Island.



GOLDEN Lancehead viper.

**A**PPROXIMATELY 90 miles off the coast of Brazil is the tiny island Ilha da Queimada Grande, which would be a beautiful place to spend an afternoon... if it weren't for the thousands of golden lancehead vipers that inhabit its 160 acres.

This species does not exist naturally anywhere else on Earth. Some experts believe the island is so populated with these reptiles that if people were allowed to roam around there, they would come across a snake every few steps — a horrifying notion, particularly for those with ophidiophobia!

### Snake paradise

Known more commonly as Snake Island, the land mass separated from Brazil during the last Ice Age, taking a population of jararaca snakes with it, according to the Columbia Daily Tribune. The snakes didn't have any predators, so they multiplied. Eventually, their food source (rodents) waned, but the snakes adapted and evolved into a completely new species.

Remarkably, they learned how to catch and eat birds. Their venom got up to five times stronger than a typical snake's venom, and they developed a way to trap the birds so they couldn't escape, making it easier for them to consume their meals. This mutation created an über-deadly snake that can kill a person in under an hour! And because they are on top of the food chain, the island

contains a significant number of them (between 2,000 and 4,000).

### Venomous views

The only people who have lived on the island were those who operated a lighthouse there from 1909 through the 1920s. One local legend claims that the final lighthouse keeper and his family were killed when several snakes attacked them after gaining access through a window in their home, according to the Smithsonian Magazine. Being bitten by a lancehead viper can cause intestinal bleeding, brain haemorrhaging, muscular tissue necrosis, and kidney failure if medical attention is not administered quickly.

These days, the Brazilian Navy has the job of making sure the lighthouse is operat-

ing correctly, and only scientists make the occasional trek to the island (with a doctor in tow, just in case). However, the island is tempting to those who are brave enough to travel there with the intention of making a few (illegal) dollars: one golden lancehead viper is worth a whopping \$10,000–\$30,000 on the black market. Mainland Brazil even has a population of lancehead vipers because some have been released there, either deliberately or unintentionally. In fact, most snake bites in the South American country are due to the deadly species.

### All that slithers is not gold

There is a silver lining. It's possible that the golden lancehead venom could be used for pharmaceutical purposes and to treat ailments such as heart disease, circulation issues, and blood clots, scientist Marcelo Duarte of the Brazilian Butantan Institute told Vice.

It's also believed that efforts by the Brazilian Navy to remove vegetation on the island combined with disease have cut the snake population on Ilha da Queimada Grande by almost half in the past 15 years. But even though the species is considered endangered and is listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List, visitors continue to be banned from stepping foot on Snake Island.

— Ripleys.com

## Aries - March 21 - April 20

Try not to get upset or angry without having all the facts. Use your inventiveness to find solutions. Co-workers may not be on your side. Avoid any gossip and be careful that you aren't misinterpreted. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## Taurus - April 21 - May 20

Your creative talent will prove to be lucrative if put to proper use. You should expect to have changes in your home. Be up front if you don't want to be embarrassed. Changes regarding family members will set you off. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## Gemini - May 21 - June 21

You must watch your tendency to spend whatever you make. Don't be too quick to judge your position or surroundings at work. You may be overreacting to personal problems. Be cautious when dealing with co-workers. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

## Cancer - June 22 - July 22

You must steer clear of overindulgent individuals. You have to know what your boss wants if you expect to do your job correctly. Residential moves will be hectic and may be unsatisfactory. Personal problems may be hanging over your head but don't confront the situation. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

## Leo - July 23 - August 22

You will drive your emotional partner crazy this week. You are exceptional at presenting your ideas. Don't let your lover put demands on you. Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## Virgo - August 23 - September 22

Abrupt action will cause difficulties with relatives. Don't overdo it. You need to enjoy yourself. Make sure that you get legal matters checked out thoroughly. Get busy making those changes to your home. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## Libra - September 23 - October 22

Pamper yourself; you deserve it. Your personal partner may be less than willing to accommodate you this week. You will not impress others by being foolishly generous. Take time to help children with projects that may be too hard for them to do on their own. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

## Scorpio - October 23 - November 21

Your ability to put a deal together will surprise others. You may have problems with children. You're undergoing changes. You need to concentrate on your business ventures more than on your relationship this week. You are best to avoid joint ventures, and whatever you do, don't lend to friends or relatives. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## Sagittarius - November 22 - December 20

Help children complete projects they're having difficulty with. Don't get involved in idle chatter that will hurt your position. Rethink your motives and make the necessary changes to yourself. You will meet a person who may turn out to be more than just a friend. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

## Capricorn - December 21 - January 19

Your moneymaking opportunities will flourish. Don't get involved in joint ventures. It's time to re-evaluate your motives. Your home may be in an uproar and you are best to stay out of the line of fire if at all possible. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## Aquarius - January 20 - February 18

Curb or cut out that bad habit you've been meaning to do something about. Be wary of those who have overly strong convictions. Your confidence will stabilize your position. You will have a problem with your boss if you haven't done your job. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

## Pisces - February 19 - March 20

You're on to something tangible and need to act fast. Your charisma will no doubt attract a lot of attention. Children will want to help, too. Payoff all your debts before you go out and celebrate. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



# Spain leads Europe in monkeypox, struggles to check spread



REGISTERED pharmacist Sapana Patel holds a bottle of Monkeypox vaccine at a Pop-Up Monkeypox vaccination site, in West Hollywood, Calif on Wednesday.

**B**ARCELONA, Spain — As a sex worker and adult film actor, Roc was relieved when he was among the first Spaniards to get a monkeypox vaccine. He knew of several cases among men who have sex with men, which is the leading demographic for the disease, and feared he could be next.

“I went home and thought, ‘Phew, my God, I’m saved,’” the 29-year-old told *The Associated Press*.

But it was already too late. Roc, the name he uses for work, had been infected by a client a few days before. He joined Spain’s steadily increasing count of monkeypox infections that has become the highest in Europe since the disease spread beyond Africa where it has been endemic for years.

He began showing symptoms: pustules, fever, conjunctivitis and tiredness. Roc was hospitalized for treatment before getting well enough to be released.

Spanish health authorities and community groups are struggling to check an outbreak that has already claimed the lives of two young men. They reportedly died of encephalitis, or swelling of the brain, that can be caused by some viruses. Most monkeypox cases cause only mild symptoms.

Spain has had 4,577 confirmed cases in the three months since the start of the outbreak, which has been linked to two raves in Europe, where experts say the virus was likely spread through sex.

The only country with more infections than Spain is the much larger United States, which has reported 7,100 cases.

In all, the global monkeypox outbreak has seen more than 26,000 cases in nearly 90 countries since May. There have been 103 suspected deaths in Africa, mostly in Nigeria and Congo, where a more lethal form of monkeypox is spreading than in the West.

Health experts stress that this is not technically a sexually transmitted disease, even though it has been mainly spreading via sex among gay and bisexual men, who account for 98 percent of cases beyond Africa. The virus can be spread to anyone who has close, physical contact with an infected person, their clothing or bedsheets.

So, part of the complexity of fighting monkeypox is striking a balance between not stigmatizing men who have sex with men while also ensuring that both vaccines and pleas for greater caution reach those currently in the greatest danger.

Spain has distributed 5,000 shots of the two-shot vaccine to health clinics and ex-

pects to receive 7,000 more from the EU in the coming days, its health ministry said.

To ensure that those shots get administered wisely, community groups and sexual health associations targeting gay men, bisexuals and transgender women are taking the lead.

In Barcelona, BCN Checkpoint, which focuses on AIDS/HIV prevention in gay and trans communities, is now contacting at-risk people to offer them one of the precious vaccines.

Pep Coll, medical director of BCN Checkpoint, said the vaccine rollout is focused on people who are already at risk of contracting HIV and are on preemptive treatment, men with a high number of sexual partners and those who participate in “chemsex” (sex with the use of drugs), as well as people with suppressed immune responses.

But there are many more people who fit those categories than doses.

“If we just consider the number of people (on prophylactic HIV treatment) plus the number of people with HIV, we are talking about some 15,000 people (just in Barcelona),” Coll said.

The lack of vaccines, which is far more severe in Africa than in Europe and the U.S., makes social public health policies key, experts say.

As with the coronavirus pandemic, contact tracing to identify people who could have been infected is critical. But, while COVID-19

could spread to anyone simply through the air, the close bodily contact that serves as the leading vehicle for monkeypox makes some people hesitant to share information.

“We are having a steady stream of new cases, and it is possible that we will have more deaths. Why? Because contact tracing is very complicated because it can be a very sensitive issue for someone to identify their sexual partners,” said Amós García, epidemiologist and president of the Spanish Association of Vaccinology.

Spain says that most of its cases are among men who have sex with men and only 5% are women. But García insisted that will even out unless the entire public, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, grasps that having various sexual partners creates greater risk.

“The same thing happened with AIDS/HIV, when at one moment the group of men who had sex with men was the most affected (before spreading to other groups), and that can become the path that this takes if we are not able to send a strong message to society,” García said.

Given the dearth of vaccines and the trouble with contact tracing, more pressure is being put on encouraging prevention.

From the start, government officials ceded the leading role in the get-out-the-word campaign to community groups.

Sebastian Meyer, president of the STOP SIDA association dedicated to AIDS/HIV care

in Barcelona’s LGBTQ community, said the logic was that his group and others like it would be trusted message-bearers with person-by-person knowledge of how to drive the health warning home.

While community associations that represent gay and bisexual men have bombarded social media, websites and blogs with information on monkeypox safety, Meyer says there is still a lot to be done.

Meyer, who is on the monkeypox advisory boards for both Spain’s national government and for regional authorities covering Barcelona, believes fatigue from the Covid-19 pandemic has played a part. Doctors advise people with monkeypox lesions to isolate until they have fully healed, which can take up to three weeks.

“When people read that they must self-isolate, they close the webpage and forget what they have read,” Meyer said. “We are just coming out of Covid, when you couldn’t do this or that, and now, here we go again ... People just hate it and put their heads in the sand.”

Meyer said that his group is currently brainstorming ways to revamp and relaunch their message.

“If you haven’t been selected for a vaccine, the answer is not to desperately hope that you’ll get one,” he said. “The answer is to be more careful. That is much better than any vaccine.” — AP



# Have your say

Sunday Express

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

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## Maintaining order and balance in nature

**W**ORLD Environment Day' on 5th of June and 'World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought' on 17 June are calls for action to protect the mother earth. They remind us of the need for urgent commitment towards the wise and responsible use and distribution of our natural resources, and stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent their interference with the climatic system.

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

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

There is need for justice and equity in utilising the earth's resources. Observing justice implies moving from self-interest that dominates our world today to a mode of sharing and caring for our natural resources. Rather than asking how to exploit the earth's resources without due regard to its environment, we should be asking how to live with an ethic of respect, care and justice towards

all life and nature.

According to a statement of the Bahá'í International Community: *"A fundamental component of resolving the climate change challenge will be the cultivation of values, attitudes and skills that give rise to just and sustainable patterns of human interaction with the environment"*. Such approaches can assist states to work together more effectively for the common good, and to identify and address the weaknesses that in our current systems restrict progress.

### Unity and cooperation are essential to protect nature

In the Bahá'í view, genuine solutions to protect our natural resources will require a globally-accepted vision for the future, based on unity and willing cooperation among the nations, races, creeds, and classes of the human family.

*"In order to progress beyond a world community driven by a largely economic and utilitarian calculus, to one of shared responsibility for the prosperity of all nations"*, says the Bahá'í International Community, the principle of oneness of humanity *"must take root in the conscience of the individual"*. *"As consciousness of the oneness of humankind increases, so too does the recognition that the wealth and wonders of the earth are the common heritage of all people, who deserve just and equitable access to its resources"*.

The relationships that link people to one another have a direct impact on the physical resources of our planet. There is a close

### Religion

A Bahá'í Perspective

with  
Flora Teckie

relation, for example, between inequality and environmental degradation. Current systems and practices that have resulted in large segments of society facing poverty, have similarly impoverished the natural environment. Destructive impacts of climate change are aggravated by the extremes of wealth and poverty.

According to the Bahá'í International Community, *"wealth needs to be acquired and expended by nations in a way that enables all the people of the world to prosper. Structures and systems that permit a few to have inordinate riches while the masses remain impoverished must be replaced by arrangements that foster the generation of wealth in a way that promotes justice"*.

In addition, resources must be directed away from those activities and programs that are damaging to both the social and natural environment and efforts bent towards the creation of systems that foster cooperation and mutualism.

### A more balanced attitude toward the environment

In one of its statements, the Bahá'í International Community asserts: *"A more balanced attitude toward the environment must address human conditions as consciously as it does natural ones. It must be embodied in social norms and patterns of action characterised by justice and equity. On this foundation can be built an evolving vision of our common future together. And that vision, in turn, stands as a powerful mechanism for mobilising action around the world and coordinating numerous efforts into mutually-reinforcing lines of action"*.

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

To have the opportunity for all people to realise their full potential is a basic human right, and all should be concerned with ensuring the same for others. *"The shift to sustainable modes of production and consumption is a further expression of this principle: put simply, to consume more than one's fair share is to deplete the resources needed by others"*.

We must always remember that future prosperity and the peaceful co-existence of peoples will depend on access to and conservation of natural resources abundantly provided to humanity by our Almighty Creator.

For feedback please contact: [bahailesotho@leo.co.ls](mailto:bahailesotho@leo.co.ls); or call +266 56715009  
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## In pictures: Sotho Kids Fashion show





# Ramaphosa arrives in Gaborone to lead talks in SA-Botswana business round-table

**C**APE Town — South Africa's president Cyril Ramaphosa arrived in Gaborone, Botswana on Thursday, where he was received by his Botswana counterpart at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport where he is on a working visit to lead talks at the High-Level South Africa-Botswana Business Round-table.

The two nations are also set to commemorate and celebrate 28 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

South Africa is a major import partner for Botswana with a market share of about 56.8 percent in 2021.

Botswana benefits from regional economic integration and the facilitation of duty-free movement of goods with a common external tariff on goods entering any of the countries from outside the SACU (The Southern African Customs Union, an African regional economic organisation, whose members include Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland).

The High-Level South Africa-Botswana Business Roundtable happens as the backdrop of the fifth session of the South Africa-Botswana Bi-National Commission (BNC), which took place on 22 April in Tshwane.

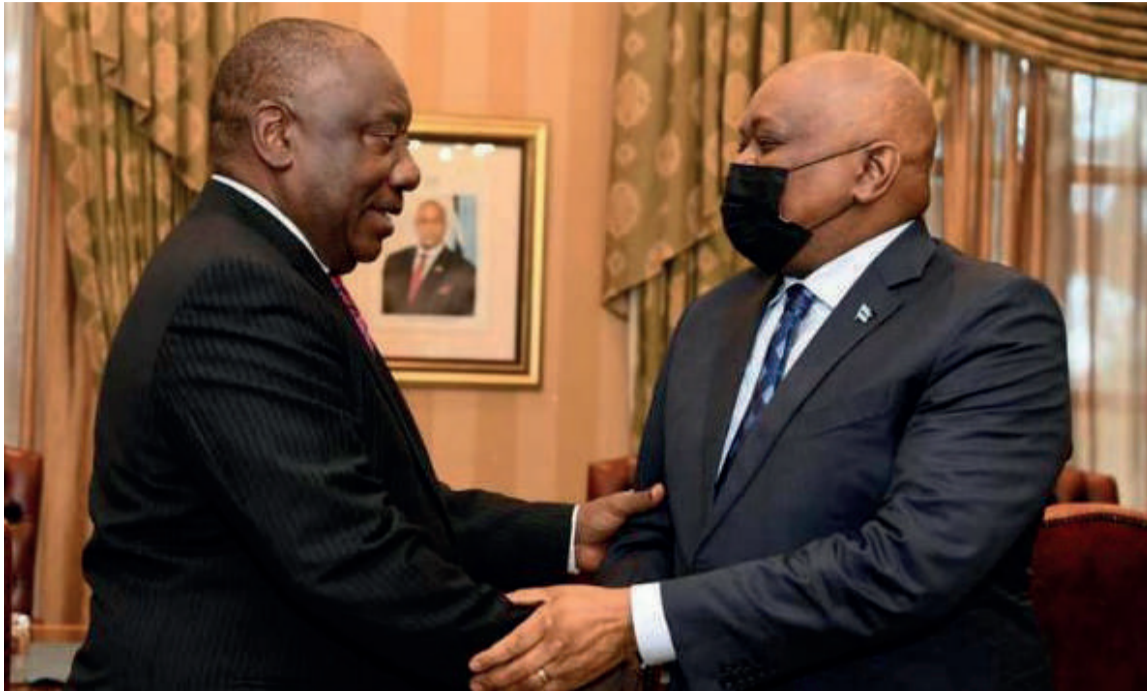
On Thursday, President Ramaphosa said the trade and investment ties between the two countries have grown stronger over the years.

"They lay a firm basis for even greater economic cooperation and integration into the future."

The president's delegation comprises ministers, officials, and representatives from SA's state-owned companies, financial institutions and South African business.

The president said that he is encouraged by the work that has already begun through both nations' respective Trade and Industry Ministers to align plans towards a common SACU plan of action for operating the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Ramaphosa said the the joint export promotion platforms that are



**PRESIDENT Ramaphosa (left) said the trade and investment ties between the two countries have grown stronger over the years on Thursday.**

being discussed at SACU level for leveraging AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area) opportunities are promising.

"I urge that the same vigour be given to concluding the work of creating industrial value-chains in the SACU."

"Through these value-chains we will be able to grow our industrial exports to the rest of the continent. New markets in West, East, North and Central Africa hold immense potential for both South Africa and Botswana. We will be able to produce and export local goods, products and services to our fellow African countries that would otherwise be sourced from outside the continent."

Ramaphosa reiterated that they do not seek to displace other African businesses, but that the intention instead is complementary trade and industrial development.

He added that Botswana and

South Africa can both achieve more by working closely together.

"The development of value-chains can also move SACU towards a brighter new future of joint investment and development. I am also pleased to note that work is under way in SACU on a Work Programme on Industrialisation, to promote industrial development and regional value chains, export promotion, investment attraction and promotion," said Ramaphosa.

Ramaphosa added that work is already under way on leather and leather products, fresh produce, meat and meat products, textiles, clothing, cosmetics and essential oils.

These sectors present opportunities for the development of regional value chains across the region. They also present opportunities for SACU exports to the rest of Africa, to the United States under AGOA (the African Growth and Opportunity

Act), to the European Union under the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), and to other strategic markets in Asia and the Middle East, said Ramaphosa.

"There are also opportunities for further cooperation in minerals. Botswana is currently the chair of the Kimberley Process, an initiative that has successfully addressed concerns regarding the diamond industry, and last year was the world's leading producer of diamonds by value."

In April this year, Botswana's president opened the first SACU Investment Round-table in Gaborone, under the theme "Positioning SACU as an industrial, investment, manufacturing and innovation hub for the African continent and beyond".

Over the past five years, South Africa's foreign direct investment stock in Botswana has increased year-on-year, reaching US\$5.1 billion in 2021.

"While we will continue to encourage South African investment into Botswana, we are encouraged by the Botswana companies that have already invested in South Africa," said Ramaphosa.

Between January 2003 and December 2021, South Africa saw nine FDI (foreign direct investment) projects from Botswana to South Africa, adding that these projects attracted capital investment worth R3.9 billion, resulting in the creation of more than 2,000 jobs.

Ramaphosa said that intra-African trade opportunities accruing from the AfCFTA can only be realised if we facilitate intra-Africa investments.

"In particular, we need to encourage our respective companies to invest in areas that will address the continent's infrastructure and industrial deficits. South Africa is committed to supporting our partners on the continent to reach their industrialisation goals."

Ramaphosa said that South Africa wants to be part of the African growth story by way of strategic investments into the continent by our companies, financial institutions and state-owned companies.

"It is our expectation that today's session will unpack all these matters further, and that we will jointly identify the priorities for strengthening the Botswana-South Africa economic relationship. I look forward to vibrant and productive discussions."

Last month, the Botswana Power Corporation (BCP) indicated that it wants to sell its excess electricity to South Africa's embattled power utility Eskom.

The BCP said that it has started engaging with Eskom to begin the exporting process.

South Africans have been battling to survive with rotational blackouts in the country due to Eskom's deficiency in electricity generation.

A part of that plan includes the importing of power from neighbouring African countries, including Botswana.

— IOL

# Anger, clashes in South Africa following gang rape arrests

**K**RUGERSDORP, South Africa — Protesters in the South African city of Krugersdorp beat suspected illegal miners with sticks and set fire to their camps Thursday following the arrests of more than 80 men, some thought to be miners, in connection with the gang rapes of eight women last week.

Residents of Krugersdorp's Kagiso township also barricaded roads with rocks and burning tires during a protest against the presence of the miners. They said they were frustrated with high levels of crime that they blame on the illegal miners and the alleged failure of police to deal with them.

Some suspected illegal miners were stripped of their clothes and whipped by residents, who also chased others out of their camps and beat and kicked them before handing them over to police.

Police responded by firing rubber bullets and stun grenades to disperse the protesters, who also clashed with police officers. In some cases, officers rescued the people being attacked.

"We want support from the police because the illegal miners are terrorizing us. We cannot simply walk around the neighborhood at night because they rape us," said Nhlamhla Felatsi, who was part of the protest. "We recently had an incident where two female security officers were raped by the same people. The police are not protecting us."

Police said eight women were raped on July 28 when a television crew filming a music video at a mine dump in the nearby township of West Village was attacked by heavily-



**ILLEGAL gold miners are placed in a police van after community members beat them and stripped them naked before handing over to police near Krugersdorp, South Africa.**

armed men, some suspected of being illegal miners. Police said they were investigating 32 counts of rape.

The attack was a shocking incident, even for a country used to high levels of violent crime like South Africa. More than 80 men accused of being involved in the gang rapes appeared in court on Monday.

Illegal mining is rife in South Africa, with

miners known as zama-zamas searching for gold at the many disused and abandoned mines in and around the Johannesburg region. Krugersdorp is a mining city on the western edges of Johannesburg.

Illegal mining gangs are considered dangerous by the police, are usually armed and are known to fight violent turf battles with rival groups. The trade is believed to be domi-

nated by immigrants who enter illegally from neighboring countries Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Mozambique and police said that some of the men suspected of raping the eight women were foreign nationals.

That has aggravated the situation and comes at a time when South Africa is seeing an upsurge in xenophobic attacks sparked by locals blaming foreigners for crime in their areas.

"What upsets me is that we live as though we are not South Africans. How can someone from nowhere come and control us in our community?" said Kagiso resident Thoko Setlhabi. "The people from Lesotho and Zimbabwe are coming into our houses and rape us. You must make sure you and your family are indoors by 6 p.m. When will our children be allowed to be free?"

Police say they are still analyzing DNA evidence in order to link some of the suspects to the rapes. But residents have criticized the local police force for doing nothing despite warnings from locals that illegal miners were operating in the area as part of larger crime syndicates.

"We are not fighting only against the zama-zamas (illegal miners), but we are fighting against the entire crime. Our police must stand up, our police must pull up their socks," said Kabelo Matlou, a local government official.

"Clearly something is wrong here. If somebody takes out gold here, where are they taking it? Our political leaders must come together and sort this out," he said. — AP



# Al-Qaida chief's killing comes as group gains ground in African conflict zones

It was one of Ayman al-Zawahiri's last victories. Just over a week before the al-Qaida leader was killed in Kabul by missiles fired from a US drone, militants from the organisation's biggest affiliate in sub-Saharan Africa attacked the most important military base in Mali.

The tactics of the attack were familiar – suicide bombers blowing a gap in defences to allow gunmen to reach stunned defenders – but the operation marked a major escalation.

In more than a decade of insurgent warfare in Mali, al-Qaida had never struck any target of such significance nor so close to the capital, Bamako.

The attack on the base in Kati underlined the tenacity of the organisation in Africa and elsewhere despite decades of intense pressure from a US-led counter terrorist campaign and fierce rivalry from a breakaway faction that became the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (Isis or IS).

“The international context is favourable to al-Qaida, which intends to be recognised again as the leader of global jihad,” a UN report compiled from intelligence supplied by members states said in July.

The attack in Mali last month was a vindication of Zawahiri's 2011 decision to abandon the strategy of spectacular strikes against the west that had been favoured by his predecessor, Osama bin Laden. Instead, he directed al-Qaida's regional commanders to seek gains locally, without being distracted by attempts to attack international aviation or bomb European cities.

The recent UN report warned that any territory carved out by al-Qaida or IS might be used as launchpads for such operations in the near future.

“The threat from IS and al-Qaida remains relatively low in non-conflict zones, but is much higher in areas directly affected by conflict or neighbouring it. Unless some of these conflicts are brought to a successful resolution ... one or more of them will incubate an external operational capability for Isis [Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant], al-Qaida or a related terrorist group,” it said.

Progress made in Mali vindicated another part of Zawahiri's strategy: to build grassroots



**FIGHTERS** from the extremist al-Shabaab movement in Somalia, with which the late al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri forged an alliance.

support. The grievances of marginalised communities could be exploited, particularly where government was weak or predatory, he told leaders of affiliates after taking control of al-Qaida in 2011. Strong ties could be built with local actors through collaboration and even inter-marriage. If they used violence, affiliates needed to seek targets that would be seen as legitimate.

The strategy predated the rise of IS from 2014, but the success of the rival group added impetus. Where IS relied on fear and coercion to cow local populations, al-Qaida sought to appear as moderate in comparison.

Al-Qaida has suffered major setbacks – almost eliminated in Syria and Iraq and unable to compete with IS in some theatres, such as Nigeria and Egypt's Sinai desert.

But in Africa particularly Zawahiri's strategy has paid off. The late leader personally concluded an alliance with al-Shabaab, the extremist movement which controls much of Somalia's rural areas and can field a force of thousands. In July 500 al-Shabaab fighters took on Ethiopian troops in an unprecedented cross-border incursion. The Somali affilia-

te is also wealthy enough to send millions of dollars to the al-Qaida central leadership, intelligence suggests.

Deep problems caused by competition for resources due to climate change, political instability, massive displacement of population and the recent withdrawal of French troops from Mali offer al-Qaida opportunities for further expansion, analysts say.

Al-Qaida's affiliate in Mali, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM), has been quick to exploit the presence of the Wagner Group, a Russian private military company with links to the Kremlin hired to support the country's embattled military.

Wagner has been repeatedly accused of systematic human rights abuses, including massacres of civilians, which turn local communities against the government and build support for extremists.

The attack on the Kati base outside Bamako was a response to governmental collaboration with the Wagner Group, JNIM said.

“We say to the Bamako government: if you have the right to hire mercenaries to kill the defenceless innocent people, then we have

the right to destroy you and target you,” the group explained in a statement translated by the SITE Intelligence Group.

Gen Stephen J Townsend, commander of the US Africa Command, told reporters last week that JNIM were “on the march towards the south”.

“They are now nearly investing ... Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso's capital, and they are starting operations now in the ... border regions of the coastal states. So, this is of great concern, I think, for the world that's watching,” he said.

In north Africa, al-Qaida still has a presence but has been largely squeezed out of Libya and Tunisia as the chaos seen earlier in the decade has calmed.

Its affiliate in Yemen, though also weaker than before, still exists and has long been considered by western security experts a potential threat. Outside Africa, the biggest gains have been made in Afghanistan.

“The Taliban victory has very predictably strengthened al-Qaida's hand ... That is simply a fact,” said Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, CEO of the US-based threat analysis firm Valens Global.

Al-Qaida has built deep relationships with key factions and senior members of the Taliban who, though divided, appear prepared to offer the group a safe haven on certain conditions. The house Zawahiri was living in with his family when he was killed was owned by an aide of Sirajuddin Haqqani, the Afghan interior minister.

Other prominent al-Qaida veterans are in Iran, where they fled in 2002 but are still active, despite restrictions on their movements and communications, reports suggest.

A challenge for the group is that many obvious heirs to al-Zawahiri have been killed, said Katherine Zimmerman, fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

These include younger leadership candidates such as Hamza bin Laden, the founder's son, who died in a drone strike in Pakistan between 2017 and 2019. Al-Qaida's No 2 was killed in what is believed to be an operation by the Mossad in Tehran in 2020.

An important factor that may help al-Qaida is that the US and its allies are now focused elsewhere.

“We are not devoting that much attention ... and the question at least here in DC is what would cause us to pivot away from Asia again?” said Zimmerman.

“What would be the strategic distraction from our new China focus? Everyone says a major terror attack, but I'm not convinced actually that it would do it.” — The Guardian

Jonathan Beloff

One of the primary points of discussion between Antony Blinken and Rwandan president Paul Kagame in the US secretary of state's upcoming visit to Kigali will be the renewed tensions between Rwanda and its neighbours, particularly the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

According to a US state department statement, Blinken's visit will focus on the role the government of Rwanda can play in reducing tensions and the ongoing violence in eastern DRC. Tensions between Rwanda and the DRC are running high. The DRC has accused Rwanda of openly supporting the Mouvement du 23 Mars (March 23 Movement, M23) in eastern Congo. Rwanda has dismissed these accusations.

It has instead claimed that the Congolese government is spurring violence against the minority Banyarwanda population, and working with the rebel group called the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, which holds pro-Hutu genocide ideology.

Regional actors, such as Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta, have tried to reduce these tensions. But there has been little progress.

The issue is of importance to the US based on its historical relationship with Rwanda and its past alleged interference in eastern DRC by supporting antagonist forces, such as the M23. The charge was laid by the UN Group of Experts.

It's unclear if Blinken's mediation efforts will be successful.

Relations between the US and Rwanda have had their high and low periods. One of the lowest points came in 2012, during Barack

## The US and Rwanda: how the relationship has evolved since the 1994 genocide

Obama's tenure as US president. He cut military aid to Rwanda over Kagame's human rights record, as well as Kigali's role in supporting the M23 rebel group. The US cut \$200,000 from a \$200 million programme, a symbolic gesture from one of Rwanda's staunchest defenders. Since then, Rwandan-US relations have continued to grow, with a notable increase of American tourists and officials visiting the East African nation prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### The ups and downs

Before the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, the country fell within France's sphere of influence. Washington did not view Rwanda as a strategic partner.

But the US's relations with Rwanda changed after the genocide, based on a desire to help support the new post-genocide government. The result was the forging of close diplomatic relations, a process described by Robert Gribbin, a former American ambassador to Rwanda (1996-1999), in his book, *In the Aftermath of Genocide: The US Role in Rwanda*.

Gribbin sets out how the US developed close relations with the post-genocide government and the victorious Rwanda Patriotic Front. This included providing military training for soldiers and commanders, which still continues.

Thanks to the efforts of former assistant secretary of state for African

affairs Susan Rice (1997-2001) under the Clinton administration, the US became a close ally of Rwanda.

This relationship held despite turbulent times under the Obama administration (2009-2017), which led to a reduction in military aid and harsher critiques of Rwanda's democratic and human rights record.

While there was some optimism about the Trump administration, disagreements on trade led to anger among Rwandan officials.

Nevertheless, Rwandan-US relations have remained relatively strong.

### Kagame as a pull factor

Possibly the reason for America's continued close relations with Rwanda stems from the stability of Kagame. First appointed as president in 2000, he presents a stable ally who knows the pro-western language of development and security. Kagame, however, has come in for a great deal of criticism for his domestic human rights and political record. Blinken, according to the US State Department, will be raising concerns about this record during his visit. Blinken will particularly focus on Kagame's “transnational repression, limiting space for dissent and political opposition, and the wrongful detention of US Lawful Permanent Resident Paul Rusesabagina”. Rwanda sentenced Rusesabagina to 25 years in prison for his connection to terrorist attacks in 2021 that killed nine Rwandans.

For the most part, however, American officials have chosen to overlook concerns about Kagame's human rights record. They are much more inclined to view Kagame's support as instrumental to promoting American policies and interests in Africa.

These include promoting a business environment that is favourable for US foreign investment, his soft power influence in African relations and Kigali's peacekeeping contributions.

### Peacekeeping

America's willingness to send its military into peacekeeping missions was greatly hindered by the 1993 failed peacekeeping mission in Somalia. The US was seen to have been humiliated after 19 American soldiers died in the Battle of Mogadishu. These events fostered great political backlash in the US. Many Americans failed to see the purpose of sending US military personnel in non-strategic military operations.

America's reluctance to be involved in peacekeeping opened the door for Washington to offer nations political, diplomatic and military support in return for their participation in missions. In this way the US could meet its commitment to peacekeeping without sending its own soldiers.

There is no doubt that Blinken will seek Rwanda's continued commitment to contributing military and police personnel.

This is a particularly tricky issue in the region at the moment. Over the past two weeks, the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC has come under attack. In two separate incidents, at least 20 people have been killed. Among them were three peacekeepers. Additionally, Rwandan authorities have previously threatened to remove their soldiers from peacekeeping missions after receiving international criticism.

### Investment destination

Even though Rwanda is a small country – it is a low-income economy with a population of just over 13 million – it is still an important destination for American multinational corporations seeking to invest in East Africa.

Rwandan officials, in particular Kagame, have developed close relations with international leaders of companies like Starbucks, Volkswagen, Costco, Macy's, Visa and Marriott International Inc.

These companies have either opened factories, such as Volkswagen, bought commodities, such as Starbucks, or as with Visa, invested in financial growth services in the region.

### Outcome

The current tensions between the DRC and Rwanda, as well as the holding of Rusesabagina, will not be solved by Blinken's quick visit. But these issues are unlikely to cause any long-term damage to Rwanda-US foreign relations.

— The Conversation

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# Mozart Group: the western ex-military training Ukrainian recruits

## Volunteers deliver crash courses in battlefield tactics that should take six months to teach

“STAND by,” shouts a former US Marine. “Threat!” comes the next call and a volley of gunshots echoes around a disused quarry, in a Ukrainian hillside, just a few miles from the front-line of the war.

Dust kicked up by the bullets mixes with the men’s sweat in the 30C heat. “That is not the gun,” says the trainer, singling out a frustrated looking man who had peppered a target five metres away with small holes. “You were putting the sight on a different spot every time.”

In the heart of the Donbas, a group of eight highly experienced western ex-military personnel are delivering an intensive 10-day training course for 40 new Ukrainian recruits who have been pulled straight from the fighting.

As the battle for Ukraine’s east grinds on, soldiers in the Donbas have been taking heavy casualties in a vicious artillery battle. Ukraine’s professional fighting force, who have been defending the eastern frontline since 2014, are severely depleted. Since 24 February new recruits have been surging to the frontline, many with shockingly little training.

The recruits on the course have a patchwork of equipment: different weapons, fatigues and body armour of varying quality. Aged between their early 20s and mid 50s, the men are of all shapes, sizes and levels of fitness.

One in 10 was in the military before the war and they have had very little formal training, explains Andy Milburn, founder of the Mozart Group, a new private security company that’s tasked itself with training Ukrainian soldiers.

Milburn, a retired Marine Corps colonel who spent 31 years in the US military, gathered expert volunteers to train civilians fighting in Kyiv’s civil defence force as they defended their capital. Now based in Donbas, the Mozart Group consists of between 20 and 30 volunteers from the US, the UK, Ireland and other western countries.

The Mozart Group’s name was coined by its members as a tongue-in-cheek musical reference to the Wagner Group, a shadowy Russian paramilitary organisation that’s often described as Vladimir Putin’s private army.

Milburn says at first, he was “a little ambivalent about using the name” but that it has “caught on as a brand now”.

Since 2014 the Wagner Group has operated in insecure, low-income countries, including Syria, Libya and Central African Republic, protecting Russian interests with little regard for human rights or international law.

“I didn’t want to be associated with or compared to the Wagner group. We are not a counter to the Wagner Group; what we do is quite a bit different,” Milburn says.

Largely funded by US private donors and made up of carefully vetted recruits, the Mozart Group also delivers humanitarian aid including sanitary products and food to frontline towns, and extracts vulnerable people from high risk areas of fighting.

Ukrainian soldiers are given five- or 10-day crash courses in basic weapon handling, marksmanship, fire and manoeuvre and battlefield tactics that would ideally take six months to teach.

The trainers have taught thousands of troops to speak to recruits via two interpreters, which Milburn says is not enough for the job but they have struggled to find people



THE Ukrainian recruits undertake target practice in a quarry near the frontline.

with the necessary skills.

“I’m yet to fight on the frontline but we have been manning positions that have been shelled and hit by rocket attacks,” a 42-year-old soldier who identified himself only by his call sign Bison tells the Guardian during firing practice, dressed in a second-hand British camouflage tunic with a union jack badge stitched on the sleeve.

Bison, a mechanical engineer from Dnipro, bought a hunting rifle after the war started, to get some shooting practice and is now operating as a platoon medic. “I did a week’s tactical medical course after having a bad cycling accident during the Covid lockdown. I told them and they made me a medic,” He says with a smile and a medical pack attached to his body armour.

That’s more than most medics, according to Dathan, a former advanced paramedic who spent 23 years serving in the Irish military in counties including Syria and Kosovo, and joined the Mozart Group in May.

“You ask medics what their qualifications are and they say: ‘Well I was given this bag and now I’m the medic,’” says Dathan.

“Only one out of this group of 40 had zeroed his weapon before the training started,” says Milburn as he walks through the scrub to the makeshift training ground. Zeroing a weapon means aligning the sights so you can accurately aim at a target. “That’s the first thing you do,” says Milburn.

The Ukrainian troops are trained close to the frontline as their commanders cannot risk their soldiers being away from the battlefield for too long in case the Russians try

to advance. Ideally these groups would be training 100 to 120 men at a time but they can’t afford to take them from their positions, says Milburn.

“It’s backwards: you don’t go to combat first and then come back to be trained,” Dathan agrees. “The Ukrainian government doesn’t want to say that most of their military isn’t really trained. But they are trying to fight the Russians who, luckily enough, aren’t trained either.”

“This is what it must have been like in world war one,” says Alex (not his real name), speaking to the Guardian over the phone from Bulgaria. Alex is former UK soldier who was taking a break but said he intended to come back to help permanently.

“They are 36-, 37-year-old men and four months ago these guys were taxi drivers or farmers. None of them want to be in the army, but they say our country has been invaded. What do you expect us to do? Massive respect to them. But it is quite sad to be honest,” says Alex.

But what the troops lack in experience they make up for in enthusiasm and determination. “They are upbeat, they listen, they are attentive and most of all they have a great sense of humour,” says Milburn, looking over the training exercise.

“They don’t complain, take everything in and give 100 percent,” Dathan agrees.

Tiger, a 22-year-old soldier who was studying law in Dnipro when the war started, says he is now completing the last year of his degree remotely while getting ready to fight.

Mozart’s members are keen to

separate themselves from the influx of war tourists and want-to-be fighters who could be found telling stories and propping up hotel bars in expensive new military outfits in Kyiv at the start of the conflict. “It’s dangerous,” Alex says. “You might get yourself or someone else injured or killed — and it damages relations between westerners and Ukrainians.”

The trainers say they joined the Mozart Group to become “combat multipliers”, saying it made sense to train hundreds of Ukrainians rather than risk quickly getting killed in the fighting.

The UK government website says those travelling “to fight, or to assist others engaged in the war” could be prosecuted on returning to the UK.

From speaking to Ukrainian troops and commanders, Alex and Milburn agree that US and western weapons systems and military equipment are not being used or distributed correctly due to Ukrainians lacking training and skills.

“They are not deploying the weapons,” said Alex, who, during his seven and a half years with the British military, specialised and trained in the use of Javelins and NLAWs, hi-tech US and UK anti-tank weapons, the use of which proved pivotal in Ukraine’s success in pushing Russia back from Kyiv in March.

Alex says he understands from conversations with commanders that without the proper training, the \$178,000 Javelins systems are being misused or becoming redundant, with sophisticated sight batteries running out before the rockets are fired. “They are not getting the training they need,” says Alex.

At the end of the marksmanship

lesson, the troops gather around for a briefing and Q and A session. “Where should the metal plates be positioned ideally in our armour?” asks one man, and the trainer gives a demo while the men look on, listening intently. “I’m becoming calmer as I get more training,” says Bison when asked if he was worried about going to the frontline.

Nestor, a 26-year-old Ukrainian soldier also from Dnipro, one of the few who had been fighting in the Donbas since 2014, went back to their firing range with Rob, the former US Marine, to get some more tips on changing magazines once the debrief had finished.

“These instructors are amazing, it’s so detailed no matter your experience level,” Nestor says. Of the 15 friends Nestor has lost to fighting in the conflict since 2014, 10 have died this year.

While they have supplied weapons and training overseas, the US, the UK, the EU and other western allies have not deployed troops to Ukraine for fear of the conflict escalating to a war between Russia and Nato. However, Andy Milburn wishes he had more contact with the US government.

Asked whether he shares intelligence with the US, he replies: “That’s kind of the easy part” — and explains that the US government is concerned that if they fund Mozart, the group might turn into a private military contractor becoming involved in the fighting itself.

If any of the Mozart Group volunteers do get involved in the fighting, they are no longer part of the Mozart Group, Milburn explains. “There is a very clear line.”

— The Guardian



# careers

Sunday Express

August 7 - 13 2022

# How to keep your skilled employees happy

**W**ORKERS have had more than two years to find a work/life balance and have become savvy about working productively while participating more fully in family life. Everyone is now used to exercising, shopping and doing their chores when it suits them, rather than ramming these things into weekends and tiny time slots at the beginning and end of the day. The Dutch parliament recently approved legislation to establish work-from-home as a legal right, making the Netherlands one of the first countries to grant remote working flexibility by law. As a result, some organisations are giving up their office spaces because they know all staff will not return full time. Others have maintained smaller spaces to accommodate the new normal — the hybrid model. And those employers trying to return to a pre-pandemic “normal” face the great resignation. According to PwC’s Global Workforce Hopes and Fears Survey of more than 52 000 workers in 44 countries and territories, one in five workers globally plan to quit their job in 2022 — this is in addition to the nearly 50-million workers who left their jobs in 2021 in the US alone.

## Work/life balance now means something real

So many office workers no longer want to dress up every day, leave the comfort and safety of their homes to navigate traffic, try to be productive within a disruptive environment, and then navigate traffic again to get back home. Nor are they interested in paying the dramatically increased cost of transport. Other workers who left the cities during the pandemic don’t want to return — their new lifestyle suits them and their families better.

Countries such as the US, Canada and Australia are experiencing record low levels of unemployment. Current forecasts for US

unemployment following a decline to 4.6 percent in 2021 is now set at 3.4 percent for 2022. Employees in these geographies have enormous leverage and high resignation rates have resulted. The opposite is true for South Africa, where our unemployment rate continues to spiral upwards, and only a select few have the flexibility of being able to quit their jobs for a lifestyle change.

South Africans with in-demand skills have more choices

Employees with scarce skills have many choices right now. They can be selective about where, how, and for whom they work. Some are choosing emigration for access to better opportunities (which doesn’t only refer to salary). Others are semi-grating within the country, knowing that the negotiation power is on their side. Others are choosing to stay in the same physical space but work for corporations in different locations. And others are choosing the more lucrative gig economy. As a result, employers who want to retain their highly skilled staff have to rethink their retention strategies.

## Why are highly skilled workers reevaluating their careers?

Everyone’s reasons vary. Some are introverted and prefer to work independently. This works for many roles. Some take care of ageing parents or home-school their children, or now own pets, and can do this more productively from home while knowing they can still deliver on the work expected of them. Covid taught us way more than that we don’t need a physical office. The younger generations, the digital natives, the Millennial and Gen Z cohorts who have so many of today’s sought-after skills, simply value well-being and balance more than previous generations did. Work for them must be attractive and beneficial — specifically curated to encour-

age collaboration, creativity and camaraderie.

Companies doing well with staff retention now are taking all these factors into account and adapting to new ways of working because they understand what it takes to retain the scarce skills they need. They’ve increased focus on outputs rather than time spent in office, and they’re often prepared to forgo the office in favour of away-days and off-site meetings when staff need to collaborate.

## Skills are suddenly more important than ever

LinkedIn compared the skills its members listed as most important for jobs in 2015 with those for the same jobs in 2021. A quarter of the skills had changed in six years, partly because of accelerated automation during the pandemic. It is estimated that 39 percent to 44 percent of vital skills could change again by 2025. And it’s not just technical skills that are important. A 2020 World Economic Forum report suggested the top five skills for 2025 would include analytical thinking and active learning, precisely the “soft” skills that are harder to teach, quantify and digitise. And McKinsey reports that success in the digital economy requires participants to excel at social, emotional, technological and higher cognitive skills.

Growing the skills required to operate in the hybrid working world will not come only from formal education. Employees and the self-employed will have to keep their skills current by supplementing with high-velocity training in fast-emerging tools and techniques as they’re needed.

— Mail and Guardian

**Martin Pienaar is the chief operations officer at Mindworx, a provider of digital skills training.**

## MOLAO OA MOBU OA 2010

### TSEBISO HO BATHO BA AMEHANG

Mona ho etsoa tsebiso ea hore Mongoli oa Komiti ea Kabo le Kamoho ea Mobo ea Lekhotla le Toropo la Mafeteng, o fumane molaetsa o latelang malebana le mobu o neng o sebelisoa ke bafu ba latelang:

Lebitso la mofu	Letsatsi leo mofu a hloka hetseng ka lona	Sebaka seo mobu o leng hosona	Nomoro ea sets'a/ts'imu	Lebitso la mojalefa	Khetho ea mojalefa e entsoe ke
1. Makoela le Mosele Lekhula	14/06 1975 29/12/1988	Khubetsoana	Unnumbered	Jeremea Makoela Lekhula	Lelapa
2. Leluma le Makeneuo Masihleho	04/12/2006 27/05/2003	Ha-Setumpa	Unnumbered	Tahleo Tsibolane	Lelapa
3. Mathato le Paul Boy Mathafeng	06/05/2009 05/08/2015	Mokhoabong	Unnumbered	Lieketseng Mathafeng	Lelapa
4. Mapakiso Edith le Mokhethi Joseph Sefuthi	18/02/2015 10/03/2003	Ha-Seittheke	Unnumbered	Sefako Sefuthi	Lelapa
5. Mapakiso Edith le Mokhethi Joseph Sefuthi	18/02/2015 10/03/2003	Ha Lebenkele	Unnumbered	Sefako Sefuthi	Lelapa
6. Mapakiso Edith le Mokhethi Joseph Sefuthi	18/02/2015 10/03/2003	Ha Lebenkele	Unnumbered	Sefako Sefuthi	Lelapa
7. Lejaka Consolation Lesoma	29/09/2020	Thabaneng	Unnumbered	Toka Lesoma	Lelapa
8. Lejaka Consolation Lesoma	29/09/2020	Thabaneng	Unnumbered	Toka Lesoma	Lelapa
9. Mathato Ts'epe	18/05/2011	Ha Seetsi	Unnumbered	Maletsema Motete	Mofu
10. Khoarile Michael Massa	25/10/2014	Phokeng	Unnumbered	Mabafokeng Massa	Lelapa
11. Makoalle le Sello Walter Seittheke	30/03/2014 22/04/2011	Ha- Lebenkele	Unnumbered	Relebohile Mokhali	Lelapa
12. Massa le Mampho Arcilia Massa	15/07/1980 04/06/1998	Koete	Unnumbered	Tsekelo	Lelapa
13. Makhula le Maneco Phasumane	02/08/2009 23/01/2011	Phahameng, Liteneng	498	Thabang Phasumane	Lelapa
14. Maseabata Seutloali	01/04/2019	Lecooh-op	07471-074	Mohau Sello	Lelapa
15. Matsabang Matsepe	2008	Skanska	Unnumbered (tsimo)	Pule Chere	Lelapa

Komiti ea kabo le kamoho ea mobu ea Lekhotla la Toropo Mafeteng e kopa hore batho bohle ba nang le lipelaelo kapa likhanyetso hore majalefa ana a boletsoeng a lokeloa ke litokelo mobung ona ba li etse ka mongolo 'me li tilsoe ofising ea mongoli oa komiti ea kabo le kamoho ea mobu ea Lekhotla la Toropo Mafeteng pele beke tse tseletseng li feta (6 weeks) phatlalatsa ena e entsoe, aterseng e hlahang mona:

Mongoli oa Lekhotla la Toropo

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# Núñez and Salah deny Fulham dream start after Mitrovic torments Liverpool



DARWIN Núñez (right) celebrates with Mohamed Salah after scoring his first Premier League goal for Liverpool.

**D**ARWIN Núñez's impact was almost immediate. Until his arrival six minutes into the second half Liverpool had been listless, frequently beaten to the punch by Fulham's energy. The Uruguayan's speed and directness soon had the promoted team on the back foot. The £85m man's first Premier League goal, a smart back-heel, came within 15 minutes of his introduction, and he also played his part in Mohamed Salah's equaliser.

The day also belonged to another striker. Aleksandar Mitrovic, coming off 43 Championship goals last season and attempting to buck the reputation of being short of Premier League class, scored twice. The first was a trademark header, the second a penalty converted after a foul by Virgil van Dijk, to suggest that he, and Fulham, may belong in the top division after all.

While drawing the opening match of the season is no disaster for Liverpool much of their performance, in which Van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold struggled and the attack was blunt until Núñez's arrival, ought to be a concern for Jürgen Klopp. Jordan Henderson hit the bar in the closing seconds, but this was still an escape for last season's runners-up. Trouble was coming from the opening seconds when Mitrovic was given space and time to fire past Alisson's left-hand post. He should have done

far better but that would not be his last chance. Fulham played briskly from the whistle, squeezing Liverpool in midfield. Their opponents meanwhile looked woozy, distracted, their frustrations reflected by Alisson angrily clanking a clearance into the lower tier of the new Riverside Stand.

It took until the 15th minute for Liverpool to mount an attack, and though Luis Díaz smashed the ball into the net, he had already been ruled offside. Salah's first attempt on goal saw him head horribly wide to loud jeers, after he lost his bearings in the south-west London sun. Antonee Robinson, Fulham's left-back, had the better of Liverpool's star man in the first half, though he did lose him for Núñez's goal, which was laid on a plate by the Egyptian's cross.

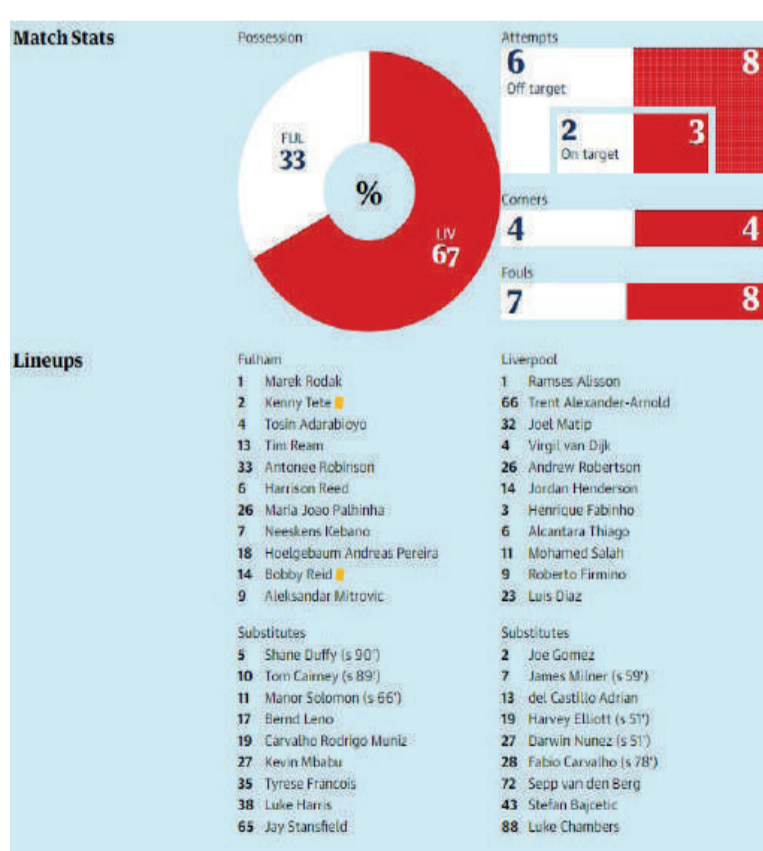
Until sweeping changes in the second half, Klopp's selection had echoed the old Bill Shankly idiom of "same as last season", with Firmino the most central attacker and Díaz coming in from the left of the trident. Fábio Carvalho, a star of Fulham's promotion campaign, joined Núñez on a bench where the inclusion of youngsters Stefan Bajcetic, 17, Sepp van den Berg, 20, and Luke Chambers, 18, were evidence of a pre-season injury crisis.

Marco Silva's was a not dissimilar approach. Just two new signings in João Palhinha and Andreas Pereira

were introduced, both in midfield. Such continuity allowed Fulham to attempt to do to Liverpool what they did to Championship opponents last season: blow them away from kick-off. It was a brave strategy but had the desired effect. Joël Matip and Van Dijk were put through a heavy workload by Mitrovic while Andy Robertson's and Alexander-Arnold's attacking details were curbed by the runs of Bobby Decordova-Reid and Neeskens Kebano, and the passing of the busy, impressive Pereira. Thiago Alcântara, meanwhile, had Harrison Reed as his constant companion.

It took Robertson's backside to block a goalbound shot from Reed, and then Kebano's cross was hurriedly cleared as Mitrovic was lurking. The Serbian's first goal soon followed, the move begun by Pereira before Reed and Kebano sent away Kenny Tete. Alexander-Arnold, at the back post, had no answer to Mitrovic's power and goalscorer's instinct, and questions about the Englishman's defending will again be raised.

Liverpool responded, Díaz crashing the ball off the angle with a powerful, curling shot, but as Klopp jogged to the dressing room at half-time he had many problems to solve. When Thiago pulled up with a muscle injury six minutes into the second half he was replaced by former Fulham player Harvey Elliott,



while Klopp also chose to replace Firmino with Núñez. Fulham still continued to exert pressure. A Mitrovic solo gallop had the crowd roaring in appreciation, holding off Van Dijk as he did so, and then Kebano hit a post with Alisson beaten. Fabinho soon departed as the experience of James Milner was introduced. — The Guardian



# Report: Barcelona Offer Three Stars To Chelsea

Having signed some of Chelsea's targets in this transfer window, it seems Barcelona would like to return the favour to the English club, with reports claiming the Catalan giants have offered three of their players to the Blues.

According to the Evening Standard, the Blaugrana have offered Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Frenkie de Jong and Memphis Depay to Chelsea as they look to alleviate the financial strain they are currently under.

Aubameyang is reportedly considering his future at the Camp Nou with Robert Lewandowski now at the club.

The former Gabon international has a good relationship with Blues boss Thomas Tuchel too, having worked with the German tactician at Borussia Dortmund between 2015 and 2017.

However, the 2020/21 UEFA Champions League-winning coach has insisted he is happy with his current forward line.

A deal involving De Jong may prove harder to orchestrate given that the west London side already have five international midfielders in their ranks.

The Dutchman also remains Manchester United's top priority for the window, but reports suggest that the 25-year-old would be more open to playing for Chelsea if he is to leave Catalonia.

Signing any of these three players would drastically alter the transfer plans already put in place by Tuchel as he looks to reinforce his defence.



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang

Andreas Christensen and Antonio Rudiger have departed, while Cesar Azpilicueta and Marcos Alonso also look set to leave Stamford Bridge for Spain.

Despite Barca swooping in for Chelsea targets Raphinha and Jules Kounde in recent weeks, the same report suggests that new Blues co-owner Todd Boehly has a

relatively good relationship with the LaLiga side.

The English club has already signed Kalidou Koulibaly, Raheem Sterling, Gabriel Slonina and Car-

ney Chukwuemeka for a combined total of €121.19 million (R2 billion) in this window, but more incomings are expected. *Evening Standard*,

# Tottenham live up to billing with free-flowing win over crumbly Southampton

With a comfortable, comprehensive, at times frankly easy win over Southampton, Tottenham demonstrated that any prediction suggesting they might make a plausible charge on the title this season was not entirely far-fetched. This was one of those afternoons when everything went right for the man in charge. Antonio Conte's team selection, tactics and preparation worked to perfection. Here's how satisfying a demonstration of all-round team work this was for the Italian: his side scored four times and none of the goals were from Harry Kane or Son Heung-Min.

After beasting his players in pre-season training, Conte maintained his old school approach by putting all of his new signings on the bench. Five of them were paraded before kick off, none of them started. True, Richarlison is serving a ban for chucking a flare into the crowd last season. But you suspect even were he available, he would have been obliged to wait his turn.

And Spurs began as if they were more than aware of their manager's expectations: they attacked at will. The three previous times Ralph Hasenhuttl had sent out a Southampton team for their first game of the season, he had lost. The expectation was they were ripe for a hammering. Particularly as Hasenhuttl decided to kick off with the 20 year old Irish in-

ternational Gavin Bazunu making his Premier League debut in goal.

But then, as if to confound all assumptions, entirely against the run of play, Southampton scored. Moussa Djenepo feinted and jinked to the byline, sending Cristian Romero the wrong way as he did so. He then stood up a neat reverse pass to James Ward Prowse, lurking on the edge of the box. There is no one else at whose feet a Southampton fan would wish the ball to land and he duly shaped his body perfectly to meet the cross with a volley he sent past Hugo Lloris into the corner.

In truth, Spurs looked a little affronted. As if all that work over the summer should never have put them in this position. And they were soon back in contention. First Son had a shot well saved by Bazunu. Then Dejan Kulusevski sent over a superb long, bending cross that evaded everyone except Ryan Sessegnon charging in at the far post. He put a hammer-blow header past Gavin Bazunu.

It wasn't long before Spurs were back where they felt they should have been: in the ascendant. A corner wasn't cleared properly. Son picked it up and crossed. Eric Dier stooped and deftly headed the ball home. Not that he had much to do once Spurs were in the lead. And they should have had more. Son danced across the front of the Southampton area, the crowd on its feet anticipating a



Dejan Kulusevski celebrates scoring Tottenham's fourth

shot. But when it came it sailed over the bar.

Hasenhuttl tried to respond, replacing one Armstrong (Adam) with another (Stuart) in a bid to stretch the Spurs backline. But from the moment, immediately after the kick off, Sessegnon put the ball in the net only to be ruled offside, this was only heading one way. With Kulu-

sevski full of intelligence and purpose, Spurs were totally dominant. A horrible own goal by Mohammed Salsu, turning an Emerson Royal cross that was heading nowhere past Bazunu, followed by Kulusevski superbly arcing a shot into the corner, compounded Southampton's sense that this was not to be their afternoon. Nor, on this evi-

dence, their season.

As for Spurs, the chant echoing from the stands at the final whistle gave indication of what their fans believe gives them real hope in the league. "Antonio" they bellowed. It was one of those occasions where everything a manager plans comes to fruition.

*-Telegraph*



# Tšoaeli jubilant over Commonwealth Games assignment

Leemisa Thuseho

**L**ESOTHO'S International Doping Control Officer (IDCO), Thabo Tšoaeli, has been appointed to the Doping Control Team at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England.

Tšoaeli is one of the Doping Control Officers (DCOs) at the games that are ending tomorrow.

Stationed in Butha-Buthe, Tšoaeli is a Gender, Youth, Sport and Recreation ministry sports officer.

He was appointed to the Commonwealth Games post by the United Kingdom Anti-Doping (UKAD) and the African Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (RADO) office.

Speaking to the Sunday Express this weekend, Tšoaeli said he was delighted by the appointment.

"I am happy with the appointment as it shows that I am on the right track in doing my work," Tšoaeli said.

"I am even happier because I am the first Mosotho to achieve this.

"This also shows this shows that Lesotho is compliant with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code."

As a DCO, one of his tasks is collecting blood and urine samples for doping testing to promote fairness and cleanness in sport.

"We are mandated with conducting 1200 doping control tests across all sporting codes participating in the

games," he said.

For a small country like Lesotho to be represented at that level, it means other officers will also learn from him once he returns, he said.

"Africa will also benefit from my experience as I have already been requested by RADO to train officers in Malawi for that country's its preparations for the forthcoming African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 Games. The games will be held in December 2022 in Lilongwe.

"I have also been requested to train officers in Ghana to help the country prepare to host the African Games in Accra in September 2023," he added.

He however, said there was still a lot to be done in Lesotho to educate sports personalities about doping.

"The standard of education among our athletes is low because of the lack of resources and resistance from some administrators. Some administrators are uncooperative and

behave as anti-doping issues are not important.

"That shows that there is still a lot of work which must be done."

Last year, Tšoaeli was the chief DCO during the AUSC Region 5 Games held in Lesotho.

He was also part of the anti-doping team in 2011 during the All Africa Games in Mozambique as well Africa Games in Congo-Brazzaville in 2015.



International Doping Control Officer (IDCO), Thabo Tšoaeli

# KTA set for SA b/ball tourney



Leemisa Thuseho

**K**HUBETSOANA (KTA) All Stars basketball team will compete in this year's South African Masters Basketball (SAMBA) tournament, the team has confirmed.

The tournament will be held from 22 to 24 September 2022 in Gauteng.

According to the organisers' newsletter released this week, the tournament has so far attracted teams from Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Democratic Republic of Congo.

The organisers said so far, 32 teams and 300 players have registered for the tournament.

Speaking to the Sunday Express this weekend, KTA founding mem-

bers, Ratšolo Molupe his team's registration.

"KTA is going to participate in the SAMBA tournament this year," Molupe said.

"This is a masters league with different age categories and for us, we will be competing in the 30-39 age category. This because most of our players are in their 30s.

"However, the tournament is

flexible, and we are still allowed to use a who are below 30 or over 39."

Molupe is convinced that despite being a masters league, the tournament will help them boost their competitiveness.

"The tournament promotes basketball in Africa and I think it is going to help us prove to players that even after reaching 40, one can still play the sport."

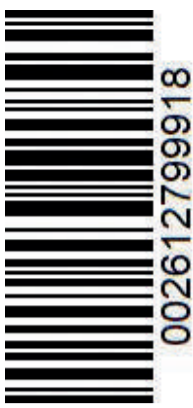
Last weekend KTA finished second in the Lesotho Basketball Association (LBA) winter tournament at Lehakoe Recreational and Cultural Centre losing 57-30 to Trail Blazers from Bloemfontein in the tournament's final.

In May this year, they were crowned the champions in the local Major Basket League.

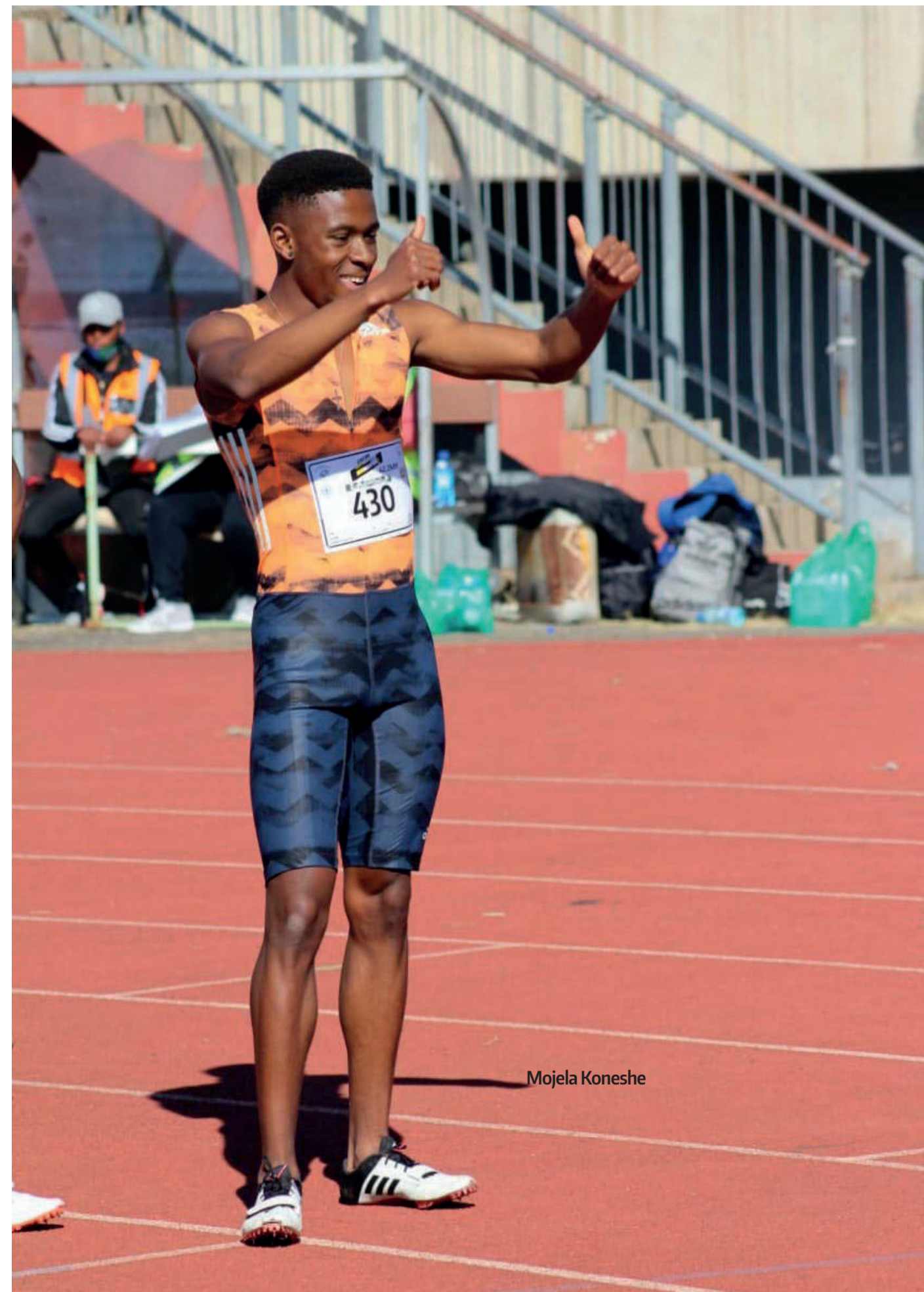


**Tšoaeli**  
**jubilant over**  
**Commonwealth**  
**Games assignment**

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# Koneshe speaks on missed Commonwealth race



Mojela Koneshe

“This season, I have only run in a few 200m races, and this was only so that I can improve my endurance.”

**Leemisa Thuseho**

**S**PRINTER, Mojela Koneshe, was not aware that he was supposed to run the Wednesday's 200m race in the Commonwealth Games.

He only realised later that his name had been put up on the list of athletes to contest in the race when he had not even prepared for it.

Since Wednesday, it had been suspected the runner withdrew as he remained mum. Many were left surprised after the sprinter did not contest in the race with coach, Khauta Makhoana, saying “he was not prepared”. Prior to the Wednesday fixture, Koneshe had come fourth in the 100m heat two, thereby failing to proceed to the next stage. He recorded 10.46 in that race.

Although he was the only Lesotho athlete registered for the race, he said he was not aware.

“First of all, I don't run 200m, especially at big international big competitions,” Koneshe said.

“This season, I have only run in a few 200m races, and this was only so that I can improve my endurance. That is the only reason for which I run 200m races.

“Everyone close to me knows that I do not run 200m races. Therefore, even when I eventually found out that I had been registered, I could not compete without preparation. I hate losing and I was not going to do it.”

Although he is often regarded a 100m and 200m runner, in this instance, it was never going to work because he was not advised by whoever made the call.

“It was never communicated that I was expected to run the 200m race as well. I have been preparing for the 100m races which are different from 200m races. One needs several months to prepare for a race or even years and I could not have done it in days.

“Despite failing to progress to the semi-finals in the 100m race, I am still proud of the progress that I have made after running 10.46 which makes me Lesotho's fastest man. I know I will improve; I am just 21 and this is just the beginning.”

On his part, Federation of Athletics Lesotho (FAL) secretary, Makara Thibinyane, rubbished Koneshe's claims. Instead, he insisted that all athletes were aware of the races that they were expected to compete in.

“All athletes were aware of their respective races. It was never a secret, and the information was available for anyone,” Thibinyane said.

He could however, not be drawn into revealing if the association would take any action against the athlete.