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MPITI Mopeli.

Cops in firearm scandal

- Two Qoaling cops arrested after selling gun to a stranger through a third party,
- This at a time when criminals are using illegal guns to commit murders and other crimes.

Story on page 2

110 more illegal miners nabbed in latest SA blitz

page 4



MOLAO OA BOITŠOARO O OA TLAMA

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Further Together



Marafaele Mohloboli

Cops in firearm scandal

TWO Maseru police constables have been arrested for illegally selling a gun to a man they did not even know.

In an interview, police spokesperson, Senior Superintendent Mpiti Mopeli, yesterday said a 4+1 taxi driver, who is a friend to the two officers, acted as the middle man in the illegal transaction. Shortly afterwards, the two corrupt officers went after the buyer, pretending they had received a tip that he was in possession of an illegal firearm. They then demanded an M2000 bribe to let the man go scot-free. Following an official complaint by the man, a trap was set leading to the arrest of the two officers, Senior Supt Mopeli said.

The incident comes at a time when police are in the spotlight for allegedly stealing firearms from their armouries and selling them to rampaging Famo gangs and

other criminals who have orchestrated a deadly wave of murders, armed robberies and other violent crimes using the illegally obtained weapons.

Speaking on the Qoaling incident, Senior Supt Mopeli said, "After the transaction had gone through, the same police officers, both aged 38, were given information by their friend about the buyer of the gun".

"They went to him, pretending that they were on duty and they had received a tip-off that he had an illegal firearm. They seized the pistol and demanded a M2000 bribe to let the man go free. He promised to give them the money a later stage.

However, he report-

ed the matter to the police who then gave him the money to use as a trap. It was then that the officers were arrested.

"The gun and money were recovered from the two officers. They remain in custody at the police headquarters. They will appear in court as soon as the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP Hlalefang Motinyane) issues a directive," Senior Supt Mopeli said.

Murders, robberies and other violent crimes have escalated in recent weeks. While both the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) and the police have commendably increased their patrols at shopping malls, roads and residential suburbs, their own members, particularly the police, have been fingered in some of the crimes.

Some members of the security agencies are said to be affiliated to marauding Famo gangs responsible

“ They went to him, pretending that they were on duty and they had received a tip-off that he had an illegal firearm. They seized the pistol and demanded a M2000 bribe to let the man go free. He promised to give them the money a later stage. However, he reported the matter to the police who then gave him the money to use as a trap. It was then that the officers were arrested ”

for crimes locally and in neighbouring South Africa.

Last November, 75 guns were stolen from the Mafeteng Police Station in what police authorities said was an inside job. The rogue officers are said to have sold the guns to rampaging Famo gangsters who continue to be the scourge of many an innocent villager in Mafeteng and other parts of

gang wars which have claimed several victims.

In an interview, LEPOSA spokesperson, Police Constable (PC) Motlatsi Mofokeng, said it only came to light that the weapons were missing when they were supposed to be handed over to the new officer in charge of the station by his predecessor on 27 April 2022. PC Mofokeng said the new officer in charge was one Senior Inspector Sututsa. He did not say who his predecessor is.

However, Senior Supt Mopeli said they had not received any reports of missing guns at Mohale's Hoek Police Station. He said PC Mofokeng's comments were misleading and could spread alarm and despondency. Nonetheless, the LEPOSA spokesperson insisted that the weapons had gone missing from the police station.

Commenting on the latest scandal involving the Qoaling officers, Senior Supt Mopeli said their conduct tainted the image of police force.

"Their conduct compromises police work and taints the image of the institution as well. It is obvious that some of these officers were already criminals when they were recruited but we never get to know of it at the time of vetting them. However, the fact that we have already arrested them goes to show just how committed we are to flushing rogue police officers out of our system.

"It is really sad that in as much as we try to do our best to combat crime, some officers are not coming to the party. Now that we are forced to arrest our own, this can create animosity and a toxic working environment within our ranks.

"We therefore appeal to our members to refrain from crime as this taints the image of the police service," Senior Supt Mopeli said.



MPITI Mopeli.

Fired NSS officers lose reinstatement bid

Moorosi Tsiane

THE High Court has thrown out 77 former National Security Service (NSS) officers' application for reinstatement.

The former officers' case against their January 2018 dismissal by the previous government was heard by Justice Keketso Moahloli in March 2021. His lengthy delay in delivering judgement prompted the 77 to petition the court a fortnight ago.

Justice Moahloli then promised that he would deliver judgement on 12 August 2022.

Handing down the verdict on Friday, Justice Moahloli told both the applicants' lawyer, Joalane Lemao, and the respondents' lawyer, Piti Lebakeng, that he would only read out the order and the rest of the judgement would be availed this week.

"I have with me here a very bulky document and I will not read it all. I will only read the order and the rest of the judgment will be available from next week on Wednesday. In the premise, the application is dismissed," Justice Moahloli said.

The sacked officers were appointed by the Pakalitha Mosisili-led seven parties' coalition government in 2016. They were however, dismissed by the successor Thomas Thabane-led coalition in 2018 allegedly because they had been hired on political grounds.

They then approached the High Court to challenge their dismissal and won their case in May 2019.

Judge Semapo Peete ruled at the time that the Director-General of the NSS, Pheello Ralenkoane, had acted unlawfully by terminating their employment.

This after he had first referred the matter to the NSS Board of Inquiry citing that there were some confidential issues relating to the officers which could not be brought before the High Court.

However, Mr Ralenkoane appealed the judgement in the Court of Appeal and the case was heard in 2019.

After hearing the case, the apex court referred the matter back to the High Court and ordered it to be heard by a different judge.

The case was then heard by Justice Moahloli in March 2021 and he only delivered his verdict over the weekend.

One of the fired officers who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, said they were disappointed by the judgment. They would consult their lawyer before deciding on the next course of action, he said.

"We are hurt and disappointed because we had hoped that the judgement would be in our favour. But it is not over yet. We will consult our lawyer on the way forward.

"We also feel hard done by the judicial system. It took more than a year for the judgement to be delivered and when the judge finally delivered it, he only read out the order instead of the full judgement.

"We are confused as to how he reached his decision," the officer said.

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Covid-19: New mass vaccination campaign launched

...AU, MasterCard partner govt in project to jab 270 000 people

Khothatso Sehloho

THE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has partnered with MasterCard Foundation to launch a new mass vaccination campaign against Covid-19 in Lesotho.

Styled by the *Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative*, the ambitious campaign is targeting to have vaccinated at least 270 000 people in 12 months. This means that a tenth of Lesotho's 2, 1 million population would have been vaccinated at the end of the campaign.

Launched in June 2021, the initiative is a US\$1, 5 billion partnership between Africa CDC and the MasterCard Foundation to procure Covid-19 vaccines for at least 65 million people across the African continent.

In a weekend statement announcing the launch of the Lesotho project, Africa CDC said US\$807 067 has been set aside for the implementation of the mass vaccination campaign in Lesotho.

Lesotho first launched a mass vaccination campaign against the pandemic back in March 2021. However, public appetite to get jabbed appears to have stalled in recent months following the improvement of the Covid-19 situation in the country. Early this year, the government even disbanded the National Covid-19 Secretariat (NACOSEC), saying it had successfully brought the pandemic under control.

In its statement, Africa CDC said the vaccination drive is coming at a time when the country "only has 55 percent of the adult population fully vaccinated".

"...Africa CDC, in partnership with the MasterCard Foundation,



SEMANO Sekatle.

has commenced the in-country implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in Lesotho to accelerate the Covid-19 vaccination.

"In this current support, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods ini-

tiative and the Ministry of Health of Lesotho have planned a target to strengthen 22 Covid-19 vaccination centres and vaccinating more than 270 000 within 12 months in the selected sites.

"The initiative will synergise the

efforts of the (Lesotho) government, Africa CDC, and other partners in increasing Covid-19 vaccine uptake. The implementation of the program will focus on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and vaccine capacity to en-

able Lesotho to reach its Covid-19 vaccination target. The ultimate goal of Africa CDC...is to accelerate 70 percent vaccine coverage of the African population by the end of 2022," Africa CDC said in its statement.

The statement quotes Health Minister Semano Sekatle as saying the initiative comes at a time where public confidence in Covid-19 vaccination and demand have declined.

Mr Sekatle expressed hope that the launch of the project will spur an increased public demand for the vaccination.

On his part, the Coordinator of the Africa CDC Southern Africa Regional Coordinating Centre, Lul Pout Riek, said initiative will "include a strong focus on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) to enable Lesotho citizens, particularly young people and rural populations, to understand the safety and benefits of vaccination".

"Africa CDC is very honoured to launch the country implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in partnership with the MasterCard Foundation, to support the Government of Lesotho in vaccinating its population.

"Covid-19 vaccines remain a critical tool in reducing transmission and ultimately returning the economies of Africa to normal. We recognise that the only way to end the pandemic and safeguard lives and livelihoods on the continent is to immunise a critical mass of the African population rapidly," Dr Riek said.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RD SITES

Introduction

The Roads Directorate was established by the Roads Directorate Act No 16 of 2010 as a semi-autonomous corporate statutory body. Its key mandate is to implement government policy on roads related matters through road network planning, development and maintenance and to undertake quality assurance on all roads and construction of footbridges.

- To facilitate the performance of the above functions, the Roads Directorate has a number of sites across the country, which are from time to time used for road construction related activities. The organization intends to lease out such properties to interested parties to develop the sites and undertake business activities that will still be able to accommodate RD road construction activities as and when need arises.

- RD now invites interested and experienced business people locally and internationally to express their interest through proposals on how best they can utilize the sites for their benefit and that of the Roads Directorate.

- There will be a compulsory site visits as per the schedule of site visit below. The Sites to be developed are listed as follows:

SITE	DISTRICT	DATE OF SITE VISIT
Maqalika	Maseru	30 August 2022 at 10:00am
Khubetsoana	Maseru	30 August 2022 at 12:00noon
Marakabei	Maseru	31 August 2022 at 10:00am
Likalaneng	Maseru	31 August 2022 at 2:30pm
Ha Nyenye Mapoteng	Leribe	5 September 2022 at 11:00am
Motse-Mocha	Mohales'Hoek	6 September 2022 at 11:00am
Mount Moorosi	Quthing	7 September 2022 at 2:30pm
Mphaki	Quthing	7 September 2022 at 11:00am

- The detailed information on the sites will be obtained at RD offices .

- Interested applicants must take note of the following additional information: Duration and conditions of sub-lease agreement will be determined by both parties with the preferred bidder but could not be less than 20 years. The sublease agreement will be signed by both parties.

- Prospective tenants would be expected to do requisite refurbishments and treat them as running expenses. Operators shall bring their own materials in order to make a site useable. The proposed development plan with cost should be attached to the expression of interest.

- Operators will be in charge of advertising and marketing of the facility/ sites.

- The bidder that will ultimately be awarded the tender, will be expected to trade at their own risk during the sub-lease agreement period and shall be responsible for all maintenance.

- Neither issuance of this REI (Request for Expression of Interest) nor receipt of proposal represents a commitment on the part of RD or any office within the RD Partnership.

- RD will not be responsible for, or in any way liable for, any costs incurred by Service Providers in the preparation of any responses or presentations relating to this REI.

- Neither party shall use the name of the other in publicity releases, referrals, advertising, or similar activity without the prior written consent of the other.

- The operations will be subjected to the laws of Lesotho.

- Detailed RFPs elaborating on the Terms and Conditions shall be available on request from the Procurement Office free of charge. For further information contact the Procurement Section at the following address

The Procurement Manager

Tel: (266) 22 – 323024/22 -323029

Email Address: mahiritonam@rd.org.ls / ntlhakanamd@rd.org.ls

Physical Address

Procurement Section, Ground Floor (Room G11)
Roads Directorate
Corner Senate and Lepogo Streets
Industrial Area (Opposite Browns Wholesalers)

- All expressions shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and clearly labelled **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RD SITE – NAME OF THE SITE YOUR EXPRESSION IS BASED ON.** (For example – Expression of interest for development of RD site - Maqalika site)

- The Expression of interest shall be submitted as original and two copies in sealed envelope as stated above.

- Expression of interest must be accompanied by copies of valid tax clearance and trader's license certificates certified at source.

- Expression of interest shall be accompanied by audited financial, to enable the Roads Directorate to assess the financial capabilities of the bidder.

- The Bidder must provide at least three written references. Roads Directorate can contact any of the provided reference to confirm the information provided.

- The Proposals are to be deposited in the tender box situated at Ground Floor of the Roads Directorate Headquarters in Maseru on or before 12:00 Noon on Thursday 22nd September, 2022 for their opening in public at 14:30hrs of the same day in the presence of tenderers' representatives who may choose to attend.**

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

110 more illegal miners nabbed in latest SA blitz

... as Welkom Court hands down 18 year sentence to Lesotho national

Mohalenyane Phakela

ANOTHER 110 illegal miners have been nabbed by the South African Police Service (SAPS). This as the South African government intensifies its war to contain illegal mining activities and other crimes in the neighbouring country.

While it is not yet clear if there are any Basotho who have been arrested in the latest blitz, they have nonetheless been fingered alongside Mozambicans and Zimbabweans in the escalation of illegal mining, murders, rape and other violent crimes in Gauteng and

other parts of South Africa in recent weeks.

The arrest of the 110 follow the arrest of 82 other foreigners a fortnight ago. Most media reports in South Africa say that the 82 are Lesotho nationals. Popularly known as Zama Zamas, the illegal miners have also been accused of murders and other violent crimes.

In an interview last week with the *Sunday Express*, 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 they would only be able to confirm their identities after engaging South Africa's Home Affairs Ministry.

Yesterday, SAPS released a statement indicating that another 110 illegal miners were arrested from Monday to Friday in West Rand.

"Following the two day Izimbizo held in Krugersdorp and Kagiso in the West Rand last weekend, the ongoing district and provincial operations have been boosted by additional forces from the (SAPS) National Head Office to combat illicit mining in the area," SAPS said in its statement.

"The units that have been deployed include Tactical Response Teams (TRT), National Intervention Unit (NIU) and Special Task Force (STF), Public Order Police (POP), Mounted Unit, Visible Policing, K9 Unit, Economic Infrastructure Task Team and Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation specifically to focus on medium to high risk situations in the district while and POP and Crime Prevention units focus is to enhance visibility and prevention of crime in communities. The Department of Home Affairs officials on the other hand are assisting with arrested undocumented persons.

"While the SAPS continues to work on an integrated plan with all relevant stakeholders to tackle the levels of the illegal mining value chain, the deployed members have this week, 8 to 12 August 2022, managed to arrest 110 suspects for charges that include contravention of the Precious Metals Act, contravention of the Immigration Act, possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition as well as possession of drugs.

"During the operations, the teams recovered a rifle that belongs to the estate of a deceased man from Mpumalanga, two unlicensed firearms, generators, loads of gold bearing material, explosives and drugs among other things."

The Gauteng Provincial Commissioner of Police, Lieutenant General Elias Mawela, commended the multi-disciplinary teams for their efforts in tackling illegal mining and other crimes in the West Rand.

In another development, a 30-year-old Mosesotho man, Thabo Motinyane, was on Thursday sentenced to 18 imprisonment for attempted murder and armed robbery in South Africa.

In an interview, SAPS Welkom spokesperson, Captain Stephen Thakeng, said Motinyane was convicted on two counts of attempted murder, armed robbery, possession of an illegal firearm and being an illegal immigrant.

Motinyane was arrested on 11 November 2021 and held in custody until the finalisation of his trial. He was last week sentenced by the Welkom Regional Court.

"The Lesotho national, Thabo Motinyane (30), was sentenced to 18 years in jail for two counts of attempted murder, armed robbery, possession of illegal firearm and illegal immigration, on Thursday in Welkom Regional Court.

"On 11 November 2021, members of Thabong SAPS in Welkom responded to a complaint of a shooting incident at One Stop Car Wash in Constantia Road, Thabong. Upon arrival, SAPS members found that the business premises was already closed and according to witnesses, the victim who was shot, had been taken to Bongani Hospital in the area. Members rushed to the hospital and the victim was so serious and was admitted in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). He was later transferred to Bloemfontein for further medical treatment.

"Preliminary investigations revealed that the victim was robbed when he was shot. After a thorough investigation, Motinyane was arrested in G-hostel and identified as a foreign national, who was positively linked with the armed robbery in Constantia Road. He was then charged and on Thursday sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for all the charges in Welkom Regional Court," Captain Thakeng said.

Three other Lesotho nationals are currently on trial in South Africa for murder and attempted murder charges. The three are Moeketsi Hlaudi, Keketso Ntsabisa and Thabiso Ramollo. They appeared at the Bonnievale Magistrates' Court, in Western Cape a fortnight ago.

According to a recent statement by South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)'s Western Cape Regional communications manager, Eric Ntabazalila, said the three were extradited from Lesotho to face charges of murder, attempted murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances as well as the unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition.

"On 27 July 2022, three Lesotho nationals, Moeketsi Hlaudi, Keketso Ntsabisa and Thabiso Ramollo appeared at the Bonnievale Magistrates Court following their successful extradition from Lesotho to South Africa," Mr Ntabazalila said.

"The prosecutor, Advocate Megan Blows, told the court that in 2019, the accused killed Kapteinsdrift farm owner, Jurie Wessels, on his farm in Bonnievale. The accused, who performed seasonal work at the deceased's farm, made use of their knowledge of the farm and planned to attack the farm owner and his wife. They tortured Wessels and his wife by stabbing them beating them and throwing boiling water at them."

Mr Ntabazalila said a fourth suspect, Ntabanyane Tlali, was immediately arrested and he is appearing at the Western Cape High Court in connection with the crimes. Mr Ntabazalila said the other suspects fled to Lesotho and the NPA subsequently applied for their extradition to South Africa.

A cursory examination of Twitter, Facebook, other social media platforms as well as the mainstream media in South Africa will show that there is rising anti-foreigner and in particular anti-Lesotho sentiments due to the escalation of crimes allegedly being committed by Lesotho nationals in that country.

This according, to analysts and major political parties, could jeopardise Lesotho-South Africa relations which have been most cordial since the dawn of majority rule in 1994.

South Africa could impose stricter immigration controls as part of efforts to stem the rising tide of crimes committed in the neighbouring country by Lesotho nationals. Should this happen, ordinary, innocent Basotho will be the ones to suffer any punitive measures imposed by the neighbouring country, more so as they are dependent on South Africa for virtually everything from health services to food supplies.

In a recent interview, National University of Lesotho (NUL) Faculty of Education lecturer, Mahao Mahao, said it was unfortunate that Basotho were suspected of involvement in violent crimes in South Africa.

"This brings reputational damage upon Basotho and Lesotho in general," Dr Mahao said.

"The bilateral relations between Lesotho and South Africa could be severely affected leading to stricter foreign policy adjustments. While Lesotho continues to fight for more freedom of movement for its citizens between the two countries, its people's alleged involvement in crime in South Africa could compromise or render such efforts abortive.

"Even worse, ordinary Basotho could be viewed with suspicion and be targets of violence as a form of revenge by South Africans," Dr Mahao added.

He blamed the Lesotho government and its security agencies for "failing to deal decisively with violence perpetrated by the blanketed men".

"The much bigger picture in this whole issue is the failure of the Lesotho government and its security agents to deal decisively with violence perpetrated by blanketed men who have created violent gangs and continue to act with utmost impunity. "There are also men operating in abandoned South African mines.

"This has created a dangerous mix of criminals who should be dealt with militarily since they openly carry high calibre weapons. What Lesotho has now effectively done is to export violence and infest another country with our own failures.

"Lesotho has itself has become a haven for criminals of all kinds. What we are witnessing in South Africa reflects Lesotho's failure to control its criminal gangs. If criminality alone was a measure of a failed state, Lesotho would certainly be labelled as such," Dr Mahao said.

The Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) has said it is engaging the South African authorities to allow them to swoop on some of the illegal mining centres to flush out Basotho who are not only responsible for crimes in South Africa but in Lesotho as well.

EU hosts International Youth Day

Tokelo Khausela

THE European Union (EU) in Lesotho celebrated International Youth Day over the weekend.

The day is observed annually on 12 August to raise awareness on the need to engage the youth in development. This year's theme is "Intergenerational solidarity: Creating a world for all ages."

To mark the day, the EU hosted a panel discussion in Maseru to discuss challenges faced by young people. Speaking at the event, Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Lesotho, Mario Giuseppe Varrenti, said youth voices need to be heard by authorities when decisions are made about their future.

"When youth organise collectively, they can make their voices heard. This will give them a say on the future they want," said Mr Varrenti.

A public and motivational speaker, Lerato Mpaka, emphasised the importance of youth having skills to solve challenges affecting them.

"Youths need the right skills to resolve their challenges and to build the necessary grid and muscle to be productive. We are living in the 4th industrial revolution yet our institutions are not teaching their students to be innovative.

"When Covid-19 started schools closed forcing learners to study online. However, some didn't have the means to do so and this created a digital divide," Ms Mpaka said.

As at March last year, 4.5 million young people resigned from their jobs worldwide due to mental health challenges. Ms Mpaka said had these youth been equipped with skills to help them cope with their situations, they would have kept their jobs and contrib-

uted to development in their countries.

"Mentoring is necessary to shield youth from being part of the resigning gang."

A human rights activist with non-governmental organisation, Democracy Works Foundation, Kahisano Kolobe, said the country's youth should play an active role in promoting democracy.

"Youths don't see the need to vote. This denies them a chance to vote for people who will lead them and to decide their future," said Ms Kolobe.

Neo Kabi, a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) community activist, said they want an inclusive Lesotho where everybody's rights are considered.

In a statement, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, said the objective of International Youth Day 2022 is to amplify the message that action is needed across all generations to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and leave no one behind. The day also seeks to raise awareness on certain barriers to intergenerational solidarity, notably ageism, which impacts young and old persons, while having detrimental effects on society as a whole.

"Solidarity across generations is key for sustainable development. As we navigate the third year of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is important to recognise and address these age-related barriers to build back better in a manner that leverages all generations' strengths and knowledge," he said.

The Global Report on Ageism launched by the United Nations in March 2021 says that despite lack of research, young people continue to report age-related barriers in various spheres of their lives such as employment, political participation, health and justice.

It also says intergenerational activities can lead to a greater sense of social connectedness and solidarity.

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Police need to do more to tackle murders of women, GBV: Morai

Tokelo Khausela

ESCALATING murders of women and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV) are a shameful stain on the country's image, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Mahlape Morai, has said.

DCP Morai- one of the few female high-ranking police officers- said there was no excuse for femicide and the police needed to up their game to tackle the murders and other serious crimes.

She made the remarks while addressing female police officers in Maseru who had marched in commemoration of the late Martha Rasekoai. Ms Rasekoai was employed at the Ministry of Development Planning Ministry. Her mangled body was found at a rivulet in Ha-Tsolo, Maseru last month. No one has been arrested to date in connection with her gruesome killing.

The march was also aimed at commemorating Women's Month and raising awareness about the need to eradicate GBV.

The officers came together under the umbrella of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) Women's Network, and marched from the police headquarters to Lifefo Ground in Ha-Thetsane over the weekend.

Speaking at the event, DCP Morai said this Women's Month should be used to prioritise issues affecting women and children. She said there was need for the police to increase efforts to tackle escalating femicide and other violent crimes against women.

"The rising statistics of femicide are a shame of our time," DCP Morai said.

"As police officers, we need to pull up our socks. One life lost is one too many. Violence against women and children is unacceptable and inexcusable. It needs to end," DCP Morai

said.

She added that police had declared femicide and other forms of GBV "a pandemic" that had to be robustly dealt with. The LMPS Women's Network was mandated to empower female officers to fight GBV and promote peace, she said.

"The LMPS Women's Network is mandated to empower police women officers to fight gender-based violence and promote peace," she said.

Senior Inspector Mojabeng Letsela, of the police's Child and Gender protection Unit (CGPU), said her unit offers counselling services to GBV victims. It also offers protection to children, men and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community who have suffered GBV.

"It is commonly known that men abuse women, but men are also abused by women. We can't condone any kind of abuse. A recent study conducted by the LMPS indicated that 86 percent of women are abused and 41 percent of men are perpetrators. These are alarming statistics requiring urgent attention to prevent the crimes from escalating any further," Inspector Letsela said.

Libakiso Matlho, the Executive Director of Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) Lesotho, said her organisation capacitated women and children with legal information to enable them to tackle GBV.

"The elections are fast approaching and I plead with members of parliament and po-

litical leaders to implement laws that protect children and women because every human should enjoy their rights without fearing the worst," Advocate Matlho said.

Ms Rasekoai's killing was one of five such murders of women recorded in the final week of July.

Earlier in July, another four women had also been

murdered in various parts of the country. These murders are merely the latest in the ever escalating incidents of killings and violent crimes that have tainted the country's image and could render it an unsafe destination for investors.

As if to illustrate the dark depths of their cruelty and depravity, the killers of the latest five women chose the eve of Women's Month to commit their dastardly crimes.

Women's Month was originally aimed at commemorating the spirited fight by South African women against repressive apartheid laws in the 1950s.

Now Women's Month commemorates women in general, including Basotho women's fight for emancipation from gender-based violence, rape, killings and other socio-cultural and economic ills.

But the killers cannot be bothered. The killings are escalating with each passing year.

All of this is happening because at the level of the households where values of respect and the sanctity of human life are supposed to be inculcated, the responsibility has been abandoned, analysts say.



INVITATION TO TENDER

SolidarMed Lesotho invites sealed tenders from reputable service providers for the provision of Vehicles for rental and use in our TB Triage+ Project in Butha-Buthe and Mokhotlong districts.

Lot No.	Item	Quantity	Duration
Lot 1	Toyota Fortuner	1	16 months
Lot 2	Toyota Hilux Double cab with Canopy	1	16 months
Lot 3	Toyota Quantum, Nissan NV Minibus	1	16 months
Lot 4	Sprinter, Crafter, or Iveco	1	16 Months

Vehicles Specifications & Requirements

ITEM	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
Engine & Transmission	Lot 1 & 2: Diesel engine will be prioritized where necessary, Transmission 5 or 6 speed Manual, 4-wheel drive for Fortuner and Bakkie Lot 3 & 4: Diesel or Petrol, Transmission 5 or 6 speed Manual
Colour	White
Model year	2016 onwards
Wheels & Tyre	Lot 1 & 2: All Terrain, Off-Road, Spare tyre Lot 3 & 4: All-Terrain, Spare tyre
Capacity	Lot 1: Fortuner 7-Seater Lot 2: Bakkie 5-Seater Lot 3 & 4: 14 to 22 Seater
Ventilation	Operational windows (electric/manual), Air conditioning
Safety and Security	Driver and passenger airbags and seatbelts, Front fog lights, Immobilizer/Proximity car lock/Anti-theft system
Vehicle add-ons	Jack and wheel spanner, First-Aid kit, Emergency triangles, Jumpers and Fire-extinguisher
Vehicle Insurance	Commercial comprehensive cover
Driver	Yes

Tender documents can be collected by interested service providers from **Monday the 15th August 2022** at SolidarMed Maseru Office, Happy Villa, House No. 3A, Maseru or requested via email at m.sello@solidarmed.ch.

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

- Copy of Tax Clearance Certificate & VAT Registration Certificate (if registered for VAT)
- Certified copy of valid Trader's License
- A comprehensive Company Profile
- Proof of car registration and applicable permits
- Proof of vehicle insurance
- Certified copies of ID of the Driver
- Certified copies of the Driver's Driving License and applicable permits (Including defensive/advanced driving certificates where applicable)

Submission of the tender documents: In sealed envelopes marked "PROVISION OF VEHICLES FOR TB TRIAGE AT BUTHA-BUTHE AND MOKHOTLONG", must be hand delivered to SolidarMed Maseru Office, Happy Villa, House No. 3A on or before 26th August 2022 no later than 11:00hrs.

Tender documents will be opened at SolidarMed Maseru offices, Happy Villa, House No. 3A on the 26th August 2022 at 11:30hrs. No late submissions will be accepted.

Marafaele Mohloboli

I'm a victim of Lesotho's politics of hate: Metsing

TREASON and murder accused former Deputy Prime Minister, Mothetjoa Metsing, says he is "a victim of Lesotho's toxic politics of hate".

However, he would not retaliate and engage in the same political culture of mudslinging his rivals as he was back in the country to play his part in fostering a new culture of "developmental politics", he said.

The opposition Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) leader made the remarks while addressing scores of jubilant party supporters who had thronged the High Court on Wednesday to support him ahead of his court appearance.

Mr Metsing has been charged alongside Development Planning Minister Selibe Mochoboroane, former army commander, Tlali Kamoli, army officers Captain Litekanyo Nyakane, Lance Corporals Motloheloa Ntsane and Leutsoa Motsieloa.

The charges are in connection with the 30 August 2014 failed coup against former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's first government.

Until Wednesday, Mr Metsing had been a fugitive from justice, having fled the country in December 2021 to avoid being tried for the alleged crimes. Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane even issued a warrant for his arrest on 6 December 2021.

Mr Metsing had since 2018 engaged in various legal battles with DPP Motinyane over her decision to charge him for treason and murder. Mr Metsing had argued that the charges were trumped-up and politically motivated while DPP Motinyane argued that the Crown had a strong case against the politician. She had even called for Mr Metsing to be remanded in custody while awaiting trial.

But in a surprising turn of events on Wednesday, the lead prosecutor, Shaun Abrahams, told the court that the Crown had reached an agreement with Mr Metsing's lawyer, Motiea Teele, for the cancellation of the LCD leader's warrant of arrest and that he be granted bail.

Justice Maliepollo Makhetha is now the presiding judge in the treason and murder trial in the aftermath of the Court of Appeal's 14 May 2022 judgement ordering Justice Sakoane to recuse himself from the trial. She granted endorsed Mr Metsing's settlement with the prosecution and granted him M50 000 bail.

Shortly after the court ruling, Mr Metsing and his LCD supporters drove to the party



LCD leader Mothetjoa Metsing arrives at the High Court flanked by party supporters.

headquarters. The visibly emotional former deputy prime minister then addressed his followers, saying he was grateful for their support as he continued to be persecuted.

"I'm a victim of Lesotho politics, I have been constantly hounded," Mr Metsing said without naming his alleged tormentors.

"I don't know whether this is a day to rejoice or to look back on the journey I've travelled thus far. Indeed Lesotho's politics have hounded me over the years."

He said several politicians hated him "with a passion". He also accused an unnamed journalist of fervently seeking his extradition to

Lesotho when he was arrested in South Africa last month. He was arrested on the South African side of the Maseru Bridge border after he had gone to South African immigration officials to extend his stay in that country. He had fled to South Africa in December 2021 to avoid standing trial for treason and murder alongside Mr Mochoboroane and others.

Although he had the treason and murder charges hanging over his head, he was arrested on the basis of the previous Thomas Thabane administration's 2018 application for his extradition to stand trial for corruption, fraud and tax evasion. Those charges arose

from his alleged role in facilitating an allegedly corrupt tender for roads construction in Maseru and the alleged kickbacks he got from the contractor. He was subsequently freed on bail after the Lesotho government informed its South African government that it had no objection to his release.

In his Wednesday address to the party faithful, Mr Metsing said despite his alleged persecution, he had always done his best to avoid the politics of hate and name calling because these did not help the country in any way.

"You can vouch that you've never heard me insult or demean other leaders like they always do to me. Hate and name-calling don't develop a country. That isn't developmental politics. Yet some say if they want to make it in politics, they must just attack Metsing."

"However, I'm back. Just like baby Jesus, I've been favoured by the Lord. I believe that we'll have a fruitful election campaign. I'm grateful to you all for being there in my hour of need. You're a blessing to me," Mr Metsing said.

His deputy, Tšelislo Mokhosi, concurred, saying Mr Metsing had been "a sacrificial lamb over the years being persecuted and blamed for everything that has gone wrong in Lesotho".

"Sadly, even people with the dirtiest of hands have blamed him for things he never did. Ntate Metsing has walked a very hard journey. He is only returning to the country and he will only be starting to campaign when others have been doing so for a long time now. All we can do is leave everything in God's hands," Mr Mokhosi said.

Also present to welcome Mr Metsing were opposition Alliance of Democrats spokesperson, Thuso Litjobo, and HOPE spokesperson, David Seutloali.

"We're happy that you are back alive. We wonder why you have always been singled out. We welcome you home," Mr Seutloali said.

I make unilateral decisions because I finance SR alone: Mojapela

Bongiwe Zihlangu

SOcialist Revolutionaries (SR) leader, Teboho Mojapela, says he has the right to make unilateral decisions because he is the only one financing the party.

In a weekend interview with the *Sunday Express* at his mansion in Ladybrand, South Africa, Advocate Mojapela hit back at his detractors who have accused him of making decisions without consulting them.

Adv Mojapela said he was entitled to making decisions on his own because "I'm the only one financing the party".

He said he had been single-handedly financing SR since inception in October 2017 and therefore had the right to run the shows as he sees fit.

"When I avail money to finance the party, people are happy but they have a lot to say when I make decisions on my own."

There were roars of discontent from SR members in May this year when Adv Mojapela appointed former Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) Chief Executive Officer, 'Mamarama Matela as deputy leader.

Adv Mojapela made the announcement at a SR gala dinner in Maseru. He said the people who were complaining about his unilateral approach were hypocrites because they were also appointed.

"SR is yet to go for elections. Peo-

ple holding different positions were not elected. They were all hand-picked to take the party forward. Why must it be different when it comes to 'Mamarama'?"

He said he was aware of opportunists in the party.

"I know them very well. Some are even close to me. They were going all over flexing their muscles, claiming that there were decisions that I couldn't make. I went ahead and made them anyway."

"I have said that SR will usher Lesotho to the biblical Canaan. I am a result-driven individual, and my motto is that 'I will get it come push or shove'."

Adv Mojapela said if he saw potential in a person to make things happen, he would work with them irrespective of what his detractors say or think. He said it was funny that some of those people complaining about his appointment of Adv Matela were using his cars.

"I am not a boy. For as long as I live, SR will succeed. I will continue making unilateral decisions. You know why? Because even monied candidates who will be contesting elections under the SR banner still look up to me to finance their campaigns. They want me to provide T-shirts. I support this party generously from my pocket. I will therefore, make decisions if need be."

Adv Mojapela said he has no regrets forming SR following his fall-



TEBOHO Mojapela.

out with former All Basotho Convention (ABC) leader and Prime Minister Thomas Thabane in 2017.

According to him, forming SR was a calling from God that he was bound to fulfill.

"I formed SR because I wanted to have something to show when God calls me to Him. It would therefore, be remiss of me to sit back and watch as the ruling elite continue to take Basotho for granted."

"I believe in God. Imagine me enjoying my money as a single fellow,

globetrotting and enjoying my riches with curvaceous babes donning long nails and eyebrows, whisking them to your Dubai while my country suffers."

"The Bible says that a rich fool will gather all the wealth in the world and dedicate himself to useless stuff, only for God to call him to Him one day."

"Imagine God asking me what I saw in Lesotho and me telling Him that I witnessed atrocities of all kinds, as well as enjoyed reckless

living," Adv Mojapela said, adding that he formed SR to please God and Basotho.

"Whether people like or hate me, it is their business. Jesus came into this world and was persecuted. What's important for me is to see God. I've therefore, decided that I will continue serving God by telling people the truth no matter how uncomfortable it is."

Quizzed on SR's chances during the 7 October, 2022 elections, Adv Mojapela casually responded, "Anything is possible."

He warned his political opponents not to drop the ball because I am coming for them".

"Basotho should expect anything. These criminals calling themselves politicians are out there doing everything to win the elections. But I have warned them that they had better not drop the ball because if they do, I'm coming for them full force. I want to lock up criminals who have plunged this country to its lowest low through stealing."

Adv Mojapela said he would not be worried if he fails to win the elections because he is capable of fending for himself.

He was not desperate whether people vote for him or not.

"It won't make a difference because God loves me. Whatever I ask of Him, He always provides. God never ceases to amaze me."

Adv Mojapela said that producing a manifesto was not a priority for SR. But going into the elections, his party's message centred around uprooting corruption, upholding the rule of law and holding to account perpetrators of corruption.

"That is the message we are going to elections. If we can get that one right as country, then everything else will fall into place."

Foreign national's human trafficking trial postponed

Moorosi Tsiane

THE trial of a Nigerian national accused of trafficking two Lesotho nationals has been postponed to 23 August 2022. This after the no-show of the witnesses who had been lined up by the defence to testify in favour of the accused, Sikiru Rasheed.

Shortly before the trial was about to proceed, Rasheed's lawyer, Lehlohonolo Maseli, informed Chief Magistrate Matankiso Nthunya that the witnesses were nowhere to be found. He however, said he was willing to present his arguments but Crown Counsel, Steve Thaba, objected, saying he had come prepared to cross-examine the witnesses.

Magistrate Nthunya then postponed the case to 23 August 2022 in the hope that the witnesses would have been located to enable them to testify.

Rasheed (30) of Lagos, Nigeria, first appeared last month before Chief Magistrate Nthunya

last month on charges of trafficking Lerato Kaizer (29) and Mohau Majara (25) from Maseru to Dubai where they were allegedly exploited for their labour and underpaid.

He said to have trafficked Majara in October 2021 and Kaizer in March this year. He was also charged with illegally staying in Lesotho without a valid residence permit.

Rasheed has pleaded not guilty to the human tracking charges but entered a guilty plea to the charge of illegally residing in the country. Both Kaizer and Majara have already testified in court about how their trips to Dubai came about. Kaizer said he used to work at a barber shop with the accused. He said Rasheed informed him that he had some contacts in Dubai who wanted someone who can help them in various trading activities while Majara was promised football trials on the other hand.

During his cross examination last month by the Crown Counsel Steve Thaba, Rasheed denied all the accusations, saying he knew nothing about the work the victims had been recruited for in Dubai. He said his friend, one Amos in South Africa, was the one who spoke directly to the victims and organised everything pertaining to their stay in Dubai.

However, Magistrate Nthunya strongly rebuked him, saying he should not lie but testify truthfully.

"I must be frank with you and tell you that I don't believe some of the things you are saying," Magistrate Nthunya said.

"You are leaving your lawyer (Lehlohonolo Moseli) with lots of work because there are many loose ends that he will have to attend to. Remember that you are giving your evidence under oath and you strike me as someone who fears God. So, do not lie to me," Magistrate Nthunya added.

Human trafficking issues have taken centre stage in Lesotho, amid pressure by the US government to punish offenders.

Last month, the United States (US) government upgraded Lesotho to Tier 2 on its human trafficking index report for 2022.

This in recognition of "significant efforts" by the government to combat trafficking in the past year. Nonetheless, the US said Lesotho still had not done enough to address long-standing human trafficking concerns.

It said although Lesotho had made progress towards tackling trafficking in the past year, it still failed to meet "minimum standards in several key areas". Some of the outstanding areas include the failure to prosecute government officials implicated in the trafficking of victims, the US said. In instances where prosecutions had begun, Lesotho had however, failed to conclude the trials, the US added.

Although much more needs to be done, the upgrade to Tier 2 is nevertheless a welcome development. Previously the country had been on Tier 2 Watch List and before that it had been on Tier 3- the lowest ranking. Ordinarily countries in Tier 3 automatically lose US developments assistance and cannot benefit from multi-million-dollar programmes like the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). Those on the Tier 2 Watchlist are still required to increase their efforts to deal with human trafficking for them to be eligible for various forms of US development assistance. Even though Lesotho was reselected for Second Compact under the MCC in 2017, a definite agreement on the size of the compact and funding had remained elusive until March this year when the US had satisfied itself that there had been progress that could lead to an upgrade to Tier 2.



'MATANKISO Nthunya.



Kingdom of Lesotho

LESOTHO ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY
Ministry of Energy and Meteorology

ADVERTISEMENT FOR A STUDY TO DEVELOP A STORAGE FACILITY FOR SOLAR GENERATION PLANT AT RAMAROTHOLE

PROJECT NAME: Feasibility Study for Development of Solar Generation Plant Storage at Ramarothole
SOURCE OF FUNDS: Funded by Government of Lesotho

1. Background

Lesotho Electricity Generation Company (LEGCO) is a statutory body registered under Companies Act of 2011 registration number 70536 to manage electricity generation in Lesotho operating under the Ministry of Energy and Meteorology. The mandate of LEGCO is to ensure that Lesotho is self-sufficient in its power supply, starting with solar generation plant at Ha-Ramarothole in Mafeteng. LEGCO therefore invites applications from a suitably qualified and locally registered or international consultancy company to explore or assess the costed potential of solar power generation storage facilities in Lesotho.

The consultant will undertake a study on implementation of solar power storage options in the country.
The assignment is to be completed within a period of three months.

Interested consultants and consultancy firms should provide information demonstrating their qualifications and relevant experience to perform the assignment including experience of projects related to the assignment, brief description of the most recent relevant assignment showing location, clients, staff involved; availability of key personnel for the assignment stating their qualifications, experience and sustainability as well as cost of service.

Guided site inspection shall be conducted on request. Tender documents with complete information can be obtained from the procurement unit of LEGCO from the **15th August 2022 at M2000.00** cash (non-refundable, and to be paid in the accounts section of the **Ministry of Energy and Meteorology, 80 Constitution Road, Government Complex, Maseru**. For further details contact mobile phone: **63856503** or email **jeffanyane@yahoo.com**). A receipt of payment will be issued and is to be submitted to procurement unit at **LEGCO Offices situated at House no.251 Honeymoon Park, Maseru West**, for tender document collection.

Tender amounts must be inclusive of 15% VAT and all proposals must have valid tax clearance certificates and traders licences certified at source attached to them as a mandatory requirement.

The evaluation criteria will be based on: Quality of service delivery as response to RFP (approach and work-plan with clear time frames), Experience of firm on similar assignments, Availability of qualified and experienced personnel, Cost of service offered and Quality of proposal (Clarity).

Submission: Closing date for submission of proposals is on the **15th September 2022 at 12 noon and will be publicly opened at LEGCO Offices at the address shown below, on the same day at 14:30**. Late tenders shall be rejected. Proposals must be e-mailed to **jeffanyane@yahoo.com** as PDF document. For physical submissions, proposals shall be sent in sealed envelopes and dropped in the Tender Box at LEGCO offices at the address below: Lesotho Electricity Generation Company, House No. 251, Honeymoon Park, Maseru West, MASERU, Tel: 63856503, E-mail-**jeffanyane@yahoo.com**

Physical submissions shall be in one original and four copies for Technical proposals and one original and four copies for Financial proposals. Each proposal shall be clearly written **FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR GENERATION PLANT STORAGE** and clearly indicating, in writing, whether each proposal is a technical or a financial proposal as well as whether it is an original or a copy.

Conditions: LESOTHO ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY shall not be held liable for any costs incurred for the preparation of proposals to be submitted. The Ministry of Energy and Meteorology and LEGCO reserve the right to cancel the above mentioned proposal at any time during the procurement process and is under no obligation to select any tender on the basis of price.



1. Preamble

Loti Brick (PTY) Ltd, a Manufacturer of clay brick products in Lesotho, is looking for a qualified, experienced and hands-on **Finance and Administration Manager**. The main functions of this position would be to head Department of Finance and Administration and plan, manage, coordinate and direct all financial and accounting activities and practices of Loti Brick to ensure keeping of proper books of accounts, provision of annual financial statements, which accord with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP), provision of relevant and reliable periodic management accounts, and effective financial management and planning.

2. Key Performance Areas

- To supervise and ensure that all functions and duties of Finance and Administration are undertaken with the required efficiency and effectiveness.
- To oversee preparation of timely, relevant and reliable monthly management accounts.
- To plan, coordinate and manage Loti Brick's budgetary process.
- To project cash flow requirements and ensure that there is always adequate cash to meet planned company payments.
- To develop and manage a costing model to ensure proper costing of all products to, in turn, inform proper product pricing which enables realization of profits from each product line.
- To ensure that all financial reporting meet the regulatory and legal requirements including taxation, dividends and annual accounts.
- To ensure timely preparation of monthly, quarterly and annual financial statements as well as to facilitate internal and external audit of the same.
- To review the company's existing financial systems, policies and procedures and assess their effectiveness, adequacy and appropriateness.
- To develop, recommend and implement well-documented and up-to-date financial systems, policies, processes and procedures to ensure effective internal controls.
- To advise Management on investment decisions to ensure that only viable investments are carried out.
- To perform secretarial services for the Loti Brick Board of Directors.
- To coordinate activities of the Finance and Administration Department.

3. Competency Requirements for the Position

- Must be a Chartered Accountant with 3 years' relevant experience; OR
- B. Comm. with General Accounting and 5 years relevant experience; OR
- A relevant Master's Degree with 2 years' relevant experience. The Master's Degree holder should have covered Financial Accounting, Financial Management, Management Accounting and Taxation as core courses;
- Competence in Sage X3 Accounting package is highly essential;
- Should have at least 3 years managerial experience.

4. Key Attributes for the Position

- Personality:
- Hands-on approach, analytical and a results-oriented individual with a positive outlook and a clear focus on goals and business profit;
- A natural forward planner who critically assesses own performance;
- Mature, credible, comfortable and always demanding more from own employees;
- A reliable, direct communicator and a team player with the ability to lead and motivate others;
- Ability to work under pressure;
- Excellent interpersonal and people management skills;
- Excellent communication and leadership skills;
- Self-starter and well-motivated individual;
- Excellent numerical and analytical skills;
- Computer literate and skilled in statistical techniques;
- Familiar with the International Accounting Standards and other GAAP;
- Commercial business acumen in a profit-driven organization;
- Honest and trustworthy;
- Good practical knowledge of accounting;
- High business acumen.

5. If you are interested and meet the specified minimum competency requirements, please forward your motivational letter, CV, certified copies of your certificates and three reachable referees to: The Human Resources Manager, P.O.BOX 1038, Maseru 100. Lesotho OR email them to hr@lotibrick.co.ls

For more enquiries please call the Human Resources Manager on +266 22314225

6. Deadline for submission of applications is Friday **12th August 2022**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Comment

Tenders: Govt must clean up its act

THE government really needs to clean up its act when it comes to the awarding of tenders. It is not right that every tender award is followed by lawsuits and complaints about corruption and impropriety on the part of government officials and the winning bidder. A transparent process from the start to the end would surely help end such concerns about malfeasance.

As the *Lesotho Times* reports in its latest edition, the commercial division of the High Court has ordered the Ministry of Transport to disclose the record of all the proceedings which led to the awarding of the M33 million tender for the upgrading of Moshoeshoe I International Airport to a liquidated South African company, LTE Consulting. Judge Moroke Mokhesi made the order during the weekend hearing of an application by an association of local construction and mining companies for the nullification of the tender award to LTE. Justice Mokhesi ordered that the records be availed within seven days of receipt of his 5 August 2022 ruling.

Calling itself the Civil Mining and Building Constructors, the association was last Wednesday joined in the application by a local consultancy, PM Aviation Consultancy. PM Aviation was one of the four companies which lost the airport tender to LTE Consulting in June 2021. Transport Minister Tšoeu Mokeretla, LTE Consulting and Attorney General Rapelang Motsieloa are the first to third respondents respectively in the application.

Even as we await for whatever will be revealed when the transport ministry's records are disclosed as directed by the High Court, some are already speculating that the disclosures will reveal impropriety on the part of the government.

This is because LTE Consulting is owned by controversial South African businessman, Thulani Majola, who is said to enjoy cordial relations with politicians in both the Lesotho and South African governments.

Besides that, the tender was awarded to LTE when the Johannesburg High Court had granted an order for its liquidation over an unpaid debt.

South Africa's famed AmaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism published a story about Mr Majola's alleged use of his political connections in Lesotho to land the multi-million maloti tender. The article also stated that the airport tender was awarded to LTE four months after its liquidation.

The liquidation, the article stated, was as a result of LTE being accused of failing to honour a M23 million debt to its South African sub-contractor, Kontinental Engineering Consulting, for a bus station construction project for the City of Ekurhuleni in 2020. LTE had initially entered into talks regarding a settlement with Kontinental after the latter had filed a liquidation application in the Johannesburg High Court.

However, the parties failed to reach an agreement and Kontinental went back to court, arguing that LTE had paid M14 million but still owed M8, 9 million. This led to the eventual liquidation of LTE, according to AmaBhungane. A final liquidation order was then issued on 24 February 2022.

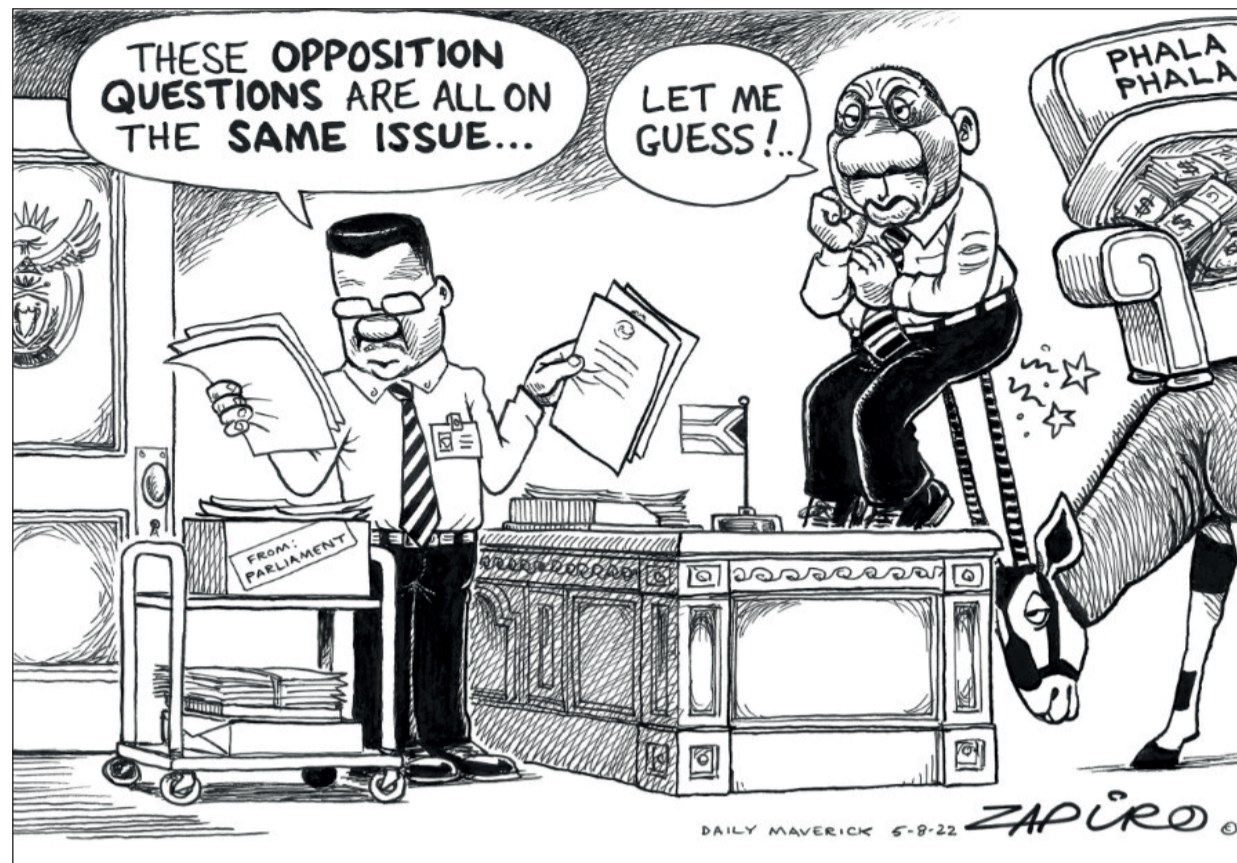
This has prompted the Civil Mining and Building Constructors/ PM Aviation application challenging the tender award to LTE Consulting. This is just the latest in the ever-growing list of government tenders that have been challenged in the courts by disgruntled losing bidders. Oftentimes the implementation of much-needed projects is stalled by such lawsuits.

But all of this can be avoided if only government was transparent in its business. There must be transparency and accountability at every step of the process until a tender is awarded. After all, public funds are involved and the public has a right to know what is being done by their representatives with their (public's) money.

Shoddy jobs

We have also noted with concern that many of the contractors are doing shoddy jobs. No action has ever been taken against such contractors. One only has to look at the state of our roads in Maseru, some which were refurbished less than two years ago, to understand what we are talking about.

The roads are now filled with massive potholes. Interestingly enough, the prime minister and his government officials travel on these roads on a daily basis. We wonder whether they are well cushioned by their top of the range 4 × 4 vehicles to the extent of not seeing or even feeling the dangers posed by such roads to motorists. We have never been called to a press conference or seen any state document containing names of companies that have been blacklisted by the government for poor workmanship. We cannot go on like this. Something has to give. Contractors should be held to account for their work.



The phobia for xenophobia: Thinking through the Krugersdorp incident

ON May 11, 2008, there was an eruption of violent clashes between black South Africans and those from other African countries in the densely populated Alexandra township of Johannesburg. During these bloody clashes, it emerged that the motive of the violence was a phenomenon called xenophobia.

Since then, confrontations that transpired between black African people in South Africa have been wrapped under the same blanket of xenophobia.

Old images and videos of people being attacked and scorched by fire are deliberately dispersed in the media and other social media platforms in the interest of fuelling and spreading this narrative across the African continent and the world.

Following the recent incident in Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg, where a group of illegal immigrants is alleged to have sexually abused eight women, the conversation about xenophobia has again come to the fore.

This time, it is in respect of a violent attack on people who are perceived as illegal miners by angry community members in the same area where the rape incident took place.

In light of this, the article seeks to interrogate the meaning of xenophobia, and the basis on which it is alleged to find expression in the black communities of South Africa.

According to the definition, xenophobia means hatred for what is foreign (in this case foreigners). It is a dislike for people from countries outside your own.

However, there are noticeable limitations to this definition of xenophobia in explaining the complex questions of identity in South African society.

For instance, there is no factual basis to the claim that South Africans despise people from other African countries. Black South Africans mingle freely with other Africans on university campuses, schools, and in the workplace.

And in these sectors, no incidents of violent clashes have ever taken place or been reported. Why, then, if South Africans are inherently xenophobic does this not take place?

The truth is that part of the continent's post-colonial reality is a leadership failure, lack of opportunity, and political instability.

Thus, many Africans descend on countries like SA in search of better opportunities for their lives.

Upon arrival, they find a local crisis whereby locals are without jobs or

Zwe Nxumalo

any economic activity as a legacy of apartheid and colonialism.

And the ripple effect is that by virtue of their desperation, they are forced to compete for these limited resources for their survival.

That is to say, the battles only find expression at grassroots level because people scramble with each other for jobs and limited economic opportunities.

Consider the scenario: you have one piece of meat in hand, but are surrounded by four starving pit bulls. If you threw the piece of meat in the air the four pit bulls would battle and eat each other in a quest to acquire the piece of meat for themselves.

Essentially, the battle for limited resources is a colonial construct in South Africa whereby the black majority is forced to battle for the crumbs that fall from the white table.

Additionally, in the context of South Africa, the conflict has primarily been between locals and those they perceive to be in the country illegally. In other words, it is not all foreigners who become the target of the attacks or bad treatment.

Interestingly, some political leaders like the president of the EFF, Julius Malema, have argued that borders are "colonial" and "artificial" and ought not to be obeyed. He has said there are no borders in Africa.

He is right in his historical account of the borders, however, in our ideological appreciation of black relations

in Africa, there is also a fundamental commitment to the rule of law that was made by the forebears of our constitutional democracy.

Do we then abandon the laws of the country in pursuit of this ideological path? Why do we not adopt the same approach as far as other laws are concerned? Who decides for us what laws to obey and what laws to undermine?

The principle is simple, those who come into the country must do so within the legal frameworks of the country. Those who have gained entrance, must not involve themselves in illegal activities like cash-in-transit heists, the drug trade, and even the rape of women.

"Pan-Africanism is not merely a unity of colour but a unity of common condition," said Walter Rodney.

To support Rodney's view, Ngugi Wa Thiongo argues that Pan-Africanism is congruent with the African humanist – those at whose heart is universal citizenship, unity, love, harmony, sharing, and co-operation.

Therefore, our brand of Pan-Africanism cannot be based on illegality because then, we give credence to the false notion that we are a barbaric and disorderly people.

We ought to be united by a common condition as Africans. And we ought to be the first ones to reprimand any bad conduct by any one of us.

A good relationship is generally grounded on honesty and transparency. There should be no fear to confront and tell each other off if we are truthful to the principles of Pan-Africanism.

— IOL

● **Zwe Nxumalo is an activist, law student, and writer in the process of publishing his first novel.**



Sunday Express

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Have your say

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August 14 - 20 2022

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

The Editor Sunday Express,
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Education: Key to empowerment of women

E DUCATION is the key to development and empowerment and must be provided to all. However, this is not always the case for women and girls.

I was puzzled to find out that a young lady who came to help with some chores at my house had a very limited education, while her brothers were university graduates. Of course, this was not the first time I have met girls and women, who were deprived of education because their families believe that they will one day get married, and that there is no need to invest a great deal in their education. This is, unfortunately, a commonly-believed and practiced gender discrimination, which affects millions of girls and women all over the world.

Education is a basic human right and must be provided for all — girls and boys, women and men. The Universal House of Justice, the governing council of the Bahá'í international community, states that "The cause of universal education ... deserves the utmost support that the governments of the world can lend it. For ignorance is indisputably the principal reason for the decline and fall of peoples and the perpetuation of prejudice. No nation can achieve success unless education is accorded all its citizens".

Education and training of every child, their personality, talents, mental and physical abilities and spiritual qualities to their fullest potential, is the right of every child. Education of girls is not only a fundamental human right. It is also in the best interests of society as a whole.

The Bahá'í Writings state: "... men and women are equal in the sight of God ... there is no distinction to be made between them. The only difference between them now is due to lack of education and training. If woman is given equal opportunity of education, distinction and estimate of inferiority will disappear".

Mother is the first educator of the child. In a family, for example, although both parents should share in the overall responsibility of educating their children, but mother is given recognition as their first educator. The spiritual, emotional and intellectual education of women and girls is, therefore, necessary because a mother cannot pass on what she does not have.

Furthermore, education and empowerment of women is crucial for the development and advancement of society. Without the qualities, talents and skills of both women and men, full social and economic development of the planet is impossible.

The benefits of woman's education is not only in terms of social economic development, as people often view it. But material well-being is one of the many benefits our communities derive from women's and girls' education.

Well-being and advancement of our communities

The full participation of everyone, including women, is required for the well-being and advancement of our communities. For this to happen, girls, as well as boys, must be valued by their families and by society and given

equal opportunities in all fields of human endeavour.

The Bahá'í Writings state: "Until the reality of equality between man and woman is fully established and attained, the highest social development of mankind is not possible" and that "The world of humanity is possessed of two wings: the male and the female. So long as these two wings are not equivalent in strength, the bird will not fly. Until womankind reaches the same arena of activity, extraordinary attainment for humanity will not be realized; humanity cannot wing its way to heights of real attainment".

Research concerning women's status and gender relations clearly shows the cost to society of the underdevelopment of women. Societies which oppress women have poorer economic, health and social indicators.

Empowerment of women contributes to peace

Women plays a central role in the development of families, communities and nations. As mothers, they bear the anxieties and difficulties of rearing children. Having brought them to the age of maturity, they do not want to sacrifice their children in the battlefields.

Participation of women in all spheres of life is essential to social and economic development of the planet, the abolition of war, and the ultimate establishment of a united world.

According to the Bahá'í Writings: "when women participate fully and equally in the affairs of the world ... war will cease" and "The emancipation of women, the achievement of full equality between the sexes, is one of the most important, though less acknowledged pre-requisites of peace. ... Only as women are welcomed into full partnership {with men} in all fields of human endeavour will the moral and psychological climate be created in which international peace can emerge".

Equality between men and women is not easily attained. It requires education and patience with oneself and others, an unshakable determination, as well as moral and spiritual principles, which facilitate the shift in values and attitudes, required to achieve equality.

For feedback please contact: bahai.lesotho@gmail.com; or call +266 56715009
Website: www.bahai.org



VACANCY

G4S Secure Solutions Lesotho PTY (Ltd) invites applications from suitably qualified Basotho for a position of **CUSTOMER SERVICES MANAGER (CSM)**.

Main Purpose of Position:

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the CSM coordinates the provision of contractual and ad hoc security services to customers within their portfolio, in compliance with legislation, Company policies and procedures.

MAIN OUTPUTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Security Operations Management for several customers
- Customer Relationship Maintenance
- Risk Assessments
- Labour Management
- Ensure Health and Safety Standard are Maintained
- Manage Discipline

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- C.O.S.C.
- Security Management Qualification
- Computer Literacy
- Driver's License (3 years and above)
- 5 years' experience in Private Security Management

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted

Interested candidates should hand deliver covering letter together with CVs and certified copies of certificates to:

The Human Resources Manager, G4S Lesotho, 397 Hilton Hill Road, Maseru on or before **19th August 2022** before **15:00 Hours**.



JOB TITLE: ADMIN AND OFFICE COORDINATOR

Tholo Energy is looking for Basotho nationals to fill in the vacant position of Office Coordinator.

JOB BRIEF

The incumbent will undertake a variety of day-to-day office and critical tasks. Be an integral part in ensuring that the office operations run smoothly and are successful in supporting other business activities. Must be organized and competent professional with phenomenal communication skills. Be able to deal with people and able to carry out administrative duties with accuracy and speed.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Follow office workflow procedures to ensure maximum efficiency
- Maintain files and records with effective filing systems
- Support other teams with various administrative tasks (redirecting calls, disseminating correspondence, scheduling meetings etc.)
- Greet and assist visitors when they arrive at the office
- Monitor office expenditures and handle all office contracts (e.g. service contracts etc.)
- Perform basic bookkeeping activities and update the accounting system
- Deal with customer complaints or issues
- Monitor office supplies inventory and place orders
- Assist in vendor relationship management
- Follows office workflow procedures to ensure maximum efficiency.
- Maintaining files and records with effective filing systems.
- Ensure the office operates smoothly by managing varied responsibilities that keep the office running. E.g. taking meeting notes and ordering office supplies to reserving conference spaces for meetings and planning out-of-town travel arrangements for employees.
- Perform a number of administrative functions and customer service-related tasks that assist the overall function of the office environment, managing schedules for conferences and meetings, scheduling vendors for maintenance and repairs, and ordering inventory for office supplies.

REQUIREMENTS AND SKILLS

- Proven experience as office coordinator or in a similar role
- Experience in customer service will be a plus
- Knowledge of office management systems and procedures
- Outstanding knowledge of MS Office, "back-office".
- Working knowledge of office equipment (e.g. optical scanner)
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Organized with the ability to prioritize and multi-task
- Reliable with patience and professionalism
- Associate's/College degree; BSc/Ba in business administration or relevant field can be an added advantage.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants should submit their Curriculum Vitae at Tholo Energy Reception, 2nd floor, 'Matanki House Corner Balfour and Kingsway Street OR alternatively send their applications to info@tholoenergy.co.ls

Closing date Wednesday the 17th August 2022 at 16:00hr.

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Avani donates to Katlehong orphanage

Senate Lerotholi

AVANI Hotel and Casino has extended a helping hand to the Ministry of Hope in Katlehong, Maseru.

The international hotel chain donated school shoes, school bags, toiletries and groceries to the orphanage during a recent ceremony. The Avani Office of People and Culture Manager, Pologo Rangoako, said the donation was part of birthday celebrations for the founder of Minor International PCL, now known as Avani, William Heinecke.

Mr Heinecke turned 73 in June this year.

"The founder of the hotel group was born in June, so every year around June and July, Avani celebrates his birthday through giving back to the community," Ms Rangoako said.

She said this year's celebrations were centred on education hence

their decision to donate school shoes, bags, and toiletries to Ministry of Hope.

"We have also brought cooked food to share with the children. We wanted to connect with them and to show them that we care."

For her part, Ministry of Hope founder, Mamonyane Mohale, thanked Avani Hotel and Casino for the kind gesture.

"I am happy that Avani came through for us at a time schools are about to open for the third term.

"We were worried because some of our children needed new shoes. This donation has really helped," Ms Mohale said.

Ministry of Hope Lesotho is a refuge for infants, children and youth in Maseru. It was founded in 2009 by Nancy Dimmock in collaboration with Mamonyane Mohale.

It currently looks after 28 children.



SOME of the packages donated by AVANI Hotel and Casino.

Japan donates M31 million to school feeding programme

Tokelo Khausela

JAPAN has donated M31 million to boost Lesotho's school feeding programme. The East Asian country also donated 230 tonnes of tinned fish and 510 tonnes of fortified foods through the World Food Programme (WFP).

Speaking during a recent handover ceremony in Maseru, Foreign Affairs Minister, Matšepo Ramakoa, said about 52 000 learners would benefit under the feeding scheme.

Ms Ramakoa said Japan's contribution

would boost efforts to address malnutrition, undernutrition, stunting and low enrolment rates at pre-primary and primary levels.

"We hope to see improved school attendance and increased access to food. Some children attend school because it is the only place they can access a decent meal," she said. The donation would also contribute positively to shaping Lesotho's socio-economic development. Ms Ramakoa commended the WFP for ensuring that donated food reached the intended targets. Japanese Ambassador to Lesotho, South Africa and eSwatini, Maruy-

ama Norio, said they had decided to help the country to cushion it from food insecurity.

Ambassador Norio said Lesotho's food security situation was deteriorating due to high commodity prices and the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.


"This aid is aimed at improving food security and supporting Lesotho's economic and social development. We are delighted to contribute towards improving the livelihood of vulnerable people," he said.

For her part, WFP Country Director, Aureore Rusiga, said Japan's support came at a

critical time when the world is facing a severe food crisis.

According to the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee, about 521 000 people are food insecure and need humanitarian support.

"This contribution by Japan will be used to reduce food insecurity in the country. We will ensure continuous and uninterrupted provision of school meals by providing fortified maize meal and canned fish to pre-primary and early childhood care and development centres nationwide," Ms Rusiga said.




SANLEI
PREMIUM TROUT
LESOTHO

SanLei (PTY) Ltd a company based in Lesotho currently has vacancy for the following position

Position	Job Description/Purpose	Qualifications & Experience	Skills competencies & requirements
Electrical Technician	<p>PURPOSE: Responsible for ensuring the continuous supply of cost-effective electricity with safe, excellent quality and well-maintained electrical installations thereby contributing to the Sanlei's ongoing achievement of its production targets.</p> <p>KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS</p> <p>1.1 Comply with legislative and operational requirements of Sanlei.</p> <p>1.2 Ensure adherence and compliance to overall SHE policies, procedures and best practices and complete necessary risk assessment</p> <p>1.3 Identify any problem or maintenance requirement through observation and technical checks</p> <p>1.4 Apply technical knowledge and skills to select the best cost-effective solution to resolve the problem</p> <p>1.5 Re-commission the electrical installation on completion of repairs/additions</p> <p>1.6 Maintain an inventory of critical electrical components and spares to ensure quick repairs to essential electrical equipment in the event of equipment failure</p> <p>1.7 Apply practical procedures and checklists for efficient and safe installation of electrical equipment and related work practices</p> <p>1.8 Repair and troubleshoot all faulty electrical equipment and troubleshoot minor power outages</p> <p>1.9 Report on completed electrical maintenance assignments to line supervisor</p> <p>2.0 Provide input to electrical planning process in terms of electrical and related materials required</p> <p>2.1 Monitor adherence by contractors to agreed scope of work according to service level agreements</p>	<p>Minimum requirement is Diploma in electrical engineering or</p> <p>At least 5 years' experience holding certificate in electrical installation, electrical trade test from accredited/recognized institution</p> <p>Advanced knowledge in installation and maintenance of single phase and three phase electrical motors and pumps</p> <p>Advanced knowledge in troubleshooting of variable frequency drives</p> <p>Basic knowledge in troubleshooting refrigeration systems</p> <p>Proven ability to work as part of a bigger team Team player and good communicator</p>	<p>Valid Driver's license</p> <p>Innovative, inventive, and analytical, able to pre-empt, resolve problems and compliance conscious</p> <p>Ability to schedule work and activities</p> <p>Deadline focussed and able to make critical decisions under pressure while maintaining safety of the staff you are working with</p> <p>Good record keeping and planning skills and attention to detail and computer literate</p> <p>Proven record of ability to manage time and work to strict deadlines</p> <p>Willing to work during weekends and longer hours when required</p> <p>Fluency in English, written and spoken, driving continuous improvement</p> <p>Sound Technical trouble shooting/fault finding</p>

Contact: Should you meet the requirements for this position, please e-mail your CV to hr@sanleitrou.com. Deadline for applications is **01st September 2022**.

DISCLAIMERS: Only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted.



LETTER OF INVITATION **REF: LEC/PO-1072/2022/2023**

The Lesotho Electricity company hereby invites eligible registered companies to **TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ELECTRICAL MATERIALS**. Set of tender documents will be obtainable on request via emails and website at no costs, while there will be a mandatory non-refundable participation fee of **M3000.00 (Three Thousand Maloti)**. Payment details and procedures as well as Specifications will be indicated in the Data sheet.

Sealed bids bearing no identification of the bidder endorsed **"TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ELECTRICAL MATERIALS FOR LESOTHO ELECTRICITY COMPANY (PTY) LTD"** shall be hand delivered and deposited into the tender box located at LEC Management Office block, reception area on or before **26th August, 2022 at 10:00hrs** and opened the same day at **11:30hrs**. Bidders or their representatives have a right to witness the tender opening.

Please take the following into consideration:

- The costs of preparing the bid and of negotiating the contract are not reimbursable as a direct cost of the Assignment;
- LEC also reserves the right to cancel the invitation before the submission or opening of bids, postpone the bid submission/opening date and to accept or reject any or all bids at any time prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or any obligation to inform the affected bidder of the grounds for LEC's action. LEC is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.
- Tender received after the closing date and time will not be considered.
- Please note that only companies that have delivered and supplied electrical materials preferably to LEC will be considered for this assignment.**
- Bidders are further requested to fill the bid security/securing declaration form attached in the tender document.

For more information, clarifications and request for bid document, please contact Procurement Office at **22312236, 52272219, 52272360, and 52272146**, mosaet@lec.co.ls, goanem@lec.co.ls, monyatsib@lec.co.ls and pakelam@lec.co.ls

Website: www.lec.co.ls

August 14 - 20 2022

How Burna Boy 's mixed influences ignited the world

influences, Burna Boy has, at least for the moment, become mainstream; a slightly compliant agent of the commercial music industry. (The same is true of most of today's Afrobeats stars, even if this is a Faustian truth everyone might choose to ignore.)

On Love, Damini (he was born Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu) Burna still exudes just the right amount of foreboding and palpable intrigue to remain credible as an artist. But how much of his much-touted originality does he have left? Perhaps a way to begin to answer this question is to revisit his musical influences.

Spotting his influences

It is difficult not to love club bangers such as Soke, Ye, Gbona and On the Low, all produced before Burna Boy's groundbreaking 2021 Grammy win with his fifth album, Twice as Tall (2020).

In most of these songs, Fela Kuti's influence is crystal clear in samples and the unequivocal lifting of various hooks. For many, it seemed like Burna was Kuti's heir apparent.

From the late 1960s Nigerian musician and singer Kuti, along with his amazing bands, almost single-handedly pioneered a genre called Afrobeat. This sound incorporated strong Pan Africanist politics, intricate call and response singing, and heavy West African drumming laced with enticing jazz and funk riffs. Afrobeats is an umbrella term for a more radio-friendly and commercial version of Kuti's Afrobeat.

Burna Boy's Kuti credentials appear impeccable. His maternal grandfather, the broadcaster and jazz enthusiast Benson Idonije, had managed Kuti in the 1960s. His mother and manager, business woman Bose Ogulu, had danced in Kuti's troupe.

Burna has also been influenced by ragga, dub and grime ever since his days as a student in the UK. The foundations of these genres were laid mainly in Jamaica but found fresh creative wings in urban UK music scenes. This culminated in a hit like Burna's 2017 song Rock your Body.

Even before the arrival of Love, Damini, Burna Boy had succeeded in melding his diverse cultural and sonic experiences into one powerful aural stew.

Burna has not only cribbed the Jamaican sound. He's also adopted the rude boy persona with tales of private security gunshots, rape allegations and a trail of broken hearts that have clouded his already threatening aura.

Ways to weigh Burna

Obviously, Burna was aiming to act as some kind of generational spokesperson for a restless and burgeoning Afropolitan brigade. It couldn't have been otherwise after being fed on a diet of Kuti-inspired Pan Africanism and neocolonial resistance. By most standards, this is heavy stuff for a market and generation captured by instant gratification.

And then he struck musical gold with his eclectic brew of West African

rhythms, West Indian jungle grooves and the ubiquity of hip hop. Burna once described part of this gumbo as "pepperoni pizza" with Kuti's Afrobeat as the dough. There is nothing particularly unique about this recipe. Instead, the X factor can be found in his own winning combination of ingredients—bound with an arresting personality. Of course, there's also his amazing dexterity in sampling to ponder.

He has proclaimed that his brand of music is a new genre called Afrofusion. Probably this is just a way of leveraging newfound success for greater effect. A way to distinguish himself from the teeming throng of Afrobeats aspirers.

To the undiscerning, Burna Boy's sound is pure genius. But for those conversant with Kuti, with Jamaican godfather of dub, Lee "Scratch" Perry, and similar genres of Caribbean toasting (lyrical chanting over dancehall music), it all seems a bit déjà vu.

There are different ways to weigh Burna. If we put him against Kuti, Perry and the greats of dub, he is arguably minor. But in an incessantly Instagrammed era, endlessly photographed and reproduced, he is a giant bristling with substance, creative menace and yet to be decoded signification.

Burna was birthed from robust foundations of Afrobeat, hip hop, ragga, grime, drum 'n' bass and dub-related sounds. There are hardly any other foundations as deep as these. His work, up till now, has mainly consisted of translating and reconfiguring those jungle-laden sounds for a mass audience.

In this regard, he is a faithful conduit, a vehicle for simmering, unadulterated and quasi-spiritual grooves. Some-

times, it isn't even certain that Burna recognises the depth of what he is channelling. If he did, he wouldn't be so eager to pair up with every hot music star that pops up on the scene.

Burna's lyrics in hits such as Last Last (2022) are replete with profanity, inanity and nonsense rhymes that sound good to the ears especially if you happen not to understand West African pidgin. This is yet another aspect of his work that can be quite bewildering; the sudden swings between sense and nonsense, pseudo-philosophical gravity and outright puerility.

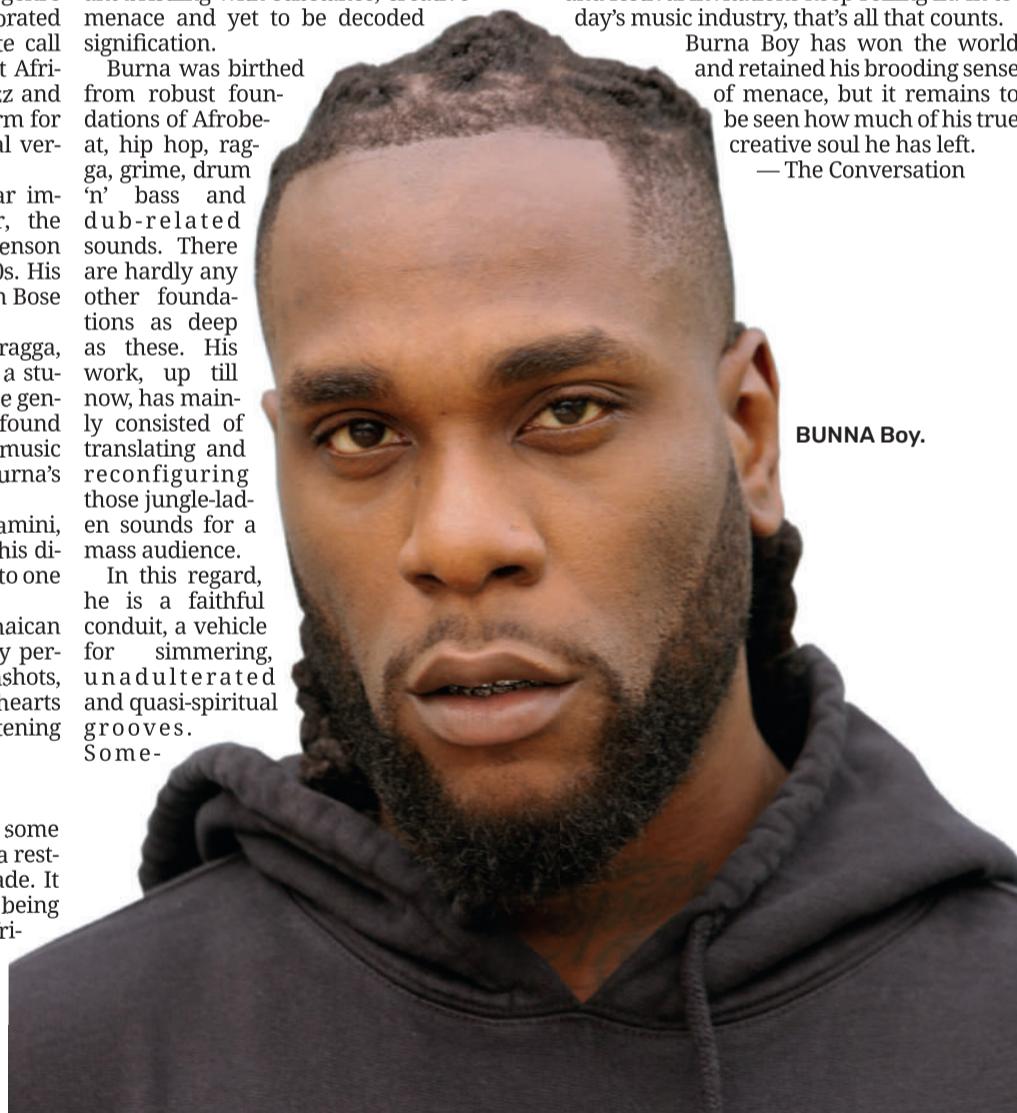
Rolling in dollars

Lately, Burna has launched a campaign to gain even greater success. Just look at his high profile collaborations with the likes of US musicians Pop Smoke and Beyoncé as well as UK pop stars like Sam Smith, Ed Sheeran and Stormzy or Nigerian singer Wizkid.

Already, some of his hits are beginning to sound a little laboured, over-thought or under-thought. But perhaps this hardly matters as long as the dollars, brand endorsements and festival invitations keep rolling in. In today's music industry, that's all that counts.

Burna Boy has won the world and retained his brooding sense of menace, but it remains to be seen how much of his true creative soul he has left.

— The Conversation



BUNNA Boy.

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NEWS WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR



Pelosi's visit to Taiwan is a serious provocation

H.E. Lei Kezhong

ON August 2, Speaker of the US House of Representative Nancy Pelosi made a provocative visit to China's Taiwan region in disregard of China's strong opposition and serious representations. The visit is a serious violation of the one-China principle and the provisions in the three China-US joint communiqués. It has a severe impact on the political foundation of China-US relations, and seriously infringes on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It gravely undermines peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and sends a very wrong signal to the separatist forces for "Taiwan independence".

Taiwan has been an inalienable part of China's territory since ancient times. There are plenty of historical records and documents that show how the Chinese people developed Taiwan in earlier periods. The world's earliest account of Taiwan could be found in 230 A.D.

Since 1335, the Chinese central government has exercised effective jurisdiction over Taiwan. "Taiwan" was first used in official documents in the Ming dynasty, and has become the established name ever since. In April 1895, Japan forced the defeated Qing government to cede Taiwan and the Penghu Islands.

On 1st December 1943, the Cairo Declaration released by China, the US and the UK stated that it is the purpose of the three countries that all the territories Japan had stolen from Chinese, such as Taiwan and Penghu shall be restored to China.

The Potsdam Proclamation signed by China, the US and the UK on 26 July 1945 reiterated that "the terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out". On 15th August 1945, Japan surrendered unconditionally, Taiwan was recovered on 25th October of the same year.

Since then, Taiwan and Penghu have been put back under China's sovereign jurisdiction and recognized as a part of China legally and politically as well as in reality.

As a result of the Chinese civil war from 1945 to 1949, the defeated Nationalists retreated to Taiwan, set up a regime on the island, and created a special situation of prolonged political antagonism between the two sides across the Taiwan Strait, from which the Taiwan question arose.

However, China's sovereignty and the territorial integrity have never been divided, and the fact that the two sides of the Strait belong to one and the same China and that Taiwan is part of China has never changed.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 adopted in 1971 made it clear that there is but one China in the world, Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, and the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China.

The Resolution "restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations, and to expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it."

The one-China principle has already become the prevailing consensus of the international community and a widely-accepted basic norm in international relations.

As many as 181 countries, including the US, has established diplomatic relations with China on the basis of the one-China principle.

The US side has made solemn commitments to China on the one-China principle and in the three China-US joint communiqués.

The one-China principle is the centerpiece of the three Sino-US joint communi-



H.E. Lei Kezhong

qués, and the premise and foundation for the establishment and development of diplomatic relations between China and the US.

In 1979, the US made a clear commitment in the Sino-US Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations that "the United States of America recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal Government of China" and "within this context, the people of the United States will maintain cultural, commercial and other unofficial relations with the people of Taiwan".

The US Congress, as part of the US Government, is obliged to strictly follow the one-China policy of the US Government and not engage in any official interactions with China's Taiwan region. Pelosi is the incumbent Speaker of the US House of Representatives, and ranks second in the US presidential line of succession.

Her visit to Taiwan, in whatever form, under whatever pretext and at whatever time during her tenure, would be a serious violation of the one-China policy as committed by the US Government, mark a major political provocation upgrading the official interactions and substantive relations between the US and Taiwan, and signal connivance and support for "Taiwan independence" separa-

tist forces.

In total disregard of the firm opposition and repeated representations of the Chinese side and with the connivance and even facilitation of the US Government, Pelosi went ahead with her visit to China's Taiwan region.

It proves that the US is the biggest saboteur of cross-Strait peace and the biggest troublemaker of regional stability.

It demonstrates the confrontational and dangerous nature of the US's "Indo-Pacific Strategy" and its hypocrisy and double standard when it comes to international rules.

This reckless move seriously undermines China's sovereignty, seriously interferes in China's internal affairs, seriously violates the commitments made by the US side, and seriously undermines peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

China has made utmost diplomatic efforts to avoid this crisis that is imposed on us. At the same time, we will never allow any damage to China's core interests and national rejuvenation process.

Therefore, it is only natural that China makes firm responses, including military exercises, which are consistent with domestic

and international law and practice.

China's countermeasures are necessary as a warning to the perpetrators and a punishment to the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces. Without the firmly resistance, the hard-won peace and stability in the region would be seriously undermined.

More than 170 countries and many international organizations have already made their voice of justice heard. They reiterated their commitment to the one-China policy and expressed support for China's efforts to firmly uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

UN Secretary General António Guterres clearly stated that the UN will continue to adhere to General Assembly Resolution 2758. At the core of the resolution is the one-China principle.

This is a fight against hegemony, against interference and against secession. China wishes that all parties, including the friendly African countries, have a clear understanding of the cause and nature of the current crisis, strictly observe UNGA Resolution 2758 and continue to firmly abide by the one-China principle, firmly support China's legitimate position and countermeasures, and work together to safeguard peace in the Taiwan Strait and across the region.

H.E. Lei Kezhong is the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Lesotho.

China Focus

Weekend Girl



SEBONGILE Lefa (25) is studying Business Management at Lerotholi Polytechnic. She hails from Pitseng, Leribe. Her Motto is: "I stand for what I think is right and push until something happens regardless the situation".

Yourstars

Aries - March 21 - April 20

Plans to make physical improvements may lead to psychological changes, too. This is not the best time to take a risk, to gamble or spend money you really can't afford to part with. Pamper yourself for a change. You may be able to get some good advice about your personal problems. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

Taurus - April 21 - May 20

Someone you least expect could be trying to make you look bad. Get involved in activities that will be fun for the whole family. They may cost you dearly. One of your female friends may try to disrupt your day. Stand up for your rights. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

Gemini - May 21 - June 21

You could meet an interesting individual you'll want to get to know better. You are best to be accommodating for the time being. Sudden romantic infatuations won't be lasting. You could be misinterpreted if you're not careful. Be prepared to make compensations and adjustments. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

Cancer - June 22 - July 22

Your charm will attract members of the opposite sex. Avoid lending money or belongings to friends. You can't live your life for others. Use your obvious talent to work with detail and you can come up with something great. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

Leo - July 23 - August 22

Changes could be overwhelming. Your personal life will be disrupted if you have been too busy with business. Make sure you concentrate if operating machinery or vehicles. Make sure any presentation you have is ready. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

Virgo - August 23 - September 22

Property investments will payoff. Children may pose a problem if they don't like suggestions. You can enhance your cash flow if you pick up additional skills. Don't let the erratic behaviour of someone you live with interfere with your professional performance. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

Libra - September 23 - October 22

Don't be afraid to make a move if you aren't happy with your emotional situation. Your need to be in a leadership position will help you surpass any rivals you might encounter. Changes in your domestic situation will prove to be favorable in the long run. Rest and relaxation may be required; minor health problems will prevail if you don't watch your diet. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

Scorpio - October 23 - November 21

Try to stay calm, and whatever you do, don't nag. Don't neglect these problems; deal with them once and for all, then move on to more pleasurable tasks. A new image can be the result if you change your look. Social events will be favorable. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

Sagittarius - November 22 - December 20

Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Be diplomatic but stem when it comes to giving of yourself. Advancement can be yours if you are assertive in your approach. Deception in your home is evident. Don't beat around the bush. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

Capricorn - December 21 - January 19

Keep tabs on your spending. Put aside any decisions concerning your position at work. Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur. You may find yourself in an opportune position if you are willing to take a bit of a risk. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

Aquarius - January 20 - February 18

Don't lend to people who have given you negative vibes. You may want to take a look at the personal papers of elders in your family. Take a look at investment opportunities. You can anger others quickly this week. Avoid overspending on items for your home. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

Pisces - February 19 - March 20

Look into attending seminars that can expand your perception. Alienation may be the result of a misunderstanding. Be careful when dealing with investments. You need time to think things through. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

Margaret Howe Lovett and her sexual encounters with a dolphin



MARGARET Howe Lovett and a dolphin.

WHEN a young Carl Sagan visited St. Thomas' Dolphin Point laboratory in 1964, he likely didn't realize how controversial the setting would become.

Sagan belonged to a secretive group called "The Order of the Dolphin" — which, despite its name, focused on searching for extra-terrestrial intelligence.

Also, in the group was the eccentric neuroscientist Dr. John Lilly. His 1961 quasi-sci-fi book *Man and Dolphin* highlighted the theory that dolphins wanted to (and likely could) communicate with humans. Lilly's writings sparked a scientific interest in interspecies communication that set-in motion an experiment that went a bit... awry.

Trying to connect dolphins and humans Astronomer Frank Drake headed the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Green Bank Telescope in West Virginia. He'd spearheaded Project Ozma, the search for extraterrestrial life through radio waves emitted from other planets.

Upon reading Lilly's book, Drake excitedly drew parallels between his own work and Lilly's. Drake helped the doctor secure funding from NASA and other government entities in order to realize his vision: a communicative bridge between human and dolphin.

Lilly then built a laboratory housing a workspace on the upper level and a dolphin enclosure on the bottom. Tucked away on the picturesque shore of the Caribbean, he called the alabaster building Dolphin Point.

When 23-year-old local Margaret Howe Lovett realized that the lab existed, she drove there out of sheer curiosity. She fondly remembered stories from her youth where talking animals were some of her favorite characters. She'd hoped to somehow witness the breakthrough that could see those stories become reality.

Arriving at the lab, Lovett encountered its director, Gregory Bateson, a famous anthropologist in his own right. When Bateson inquired as to Lovett's presence, she replied, "Well, I heard you had dolphins ... and I thought I'd come and see if there was anything I could do."

Bateson allowed Lovett to watch the dolphins. Perhaps wanting to make her feel useful, he asked her to take notes while observing them. Both he and Lilly realized her intuitiveness, despite any lack of training and offered her an open invitation to the lab.

Margaret Howe Lovett Becomes A Diligent Researcher

Soon Margaret Howe Lovett's dedication to Lilly's project intensified. She worked diligently with the dolphins, named Pamela, Sissy, and Peter. Through

Stranger than Fiction

daily lessons, she encouraged them to create human-esque sounds.

But the process was becoming tedious with little indication of progress.

Margaret Howe Lovett hated leaving in the evenings and still feeling that there was much work left to do. So she convinced Lilly to let her live in the lab, waterproofing the upper rooms and flooding them with a couple feet of water. This way, human and dolphin could occupy the same space.

Lovett chose Peter for the revamped, immersive language experiment. They co-existed in the lab six days of the week, and on the seventh day, Peter spent time in the enclosure with Pamela and Sissy.

Through all Peter's speech lessons and voice training, Lovett learned that "when we had nothing to do was when we did the most ... he was very, very interested in my anatomy. If I was sitting here and my legs were in the water, he would come up and look at the back of my knee for a long time. He wanted to know how that thing worked and I was so charmed by it."

Charmed might not be the word to describe how Lovett felt when Peter, an adolescent dolphin with certain urges, became a bit more... excited. She told interviewers that he "would rub himself on my knee, my foot or my hand." Moving Peter back down to the enclosure each time this happened became a logistical nightmare.

So, reluctantly, Margaret Howe Lovett decided to satisfy the sexual urges of the dolphin manually. "It was just easier to incorporate that and let it happen ... it would just become part of what was going on, like an itch, just get rid of that scratch and we would be done and move on."

Lovett insists "it wasn't sexual on my part ... sensuous perhaps. It seemed to me that it made the bond closer. Not because of the sexual activity, but because of the lack of having to keep breaking. And that's really all it was. I was there to get to know Peter. That was part of Peter."

Meanwhile, Drake's curiosity about Lilly's progress grew. He sent one of his colleagues, the 30-year-old Sagan, to check the goings-on at Dolphin Point.

Drake was disappointed to learn that

the nature of the experiment was not as he'd hoped; he'd expected progress in deciphering the dolphin language. This was likely the beginning of the end for Lilly and his crew's funding. Nevertheless, Lovett's attachment to Peter grew, even as the project waned.

But by 1966, Lilly was more enthralled with the mind-altering power of LSD than he was with dolphins. Lilly was introduced to the drug at a Hollywood party by the wife of Ivan Tors, the producer of the movie *Flipper*. "I saw John go from a scientist with a white coat to a full-blown hippy," Lillie's friend Ric O'Barry recalled.

Lilly belonged to an exclusive group of scientists licensed by the government to research the effects of LSD. He dosed both himself and the dolphins at the lab. (Though not Peter, at Lovett's insistence.) Luckily the drug seemed to have little to no effect on the dolphins. However, Lilly's new cavalier attitude towards the animal's safety alienated Bateson and put a stop to the lab's funding.

Thus, Margaret Howe Lovett's live-in experience with a dolphin ended. "That relationship of having to be together sort of turned into really enjoying being together, and wanting to be together, and missing him when he wasn't there," she reflects. Lovett balked at Peter's departure to Lilly's cramped Miami lab with little sunlight.

A few weeks later, some terrible news: "John called me himself to tell me" Lovett notes. "He said Peter had committed suicide."

Ric O'Barry of the *Dolphin Project* and Lilly's friend validates the use of the term suicide. "Dolphins are not automatic air-breathers like we are ... Every breath is a conscious effort. If life becomes too unbearable, the dolphins just take a breath and they sink to the bottom."

A heartbroken Peter didn't understand the separation. The sorrow of losing the relationship was too much. Margaret Howe Lovett was saddened but ultimately relieved that Peter didn't need to endure life at the confined Miami lab. "He wasn't going to be unhappy, he was just gone. And that was OK."

Lovett remained in St. Thomas after the failed experiment. She married the original photographer that worked on the project. Together, they had three daughters and converted the abandoned Dolphin Point laboratory into a home for their family.

Margaret Howe Lovett didn't speak publicly of the experiment for nearly 50 years. Recently, however she granted interviews to Christopher Riley for his documentary on the project, the aptly named *The Girl Who Talked to Dolphins*.

— ati

Africa CDC in 'advanced' talks to obtain monkeypox vaccines



VIALS of empty monkeypox vaccines sit at a table at Seattle Central College in Seattle

for Disease Control and Prevention, Ahmed Ogwell, told journalists on Thursday that he could not give details, but he said the partners are "largely multilateral institutions and non-African governments." There are no discussions with the private sector because all available doses have already been bought by countries, he said.

But a clinical trial is underway in Congo

for a vaccine, Jynneos, that's under emergency use authorization, Ogwell said. The two-dose vaccine is considered the main medical weapon against the disease, but its availability is limited. The Africa CDC did not immediately respond to a question about details of the trial.

More monkeypox deaths have been reported on the African continent this year than anywhere in the world. Since May, nearly 90 coun-

tries have reported more than 31,000 cases.

At least 2,947 monkeypox cases have been reported in 11 African countries this year, including 104 deaths, but most of the cases reported are suspect ones because the African continent also lacks enough diagnostic resources for thorough testing, the Africa CDC director said.

The lack of vaccine doses and shortage of diagnostics is an echo of the challenges that Africa's 54 countries faced for months during the COVID-19 pandemic as richer countries elsewhere raced to secure supplies.

The Africa director spoke as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is on the final leg of a three-country Africa visit, where he articulated Washington's new strategy for engaging with sub-Saharan African nations as "equal partners." Earlier this week Blinken was in Congo, which has many of the 136 new monkeypox cases reported across Africa in the past week.

The World Health Organization classified the escalating outbreak of the once-rare monkeypox disease as an international emergency in July; the U.S. declared it a national emergency last week.

Outside of Africa, 98% of cases are in men who have sex with men. With a limited global supply of vaccines, authorities are racing to stop monkeypox before it becomes entrenched.

Monkeypox spread typically requires skin-to-skin or skin-to-mouth contact with an infected patient's lesions. People can also be infected through contact with the clothing or bedsheets of someone who has monkeypox lesions.

Most people infected with monkeypox recover without treatment, but it can cause more severe symptoms like brain inflammation and in rare cases, death. The version of monkeypox spreading in Europe and North America has a lower fatality rate than the one circulating in Africa, where people have mostly been sickened after contact with infected wild animals like rodents and squirrels.

— AP

NAIROBI, Kenya — Africa's public health agency says the continent of 1.3 billion people still does not have a single dose of the monkeypox vaccine, but "very advanced discussions" are underway with at least two partners.

The acting director of the Africa Centers

Long-awaited goal of ensuring every child is born HIV-free

SCIENCE has gifted us tools and evidence-based approaches to ensure that there is minimal risk of transmission of HIV virus from HIV-positive parents to the child during pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding. Despite these tools existing since almost two decades now to ensure every child is born HIV-free to positive parents, we have failed to implement them fully. As per UNAIDS, despite substantial progress made in the last two decades to ensure that every child born to positive parents is HIV-free, 150,000 children were born with HIV in 2020. This is nearly eight times more than the desired "goal of achieving less than 20,000 children born with HIV worldwide by 2020". More worrying is that the pace of the decline has slowed in recent years.

Dr Glory Alexander, who has been devotedly working for providing medical care to people living with HIV, for more than three decades, spoke with CNS (Citizen News Service) spoke around the 24th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2022).

Besides, being one of the organisers of this world's largest AIDS conference taking place in Montreal, she is also the founder of ASHA Foundation (Action, Service, and Hope for AIDS Foundation) in Bengaluru, India, and elected as national Vice President of AIDS Society of India.

According to the latest report of NACO (National AIDS Control Organization of India), in 2020-21 a little more than half (56 percent or 11,744) of the estimated HIV

positive pregnant women (20,900) received care through HIV counselling and testing services in government and private healthcare facilities. Of those diagnosed HIV positive, 10,937 pregnant women were initiated on or were already on lifelong antiretroviral therapy and 85 percent infants born to HIV-positive mothers were put on antiretroviral prophylaxis. The report further says that "To achieve the target of elimination of Mother-to-child transmission of HIV, there is a need of significant improvement since overall coverage of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PPTCT) cascade service is low at National level as well as inter-State level."

Dr Alexander said that, "In India women constitute about 44 percent of those infected with HIV. Women who come from HIV key affected populations such as sex workers, are more likely to be reached by HIV services periodically and receive care. But 90 percent of the women living with HIV in India are housewives who mostly get infected through their husbands. When they get pregnant, HIV infection could get transmitted to their children.

It is very important to target these women, more so as they do not perceive themselves to be at risk of HIV infection as they are likely to have single partners and may not be indulging in risky sexual behaviours. Moreover, Indian women are perceived as caregivers but themselves have poor health-seeking behaviour. So, they rarely come by themselves to get tested,

even though it is very important to diagnose these women early on."

However, women are likely to reach out to a health facility during pregnancy. "That is a good time to do their HIV test and put them on treatment, if diagnosed HIV positive. The treatment also prevents the risk of transmission to the child during the mother's pregnancy.

Treatment for prevention of mother to child transmission brings down the risk of transmission from about 40 percent in the breastfeeding population to less than 5 percent. If a woman is already on antiretroviral therapy and she becomes pregnant the risk of transmission is less than 1 percent," shared Dr Alexander.

"Women are more prone to comorbidities like cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases. They also respond in a different manner to antiretroviral therapy as we have to worry about their bone health and there is an increased risk of cancer of the cervix in women who are HIV positive. Thus, women and children are very important cogs in the wheel for the management of HIV infection and need to be diagnosed and treated early on", she added.

In India every year 27 million women get pregnant and hidden among them are about 20500 women who are HIV-positive. "It is very difficult to be able to trace all these 27 million women and test them for HIV. So one barrier is testing such a large pool of pregnant women every year.

As per the annual 2020-21 report of NACO, till September 2020 they

were able to test about 15.7 million women for HIV and of these about 9, 000 were found to be HIV positive. Another problem is that even today many women in the rural areas do not come to a hospital even for an antenatal check-up, though that is slowly improving over the years," said Dr Alexander.

Not a single HIV positive child born to positive parents in Dr Glory's cohort

"Today in India many HIV positive women want to have children and in the past few years I have not had a single positive child born in my small cohort of pregnant women as I test them all and put them on antiretroviral therapy if found positive. To have or not have a child is a woman's individual or personal decision or choice and should not be forced on her. We still have instances in India where many HIV positive women were being falsely advised to have an abortion as they were told their child would be born HIV positive. In fact, if an HIV positive woman wants to become pregnant we must support and help her so that she gives birth to an HIV negative infant," said Dr Glory Alexander.

Thirty-five years of medical service of people living with HIV: how did it begin?

"In 1987, I had just started working as a Consultant physician at Baptist Hospital in Bengaluru, capital of India's state of Karnataka. One Monday morning while doing my hospital ward rounds, I came across a newly admitted American patient who was very sick with a respiratory problem. He asked me

if he had AIDS. I was shocked, because at that time even we doctors had very little knowledge about AIDS. After sending him to the intensive care unit, I went to the library to read up on AIDS and was convinced that he was suffering from Pneumocystis pneumonia, a very common opportunistic infection in people who are infected with HIV.

I sent his blood sample for diagnosis to my alma mater Christian Medical College Vellore, as no HIV testing facilities were available in Karnataka at that time. We lost the patient 36 hours after my first interaction with him. His test results came one week later confirming that he was HIV positive. He died a lonely painful death far away from his family.

I learnt later that he was a homosexual person from San Francisco who had come to India because of the stigma he was facing in his own country. His death impacted me severely. I wanted to do something for the people living with HIV. I finally resigned from my full-time hospital job and started ASHA Foundation to contribute my two bits for society.

We started an AIDS helpline to keep people informed about HIV and also a clinic for HIV-positive patients. Later we included adolescent health education, camp rainbow for HIV positive children, care and support services for families and people infected with HIV and prevention of mother-to-child transmission, as part of our services," shared Dr Alexander.

— CNS

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CONCRETE AND DRAINAGE FOREMAN

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- Good track record
- Preferably 5 years' experience with 3 being in a similar position
- Physical demands - long and sometimes abnormal working hours; hazardous or high-risk work activities in difficult conditions
- Ability to handle emotional demands - long durations away from home

To apply, forward a detailed CV with at least 3 (three) contactable references to hr@hillary.co.za All short-listed candidates will be required to present a Portfolio of Evidence and may be required to undergo psychometric profile assessment.

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Requirements:

- Grade 10
- Competency Certificate
- At least 3 years' working experience
- Driver's license where required
- Construction Equipment Operator License/Permit
- Physical demands – long and sometimes abnormal working hours, good health
- Emotional demands – long durations away from home.
- Interpersonal Skills

To apply, forward a detailed CV with at least 3 (three) contactable references to hr@hillary.co.za All short-listed candidates will be required to present a Portfolio of Evidence and may be required to undergo psychometric profile assessment. The project is based in Lesotho therefore, preference will be given to Lesotho nationals.

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- Competency Certificate
- At least 3 years' working experience
- Driver's license where required
- Construction Equipment Operator License/Permit
- Physical demands – long and sometimes abnormal working hours, good health
- Emotional demands – long durations away from home.
- Interpersonal Skills

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EARTHWORKS FOREMAN

The ideal candidate should have the following qualifications and experience:

- Good track record
- Preferably 5 years' experience with 3 being in a similar position
- Physical demands - long and sometimes abnormal working hours; hazardous or high-risk work activities in difficult conditions
- Ability to handle emotional demands - long durations away from home

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SURVEYOR

Requirements:

- National Diploma in Surveying
- Preferably 5 years' experience and 3 years being in a similar position
- Experience with Model Maker, Road Maker and AutoCAD Programs
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Closing: **19 August 2022**

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HSPY JV – SUBCONTRACT TENDERS

PRE-Qualification submission for Subcontract work on PWAR West Contract

Documents can be submitted electronically to fahida@hspy.co.za
Closing date **19 August 2022**

Work Packages for the following work:

- Blasting.
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- Armco pipe installation.
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The following must accompany their submission for evaluation.

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- Certificate of Incorporation
- Proof of License to Trade (Builder and Contractor)
- Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA)
- VAT Registration Certificate (LRA)
- Workman's Compensation
- Experience and Track Record (Proof of last 3 years with associated work applying for)
- Indication of work package applying for.

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DUMP TRUCK OPERATOR

Requirements:

- Grade 10
- Competency Certificate
- At least 3 years' working experience
- Driver's license where required
- Construction Equipment Operator License/Permit
- Physical demands – long and sometimes abnormal working hours, good health
- Emotional demands – long durations away from home.
- Interpersonal Skills

To apply, forward a detailed CV with at least 3 (three) contactable references to hr@hillary.co.za All short-listed candidates will be required to present a Portfolio of Evidence and may be required to undergo psychometric profile assessment. The project is based in Lesotho therefore, preference will be given to Lesotho nationals.

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Lesotho Times

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'It's the beginning of new chapter in SA-US relations'



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is welcomed to the South Africa-US Strategic Dialogue in Pretoria by International Relations and Co-operation Minister Naledi Pandor.

PRETORIA — US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said US President Joe Biden was looking forward to hosting President Cyril Ramaphosa in Washington next month as the two nations seek to elevate their economic and trade ties.

Blinken is in Pretoria, hosted by International Relations and Co-operation Minister Naledi Pandor, for the South Africa-US Strategic Dialogue.

"Even with Covid-19, trade and investment between South Africa and the United States reached a record \$21 billion last year. But we know that we can make something good even better. As South Africa's second largest trade partner we are committed to continue with this robust, dynamic and mutually beneficial partnership," Blinken told journalists in Pretoria.

"Today was not the culmination of our partnership but I think the start of a new chapter. President Biden is very looking forward to welcoming President Ramaphosa to Washington next month. And in December we are incredibly excited to be hosting the US-Africa Leaders Summit, picking up something President Obama started, and we welcome South Africa's input in making that summit a success."

Welcoming Blinken to "beautiful" South Africa, Pandor said the visit had been discussed several times. Pandor also welcomed US Ambassador-designate Reuben Brigety as he starts his tenure in Pretoria.

"I am glad that you are able to observe this meeting and visit. I hope our deliberations today will set the tone for your tenure in South Africa. I wish you a productive and enjoyable term as USA ambassador to South Africa. I hope you will contribute to strengthening the already strong links between South Africa and the USA," said Pandor.

She said the US was one of South Africa's most valued partners.

"I appreciate the commitment you have shown to expanding our bilateral relations. The bonds that were forged between the United States and South Africa during the struggle for democracy and racial justice in this country are enduring and created a firm foundation for advancing people-to-people co-operation between the two countries, including in the spheres of education, cultural and tourism exchanges," said Pandor.

Pandor said recently that the government was thankful for the "tremendous support" shown by US companies for Ramaphosa's investment drive. She said it demonstrated the belief that the US still valued the future of South Africa "and the value proposition that we offer as a key investment destination and trade partner, despite the setback of the Covid-19 pandemic".

"We welcome the positive growth in two-

way trade in goods from \$13.9bn in 2010 to \$21bn in 2021. In 2021 the US ranked as the second largest destination for South Africa's exports globally. South African firms have also become significant foreign investors," she said.

"Investments from South Africa into the US are on the increase, with the US accounting

for 17.4 percent of total South African outward FDI (foreign direct investment) to the world. There is, however, much more we can — and should do. As was discussed earlier this year at the meeting of the 12th Annual Bilateral Forum (ABF), our objective should be to significantly expand two-way trade and investment that will contribute to the shared

growth and prosperity for the people of South Africa and the US."

Pandor said a good start to this endeavour would be to speedily resolve the long-standing unresolved trade issues around market access, including the removal of Section 232 tariffs on South African steel and aluminium imports into the US. — IOL

Zim Minister says Harare ready to welcome its citizens as permits expire in SA

PRETORIA — Zimbabwe's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Frederick Shava, said the government led by President Emmerson Mnangagwa is ready to welcome back its citizens who have lived in South Africa under the Zimbabwe Exemption Permits (ZEP).

"The Zimbabwe Exemption Permit will expire at the end of this year. Its expiry is naturally causing much anxiety to the holders of this permit," Shava said in his opening remarks while co-chairing the mid-term review of the Bi-National Commission (BNC) with International Relations and Cooperation Minister Naledi Pandor.

"Our two governments must work closely in the implementation of this decision. We are ready to receive our nationals back home," he said.

Among several senior officials from the two nations, the high-level meeting was also attended by Ambassador of South Africa to Zimbabwe, Thizwilondi Rejoice Mabudafhasi, and Ambassador of Zimbabwe to South Africa, David Hamadziripi.

Numerous Zimbabweans living in South Africa are in limbo, after the South African government announced that it would not be ex-



INTERNATIONAL Relations and Cooperation Minister Naledi Pandor with her counterpart, Zimbabwe's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Frederick Shava in Pretoria.

tending the Zimbabwe Exemption Permits (ZEP), which ended on December 31, 2021.

The almost 200 000 permit-holders were given a 12-months grace

period to regularise their stay with another category of permit.

Pandor told Shava that Pretoria is grateful for the supportive role played by Zimbabwe in arresting

the scourge of illegal migration.

"Dear Minister (Shava), I'm sure you are aware that effective management of immigration has been an ongoing challenge for our gov-

ernment.

"We've recently established a border management agency and we hope it will vastly reduce illegal migration and improve efficiency. I must thank you and your government for the support you have given us in this endeavour," she said.

Pandor said the review meeting gives the two neighbouring countries an opportunity to "reboot and reset our programmes, to better respond to the challenges that have emanated" from the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I am pleased to recall that despite the constraints of the pandemic, total trade between South Africa increased from a quantum of R38 billion in 2020 to R47.5bn in 2021. I trust that our delegations will align our planning to enhance this positive development and I note in the figures that the surplus lies with South Africa, and we would like to see greater benefit to Zimbabwe's economic sectors as well.

"Of course, our cooperation and partnership are not only limited to bilateral relations. We also share common values on regional, continental and global governance issues of mutual interest," she said.

Pandor also expressed gratitude to Zimbabwe for the support given to South Africa when it served on the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

Shava, a seasoned diplomat, was appointed by Mnangagwa to head the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last year, following the death of the country's Foreign Affairs Minister Sibusiso Moyo. — IOL

Blinken rebukes Rwanda over rights, suppression concerns

KIGALI, Rwanda — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday rebuked Rwandan authorities over democracy and human rights concerns, saying the central African country may not reach its full potential without opening up political space and protecting freedoms.

“We recognize Rwanda’s incredibly difficult history of the 1994 genocide and we know the ongoing legacy of that genocide but the criminalization of some people ... in politics, harassment of those who express opposition views to the current government, we believe (that) undermines total peace and stability and success which has been extraordinary in the case of Rwanda,” said Blinken at a press briefing. He was speaking in the Rwandan capital of Kigali, the last stop on his three-nation tour of Africa.

Earlier Blinken toured a memorial for victims of Rwanda’s 1994 genocide, saying he was “moved by this memorial and inspired by the resilience of the survivors and the remarkable progress of this country.”

Blinken laid a wreath at the mass graves honouring the more than 800,000 victims of the genocide perpetrated by Hutu extremists against the Tutsi ethnic group and moderate Hutus.

“My family experienced the horrors of holocaust and I appreciate the importance of memorializing such tragic events,” Blinken wrote in a guest book at the memorial. “The United States strongly supports Rwanda’s continued efforts towards renewal and national reconciliation.”

One of Blinken’s aims in Rwanda is to engage officials regarding the case of Paul Rusesabagina, a U.S. permanent resident whose conviction



SECRETARY of State Antony Blinken (left) meets with Rwandan President Paul Kagame at the President's Office in Urugwiro Village in Kigali, Rwanda.

on terror charges and incarceration has drawn attention to what some say is the Rwandan government’s harsh treatment of its critics at home and abroad.

Rusesabagina is the hero of the Hollywood film “Hotel Rwanda,” which dramatized his efforts as a hotel manager to shelter hundreds of Tutsis during the genocide. The U.S. asserts that Rusesabagina, a recipient of the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, is wrongfully jailed in Rwanda.

“We have been clear about our position with the trial of Paul Rus-

esabagina. We still have conviction that the trial wasn’t fair,” Blinken said.

“I discussed this with President Paul Kagame but I won’t go into specifics of our discussion, but will continue to engage and also follow up with the family.”

Many activists believe only diplomatic intervention from Washington can possibly help Rusesabagina, 68, who has suffered poor health in recent years, according to his family.

He was sentenced to 25 years last September. His conviction came

more than a year after he disappeared during a visit to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and appeared days later in Rwanda in handcuffs, accused of supporting the armed wing of his opposition group.

Blinken, who visited South Africa and also went to Congo earlier in the week, comes to Rwanda at a particularly difficult time for Africa’s Great Lakes region, with the small central African nation at odds with vast neighbour Congo over allegations that both governments support rebels opposed to

each other.

Blinken said he told Kagame that the recent U.N. report accusing Rwanda of supporting the M23 rebels is “credible.”

Rwandan authorities deny those charges and have rejected the report by U.N. experts as a move “to distract from real issues.”

Rwandan authorities in turn accuse Congo of giving refuge to ethnic Hutu fighters who played roles in Rwanda’s 1994 genocide that killed ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

There have long been tensions between the countries. In the late 1990s, Rwanda twice sent its forces deep into Congo, joining forces with rebel leader Laurent Kabila to depose the country’s longtime dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

After his meetings with the leaders of Rwanda and Congo this week, Blinken said he believes both are committed to peace talks and he said the U.S. will support African-led efforts to end the fighting.

“My message to both presidents of Congo and Rwanda this week has been the same. Any support of any armed group in eastern (Congo) endangers local communities and regional stability and every country in the region must respect the territorial integrity of the others,” he said.

A meeting between Kagame and Tshisekedi in Angola on July 6 produced a statement calling for a return to normal diplomatic relations, a cessation of hostilities and the “immediate and unconditional withdrawal” of the M23 from its positions in eastern Congo.

But M23, which comprises mostly ethnic Tutsis from Congo, continues to hold its positions near the border with Uganda, keeping the spotlight on Rwanda.

The chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a letter to Blinken last month called for a comprehensive review of U.S. policy toward Rwanda and noted his concern that Washington’s support for Rwanda, widely described by human rights groups as authoritarian and repressive, is not in line with U.S. values.

— AP

Jonathan Beloff

RWANDA and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) make for very unhappy neighbours. Both sides claim the other is set on bringing down their government, and violating past agreements and international norms.

Rwanda accuses the DRC of working with the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) or FDLR. The rebel group’s stated aim is to overthrow the Rwandan government.

For its part, the DRC accuses Rwanda of violating its sovereignty by supporting the Mouvement du 23 Mars (March 23 Movement, M23). The rebel group, along with multiple others, is active in the DRC.

A recent United Nations report supports Kinshasa’s contention. The group of experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo detailed its accusations in a 131-page report. Kigali, however, dismissed the findings as “false allegations”.

Rwanda is a country of 13 million people and occupies 26,000 square kilometres. DRC, on the other hand, has 90 million people and covers a territory of 2.3 million square kilometres. The DRC lies to the west of Rwanda. The two countries share a border of about 217 kilometres.

Tensions between the two nations date back to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda when an estimated one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed. Many of the perpetrators of the violence fled to the DRC, at the time called Zaire. The post-genocide Rwandan government launched military operations in a bid to force the perpetrators back home to face justice.

Rwanda believes the DRC continues to provide refuge for those behind the 1994 attack.

The two countries have gone through two major wars and multiple skirmishes. They have also had periods of stability and trade growth. The latest tensions, however, are cause for concern. They risk destabilising the

Rwanda and DRC’s turbulent past continues to fuel their torrid relationship

Eastern Africa region, disrupting trade routes and allowing for the establishment of opportunistic militia groups.

The issue is on US Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s agenda as he tours three African nations in August 2022. He will meet with Congolese and Rwandan leaders to negotiate for a peaceful resolution to the current conflict.

But, based on a decade of research into relations between the two countries, I do not believe Blinken’s visit will lead to any significant reduction in tensions. The most recent events are not new. Both nations hold old suspicions of each other.

How it started

Since the 1994 genocide, the Rwandan government has kept a close eye on DRC. While 4 July is marked in Rwanda as the day the genocide ended, it was a temporary pause.

After two years of inaction from the then Zaire president Mobutu Sese Seko, Rwanda went after those it believed were behind the attacks and were hiding in Zaire. It carried out military operations that triggered the First Congo War (1996-1997).

This war had two objectives. The first was to disband the refugee camps that were hosting the remnants of the genocide perpetrators. An estimated two million refugees were forced back into Rwanda.

The second objective was the removal of Mobutu on the grounds that he was providing a haven for genocide actors. The Zairian dictator was removed from power in May 1997.

Within nine months, the war was over. With Rwanda’s support, Laurent Kabila and his Alliance des Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Congo-Zaïre (Alliance of Dem-

ocratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo, AFDL) took over power.

But a much bloodier Second Congo War (1998-2003) soon followed. This was catalysed by two events. First, the dismissal of the Congolese defence minister James Kabarebe, who was Rwandan and largely responsible for conducting the First Congo War.

Second, Congo’s support for the remnant genocide forces, Armée pour la Libération du Rwanda (Army for the Liberation of Rwanda, ALiR).

The Second Congo War dragged on for five years. It led to the deaths of millions of people. This was as a result of the actual fighting, and the increase in disease and malnutrition.

The lack of a quick resolution to the war resulted in various parts of the DRC being run by either militia groups, or the governments of neighbouring countries.

Even allies during the start of the war, such as Uganda and Rwanda, fought against each other.

Eventually, the 2002 Pretoria agreement led to the withdrawal of the Rwandan military from Congolese territory.

Nevertheless, Rwanda continues to contend that Congo supports genocide remnants, now operating as the FDLR.

For its part, DRC accuses Rwanda of supporting Congolese rebel groups, such as the Congrès National pour la Défense du Peuple (National Congress for the Defence of the People, CNDP) and the M23.

Divisions in Kigali

The Rwandan government is divided on the future of relations with its giant neighbour.

One group of policy leaders perceives the

DRC as a continual threat to Rwandan security. They view the Congolese military as being ineffective in combating forces stationed in the DRC that are expressly against the Rwandan government, such as the FDLR.

This group often dominates public policy decisions in Rwanda’s foreign relations with the DRC.

But there’s a second group that focuses on the economic opportunities of closer Rwandan-Congolese relations.

They believe that Rwandan development should focus on the export of domestically produced goods to the Congolese market of 90 million potential customers.

Many within this group believe that the economic benefits outweigh the security concerns, which they argue have decreased in recent years.

Following the 2018 election, which saw Félix Tshisekedi become Congolese president, relations between Rwanda and the DRC improved. This included increased trade activity between the two nations.

It seemed for a while that the beliefs of Rwandans who wanted rapprochement with Kinshasa had the upper hand, hinting at a positive future for the two nations.

But in recent months, these hopes have been dashed. Once more, the dominant narratives involve allegations of DRC collaborating with the FDLR, and Rwanda with M23.

The two countries are likely to continue experiencing periods of stability and tension. Another major conflict, like the Congo wars, is unlikely, but the continual tensions prevent trade integration that would boost development and peace between the two nations.

— The Conversation

US reaffirms pledge of indefinite military aid



US Vice-President Kamala Harris looks on as US President Joe Biden shakes hands with Finland's Ambassador to the United States, Mikko Hautala, after Biden signed the agreement for Finland and Sweden to be included in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in the East Room of the White House in Washington, DC.

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky vowed to “liberate” Crimea as speculation swirled about the cause of a major fire at an air base on the peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014. “This Russian war against Ukraine and against all of free Europe began with Crimea and must end with Crimea — its liberation,” Zelensky said.

He did not mention the blaze, which Russian state media said resulted in one fatality. Ukraine's Defence Ministry said munitions had exploded and the fire wasn't caused by an incoming strike, while some defence analysts said it had the hallmarks of a Ukrainian attack.

Key developments

- Russia resumes oil flows to central Europe as fee is paid
- Russian inflation heads for post-invasion low as shocks fade
- Poland's gain, Ukraine's loss: Hot job market welcomes refugees
- Coal's skyrocketing prices could last years on Russia disruption

On the ground

Ukrainian forces said they damaged a bridge near the Kakhovska hydropower station in the Kherson region as they continue to target key Russian logistics links. Fighting continued in eastern and southern Ukraine, with Russian forces mounting ground attacks to the southeast of Siversk and around Bakhmut, as well as to the north and southwest of Donetsk, according to the latest report from the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War.

A number of Russian attacks in the east of the country were unsuccessful and their forces later withdrew, the Ukrainian general staff said.

Ukraine suggests smoking Russian soldiers caused Crimea blast

Ukraine's defence minister deflected questions about the massive fire at an air base in Crimea, suggesting it was caused by Russian soldiers smoking there.

“It's a dangerous place, they should not smoke there,” Oleksiy Reznikov said in response to questions at a news conference in Copenhagen, declining to answer whether Ukrainians were involved in the incident.

A number of Ukrainian officials have posted memes or comments on social media about Russia's explanation of safety issues leading to the blast, including jokes about the dangers of smoking near explosives.

Ukraine wins bondholder approval to freeze debt payments

Ukraine won approval for a debt-payment

freeze from the holders of its international bonds, gaining some budget relief in the wake of Russia's invasion.

Investors representing around 75 percent of \$19.6-billion worth of Ukraine's foreign bonds agreed to defer coupon and principal payments until 2024, the Finance Ministry in Kyiv said on Wednesday.

Russian anti-war TV protester faces new probe

A Russian journalist who gained international attention when she staged a rare anti-war protest in March during a live broadcast on the country's main TV news channel said police had raided her Moscow apartment as part of a new probe against her.

Marina Ovsyannikova said officers also took her away for questioning in a criminal case under Russia's “fake news” law, over a protest she held near the Kremlin last month criticising President Vladimir Putin for civilian deaths in Ukraine.

“Are more than 350 children killed in Ukraine fakes?” Ovsyannikova wrote on Telegram. “How many more children have to die for you to stop?”

Russian oil flows resume to central Europe

Russia resumed oil flows towards Ukraine through a pipeline to central Europe after Hungary's sole refiner stepped in to resolve a problem over the payment of a transit fee.

The flows towards the southern leg of the Druzhba link were going as planned, Transneft spokesman Igor Dyomin told *Bloomberg*.

Ukraine hopes to end ‘active’ war phase by end of August

The Ukrainian president's chief of staff says it is critical to finish the active phase of the war before cold weather sets in, Interfax reports.

The risk of Russian attacks on power and heat infrastructure remains, Andriy Yermak said in an interview with the news agency. Russia's army continues its attacks on infrastructure and Ukraine seeks to “take maximum steps to finish the active phase of the war by the end of August”.

Inflation keeps climbing in Ukraine

Ukraine's inflation accelerated for a sixth consecutive month, fuelled in part by the central bank's decision to devalue the currency to shore up the nation's war-battered economy.

Consumer prices surged by 22.2 percent in July from the previous year, compared with 21.5 percent in the previous month, official data published on Wednesday showed.

Latvia says Crimea blast should

be signal to Putin

While Ukraine has remained silent on the cause of the explosions, Latvian Defence Minister Artis Pabriks predicted they would be a telling moment for Russia.

“I wouldn't say this is a turning point but I'd compare this to the first allied raids to bomb either Germany or to bomb Japan, by saying, look you cannot escape that fate which you are actually planning for others,” he said in a brief interview on Wednesday. “We could see also yesterday those long queues of Russian cars that are trying to exit Crimea, so this is the right signal.”

Pabriks also said the blasts showed “capabilities are there”, although it was unclear if he was basing his comments on direct knowledge of what caused them or the observations of defence analysts that it was probably a Ukraine attack.

Austin reiterates commitment to Ukraine

“We are committed to helping Ukraine, and providing them the equipment to defend their sovereign territory,” Austin told reporters in Riga alongside Latvian Defence Minister Artis Pabriks.

The US military chief also reiterated Nato's commitment to maintaining a “persistent, rotational” presence in the Baltic region to protect the alliance's eastern flank.

Russia had committed a “significant portion” of its best military equipment to the invasion of Ukraine, and retained air and sea capabilities despite heavy losses, Austin said.

Hungary unblocks dispute over oil transit

Hungary's biggest refiner said it paid Russia's transit fee to Ukraine to resolve a dispute that has led to a halt in oil flows to central Europe. Mol Nyrt, the oil company that sought to unblock supplies, said Ukraine and Russia both accepted its decision to step in.

Ukrtransnafta, which operates Ukraine's oil network, blocked the flow of Russian oil through Druzhba on August 4, Russian pipeline operator Transneft said on Tuesday.

The halt occurred after Transneft's payment of transit fees for August was rejected by European banks that wouldn't accept the cross-border transfer without approval from national regulators amid European sanctions.

Denmark to train Ukrainian troops in UK

Denmark will send 130 military instructors to the UK, where they will train Ukrainian soldiers, according to the defence ministry in Copenhagen. The Nordic nation also plans to offer Ukrainians military training at facilities in Denmark, the ministry said.

Defence ministers from the UK, Ukraine and Denmark met on Wednesday in Copen-

hagen for a conference on military aid for the government in Kyiv.

Two more crop ships expected at Ukraine ports

Two more vessels have been authorised to head to Ukrainian ports, pending inspections on Wednesday, according to a statement from the Joint Coordination Centre that oversees the grain corridor.

The Petrel S was expected to depart to Chornomorsk and the Brave Commander would go to Pivdennyi, while the Riva Wind, Glory and Star Helena — which are loaded with Ukrainian maize and sunflower meal — had been inspected and were cleared to sail, the centre said.

Ukraine began shipping grain again this month, bringing some relief to squeezed global markets, but many challenges remain before the millions of tonnes of food stuck in the country can be released.

EU ban on Russian coal takes effect

A full European Union ban on imports of Russian coal kicked in on Wednesday following a four-month wind-down period. The provision of services needed to import coal, such as financing, brokering and technical assistance, is also banned.

The measure was approved by the bloc in April as part of a fifth package of sanctions. The EU said at the time that it would affect a quarter of all Russian coal exports, amounting to around an €8-billion loss of annual revenue. Restrictions on oil imports by sea began to kick in later this year.

Biden signs Nato expansion measure

After signing the protocols for Finland and Sweden to join Nato, US President Joe Biden said the US and allies would “remain vigilant against any threats to our shared security” and “confront any aggression or threat of aggression that might come up”.

He urged other Nato countries to finish their ratification process “as quickly as possible”. Russia has denounced the move by the traditionally neutral Finland and Sweden as destabilising to the region.

US to help clear land mines

The US government is committing \$89-million to assist Ukraine in clearing land mines and other unexploded ordnance scattered through the country since Russia's invasion, a State Department official said.

The funds will go to nongovernmental organisations and entities to support the creation of 100 mine-removal teams to augment Ukraine's existing efforts, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in advance of a department announcement.

— DM

Steps to take when you are ready to restart your career

THERE are a lot of reasons to be out of the workforce. Maybe you took some time to raise your children or care for an ailing parent. Maybe you went back to school.

Maybe you grabbed a once-in-a-lifetime chance to travel the world. Whatever the reason, if you've been out of work for more than six months the prospect of returning can feel daunting. And if you've been out of the workforce for years, it can seem downright terrifying.

But, like most challenges, there's no way around it — you just have to go through it. These four concrete steps will help you on your journey and make you feel better prepared for your transition back into the workforce.

Find an answer to "What do you want to do now?" For most people contemplating a career restart this is the most daunting part. I think that's for two reasons.

First, if you've been out of the workforce for a while you may not know what your options are and how well those options would fit you.

Second, and I think this is the bigger hurdle, you don't want to give an answer that will restrict your opportunities. I think the way to solve both of these problems is to focus on finding *an* answer but not *the* answer.

Consider what you did, what you know about what's out there and construct a "good enough" answer that also leaves open adjacent opportunities. As you get more information about the marketplace and how your skills compare, refine your answer.

Practice telling your story. Once you have identified your "good enough" answer to what you want to do, reach out to 3 to 5 friends or former colleagues who you trust to be kind, but also honest so that you can practice talking about what you want your next challenge to be.

Your answer needs to project confidence



that you have good ideas on how you can contribute while also conveying your openness to opportunities. The only way to be sure you are hitting the mark is to say it, out loud, to someone who will tell you the truth. You also need to practice answering the questions of how long you were out of the workforce and why.

Your goal is to be honest and not apologetic about your time out of the workforce. In your answer, be careful not to fall into TMI (too much information) territory. As you get better at telling your story, share it with a few people who are more likely to give you critical feedback so you can really hone your message.

Talk to as many people as possible. When you are restarting your career after time away what you lack most is information. And not the kind of information you can get on the internet. Information that you can only get by talking to people.

Who's hiring? What are they hiring for? What will they be hiring for? And, most im-

portant of all, what are the skills and experiences that make someone the top candidate at that company?

Get current. Update your *LinkedIn* profile (and if you don't have one, get one!). Read news about your industry or the industry you are looking to join. Depending on how long your gap is and what your job was you may need to refresh your skills.

This can be done through online training or a more formal education program. You can also get current experience through pro bono work on behalf of nonprofits, freelancing or through a returnship.

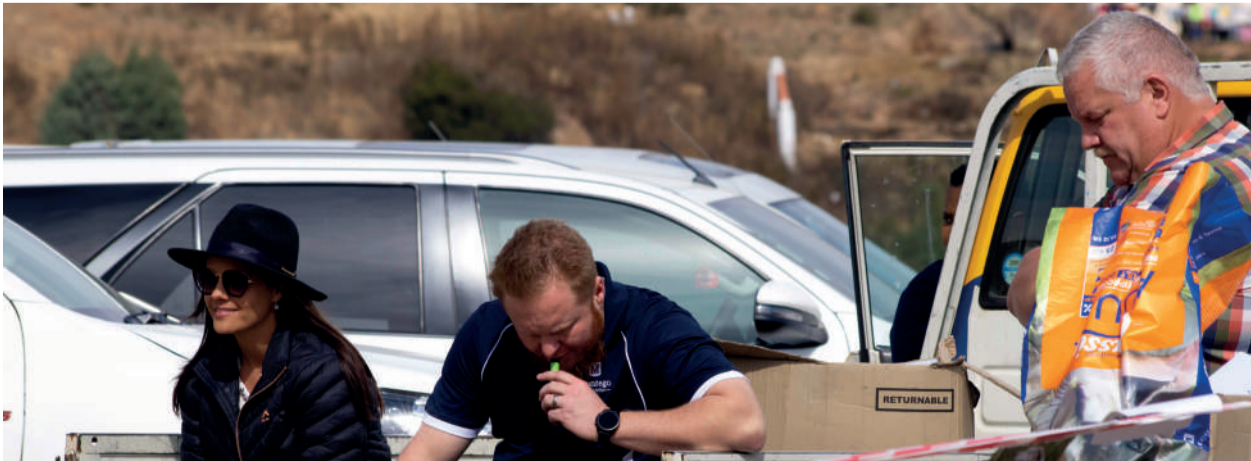
And don't forget about your appearance. It's not that what you wear matters, but it does matter how what you are wearing makes you feel. But if it's been more than a few years since you last had to wear "work" clothes every day, investing in a few updated pieces will make you feel polished and pulled together.

—forbes.com

Ntho tse monate



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The Basotho Dog Breeders and Services Association held a dog show at Sethaleng in Maseru on Saturday.

Leemisa Thuseho

TWO Lesotho chess players have received International Chess Federation (FIDE) titles.

Sechaba Khalema and 'Malehloa Likhomo were awarded at the just-ended Chess Olympiad in Chennai, India.

The games ran from 28 July to 9 August 2022.

Lesotho finished a disappointing 129 out of 162 countries in the women's category and 164 out of 188 in the open section.

Despite the country's poor showing, Khalema was awarded a Candidate Master (CM) FIDE title for his outstanding performance.

Likhomo received a FIDE Women Candidate Master (WCM) title after she was voted Lesotho's best female player.

The country was represented by a team of 10 players.

The men's team had Klaas, Khalema, Tšephe Lebajoa, Bahlakoana Ntšonyana, and Bokang Motsamai.

The women's team was made up of WCM Maboloko Leboela, Likhomo, Nteboheleng Thetsane, Reitumetse Taioe, and Bonolo Ntsielo.

Speaking to Sunday Express, Likhomo said she was thrilled to get the title and this would motivate her to do even better in future.

"Getting a FIDE title means that I have to work harder to get higher rankings," she said.

Likhomo said she did not see the title coming after the team arrived late for the tournament due to visa delays. That saw the team missing some opening rounds.

"I was not expecting any title especially after we missed the opening rounds. However, I managed to get qualifying points from the games I played. Thus, I am happy."

This was Likhomo's second Olympiad after her debut in 2018 when the games were held in Georgia, United States.

As WCM, she is Lesotho's third woman with a chess title after Lieketseng Ngatane, who is a Women FIDE Master (WFM) and Maboloko Leboela who is also a WCM.

For his part, Khalema said he was delighted to finally get a title after participating at the world event since 2014 in Norway. He was also part of the Lesotho team in Azerbaijan in 2016 as well as Georgia in

Top players get FIDE titles from World Chess Olympiad



SECHABA Khalema.

2018.

"This was my fourth Olympiad and I am happy that I got something from the games."

Khalema said he hoped that his win would motivate the young players who were part of the team to work harder.



'MALEHLOA Likhomo.

"It is my wish to see our senior players getting higher titles as that will push the young ones to work harder," he said.

Khalema is the third male player with a FIDE title after Joang Molapo and Tokelo Klaas who are also candidate masters.

LNA hosts tri-nations netball tourney



LESOTHO men's netball team's in action. — file pic.

Leemisa Thuseho

LESOTHO Netball Association (LNA) is currently hosting a tri-nations netball tournament for men's teams in Maseru.

The tournament started yesterday at Maseru Club and ends today.

Teams from Botswana, South Africa and Lesotho are taking part.

Lesotho is represented by two teams, the national males' team and a national development squad. Botswana will be represented by its national team while South Africa sent one of its clubs, South Africa Lighting.

Talking to *Sunday Express* yesterday, LNA vice president, Yengani Nokwanene, who is also head of the organising committee of the tournament, said the event is meant to revive and grow men's netball in the country.

"This has been one of the LNA's dreams for years. We are happy that it is becoming a reality," Nokwanene said.

He said the purpose of the tournament is to improve men's netball and promote cordial relations with other countries.

"We share the vision of World Netball to encourage the participation of men in netball. We therefore, found it important to recognise and contribute towards growing men's netball in the country."

Nokwanene said this was the first ever tri-nations men's tournament to be organised by LNA. They were now planning to make it an annual event.

"This is our first tournament. However, we to make it an annual event and include women's teams."

Winners will receive a trophy.

"The purpose of the tournament is not about winning money but improving the sport. Teams didn't pay any participation fees, thus there will be no prizes for the winners," Nokwanene said.

Leemisa Thuseho

Mehalalitoe back into international competitions

LESOTHO women senior soccer national team, Mehalalitoe will make a return to international competitions this month.

The team will compete in this year's Council of Southern African Football Associations (COSAFA) Women's Cup.

The tournament will be played in Port Elizabeth, South Africa from 31 August to September 11.

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) pulled Mehalalitoe from competitive football after their poor performance at the 2020 COSAFA tournament. They lost 8-0 and 9-0 to Malawi and Zambia respectively.

LeFA then withdrew the team so that it could focus on rebuilding itself.

After the suspension, Mehalalitoe missed last year's COSAFA and the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (AWCON) qualifiers.

LeFA this weekend confirmed that it has enrolled the team for this year's COSAFA showpiece.

"Lesotho Women's Senior Soccer team have been enrolled for the upcoming COSAFA tournament," the association announced yesterday.

LeFA said the team has been hard at work with a series of camps and friendly games locally and in South Africa preparing for their return.

Mehalalitoe will be under the tutelage of Pule Khojane who was appointed in April this year to succeed Lehloenyha Nkhasi.

Speaking ahead of his maiden COSAFA, Khojane said he was ready for the challenge.

"The mood is a bit tense, beautiful, and emotional at the same time. The players are thinking too deep about the tournament.

"It is an opportunity to prove ourselves. We really want to make a difference and with God's Grace, we will achieve a lot. We are trying to prepare the team physically and mentally," he said.

The tournament's draw was conducted yesterday. Lesotho is drawn in Group B alongside Zambia, eSwatini and Namibia.

Group A has South Africa, Angola, Mauritius and Mozambique while Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania and Comoros are in Group C.

Meanwhile, Polotso Maapara and Ntebohelenng Setoko have been appointed to officiate at the tournament.



MEHALALITOE during the training session. — file pic.

Orpen gets netball umpiring award

Leemisa Thuseho

TOP Lesotho netball umpire Neo Orpen this week received an Africa Umpiring B Award from Netball South Africa.

Orpen got the award for his outstanding officiating at the South Africa's Spar Netball Championship.

The championship was played at Potchefstroom University in South Africa from Sunday until Friday.

The games started with a workshop and a fitness test for umpires.

Orpen already had an Africa C Award that he got during the African Union Sport Council (AUSC) Region 5 Youth Games held in Lesotho last December.

Orpen who is also the Lesotho Correctional Service netball teams head coach said he was happy to receive the award. It would be a huge motivation in his umpiring career.

"I am very happy for the achievement and proud of myself. It is not easy to reach this level, especially in this country."

He said the recognition will allow him to umpire at top tournaments in Lesotho and South Africa.

After attaining the B Award, he is now gunning for a B+ award before moving to an A award.

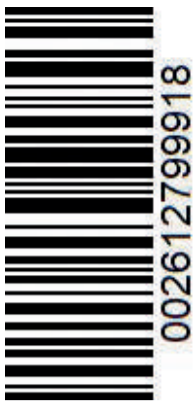
According to Orpen, for the country's netball to grow, it needs well-qualified individuals from coaching, umpiring and administration.

"Having qualified personnel to run our sports is key to success. If we have a number of international umpires who get assignments to officiate outside the country, they will have a better understanding of the rules and regulations of the game.

"They will then share their new knowledge with other local umpires, as well as coaches and players," Orpen said.



NEO Orpen. — file pic.



Marabe finds a new team in Bhutan

... Former Bantu captain signs one- year contract

Leemisa Thuseho

FORMER Bantu captain, Litšepe Marabe, has found a new home in the Bhutan Premier League in India.

This after he secured a one-year contract with Transport United Football Club.

The deal was officially completed over the weekend.

Marabe is joining Transport United Football Club from the Brothers Arts and Sports Club Othukkungal (BASCO) United FC, which in the Kerala Premier League in India. Kerala is a region in India.

In a statement, Transport United announced Marabe as their latest international signing.

"Hailing from Kingdom of Lesotho, Litšepe Marabe is our latest international signing.

"The 30-year-old forward is joining us from Basco United FC in India which plays in the Kerala Premier League," Transport United said.

Marabe also confirmed the development to this publication over the weekend.

"I have signed a one-year contract with Transport United in the Bhutan Premier League. I settled for a short contract so that I can get settle and see how far I can go in this league," he said.

The Bhutan Premier League got underway yesterday.

However, Marabe is likely to get a test of action on Friday when his team plays against Ugyen Academy.

Marabe said he was ready to make a significant contribution to help Transport United fight for the title this season. Last season, they finished third.

"I am ready to give it my all to help the team achieve all its goals this season."

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

He left the team in April this year after his three-month contract came to end.

In June, he was on the verge of joining Southern Samity FC which plays in the Calcutta Football League, a men's professional state top football league in the Indian State of West Bengal. However, the deal didn't materialise because they delayed in offering him a contract.

LITŠEPE Marabe.

