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Mochoboroane vows to fight crime page 7



SADC elders to oversee reforms

As regional body once again prods govt to complete the reforms process.

Story on page 2

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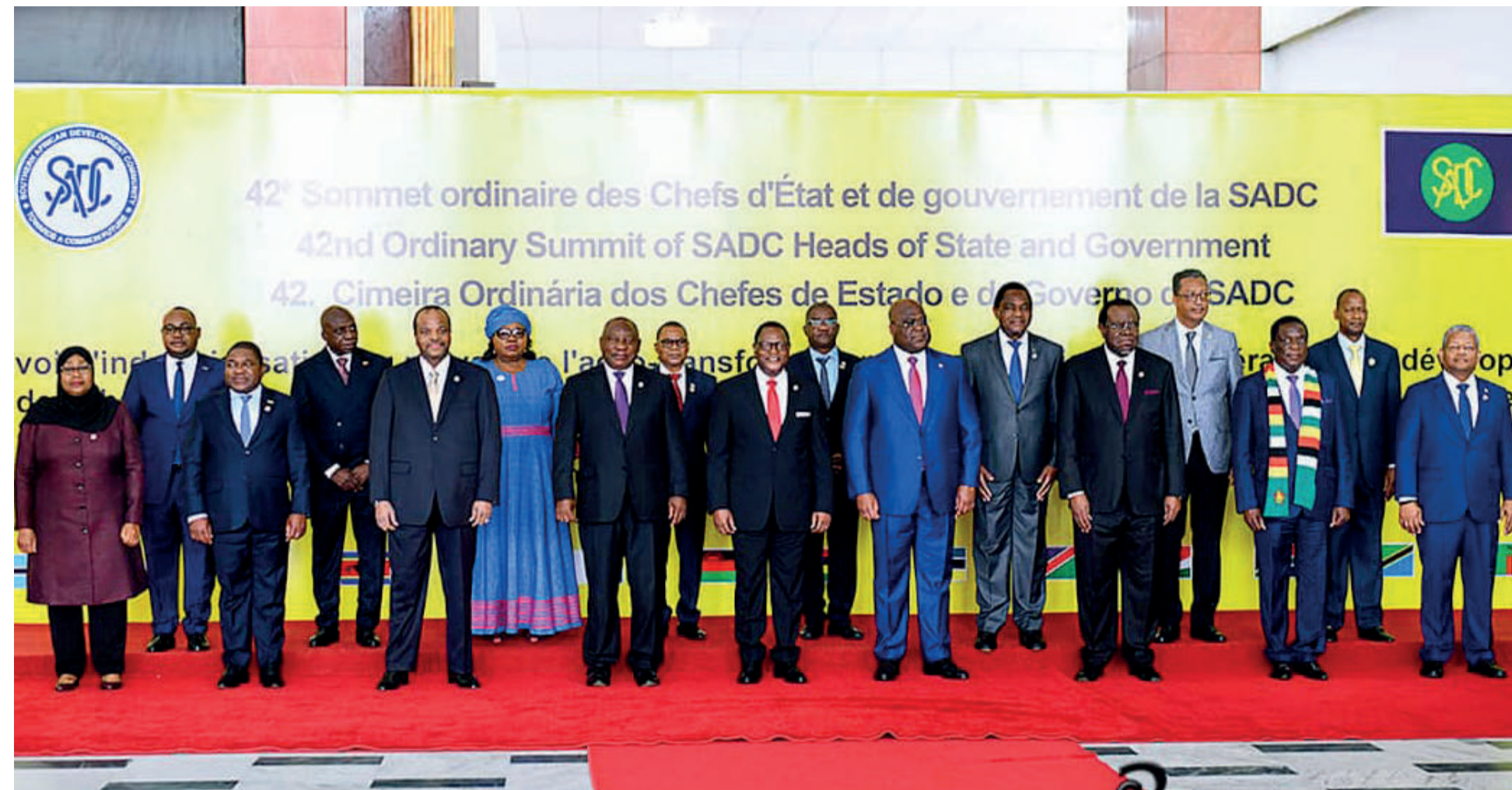
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SADC elders to oversee reforms

... as regional body once again prods govt to complete the reforms process



SADC heads of state at the 42nd summit in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo on Friday.



JAKAYA Kikwete.



PARAMASIVUM Pillay Vyapoory.



CHARLES Tibone.



PATRICK Chinamasa.

Bongiwe Zihlangu

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has once again told Lesotho to expedite the completion of the much-delayed reforms process aimed at achieving durable peace and stability in the Kingdom.

The regional body has also established an oversight committee made up of mainly retired regional leaders to help Lesotho oversee the completion of the reforms process.

A communique issued at the end of the regional body's 42nd heads of state summit in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on Friday said an oversight committee comprising of a new Panel of Elders (PoE) and a Mediation Reference Group (MRG), would help Lesotho complete its reforms process.

Former Tanzania President Jakaya Kikwete, and former Mauritian Vice-President Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, were appointed chair and deputy of the PoE respectively. They will be aided by former Zimbabwean Justice Minister, Patrick Chinamasa

and ex-Botswana Foreign Affairs Minister, Charles Tibone.

Apart from immediately helping Lesotho resolve its problems, the PoE would generally be tasked with facilitating the prevention, management and resolution of inter and intra-state conflicts in the 16-member SADC region. It would be assisted by the MRG.

Lesotho's oversight committee — comprising of the PoE and MRG — would help “to ensure continuity and oversight on the implementation of reforms in Lesotho”, the SADC communique read. Details on how the oversight committee will aim to drive SADC's agenda in Lesotho are still sketchy.

Nonetheless, the SADC leaders' summit which ran under the theme: “Promoting industrialisation through agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, and regional value chains for inclusive and resilient economic growth” urged Lesotho to expeditiously complete its reforms process after getting a progress report from the regional body's facilitator to Lesotho, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

“While noting the progress Lesotho has

made, the summit urges the government to expedite completion of the ongoing reforms, and to continue with the peace, transitional justice and reconciliation process to engender national unity, and bring about national healing and cohesion,” the SADC leaders exhorted in their joint communique.

They commended Mr Ramaphosa and his facilitation team for the “excellent leadership and role” in supporting Lesotho in the reforms process.

SADC had originally given Lesotho a deadline of May 2019 to complete the reforms but that was not met as the country's politicians bickered over the reforms.

King Letsie III had even dissolved parliament last month without the reforms having been concluded.

Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro has since declared a state of emergency to enable the recalling of parliament to pass the bills giving effect to the reforms.

In his address to the SADC summit last week, Dr Majoro explained why he had to declare the state of emergency to get the reforms process back on track.

He said other necessary legal procedures were now being effected to recall parliament — after the emergency declaration — and let it move on with the reforms.

The reforms were initially recommended by SADC in 2016 after it had deployed military to help quell the instability in the country. They are aimed at achieving lasting peace and stability and deal with other governance issues which have plagued the country since the 1960s. Successive coalition governments have failed to complete the reforms since then.

At a meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers in South Africa last month, Lesotho was berated over the delays. The latest exhortation by SADC — albeit couched in diplomatic language — for the expedition of the reforms process is yet another indication of the regional body's impatience with Lesotho.

It remains to be seen whether its new institution — the PoE — comprising of the region's elder statesmen would be able to implore the country to move and finally close the reforms chapter, particularly after the recall of parliament.



Kingdom of Lesotho
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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (MoSD)
PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROJECT (P177814)
TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORS) – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

1.0 Project Background

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho through the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) has secured credit from the World Bank in the amount equivalent to US\$26.5 million toward the implementation of Pathways to Sustainable Livelihood Project (PSLP) for a five (5) year period up to 2027.

The Ministry intends to use a portion of the proceeds of this credit for an individual consultant to act as a Financial Management Specialist (FMS) to serve as part of a Project Facilitation Unit (PFU) (to be recruited) in the Ministry of Social Development. The FMS will be responsible for ensuring the effective, efficient and transparent management of the financial resources allocated to the project in strict compliance with the rules and guidelines defined by the World Bank and the Government of Lesotho.

2.0 Objectives

The objective of the assignment is to undertake services in the procurement of Goods and services and enhance Financial capacity of Ministry Social Development (MoSD) staff through implementation of TIC.

3.0 Scope of Services

The services of the Financial Management Specialist shall include but not limited to the following tasks;

- Prepare Project budget in accordance with the Project activity plan and in coordination with the Project Coordinator and component specialists.
- Ensure a smooth flow of financial information and observance of Government and World Bank guidelines.
- Process consultant and vendor third party payments and prepare payment vouchers with respective supporting documents.
- Prepare monthly and annual expenditure reports, bank reconciliation, petty cash accounts in line with the organizational and donor requirements deadlines.
- Ensure that financial reports are submitted to the World Bank within the deadlines established in the financing agreements.
- Provide operational support to technical staff on expenditure Management to include Short Term Action Plans and Expenditure Schedules.
- Ensure timely submission of statutory returns and VAT claims according to Lesotho Labour Laws.
- Uphold to the organizational financial and internal control system.
- Prepare withdrawal applications to be submitted and facilitate the timely replenishment of the Special Account and timely disbursement and payments to key project partners and service providers.
- Participate in Internal and External Audits by providing Auditors with Accounting Documents as requested and providing Explanations for Audit Queries.
- Provide ongoing support and mentoring to project and MoSD staff with regard to project financial systems and procedures.
- Maintain and update Purchase Order tracker on a monthly and or quarterly basis.
- Supervise petty cash.
- Produce the financial statements at the end of each financial year for audit in accordance with the Financing Agreements with the World Bank.
- Prepare monthly and quarterly progress reports.
- Perform additional assignments, as directed by Director Finance at the Ministry of Social Development.

4.0 Qualifications and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in accounting, commerce, finance or business administration, and/or chartered accountant
- Minimum of five years hands on financial management experience with projects financed by World Bank
- Excellent written and oral skills in English
- Excellent computer skills including proficiency in Excel
- Experience in evaluating financial management systems (including budgeting, accounting, cash management, internal audit and financial reporting systems
- Knowledge of the use of Quick books, Tompro and pastel software will be an added advantage
- Knowledge of World Bank financial management procedures and guidelines is requirement
- Excellent organizational and communication skills and ability to work independently
- Be a citizen of the Kingdom of Lesotho

5.0 Duration of Assignment

The assignment shall be for a period of twenty-four (24) months renewable upon satisfactory performance.

6.0 Submissions of Applications:

The Principal Secretary
Ministry of Social Development
Private Bag A222
Maseru
Lesotho

Hand delivered to the office of the Human Resource former
Ministry of Social Development offices, 3rd Floor Pension
Fund Building Maseru, Lesotho

Interested candidates shall submit their applications, Educational Certificates and transcripts, Curriculum Vitae with two names of the referees with their contact details on or before 14 September 2022 during working hours to the following address: tankisomasao@gmail.com



Kingdom of Lesotho

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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (MoSD)
PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROJECT (P177814)
TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORS) - PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

1.0 Project Background

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho through the Ministry of Social Develop (MoSD) has secured credit from the World Bank in the amount equivalent to US\$26.5 Million toward implementation of pathways to sustainable Livelihoods Project (PSLP) for a five (5) year period up to 2027.

The Ministry intends to use portion of the proceeds of this credit for an individual consultant to act as a Procurement Specialist (PS) as part of the Project Facilitation Unit (PFU) (to be recruited) in the Ministry of Social Development. The PS will be responsible for preparation and execution of Project Procurement Plan (PP) for procurement of all goods and services for the project in accordance with the guidelines, rules and procedures provided in the project Financing Agreement and enhances the procurement capacity within the MoSD team.

2.0 Objectives

The objective of the assignment is to undertake services in the procurement of Goods and services and enhance procurement capacity of Ministry Social Development (MoSD) staff through implementation of TIC.

3.0 Scope of Services

The services of the Procurement Specialist shall include but not limited to the following tasks;

- Provide on the job training/coaching to an identified procurement staff through hands on training by fully participation in the procurement activities that are mentioned in subsequent items;
- Assist in the preparation and updating of the procurement plans for the implementation of all procurement activities;
- Prepare invitation for bids and bidding documents for issuance to bidders,
- Provide input to bid evaluation and review of bid evaluation reports prior to submission to the World Bank for approval of award recommendations;
- Help ensure quality to focus on specific procurement problems and issues;
- Participate in Contract Negotiations;
- Prepare Contract documents;
- Review Securities and Guarantees and approve;
- Assist in ensuring that procurement takes place as rapidly and effectively as possible;
- Provide support and guidance to the staff of the MoSD in obtaining the necessary clearance from World Bank in awarding contracts and follow up actions;
- Advise the client to ensure compliance with all procedures for procurement according to World Bank Guidelines;
- Review Consultants' evaluation reports for Contractors' claims on additional cost and time extension and advise MoSD accordingly;
- Prepare quarterly reports incorporating statistical monitoring tools. "monitoring by value" and "monitoring by number of contracts", and
- Perform other duties as instructed by the Project Coordinator.

4.0 Qualifications and Experience

- Education and work experience: The Project Procurement Specialist shall have CIPS level 6 and a minimum of Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Business Administration, Procurement, Economics and any related fields: or a professional procurement and logistics qualification: and at least (Five) 5 years' experience of public procurement
- Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Requirements:
 - At least two years' experience in procurement using World Bank or any multilateral funding agency procurement procedures
 - Considerable knowledge of procurement methods and procedures: working knowledge of sources of supplies and price trends
 - Procurement at level of large projects of scale public or private projects involving procurement of goods and services for at least two years
 - Fluency in English (reading, writing and speaking) required:
 - Knowledge of computer skills is essential
 - Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing is a pre-requisite
 - High integrity and accountability in all aspects of project procurement
 - Experience in training, capacity building, system set – ups etc. in procurement will be required

5.0 Duration of Assignment

The assignment shall be for a period of twenty-four (24) months renewable upon satisfactory performance.

6.0 Submissions of Applications:

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Ministry of Social Development
Private Bag A222
Maseru
Lesotho

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Kingdom of Lesotho

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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (MoSD)
PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROJECT (P177814)
TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORS) - PROJECT COORDINATOR

1.0 Project Background

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho through the Ministry of Social Develop (MoSD) has secured credit from the World Bank in the amount equivalent to US\$26.5 Million toward implementation of pathways to sustainable Livelihoods Project (PSLP) for a five (5) year period up to 2027.

The Ministry intends to use portion of the proceeds of this credit for an individual consultant to act as a project coordinator for the Project Facilitation Unit (PFU) (to be recruited) in the Ministry of Social Development. In order to manage the implementation of the project in accordance with the approved project implementation plan the MoSD is looking for a dynamic, motivated, creative and open minded individual to support overall management of the project within MoSD. The PFU will also consist of other consultants including persons specialized in procurement, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, economic inclusion activities and social and environmental management.

2.0 Objectives

The objective of the assignment is to undertake services in the procurement of Goods and services and enhance Project Coordinator capacity of Ministry Social Development (MoSD) staff through implementation of TIC.

3.0 Scope of Services

The services of the Project Coordinator shall include but not limited to the following tasks;

- Project Leadership & Management**
 - coordinate and supervise the PFU team, establishing guidelines and ensuring compliance with the duties contained in the terms of reference of each function, the regular progress of activities and the established objectives;
 - manage project stakeholders and ensure that everyone on the team (Component specialists and key PFU members) know and executes their role.
 - ensure that component specialists feel empowered and supported in their roles, know the roles of the other team members and act upon the belief that those roles will be performed.
 - Manage the Project team, local and foreign consultants, to ensure effective allocation of resources, quality and punctuality of work; and actively participate in periodic evaluations of team performance;
 - Coordinate project team meetings;
 - Identify the training needs of the team and participate in the implementation;
 - Regularly visit project activity implementation sites to: a) identify where adaptations are needed, b) engage and obtain feedback from stakeholders at all levels
 - Provide technical information for strategic documents or participate in studies, assessments, surveys or investigations as required.
 - Use and apply as required project management methodologies, systems, and tools to ensure adequate systems are set up for management and monitoring of project accounts, procurement and evaluation.
 - Ensure the establishment of an effective communication strategy to facilitate knowledge management, awareness and support change management throughout project activities
 - Lead internal and external strategic level engagement and management necessary for program delivery.
 - Continuously update the risk assessment matrix and institute all necessary actions to mitigate the impact of risk and ensure highest quality implementation;
 - Coordinate and support meetings of the Project Steering Committee.
 - Provide day-to-day supervision of the PFU and ensure the business of the PFU is streamlined for optimal tracking, monitoring and reporting;
 - Liaise with the Finance Specialists in the PFU and in the Ministry to ensure transparent and efficient management of, and accounting for, project resources; liaise with the Procurement Specialist in the PFU to ensure transparent and cost-effective procurement of services and supplies as required by different component
 - Manage project conflicts;
 - Project Planning and Reporting**
 - coordinate the development of Annual Work Plans and adapt the overall Project Action Plan periodically as required;
 - track the project against its schedule, budget and project milestones to facilitate and coordinate financial and narrative reporting in a timely manner;
 - develop and implement recovery plans for off-schedule and unanticipated occurrences, recommending new processes, where needed, to improve quality, cost, or on-time delivery.
 - Ensure compliance with the project's Operations Manual (POM);
 - Provide updated information to the MoSD on the physical and financial execution of the project;
 - Prepare periodic reports on project implementation;
 - Ensure the proper organization of the project's technical files so that it is possible to consult any and all physical and digital documents related to the project;
 - Participate in the analysis of all documents related to the project;
- 4.0 Qualifications and Experience**
- a. Postgraduate degree in social sciences, or relevant field and at least eight years' work experience in project management, is a prerequisite or
 - BA Degree with minimum of ten years of professional experience.
 - b. Technical and operational background in Social Protection and/or Employment and/or entrepreneurship issues
 - c. Experience working in the social protection sector, as well as in livelihoods promotion is highly desirable.
 - d. Experience working with promoting entrepreneurship would be an advantage;
 - e. Experience working with donor project is highly desirable, especially with World Bank financed projects.
 - f. Effective judgment and determination;
 - g. Have a consistent track record of increasing responsibility and achievement;
 - h. Have a high level of inter-personal and entrepreneurial skills.
 - i. Proven managing skills and have a good understanding of participatory approaches to activity-based planning, budgeting and accounting;
 - j. Have clear understanding of government policies and operations;
 - k. Have strong leadership, training and communication skills.
 - l. Be able to work in a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary professional setup;
 - m. Have problem solving, leadership, conflict management and team building skills

5.0 Duration of Assignment

The assignment shall be for a period of twenty-four (24) months renewable upon satisfactory performance.

6.0 Submissions of Applications

The Principal Secretary
Ministry of Social Development
Private Bag A222
Maseru
Lesotho

Hand delivered to the office of the Human Resource
Former Ministry of Social Development Offices, 3rd
Floor Pension Fund Building Maseru, Lesotho

Interested candidates shall submit their applications, Educational Certificates and transcripts, Curriculum Vitae with two names of the referees with their contact details on or before 14 September 2022 during working hours to the following address: tankisomasao@gmail.com



Kingdom of Lesotho

INVITATION TO BIDS (ITB)
Ministry of Social Development

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF EVERYDAY AND SUPPORTIVE WHEELCHAIRS FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

- The Ministry of Social Development has received funding from the Government of Lesotho as a counterpart contribution towards the support of the disability services and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply and delivery of everyday and supportive wheelchairs.
- The Ministry of Social Development now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply and delivery of wheelchairs for Disability Department located at headquarters of the Ministry of Social Development 2nd floor Pension Fund Building along Options Square road next to LNIG Building.
- Bidding will be conducted through national competitive procurement approach using a Public Procurement Regulation 2007 and Public Procurement (Amentment) regulation 2018 of the Kingdom of Lesotho and is open to all eligible Bidders registered with the Ministry of Finance (IFMIS) and in good standing in taxes with the Lesotho Revenue Authority and licencour Ministry of Trade and Industry.
- All bidders shall provide valid certified copies of Trader's License and Tax Clearance Certificates issued by relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Lesotho. All copies shall be certified at source. Failure to submit these documents will form grounds for disqualification of the bid.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Social Development, Procurement Section during office hours from Monday to Friday.
- The bidding documents will be available from 18th August 2022 from 0800 – 1600 hrs and may be purchased by interested Bidders upon payment of nonrefundable fee of M2000.00 to the Ministry of Social Development, Accounts Section, 2nd floor Pension Fund Building along Options Square road next to LNIG Building.
- The government of Lesotho reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and is not bound to accept a tender with the lowest tender price. What is considered is the tender which provide value for money.
- The bid security of the tendered amount must be in the form of a bank guarantee from an accredited financial institute and should accompany the tender submission.
- Bids must be hand delivered to the address below and deposited in the tender box situated on the 2nd floor Pension Fund Building in the Ministry of Social Development on or before 28th September 2022 at 1230hrs in one original and three copies clearly marked "COPY" and "ORIGINAL" respectively in one sealed envelope clearly marked "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF EVERYDAY AND SUPPORTIVE WHEEL CHAIRS FOR DISABILITY SERVICES IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT" bearing no identification of the bidder. Bids submitted after the deadline will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend on the 28th September 2022 day at 1430hrs.
- All bids shall be addressed to:

Procurement Office
Attention: Principal Secretary
Ministry of Social Development
Private bag A222
Maseru 100
Lesotho

Army boss opposes M10 million torture claim

Moorosi Tsiane

LESOTHO Defence Force (LDF) commander, Mojalefa Letsoela (pictured), has pleaded with the High Court to dismiss a M10, 9 million claim by three soldiers who allege they were tortured by their colleagues in 2015.

In his opposing papers filed in the High Court on Thursday, Lieutenant General (Lt-Gen) Letsoela says the claim should be dismissed because it was filed late.

The three applicants, whose ranks are not given in the court papers, are Thoriso Mareka, Seabata Chaka and Motlatsi Mokhobo.

The trio are demanding a whopping M10 950 000 as damages for the unlawful arrests, detention and torture they allegedly suffered at the hands of their colleagues including the late Captain Tefo Hashatsi and Major Bulane Sechele.

They allege that they were subjected to torture and degrading treatment by their army colleagues during and after the 30 August 2014 attempted coup against the first government of former Prime Minister, Thomas Thabane.

Their legal battle was supposed to proceed before Justice 'Maliello Makhetha on Thursday but was deferred to 24 August 2022 after Lt-Gen Letsoela filed his opposing papers.

Lt-Gen Letsoela argues that the soldiers laid their claim in 2017 but only served him in October 2021. Therefore, it is outside the time prescribed by the High Court rules.

"The applicants' claim arose in 2017 but they only served the respondents with their claim on 13 October 2021, which is a period of more than two years after their claim arose," Lt-Gen Letsoela argues.

"The court has no power to condone the late filing of the action. The court cannot extend the prescribed period where there is no provision in law authorising such extension in terms of Rule 59 of the High Court Rules 1980."

Lt-Gen Letsoela is being sued in his capacity as army commander for the atrocities which were allegedly committed by soldiers under the command of former LDF chief, Tlali Kamoli.

Lt-Gen Letsoela and Attorney General Rapelang Motsieloa are the first and second

respondents respectively in the applications.

Mareka is demanding a total of M5 110 000, Chaka M2 930 000 and Mokhobo M2 910 000.

Mareka claims M2, 4 million for unlawful arrest and detention, M180 000 for medical expenses, M580 000 for contumelia, M750 000 for pain and suffering, M300 000 for malicious prosecution before the Court Martial and M900 000 for travelling expenses.

"I was arrested by my juniors, the late Captain Hashatsi, Retired Colonel (Thato) Phaila and some agents or employees of the Lesotho Defence Force on or around 5 June 2015.

"They handed me over to the LDF personnel who in turn took me to Setibing Military Base for what they styled as 'interviews' and or 'investigations,'" Mareka states in his application.

He claims he was brutally assaulted and tortured by the officers at Setibing but he could not see them as he has a sight problem.

He says he was interrogated about his relationship with the late LDF commander, Lt-Gen Maaparankoe Mahao, and the freezing of a loan facility for soldiers by the management of the LDF.

Mareka states that his wife subsequently filed a High Court application to compel the LDF to produce him dead or alive. The application was duly granted by the now retired Justice Teboho Moiloa, on 1 July 2015.

He further alleges that the then LDF command delayed to release him as they initially questioned the authenticity of Justice Moiloa's order.

"In view of the attitude they displayed towards the court order, this suggests the military then had a blank cheque to do whatever they wished with us.

"I was taken into military custody unlawfully and charged for mutiny maliciously. The torture I endured at Setibing and the defamation I suffered due to the charge of mutiny where the LDF had failed to furnish me with the remand warrant and signed written reports in respect of allegations which led to my imprisonment were antithetical to the rule of law and due process," he says in his court papers.

Mareka claims that as a result of the treatment by his juniors and the torture, he has suffered damages totalling M5 110 000, for which he holds the defendants liable to pay.

Chaka's M2 930 000 claim is broken down

as follows: M2 million for unlawful arrest and detention, M200 000 for hospitalisation, M180 000 for contumelia, M250 000 for pain and suffering, and M300 000 for general damages.

He also alleges he was arrested on 1 June 2015 and taken to Setibing Military Base where he was tortured with hard objects by his colleagues and forced to confess to mutiny.

He suffered permanent disability after undergoing a hip replacement operation as a result, he says.

Chaka furthers claims that the army only allowed him to have the operation after being ordered to do so by the court.

"The actions and decisions of the subordinates of the first defendant (army commander) were unlawful and wrong. The defendants remain jointly and severally liable. The decisions to place me under close arrest and prosecute me before the Court Martial had no merit.

"The jurisdictional facts for the imposition of a closed arrest were absent, hence I must be compensated," he states.

Mokhobo's M2 910 000 claim is broken down as follows: M2 million for unlawful arrest and detention, M180 000 for hospital expenses, M180 000 for contumelia, M250 000 for pain and suffering and M300 000 for general damages.

He claims he was arrested at Ratjomose Barracks on 17 May 2015 and also taken to Setibing Military Base.

His colleagues there assaulted and insulted him. They also told him that he was going to die and they were going to sleep

with his wife, he claims.

These atrocities were carried out to elicit confessions and incriminating evidence meant to connect him with an imaginary mutiny plot.

"I was tortured and drowned (sic) in cold water. My torturers forced me to dry myself by sitting on a hot corrugated iron sheet. This took two days until my wife launched habeas corpus proceedings before the now retired Justice Semapo Peete.

"It was in response to the orders of this court that I was brought before court in a very bad shape. The court ordered that I be attended to urgently by doctors as my private parts had been rendered dysfunctional owing to the tortures I suffered," Mokhobo says.

He further argues that the LDF investigations into the alleged mutiny plot could have been conducted without torture and death threats.

"I was placed in closed arrest and solitary confinement only to be acquitted after some years of suffering in 2017.

"The LDF command exercised undue influence on the prosecuting authority to conjure up spurious charges against me before the Court Martial in a covert campaign such that I could be considered a fascist and mutineer. The verdict of acquittals talks to the malicious prosecution and unlawful arrest and detention," Mokhobo states.



Police investigators get reprieve in transfer dispute



HOLOMO Molibeli.

'Marafaele Mohloboli

POLICE investigators who are challenging their controversial transfers to other departments by Commissioner Holomo Molibeli have won a temporary reprieve. This after the High Court issued an interim court in their favour on Tuesday.

The investigators had filed affidavits in the High Court on 12 August 2022 praying that their transfers by Commissioner Molibeli be stayed until the matter is finalised.

In their affidavits, they cited Commissioner Molibeli and Attorney General Rapelang Motsieloa as 1st and 2nd respondents respectively. In his ruling, Justice Molefe Makara said Commissioner Molibeli's decision to transfer them without affording them a hearing was unfair.

"A rule nisi is hereby issued and returnable on the 25th day of August 2022, calling upon the respondents to show cause why the rule shall not be made final;

"The rules as to notice and forms of service are hereby dispensed with on account of urgency.

"The 1st respondent's decision to transfer the applicants without any hearing whatsoever is hereby held in abeyance pending finalisation hereof," Justice Makara said.

He gave Police Commissioner Molibeli until 25 August 2022 to "show cause" why the interim order should not be made final.

Commissioner Molibeli had on 27 July 2022 slapped the seven investigators with letters asking them to "show cause" why they should not be transferred to other departments after he dismantled the Special Investigations Unit (SIU).

Commissioner Molibeli said he was disbanding the SIU because it had fulfilled its mandate. The unit was set up in 2017 to in-

vestigate high profile criminal cases.

The investigators, Inspectors Mpho Mpho, Khabu Nthejane, Rapelang Nkeane and Sergeants Morero Ramokhele, Leseli Mapapane, Katiso Mongali and Thebe Ranthimo were expected to have responded to the letters by 3 August 2022.

After receiving the letters, the investigators wrote back to Commissioner Molibeli asking him to furnish them with some information which they said would help them respond.

The investigators said they were unable to react to the "show cause" letters unless they received the information.

"We hereby request the following information so that we will be in a position to make the required representation.

"What kind of cases were handled by the Special Investigations Unit that we were part of? We humbly request to be furnished with a detailed status of all the cases that were investigated by the Special Investigations team," the investigators said in their letter.

The officers also want Commissioner Molibeli to specify the number of cases investigated by the SIU and how many were taken to court.

They also want a detailed report on the number of cases still to be taken to court and also for the commissioner to state whether or not the unit was set up for a specified period.

"Was the alleged special duty for a fixed period? If yes, when was the commencement date and the expiry date?"

"We must place it on record that we are not against the contemplated transfers, but we are unable to respond to the show cause letter in the absence of the aforementioned information," the investigators said.

IAL marks India's 75th Independence Day

Nthabiseng Libate

THE Indian Association of Lesotho (IAL) recently commemorated India's 75th Independence Day with various activities including free medical services for the public in Maseru. India attained its independence from Britain on 15 August 1947.

Speaking during the commemorations in Maseru, IAL president, Abraham Korah, commended all the countries that contributed to India's development.

"We remember all the freedom fighters who put their lives at stake for the independence of our country and lived up to the spirit of unity," Mr Korah said.

"We also thank all those who laid down their lives for India.

"Today is the most opportune day to redeem our pledge for unity and integrity of the nation. We are proud and swear to keep ourselves sincere and patriotic to save our motherland from any kind of attack. We also pledge to stand united against corruption and terrorism.

"The ability to create jobs and grow the economy were some of the qualities needed for a country to be granted independence from colonial rule," he said.

"On this day, we remember all our freedom fighters who sacrificed everything for our country....," he added

IAL is a registered non-profit, non-partisan and non-sectarian organisation which was established in 1998 to primarily provide a cultural and educational platform for Indians in Lesotho.

The association has been working "selflessly to create, foster and promote co-operation, collaboration and social and cultural integration between the peoples of the kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of India".

On his part, Police and Public Safety minister, Lepota Sekola, said the occasion symbolised the strength of the relationship



INDIAN Association of Lesotho celebrates India's 75th Independence Day.

between India and Lesotho in the areas of business and education.

"Indians are influential when it comes to business. We have a good partnership with Indians because they built some of the schools and businesses we have in this country," Mr Sekola said.

He urged Basotho to consult Indians for business ideas and support.



Kingdom of Lesotho

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
RE-ADVERTISEMENT**

**SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
REQUEST FOR BIDS
SMALL WORKS**

(ONE-ENVELOPE BIDDING PROCESS)

NAME OF PROJECT: Lesotho Covid 19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Project
Contract Title: The Proposed Construction of Maseru District Vaccine Store at Senkatana Maseru
NCB. LS-MOH-265613-CW-RFQ-LC-19ERPR-AF-2022

Issue date: 19-08-2022

- The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Lesotho COVID 19 Emergency Preparedness Response, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for The Proposed Construction of Maseru District Vaccine Store at Senkatana Maseru.
- The Ministry of Health through PIU now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for The Proposed Construction of Maseru District Vaccine Store at Senkatana Maseru for period of 12 months. Margin of preference will not be applicable.
- Bidding will be conducted through national competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" March 2021 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Health, Ground Floor, Procurement unit, contact Procurement Specialist or Project Engineer at lesothocovid19project@gmail.com and inspect the bidding document during office hours 0800 to 1600 hours at the address given below.
- The bidding document in English may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Ls1,500.00**. The method of payment will be Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Cash Deposit at the bank to the following account details of Ministry of Health, Health Sector Reform Project - LC19 AF IDA, Account Number, 11990128202 and NED Bank Lesotho. Proof of payment should be submitted to the Project Accounting Unit 1st Floor (PAU 2 & 3) at Ministry of Health, Head Quarters Maseru thereafter collect the Bidding Document at Procurement Unit Ground Floor.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **20th September, 2022 at 1000hour** Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below at 1030 hours at Level 4 Auditorium of the Ministry of Health Headquarters **20th September, 2022 at 1030hour**. All bids should be labeled as per the contract title stated above. One Original and four Copies.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Guarantee of Ls150,000.00, Construction traders license, Tax clearance certificate, site visit certificate signed, bid form and Power of Attorney.
- Mandatory site visit shall be held at Senkatana Maseru Next to National Health Training College Students residents on the 30th August 2022 1000 hour.
- The Ministry of Health also reserves the right to cancel the tenders before the submission or opening of tenders, postpone the tender submission/opening date and to accept or reject any or all tenders. The Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

Ministry of Health, Health Head Quarters Level 4 Auditorium, P. O. Box 514, Maseru 100,
Conner of Constitution Road and Linare Road,
Contacts +266 273 23277
lesothocovid19project@gmail.com

Mohalenyane Phakela

Accomplice turned witness accused of lying

DEFENCE lawyers in the murder trial of 10 soldiers accused of killing three civilians and dumping their bodies in Mohale Dam in 2017 have accused accomplice turned witness, Tsietsi Monyeke, of lying.

The lawyers launched a broadside at Major Monyeke while cross examining him last week.

Major Monyeke had told the High Court in March this year that his former boss at the Military Intelligence (MI), Brigadier Rapele Mphaki, had ordered the soldiers to kill the trio.

Brigadier Mphaki is accused alongside Major Pitso Ramoepane, Sergeant Lekhooa Moepi, Captain Mahlehle Moelets, Lance Corporal Mahlomola Makhoali, Private Nthatakane Motanyane, Motšoane Machai, Tieho Tikiso, Liphapang Se-fako and Nemase Faso.

They allegedly strangled Lekhoole Noko, Molise Pakela and Khothatso Makibinyane to death at Setibing in rural Maseru on 16 May 2017 and dumped their bodies in the Mohale Dam.

The soldiers allegedly kidnapped and murdered the three men after they had just been released from police custody. They had been detained in connection with a shooting incident at the Maseru border gate on 13 May 2017.

A soldier, Private Seliane, and Moeketsi Makhabane, a street vendor, were shot dead at the Maseru border post. Another soldier, Private Nkonyama sustained injuries and was rushed to Queen 'Mamoha-to Memorial Hospital. He survived.

Six men, including the now deceased Messrs Noko, Pakela and Makibinyane, were arrested and detained at Pitso Ground Police Station in connection with the shooting incident.

The three had been arrested together with Motlatsi Rantaoane (alias Teboho Mathota), Molise Motau and Tello Thoi.

And this week, Brigadier Mphaki's lawyer, Letuka Molati, was the first to accuse Major Monyeke of lying.

"I put it to you that you never discussed with accused number one (Mphaki) to kill anyone and that neither was he there when the deceased were allegedly killed. You did not even see anybody throw the deceased into Mohale Dam and no one reported to you that they had



thrown anyone into the dam," Advocate Molati contended.

"You are falsely accusing accused number one of things he did not commit. He is going to say that he never spoke to you about any of the suspects being killed. There was never a meeting in which the killing of these people was planned.

"You are not telling this court

the truth as you did in habeas corpus on 20 September 2017 yet you knew very well that the bodies of the three were thrown into Mohale Dam. You were unable to tell the court where the bodies were yet you knew," Adv Molati said.

While Major Monyeke conceded that he had lied during the habeas corpus about the location of the

bodies, he however, insisted that Brigadier Mphaki and the co-accused had committed the murders.

He said Brigadier Mphaki had confided in him that the three civilians had been killed and their bodies thrown into Mohale Dam.

"There was a meeting in which Brigadier Mphaki ordered the suspects to be eliminated," Major Mo-

nyeke told the court.

He told the court in March 2022 that he was assigned by the army to assist the police to investigate the shooting incident.

Major Monyeke said he worked closely with Senior Inspector Mphehletse Khatleli who was head of Criminal Investigations at Pitso Ground Police Station at the time, and a junior soldier, one Private Liphoso.

Major Monyeke said when he reported to Brigadier Mphaki that their investigations had shown that only one of the six suspects were linked to the crime, he ignored this and instead ordered them to kill all suspects to make them "pay".

He also told the court that on 20 May 2017, Captain Moelets had told him that the three suspects had been strangled to death.

Four months later in September 2017, Brigadier Mphaki also told him that the bodies of the murdered suspects had been thrown into Mohale Dam, he said.

Major Monyeke has accused Brigadier Mphaki and other high-ranking Lesotho Defence Force officials of planning the murder of the three civilians during a meeting at the Defence Ministry Headquarters in March 2017.

Another defence lawyer, Karabo Mohau, accused Major Monyeke of lying about the army's plans to murder the trio.

Advocate Mohau said some of the people whom Major Monyeke had claimed were part of the meeting were not in the country at the time.

He said Captain Makara and Lieutenant Phusumane were attending a military course in South Africa from 8 May to 9 June 2017.

Major Monyeke's cross examination by other defence lawyers who include Attorney Qhalehang Letsika, and Advocate Napo Mafaesa continues tomorrow.

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Mochoboroane vows to fight crime

Moroke Sekoboto

MOVEMENT for Economic Change (MEC) leader, Selibe Mochoboroane, has vowed to fight crime if voted into power in the 7 October 2022 elections.

Addressing hundreds of MEC supporters at a recent Mahale's Hoek rally, Mr Mochoboroane said if voted into power, his government would give law enforcement agencies more resources to tackle all forms of crime including corruption.

"Fighting crime will be one of our top priorities," Mr Mochoboroane said.

"There is massive corruption in this country, and it is hindering the growth of the economy. We must take it head on."

An MEC government will also empower the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) to ensure that it is truly autonomous and adequately equipped to investigate cases.

Mr Mochoboroane said under his administration, the directorate would have its own judges to enable it to deal with cases without any outside influence.

An MEC government will also eradicate corruption by making DCEO and other state bodies autonomous.

Former Finance minister, Mampho Khaketla, recently told the *Sunday Express*' sister paper, the *Lesotho Times*, that the DCEO was dealing with cases unprofessionally because it was being weaponized by whoever was in power to deal with political opponents.

Dr Khaketla made media headlines in 2016 after she was sensationally accused of attempting to solicit a M4 million bribe from a joint venture company shortlisted for a multi-million maloti vehicle fleet tender. High Court Judge Molefi Makara acquitted her in June this year after the DCEO failed to prosecute her.

Mr Mochoboroane said his government

would fight all forms of rampant corruption, which he described as "an insidious plaque with corrosive effects on Basotho".

Under his rule, corrupt civil servants will face harsh consequences, he warned.

Lesotho had lots of potential, but its economy was not flourishing because of corruption and theft, he said.

Mr Mochoboroane told the cheering crowd that his government would give the police more resources to fight homicide and other violent crimes.

"Murder and theft are some of the country's major challenges and we will fight hard to eradicate them. Our government will work hard to fight the high rate of murders which have seen Lesotho ranked sixth in the world for homicide cases," he said.

Lesotho has earned the nefarious distinction of being Africa's murder capital and sixth in the world according to the World Population Review's 2021 rankings for murders.

El Salvador was rated the murder capital of the world with Honduras coming in second followed by Venezuela, the Virgin Islands and Jamaica respectively. With Lesotho taking the sixth slot, it means the Kingdom has more murders than the numerous African failed states enmeshed in killer civil wars.

It is also possible that Lesotho may have overtaken some of the top five countries above it in the World Population Review's 2021 rankings given the ongoing gruesome killings in the country.

Mr Mochoboroane said upon assuming power, he would immediately engage with Famo musicians to urge them to refrain from violence. The gangsters have been engaged in violent crimes including murder in Lesotho and neighbouring South Africa.

Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro has declared the gangs a threat to national security.

Mr Mochoboroane said an MEC government would encourage the warring *Famo*

musicians to use their music to preach peace to Basotho and desist from violence.

His government would also push for the death penalty and ensure that murder suspects are denied bail.

It would help farmers fight stock theft along the country's borders with South Africa by inserting microchips on the animals. This would help in tracing them in the event of theft.

"We will also close down butcheries that sell uncertified meat to safeguard public health," he said.

His administration would also improve the salaries and working conditions of village health workers to motivate them.


It would also build a cancer centre to benefit Basotho patients who currently seek treatment in South Africa at a very high premium.

Mr Mochoboroane

said his government would further introduce agriculture in schools to encourage youths to go into commercial farming and boost the country's agricultural output.

"We will also introduce religious studies to inculcate good values in our children so that they respect human life from a young age," Mr Mochoboroane said.





Kingdom of Lesotho

TENDER NOTICE

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND LAW

TENDER NO.3 OF 2022/23

Tenders are invited from legally registered relevant and suitably qualified companies and suppliers for supply and delivery of Lesotho Correctional Service Staff and Inmates Uniform Material.


Tender documents are obtainable at the Ministry of Justice Procurement Office upon payment of a non-refundable registration fee of **M2500.00 (Two Thousand Five Hundred Maluti only)** from the **17th August 2022**. The method of payment is cash payable at the Ministry of Justice Accounts Office.

Tenders in plain sealed envelopes, bearing no identification of the tenderer and only marked "Supply and delivery of Lesotho Correctional Service uniform materials" shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the Ministry of Justice reception opposite LTDC, next to Old Parliament. All tenders must be accompanied by copies of trader's license and tax clearance certificates. Copies should be certified at source.

The deadline for Submission of tender is **28th September 2022 at 10:00hrs** and the opening of tender shall be the same day at **14:00hrs** at Ministry's Boardroom in the presence of bidders or their representatives.

For clarifications on this invitation to tender please contact the procurement Unit in writing on the contacts below.

The Procurement Unit (Ministry of Justice)
P.O Box 402
Maseru
100
goolammc@gmail.com
khopotsotsenoli@gmail.com



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.

Comment

Why should we always be chaperoned?

THE 42nd Southern African Development Community (SADC) heads of state and government summit in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has come and gone.

As with previous editions of the 16-nation regional bloc's summits, the Kinshasa indaba discussed the need to promote regional peace and security. But more important for us is the fact that Lesotho was high on the agenda of the summit and featured prominently in the final communique at the close of the shindig which ran under the theme: 'Promoting industrialisation through agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, and regional value chains for inclusive and resilient economic growth'.

While the appointment of an oversight committee comprising of the new body, the Panel Of Elders (PoE) led by former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete and another one christened the Mediation Reference Group (MRG), is a welcome development, we cannot help but ask; why does Lesotho always have to be chaperoned like a little kindergarten to resolve issues that are germane to her own interests? What shall it ever take for our politicians to do what we pay them to do; that is defend and promote the interests of the country instead of their own narrow bigoted interests?

For the past eight years, SADC and other development partners have prodded and prodded our successive coalition governments to do what is right and deliver the reforms required to restore some semblance of sanity in the Kingdom. They have literally cried and cried in imploring us to do what is in our own best interests? We have repeatedly failed them. It's not like the world will stop turning if we continue on our path of self-destruction. Those countries that are properly run will continue to prosper. The world doesn't really need Lesotho to function. Lesotho could just as well remain a place for penury and squalor to the detriment of her citizens. The problem is that those same citizens inevitably become a problem for others as they seek pastures elsewhere in other countries.

In addition, development partners do not want to continue pouring resources in a place with no hope. Equally, SADC does not want a permanent problem child in the neighbourhood. But, surely, it should be our own individual lust for our own prosperity and well-being as a nation that should be our ultimate driving factor. Why do we need outsiders to continuously prod us to act in our own best interests?

What is particularly galling is that some of our leaders, who are supposed to be championing the reforms cause, actually want it to fail because the whole process does not serve their narrow partisan interests. It was disappointing that certain politicians were even pushing for an increase of the dubious proportional representation seats from 40 to 60 for the sole reason of creating space for fellow trough feeders from their insignificant parties.

The successful implementation of the reforms ought to have been our singular most consuming obsession, pursued with all the vigour and exuberance. For it is only through major reforms that we can foster stability and progress and hopefully end the perennial rancour and mayhem in our politics and governance. It's a huge pity that we are not united on this one. There are those who would rather have Lesotho continue to live in acrimony and chaos. They benefit from such.

A few days before the SADC Summit in the DRC, a delegation from the office of SADC Facilitator to Lesotho, Cyril Ramaphosa, met with His Majesty King Letsie III at the royal homestead in Matsieng "to nudge the government to speed up the process of reconvening parliament so that it can pass the reforms".

The regional body also urged Lesotho to announce the date of the actual reconvening of parliament ahead of the DRC summit. Unsurprisingly, that could not have been.

Last month at a meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers, Lesotho was berated for delaying to fully implement the reforms.

Not even the prospect of the country being barred from taking part in all activities of the regional bloc until it has put its house in order has shaken our leaders. It's business as usual.

Did we even have to go the route of declaring a state of emergency to recall parliament to pass the reforms? We didn't have to. If we had a serious government and politicians, the reforms ought to have been completed a long time ago.

A lot of time has been wasted because we don't take ourselves seriously. Even with the recalling of parliament and the establishment of yet another oversight committee by SADC – comprising the PoE - to help us take ourselves seriously, we have no reasons to hold our breath. Don't be surprised if upon the reconvening of parliament, the legislators will first fight for more fuel money and nicer food. That's just how petty and silly they are. Perhaps SADC shall eventually get fed up and abandon us to our devices. Perhaps we shall one day get better leaders to transform our fortunes. We can only hope.



Lesotho elections: whose campaign is it anyway?

SOcial media was abuzz this week at news that a Chinese man is allegedly campaigning for the office of the Prime Minister in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

An image surfaced showing the man in question on a campaign trail in rural Lesotho ahead of the October 7 election.

A poster bearing the name of "Z.Shao" also emerged and while it has been verified, it appears that some social media users are familiar with the man in question.

Lesotho's anticipated election

Lesotho's election date was announced in a notice dated July 19 and signed by the head of the country's electoral commission, Mpaiphle Maquutu.

Last month, the chairperson of the Lesotho Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Mphasa Mokhochane, said since His Majesty declared the election period open, election campaigns, which would run for 90 days, could commence.

He was cited saying these particular election campaigns are different as they would be regulated by the electoral code of conduct that the Parliament of Lesotho has implemented.

Further, Mokhochane said that the code of conduct will assist party leaders, supporters and members of the public as the elections are a race that needs to be regulated and urged leaders to avoid statements that may cause conflicts or harass other leaders.

He has also asked that posters and billboards for campaigns not be destroyed and has reminded leaders to remove billboards 24 hours before election day.

"Let us stop carrying guns and weapons during rallies as they (rallies) should reflect peace," he was quoted saying and cautioned them against giving voters presents before elections, saying leaders are expected to elaborate and discuss the code of conduct during campaigns as this will contribute to peaceful elections.

Chad Williams

Mokhochane also called on them to lead by example and reinforce common goals, saying they are expected to campaign fairly and avoid conflicts and said the IEC and leaders should encourage public participation and should do things in the open and provide transparent information.

Though most parties have signed, the Democratic Party of Lesotho, Socialist Revolution and Prayer Shawl and Rights have not signed on grounds that they are awaiting a meeting on Tuesday between the IEC and political leaders.

The electoral code of conduct aims to among others, promote conditions for free, fair and transparent elections, free political campaigning and open public debate, freedom from fear, coercion, intimidation and violence, as well as to ensure no defamation of character and misinformation, according to the statement issued by the Lesotho election authorities.

"While economic partnership remains the foundation of — and entry point for — China's relations with African countries, Beijing is increasingly involved in political and electoral processes in African democracies, whether intentionally or coincidentally," Caitlin Dearing Scott from Democracy in Africa wrote in 2021.

She says that despite China's insistence that it will maintain at all costs its noninterference policy, and despite limited evidence of direct intervention in electoral processes, "there are increasing signs that it is willing to deploy economic incentives and political influence to achieve favourable electoral outcomes for pro-China politicians".

But in the context of who is allowed to campaign to vote, the question of nationality or citizenry is of-

ten thrust into the spotlight.

For instance, in the case of Lesotho, one would ask does Zao qualify to campaign? Was he born in the country? Should he be black to qualify?

In January 2021, Xiaomei Havard, a Chinese-born South African businesswoman and an African National Congress (ANC) politician from Gauteng who currently serves as a Member of Parliament, came under intense scrutiny after she was sworn in as MP.

Some leaders and citizens questioned her credentials and what qualified her to take up a seat in Parliament.

One of those that led the conversation on social media was ATM leader Vuyolwethu Zungula who posted on his *Twitter* page: "If a black person born in China can never be a member of the Chinese Parliament. Why does SA allow Chinese born person to be a member of the SA parliament and make laws for South Africans (sic)."

Former government spokesperson and ATM member Mzwanele Manyi also jumped in the fray saying: There's a weakness in the South African Constitution.

No naturalised foreigner should qualify to be a public representative. Only native South Africans should qualify.

But those in the ANC have stood by Havard saying the Constitution and their policies are geared towards a non-sexist, no racial society in which all can live in.

It will be interesting to see how well Z.Shao fairs in the upcoming elections give the interest around his campaigns how his constituency relates to him or whether it is still taboo for other nationals to hold office in African countries.

— IOL

This Op-ed first appeared on The African.

Chad Williams, Multimedia Journalist, IOL News.

Sunday Express

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Sunday Express
August 21 - 27 2022

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220A Lower Thetsane, Maseru 100
editor@sundayexpress.co.ls

Family contribution to unity in community

Youth have great potential and capacities. They have the potential to channel their energy, capacities and talents towards building a better society and advancement of civilization.

As parents and teachers, it is our responsibility and privilege to help them to develop and enhance their potential and capacities. A candle, for example, has the potential to give light.

But it does not give light without being lit. It has to be lit so that it can shine and illuminate its surroundings.

Bahá'u'lláh compares human beings to a mine containing many hidden jewels, waiting to be discovered. He says: "Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom".

The purpose of educating our children and youth should, therefore, be enhancing their potential capacities, rather than considering them as empty vessels that need to be filled with information and instructions.

Many of the approaches to education today treat children and youth in a very passive way, as receptacles of information rather than active members of their community. Yet young people are anxious to become partners in helping to plan the world they will inherit.

They aspire for spiritual and intellectual growth and "to make a contribution to the fortunes of humanity".

"They have many wonderful powers, and channelling them properly is an important

concern, for when misdirected or manipulated by others, they can cause much social distress".

The period of youth is a very special time in life

The period of youth is a time for preparation. It is the time for personal change, the time during which the youth begin to consciously explore and apply their knowledge, values and beliefs about individual and collective life.

According to the Universal House of Justice, the governing council of the Bahá'í International Community: "the transformation which is to occur in the functioning of society will certainly depend to a great extent on the effectiveness of the preparations the youth make for the world they will inherit".

Through an effective preparation and appropriate education, the power of the values, attitudes, behaviours and skills of our youth can be harnessed towards creating a peaceful society and a better world.

Of course, it is important that education, whether at home or at school, guides our children and youth in their moral empowerment and not just in their intellectual development.

"The proper education of children is of vital importance to the progress of mankind, and the heart and essential foundation of all education is spiritual and moral training" state the Bahá'í Writings and that "knowledge is praiseworthy when it is coupled with ethical conduct and virtuous character".

Through effective education and guidance our youth can be empowered to override the

Religion

A Bahá'í Perspective

with
Flora Teckie

It is through service to others that one can help bring about social change.

An adequate education, in the Bahá'í view, "will cultivate virtue as the foundation for personal and collective well-being, and will nurture in individuals a deep sense of service and an active commitment to the welfare of their families, their communities, their countries, indeed, all mankind".

For education to contribute to both individual growth and to the transformation of society, it must also aim at cultivating mutual tolerance, brotherhood, compassion, love, understanding, and respect for different ethical values.

Nurturing the consciousness of oneness of humanity and fostering a love for people of all backgrounds, must begin in the family, where children should be trained to rid themselves of various prejudices. Encouraging our children and youth to independently search for truth leads them to personal conviction, rather than merely imitating others, and will help free themselves from prejudices and preconceptions.

Learning to avoid prejudices of all kinds – whether racial, national, tribal, gender or religious – and to adhere to a high moral standard, and to show rectitude in all interactions with others enable youth to become effective actors in endeavours for the betterment of society.

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

needs of their lower nature in keeping with ethical requirements, to control and channel their natural drives and urges and to transform them into human perfections.

Our youth have great capacities. We need to converse with them, listen to their opinions and try to find out how we can help them enhance their potential capacities.

They should be guided to analyse the constructive and destructive forces operating in society and recognise the influence these forces have on their thoughts and actions.

Education to contribute to individual growth and betterment of society

It is important that education is examined in light of its contribution to individual growth, as well as to social transformation – both of which are necessary for the creation of peaceful and harmonious communities.

Such education would empower our youth to express their God-given talents and capacities in service to humanity.



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PostBank hands over borehole to Berea school



THE ribbon cutting ceremony.

Tokelo Khausela

THE Lesotho PostBank (LPB) has handed over a borehole to Boose Primary School in Mapoteng, Berea.

The borehole has now afforded the school clean running water after its taps were vandalised in September last year. Since then, learners have had to bring their own bottled water.

The borehole will also offer relief to the entire Boose village, which does not have community taps. Boose Primary School principal, 'Manthatsi Moroka, said the bank had assisted them greatly as

the school only had M5000 for the project which required a total of M19 000. The bank had paid the balance.

"I thank PostBank for its support because it is not the first time the

bank has helped us," Ms Moroka said.

The bank also donated fertilisers and vegetable seeds for the learners.

So dire had the situation become that learners would beg for water from Ms Moroka on hot days. She would mostly be helpless on account of the lack of viable water source.

"I would bring a one litre bottle to school and the learners would beg for water from me. I always felt helpless because the water was too little."

Moeketsi Modikuo, the Berea district field inspector, hailed the bank for a job well done.

He said the unavailability of water had been posing serious hygienic problems.

"It is painful to learn that the learners often resorted to river water. This posed serious hygienic problems particularly when the country is still on guard against the Covid-19 pandemic. Apart from failing to access drinking water, they also did not have running water to wash their hands after using the toilets. Therefore, the donation came at an opportune time," Mr Modikuo said.

LPB's chief sales officer, 'Mathabo Tshehlo, said while the bank was mandated by the government to drive financial inclusion, it was also imperative to help Basotho in other ways.

"It would have been unfortunate if we did not grant their plea because these children are the future leaders and we would be failing to achieve the bank's mandate of serving Basotho if we did not intervene to assist in whatever way we can...." Ms Tshehlo said.

Lesotho Flour Mills courts local grain producers

Staff Reporter

LESOTHO Flour Mills (LeFM) has stepped up efforts to stimulate the local economy by encouraging local farmers to sell their grains to the company. The company this weekend announced that it was courting wheat and maize farmers to buy their grain.

LeFM, in which the government controls a 49 percent stake, said it would purchase grains at South African Futures Exchange (SAFEX) prices and process payments seven days after accepting the grains. The remaining 51 percent stake is controlled by multinational agro-processor, Seaboard Overseas and Trading Group.

LeFM said it was welcoming "Basotho farmers, big and small" to supply their grains to the company and receive fast payments and other unstipulated cash incentives.

"LeFM, situated in Maseru, are playing (sic) a key innovative role in giving impetus to local economic development by calling on Basotho farmers and encouraging them to supply their wheat and maize crops directly to their mill," the company said in a statement.

LeFM CEO, Joao Gonçalves said: "We buy local and trade local to stimulate the local economy".

The company said it would purchase all grades of wheat and maize from Basotho farmers.

"Payments are processed as quickly as seven days after acceptance. The purchase price of these commodities is made in compliance with SAFEX (South African Futures Exchange), the agricultural trade price used for purchasing from South African commodity traders. SAFEX keeps prices standard and ensures that farmers don't get underpaid for their produce. Lesotho Flour Mills offers a purchase price based on SAFEX - quoted at close of business the day before - as well as a cash incentive.

"Agricultural development is one of the most powerful tools to end extreme poverty, boost shared prosperity and feed people, according to the World Bank. In some develop-



LESOTHO Flour Mills.

ing countries, it can account for more than 25 percent of the GDP. In Lesotho, a large majority of the population in rural areas is engaged in subsistence farming and the cultivation of nutritious foods is key in an uncertain climate-changing world.

"LeFM wants to create awareness of this local economic stimulation cycle, meaning the

seller (farmer), the manufacturer (the mill) and the consumer (households) all work together to bring prosperity and increase the standards of living for communities and ultimately, their quality of life," the company said.

Farmers who were interested in selling their grains to LeFM should contact quality

control manager, Lerato Kuoe, on 2221-5200 or 5886-6064 for more information.

"We have the right quality and quantity of wheat and maize in Lesotho so by buying and producing it locally, the money goes straight back into the pockets of the community, boosting local economic growth," Mr Gonçalves said.

Lesotho hosts Spring Jump Off Festival

Events play a key role in attracting tourists.

Tokelo Khausela

LESOTHO will next month host its debut edition of the Annual Spring Jump Off festival.

The festival will be hosted by the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC) in collaboration with Cuban Links, Big Events and Vetkok vs Mahoota on 3 September 2022.

It will be held under the theme: Rethinking Lesotho.

Mahoota (born Zynne Sibika), said they were excited to bring the festival, which has previously attracted around 50 000 people in South Africa, to Lesotho because of Basotho's welcoming nature.

"It will be the first time that the Spring Jump Off will be celebrated in Lesotho," Mahoota said.

"We saw it fit to bring it here because Basotho are welcoming and know how to take care of their guests."

The line-up for the festival will be

dominated by local artistes, he said. This will give them a chance inspire collaborations with international artistes in future.

LTDC public relations manager, Manchafalo Motšoeneng, pleaded with Basotho to desist from violence in the run up to the event and avoid negative publicity.

"The LTDC pleads with the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) not to take bribes. We also encourage visitors to adhere to regulations set for tourists," Motšoeneng said.

LTDC head of marketing, monitoring and evaluation, Tebello Thola, said the event would also come in handy in bringing tourists to Lesotho.

"Events play a key role in attracting tourists. We have observed that in the past, tourists bring in a lot of income for local service providers and that makes a huge difference in the improvement of the livelihood of Basotho," Thola said.



MANCHAFALO Motšoeneng.

Association holds dog show

Moroke Sekoboto

BASOTHO Dog Breeders and Services Association has organised a dog show.

The event was held recently at Lower Thetsane in Maseru.

Thapelo Mofammere from the association said the show was aimed at creating awareness on the importance of dogs.

"We are holding this show to create awareness on the importance of dogs. Dogs provide security and they can also be a source of income through breeding and selling," Mr Mofammere said.

Locals companies Montego Pet Nutrition, Factor Farmers, Diverse Logistics Buti's Farm Feeds, Tichere Pule Van Rentals, Jumbo Rottweilers and Hlabana Tours sponsored the show. They gave out foods, medals and trophies as prizes.

Participating dogs were charged on aspects such as cleanliness and size.

Veterinaries were at hand to examine and vaccinate the dogs.

One of the winners, Matseliso Mpuputla, said she was happy that her dog had won.

"I'm delighted that my dog won a prize. I love dogs so it is easy for me to take care of them and feed them nutritious food," Ms Mpuputla said.

She thanked the Basotho Dog Breeders and Services Association and the sponsors for organising the show and providing the prizes.



SOME of the winners at the dog show.

Do our politicians read? By their books (or empty shelves) shall ye know them

Brutus Malada

If you want to understand the character of a person, listen to their music; but if you want to understand the depth of their mind, visit their library.

A personal library mirrors the kind of literature that interests them. Thus, it can give a glimpse into the ideas that have shaped or influenced a person's mind.

However, personal libraries can also be deceiving. We know of people who buy books to decorate their homes, to show off to their friends, but not to read them. Such people yearn for the prestige that is associated with books. Yet, they are lazy.

The truth is that reading and gregariousness do not mix. Reading requires self-discipline and love of solitude.

Meanwhile, real politics is and ought to be a contest of ideas to shape society. Hence, it should be expected of politicians to write books and articles to share their ideas and propose alternatives to the status quo.

In developed societies, especially in Western and Eastern societies, politicians publish their books to share their ideas even before they contest power. It is from his or her books that society can decipher the ideas of and understand what a politician stands for.

However, in South Africa, we have neither a culture of reading nor a contest of ideas as an integral part of our political system. More than anything, ours is a cult of personalities.

Meanwhile, the evolution of South Africa has seen four different forms or eras of governments — colonial, Union, apartheid and democratic government. In these eras, there have been influential characters that epitomise those epochs.

In the colonial government, it was Cecil John Rhodes, while in the Union government it was Jan Smuts. While Hendrik Verwoerd epitomised apartheid, Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki are, by far, the key figures that shaped our democratic dispensation.

Similarly, the future of our politics, whether it would be a break from or a continuation with liberation politics, seems certain to be shaped by three characters, namely John Steenhuisen, Julius Malema and Herman Mashaba.

Let us start from the beginning to examine the books that shaped the minds of the politicians of our epochs.

Colonialist Cecil John Rhodes was goaded into politics by his desire to exert influence for the construction of rail and road to transport minerals from the mines to the harbours. But he realised that for him to gain access into the British aristocracy, which would be crucial in endorsing his political ambition, he needed to have a qualification from a prestigious institution. Thus, he set foot to Oxford University. There, he met his intellectual godfather, John Ruskin and read Winwood Reade's *The Martyrdom of Man*.

But the book that had much influence on his empire-building ambition was, according to Sarah Gertrude Millin, his biographer, Edward Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Thus, Rhodes saw England as a successor to the Roman Empire.

Rhodes was not allergic to books. He had a collection of over a thousand books including "250 volumes of history, 130 volumes of biographies, 175 volumes on Africa, 130



NELSON Mandela

books classified under classics, 80 under social science, 70 under travel, 60 under Federation and Constitutional Government and 50 under Geography and 25 novels." The list goes on. But the library was, as Millin puts it, "not of a reader, but a conscious empire maker".

The next phase of the evolution of SA was the formation of the Union government in 1910, of which Jan Christian Smuts was a key player. Smuts is perhaps the greatest intellectual South Africa has ever produced.

His book *Holism and Evolution* accorded him an acknowledgement as the "intellectual father" of holism philosophy, whose central thesis is "that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts".

In his *Jan Smuts: Unafraid of Greatness*, Richard Steyn explains that in his saddlebag Smuts kept, among others, Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* during the Anglo-Boer War and would "withdraw to his tent at night to read". Smuts' book, *Walt Whitman: A Study in the Evolution of the Personality* also gives an idea of the books that influenced him.

A visit to the Smuts museum in Irene, Pretoria, introduces you to a personal library with more than 2,000 books on war, peace, philosophy, religion etc, all of which he had read.

Read *A Century of Wrong* and you will appreciate the depth of Smuts's reflective mind. Published on the eve of the Anglo-Boer War, *A Century of Wrong* is a forceful manifesto of the Afrikaners at the level of Marx and Engels' *Communist Manifesto*.

Smuts's intellectual genius was respected worldwide and he was bestowed with the honour of crafting the preamble of the United Nations Charter. But Mandela would later say of Smuts' hypocrisy, "I cared more that he helped the foundation of the League of Nations, promoting freedom throughout the world, than the fact that he had repressed freedom at home."

However, we take solace from Smuts's letter to Alfred Milner, because, after all, "history writes the word reconciliation over all her quarrels."

The epitome of apartheid, Henrik Verwoerd, was a highly educated man, with a doctorate in psychology and was awarded a post-doc scholarship in Germany. From the speeches he delivered, it becomes clear that his belief in apartheid social engineering was anchored in his background in psychology.

However, it is not far-fetched to suggest that he was a secret admirer of Francis Galton's eugenics — a theory that became popular in Nazi Germany and was used to advocate racial hygiene or racial purity — the non-mixture of the "superior" and "low" racial groups. It is from eugenics that white supremacist drew their inspiration.

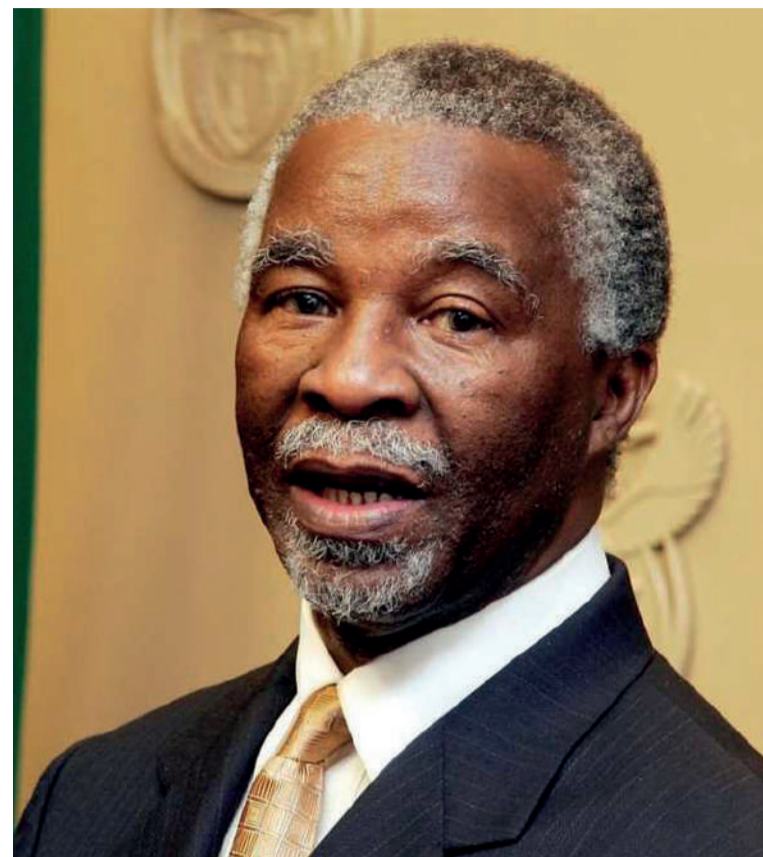
The next era of our country's evolution was the 1994 democratic breakthrough, with Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki at the helm. Where exactly did Nelson Mandela get the inspiration — even in the face of death at the Rivonia trial — to stand firm and pronounce that he was "prepared to die"? Fidel Castro's, "History will absolve me" speech and literature that extolled man to have an "article of faith" inspired him.

While on Robben Island, Mandela read Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and put his signature along the much-quoted passage: "Towards die many times before their death; The valiant never taste of death but once." This is where he got his inspiration to carry on with the struggle.

However, it is from his *magnum opus*, *Long Walk to Freedom*, that we get the privilege to take a mental walk with him, appreciate the difficult road he traversed and interact with his ideas.

Thabo Mbeki was a member of the South African Communist Party when it was still an intellectual centre of the left. But having read Marx's *Das Kapital* more than once, Mbeki outgrew Marxist dogma and left the party. Mbeki imbibed literature outside his political ideology and this enabled him to be a pragmatist rather than an ideologue.

However, from Mbeki's writings, it is clear that he is erudite. Most of Mbeki's writings are punctuated by a quote from a poet, a philosopher or literary scholar, giving us a



THABO Mbeki.

snapshot of the ideas that tickled his mind. From William B Yeats, David Hume, William Shakespeare to Pixley Seme etc, the South African audience was left with no doubt about Mbeki's penchant for books.

But the old man owes South African readers a volume of his own philosophy and ideas. Those close to him suggest he may wish to publish his book posthumously because his hubris won't stomach criticism while he is still alive.

Then enter contemporary politicians, and — do they read? They, too, must be judged by the books they have written, and the ideas they have propounded.

Of the three politicians — John Steenhuisen, Julius Malema and Herman Mashaba — we have mentioned earlier, only the ActionSA's leader has bequeathed us with two books from which we can discern his mind. Mashaba's *Capitalist Crusader* gives glimpses of a staunch capitalist.

Meanwhile, he derived the name of his hair products business from John Howard Griffin's book titled *Black Like Me* — an account of race relations in America. Indeed, black consciousness was at its peak when Mashaba started his business in the 1980s and like a true businessman, he rode the wave of the moment.

Mashaba's autobiography, *Black Like You*, is both a story of the triumph of tenacity over adversity and of someone who harbours a deep-seated black consciousness streak. However, one thing you will not miss from his two books is that Mashaba is a devoted and unashamed capitalist. While he, albeit seldom, shares what he is reading on social media platforms, it would leave a better impression if the intervals were shorter.

The leader of the EFF, Julius Malema, speaks more than he writes. If he is not haranguing the public with ANC gossip at his media briefings, Malema would rather be "howling gigantic curses" to everyone he disagrees with than reading a book. You have almost zero chance of meeting him at a book store rather than at Mekete shebeen in Polokwane or a pub in Vilakazi Street in Soweto.

Yet, it is from his speeches that we

get an opportunity to engage with his ideas. While it is possible to find a sentence from Frantz Fanon, Amílcar Cabral or Vladimir Lenin in some of Malema's speeches, credit should go to his friend, Floyd Shivambu, who has taken the responsibility to give the EFF's socialist-nationalistic rhetoric some intellectual flair.

The real Malema is not a man of the book; he is a gregarious individual who fancies a cult for himself. In 2019, South Africans were treated to a spectacle when EFF supporters knelt before Malema singing hymns and praises of him in a manner reminiscent of the cult of Adolf Hitler.

In the EFF, everyone must agree with the Commander-in-Chief or be pushed to the periphery. Ask Mbuyiseni Ndlozi, Godrich Gardee or Musa Novela in the Joburg Council. Yet, it is the cult of personality combined with the violent rhetoric of Malema that is reminiscent of fascism that makes us wonder how much of Hitler's *Mein Kampf* did the CIC consume?

Meanwhile, there is no evidence to suggest that John Steenhuisen, the DA Leader, reads. Neither does he pretend to be an intellectual. His lack of a post-matric qualification may be his Achilles heel. Yet he remains one of the most eloquent and entertaining speakers in Parliament.

However, which ideas exactly influence his politics remains a guess; for other than a phrase or two from some of Helen Suzman's famous statements, he hardly quotes from a book. While we may not know what he stands for, we know that the goddess of the DA — Helen Zille — is a proponent of Karl Popper's *The Open Society and Its Enemies*. And of course, the son must speak his mother's tongue.

The question that we must ponder is what ideas will shape the future of South Africa? Put differently, in which society would you as a citizen like to live: Mashaba's capitalism, Malema's socialism, Steenhuisen's open society or a combination of all of them? You decide.

— DM

Brutus Malada is a political strategist and a research consultant.



**Weekend
Girl**

PALESA Bereng is a 22-year-old model signed under Sotho Kids Culture Agency. She resides in Lithabaneng. She is passionate about modeling, dancing and script writing. Palesa recently fulfilled her dream of becoming a commercial model by collaborating with local brands ALUTA, Jonko-mane, Icey Jewellery Ls and Arise. Her motto is: "Power of commitment will not fail you".

Yourstars

The bizarre story behind the real-life Barbie and Ken — and why they became dolls

... Valeria Lukyanova and Justin Jedlica have spent untold dollars to look like real-life Ken and Barbie dolls — and they've caused plenty of controversy along the way

Aries - March 21 - April 20

Your personal partner may be less than willing to accommodate you this week. Focus on using your creative abilities in other ways. Satisfy your passionate mood. It may not be the best time to socialize with clients or colleagues this week.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

Taurus - April 21 - May 20

Let them know what your intentions are. Uncertainty regarding your mate may emerge; re-evaluate what you see in each other. Move forward if you want to turn your life around. You may need to make a few alterations to your living arrangements.

Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

Gemini - May 21 - June 21

You need to refrain from being the generous one in the group. You can count on getting a pat on the back for your efforts. Re-evaluate your situation. Take time to visit someone who has been confined due to illness.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

Cancer - June 22 - July 22

Do not allow colleagues to hinder your ambitions. Some time spent with that special someone should be your intent. Spend some time with people who can shed some light on your personal situation. Keep the promises you've made or you can expect to be in the doghouse.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

Leo - July 23 - August 22

Plan some family outings. Your health may have suffered due to neglect or abuse. You need to start planning that vacation. Travel for business or pleasure.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

Virgo - August 23 - September 22

You need to look into ways to change your self-image. You will communicate easily and should be able to accomplish all that you set out to do. This will be a very hectic day if you've made promises to too many people. You're in the mood to spend time with your lover.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

Libra - September 23 - October 22

You may have a hidden adversary who would love to prove you wrong. Passion will be your only answer. If you join intellectual or cultural groups, you should meet individuals who stimulate you. Deep discussions may only lead to friction.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

Scorpio - October 23 - November 21

A long, quiet walk alone may help you sort out your thoughts. You may want to take another look at the investment you are about to make. You need to be inspired and have your spirits lifted. You can stabilize your financial situation if you make property investments.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

Sagittarius - November 22 - December 20

Put financial speculation with family members or friends on the back burner for now. You need to get down to basics with regard to yourself. Someone you work with could have a personal interest in you. You will do your best work on your own.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

Capricorn - December 21 - January 19

Don't make unreasonable promises. You can expect opposition from family as well as colleagues. You can gain valuable cultural knowledge through dealing with foreigners. You should spend your day trying to get things completed at work.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

Aquarius - January 20 - February 18

Co-workers may not be completely honest with you; try not to rely on help from others. Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur. Be aware that you might be at fault as well. You will have the getup and go to contribute a great deal to groups of interest.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

Pisces - February 19 - March 20

You are best to look into investments that will grow in value over an extended period of time. Be sure to organize events that will keep the children busy. You'll find travel or involvement in large groups gratifying. Pamper yourself for a change.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



JUSTIN Jedlica, aka the human Ken doll.



VALERIA Lukyanova, the human Barbie.

LIKE it or not, Barbie and Ken's exaggerated proportions have shaped popular conceptions of physical beauty for decades. This has led some to go to extreme lengths to turn themselves into human dolls — or even the real-life Barbie and Ken. Two such people are Valeria Lukyanova and Justin Jedlica.

Though they're famous for looking like the doll couple, they're far from the picture-perfect pair in fact, with their opposing personalities, the real-life Ken and Barbie actually have an ongoing feud.

The human Barbie: Valeria Lukyanova

The woman who the press has dubbed the "human Barbie" was born on August 23, 1985, in Tiraspol, Moldova — a mostly forgotten remnant of the Soviet Union. Valeria Lukyanova is currently a Ukrainian model and uses her appearance to promote her ideas about spirituality and mysticism.

Valeria may resemble a doll more than an actual human, but she claims she never set out to look like the iconic blonde Barbie. Instead, she simply wants to look beautiful, feminine, and refined. It just so happens that's the image that dolls are made in, too. However, she admits to loving Barbie as a child.

You may think that plastic surgery and cosmetic enhancement are a large part of Valeria's signature look, but she claims to have only had breast augmentation.

She rails against people who spread rumours that she's had her ribs removed in order to achieve her impossibly tiny waistline.

She once said her goal was to become a breatharian and exist on air and sunlight alone. (It must be said here that no one should actually attempt this. You'll die.)

Valeria also believes in astral projection and claims she is actually an alien being herself. Once, she said in a VICE documentary that she was a famous king and a spiritual teacher in a past life.

Valeria Lukyanova is definitely a polarizing character. She also came under fire recently for some comments she made regarding people who are mixed race.

In a GQ interview, Valeria commented on changing beauty standards. "For example, a Russian marries an Armenian," she says. "They have a kid, a cute girl,

but she has her dad's nose. She goes and files it down a little, and it's all good. Ethnicities are mixing now, so there's degeneration, and it didn't used to be like that. Remember how many beautiful women there were in the 1950s and 1960s, without any surgery? And now, thanks to degeneration, we have this."

She also says that she is against feminism and does not want children. "Most people have children to fulfill their own ambitions, not to give anything," she said. "They don't think about what they can give this child, what they can teach her. They just try to shape her according to some weird script — whatever they couldn't do in life."

The human Ken doll: Justin Jedlica

Justin Jedlica is from Poughkeepsie, New York, and was born on August 11, 1980. He has been dubbed the "human Ken doll," and he says that it's a flattering title, though being Ken was not his intent.

Justin is what some call a "plastic-surgery enthusiast." He has had rhinoplasty, chest, bicep, triceps and shoulder implants, brow lifts, cheek augmentations, sub pectoral implants, gluteoplasty, and lip augmentations.

So far, the real-life Ken doll estimates having 780 cosmetic procedures, spending over \$800,000. And it doesn't sound like he's stopping anytime soon.

Becoming what he sees as the best version of himself happens to be the trim chiselled look that is the hallmark of the Ken doll. But Justin considers his quest an art form and insists that there's something deeper to his transformation than people believe.

He said, "In some respects, people as-

sume that this is like the pursuit of perfection... that Ken is the optimal form of how a male should look, right? And it all sort of revolves around looks and superficiality. I think that title, is typically what people take away from it. But, I wouldn't say that is something I strived for in my life."

Needless to say, there will always be trolls, like people who ask if he is an anatomical match with Ken in terms of his famously non-existent genitals. In response, Justin says, "Actually, I wish it was dragging on the ground like anime."

"I don't have a problem using myself as the guinea pig," he said. "When I go into doctors, I don't say I go in for consultations anymore, because really I go in to pitch."

Sadly, tragedy befell Justin's family in 2019 when his brother, Jordan Jedlica, 32, died in prison. He was serving a 19-month sentence for breaking and entering. Authorities found him unresponsive in his cell and he later died. The family thinks foul play is involved.

Justin Jedlica is using his national profile to attract attention to his brother's case. "This is my baby brother," he said. "I'm the oldest of all of our siblings. I feel like this was my kid."

The real-life Barbie and Ken feud

Valeria Lukyanova and Justin Jedlica met in February 2013 for a TV appearance and sparks flew — enough to start a fiery feud, that is.

The human Ken doll blasted Valeria, saying that she "presents herself as a real-life Barbie doll, but she is nothing more than an illusion who dresses like a drag queen."

Prior to meeting her, Justin Jedlica said that he appreciated that Valeria was beautiful, but added, "It appears to me that much of her look is added makeup, fake hair, and "slimming" corsets... as soon as you wipe away all that makeup she's just a plain Jane."

For her part, Valeria Lukyanova says, "He would do better not to comment on who is plastic and who is not. I think he is a handsome man — but he overdid his lips."

The competition runs hot in the doll world, so all involved must be careful not to get burned — so they don't melt away.

— ati

Stranger
than
Fiction

HEALTH

Sunday Express

August 21 - 27 2022

Harm reduction — the radical approach to drug addiction that helps save lives



METHADONE is a drug used in opioid substitution therapy and is widely seen as one of the most effective forms of harm reduction and treatment for heroin dependency.

ple who use drugs about their harm reduction rights and routes to justice.

Living on the streets

Mokubane said he spent 10 years living on the streets of Tshwane as a heroin addict, trying hard to quit. “I failed. I’ve been to rehab before, on more than four occasions.”

Mokubane says rehab’s rigid approach and a lack of peer support from people with lived experiences of drug taking made it hard for him to open up and get the care he needed.

In 2017, Mokubane started opioid substitution therapy with Tshwane’s then newly established Community Oriented Substance Use Programme (Cosup), South Africa’s first and only local government-funded harm reduction programme.

Run by the University of Pretoria, it has 16 sites around the city where people who take drugs can exchange needles, get opioid substitution therapy, and be connected to healthcare and context-specific support to reduce the health, economic and social harms of drug use.

Mokubane said peer support at Cosup helped him craft an individualised plan. He said his plan was: “I don’t want to quit. I just want to reduce my intake, and be able to go home and fix my broken relationships with my family. Since then, my life has changed drastically. I am living in my own house... with my fiancé.”

Dimakatso Nonyane, a clinical associate with Cosup, emphasised that harm reduction “allows us to better understand what’s important to (people who use drugs) instead of just assuming we have interventions that would work for them.”

In one sense, harm reduction is common sense and practised widely. Mokubane says: “We apply harm reduction in our lives on a daily basis. Seatbelts are a form of harm reduction. Do they stop the accidents from occurring? No.

But they reduce the risk of them and when you do crash and you’re wearing a seatbelt, it reduces you getting those severe injuries.”

According to Shelly, harm reduction is at once commonplace and also a radical and disruptive approach.

At its core, harm reduction upends established systems that see drug use as a punishable criminal issue or solely a medical issue that pathologises people who use drugs.

Harm reduction advocates for the decriminalisation of personal drug use and posses-

sion because decriminalisation decreases stigma, improves access to healthcare and encourages safer drug-taking practices.

‘Highly political’

“To decriminalise is very important, but it’s highly political,” says Professor Jannie Hugo of the University of Pretoria’s Family Medicine Department who co-founded Cosup with Shelly. As a pragmatic alternative to decriminalisation, Hugo believes South Africa should have programmes to administer harm reduction in prisons or divert people who are arrested for drug use and possession away from prison to harm reduction centres.

Harm reduction also resists a purely medical model that sometimes coerces people into traditional, often costly rehabilitation programmes against their will.

Shelly said: “We’ve seen the failure of other approaches.

These abstinence-based, come down hard on people, criminal justice approaches just do not work.”

Harm reduction is not entirely opposed to rehabilitation, nor is it intended to entirely replace abstinence treatment and prevention approaches to drug dependency.

“Harm reduction is giving people who use substances options to choose from,” Nonyane explained.

“It is not against abstinence. If anything, it’s actually trying to ensure that that process is more feasible by realising there’s a gap between where we are at and where we want to be.”

Peer support is a critical component of harm reduction. Mannie Sigmony, who has lived experience of addiction, is an activist who runs a rehabilitation centre in Lenasia, Gauteng, focused on abstinence that also uses harm reduction approaches.

He emphasises: “There are addicts that are saving lives. They are saving the lives of other addicts.”

Harm reduction is inextricably linked to South Africa’s inequality. Hugo said that wealthier people who take drugs have better protections, “but those who are poor, they incur much more harm.”

Lutske Newton, who works in the Office of the Executive Mayor of Tshwane and also serves on the newly formed Local Drug Action Committee says: “The research that we have on drug use in Tshwane is that it primarily affects young black men who are unemployed.”

Building up support for harm reduction

programmes has been challenging. Hugo said: “It’s easier for a politician to say, we will come down hard on drugs than for her to say, we’re going to spend your tax money on helping them to get clean needles, because of the narrative of the link between drugs and crime.”

Big breakthroughs

Shelly explained that, “In South Africa, there is a reluctant acceptance of harm reduction, but some big breakthroughs have been made.” Notable is the endorsement of harm reduction approaches in South Africa’s 2019 to 2024 National Drug Master Plan and in the TB and HIV National Strategic Plan.

Nyameka Nandi Mayathula-Khoza, chairperson and spokesperson of the Department of Social Development’s Central Drug Authority, which oversees the National Drug Master Plan (NDMP), said: “The NDMP recognises that reducing the potential harm associated with drug use is a pragmatic approach and aims to reduce the potentially harmful effects of substance use.”

However, in the South African Health Review 2017, Shelly and other researchers wrote: “Enforcement and punishment remain the dominant response, with the country only paying lip service to the provision of harm-reduction programmes.”

Hugo says that there is still significant resistance to harm reduction among people who work in social development and rehabilitation centres.

In many rehab centres, “harm reduction is frowned upon because you need to be clean to be successful”, he said. Nevertheless, the approach is being accepted by a growing number of healthcare professionals.

Several NGOs, mostly funded by international donors, provide harm reduction services in South Africa: TB HIV Care provides harm reduction in the Eastern and Western Cape, and the Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre supports people who use drugs in eThekweni.

The HarmLess Project operates in Tshwane and in Ehlanzeni in Mpumalanga, while Anova Health Institute and Tintswalo Home Based Care provide harm reduction services in Gauteng.

Promising numbers

The numbers of people that these organisations serve are promising but are only a fraction of the total number of people who take drugs regularly.

In the face of the scale of risky drug use in South Africa, harm reduction needs to be scaled up to a far greater degree, says Hugo. “Harm reduction services should be a part of primary healthcare like ARVs are a part of primary healthcare.

We haven’t succeeded in Tshwane to have harm reduction services available in primary healthcare.

It’s available in our centres, but that doesn’t cover everybody,” he said.

Newton agreed: “The level of attention and care that people with substance use disorder need, whether it’s (opioid substitution therapy), or harm reduction, way exceeds what we have to offer as a city and our NPOs.”

But there is hope for harm reduction in South Africa to be scaled up.

A huge obstacle is the high price of methadone, a drug essential for opioid substitution therapy.

Hugo says the cost of methadone in South Africa is at least 10 times higher than in peer countries, but South Africa will probably soon have more competition introduced in the methadone market.

“So, the cost of methadone could come down over time, which would make it more sustainable to scale.”

Mayathula-Khoza said that the responses to the Covid-19 pandemic helped to build up some harm reduction capacity as the government had to provide some harm reduction services to people during lockdowns. She confirmed that increasing harm reduction services for people who use drugs will continue to be a priority for the Central Drug Authority.

Mokubane reflected: “I won’t dispute that drugs are bad for us.

But we have to accept that drugs will always be here and people will always be using them. We need to have constructive solutions to deal with them rather than just avoiding the fact that they are here.”

— DM/MC

Maru Attwood

THERE are an estimated 75,000 people in South Africa who regularly inject drugs. And this figure is probably an underestimate, according to researcher Shaun Shelly, chairperson of the South African Network of People who Use Drugs (Sanpud). For people who take drugs, accessing care can be prohibitively difficult, with scarce or expensive services, stigmatisation and worries about being harassed or arrested stopping people from getting support.

Most people who inject drugs in South Africa use nyaope, a low-grade form of heroin mixed with other substances (but not ARVs as is widely believed).

Nyaope is typically a drug that is smoked, but increasingly in the last few years, researchers say it is being injected.

This is especially concerning because of the health risks for abscesses and bloodborne diseases, like hepatitis C and HIV, associated with sharing needles.

Because care is inaccessible for them, these conditions have a high prevalence among people who use drugs. The substances most widely taken in South Africa are cannabis, heroin, crystal meth and Mandrax.

Drug harm reduction interventions are pragmatic, evidence-based approaches to public health that minimise the negative health, economic and social impacts of taking drugs, but do not always require that people stop taking substances.

For example, needle and syringe exchange programmes reduce the risk of bloodborne diseases, and opioid substitution therapy replaces illicit drugs like heroin with safer alternatives like methadone.

But according to Shelly: “Harm reduction isn’t to be considered just a set of specific interventions; it changes according to context and the particular needs of the individual. It’s a philosophy about assisting people in the way they want to be assisted, that respects their autonomy and dignity, reduces harms of behaviours that they may or may not want to stop.”

“They’ll offer you advice, they’ll tell you of the risks that are associated with you using and then the decision will come from you whether you want to quit,” said Koketso Mokubane, a community linkage officer for Sanpud in Tshwane who has experience with harm reduction for heroin use.

He works to educate communities of peo-

FIVE lucky winners yesterday won prizes including generators, television sets and heaters during the official launch of Lucky Hardware Store in Borokhoaneng, Maseru.



...on south road, Borokhoaneng, Maseru, PO Box 1217



Russia welcomes 'friendly state' SA's support

Peter Fabricius

... but do we also support invasion, bombardment and war crimes in Ukraine?

RUSSIAN Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said the presence of South Africa and other African states at the 10th Moscow Conference on International Security this week was "visible confirmation" that the US and Nato had failed to isolate Russia because of its war against Ukraine.

Defence Minister Thandi Modise is heading a South African delegation to the conference.

"It is very encouraging that prominent military commanders from our friendly states — Burundi, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Sudan, Uganda, Chad, Ethiopia and the Republic of South Africa — are present in this hall today," Shoigu said at the conference.

"We appreciate your support and intend to increase cooperation on mutually beneficial projects... Despite attempts of the US and Nato to isolate Russia once again, your participation in the forum is a visible confirmation that these plans have collapsed."

Shoigu said African governments and leaders were "holding their own" and pursuing their own agendas of independence, sovereignty, economic development and defence capability in a multipolar world. They were thereby resisting, he implied, the pressure from the West "to return to the order and rules of engagement typical of the colonial period".

'Radical change'

This was "a time of radical change in global and regional security. The unconditional dominance of the US and its allies is a thing of the past.

"On February 24, 2022, the start of the special military operation in Ukraine marked the end of the unipolar world. Multipolarity has become a reality. The poles of this world are clearly defined. The main difference between them is that some respect the interests of sovereign states and consider the cultural and historical particularities of countries and peoples, while others disregard them."

Shoigu said that in Ukraine, "The Russian military is being confronted by combined Western forces that run the leadership of that country in a hybrid war against Russia."



RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin (left) and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu.

"Nato's efforts are aimed at prolonging the agony of the Kyiv regime," he said, but insisted that the goals of Russia's "special military operation" (its euphemism for the invasion of Ukraine) would nonetheless be achieved and that the West's plans to strategically and economically weaken Russia were failing.

"The dollar has not reached the ceiling of 200 roubles, as predicted by the US president, the Russian economy has stood firm." (The current exchange rate is about 60.5 roubles to the dollar.)

Western 'superweapons'

Shoigu also claimed that "superweapons" which Western countries have begun supplying to Ukraine — such as the US Himsars multiple long-range missile system and long-range howitzers — were not having a "significant impact" on the war. However, he added

that Russia was studying these "trophy weapons" captured in Ukraine to improve Russia's counter to them.

"The supply of Nato weapons to Kyiv means that Western countries are responsible for their inhumane use and for the deaths of civilians in Donbas and in the liberated territories.

"Ukrainian armed forces operations are planned in Washington and London. Not only are the coordinates of the targets to be attacked provided by Western intelligence, but the input of this data into weapons systems is conducted under the full control of Western specialists.

"Kyiv's role in the West's combat approach has been reduced to supplying manpower, which is seen as expendable. This explains the huge loss of personnel in Ukraine's armed forces and territorial defence formations.

"So far, the real figures of dead soldiers and mobilised so-called territorial defence forces have been concealed by the Kyiv leadership. In time, however, this information will become public."

Nuclear and chemical arms

Shoigu dismissed speculation in Western media about Russia's readiness to use tactical nuclear weapons or chemical weapons in Ukraine as "gibberish" and "lies".

"From a military point of view, there is no need to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine to achieve its goals. The main purpose of Russian nuclear weapons is to deter a nuclear attack. Their use is limited to extraordinary circumstances as defined in the Russian guideline documents, which are open to public inspection."

Shoigu also claimed that — unlike the US — Russia had completely destroyed all its chemical weapons, in 2017. He repeated earlier claims that the US had conducted banned military and biological research in Ukraine. He also insisted that Russian military commanders were complying with the Geneva Conventions on humane warfare.

Atrocity accusations

Russian troops have been widely accused of atrocities in Ukraine, including the torture and execution of civilians and the rape of women.

Shoigu rejected Nato's justification for admitting Sweden and Finland as members, that it was a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. He said the two countries had been cooperating practically with Nato for years.

He repeated Russia's threat that if Nato deployed strike weapons to Sweden and Finland, this would "change the security environment in the Baltic region and the Arctic and will require a reconsideration of approaches to defence of Russian territory".

He noted that Russia had already included part of this reconsideration in its updated Maritime Doctrine approved by President Vladimir Putin on 31 July. — DM

Death threat - AK-47 bullets thrown at home of leading Mozambican activist



LEADING Mozambican human rights defender Professor Adriano Nuvunga.

Mark Heywood

IN the early hours of Monday, 15 August 2022, two AK-47 assault rifle bullets were thrown at the front door of Nuvunga's residence in Maputo, Mozambique.

The Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network (SouthernDefenders), which issued a statement on Tuesday condemning the attack, signed by 31 human rights organisations and 27 leading activists from seven countries across southern Africa, says "the bullets were partially wrapped in white paper with writing not possible to decipher in full but in which one of the phrases says, 'WATCH OUT NU-VUNGA'".

It adds that Nuvunga has reported the threat to the police and

that officers from Mozambique's National Criminal Investigation Service (Sernic) collected the bullets and promised to investigate.

On Tuesday morning, in a message from Maputo, Nuvunga told Maverick Citizen he was "a bit scared" and that two years ago, following bomb threats, he had had to relocate his family to South Africa.

However, he was undeterred: "Today, this threat, with bullets and my name on it, is a cowardly threat. They aim at silencing me and stopping my and our work. But we are here to serve the people. We are here to fight injustice.

We are here to fight against authoritarianism that is pushing millions of people to poverty. That is creating inequality.

"We are activists, as you know,

and the work of activists is cautious of all threats, to continue as HRDs, to fight against the shrinking of the civic space, to push back the authoritarianism and protect the rights of the marginalised and those who have no access to the formal mechanisms of justice, and victims of corruption and victims of abuse of power.

"This will not stop us here in Mozambique or the region. We will continue with this and politicians have to respect the space of activists."

Deepening social crisis sparks protest

The threat to Nuvunga's life comes during a time when he has been critical of the manner in which the Mozambican government is responding to the escalating social protest in the country, including a strike and protest that shut down Maputo in early July, as a result of the worsening economy, corruption and rising cost of living.

The threat also continues a pattern of politically motivated violence against Nuvunga. In 2020, three unidentified individuals called him from an anonymous number, stating that a bomb had been planted at his home.

Nuvunga has been at the forefront of defending civic space and has repeatedly exposed and criticised human rights abuses in Mozambique, including cases of corruption by political elites in the Frelimo party.

In particular he has been at the forefront of efforts by Mozambican civil society to ensure former fi-

nance minister Manuel Chang, imprisoned in South Africa since December 2018, is not extradited to Mozambique (where it is unlikely that charges against him will be pursued, given his closeness to the Frelimo elite), but to the US where there is a better chance that he will be tried properly for his involvement in a multinational fraud and corruption scandal.

Without the efforts of Nuvunga and the Mozambican Budget Monitoring Forum (FMO), which in 2019 launched urgent litigation in South Africa to prevent Chang's imminent release, he would almost certainly have been home and dry a long time ago.

Maverick Citizen has covered this issue extensively and held a webinar with Nuvunga in January 2022. Read: "The Case of Mozambique's Manuel Chang: Civil society..."

Activists say the death threats must be taken seriously because Mozambique has a history of impunity for attacks on and assassinations of human rights defenders. This latest act takes place in a context of increasing closure of civic space and attempts to block the activities of civil society organisations in the country, particularly in the Cabo Delgado province where Mozambique has invited the Rwanda army to quell an insurgency and where there are reports of atrocities on both sides.

The SouthernDefenders say the threats against Nuvunga "need to be fully investigated in an open and transparent manner with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice".

"We want to unequivocally emphasise and remind the authorities in Mozambique that social organisations are institutions created under the authority of the constitution of the Republic of Mozambique and the activities of their members are fully permitted by the law. The state authorities have an obligation to ensure and guarantee that they operate in a peaceful environment and under the protection of competent state bodies.

"Further, the right to human rights defending is provided for under international standards that are binding on Mozambique, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights as well as the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders that was universally adopted in 1998."

In addition, they call on the Mozambican government to "adopt measures to ensure that government officials or other public figures refrain from making statements or declarations stigmatising the legitimate work of human rights defenders in Mozambique".

News of the threats has spread quickly around the world and the SouthernDefenders statement has been signed by human rights leaders in southern and West Africa and by international organisations such as Human Rights Watch and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, the SADC Lawyers Association and Amnesty International.

Nuvunga welcomed the support: "This solidarity from the country and the region is really very important. It shows that there is a much larger movement in support of what we do, than single individuals or single activists, so the work will continue. A luta continual!"

— DM/MC

Hunger in Tigray pushing women and girls into sex work

HUNGER in the besieged region of Tigray is pushing people to increasingly desperate measures as the authorities are systematically blocking and confiscating remittances needed by millions of people.

Banking services and all communications have been cut off to the state by the Ethiopian administration since last year, with 6 million people denied access to their own money.

In the absence of aid and banking, people had been largely relying on money from family and friends abroad to survive but restrictions have been imposed on remittances by the Tigrayan authorities, and action against smugglers bringing money in has intensified at checkpoints.

Reports from inside Tigray say many women and girls are being forced to turn to sex work to survive while others suggest there has been an increase in suicide.

Last week, EU and US envoys urged the Ethiopian government to swiftly resume services and lift restrictions on fuel essential for aid distribution.

When the Tigray rebel forces returned to power a year ago, after nearly eight months of fighting with Ethiopian federal forces, Hewan* thought life might improve. Food had never before been an issue for the 16-year-old and her family, who had had a good life, she said.

"Now I am hungry. My parents and siblings are hungry. For months, we waited in vain to receive aid," said Hewan.

"Relatives abroad had been sending us money through smugglers. But it is tough to find remittance smugglers these days. Those we knew are no longer operating. We sold every property we had. There is nothing to eat at home. So, I went to the street to sell my body. What option do I have?"

Like Hewan many women and girls in Tigray's capital, Mekelle, are engaging in survival sex, including underage girls and women who once had promising careers.

Zufan* has a master's degree in project management and before the war the 27-year-old had a well-established career with a good salary and a plan to pursue a PhD. These days she is selling her body to survive the hunger which claimed the life of her parent.

"I watched my father die from malnourishment. He died in my



IN the absence of aid and banking, people in Tigray had been largely relying on money from family and friends, but restrictions have been imposed.

hands. My mother is all bones. The warehouses are full of aid enough to feed the city. Fuel is not required to distribute aid within Mekelle. But people are dying unable to receive the aid they are entitled to. After I lost my father to starvation, I needed to do something to save my own life and my mother's.

Hunger does not give you time. I tried begging. But it does not work as there are many beggars. I became a prostitute," Zufan does have money in her bank account, but banks in Tigray have stopped giving out money, cut off from the central federal system and empty of cash.

For many desperate Tigrayan women who had exhausted all alternatives, sex work offers the only lifeline.

Last month, the news about a civil servant who killed himself in Mekelle after finding it unbearable to watch his three children starve and his wife beg for food, was widely circulating in the city.

Araya*, 60, is a landlord and lived

on rental income from the houses he owns, but he has not been able to collect rent from his out of work tenants who have no money to pay him.

What sustained his life was the remittance his children sent him through the smugglers.

Based on negotiations with the sender, the smugglers take 30 percent to 50 percent of the remittance and arrange the delivery of the remaining amount to the recipient.

"Without remittance, I would have gone begging or died from hunger. I am so worried to learn that many of the smugglers are being driven to stop operations. There is no other means of survival," said Araya.

Smugglers blame Tigray authorities for systematically putting them out of operation by setting up border posts with officers who restrict, block and confiscate remittances, which have already been made illegal by the Ethiopian government.

"Trying to get money into Tigray

is a frustrating and risky work in the first place. It is not allowed by the federal government. Transportation is blocked into the region. We do it through connections and by bribing officers. That's why we take up to 50 percent of the remittance. Otherwise, it is impossible. And after passing through many obstacles to reach Tigray, if we don't have any guarantee from the Tigray authorities to deliver the cash to the starved, why should we take risks?" said Tsegay*, a former smuggler who quit the work in May after being stopped at the border by Tigrayan officers.

Smugglers described harassment, criminalisation, unpredictable restrictions on the amount of money one can carry into Tigray, and confiscation of money intended for hungry people.

"This is business to us, but lifesaving to the people dying from starvation. I don't know why the authorities are creating such restrictions on us while millions are starving

to death. Previously, the flow was smooth once it reached the Tigray border. But after April it has become a nightmare. My colleagues and I left the business because of that," said Abadi*, another former smuggler.

"We want free access at least in Tigray. Otherwise, it is not worth it. It is money to people suffering in famine after all. There should not be any hindrance. This is cruel."

Others accused Tigray authorities of confiscating the money for themselves at the checkpoints.

"There was 73,000 birr (£1,147) I tried to deliver. The money was sent to family members in a terrible condition with nothing to eat. Tigray authorities took the money. I was not given any valid reason by their officers. Of course, publicly they give many excuses.

But the reality is they set up the posts to grab money at the expense of dying family members. I stopped the work after that incident. There was no guarantee to continue," said Berket*, another former smuggler.

An internal decree seen by the Guardian corroborates the testimonies. The decree states it is illegal to carry more than 100,000 birr, and cash which flows to the region should be reported to posts in the border. If someone is found operating outside this, the person will be charged with committing a crime, and the Tigray government can directly confiscate the money, based on the decision of a committee established for the task.

The committee is chaired by Fetelework Gebregziabher, vice president of the Tigray government. The decree is signed and stamped by Fetelework and has been in operation since April.

A spokesperson of the Tigray government denied money was being confiscated and told the Guardian there is not enough cash coming in to justify any such restrictions.

"We rather encourage any possible cash inflow. But illegal activities need to be controlled," he said.

— The Guardian

*Indicates name has been changed.

The UK is cutting import taxes from developing African countries. Here's why:

THE Developing Countries Trading Scheme applies to 65 developing countries, offering lower tariffs and simpler rules of origin requirements for exporting to the UK to help in growing the economies of the developing nations, British authorities said in a statement on Tuesday.

Essentially, the scheme helps countries to diversify their exports and grow their economies, while British households and businesses benefit from lower prices and more choice.

The DCTS will come into force in early 2023.

The UK government says the new partnership is about understanding Africa's needs and exploring how UK businesses can support African businesses through projects that create jobs, support inclusion and sustainability and bring lasting value.

In June, outgoing British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he wanted to start a new trade system to reduce costs and simplify rules for 65 developing countries to replace the EU's Generalised System of Preferences, which applies import duties at reduced rates.

— Examples of duty reduction include a 14 percent decrease for bikes from Bangladesh, 12 percent on T-shirts from Cambodia, 12 percent on baby clothes from Sri Lanka, 8 percent on roses from Ethiopia and 8 percent



SECRETARY of State for International Trade of United Kingdom Anne-Marie Trevelyan has launched a new scheme to cut tariffs on hundreds of products imported to the UK from developing countries.

on onions from Senegal.

— It also removes some seasonal tariffs for goods that can't be produced or can't be grown in the UK at certain times of the year.

Citing a report by Punch Nigeria, acting British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Gill Atkinson, said the new scheme was to create

additional access for Nigeria's exports to the UK.

"Nigeria will automatically benefit from enhanced preferences under the DCTS. This means 99 percent of total goods exported from Nigeria are eligible for duty-free access to the UK, saving £500,000 on tariffs.

Punch reveals that as an example, cocoa butter exporters will save £180,000.

Africa's import markets are forecast to undergo exponential growth — expanding more than five-fold from nearly \$700 billion in 2019, to \$3.9 trillion by 2050, according to Trevelyan.

Marco Forgiore, director general of the Institute of Export & International Trade (IOE&IT), welcomed the move, saying:

"International trade has a key role to play in lifting people out of poverty, transforming communities and increasing sustainability. The UK's new tariffs regime is an important step in achieving these goals.

Countries eligible

The DCTS covers 65 countries across Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas and includes some of the poorest countries in the world, according to City AM.

As announced last year, countries qualify for the DCTS if they are within the UN's least developed country framework or the World Bank's measure of low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

According to the BBC, the plans for the DCTS includes powers to suspend a country on the grounds of human rights or labour violations, as well as for not meeting their climate change obligations.

Africa is in business

Coal sales from South Africa to Europe rose eight-fold during the first six months of 2022 compared with last year, as demand for the fossil fuel surged ahead of a ban on Russian coal according to Thungela Resources, a South Africa-based thermal coal exporter.

— IOL

Erdoğan says Lviv talks focused on war's end

... Russia sends jets with hypersonic missiles to Kaliningrad

UKRAINE President Volodymyr Zelensky held separate talks on Thursday with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres before a joint meeting. Major topics included the situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Guterres said the UN was establishing a “fact-finding mission” to investigate last month’s attack on the Olenivka prison which killed dozens of Ukrainian POWs.

Shipments from Black Sea ports are picking up under last month’s deal brokered by Turkey and the UN, driving grain prices lower. Russia’s defence ministry said it deployed fighter jets equipped with hypersonic missiles to the exclave of Kaliningrad. Two are suspected of having violated Finnish airspace.

Key developments

- Erdoğan says he discussed ending war in latest bid to mediate
- Russian gas shipments to Europe to remain stable on Thursday
- A \$379bn hole emerges in developing nations’ war chests
- Ukraine crop-export corridor successes help push down prices
- Ukraine’s rating lifted from default by Fitch on debt delay

On the ground

Russian forces conducted several unsuccessful assaults near Kramatorsk, Bakhmut and Avdiivka in the eastern Donetsk region, Ukraine’s military staff reported on Facebook. Shelling continued in areas from the Sumy region in northeastern Ukraine to the Mykolaiv region in the south, according to the statement. Russia also fired missiles at Ukraine’s second largest city of Kharkiv, killing at least nine people and wounding 35 as a residential house and a dormitory were hit, Oleh Synyubov, the regional governor said. One person was killed and two injured in Mykolaiv.

Erdoğan says he discussed ending war in latest bid to mediate

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said he discussed avenues to end the Russian-led war during talks with his Ukrainian counterpart, as well as conditions for a possible exchange of prisoners.

The comments came after the Turkish leader met in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv with President Volodymyr Zelensky and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on Thursday. Erdoğan said he would follow up on the discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Ukraine buys imaging satellite and data access for military

A Ukrainian charity used \$16.4-million spared by the Bayraktar drone donation to buy a satellite and access to high-resolution imaging for the country’s military.

The money had been crowd-funded by Ukrainians via the Pritula Charity Foundation to purchase the Turkish drones, which were ultimately provided free of charge.

The foundation used the funds to sign a contract with Helsinki-based ICEYE which operates a fleet of 21 spacecraft providing high-precision Earth images multiple times a day.

UN to establish fact-finding mission at Olenivka prison



FROM left : Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan , Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and UN Secretary-General António Guterres attend a joint press conference in Lviv, Ukraine.

The United Nations will establish a fact-finding mission at the site of the Olenivka prison, where some 50 Ukrainian prisoners of war died in an attack last month, said UN Secretary-General António Guterres. General Carlos dos Santos Cruz of Brazil has been appointed to lead the effort.

“We will now continue to work to obtain the necessary assurances to guarantee secure access to Olenivka,” Guterres said in Lviv. “That means safe, secure and unfettered access to people, places and evidence without any interference from anybody.”

While Ukraine and Russia have traded blame for the incident, European intelligence has dismissed Moscow’s claims that ammunition provided by the US was used to hit the facility, following analysis of the damage captured by satellite images.

Zelenskiy, Erdoğan discuss stolen grain
Volodymyr Zelensky and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan agreed that trade in looted grain is “unacceptable”, Ukraine’s president said after his meeting with Turkey’s president in Lviv, western Ukraine. Kyiv estimates that Russia has stolen almost 50,000 tonnes of grain has been stolen in occupied areas.

The pair also discussed the situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Ukraine’s presidential office said in a readout.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres

said in Lviv that global food markets are “beginning to stabilise” — a trend reflected in wheat prices, which have given up the year’s gains.

Ukraine, Turkey to cooperate on infrastructure

Ukraine and Turkey signed a memorandum on cooperation for the reconstruction of Ukrainian infrastructure after the war, President Volodymyr Zelensky’s office said.

The first potential project is the restoration of a bridge in the village of Romanivka in the Kyiv region, which connected Bucha and Irpin with Kyiv and was destroyed at the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion.

Oleksandr Kubrakov, Ukraine’s infrastructure minister, noted that Turkish business has extensive experience in the construction of roads and bridges, in particular, the Zaporizhzhia and Kremenchuk bridges in Ukraine, and is a reliable partner.

Zelenskiy says he spoke with UN chief about nuclear plant, deportations

Commenting on Telegram after speaking with António Guterres, President Volodymyr Zelensky said he discussed with the UN Secretary-General the forced deportation of Ukrainians, the need to release Ukrainian soldiers and medics from Russian captivity, and continued exports of grain from the Black

Sea. “Particular attention was paid to the topic of Russia’s nuclear blackmail” at the Zaporizhzhia plant, Zelensky said, adding that the UN “must ensure the security of this strategic object, its demilitarisation and complete liberation from Russian troops”.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, a key architect of the Ukrainian grain export safe-transit agreement, met with Zelensky before the three men started tripartite talks.

Russia issuing driver’s licences in occupied Zaporizhzhia

Russian occupation authorities began distributing drivers’ licences and vehicle registration plates in Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia region, according to state-run Tass. A planned replacement of licences in the city of Melitopol began on August 16, the news service reported.

The move is the latest sign of Kremlin efforts to consolidate control over areas of Ukraine seized by Russian forces even as the war continues.

Officials in the occupied Kherson region of southern Ukraine also began issuing Russian licences and registration plates this month, as the Kremlin prepares to organise referendums to annex territories into Russia as soon as September.

— Bloomberg

Ukraine fears Russian plan to cut power from captured nuclear plant

UKRAINE’S state nuclear power firm has said it fears that Russia plans to switch off the functioning power units at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, which in normal times provides about one-fifth of the country’s electricity.

If the plant stopped generating electricity, its technicians would have to rely on backup power systems to continue cooling the nuclear reactors, which may raise the risk of accidents.

“The Russian military is looking for suppliers of fuel for diesel generators, which must be turned on after the shutdown of power units and in the absence of external power supply for nuclear-fuel cooling systems,” Energoatom said in a statement.

Ukrainian military intelligence had warned earlier this week that Moscow appeared to be planning a “provocation” at the plant. It has controlled the site since March and stationed troops and military equipment there, leading to urgent calls



THE Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, situated in the Russian-controlled area of Enerhodar, eastern Ukraine, is seen in a satellite image released on Friday.

for it to be demilitarised, including from the UN and Nato.

Even if the reactors remain intact, however, Russia may plan to weaponise the plant simply by disconnecting it.

With winter approaching, and Ukraine already concerned about gas supplies, the loss of an important source of electricity could be damaging to the economy and people’s ability to stay warm.

On Friday, while the UN secretary general, António Guterres, visited the Black Sea port city of Odesa, Russia reportedly closed the Zaporizhzhia site to most personnel, apart from those operating the power units, Energoatom said. Although Russians control the site, it is still run by Ukrainians.

Energoatom also accused Russia of shelling parts of the plant complex, in false flag attacks that Moscow blamed on Ukrainian forces.

“Once again, we call on the international community to take all necessary measures as soon as possible for the de-occupation of the Zaporizhzhia NPP, because the nuclear and radiation safety of all mankind is at stake!” it said.

Fighting around the plant, and Russian management of the site, have become a focus of intense international concern.

The Conservative MP Tobias Ellwood, who chairs the House of Commons defence select committee, warned on Friday that a nucle-

ar accident at the site risked drawing Nato into the war.

“Let’s make it clear now: ANY deliberate damage causing potential radiation leak to a Ukrainian nuclear reactor would be a breach of Nato’s Article 5,” he said on Twitter.

Guterres, at a news conference on Thursday with the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, said: “The facility must not be used as part of any military operation.”

Instead, agreement is urgently needed to re-establish Zaporizhzhia’s purely civilian infrastructure and to ensure the safety of the area.”

Zelenskiy said he agreed with Guterres on a framework for a visit by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect the site. “We agreed with the secretary general the conditions of a possible mission by the IAEA to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, in a legal way, via territory free from occupiers,” Zelenskiy told reporters.

— The Guardian

Careers

Sunday Express

August 21 - 27 2022

Here's a financial game plan to relieve the stress after retrenchment

Kenny Meiring

QUESTION: I have just been retrenched and I am having sleepless nights worrying about my personal finances. Do you have any advice?

Answer: I helped many people deal with retrenchment during lockdown and found that, once we worked out a financial game plan for the following six months, the stress levels dropped and they could concentrate on re-establishing their careers.

Because you do not know how long it will take to get another job, you need to manage your money to ensure that it will last as long as possible. To do this, you need to reduce the outflow of money from your household.

Draw up a monthly budget of what you are currently spending, go through it and decide what is essential. Cut out the rest till your finances improve. Remember, this is just a temporary situation.

Next, look at possible sources of income. If you have contributed to the UIF, you will be entitled to monthly UIF payments.

Your severance package must be used to fill any gaps that you have identified. If you divide your severance package by your reduced monthly budget, you will know how many months you have before your money will run out.

My recommendation is to try to put six months' worth of your gap amount into a savings or money market account.

If you have an access bond and the discipline not to draw more than your gap, then this would be ideal. The aim is to tide you over while you are getting your work life sorted.

Retirement funds

Another lump sum you will receive is the contributions you and your employer made to your retirement fund.

My recommendation is to put the entire amount into a preservation fund and not to be tempted to make a withdrawal to clear



YOUR severance package must be used to fill any gaps that you have identified.

debt or go on a holiday.

Insider tip

You are only allowed to make one withdrawal from your preservation fund so do not make any initial withdrawals when you transfer your funds as this will count as your withdrawal.

Risk cover

If your company has a retirement fund, there is a very good chance that the fund had life and disability benefits. In many instances, these benefits have what's called continuous assurance options. These allow you to take out an individual life policy with the same benefits but with no medicals.

If you have health issues, I recommend that you ask your financial adviser to find out

if this is available to you.

As you will be losing any group cover, you need to ensure that you have sufficient private cover.

You will need to act quickly as most retirement funds give you one month in which to exercise this option.

Medical aid

It is important that you remain a member of your medical aid. If you have a break in cover of more than 90 days, you will find yourself having exclusions and a waiting period will be applied. Opt in to a lower level of cover rather than cancelling your cover.

— DM168

Kenny Meiring MBA CFP is an independent financial adviser.



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

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Lesotho and South African nationals to serve on the Board of Directors of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) in the portfolio of Project Management. The LHDA is tasked with the implementation, operation and maintenance of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) within Lesotho.

Members of the Board of Directors must be fluent in English and are required to have competence in analytics, communication, teamwork, management/leadership, and knowledge of the operating environment of the LHDA or of similar organizations. Remuneration of Members of the Board will be market related and shall cover preparation and attendance at Board Meetings, sub-committee work and ad-hoc work such as special delegated tasks or investigations.

Applicants with any interest within and outside the LHDA that might compromise the performance of duties in the LHDA Board have to declare their interest in their application letters. A candidate who has a conflict of interest by being either a partner, shareholder, director, employee or family member of any LHDA's service provider shall not be considered for LHDA Board membership. Other key grounds for disqualification are delinquency, insolvency and convictions.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PORTFOLIO OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

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

REQUIREMENTS:

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

APPLICATION FOR THE PORTFOLIO

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

Principal Secretary
Ministry of Water
P O Box 772
Maseru
Lesotho

e-mail address: sec@lhwc.org.ls

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

THE HIGH COURT OF LESOTHO
(COMMERCIAL COURT)

HELD AT MASERU

CCT/0236/2020

In the matter between:

BOLIBA MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE	PLAINTIFF
AND	
MORE HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD	1 ST DEFENDANT
MOSITO MAHLOANE	2 ND DEFENDANT
MALISEMA MAHLOANE	3 RD DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE

KINDLY TAKE NOTICE THAT the following immovable property will be put up for auction to the HIGHEST BIDDER at a public auction that will be held at the grounds of the High Court on Friday the 26th August 2022 at 10:30a.m.

Description:

1. 1x house with 7rooms
2. Semi-detached servant's quarters

Terms and conditions of sale

1. The property shall be sold to the highest bidder "voetstoots" subject to the conditions of the High Court Rules.
2. The purchase price shall be payable in full before the property will be transferred to the purchaser.

THUS DONE AT MASERU THIS 05TH DAY OF AUGUST 2022

MATSEPO POSSA
DEPUTY SHERIFF

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE LATE LEAH MAGGIE MOTLOUNG

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 6 of the Administration of Estates Proclamation NO: 19 OF 1935 calling upon the persons having claims against the deceased or her estate to lodge the same with the Executor within thirty (30) days from the date of the publication of the Gazette and newspaper.

DATED AT MAFETENG THIS 19TH DAY OF JULY, 2022.

Z. MDA CHAMBERS
WEPNER ROAD
ADJACENT TO LESHOBORO STADIUM
P.O. BOX 18
MAFETENG -900
ZWELAKHE MDA KC
EXECUTOR

NOTICE OF LOST LEASE

Notice is hereby given that I intend to apply for a certified copy of a registered Title Deed/ Lease to immovable property registered Under No. 14303-1987 on the 3 SEPTEMBER 2014 in Favour of MALEFANE SABASTIAN MAHANETSA and MATLOTISO LEFULERE-MAHANETSA in respect of Every right or interest on and to the building(s) and other developments express or implied in certain Plot No. 14303-1987 situated at HA- MATALE MASERU URBAN AREA on Plan No. 14303

As held by the Chief Surveyor. All persons having objection to the issue of the said copy are requested to lodge such in writing to the Land Registrar within three weeks from the last publication of the notice.

ADDRESS: Land Registrar Land Administration Authority Lesotho Road P.O.Box 11856 Maseru 100	APPLICANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS MALEFANE S. MAHANETSA P.O.Box 4316 Maseru 100 CONTACT NUMBERS: 5006 4228
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NOTICE OF LOST LEASE

Notice is hereby given that I intend to apply for a certified copy of a registered Title Deed/ Lease to immovable property registered Under No. 13272-457 on the 03 DECEMBER 2013 in Favour of SABASTIAN MALEFANE MAHANETSA and MATLOTISO LEFULERE-MAHANETSA in respect of Every right or interest on and to the building(s) and other developments express or implied in certain Plot No.13272-457 situated at KHUBETSANO MASERU URBAN AREA on Plan No 13272

As held by the Chief Surveyor. All persons having objection to the issue of the said copy are requested to lodge such in writing to the Land Registrar within three weeks from the last publication of the notice.

ADDRESS: Land Registrar Land Administration Authority Lesotho Road P.O.Box 11856 Maseru 100	APPLICANT'S NAMES AND ADDRESS MALEFANE S. MAHANETSA P.O.Box 4316 Maseru 100 CONTACT NUMBER: 5006 4228
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Arsenal slick victory over Bournemouth



ARSENAL'S French defender William Saliba (left) celebrates after scoring his team third goal during the English Premier League football match between Bournemouth and Arsenal at the Vitality Stadium.

UNRECOGNISABLE. A 12-month transformation, the table flipped on its head. Then: three games, no goals and bottom. Now: three games, goals flowing and top. True, the fixture list has been much kinder than this time last year, but it is the nature, the style of this Arsenal side that has heads turning. A confidence, a pazzaz missing for years.

Their new captain, Martin Ødegaard, set them on their way with a brace inside a dozen minutes, William Saliba adding second-half gloss. Bournemouth were simply dismantled, a south-coast battering that they did not have the defences for.

"Trust the process," Mikel Arteta said. He kept saying it. First, they laughed, then they got angry. Not any more.

Look, no one is saying Arsenal will win the title. They are not going to win the title. There will be blips, embarrassing moments. But impositions are unlikely.

And there is a strong bond between players and supporters, perhaps aided further by allowing camera access to football's intimate areas last season. Yep, trust the process.

Having started with a pair of victories, there was not even an urge for Arteta to tinker. And so, for the first time since the "Invincibles" of 2003-04, Arsenal fielded the same starting XI for their opening three league games.

This ground hosted Arteta's first match as Arsenal manager back in December 2019. He has since slowly sucked the gold-plated poison out of the club, meaning just Bukayo Saka and Granit Xhaka remain as starters.

In the Bournemouth side that day was Aaron Ramsdale. Much scoffing accompanied his Arsenal arrival, via a spell at, and a second consecutive relegation with, Sheffield United. While Ramsdale still refers to the Vitality Stadium as "home", and received a warm reception from all sides of the ground, he is indispensable to his current club.

Scott Parker made three changes from last week's don't-read-too-much-into-it defeat at Manchester City. Jordan Zemura — who missed that game with Covid — Philip Billing and Marcos Senesi all came in, the latter, a summer arrival from Feyenoord, making his full-debut. Dominic Solanke, the club's top-scorer during their promotion from the Championship, again missed out.

Despite the train strikes, the Arsenal fans were buoyant even before kick off. An away day by the coast in the sunshine. What could go wrong? Well, they have been stung before.

Bournemouth were compliant hosts, blasting out Rockin' All Over the World minutes before kick off. That allowed a warming of the vocal cords, Status Quo's hit having been adapted last season anthemically.

Soon the visiting fans were euphoric. Ødegaard was the scorer but it was all about Gabriel Jesus. Senesi's attention was brushed off with pure power — welcome to the Premier League — and Jesus's touch was perfect.

He jinked past Jefferson Lerma before a clever reverse pass set Gabriel Martinelli in down the left. Mark Travers made a smart save with his legs, but Ødegaard was left with a simple finish.

The celebrations, though, were telling; Jesus was the man who was mobbed.

It took six minutes for the lead to double. Ben White's overlap on the right was spotted by Saka, and the pull-back controlled by Jesus near the penalty spot. With his foot poised to strike, Ødegaard and his bright yellow footwear arrived to fire home emphatically.

VAR double-checked White had not mistimed his run; it already felt like match-point for Bournemouth.

The goal stood and Arsenal settled into a rhythmic dominance. Ødegaard was tempo setter, Martinelli and Jesus electrically charged.

When Bournemouth showed a glimpse of adventure — or indeed were allowed to — it was snuffed out. Much has been made of Oleksandr Zinchenko's role as an inverted full-back. It has allowed Xhaka a new freedom.

But Zinchenko is also a fine defender. Marcus Tavernier's attempt to break was stopped with such ease, it would have been no surprise if Zinchenko had shrugged his shoulders afterwards. When he misstepped briefly, temporarily losing possession on the edge of the box, he and Xhaka quickly sandwiched the danger.

Bournemouth started a little more brightly after the break — though they could hardly have dimmed it down — Lerma striking over

from range. Jesus even put a foot wrong, booked for fouling Lewis Cook, who had replaced Senesi at the break.

But then any remaining air was vacuumed completely from the hosts. A short free-kick saw Martinelli dance down the right.

His deep cross found Xhaka, who teed up Saliba. A glorious first-time, left-footed hit from the edge of the area flew past Travers.

Arsenal fans had spent 20 minutes of the opening period serenading Saliba with his name inserted into 1950's hit Tequila, and again they bellowed it out. Martinelli was a dazzling presence and had a chance for the goal he deserved shortly afterwards. Set racing down the middle by Saka, he blazed over.

Jesus thought he had an exquisite fourth,

Ødegaard the would-be provide, but the Brazilian had moved just too early. Then Kieffer Moore finally called Ramsdale into action, a towering header tipped wide. It had taken 79 minutes.

Basking in the sunshine, the visiting fans merrily breezed through their back catalogue. There were even some new ones; Xhaka probably never thought he would hear the day his name would ring out from his own supporters.

Arteta may not smile outwardly. He continued to cajole his players from the technical area until the final whistle. But inwardly he must be beaming. Perhaps he will express it on an easel.

— The Guardian

Sekhukhune scramble a draw with Sundowns

CAPE TOWN — Unfancied Sekhukhune United produced a stirring defensive performance to hold reigning DStv Premiership champions Mamelodi Sundowns to a 1-1 draw at Peter Mokaba Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

No one in the crowd at the Peter Mokaba Stadium would have anticipated that hosts Sekhukhune would share the spoils with Sundowns who held a 1-0 halftime lead.

It was the first time Sekhukhune had scored a goal against Sundowns in the Premiership after three matches.

Midfielder Linda Mntambo, the former Pirates player who joined Sekhukhune this season, scored the second half equaliser in an entertaining clash. Mntambo was named 'Man of the Match'.

Sundowns enjoyed an overwhelming possession advantage in the first half and just when it seemed they were heading for the sheds empty-handed at half-time, Peter Shalulile came to their rescue a minute before referee Masixole Bambiso sounded the whistle.

Up to that stage Shalulile had been trapped offside three times and it seemed Sekhukhune had worked out how to eliminate Sun-

downs' danger man. However, Themba Zwane and Gaston Sirino, Shalulile's partners in the three-prong attack, undid the Sekhukhune defence in front of goal. There was however a hint of offside when Shalulile scrambled in Sirino's goal-mouth cross for the first half's lone goal.

Sekhukhune were off to an impressive start when fullback Sello Motsepe broke clear and fed the unmarked Victor Letsolo who fired a left-footed drive wide of the target.

Sundowns gradually imposed themselves with a succession of attacks from the left channel. On

numerous occasions Sundowns defenders Aubrey Modiba and Khuliso Mudau stalked into the attack with overlapping roles. They both had chances in the firing zone after shaking off their markers.

The pressure finally told on the Sekhukhune defence when Sundowns' class came to the fore and Shalulile provided the finishing touch for his third goal of the season.

In the second half Sekhukhune took the match by the scruff of the neck and scored the equaliser 28 seconds after the restart. It sent the home side's fans at the Peter Mokaba Stadium wild with excitement

and for a while Sundowns' players seemed stunned by the setback.

The Sekhukhune midfield brought off an intercept and Linda Mntambo was sent clear on the right and his parting shot flew past Sundowns goalkeeper Ronwen Williams.

The Sundowns response was swift but not impactful as they swept upfield with relentless attacks on the back of a 79 percent possession advantage.

Sundowns eventually made three second-half changes but the winning goal failed to emerge. Sekhukhune made four second-half changes and the fresh legs allowed the team to persist with a high-tempo challenge, and a strong finish with two threatening sorties in the final three minutes. — IOL Sport

Leemisa Thuseho

TOP netball umpire, Chakatsa Lephole, has been invited to officiate in the African Regional Netball World Cup Qualifiers in South Africa.

The matches will take place at Rembrandt Hall at the University of Pretoria from today until 27 August.

The qualifiers are for the 2023 World Cup to be held in Cape Town.

South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya and eSwatini will be competing in the qualifiers while Lesotho is missing the event after failing to pay participation fee.

Two top teams will qualify for the World Cup. These exclude the hosts who have automatic qualification. If South Africa finishes in the top two, the third placed team will then also qualify.

Lephole was invited by the World Netball, and he left the country on Friday.

The umpire told the *Sunday Express* this weekend that he was privileged to have secured the gig.

"I am privileged to part of an event of this magnitude because this is where umpires will want to do their best to secure invitations for the World Cup itself," Lephole said.

"Being appointed for this tournament means I am on the right track and that pushes me to work harder to increase my chances of being invited for the World Cup."

According to Lephole, the qualifiers are likely to be used as his assessment for re-endorsement of his International Netball Umpire Award (INUA), which is set to expire this year. He got the award in 2017.

Lephole is not new in umpiring at seniors World Cup qualifiers. He has officiated at that level in 2011, 2015 and 2019.

However, he is yet to get invitation for senior World Cup tournament. He has only officiated the 2013 junior's World Cup in Scotland and in Botswana 2017. He also officiated in the Universities World Cup in Cape Town (2012) and Uganda (2018).

Lephole to officiate Netball World Cup qualifiers



CHAKATSA Lephole.

Makae shifts focus to World Championships



TUMELO Makae.

Leemisa Thuseho

CYCLIST, Tumelo Makae, has shifted his focus to the upcoming 2022 International Cycling Union (UCI) Cross Country World Championships.

The championships will be held in France from 24 to 28 August.

Last week, Makae had been busy racing in the five-day Swiss Epic Stage Race from 16 to 20 August. He represented his Swiss club, Pumpforpeace Velosolution.

During the event, he paired Salim Kipkemboi. The duo raced to raise funds for Pump for Peace to help in the building of pump tracks in Iran and all over the world. Lesotho also has a pump track built by Velosolutions in Roma.

Speaking to the *Sunday Express* this weekend, Makae said the Swiss Epic Stage race was tough.

"It has been a tough week racing in the Swiss Epic Stage race," Makae said.

"But this was just a training race for World Championships and to help my club to raise funds for its mission of building pump tracks all over the World."

Makae is expected to leave Switzerland tomorrow for France.

"Although the World Championships are starting on Wednesday, I think I will race towards the end of the event as I will need some time to recover from the Swiss race," he said.

Makae is also fresh from the recent Birmingham Commonwealth Games held from 28 July to 8 August.

The five-time Lesotho champion has a busy schedule until next month. From 2 to 4 September, he will be in Italy for the UCI Cross Country World Cup again representing his Velosolutions.

Thereafter, he will head to Denmark where he will represent Lesotho in the UCI World Marathon Championship on 17 September.

Lesotho to miss CUCSA, COSSASA games

Leemisa Thuseho

LESOTHO will miss this year's Confederation of University and College Sports Association (CUCSA) and Confederation of School Sport Associations in Southern Africa (COSSASA) games, the *Sunday Express* can reveal.

CUCSA games are scheduled for Malawi from 28 August to 3 September while COSSASA games will be in Pretoria from 6 to 9 October 2022.

Lesotho will miss these two events due to financial challenges.

This after the Lesotho Sport and Recreation Commission (LSRC) informed the Lesotho Universities and Colleges Sports Association (LUCSA), Lesotho Institutions Sports Association (LISA) and the Lesotho Primary Schools Sport Association (LePSSA) that it was unable to finance their teams' trips.

"Currently the commission is not in a position to assist due to prevailing cashflow problems," LSRC told the federations.

CUCSA president Tšepang Mantutle confirmed to this paper that Lesotho would miss CUCSA games.

"It is true that Lesotho will not take part in this year's CUCSA games after the LSRC and the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) told us they were facing financial problems," Mantutle said.

CUCSA intended to compete in chess, netball and volleyball to avoid travelling with a huge entourage and had already selected teams. However, the support was unforthcoming.

Mantutle, a CUCSA assessor and technical director, said although the LSRC has promised to finance his travels, he was now worried he could end up failing.

"It would be shame if the country failed to send a single official to the games. As a technical director, I am duty bound to attend but that could also fail."

On his part, LISA public relations officer, Ntainyane Marabe, also confirmed the development to this publication this weekend.

The LSRC has earlier said it would no longer finance national federations' activities due to financial challenges. This because this year, the LSRC was allocated only M5 million which the Commission said could hardly cater for its operating costs.

Therefore, the Commission decided to only assist federations with financing processes for their annual general meetings and elections. It will also assist in settling subscription obligations and attending international federations' annual congress meetings.



TŠEPANG Mantutle.

Monaheng elected new PLMC chairperson



HUBBARD Monaheng.

Leemisa Thuseho

MATLAMA FC deputy president, Hubbard Monaheng, has been elected the new Premier League Management Committee (PLMC) chairperson.

Monaheng was elected during the PLMC's elective annual general meeting (AGM) at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena this weekend.

He will lead the committee for two years.

Monaheng was competing with outgoing chairperson, Mosa Seoli. However, Seoli withdrew from the race on the day of the elections and Monaheng was elected unchallenged.

Monaheng will be deputised by Sefako Seema, who was also unchallenged in his position.

Mokhethi Raphuthing is the new secretary general. He was also unopposed.

Mokone Mothibeli beat Nkhechane Nkhomo by 13-1 to be elected the new deputy secretary.

David Ramphalile and Bokang Phasumane were elected committee member and communications and marketing manager respectively. They were also unchallenged.

In an interview with the *Sunday Express* this weekend, Monaheng said he was honoured to get a chance to lead the committee.

He said he was ready for the challenge and his team would foster professionalisation of local football and the PLMC's autonomy. "We are looking forward to the hand over from the outgoing administration, so that we can learn the pending projects," Monaheng said.

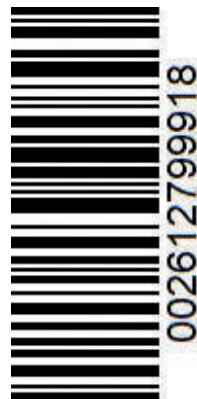
"One of the major tasks is achieving the PLMC's autonomy. We are also going to push towards professionalising our premier league so that eventually, all the teams will be able to pay their players. That way, football can be viewed as a career that can earn players a living.

"That will only be achieved by availing and attracting more sponsors into the premier league and helping the teams to secure their own sponsors."

In recent years, the PLMC has lost several sponsors for its domestic cups due to the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, Monaheng said his committee was faced with a huge challenge of bringing back tournaments like Top 8 and Top 4 while they have also set sights on new tournaments.

He said his team would also strive to ensure that all league teams had ladies' teams in line with the Confederation of African Football (CAF)'s requirements.

According to new rules set last year, no African team would be eligible to play CAF competitions if it does not have a ladies' team.



Bantu, Township Rollers draw



BANTU'S Hlompho Kalake (right) works his way past Segolame Boy of Township Rollers at Setsoto Stadium yesterday.

Leemisa Thuseho

BANTU shared the spoils with Botswana giants, Township Rollers, after a goalless draw in a friendly at Setsoto Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The friendly was the sides' first meeting after their 2-2 draw in Botswana in a Confederation of African Football (CAF) Champions League preliminary tie in 2018.

Bantu went on to win the tie 4-2 on penalties after drawing 1-1 in the first leg.

But the stakes were not as high yesterday as the sides were only preparing their

players for the new season.

It was Bantu who got off to a promising start, dominating ball possession while the visitors failed to settle.

The visitors had a chance to test Bantu goalkeeper, Ntsane Lichaba's capability between the sticks on 13 minutes but Segolame Boy fired wide.

The tempo moved a gear up after the half hour mark and Bantu were close to scoring in the 39th minute but the trialing Luciano Matsoso's header fount the woodwork.

Both sides failed to create good chances until the break.

Despite the substitutions in the second half, both sides failed to find a break. Bantu made a staggering seven changes, but they still failed to score.

The newly appointed Bantu coach, Abram Mangoya, said while the result was disappointing, the friendly had helped his technical team gauge players.

"We still have more friendlies to play, and today's tie was meant just to prepare the team and to give us a chance to know more about our players," Mangoya said.

"The plan was to give all the players a chance, that is why we made seven substitu-

tions. The games helped us to identify our weaknesses and we now know that our biggest challenge is, lack of goals."

Before facing Bantu, Rollers beat Lioli 3-1 at the same venue.

Rollers' coach, Thabo Motang, said he was happy with his team's performance and said the friendlies would assist him to continue gauging his squad for next season.

"We offloaded 12 players and now this a new squad. I am also new to the team, so we in the building process and we needed such games," Motang said.