

# Sunday Express

Best Sunday in Lesotho

M6 Vol 15 Issue 7 May 21 - 27 2023



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**Bantu crowned VPL champions**

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CYRIL Ramaphosa.

## **Rights groups confront Ramaphosa over Polihali dam**

● Demand justice for communities displaced by dam construction ...

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Bongjwe Zihlangu

**F**OUR human rights groups want President Cyril Ramaphosa to ensure that communities displaced by the construction of Polihali Dam in Mokhotlong get fair compensation.

The rights groups complain that poverty-stricken communities displaced by the construction of the dam are getting a raw deal from the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) and its implementing arm, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA).

The impoverished communities have lost their most productive arable lands and their main source of livelihoods, yet they are not being afforded fair compensation, the four rights groups claim.

The communities were also not properly consulted about the construction of the dam, their compensation levels and the resultant compensation, the four rights groups claim. They had not even been paid their compensation as required by the Constitution of Lesotho despite many of them having been long displaced.

The rights groups may thus stage protests to highlight the communities' grievances when President Cyril Ramaphosa lands in Lesotho this week for the sod turning ceremony to mark the construction of the Polihali Dam under Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Development Water Project.

President Ramaphosa is due in Mokhotlong on Tuesday alongside His Majesty King Letsie 111, Prime Minister Sam Matekane, among other delegates.

The phase 11 project is meant to augment the first phase which sees Lesotho pumping water into South Africa in exchange of royalties worth about M1.1 billion annually.

The four rights groups say while the construction of dams under the LHWP has been a major boon for Lesotho's economy, communities displaced by the construction of these dams were unfortunately being short changed. They were not being given adequate compensation despite being deprived of their livelihoods. They were also never properly consulted despite losing their most productive arable lands, access to clean water and encountering damage to their individual and communal properties.

The four rights groups, the Seinoli Legal Centre (SLC), Survivors of Lesotho Dams (SOLD), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), and the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) have thus penned an open letter to Mr Ramaphosa demanding that he addresses their grievances.

In their letter dated 19 May 2023, the rights groups challenge President Ramaphosa to meet with communities affected by the project to hear their concerns.

The rights groups allege that serious human rights violations have occurred in

# Rights groups confront Ramaphosa over Polihali dam

## ● demand justice for communities displaced by dam construction ...

the course of the implementation of both Phase I and Phase II of the LHWP.

They thus want the South African president, whose government is bankrolling the Polihali project, to ensure that grievances of communities are addressed and their livelihoods are restored.

In fact, they want Mr Ramaphosa to assist in ensuring that the entire framework of the LHWP is overhauled to "...to ensure fair and adequate compensation for communities" in line with best international standards.

Additionally, they demand that he "undertake, as a matter of urgency, forensic audit of all compensation funds intended for the affected people", suggesting that the funds were being misused.

"Your visit to Polihali, Mokhotlong, to officially launch full-scale construction work of Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP II) on 23rd of May 2023, is highly welcomed," the rights groups write.

"Mr. President, when this project was concluded under the 1986 LHWP Treaty, it was celebrated for the immense economic returns that would accrue to both Lesotho and South Africa including sustainable development for local affected

communities. South Africa and Lesotho made an undertaking, in the Treaty, "to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the implementation, operation and maintenance of the Project are compatible with the protection of the existing quality of the environment and, in particular, shall pay due regard to the maintenance of the welfare of persons and communities immediately affected by the project." The reality for communities however, is in stark contrast to this undertaking.

"As you know, Phase I of this project, which involved construction of Katse Dam (under Phase IA) and Mohale Dam (under Phase IB) was inaugurated in 2004. Over 20 000 people were directly affected by this first phase of LHWP. Thousands re-

main without compensation for the adverse impacts of the project on their lives and no efforts were made to actively ensure that communities get direct economic benefits.

"Communities living in the vicinity of both the Katse and Mohale Dams endure consistent violation of their right to access to clean water, as a c - cess

to natural springs and other water sources were impacted by the dams. Mr. President, communities are not allowed to access water from the dams to drink their animals or to irrigate their crops. Women within LHWP Phase II affected communities are already marginalised as a result of cultural stereotypes which prevent women from owning land and benefiting from compensation for land rights which get affected by LHWP. Lack of access to water further marginalises them and exacerbates their inability to break free of poverty.

"While there is a responsibility by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority to uphold the agreement, there is a significant perception among communities affected that impacts the image of South Africa negatively. This fundamentally detracts from South Africa's Africa Agenda and desire to be a partner to Africans. Moreover, affected communities are likely to seek further economic opportunities in South Africa.

Continues on page 4 ...

CYRIL Ramaphosa.



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# Relief for Mofomobe

Mohalenyane Phakela

**C**HIEF Justice Sakoane Sakoane has temporarily barred the National Security Service (NSS) from confiscating the mobile phones of Basotho National Party (BNP) leader, Machesetsa Mofomobe.

Mr Mofomobe ran to the Constitutional Court on Friday after the NSS, and police officers raided his Thetsane home on Wednesday night demanding his cell phones.

The security officers were executing a warrant which had been authorised by Prime Minister Sam Matekane, and issued by Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Limphe Tau.

The warrant, issued in terms of section 26 of the National Security Service Act 1998, directed the NSS officers to seize the mobile phones of Mr Mofomobe and "conduct an investigation on such mobile phones and make copies of any information contained therein which has a bearing on the functions of the Service (NSS)".

However, Mr Mofomobe refused to hand over his mobile phones and instead opted to challenge the warrant before the Constitutional Court.

His lawyer, Christopher Lephuthing, appeared before Justice Sakoane on Friday to motivate the urgency of Mr Mofomobe's case and seek an interim interdict against the confiscation of the firebrand politician's phones.

The respondents in the matter are Prime Minister Sam Matekane, Director NSS Phello Ralenkoane and Attorney General Rapelang Motsieloa. They were represented

by Avocate Letsie Moshoeshoe who did not oppose the urgency of the case.

Justice Sakoane thus issued the interim order barring the NSS officers from seizing the phones of Mr Mofomobe pending the finalisation of his constitutional application against the whole move.

Mr Mofomobe's case will now be heard by a panel of three High Court judges sitting as a constitutional bench on 5 June 2023, provided the other two judges will be available.

Mr Mofomobe, in his main application, labels Mr Matekane a dictator over the latter's move to seize his phones. He therefore wants the Constitutional Court to outlaw section 25 of the National Security Service Act 1998 which Mr Matekane used to try and justify the seizure.

He says Mr Matekane should have sought a court order to justify the seizure of his phones. He had not done so, preferring to deploy "dictatorial powers" to confiscate an opponent's property.

Mr Mofomobe accuses Mr Matekane of being a tin pot dictator. Only in entrenched dictatorships could a prime minister seek to seize another person's phones without a court order, the BNP leader argues.

Mr Mofomobe states there were laws in place that the premier could have used in the courts to compel mobile phone companies to gain access to his

phone records. Mr Matekane had opted not to go that route, preferring to issue his own warrant, effectively making him the jury and executioner. That was illegal and unconstitutional, Mr Mofomobe contends. He insists the prime minister had sought to infringe upon his constitutional right to privacy, among other things.

Mr Mofomobe claimed he was being victimised for openly accusing Mr Matekane's government of corruption. He said he had spoken openly about how politicians and officials in the Matekane government had been allocating tenders to themselves. He also accused Mr Matekane of hiring unqualified people to fill key state positions.

Accusing Mr Matekane of cronyism, Mr Mofomobe said people who could never be employed by the Public Service Commission (PSC) because of their lack of qualifications were now finding their way into government because of Mr Matekane's penchant for "cronyism".

He also claims in his court papers that the Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) government had

not fulfilled any of the promises it made prior to the October 2022 general elections. Mr Mofomobe said he was thus being victimised for his outspokenness against the RFP.

He vowed he would not budge and would continue speaking openly against what he describes as the gross incompetence and corruption of the Matekane government. He wants a commission of inquiry established to probe corruption and "state capture" by Mr Matekane's cronies.

He insists the prime minister has been dishing out tenders and favours to his cronies. He doesn't cite any evidence

in his court papers though.

He also accuses the director-general of the NSS of being used by Mr Matekane's government to pursue and persecute the premier's political opponents.

"I have established that the DG-NSS..... is ill-advising the PM in making him believe my cell phones will assist him investigate crimes..... There are no grounds advanced for seizing my cell phones....," states Mr Mofomobe in his court papers.

He says he had therefore refused to hand over his phones and told the officers who turned up at his home that their actions were illegal.

In terms of final reliefs sought, Mr Mofomobe wants the Constitutional Court to issue an order declaring that the attempt to seize his phones is unlawful and in violation of Section 17 of the constitution.



MACHESSETSA Mofomobe.

## Central Bank of Lesotho

### Career Opportunity

Director of Other Financial Institutions Supervision Department - Ref: DOFISD



The Director is responsible for the regulation and supervision of all non-bank financial institutions under the purview of the Central Bank of Lesotho which is a core functions of the Bank in promoting and safeguarding the financial sector stability in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

#### Areas of responsibility include:

- Providing technical and strategic leadership to ensure that the Department implements key functions and objectives of the Bank.
- Providing prudential leadership of the non-bank financial institutions sub-sector with the aim of safeguarding a stable and efficient sub-sector.

#### The Candidate will be required to:

- Develop and implement supervisory and regulatory instruments (legislation, frameworks, and guidelines) in line with best practices to ensure soundness and stability of the non-bank financial institutions sub-sector.
- License non-bank financial institutions, monitor compliance with their license conditions and other regulatory instruments, and administer sanctions in instances of a breach.
- Partake in local, regional, and international affairs related to matters of non-bank financial institutions' supervision and regulation.
- Participate in and perform cross-functional tasks as a member of the Bank's Executive Committee.
- Oversee the Department in respect of resources management, and assurance provision to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors

#### Candidates applying for this role require the following behavioural competencies:

- Formulating strategies & concepts
- Applying expertise & technology
- Deciding & initiating action
- Leading & supervising
- Entrepreneurial & commercial thinking
- Delivering results & meeting customer expectations
- Presenting and communicating
- Analysing

#### All candidates wishing to apply should have the above-stated behavioural competencies and any of the following minimum qualifications:

- A Master's Degree in any of the following: Law, Economics, Finance, Business Administration, or equivalent
- Ten (10) years of relevant working experience, of which five (5) at the senior managerial level
- A relevant course in risk-based supervision and/or strategic management will be an added advantage.

To apply, please visit our website: <https://www.centralbank.org.ls/index.php/opportunities>

Closing date 2nd June 2023.

## Central Bank of Lesotho

### Career Opportunity

Procurement Officer - Ref: PO



The Procurement Officer will report to the Supply Chain Manager and is responsible for ensuring that procurement of goods and/or services of the Bank are made with adherence to the Procurement Policy and Manual of the Bank.

#### Areas of responsibility include:

- Ensuring compliance with Procurement Policy and procedures in the procurement of goods and/or services.
- To communicate effectively with departments and suppliers to ensure procurement efficiency.
- To provide information on the implementation of the Annual Procurement Plan.

#### The Candidate will be required to:

- Source of quotations for procurement of goods and/or services in accordance with the Procurement Policy and the Annual Procurement Plan.
- Order goods and/or services and place purchase orders with suppliers.
- Coordinate with the suppliers to ensure adherence to lead times.
- Ensure that goods and/or services are delivered or rendered according to specifications or terms of reference.
- Prepare online travel arrangements for Bank Employees and assist with VISA applications.
- Make online credit card payments for goods and services.
- Assist the Accounting division in monthly/ weekly reconciliation of credit card transactions.
- Update from time to time the Bank's database of vendors.
- Provide information on the implementation of the Annual Procurement Plan progress to the Supply Chain Manager.
- Stand in as the Secretary of the Tender Committee in the absence of the Supply Chain Manager.
- Provides advice on best practices and procedures to be followed in procurement processes.
- Supervise the Assistant Procurement Officer.

#### Candidates applying for this role require the following behavioural competencies:

- Analytical skills
- Communication skills
- Following Instructions and procedures
- Organising
- Writing and reporting skills
- Negotiation skills
- Highly ethical

#### All candidates wishing to apply should have the above-stated behavioural competencies and any of the following minimum qualifications:

- Degree in Supply Chain Management or CIPS Level 6 or degree in Accounting or Finance or equivalent.
- A minimum of 2 years' experience in the procurement or Supply Chain field.
- Working knowledge in the use of computers, especially Microsoft Excel will be an added advantage.

To apply, please visit our website: <https://www.centralbank.org.ls/index.php/opportunities>

Closing date 2nd June 2023.



POLIHALI Dam under construction.

# Rights groups confront Ramaphosa over Polihali dam

... from page 2

“Mr. President you may recall that the LHWP Treaty was signed during the apartheid government in South Africa and a military regime in Lesotho. It was concluded during a period when both governments had no regard for human rights and dictates of democracy and good governance. In fact, no consultations were undertaken at all with the people of Lesotho in general and the affected communities. Any dissent expressed against this project was thwarted with threats and violence. It is therefore not surprising that the Treaty has failed to promote, respect and protect human rights of people immediately affected by the project.

“When South Africa decided to implement Phase II following prolonged negotiations and signed the agreement to that effect in 2011, it was in the context of these residual issues which remain outstanding to date. This occasion of your visit to the Polihali Dam project site presents an opportunity to ensure that this phase does not repeat the same mistakes, and guarantee that the communities who have given way for this dam are placed at the centre of this project.

“Mr. President, the further implementation of advanced infrastructure works to pave way for construction of LHWP II, known as the Polihali Dam have already had an adverse impact on the livelihoods of communities affected by this component of the project. Land and other natural resources which are the basis of the communities’ livelihoods have been expropriated by the project without payment and compensation.

“The transition into the next component of LHWP II, marked by the occasion of your visit on the 23rd of May 2023, will lead to renewed

physical and economic displacement of families. The LHWP Phase II feasibility studies have estimated that about 16 villages will require to be relocated or resettled due to close proximity to the dam and/or significantly impeded access in the event of floods. And again, thousands will be economically displaced as a result of acquisition and inundation of their agricultural land, grazing land, including natural resources. The result is imminent food insecurity, impoverishment and the breakdown of social networks and culture.

“Climate change and the growing South African population and economy dictate that South Africa will increasingly rely on water from Lesotho. The role and importance of LHWP and the anticipated phases beyond the Polihali Dam, necessitate that great care be taken to secure ownership and buy-in of communities who have hitherto remained dissatisfied with this project. The challenge, Mr. President, for this occasion and for the government of South Africa is to address South Africa’s interests in keeping this bilateral project more significant to both countries without losing sight of the longer-term sustainable development of local communities.”

The rights groups then ask Mr Ramaphosa in their letter to review the LHWP Treaty to ensure that it aligns with the international human rights standards for better protection and promotion of the rights of affected communities.

They also ask the South African president to ensure that he meets with civic society organisations during his visit to Lesotho and the communities affected to hear their concerns regarding implementation of LHWP Phase II first-hand. They want President Ramaphosa to address human rights violations

of communities, and ensure their right to development and restore their livelihoods, among other things.

They demand that South Africa assists Lesotho to formulate a “Livelihoods Restoration Policy” which is in line with best international standards, to ensure that affected communities’ livelihoods are improved as well as “undertake, as a matter of urgency, forensic audit of all compensation funds intended for the affected people.”

The SLC had also already taken their grievances with the Polihali project to the current 75th Session of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR).

The SLC said Lesotho was failing to uphold the rights of communities when implementing large infrastructure projects like the second phase of the LHWP.

It thus urged the ACHPR to ensure that the Lesotho government speedily fast tracked the formation of the National Action Plan on business and human rights “in order to adequately promote and protect the rights of communities affected by large infrastructure development in the country “especially those affected by the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP)”.

Again, the SLC called for the review of the LHWP treaty “to align it with international human rights standards as far as compensation and livelihoods of affected communities are concerned”.

The SLC said the LHDA’s compensation policy was inadequate and unfair to communities. It also perpetuated gender inequality by further marginalizing women “who still face socio-economic and cultural barriers and stereotypes which limit their right to access to land”.

The SLC challenged the government of Lesotho to make information pertaining to the Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer (L-BWT) project accessible to both stakeholders and affected communities through its implementing body ORASECOM and conduct through ORASECOM “meaningful public participation on affected communities together with stakeholders”.



SAM Matekane.

'Marafaele Mohloboli

# Soldiers to get M100 000 each

**P**RIME Minister Sam Matekane has pledged to give M100, 000 as a token of appreciation to each of the 120 soldiers who were first deployed to help fight the insurgency in Mozambique.

Mr Matekane made the announcement at an event to commission Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) cadets who partook in the Serial 2 2023 training programme at Makoanyane Barracks on Friday.

Even though the country was mired in serious problems of high crime and economic stagnation, Mr Matekane said the soldiers would get paid M100 000 each by the end of this month as he had promised.

That amounts to about M12 million for the 120 soldiers initially deployed to help repel the terrorists in Mozambique.

"... Today I am happy to announce that after having sat down with my cabinet..., they have agreed that this month should not go by without fulfilling that promise.

Each of the soldiers will be getting M100, 000 by the end of this month," the prime minister said.

Lesotho joined other Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in deploying troops to help quell an insurgency in Mozambique in 2021.

Prime Minister Matekane visited the troops in January in Nangande district in the Cabo-Delegado province in Mozambique.

He thanked them over their sterling efforts in quelling the insurgency by Islamic terrorists, the soldiers are working under the auspices of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM).

The prime minister's press attaché, Thapelo Mabote, said the money for the soldiers would be paid by the government, clearing any confusion or misunderstandings that Mr Matekane would pay it from his own pocket.

Mr Matekane also took advantage of the Friday occasion to bemoan the problems that were plaguing the country, mainly the high crime rate which has seen a curfew being imposed to try and avert criminality.

Mr Matekane implored LDF commander, Mojalefa Letsoela, to help ensure that crime in Lesotho was brought to an abrupt end.



SAM Matekane.

"We are in a very difficult time (because of this crime situation) .... I want you commander to see that this comes to an end forthwith by all means that you may....," Mr Matekane said.

"This should come to an abrupt stop. We won't sit back and watch our people being

eaten and killed ..... You should see to it that this ends immediately...

My last words to you commander is that you should protect Lesotho; and to you Basotho, let's resort to talking out issues instead of killing each other.

"Today things have so much changed, and

we don't know what is happening.

The nation is crawling in crime such that the police have to be heavily complimented by the army, which now shifts the responsibility of the army .... to fighting crime.

This nation is looking up to you (the army). So, do remember that you are its only hope."



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION  
WOOL AND MOHAIR PROMOTION PROJECT  
MAY 2023  
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR OPERATION OF  
SLAUGHTER SLAB IN QALO, BUTHA BUTHE**

**1. Background**

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Wool and Mohair Promotion Project (WAMPP) with financial support from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the Government of Lesotho (GOL) and Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association (LNWMGA). The goal of the Project is to boost economic and climate resilience of poor, smallholder wool and mohair producers to adverse effects of climate change in the mountain and foothill regions of Lesotho. The project is coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSN) and jointly implemented by the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Environment as well as the Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association.

It consists of three components to be implemented over a period of eight years. Those components are:

- Climate smart rangelands and management
- Improved merino small sheep and angora small goats production and management and
- Wool and mohair fibre handling and marketing.

The third component of the project known as Wool and Mohair Fibre Handling and Marketing, is designed with the objective to increase market returns from wool and mohair systems for livestock producers through improved quality of fibre while at the same time stimulating a niche market for wool and mohair cottage products and providing a market outlet for unproductive animals that need to be removed from the rangeland. Amongst others, the component is tasked with facilitation to remove unproductive animals from the rangelands and promote diversification into the development of the red meat industry and value chain enhancement.

Measures have been put in place to develop the red meat industry in Lesotho to overcome dependency of income generation from fibre sales as the livestock sector has enormous potential and significance in poverty alleviation. Income generated from meat sales can supplement and even exceed the income generated from fibre mainly through a profitable disposal system of culled animals which is also crucial for solving worsening rangeland degradation.

As such, in its endeavor to promote the development of the red meat industry, the project is finalizing construction of one slaughter slab at Qalo in Butha-Buthe. The facility will be operated and managed by a suitable Private Operator who will ensure profitability and sustainability. The Private Operator shall not work in isolation but is to co-operate with relevant administrative structures at district level who oversee agricultural policy implementation.

WAMPP is therefore soliciting competitive business plans from interested locally registered companies, co-operatives and partnerships for concession of the above stated facility on a **five (5) year contract, renewable upon satisfactory performance**. The business concept and use of the facilities can be proposed by the operators. They will be expected to come up with a viable business plan that guarantees the advancement of the auction sales yards towards profitability and sustainability while also contributing towards the development of the industry.

Interested locally registered companies, co-operatives and partnerships are to submit a letter of expression of interest and a sound business plan to this effect. The successful company, co-operative or partnership will be responsible for management of all the facility.

The evaluation criteria shall be as stipulated in Table 1 below and the candidate with the highest points will be invited for negotiations:

**Table 1: Evaluation Criteria**

Item Description	Maximum Points
<b>Operations Plan</b>	25
Methodology	
Business Structure	
Workplan	
<b>Maintenance strategy and maintenance plan (machinery, equipment and other assets)</b>	10
<b>Financial Plan</b>	20
Financial statements	
Line of credit	
<b>Marketing strategy and marketing plan</b>	25
<b>Competitive Sustainability strategy focused on increased activity</b>	20
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

Submissions should include the following:

- Valid Tax clearance
- Valid traders' license
- Audited financial statements by a certified firm for the past three (3) years, accompanied by an analysis of the financial ratios (Liquidity, leverage, efficiency, profitability and market value)
- Proof of credit line facilities from reputable financial institutions
- Company profile showing the company shareholding

Expressions of interest in the form of a business plan must be delivered in a written form to the address below during working hours (8:00 a.m. to 16:00 p.m.) by **07 June, 2023**. More information can be requested by writing to the listed email:

Procurement Office  
Attn.: Mr. Retselisitsoe Khoalenyane  
Department of Livestock Services  
Old Airport Road, Moshoeshoe 2  
P.O. Box 24  
Maseru 100.  
Tel.: 266 52519400  
[wamppprocurement@gmail.com](mailto:wamppprocurement@gmail.com)

# LNFOOD to protest for the disabled

Tokelo Khausela

**T**HE Lesotho National Federation of Organisations for the Disabled (LNFOOD) will on the 24th of this month stage a protest to raise awareness about challenges faced by disabled people in their respective communities and society as a whole.

LNFOOD chairperson Makotoko Matsolo told the *Sunday Express* disabled people continued to suffer due to the failure of society to mainstream their issues of concern.

The LNFOOD was established in 1989 as an umbrella body of organisations dealing

with disability issues in Lesotho. Its membership consists of the Lesotho National Association of the Physically Disabled (LNAPD), Intellectual Disability Association of Lesotho (IDAL), Lesotho National League of Visually Impaired Persons (LN-LVIP) and the National Association of the Deaf in Lesotho (NADL).

Despite the passing of several laws including the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2021, as well as the domestication of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2006, progress in dealing with issues pertaining to disabled persons in Lesotho was still stagnant, Mr Matsolo said. "The government had to domesticate the convention in order to better address the needs of the disabled in the country, but progress (in addressing the concerns of the disabled) has still been slow. In 2021, the government passed the Persons with Disabilities Act 2021, to ensure the disabled fully enjoyed their rights alongside their able-bodied counterparts. However, the act did not help them (the disabled) minimize the challenges they face as disabled people," Mr Matsolo said.

"Wheelchair bound persons are subjected to a lot of stigma and cannot use normal taxis. That causes them to dig deeper into their empty pockets to rent their own transport in order to access simple services that everyone can easily access."

Mr Matsolo said there were few vehicles on the roads that catered for the disabled.

"When they (the disabled) use rented taxis, they pay extra amounts for

seats they don't even use. Even buses don't have spaces to cater for the disabled...." Mr Matsolo said. "In Maseru we cannot ride our wheelchairs because a majority of street hawkers have erected their businesses on pavements. Those pavements are where 'we' are supposed to walk, it is a space allocated for mobility."

Mr Matsolo said for an authentic experience and appreciation of the challenges faced by the disabled people, he wanted able-bodied attendees of their planned protest march, to walk on crutches and pull wheelchairs to "feel the everyday experiences of a person using any of these options and the energy 'disabled people' used everyday". "We plan to make the march an annual event and take it to the districts because disabled people do not only reside in Maseru....," said Mr Matsolo. The protest march will start from the Kick4life premises to the LNFOOD premises in Moshoeshoe II, Mr Matsolo said.

Gender, Youth, Sports, Arts, Culture and Social Development Minister Pitso Lesaoana said he had not yet been informed of the planned protest march as he had been out of the office. However, he said his ministry was supportive of efforts by the LNFOOD to raise awareness about problems affecting the disabled. "It is commendable that LNFOOD is planning a march of this nature because it is important for the general public to understand and appreciate the daily challenges of people living with disabilities including myself. As you know I am also disabled," Mr Lesaoana said.

PITSO Lesaoana.

## Econet donates house to Qacha's Nek family



'MAPUSETSO Ntsekhe.

Moroke Sekoboto

**E**CONET Telecom Lesotho (ETL)'s social arm, the Higher Life Foundation, has donated a fully furnished two-roomed house and a toilet to the Moorosi family of Ha Hlupalimali in Qacha's Nek.

The donation on Friday, was done as part of the Higher Life Foundation's corporate social responsibility (CSR) endeavours.

The Higher Life Foundation is a social impact organisation founded in 1996 by Strive and Tsitsi Masiyiwa, the key shareholders of ETL. Since its inception, the foundation has invested in education and other

human centred initiatives.

Over the last three years, the Higher Life Foundation has twice a year-built houses for impoverished families. The Moorosi's two-roomed house is the first for the year 2023.

It's a huge relief for the family. It had been living in a dilapidated dwelling with cracked walls that was near collapse. The foundation has also been sponsoring the family's eighteen-year-old daughter's education. She is headed for tertiary later this year.

ETL Manager for Marketing and Customer Experience 'Mapusetso Ntsekhe said they extended a helping hand as they saw the need to do so.

"We saw that the family needed help and we extended that help as it is our role to give back to the community.... We learned of the Moorosi family's dire situation and we decided to help....," Ms Ntsekhe said.

Ms Ntsekhe added: "It is ETL's mission to extend a helping hand to those in need, as Higher Life Foundation has been doing, although we focus primarily on providing children from poor families with quality education."

Ms Ntsekhe said there were many destitute families in Lesotho that needed help. They would work with other NGOs to extend a helping hand wherever they could.

Minister of Gender, Youth, Arts, Culture, and Social Development Pitso Lesaoana expressed appreciation for the role ETL was playing in the country. "ETL as a key player in the private sector has played a major role in giving back to the community."

It has been walking this journey with us for the longest time. We are therefore grateful for the positive impact they are making," Mr Lesaoana said.

The recipient of the house, 'Mamookho Moorosi, expressed her deepest appreciation to ETL for donating the home. "I am speechless, I don't know how to thank Econet, what I can say is that I am happy and grateful for the gift," Ms Moorosi said.



Kingdom of Lesotho

INVITATION TO TENDER

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
(GOVERNMENT PRINTING AND STATIONERY)  
RETENDER NO.1 OF 2023/2024 FOR STATIONERY AND PAPER

Tenders are invited from suitably qualified Lesotho registered suppliers (companies) for the supply of various items of STATIONERY AND PAPER for the fiscal year 2023/2024.

Tender documents are obtainable from Government Printing at Industrial area near Maseru Bridge on payment of a non-refundable fee of M3000.00 from 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023 to 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023 at 10:00am.

All bidders are invited to the pre-bid meeting to be held at Government Printing on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at 10:00am. This meeting is not compulsory but comes highly recommended.

All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security of M20, 000.00 per category (M20,000.00 for Stationery and M20,000.00 for Paper) in a form of a BANK GUARANTEE valid for 90 (ninety) days after bid opening.

Tenders in duplicate (original and four copies) should reach the Procurement Unit Ministry of Law Government Printing P.O. Box 268 Maseru 100 Lesotho, Industrial Area near Maseru Bridge.

The closing date for Stationery and Paper is 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 10:00am and tenders will be publicly opened on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 10:30am. Tenders in sealed envelopes should be marked as "Tenders for

- Stationery 2023/2024
- Paper 2023/2024

on different envelopes respectively.

Tenders must bear the official stamp of the company tendering and the signature of responsible senior officials.

PRICES should include all relevant and essential unavoidable costs, e.g., transport costs, inflationary factors, insurance, unforeseen circumstances that might arise during the term of the tender and should be VAT INCLUSIVE. The tender prices shall hold firm for the first year of the contract. Samples should be provided where required.

Tenderers are advised to note that suppliers to the Lesotho Government are expected to be in compliance with the tax obligations by attaching the following mandatory documents.

#### TENDER REQUIREMENTS

Compliance to Tender Conditions. Bidders who do not comply with these Tender conditions will be disqualified:

- Valid Trading License or Business identity card
- Valid Tax Clearance Certificate and VAT Certificate (where applicable)
- Certificate of incorporation and company extract detailing operations, ownership (share allocation) and identification documents of owners
- Audited Statements of Financial Capacity by the registered auditor (Auditor should supply a signed verification letter on company's letterhead and/or stamped. Also should provide certification for registration with regulatory body).
- A bid security of M20, 000.00 (twenty thousand Maloti) of each [Stationery, and Paper] in a form of Bank Guaranteed valid 90 [ninety] days after bid opening
- Certificate of Bona Fide Tendering to be completed, stamped and/or signed by one of the Directors
- Statement of commitment to be completed, stamped and/or signed by one of the Directors

#### Evaluation criteria weightings

	Stationery	Paper
Technical solution	30%	50%
Price	70%	50%
Total	100%	100%

Estimates shown on the pricing schedules are not binding. The Government Printer reserves the right not to buy on estimated quantities but according to the needs. Where items have different grades and ranges, non returnable samples should be supplied to the Government Printer.

The Ministry of Justice and Law and Parliamentary Affairs does not necessarily accept the lowest bid of any tender. For further details, contact the Procurement unit during office hours on 22311160/22313023.

Secretary to Tender Panel

**The Presidency  
Union Buildings  
Government Avenue,  
Pretoria  
Private Bag X1000,  
Pretoria,  
0001  
19th May 2023**

**D**EAR President Cyril Ramaphosa, Your visit to Polihali, Mokhotlong, to officially launch full-scale construction work of Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP II) on 23rd of May 2023, is highly welcomed.

Mr. President, when this project was concluded under the 1986 LHWP Treaty, it was celebrated for the immense economic returns that would accrue to both Lesotho and South Africa including sustainable development for local affected communities. South Africa and Lesotho made an undertaking, in the Treaty, "to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the implementation, operation and maintenance of the Project are compatible with the protection of the existing quality of the environment and, in particular, shall pay due regard to the maintenance of the welfare of persons and communities immediately affected by the project." The reality for communities however, is in stark contrast to this undertaking.

As you know, Phase I of this project, which involved construction of Katse Dam (under Phase IA) and Mohale Dam (under Phase IB) was inaugurated in 2004. Over 20 000 people were directly affected by this first phase of LHWP. Thousands remain without compensation for the adverse impacts of the project on their lives and no efforts were made to actively ensure that communities get direct economic benefits.

Communities living in the vicinity of both the Katse and Mohale Dams endure consistent violation of their right to access to clean water, as access to natural springs and other water sources were impacted by the dams. Mr. President, communities are not allowed to access water from the dams to drink their animals or to irrigate their crops.

Women within LHWP Phase II affected

communities are already marginalised as a result of cultural stereotypes which prevent women from owning land and benefiting from compensation for land rights which get affected by LHWP. Lack of access to water further marginalises them and exacerbates their inability to break free of poverty.

While there is a responsibility by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority to uphold the agreement, there is a significant perception among communities affected that impacts the image of South Africa negatively. This fundamentally detracts from South Africa's Africa Agenda and desire to be a partner to Africans. Moreover, affected communities are likely to seek further economic opportunities in South Africa. Mr. President you may recall that the LHWP Treaty was signed during the apartheid government in South Africa and a military regime in Lesotho.

It was concluded during a period when both governments had no regard for human rights and dictates of democracy and good governance. In fact, no consultations were undertaken at all with the people of Lesotho in general and the affected communities.

Any dissent expressed against this project was thwarted with threats and violence. It is therefore not surprising Mr. President that the Treaty has failed to promote, respect, and protect human rights of people immediately affected by the project.

When South Africa decided to implement Phase II following prolonged negotiations and signed the agreement to that effect in 2011, it was in the context of these residual issues which remain outstanding to date. This occasion of your visit to the Polihali Dam project site presents an opportunity to ensure that this phase does not repeat the same mistakes, and guarantee that the

communities who have given way for this dam are placed at the centre of this project. Mr. President, the further implementation of advanced infrastructure works to pave way for construction of LHWP II, known as the Polihali Dam have already had an adverse impact on the livelihoods of communities affected by this component of the project.

Land and other natural resources which are the basis of the communities' livelihoods have been expropriated by the project without payment and compensation. The transition into the next component of LHWP II, marked by the occasion of your visit on the 23rd of May 2023, will lead to renewed physical and economic displacement of families.

The LHWP Phase II feasibility studies have estimated that about 16 villages will require to be relocated or resettled due to close proximity to the dam and/or significantly impeded access in the event of floods. And again, thousands will be economically displaced as a result of acquisition and inundation of their agricultural land, grazing land, including natural resources. The result is imminent food insecurity, impoverishment and the breakdown of social networks and culture.

Climate change and the growing South African population and economy dictate that South Africa will increasingly rely on water from Lesotho. The role and importance of LHWP and the anticipated phases beyond the Polihali Dam, necessitate that great care be taken to secure ownership and buy-in of communities who have hitherto remained dissatisfied with this project. The challenge, Mr. President, for this occasion and for the government of South Africa is to address South Africa's interests in keeping this bilateral project more significant to both countries without losing

sight of the longer-term sustainable development of local communities.

**We therefore call upon you to:**

- 1) Review, as a matter of urgency, the LHWP Treaty to align it with the international human rights standards for better protection and promotion of the rights of affected communities.
  - 2) Devote your time whilst in Lesotho to meet with Civil Society Organisations and the communities affected to hear their concerns regarding implementation of LHWP Phase II first-hand.
  - 3) Engage the government of the Kingdom of Lesotho and LHWP's implementing authorities on the challenges facing communities affected by Phase I and Phase II of the LHWP, address human rights violations of communities, and ensure their right to development and restore their livelihoods.
  - 4) Assist the Kingdom of Lesotho and Lesotho Highlands Development Authority to overhaul the entire LHWP Legal and Compensation Framework, to ensure fair and adequate compensation for communities.
  - 5) Support the Kingdom of Lesotho and Lesotho Highlands Development Authority to formulate as a matter of urgency, Livelihoods Restoration Policy, which is in line with best international standards, to ensure that affected communities' livelihoods are improved.
  - 6) Undertake, as a matter of urgency, forensic audit of all compensation funds intended for the affected people.
- Respectfully,

**Signed:**

1. Seinoli Legal Centre (SLC)
2. Survivors of Lesotho Dams (SOLD)
3. Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)
4. Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC)



**TEBELLONG HOSPITAL of Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa**

**VACANCY**

Tebellong LECSA Hospital in Qacha S Nek invites suitably qualified candidates to apply for the following position, which entail strategic, operational and programmatic support to the Management, the Board, and the entire Hospital in pursuit of the Hospital stability and growth.

**Coordinator Departmental Nursing Services (CDNS)**  
Reports to Manager Hospital Nursing Services under the Nursing Department

**Purpose of the job**  
To coordinate and manage the administrative nursing services to ensure quality patient care.

**Job Summary:**  
The Coordinator Departmental Nursing Services (CDNS) will be responsible for the nursing management; patient/client nursing care; coordination of nursing services; recommend for the development of nursing personnel; supervision and nursing

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. **SUPERVISION**
  - ✓ Direct, supervise and evaluate work activities of Nursing and other staff.
  - ✓ To conduct nursing rounds daily to monitor provision of nursing care rendered.
  - ✓ To coach nursing officers on managerial and professional issues for provision of quality nursing care
  - ✓ To appraise nursing officers' performances as required for coaching, counseling and make recommendations
  - ✓ To intervene when there is disharmony between nurses, patient's relatives and other health workers.
2. **NURSING MANAGEMENT**
  - ✓ To evaluate facilities/ departments for recommendations, changes and improvement.
  - ✓ To determine items for procurement that support nursing activities in collaboration with the Manager Hospital Nursing Services.
  - ✓ To facilitate the submission of budget estimates in order to ascertain funds for the following year timely.
  - ✓ To hold departmental monthly meetings with the nursing staff, quarterly meetings health centre staff to discuss issues to keep abreast with the developments in nursing.
  - ✓ To discuss patient's management plans with doctors to ensure quality patient care.
  - ✓ To facilitate the review of the department's objectives, protocols and guidelines and disseminate to the health professionals deployed in the unit/ward.
  - ✓ To appraise quarterly and recommend nursing officers for training and development requirements.
  - ✓ To check medical equipment and other items to assess their proper functioning conditions.
  - ✓ To take inventory quarterly to verify that quantities and condition of equipment are up to standard.
  - ✓ To ensure proper storage, handling, safety and control of drugs and supplies at unit level in collaboration with already existing structures.
  - ✓ To provide supportive supervision to evaluate performance in delivering of care at the Hospital and Health Centres and make recommendations.
  - ✓ Integrates ethical principles in decision making.
  - ✓ Evaluates the ethical consequences of decisions
  - ✓ Applies ethical sound solutions to complex issues related to individuals, populations and systems of care.
  - ✓ Demonstrates the highest level of accountability for professional practice.
  - ✓ Act in the office of Manager Hospital Nursing Services during

- his/her absence.
- 3. **COORDINATION OF NURSING ACTIVITIES.**
  - ✓ To harmonize nursing activities for appropriate care.
  - ✓ To ensure appropriate skill mix of nursing personnel and auxiliary staff through proper scheduling for quality patient care.
  - ✓ To harmonize training plan for nurses to ensure availability of nursing harmonized services.
  - ✓ To liaise with departmental heads to ensure efficient health care delivery.
  - ✓ To synchronize nursing protocols and policies on prevention of medico-legal hazards.
  - ✓ To compile a comprehensive nursing personnel work plan from all units.
  - ✓ To compile departmental statistics for record, reporting and reference and make necessary recommendations.
  - ✓ To coordinate the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) attainment amongst nursing personnel.
  - ✓ To oversee implementation of the clinical objectives by the nursing neophytes from various settings.
- 4. **PATIENT AND CLIENT CARE**
  - ✓ To ensure implementation of nursing procedures according to policies and philosophy of nursing to maintain high standards of nursing care.
  - ✓ To implement expert nursing care to the critically ill and complex patients/ clients to assist in quick recovery.
  - ✓ To facilitate patients' transfers/referrals.

**JOB SPECIFICATION**  
Degree in Nursing Administration plus Diploma in General Nursing and Diploma in Midwifery plus 3 years' experience in managerial position.

**OR**  
Degree in Nursing (Generic) + postgraduate/post basic diploma in nursing administration plus 5 years working experience in managerial position.  
Computer literacy  
Up to date Registration with Lesotho Nursing Council (LNC)

**HOW TO APPLY**  
Suitably qualified and experienced candidates should submit their applications, including curriculum vitae (CV) with three (3) available referees, certified copies of passport/ID, educational certificates and transcripts to: Tebellong Hospital, Private Bag 608, Qacha's Nek 600, Lesotho OR in sealed envelopes marked with the address above at CHAL Secretariat, Tebellong Hospital pigeon hole, OR send via email in PDF to [cdnsteb@gmail.com](mailto:cdnsteb@gmail.com) on or before the 1st March 2023 at 12 noon.

**Disclaimer:**  
Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Tebellong LECSA Hospital reserves the right to appoint suitable candidates that meet the application requirements. No late applications will be accepted.



**SITE WORX (PTY) LTD**

**VACANCY**

Location: Kao Mine  
Salary: Negotiable on experience

SITE WORX (PTY) LTD invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the position of a **COOK**

**Duties & Responsibilities include (but not limited to):**

- To ensure that all mise-en-place is always freshly prepared and on time
- To ensure that all dishes are being prepared to the correct recipe and to the correct quantity.
- Ensure compliance with all health and safety regulations within the kitchen area
- Creating new dishes and menus
- Monitor food stock and place orders
- To ensure that junior cooks and trainees receive the right training and optimum guidance.
- To deputize in the chef's absence and take charge of the kitchen when directed to do so.
- Respond to Customer inquiries and concerns personally.
- Maintain effective working relationships with other members of staff

**Qualifications & Requirements:**

- High school certificate / matric
- Qualification from culinary school or equivalent
- 3+ years Cook experience within a medium to large corporate company is essential.
- Knowledgeable of all dietary and religious requirements
- Good understanding of Food and Beverage trends
- Ability to work well under pressure and meet deadlines
- Ability to work flexible hours
- Familiarity with menu costing procedures
- Good communication skills

**How to apply:** Applications with curriculum vitae, certified copies of certificates & transcripts, names and telephones of three(3) contactable referees should be sent to the following email address: [siteworx@stormmountaindiamonds.com](mailto:siteworx@stormmountaindiamonds.com) on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.

## Comment

# Sin taxes: balanced approach required.

PRIME Minister Sam Matekane's governments moved swiftly to implement the Alcohol and Tobacco Levy Act, 2023, which has seen alcohol and tobacco levies hiked by 15 and 30 percent respectively. The result has been a major spike in the prices of these commodities.

The protests from the alcohol and tobacco sector have been persistent. The sector is unrelenting in its quest to have the levies reversed. It argues the levies have killed the industry and its downstream industries. On the other hand, the government has been quite frank about why it imposed the hefty levies. While former prime minister Moeketsi Majoro, under whose administration the levies were initially mooted, had created the impression that they were solely meant to raise resources for the fiscus, finance minister Retselisitsoe Matlanyane has since painted a different picture.

At a recent meeting in parliament with stakeholders from the alcohol and tobacco sector, she made it clear that her government's main aim in passing the levies was to curtail the alarming levels of substance and alcohol abuse among the youth. She said the effect of alcohol and substance abuse on the government's allocation to the ministry of health was immense. More resources were being used in treating alcohol and substance abusers than what was being accrued from the "sin taxes". The accuracy of the minister's figures is a debatable point. It is also neither here nor there. The disagreements over the tobacco and alcohol levies have now spilled into the courts with an organisation representing restaurants owners and other alcohol outlets going to the High Court to try and seek the reversal of the levies.

### This is a delicate matter.

Dr Matlanyane has told the relevant stakeholders that they are day dreaming if they think her government will reverse the sin taxes. She made it clear that the government's hope is that through the Alcohol and Tobacco Levy Act, 2023, it could reduce alcohol abuse in the country as this was a serious concern. A firm Dr Matlanyane said the impact of alcohol abuse was worrisome and evident in the health sector "where the government's expenditure keeps increasing". "Although the country does not rank high in the statistics of substance abuse, we have seen a high increase in substance use, especially the usage of alcohol amongst the youth. What is shocking is that we have observed that they start using at an early age thus consuming alcohol at primary school level," Dr Matlanyane said.

The negative impact of alcohol and drug abuse on families and society is evident. That much cannot be disputed. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) 3.3 million deaths in a year around the globe are as a result of substance abuse. Drug abuse also puts a heavy financial burden on individuals, families, and society. "Children growing up in households where drug abuse is prevalent may be more likely to experience neglect, abuse, separation from their families, and long-term health problems. Additionally, drug abuse can have a ripple effect on a child's social and economic well-being, ultimately affecting their ability to reach their full potential and participate fully in the society," WHO says. Again, various health reports state that, the usage of cigarettes, heroine, alcohol, and other substances is a global problem that has a particularly negative impact on young people. Internationally, there are 2 billion alcohol users, 1.3 billion smokers, and 185 million drug users. Tobacco and alcohol consumption account for around 5.4 percent and 3.7 percent of the global burden of disease, respectively. If one considers these statistics, then government cannot be faulted for its decision. However, the stakeholders in the alcohol and tobacco sector also have some valid points. Hiking levies is not going to price alcohol and tobacco products out of the reach of Basotho. They will simply cross into South Africa to buy alcohol cheaply; thanks to the porousness of our borders and the easy access into SA through undesignated points. Smuggling is thus going to be a major problem depriving the government of the very argument it makes about making alcohol prohibitively expensive for the young and others. The tobacco and alcohol sector make a valid point that thousands of jobs will have to be shed as stakeholders will have to contend with cheaper smuggled products. Hiking levies alone is not a panacea to the problem of underage drinking. The issue presents a difficult conundrum. Both parties make points that are valid. The country cannot afford to lose the jobs in the "sin sector". It also has no wherewithal to counter smuggling. The government is also right in wanting to curb alcohol and substance abuse. But hiking levies on its own will not achieve that. Perhaps there is still need for a much more vigorous debate to address the government's concerns without killing the alcohol sector completely as the sin taxes will surely do. Hopefully a more balanced and nuanced approach could emerge at the end of a vigorous debate. The alcohol and tobacco industries have a moral obligation to explain their efforts to contain alcohol and drug abuse. At the same time, the importance of their sector must be acknowledged in creating jobs and raising revenues for the fiscus. It is a delicate balance.

The Presidency  
Union Buildings  
Government Avenue,  
Pretoria  
Private Bag X1000,  
Pretoria,  
0001

19th May 2023

Dear President Cyril Ramaphosa,

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Mr. President, when this project was concluded under the 1986 LHWP Treaty, it was celebrated for the immense economic returns that would accrue to both Lesotho and South Africa including sustainable development for local affected communities. South Africa and Lesotho made an undertaking, in the Treaty, "to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the implementation, operation and maintenance of the Project are compatible with the protection of the existing quality of the environment and, in particular, shall pay due regard to the maintenance of the welfare of persons and communities immediately affected by the project." The reality for communities however, is in stark contrast to this undertaking.

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While there is a responsibility by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority to uphold the agreement, there is a significant perception among communities affected that impacts the image of South Africa negatively. This fundamentally detracts from South Africa's Africa Agenda and desire to be a partner to Africans. Moreover, affected communities are likely to seek further economic opportunities in South Africa.

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Respectfully,

Signed:

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2. Survivors of Lesotho Dams (SOLD)
3. Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)
4. Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC)

CYRIL Ramaphosa.



# Sunday Express

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Maseru Lesotho  
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ADEVERTISING: sales@lestimes.co.ls  
NEWS: editor@lestimes.co.ls



# Have your say

Sunday Express

May 21 - 27 2023

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

The Editor Sunday Express,  
No. 12282 - 235, Lancers Road,  
Maseru West, Maseru, Lesotho  
editor@sundayexpress.co.ls

## Colours and cultures enrich humanity

**T**HE World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development falls on May 21st, and is a reminder of the beauty and richness of different cultures, and the need to value the variety of colours and cultures that enrich the human family.

Differences are not only in the human family, but are apparent throughout the whole of nature. A beautiful garden is normally made of flowers of different colours, charm and beauty and shrubs and trees of different types and sizes.

Similarly the variety of colour and culture enriches the world of humanity. According to the Baha'i Writings: "The diversity in the human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord." and emphasizing that "If you meet those of different race and colour from yourself, do not mistrust them and withdraw yourself into your shell of conventionality, but rather be glad and show them kindness. Think of them as different coloured roses growing in the beautiful garden of humanity, and rejoice to be among them."

However, there is often suspicion of, and even mistrust towards, those who are from a different background, let alone entertaining the thought of uniting with them. We are occasionally encouraged to be tolerant of each other. But is tolerance sufficient?

**We are members of one human family**  
The variety of colour and culture is what makes our world a beautiful place to live



in. The natural diversity of temperament and talents among individuals, as well as humanity's varied and rich experiences, cultures, and viewpoints, contribute to the humanity's progress and well-being.

The Bahá'í International Community, in a statement entitled 'The Prosperity of Humankind', says: "Since the body of humankind is one and indivisible, each member of the race is born into the world as a trust of the whole. ...The principle of collective trusteeship creates also the right of every person to expect that those cultural conditions essential to his or her identity enjoy the protection of national and international law. ... the immense wealth of cultural diversity achieved over thousands of years is vital to the social

and economic development of a human race experiencing its collective coming-of-age. It represents a heritage that must be permitted to bear its fruit in a global civilization".

But various types of discrimination, due to differences in nationality, race, religion, gender or ethnic background, are persisting. Narrow self-interest and feelings of superiority towards fellow human beings, are by-products of materialism.

The Bahá'í International Community states that "at the root of all forms of discrimination and intolerance is the erroneous idea that humankind is somehow composed of separate and distinct races, peoples or castes, and that those sub-groups innately possess varying intellectual, moral, and/or physical capacities, which in turn justify different forms of treatment. The reality is that there is only the one human race. We are a single people, inhabiting the planet Earth, one human family bound together in a common destiny, a single entity created from one same substance".

### A global consciousness and love for humanity

To achieve unity of race and religion, we need to accept the oneness of humanity and to develop a global consciousness and a love for humanity as a whole.

Not by a suppression of differences that we arrive at unity, but rather, by an increased awareness of, and respect for, the values of each culture, and indeed of each individual.

Currently, what is causing division, hatred, warfare, and bloodshed is prejudice. Prejudice comes from the belief that one group or a part of humanity is superior to another.

Overcoming our prejudices, which are major barriers to unity, and accepting the oneness of humanity requires a profound change of heart and a new mind-set. It is the power of the Word of God that can produce such a necessary transformation.

The Bahá'í Writings affirm that: "Every human creature is the servant of God. All have been created and reared by the power and favor of God; all have been blessed with the bounties of the same Sun of divine truth; all have quaffed from the fountain of the infinite mercy of God; and all in His estimation and love are equal as servants. He is beneficent and kind to all. Therefore, no one should glorify himself over another; no one should manifest pride or superiority toward another; no one should look upon another with scorn and contempt; and no one should deprive or oppress a fellow creature".

Colours and cultures enrich the human family. To create a universal culture of collaboration and conciliation between people of different cultures and backgrounds, we need to believe in and practice the principle of the oneness of humanity, and to return to spiritual awareness and responsibility.

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



### Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

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

CONTRACT LHDA NO. 2193

CONSTRUCTION PF KATSE DIVERSION TUNNEL NO.2 PLUGGING

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) invites tenders from suitably qualified bidders for the **CONSTRUCTION OF KATSE DIVERSION TUNNEL NO.2 PLUGGING**.

Tender documents can be downloaded at NO COST from LHDA website: <https://www.lhda.org.ls/lhdaweb/procurement/currenttenders>

from the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Alternatively, documents may be obtained for a non-refundable cost of M3000.00, between the hours of 09:00 and 15:00 on normal business days from the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, LHDA Tower Building, Kingsway Road, Maseru.

A **Compulsory** pre-tender meeting and site visit will be held at Katse Operations Building - Katse on the **1<sup>st</sup> June 2023**, at 10H00. The site visit will follow immediately after the pre bid meeting.

Sealed tenders clearly marked Tender for **CONSTRUCTION OF KATSE DIVERSION TUNNEL NO.2 PLUGGING**, bearing no identification of the bidder should be deposited at Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, LHDA Tower Building, Kingsway; Maseru not later than 12:00hrs on the **13<sup>th</sup> July 2023**.



### Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

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

### SALE! SALE! SALE OF DIESEL 500

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) invites interested companies/Associations/Individuals to buy Diesel at its premises at Mohale. Mohale is about 97km from Maseru on a mountainous roads. The Diesel was procured in 2017 and its on underground tanks. The price of the Diesel is **M8.50** per litre inclusive of VAT.

The minimum to be sold will be on the **31<sup>st</sup> May 2023** from 09h00.

The Diesel will be "sold as is"  
LHDA is not responsible for the after effects that may be due to the use of this Diesel.

# Yourstars

## Aries - March 21 - April 20

Try not to judge too quickly. Deception and doubts may surround your involvement with friends and relatives. You can't win and they won't listen. You will find it easy finalizing personal papers if you make an effort.

Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

## Taurus - April 21 - May 20

Don't involve yourself in the emotional problems of those you work with. Get involved in volunteer work that will bring you satisfaction, not an empty wallet. Don't let your emotions interfere with your efficiency. Balance is required if you want stability.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

## Gemini - May 21 - June 21

You will learn valuable skills if you sign up for seminars this week. Physical work or exercise should be part of your schedule. Don't go hog wild when it comes to entertainment or you could find yourself short of funds at the end of the month. You may have difficulties finishing projects you start.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## Cancer - June 22 - July 22

Make some notes regarding the changes that you should make. Lighten up your serious attitude. You can make financial gains if you are prepared to take a risk. Make sure that you make reservations early.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

## Leo - July 23 - August 22

Concentrate on spending quality time with children and friends. You can gain valuable cultural knowledge through dealing with foreigners. Work on legitimate financial deals that may enable you to bring in some extra cash. Travel for business or pleasure will be enlightening.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## Virgo - August 23 - September 22

Get busy putting your place in order. Do not let the reactions of others get you going. Look into physical activities that will help get rid of some of that tension you may be feeling. You should be making plans to spend some time with the ones you love.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

## Libra - September 23 - October 22

You will be subject to pushy individuals if you get involved in uncertain organizations. Don't deny yourself this week. You can finish projects early, which will bring you praise from superiors. Problems with large corporations or institutions are apparent.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## Scorpio - October 23 - November 21

Avoid any over indulgences. Your energetic nature and ability to initiate projects will add to your popularity. You can ask for favors or run your ideas by those who will be able to support your objectives. Don't try to twist things around so that they sound more enticing.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## Sagittarius - November 22 - December 20

Friends from your past may come back into your life. You can make a big difference to children if you are understanding of the difficulties they are experiencing. You might be a tad overindulgent this week. Travel will initiate new friendships or love connections.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

## Capricorn - December 21 - January 19

Build on friendship rather than starting out in an intimate encounter. Take a close look at any contracts you've signed in order to be sure exactly where you stand. Hobbies will be good for your emotional well being. Try not to allow others to burden you with additional responsibilities.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## Aquarius - January 20 - February 18

You could be drawn to events that concern children. Get involved in groups and organizations that are of a distinguished nature. Children will keep you busy. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunities that exist.

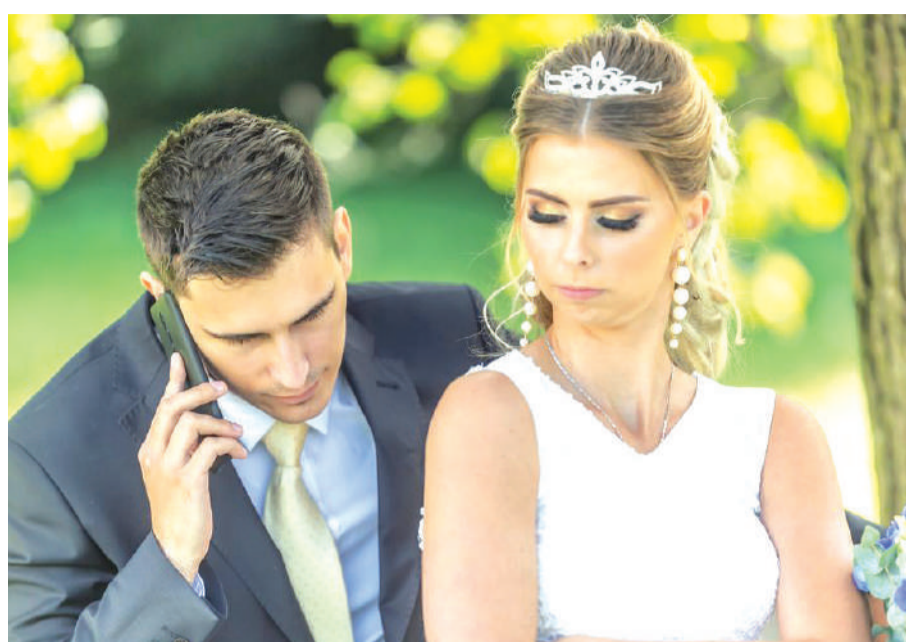
Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

## Pisces - February 19 - March 20

Your high energy, original ideas, and excellent memory will aid your accomplishments. Your unique approach to life will interest others. Your intuition will be right on. Follow your feelings in matters pertaining to financial investments. Don't let your family put demands on you.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

# Bride threatens to take 'flaky' family to court if they don't come to her wedding



THE bride doesn't trust her guests to abide by their RSVP.

**T**HE bride claimed she can't trust her family to turn up to her wedding, so she plans to 'take them to court' for the cost of their food if they RSVP but don't show up.

When you're planning a wedding, having your guests reply to your invite can be hugely helpful in letting you know how many people you'll need to cater for. And with catering costs usually increasing with the more guests you invite, it can be frus-

trating if you have people that RSVP to your wedding and then don't show up.

To combat this problem, one bride has taken some extreme measures - as she's threatening to take her wedding guests to court if they RSVP to her special day and then don't show up.

The bride said her family can be "flaky" at times so she can't trust them to actually turn up even if they say they will, so she wants to make sure she can recoup the costs of catering and services if they decide not to come.

In a post on *Facebook* which was later shared to *Reddit*, she wrote: "I love my

family dearly but sometimes they are flaky. I'm getting married in October of 2024 and when I send out invitations, I want to put on the invitation that if they RSVP and don't come, I'm taking them to court for the cost of their portion of the food and services I paid for.

"Is that tacky? Obviously, there's no cost to them if they RSVP and actually come."

Commenters on the *Reddit* post were baffled by the bride's idea though, as many of them said her claims likely wouldn't stand up in court because RSVPing to an event isn't a legally binding contract.

One person explained: "She would have to file each claim individually in small claims court.

Each individual claim would get thrown out because there is literally nothing in contract law in any universe that would say an RSVP is a contract. And if any one of the defendants had given her a gift that would likely count as fulfilling their side of the bargain anyway."

While another said: "How can you be so clueless that you don't realise this is tacky?"

And a third posted: "Step one on how to ensure there are zero guests attending your wedding."

Meanwhile, another commenter said they could understand the bride's frustration after they had a family of six people RSVP to their wedding and not show up, which cost them around £800.

However, despite the incident leaving them "upset", they still wouldn't dream of taking the family to court.

They wrote: "I had a family of six RSVP and not show up. Didn't have a great excuse either, just didn't want to come. We had a weekend of stuff going on so it cost me about \$1,000 (£800). I'm obviously upset, but court? No." — *Mirror*

## Stranger than Fiction

**A**MAN was left incensed with his neighbour after they put up a sign on their door telling delivery drives to send all parcels to his address — without asking permission.

If you've ever been out of the house when a package you ordered was delivered, then you'll know that sometimes the courier will leave your parcel with a neighbour for you to collect when you get home.

And while most people will happily take in the occasional parcel, it's not something that should be taken for granted, as your neighbours are doing you a favour and can refuse to accept any more packages if they get fed up.

However, one man has claimed his neighbour has completely taken advantage of his past kindness in accepting packages on their behalf — as they've put up a sign in their window claiming that all parcels should now be delivered to him directly, without even asking his permission first.

The man explained the house next door to his is a house in multiple occupation (HMO) and the tenants inside the property change regularly, so he doesn't really know his neighbours and has no idea which one put the note up.

He also claimed that because there are multiple people living in the house, they get a lot of deliveries, meaning that when they all come to his house instead, his living room "looks like a DPD warehouse" or a post office.

And while he didn't mind accepting the occasional parcel for his neighbours, he decided he will never take another one after they took advantage of his kindness.

In a post on *Reddit*, he explained: "My neighbour has just put a 'deliver parcels to (my house number)' sign on their door. I have never spoken to this neighbour. It's not too petty to refuse any parcels, right? I've had three p\*\*\*ed off delivery drivers so far."

# My cheeky neighbour uses my house as a post office

## ● I refuse to accept his deliveries' ...



THE neighbour constantly has parcels delivered to their address.

He later clarified his situation in an edit which read: "I should add that this is an HMO, and the multiple tenants rarely stay more than a few months. Hence why I don't get to know them and why it will be difficult to track down which one put the note up.

"It also means that deliveries can reach double digits on a daily basis, interrupting my work and making my house look like a DPD warehouse.

I once had someone try to deliver a washing machine for them.

"Finally, I have historically taken parcels in, but the note (without permission) has changed that."

Commenters were quick to tell the man not to accept any more parcels for his neighbours, and several offered advice on what he could do to prevent further deliveries.

One person wrote: "A handwritten note, attached to your door, saying 'not currently accepting parcels for other properties' should do the trick with minimum fuss. If

people like your neighbour don't have the common courtesy to ask you first before instructing that their deliveries are sent to your address, then you should absolutely refuse any parcels for the neighbour."

While another added: "Personally I'd just have a note saying I'm not taking parcels, especially when they couldn't even be bothered to ask you and there are loads of them, and I'd just never answer the door."

And a third said: "I have a similar situation with new neighbours who moved in late last year.

Before I'd even met them, their parcels started turning up at ours. They took ages to come round and get their stuff (sometimes a couple of weeks), and kept insisting they don't know why couriers keep dropping them off with us.

"The last time I answered the door to a courier with another one of their deliveries I asked the guy why he didn't leave it on their doorstep and it turns out they've been specifying on the delivery instructions to leave stuff at ours. Cheeky s\*\*s." — *Mirror*

# LGBTIQ+ victory in Namibia a reminder that Africa is not a country



DOZENS of people cheer and dance as they take part in the Namibian Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual and Transexual (LGBT) community pride Parade in the streets.

**E**ARLIER this week the Namibian Supreme Court ruled that the government's refusal to recognise the validity of same-sex marriages concluded outside Namibia for the purpose of immigration law infringes the interrelated rights to dignity and equality guaranteed in the Namibian Constitution. While the judgement will, for now, only benefit a few same-sex couples who marry elsewhere, it contains powerful language that could be used to challenge the validity of other legislation that currently discriminates against LGBTIQ+ individuals in Namibia.

His important victory for LGBTIQ+ rights in Namibia follows in the wake of the adoption of a draconian Anti-Homosexuality Bill by the Ugandan parliament, as well as news that an opposition MP had tabled a similar Bill — the Family Protection Bill — before the Kenyan parliament. Some might therefore interpret the Namibian development as bucking a general trend of intensified oppression of queer people by governments in sub-Saharan Africa.

But the story is more complicated than this.

The first thing to note is that developments in Uganda and Kenya are linked to a concerted campaign in at least 10 countries on the African continent against gay rights, abortion, birth control, and sex education by a far-right US Christian organisation called Family Watch International and its president, Sharon Slater. Slater and her organisation were actively involved in campaigning and strategising for the adoption of the Uganda Bill. She met with Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni on 2 April this year urging him to add an exemption to the law for LGBTIQ+ people who were being subjected to so-called conversion therapy — a set of discredited practices that attempt to change a person's sexual orientation.

The second thing to note is that over the past decade, several countries on the African continent repealed colonial-era laws that criminalised same-sex acts. These countries include Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho, and Seychelles. These also happen to be countries not targeted by anti-LGBTIQ+ hate campaigns by far-right US Christian groups like Family Watch International. Different states on the African continent are therefore moving in different directions on this issue.

But because so many people who write about the continent persist in portraying it as a single country or amorphous entity, these complexities tend to get lost. (I am reminded here of Nigerian author Dipo Faloyin's acerbic but inspiring book *Africa is Not a Country*.)

Notes on a Bright Continent, which in turn, was inspired by Kenyan author Binyavanga Wainaina's 2005 magnificent Granta essay, "How To Write about Africa".)

The recent judgement of a 5-judge panel of the Namibian Supreme Court in *Digashu v Government of the Republic of Namibia, Seiler-Lilles v Government of the Republic of Namibia* could be added to the positive column, as it opens the door for the possible decriminalisation of same-sex acts in Namibia. The majority judgement (authored by Chief Justice Shivute) came as somewhat of a surprise. This is because in 2001 the Namibian Supreme Court declared in *Immigration Selection Board v Frank* that "equality before the law for each person does not mean equality before the law for each person's sexual relationships". That judgement also stated that the term "family institution" in the Namibian Constitution and other international instruments "envisages a formal relationship between male and female", for the purpose of procreation. In *Digashu*, the majority held that these statements in *Frank* amounted to obiter dicta, thus merely the expression of an opinion which was not essential to the decision and was therefore not legally binding on the court in the present case. But the court went further by expressing its disapproval of the statements made in *Frank*, thus distancing the court from the conservative approach taken

in the earlier judgement.

For me, the second striking aspect of the majority judgement is its rejection of the argument that public opinion on homosexuality should be decisive. In his lone (reactionary) dissent, justice Mainga relied heavily on public opinion, complaining that the majority judgement "trashes the historical, social and religious convictions of the Namibian people".

Holding that the impugned provision infringed on the right to dignity guaranteed in article 8 of the Namibian Constitution, the majority confirmed the position in Namibian law that section 8 "does not permit limitations" and is thus "inviolable", but that the ambit of the right to dignity must be determined "with reference to the constitutional values, the aspirations, norms, expectations and sensitivities of the Namibian people as expressed in the Constitution".

The court nevertheless held that while public opinion as expressed by the elected representatives in parliament could be relevant to determine the views and aspirations of the Namibian people, "it is ultimately for the court to determine the content and impact of constitutional values in fulfilling its constitutional mandate to protect fundamental rights entrenched in the Constitution". The majority proceeded to endorse the following passage from the judgement of the South African Constitutional Court in *S v Makwanyane*:

The third striking aspect of the majority judgement relates to its finding that the impugned provision also infringed on the right to equality guaranteed in article 10(1) of the Namibian Constitution, which states that "all persons shall be equal before the law". Although the reasoning of this part of the judgement is not always easy to follow, the majority did not seem to rely on article 10(2) of the Namibian Constitution (which prohibits discrimination of various listed grounds including "social status" and "sex") because this section does not expressly prohibit discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation.

The applicants had argued that they were being discriminated against on the grounds of "social status" and "sex". Regrettably, the majority did not express an opinion on the validity of these arguments, leaving the matter open to be decided on another day.

It nevertheless found that the impugned provision infringed on article 10(1) of the Constitution, because the differentiation between same-sex spouses and heterosexual spouses was "not reasonable in the sense of not being rationally connected to a legitimate statutory object". This was so, first, because the majority held that the government had not advanced any legitimate reason for the differentiation. It had merely relied on the earlier judgement of the Supreme Court in *Frank* as justification for the provision. But even if the govern-

ment had advanced other justifications for the impugned provision, it may have run into problems, given the fact (as I explained above) that the court rejected the idea that public opinion, and specifically public prejudice about homosexuality, could ever justify discrimination against LGBTIQ+ individuals.

Second, this conclusion is bolstered by the fact that the majority emphasised the harmful impact of the discrimination on same-sex couples, suggesting that it would be difficult to justify this kind of discrimination because of this harmful impact, which the majority described "far-reaching and potentially devastating when compared to spouses in a heterosexual marriage". The majority further noted that the "result of the differentiation has led to a profound impairment of their fundamental human dignity at a deeply intimate level of their human existence". The majority again quoted approvingly from (and explicitly endorsed) a judgement of the South African Constitutional Court, this time from *National Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Equality v Minister of Justice*, where justice Ackerman held that:

"The sting of past and continuing discrimination against both gays and lesbians is the clear message that it conveys, namely, that they, whether viewed as individuals or in their same-sex relationships, do not have the inherent dignity and are not worthy of the human respect possessed by and accorded to heterosexuals and their relationships. This discrimination occurs at a deeply intimate level of human existence and relationality. It denies to gays and lesbians that which is foundational to our Constitution and the concepts of equality and dignity, which at this point are closely intertwined, namely that all persons have the same inherent worth and dignity as human beings, whatever their other differences may be."

Significantly, this passage comes from a judgement in which the South African Constitutional Court invalidated the country's colonially imposed sodomy laws. It, therefore, suggests that the Namibian Supreme Court would be ready to invalidate that country's sodomy laws if such a challenge came before it.

While the struggle for the full recognition of LGBTIQ+ rights in Namibia is far from won, the judgement is a significant first step towards that goal. — DM

Peter Fabricius

## SADC prepares to go back to the future with troop deployment in eastern DRC

### Eastern DRC

At a meeting of the SADC organ's defence sub-committee just before the Windhoek summit, officials were harsh in their assessment of the EACRF. They appeared to agree with DRC's view that it was not fulfilling the status of forces agreement under which it was deployed and should withdraw.

The officials complained that the EACRF's overly friendly approach towards the "M23/RDF terrorists" is not going down well with the local population. (RDF refers to the Rwanda Defence Force.) The SADC officials said locals considered the EACRF to be passive, citing an example of EACRF troops standing by while Rwandan soldiers marched through the area. As a result, the M23 returned to territories it had occupied, and intended to attack Goma as it notoriously did in 2012 — prompting the FIB intervention.

The defence officials also noted a controversial speech by Rwandan president Paul Kagame in Cotonou last month. Kagame reportedly said colonial powers had given parts of Rwanda to the DRC and Uganda, and that the M23 rebellion was a matter of "Congolese claiming their Rwandan heritage". SADC officials took this as a sign that by backing the M23 — which he has denied — Kagame is trying to seize eastern DRC territory, which he regards as Rwandan.

The other question about SADC's proposed new force is why it's necessary when the FIB is already in the field. The defence officials noted the FIB's lack of effectiveness for various reasons, among them the unpopularity of Monusco among ordinary

Congolese and the decrease in FIB's capabilities. Another factor cited is that Monusco's mandate, which encompasses the FIB, ends in 2024.

The officials nevertheless suggest that SADC should again appeal to the UN to beef up the FIB's capabilities — perhaps as an interim measure — and recommend that the FIB should be last to leave if and when Monusco withdraws. The report recommends a brigade-strength SADC Standby Force armed with attack helicopters and artillery to tackle the M23 and other armed rebel groups tormenting the region. This was the recommendation, at least in principle, which the summit adopted. No suggestions were made about which SADC countries should contribute troops or when the force should be deployed — although the urgent need to stabilise the east before DRC's national elections in December was emphasised.

Many questions remain, not least of SADC capacity. Already the SADC Mission in Mozambique (Samim), deployed in July 2021 to neutralise insurgents in Cabo Delgado, is struggling because of military deficiencies. Pierre Boisselet, a Researcher at the Congo Research Group, wonders if all SADC countries would back the intervention force. Mozambique might object, given its reliance on Rwandan forces to keep the insurgents at bay. And Angola's President Joao Lourenco has been active in peace efforts between Tshisekedi and Kagame. The perennial question of finance also looms large — and is one that currently dominates debates at the UN Security Council about African peace missions. Where would the money come from since

SADC has already appealed to external sources to finance Samim? Boisselet believes what comes next after Monusco's departure could also be at stake. "Probably SADC wants to be part of the picture, or even thinks it can take over from Monusco, including by receiving the funding."

There is more than a hint of that in the defence committee's report. It notes that in September 2022, SADC defence ministers asked for a review and finalisation of an earlier plan to deploy a division-strength SADC force in DRC after Monusco and the FIB withdraw. Some suggest South Africa's ambition to regain lost influence in the region could be behind the 8 May proposal. It's unclear how much of the strong sentiment in the defence subcommittee's report is shared by higher echelons. And many other questions also remain.

Is Tshisekedi 'forum-shopping' between the EACRF and SADC, desperately searching for help in defeating the M23 to boost his re-election chances in December? And is SADC falling for that? Does the regional bloc have a political strategy that underpins its proposed military intervention? It seems likely that the grand summit of SADC, the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and Economic Community for Central African States (Eccas), which the SADC troika proposed to coordinate all the interventions, could occasion complex and heated debate. — DM

Peter Fabricius, Consultant, Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Pretoria.

**R**USSIA issues arrest order for British ICC prosecutor after Putin warrant Interior ministry seeks to detain Karim Khan in wake of allegations against president over abducted Ukrainian children.

The Russian government has put the British prosecutor of the international criminal court (ICC) on a wanted list in an act of retribution after the Hague-based court issued an arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin for allegedly overseeing the abduction of Ukrainian children.

The arrest order said Russia's interior ministry was seeking to detain Karim Khan, who has served as the ICC prosecutor since 2021. In March, the ICC issued arrest warrants for Putin and Russia's commissioner for children's rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, on allegations they facilitated the forced deportation of thousands of children from Ukraine to Russia, where many have been placed with Russian families.

Neither have denied that Ukrainian children have been sent to Russian families. Lvova-Belova in February said she had "adopted" a 15-year-old child from Mariupol, telling Putin: "I know what it means to be a mother of a child from Donbas."

As the court's prosecutor, Khan played an intimate role in the arrest warrant against Putin. He visited Ukraine four times in the year before the accusations were made public, leading to a ruling that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that Mr Putin bears individual criminal responsibility" for the child abductions.

Kyiv has accused Russia of abducting more than 16,000 children from the country since the full-scale invasion began in February last year. Khan was previously named in a criminal case opened by the Russian investigative committee, which also accused three judges of the court of making false accusations of guilt and of preparing an attack on a representative of a foreign state. Khan's addition to the wanted list is the latest step in the growing confrontation between Russia and Ukraine's western allies, which the Kremlin is now seeking to portray as an existential conflict. The arrest

# Russia issues arrest order for British ICC prosecutor after Putin warrant



KARIM Khan.

warrant for Putin has provoked a strong reaction from the Kremlin and Putin's allies. The former presi-

dent Dmitry Medvedev called for a missile strike on the ICC in response to the arrest warrant. The state

Duma chair, Vyacheslav Volodin, said the warrant was equivalent to an act of aggression against Russia.

"Washington and Brussels understand: Putin is Russia," he said. — The Guardian

## G7 powers step up Russia sanctions in bid to slow



VOLODYMYR Zelensky.

**L**EADERS of the world's richest democracies agreed on Friday to stiffen sanctions against Russia and pledged financial support for Ukraine as its president, Volodymyr Zelensky, prepared to join them in the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

The Group of Seven leaders are also expected to address growing tension between their economies and China during their summit that runs until Sunday. Officials said Zelensky would attend in person over the weekend.

The leaders said in a joint statement exist-

ing measures against Russia would be broadened and any exports that could help it in its 15-month war against Ukraine would be restricted across the G7 countries.

"This includes exports of industrial machinery, tools, and other technology that Russia uses to rebuild its war machine," they said in a joint statement, adding that efforts would continue to restrict Russian revenues from its trade in metals and diamonds.

Amid evidence that existing sanctions were being weakened by circumvention, they said

the group was "engaging" with countries through which any restricted G7 goods, services or technology could transit through to Russia.

"We note and encourage commitments made by these countries to ensure our measures are not circumvented and have the intended effect," they said, without naming any territories.

Breakdowns of German trade data show that its exports to countries bordering Russia have risen sharply, fuelling concerns that

about the re-exportation of goods from those neighbouring states.

The group of rich democracies reaffirmed their condemnation of what they called Russia's aggression and promised further support for Ukraine, in terms of military help and financial aid for its war-shattered economy this year and next.

The members of the G7 — the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — are also expected to debate strategy on the Ukraine conflict that shows no sign of easing. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who represents Hiroshima in Japan's lower house of parliament, said he chose the city for the summit to focus attention on arms control.

Hiroshima, and another Japanese city, Nagasaki, were destroyed by U.S. nuclear attacks 78 years ago that ended World War Two.

Zelensky will attend on Sunday, two officials involved in the G7 summit said, declining to be identified because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Oleksiy Danilov, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, told state television that Zelensky's attendance was "absolutely essential in order to defend our interests".

Having emerged as the world's richest nations after World War Two, the G7 democracies have become increasingly challenged by an ascendant China and unpredictable Russia.

Leaders are expected to issue a statement with a "section specific to China", listing issues that include "economic coercion and other behaviour", a U.S. official said.

They are focusing on how to warn the world's second-biggest economy against what they see as a threat to global supply chains and economic security without alienating a powerful and important trade partner.

— DM

# Could you handle these 7 of the world's most stressful jobs?

# Careers



CHRONIC stress can have a bad influence on one's health, work performance, and cognitive function.

nication strategy, as well as safeguarding the company's reputation.

The goal of their work is to obtain public awareness and support through well organised public relations initiatives. One wrong move, and they get their organisation in hot water.

Conversely, if a company is embroiled in a scandal, they are responsible for cleaning up the mess.

### 10 111 operator

10 111 operators work from a call centre and receive various reports about crimes. This includes details that may be emotionally disturbing to the average person.

According to the SAPS, "10 111 operators work from a call centre and receive various reports about crimes. This includes details that may be emotionally disturbing to the average person. "Try to keep the conversation as brief as possible. However, the call centre operator requires information about the emergency to ensure your safety and the speedy response of the police."

### Airline pilot

They control and operate aeroplanes along pre-

determined routes and during take-offs and landings. During the flight, they keep an eye on the engines, fuel consumption, and other aircraft systems.

Due to the workload, duties, and safety of the hundreds of people they fly across the world, being an airline pilot can be an incredibly stressful profession. Chronic stress can have a bad influence on one's health, work performance, and cognitive function.

### Firefighter

Firefighters respond to fires, accidents, and other emergencies that endanger life and property. In an emergency, full-time firemen assist to safeguarding the public. They react to a wide range of situations, including fires, automobile accidents, chemical spills, flooding, and water rescues.

### Healthcare worker

In a fast-paced and dynamic clinical setting, a healthcare worker is responsible for aiding and caring for patients. They are responsible for changing dressings, taking vital signs and ensuring that each patient has a pleasant and safe recov-

ery space.

Some healthcare support employees help nurses and other higher-level medical personnel with day-to-day operations.

Having people's lives in your hands is unimaginably incredibly stressful. A huge number of healthcare workers died of Covid-19, with many living with a long-form of the virus which takes a toll on them everyday.

### Police officer

A police officer's primary responsibility is to enforce the law and safeguard the people.

They identify and prevent crime in specific regions while also completing supervisory responsibilities.

They may also take part in community safety programmes, which are crime prevention strategies. This is a dangerous job, with of-

ficers having to interact with criminals on a daily basis.

### Soldier

The SANDF's principal objective is to protect South Africa from external military aggression.

The other duties are incidental. Being a soldier is obviously a dangerous job, and these individuals may be called to combat at any time. — IOL Business

Sunday Express

May 21 - 27 2023

EVERY profession has its particular stressors, but some are much higher than the average worker can handle.

This can be in the form of strict deadlines, making split decisions that can impact people's lives and more.

Would you be able to survive these seven of some of the world's demanding jobs?

A public relations executive is in charge of planning, implementing, and assessing a company's commu-



KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

**MOHALE'S HOEK URBAN COUNCIL**  
TEL. #:22780359 Fax 22780359

LEKHOTLA LA TOROPO EA MOHALE'S HOEK URBAN COUNCIL LE PHATLALATSA BOJALEFA BA LITS'A TSE LATELANG.

NO.	MONGA SET'SA	MOJALEFA	SEBAKA	NOMORO	TS'EBELISO EA MOBU	SELEMO SEO MOFU A HLOKAHETSENG KA SONA
1.	SALEBOOREN RAMARUMO LE MALITEBOHO RAMARUMO	LITEBOHO RAMARUMO	HA RAMARUMO	HA SENA NOMORO	BOLULO	2002
2.	MONYANE MAKHETHA LE MANEO MAKHETHA	MAMOHAPI MAPETLA	MAKHETHENG HA MAPOTSANE (THOTENG)	HA SENA NOMORO	TEMO	1990
3.	MATHABO TSOKELE	MATSEPO KOENANE	MOHLAKENG	12591-785	BOLULO	
4.	TEBELLO MAKHETHA	MAMOILOA MAKHETHA	HA THABA BOSIU	HA SE NA NOMORO	TEMO	2023
5.	TEBELLO MAKHETHA	MAMOILOA MAKHETHA	HA THABA BOSIU	HA SENA NOMORO	BOLULO	2023
6.	MAMOJALEFA BENTELE	MOJALEFA MOTEITI	QALAKHENG	HA SE NA NOMORO	BOLULO	2023
7.	LEHLOHONOLO MOHLATHE	MATEBELE MOHLATHE	HA MAPOTSANE MAKHETHENG	HA SENA NOMORO	BOLULO	1982
8.	MAPESHOANE POSHOLI	MALENKA POSHOLI	MOHLAKENG	-223	BOLULO	2003
9.	KOTOKOTO SESOANE	LEHLOHONOLO SESOANE	THOTENG	HA SENA NOMORO	BOLULO	1984
10.	KOTOKOTO SESOANE	LEHLOHONOLO SESOANE	MOTSE MOCHA TLASA MABITLENG	HA SENA NOMORO	TEMO	1984
11.	MAMOTS'EARE NTS'ASA	MALEFETSANE TUMANE	THOTENG MATOEBENG	-468	BOLULO	

BATHO BOHLE BA KHATLANONG LE PHATLALATSO EA BOJALEFA BONA,BA KOPUOA HOITLALHEA OFISING EA LEKHOTLA LA TOROPO EA MOHALE 'SHOEK E FUMANEHANG PELA OFISI EA WASA [WASCO] PELE MATSATSI A MASHOME A MARARO [30DAYS] A FETA PHATLALATSO ENA E ENTSOE.

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# Manchester City win Premier League title for fifth time in six seasons

- third league crown in a row for Pep Guardiola's side ...
- FA Cup and Champions League finals to come for City ...



to strive for success going forward. It has been a season I will never forget. Our amazing fans have been with us every single step of the way. Without their amazing backing I don't think there is any way we would have been able to achieve what we have done these past six seasons. Their passion and support have been so important and inspirational for us all."

In mid-January Arsenal had an eight-point lead over City but Guardiola's side have overhauled them with three games to spare. City have won their past 11 matches in the league while the Gunners have collected maximum points in just two of their past eight games. City have been ruthless since mid-February, a period which saw them sweep aside Arsenal home and away to increase the pressure on Mikel Arteta's side.

Football Writers' player of the season Erling Haaland's 36 goals in the league have been crucial to City's success. The Norwegian's tally is a Premier League record, scoring more than a third of City's 92 league goals in 35 matches. City have currently scored the most goals in the league and conceded the fewest, a sign of their dominance.

Guardiola said on Friday that the Premier League is the "most important" to win because it takes a whole season of hard work. The Catalan's fifth English title as a manager puts him joint third with Sir Matt Busby and Tom Watson for league triumphs; only Sir Alex Ferguson, Bob Paisley and George Ramsey have won more.

City have three matches remaining, starting with Chelsea's visit to the Etihad on Sunday, before trips to Brighton and Brentford next week. Former City goalkeeper Alex Williams, who retires after 33 years working for the club, will hand the trophy to Gundogan after the match with Chelsea.

— The Guardian

**M**ANCHESTER City have won the Premier League title for the third season in a row after Arsenal were defeated 1-0 by Nottingham Forest on Saturday evening.

It is the fifth time in the past six seasons that City have secured top

spot under Pep Guardiola and is the first trophy of a potential treble, with Manchester United to come in the FA Cup final and a Champions League final against Internazionale to come next month.

"To have helped the club win a third straight Premier League title

is something very special," said the City captain Ilkay Gundogan. "The Premier League is without doubt the most demanding and competitive league in the world so that tells you everything about what an achievement this is. This squad is so talented and so special and to

have been captain this season has been an enormous privilege.

"To have won this trophy three times in a row and five times in six years is incredible. That quality and consistency helps sum up what Manchester City stand for and ensures the club will continue

**A**ND with that it was done. A title race that had promised so much came to its formal and premature end in bright spring sunshine as Arsenal's failure to defeat Nottingham Forest ensured that, for the fifth time in six seasons, the Premier League was won by Manchester City, who have three games still to play. But if that side of the equation was ultimately anti-climactic, for Forest there was ecstasy: they will be playing Premier League football again next season.

For others, next week's trip to Crystal Palace, blithely mid-table, might seem the perfect final-day fixture for a team in need of points. Palace's job is already done, their suitcases are already packed; they have no need for a dogfight. But Forest's away form is so poor — just seven points gathered in 18 games on the road this season — there was an awareness they could do with securing survival before then. Offered the opportunity by Everton's draw at Wolves earlier in the day, they seized it eagerly.

Whether you define what has happened to Arsenal as a choke or the inevitable consequence of chasing an almost indestructible opponent with a squad clearly lacking depth in certain key areas, or some combination of the two, what is undeniable is that Arsenal's season has dwindled miserably. Since throwing away that 2-0 lead at Anfield, they have won just two of eight games.

Arsenal, their pursuit of the implacable excellence of Manchester City no more than perfunctory, their place in next season's Champions League already secure, gave the sense of playing without a great deal of purpose. It wasn't that they were at half-pace or that a lot of players had been rested, but the lack of intensity was discernible. Everybody knew the title race was done, the mood of resignation so absolute that Forest fans' taunts that Arsenal were "top of the league and fucked it up" seemed oddly out of place, almost distasteful, and were soon discontinued.

Certainly there was a casualness about the Martin Odegaard pass that gifted Forest an opener. Morgan Gibbs-White, the outstanding success of the past year's transfer dealings, gladly seized possession, advanced and then released Taiwo Awoniyi with a perfectly weighted ball.

After a middling start to life at Forest following his move from Union Berlin, Awoniyi has ignited this month with doubles against Southampton and Chelsea. However sharp

## Nottingham Forest secure safety



AWONIYI (circled) celebrates with teammates as he scores against Arsenal to secure Premier League status for Nottingham Forest.

he may be, though, his finish here was fortunate, Gabriel's sliding challenge hooking the ball into his lower shin, from where it scooted over the sliding Aaron Ramsdale — a goal made by the precision of the pass.

Having apparently dragged themselves to safety once, Forest are having to do it again. This has been a season in four distinct phases: four points from the first eight games, 20 from the next 13, three from the next 11 and now seven from the four before this game. Is it over-simplistic to say that the seven January signings disrupted the patterns Steve Cooper had created having finally sifted through the 22 signings of the summer?

Probably not, but Danilo, bought from Palmeiras for £17.4m, is a clear asset and repeatedly troubled Thomas Partey, who was

forced to fill in at right-back in a defensive reshuffle in which Ben White was redeployed to the centre and Jakub Kiwior on the left.

Whether it was those changes at the back or despondency at the fizzling out of the title challenge, Arsenal struggled for rhythm. This was reminiscent of the defeat at Everton earlier in the season as they toiled in front of a noisy home support against aggressive and deep-lying opponents. Nothing quite came off.

There was a lot of shrugging. Bukayo Saka looked sad a lot. Odegaard seemed constantly to be making compensatory runs, as though by overt effort he could find redemption for his error. Gabriel Jesus has a face that always seems to be mid-complaint about something, but here that was accompanied by waving

arms until he was eventually booked after appealing for one penalty too many shortly after half-time.

There were a few corners, a few snap shots from distance, but the clearer chances were Forest's. Felipe and Gibbs-White both had opportunities to seal the win in the second half, but in truth they were never clinging on. The final quarter largely involved Arsenal passing the ball fruitlessly around and Forest players receiving treatment to a backdrop of red celebration.

What was striking was the lack of jeopardy for a side that had gone 15 games without a clean sheet. For Arsenal, that meant further frustration; for Forest, a triumphant march to the final whistle and survival.

— The Guardian

Leemisa Thuseho

# ACE Maseru chase a treble

**A**CE Maseru will be hoping to complete a treble this season when they take on Limkokwing University (LU) in the Nedbank Champion of Champions clash at Bambatha Tšita Sport Arena Ground today.

The Nedbank Champion of Champions is an annual duel pitting the champions from the A Division League's two streams, the Southern Stream and the Northern Stream. It is meant to determine the overall winner for the A Division League each season.

This season, ACE Maseru are Southern Stream champions while LU are the champions in the Northern Stream. ACE Maseru will head into today's match highly motivated after they were last Sunday crowning the Nedbank Top 8 champions after defeating Quthing LMPS 3-1 at Bambatha Tšita Sport Arena.

They therefore already have to major cups in the bag; the A Division League Southern Stream race and the Nedbank Top 8 title. If they win today they will have one more trophy in their cabinet and complete a treble this year.

Today's match will be the last for the two teams in the A Division League. They have since gained promotion into the premier league after dominating in their respective streams.

After winning the Nedbank Top 8, ACE Maseru coach Mofihli Makoele said their target was to also win the Champion of Champions match to add a third trophy into their cabinet this season and end their A Division journey in style. "We want to win all the trophies, so we will be out for a win in the Champion of Champions match," Makoele said.

"Apart from that we need money to help the team prepare for its new life in the premier league. Therefore, it is important to win all the trophies because they come with money." The winner of the champion of champions duel will get M20 000 while the runners-up will take home M15 000.



ACE Maseru celebrate after winning Nedbank Top 8 at Bambatha Tšita Sport Arena last Sunday.

# More support for Tau



MICHELLE Tau.

Leemisa Thuseho

**I**T seems like the future is becoming brighter for Lesotho taekwondo sensation Michelle Tau. More institutions and companies are coming on board to support her to fulfil her dream of qualifying for Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) and a clothing brand- ADEaz- are the latest to come on board this week.

Tau is currently ranked number one in Africa in the female's 46kg weight category. That makes her rank fourth globally in the same category.

She is one of the local athletes bidding to earn 2024 Paris Olympic Games qualification in their respective sporting codes. The Olympics are set for 26 July to 11 August 2024 in France.

In their qualifiers' journey, athletes need to attend as many as possible international events to meet the required standards and improve their continental and global rankings.

Thus, the LCA this week announced that it will sponsor and support Tau in her qualifications journey towards the Paris Olympics.

"We are happy to announce that the Lesotho Communications Authority will be sponsoring and supporting the Taekwondo athlete (Tau) on her journey to the 2024 Olympics," the LCA said in a brief statement on Thursday.

The LCA Public Affairs Manager, Mothepane Kotele, said they will start the journey by sponsoring Tau's trip to the 2023 World Taekwondo Grand Prix, in Rome, Italy from 9 to 11 June this year.

Ms Kotele said that that will not be last event as they want to be with her until 2024 Olympics.

"It is true that we will be with Tau in her journey towards the 2024 Olympics and we will start by sponsoring her forthcoming trip

to Rome," Ms Kotele told the *Sunday Express*.

"For that trip we will cover the tickets, accommodation, transport expenses and her subsistence while in Rome. We want to help her achieve her dream by focusing on her game without being stressed by other things that need money."

Meanwhile, the clothing brand- ADEaz- has announced that they have also reached an agreement with Tau to be their brand ambassador.

ADEaz managing director, Kumara Kahadugoda, said while Tau will be marketing and selling their products, the partnership will see the company support and finance Tau towards her dream of qualifying and competing at the Olympics for the first time.

"We are very happy to have entered into the partnership and we are going to support her in whatever she wants, as long she gets to the Olympics and reaches her dreams," Kahadugoda said.

"We are aware that there are already some sponsors on board for her and we are ready to work with them."

The partnership is for one year with an option for renewal. There is no specific amount attached to the partnership.

Tau is currently based in the Ivory Coast. In February this year she went on social media to make an impassioned plea for financial assistance to attend events so that she increases her chances of qualifying for the Olympics.

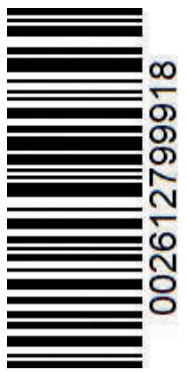
Since then, several sponsors have come on board. Amongst these are Alliance Insurance Company, Lesotho National Development Corporation (LDNC) and LadyM Foundation.

Michelle's mother and manager, Thakane Masupha Tau, expressed her appreciation for the recent support her daughter has been getting, saying it would greatly motivate her.

Michelle's mother said for the longest of time she had been sponsoring her daughter from her own pocket.

More sponsors coming on board would lessen the burden on her.

"I am happy that the challenge of sponsoring her (Michelle) is no longer my own burden but also for the country through different companies and institutions. This is a good thing because she is now on the international stage, she is representing the entire country not herself," she said, urging companies to sponsor other athletes in the country.



# Bantu crowned VPL champions



BANTU celebrate victory after winning the 2022-23 Vodacom Premier League.

**Leemisa Thuseho**

**B**ANTU are now the official 2022/23 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) champions. This after they beat Lifofane 3-0 in their final match of the season at Setsoto Stadium yesterday. Motlomelo Mkwanazi, Tseliso Bot-sane and Kananelo Rapuleng scored the three goals for Bantu. The victory saw Bantu finishing the 30 games league race at the top of the table with 68 points.

This is Bantu's fifth title in about 10 years. They first won the league in the 2013/14 season. They also went to win it back-to-back in 2016/17 and 2017/18. The last time they won again was in the 2019/20 season.

Linare settled for second position with 63 points after defeating LDF 2-0 yesterday at Leribe District Football Association (DiFA) Stadium in Maputsoe. LDF went into yesterday's game at position two but the loss moved them one step down. They finished the season on position three with 62 points.

On fourth position is LMPS with 58 points. They concluded the league with a 3-0 win over Manonyane at Police Training College (PTC) in Maseru yesterday.

As champions, Bantu will be M580 000 richer while second placed Linare will get M270 000. Third placed LDF are to get M210 000 while LMPS (on fourth position) will walk away with M130 000. Bantu coach Bob Mafoso gave credit to his players and the team's entire technical team for the league victory.

Mafoso joined Bantu early last month replacing Abram Mongoya, who had abruptly quit the team.

"We have to thank our players and the entire technical team, these are the results of their work," Mafoso said.

"When I arrived here, the league was just left with a few games to go and obviously there is not much change I brought into the team...I just continued from where the previous coach (Mongoya), the players and the technical team were... on.

"I think the previous coach deserve credit. This team is winning the league because it was built and prepared by him (Mongoya) during pre-season. To be honest this is his cup."

Team captain Mkwanazi said winning the league was not an easy journey. Dedication and hard work had helped them.

"It was not an easy journey, and we are happy to be champions," he said.

"Winning the league is what we have been working towards from the start and I think these are the results of hard work and dedication."

Meanwhile, LCS's Hlomelang Lebina and Matlama's Jane Thabantšo became joint winners of this year's golden boot race with 15 goals each. Lebina went into yesterday's game leading the race with 13 goals while Thabantšo was on second with 11. However, Thabantšo increased his tally by scoring four goals in their 5-0 triumph over Machokha at Bambatha Tšita Sport Arena in Maseru yesterday.

As for Lebina, he scored two goals in their 4-0 victory over CCX at the LCS Ground in Maseru. The duo (Lebina and Thabantšo) will thus share the prize money for the award during an award ceremony whose date is yet to be announced. Despite having produced a top goalscorer, LCS finished the league on fifth position with 56 points while Matlama, who were the defending champions finished on sixth position also with 56 points. LCS pipped Matlama because of their superior

goal difference of 37 compared to the latter's 21. Lijabatho are on seventh position with 49 points while Lioli are on position eight with 42 points. On position nine is Liphakoe with 40 points. Machokha and Mononyane finished on 10th and 11th positions with 36 and 34 points respectively. On position 12 is Lifo-fane with 31 points leaving the 13th position to CCX with 21 points.

Naughty Boys who are on 14th position have the same points (21) with CCX but with a bad goal difference of -55 while that of CCX is -34. On second place from the bottom is Swallows with 16 points followed by Galaxy who are hanging at the bottom with 12 points. The two sides have been relegated to the A Division League.

**Yesterday's matches results:**

Bantu 3-0 Lifofane (Setsoto Stadium), Naughty Boys 0-2 Lijabatho (Morija Ground), Linare 2-0 LDF (DiFA Stadium Leribe), Swallows 2-4 Lioli (Nyakosoba Ground), Liphakoe 2-1 Galaxy (Ratjomose Ground), Machokha 0-5 Matlama (Bambatha Tšita Sport Arena), LMPS 3-0 Manonyane (PTC), and LCS 4-0 CCX (LCS Ground).