

# Sunday Express

Best Sunday in Lesotho

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## Journalist Joki gets hero's sent off

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# Journalist Joki gets hero's send off

- as mourners lament inept criminal justice system . . .
- warn of civil war if frustrated citizens resort to revenge killings . . .



RALIKONELO Joki.



TEFO Mapesela addresses mourners at Ralikonelo Michael Joki's funeral.



MOURNERS sing and dance at the funeral.

**Marafaele Mohloboli**

**S**LAIN Tšenolo FM presenter, Ralikonelo Michael Joki, also known as Leqhashasha, was given a colourful hero's send off by over a thousand mourners whose hurt at his brutal assassination was written all over their faces.

The most heart wrenching sight was that of Mr Joki's widow, 'Malikonelo, who gave birth to the journalist's son last Sunday, exactly a week after his slaying on 14 May 2023.

Early in the morning, 'Malikonelo was assisted into a tent pitched for dignitaries and close relatives at Mr Joki's burial place at St Michael's Village in Roma.

She looked disoriented and puzzled. She seemingly could not take in what was happening around her. Shortly after sitting down, she was handed a plastic bottle into which she began pressing milk from her breast so that a helper could go feed her six-day old boy, whom he had left in the house, and who will now never get to see his father. One needs not have a human heart not to have been moved by the sorrowful scene. 'Malikonelo was pregnant with Mr Joki's fourth son at the time of his killing.

The journalist was sprayed with bullets as he left the premises of his employer Tšenolo FM, after presenting his ebullient current affairs programme, *hlokoana la tsela* (I heard it through the grapevine) on that fateful Sunday night. The multitudes of people who thronged the burial ceremony were a clear testament of Mr Joki's rampant influence and the many lives his work touched.

Mr Joki's fellow traditional mountain school initiates, friends and relatives, members of parliament, senior government officials, parliamentarians and several cabinet ministers, were among the attendees.

Speaker after speaker lamented the country's weak, if not wholly non-existent criminal justice system, which they said was encouraging criminal bandits in plying their trade with total impunity.

Member of parliament and Basotho Patriotic Party (BPP) leader, Tefo Mapesela, said it was high time the death penalty was meted out to deter the ubiquitous murderers. Many concurred with Mr Mapesela after he accused the courts of being lenient with violent offenders, hence encouraging them. But many of the cases of murder also never made it to the courts as offenders were not apprehended. The few murderers who found themselves in chains were quickly released on very light bail terms.

For instance, police spokesman, Senior Superintendent Mpiti Mopeli, revealed last week that one of the suspected murderers of Naledi Funeral Planners executives, Ikheteleng Matabane and Maserema 'Makong, committed the dastardly act while on bail for another murder case.

"We need to bring back the death penalty so that people may start taking other people's lives seriously....," charged the outspoken Mr Mapesela.

"We can't afford to be losing important people who change our lives positively to murderers with illegal firearms. Anyone found with an illegal firearm should be locked up and given a sentence of over 30 years. When they are released after such a long period, they would have learnt some lessons and would be ready to live with other people harmoniously," Mr Mapesela said.

"Countries like Botswana still have the death sentence, and so does the United States of America. Yet they (the USA) are the very people who complain when we say we want the death penalty fully operationalised. Why are we being governed by the Americans?"

"It seems we are only too afraid to do our own things and put our country in order because we are too dependent on their donations. But we need to take our own issues in our hands before it's too late."

The funeral was also attended by Tanele Maseko, the widow of Eswatini's prominent human rights lawyer, Thulani Rudolf Maseko. She attended in her capacity as Vice Chairperson of the Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network.

Her husband, Mr Maseko, was a renowned human rights lawyer, who was imprisoned from 2014 to 2015 for criticising Swaziland's inane judiciary and was declared a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International.

He was subsequently shot dead by mercenaries in front of his family on 21 January 2023, ostensibly on the orders of that country's primitive despot, King Mswati. Ms Maseko travelled to commiserate with Mr Joki's wife and the other mourners.

"What critically brings me here today is that I'm an African, a wife and a widow like 'Malikonelo," she said.

"On 21 January this year, late in the evening, I was sitting with my husband and my two sons at home when a gunman entered our home and shot my husband dead. He gave him one shot through the head and two right through the heart," Ms Maseko said.

"I am here because I relate closely with 'Malikonelo. My sister, I feel your pain. I know it won't make sense for you today, but take courage from the fact that on that day when they shot your husband, God was there. Take courage that those cowards knew they couldn't break him hence they had to kill him. And take courage from the fact that your husband spoke truth to power.... I'm here to tell journalists here in Lesotho not to be afraid, continue the fight, speak truth to power and carry on his (Joki's) legacy.

"To the Basotho people, it is high time we rise up, it is high time we speak out, it is high time we call out government police, military, to act against these senseless killings. It's high time we stand up to what is right. Do not be discouraged.

"Malikonelo, sorry, and sorry again. The boys will grow, God will assist, and to Ntate Joki's colleagues, carry on his legacy, don't be discouraged and don't tire."

The emotional Ms Maseko could not hold back her tears as she went back to her seat.

Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA-Lesotho Chapter) chairperson, Kananelo Boloetse, said "the only thing that will help us heal and get closure is if Joki's killers are arrested".

Thaba Bosiu Principal Chief, Khoabane Theko, warned that Lesotho risked sliding into civil war as citizens - frustrated by the lack of justice and accountability - turn to revenge killings to retaliate for their loved ones.

Chief Theko again said Joki had been killed for his work as an investigative journalist.

"... Leqhashasha was known for his investigative journalism skills, and I want to believe that he was killed because he said some unwanted truths," Chief Theko said.

"He (Joki) had just talked about illegal land acquisitions by some officers in land administration entities, talked about deaths that remain unresolved and I guess that's the reason he got killed. He touched a nerve. Things are getting out of hand in this country and they need to be fixed....," said Chief Theko, in apparent reference to latest revelations by National Security Service boss, Pheello Ralenkoane, that Basotho National Party (BNP) leader, Machesetsa Mofomobe, ordered the hit on Mr Joki because the journalist had pressed on wanting to uncover the circumstances surrounding the killing of a woman, Mabuang Mazingo, at a chaotic BNP conference that elected Mr Mofomobe as party leader in June 2021.

Mr Mofomobe has vehemently rejected Mr Ralenkoane's allegations and challenged him to produce proof that he is a murderer.

Mr Ralenkoane's allegations are contained in the court papers involving the case in which Mr Mofomobe is challenging a warrant issued by Mr Matekane for the seizure of his mobile phones as part of a probe into his alleged shenanigans. Chief Theko said journalists were particularly vulnerable because they were not properly protected. He too concurred that the death penalty must be imposed on murderers.

"It is obvious that killing journalists is quite easy as they are not lawfully protected. Bring back the death sentence. Let those who kill be killed....," said Chief Theko.

"As it is, murderers know that they always get bail ...They kill get bail and go to kill again.... This (justice system) is an insult to Basotho."

Chief Theko also called the implementation of a controversial cyber security law to deter people from insulting and slandering others on social media.

"That law should be expedited, and offenders brought to order.

"The level of hatred in this country is so high and there are people who fabricate stories and slander others. They use fake names on social media to defame others.... That ought to be stopped," said Chief Theko while praising Mr Joki for having been an ethical, professional journalist.

Information, Communication, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Nthato Moorosi lauded Joki as a true "soldier" who worked hard for his profession.

"One of my soldiers has fallen and he was a true soldier. I'm quite worried when I see a journalist being killed because that means they are being silenced. Someone is trying to bar them from interrogating issues of governance," Ms Moorosi said.

"When a journalist is killed, some pillars of good governance are shaken and if Leqhashasha was indeed killed for doing his job, this means we have lost big time."

"I would really like to see his murderers arrested and held accountable to help ease the commotion in my head....," said Minister Moorosi, adding the government was determined to put an end to the killings that have catapulted Lesotho to the higher echelons of rankings of most murderous countries in the world.

Ms Moorosi offered to help all Tšenolo FM staff, traumatized by the murder of their colleague, access some counselling services.

Public Service, Labour and Employment Minister Richard Ramoetsi, Gender, Youth, Sports, Arts, Culture and Social Development Minister Lesaoana Pitso, were among the high-powered dignitaries present for the event. Minister Ramoetsi was the last key figure to have been interviewed by Mr Joki before the latter was killed.

Mr Joki's distraught father said all he wanted was justice for his son. He implored the police to probe and bring the killers to justice.

Mr Joki is survived by his father, his wife, his four sons, including the newly born, and six brothers.

Moroke Sekoboto

# LCN president confronts Matekane over crime

● as EU ambassador Amadei mourns Joki's murder ...

**L**ESOTHO Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (LCN) former President, Thusoana Ntlama, has challenged Prime Minister Sam Matekane to come up with effective measures to combat the ever-escalating violent crime rate, especially murders.

She said Lesotho's high crime rate was alarming. It was high time effective measures were put in place to combat it. The government should also make concerted efforts to fight gender-based violence (GBV) as well as complete the long delayed national reforms process.

Ms Ntlama lauded Mr Matekane for curtailing high government spending by drastically reducing the size of cabinet from about 30 ministers to only 15. However, she exhorted the premier to strip politicians and bureaucrats of other luxuries.

Ms Ntlama spoke at the opening of the LCN's week long NGO week at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre last week. The event ran under the strange theme "Education as a dispensable (sic) mode for sustainable development: Time for Action Now".

Among dignitaries present at the opening were Matekane, Education and Training Minister Ntoi Rapapa, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Thabo Mofosi, EU Ambassador to Lesotho Paola Amadei, and the UN Resident Coordinator Amanda Khozi Mukwashi.

Ms Ntlama said Lesotho now ranked number three on the list of most dangerous countries in the world to live in. That was hardly a reputation that would assist the country in attracting investors to alleviate unemployment.

Ms Ntlama said the government should therefore urgently come up with ways to combat rampant crime.

She acknowledged the government for endorsing international protocols on eliminating gender-

based violence and harassment in the workplace. But the government must formulate and enforce legislation to domesticate those protocols.

Mr Matekane, in his remarks, acknowledged the importance of NGOs in society and the work of international development partners.

The prime minister said his government was aware of the importance of NGOs in the development of the country. His government's doors were open for NGOs to come and discuss means and ways of fostering development. He called upon NGOs to assist in the fight against corruption while also acknowledging that crime had become a major problem.

"We call upon you to help the government in fighting corruption, crime, and murders which taint the country's dignity. The government and security agencies are engaged in a programme to find solutions to the high crime rate....," he said.

He promised the government would soon finalise amendments to the constitution as part of the much-delayed national reforms process. A session led by the Transformation Resource Centre (TRC) had been planned for Wednesday to discuss the reforms process but the government was not represented. That drew the ire of TRC executive director, Tsikoane Peshoane, who chided politicians for not taking key national

matters seriously.

Speaking at the opening ceremony earlier in the week, UN Resident Coordinator, Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, said that NGOs were the heartbeat of society in any given country.

"Civil society in any country is the heartbeat of the society and of that nation. When civil society's heart is not beating well, then the health of that country is also weak....," said Ms Mukwashi, adding that a healthy civil society, of which NGOs were a big part, was the very essence of a healthy democracy and healthy development agenda.

"...Whether you look at rural development, medical services, outbreaks, and pandemics, or hunger.....civic groups are on the front lines and they are the first line of defence..... When they are strong, that first line of defence is strong,"

For NGOs to be effective, she encouraged them to be guided by facts.

".... It is important that your ability to speak truth to power (as NGOs) be accompanied and backed with data, with evidence and with integrity....," she said.

NGOs must be guided by impartiality, neutrality, and integrity so they could be an effective voice of the people. NGOs speaking with data, evidence, and integrity, were better placed to help those in places of decision making take the right decisions.

People needed NGOs to raise the banner for those who were displaced or had no access to water and other basic necessities.

NGOs should also guard their independence jealously, Ms Mukwashi said. The UN in Lesotho would continue to support the government of Lesotho in its engagements with civil society and other stakeholders to advance quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

EU Ambassador to Lesotho, Paola Amadei, used the platform to condemn the brutal killings of journalists globally including the recent murder of Ts'enolo FM presenter Ralikonelo Joki.

"This year's event comes under the shadow cast by the brutal assassination of journalist Ralikonelo Joki which has sent shockwaves across Lesotho and the entire world. I wish to express my deepest condolences to the Joki family and colleagues and to extend EU solidarity to the media fraternity, we condemn in the strongest

possible terms the murder of journalists," Ms Amadei said. Minister of Education and Training, Ntoi Rapapa, acknowledged that education was the best tool to ensure the sustainable development of a country "hence the need for an education curriculum relevant to our goals".


"As the Ministry of Education and Training, we acknowledge the shortcomings to our education system which relate to inadequate infrastructure, limited access to quality education, teacher shortages, unequal opportunities, the welfare of teachers....," Dr Rapapa said.

He said the use of guns had become rampant. The phenomenon did not exclude the education sector as a teacher and a principal were recently shot and killed.

The government was working hard to fight crime, he said.



SAM Matekane.



KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (Project Management Unit)  
TRANSPORT HIRE(2023/2024)

Ministry of Finance and Development Planning-Project management Unit (MOFDP-PMU) has received funding from The Global Fund to support interventions in the fight against HIV and AIDS, Covid 19 and Tuberculosis. Part of the proceeds will be used for vehicle hire. PMU now invites eligible service providers to offer transport services.

The table below is an indicative of the applicable rates

Vehicle Type	Daily Rate (M)	Lowlands (Rates/km) (M)	Highlands (Rate/km) (M)
Pickup Van/SUV 4x4 or Higher Double Cab	699.69	3.72	5.10

Interested owners of the aforementioned vehicle type are requested to submit the following documents:

- Valid trading documents (tax clearance and traders' license)
- Proof of ownership in the form of Traffic and Transport Department Certificate of Registration or Blue card.
- Valid proof of insurance (including third party) from insurance companies registered with the Central Bank of Lesotho.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- Vehicles must be roadworthy
- Tyres must be on good condition
- Pickup Van/SUV 4x4 or Higher Double Cab
- Jack
- Triangle
- Spare wheel
- Mileage should range from 0 to 150,000 kilometers
- Service history book might be required upon vehicle inspection to verify mileage displayed by the vehicle.

**VEHICLE INSPECTION**

Vehicles will be thoroughly inspected to ascertain fitness. All the vehicles which meet the requirements will be added to the organizational database. This means that PMU will only engage vehicles that are registered in the database.

**VEHICLE INSPECTION DATE**

Vehicle inspection will be done at **1400 hours Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023** at the address below:

Front parking lot  
Ministry of Finance Project Management Unit  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, MGC Office Park, Corner Pope John Paul II and Mpilo Boulevard, P.O. Box 395, Maseru 100.  
Tel no. 2232 4023

**N.B**

Interested vehicle owners should bring along the required documents on the day of inspection.


**REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATIONS:** for further clarification regarding this procurement, please send such requests in writing to: [hlabin@mofpmu.org.ls](mailto:hlabin@mofpmu.org.ls); [monyamae@mofpmu.org.ls](mailto:monyamae@mofpmu.org.ls).

**AWARD CRITERIA:**

- For all vehicles which have met the set requirements, first preference will be given to vehicles with the lowest mileage.
- MOFDP-PMU will engage maximum of 2 vehicles per company/individual. 3 or more vehicles will be engaged provided that vehicles available in the database are few than the required number of vehicles.

It is entirely the responsibility of the owner to ensure that they submit the required documents and to also meet other requirements;

**DISCLAIMER:** PMU is not bound to contract any vehicle. PMU reserves the right to acceptor reject any or all vehicles and or to cancel this procurement process at any time prior to contract award if the circumstances so requires.



## Central Bank of Lesotho

### Invitation to Tender

**The Central Bank of Lesotho invites tenders from registered and suitable service providers for supply and delivery of executive ergonomic chairs x 34.**

- Detailed tender requirements can be downloaded from the website at [www.centralbank.org.ls](http://www.centralbank.org.ls) or requested via email from [mlechela@centralbank.org.ls](mailto:mlechela@centralbank.org.ls).
- Bids bearing no identification of the bidder, clearly marked as follows "**Bid for Boardroom chairs**" should be deposited in the tender box located at the reception area of Central Bank of Lesotho at corner Moshoeshoe & Airport Roads no later than **14h30 Friday June 16th 2023**.
- Bids will be opened the same day at 14h35 in the Central Bank Auditorium. Bidders or their representatives who wish to attend are welcome.
- Central Bank of Lesotho is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid and may cancel the bidding process at any stage prior to the award of contract and is not bound to provide reasons for cancellation.
- For further clarification bidders are requested to contact the undersigned at telephone #: **2232126** and /or [mlechela@centralbank.org.ls](mailto:mlechela@centralbank.org.ls).

# Another long wait for families of dead miners

Marafaele Mohloboli

**F**AMILIES of the 31 Basotho illegal miners, whose bodies remain trapped in a disused mine shaft at a Harmony Gold owned mine in Virginia, South Africa, will have to wait much longer to receive and bury the remains of their loved ones.

The illegal miners (*zama-zamas*), most of whom are said to be from Bela-Bela in the Bera district, are said to have perished after an explosion, the cause of which is yet to be ascertained, in the disused mine shaft.

According to impeccable sources who spoke to the Sunday Express, on condition of anonymity, Harmony Gold officials have since told the government of Lesotho that they will not get involved in removing the bodies of the illegal miners.

The Lesotho government was now at a loss as to how to proceed as it could simply not send people to retrieve the bodies. The disused mine is under the jurisdiction of a foreign sovereign state.

When contacted for comment on Wednesday, Foreign Affairs and International Relations Minister, Lejone Mpotjoane, said the government of Lesotho was still in talks with its South African counterparts over the matter.

"As you know this is a very sensitive issue at hand, it needs proper handling and it's only safe to say the mine authorities and government are yet to assess if it's safe for the removal of those bodies," Mr Mpotjoane said.

"But as it is, everyone is assured that we are doing everything in our power to see that this matter is resolved without straining our relations with SA. The mine has still not said anything to us and so we shall wait on their approval when the safety assessment has been made."

Mr Mpotjoane, in the company of Prime Minister Sam Matekane, visited the bereaved families at Chief Ramoqai Peete of Matšekheng's office in Bela-Bela. Most of the dead miners are believed to hail from Chief Peete's area. The minister and premier told them that the government was still engaged in talks with South African authorities over the trapped bodies but nothing conclusive had been reached yet.

The minister assured the bereaved families the government was doing all within its power to ensure they got all the assistance they required to get the remains of the deceased.



Chief Peete pleaded with the PM and his minister that the families be assisted to get closure by getting the bodies to their loved ones.

"These are very young men who were solely responsible for taking care and providing for their families and one wonders what's going to become of such families now that they are gone. Their families live in abject poverty. Getting the bodies of their loved ones will give them closure and that's all that they are asking for," Chief Peete said.

For his part, Premier Matekane said he had received a request from the families that they be helped with running some DNA tests as the bodies were already decomposed and some were burnt beyond recognition.

"A request was made by families and their representatives that some DNA tests be conducted because the people are not recognisable, and I do hereby say that such tests shall be done," Mr Matekane said.

Meanwhile, a taxi ferrying about eight men, said to be relatives of the deceased, but also involved in illegal mining, got involved in a car accident

between Orkney and Bothaville in the Free State last Monday, killing two on the spot. Two more were said to be critically injured. The men were said to have been travelling to go and retrieve the bodies and help identify them as they are conversant with the operations of their fellow *zama zamas* (illegal miners).

"They were travelling from Carletonville and their plan was to evacuate the deceased to the surface without involving the government of Lesotho because that way, the mine officials would be forced to help in removing the bodies lest they contaminate the environment," said a source.

But Minister Mpotjoane dismissed that narrative. While he was aware of the accident, he said it had nothing to do with relatives trying to get to the dead in the mine shaft.

"We have received reports of such a taxi," said Mr Mpotjoane, when asked if he was aware of the accident.

"But it is in no way related to the deceased men. The only thing that we can confirm is that it is not true that all the

passengers in that taxi died, only two passed away. However, it is in no way related to the mining incident and should not even be mentioned in this matter," Mr Mpotjoane said.

On the other hand, Chief Peete said he had received reports from some families about that taxi tragedy. He said he had asked the government to establish the facts regarding the accident and help accordingly.

It seems the swiftly degrading corpses will remain in the belly of the disused mine shaft unless a solution is found urgently while the bereaved families remain in suspense.

According to research by the Institute of Security Studies (ISS), in Pretoria, illegal mining is a lucrative enterprise with tentacles that often extend to human trafficking, illegal weapons, explosives, tax evasion, money laundering, corruption and gang-related activities.

Illegal mining is costing the South African economy around R21 billion a year, according to the ISS.



SAM Matekane.

LEJONE Mpotjoane.

# Lesotho's economy deteriorating - CBL Governor

Tokelo Khausela

**T**HE Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) has raised its repo rate by 25 basis points from 7.50 to 7.75 per cent per annum, a move CBL governor Emmanuel Letete said was necessary to keep inflation under check.

The decision was agreed by the bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at a meeting on 29 May 2023. The committee had considered global, regional, and domestic economic developments, as well as financial markets developments.

Even though inflation had fallen from 6.7 percent in April from 6.8 percent in March 2023, it remained under threat from persistently higher domestic food prices due to imported inflation caused by a persistently weaker rand, the governor said.

The repo rate is the level of interest at which the central bank lends to commercial banks. The hike means consumers will now have to pay more interest on their home and vehicle loans, among other products.

According to Mr Letete, domestic economic activity remained weak in the first quarter of 2023. Productivity had also remained low and resulted in less job opportunities.

"The textile and clothing manufacturing sub-sectors have stagnated as some firms closed and poor performance was also notable in other industries such as transport and construction. However, the near-term outlook of the economy projects an improved performance, largely on account of construction activities related to LHWP Phase II project," Dr Letete said.

"Inflationary pressures in the domestic economy abated in April 2023 mainly driven by falling food and fuel prices. However, the implementation of alcohol and tobacco levy moderated disinflation. Inflation fell to 6.7 per cent in April 2023 from 6.8 per cent in the previous month. Despite the declining global food prices domestic prices of food are persistently higher due to stubbornly high imported inflation at the back of the weaker rand."

Money supply had increased in March 2023.



EMMANUEL Letete.

"Money supply increased by 17.4 per cent in March 2023 after rising by 1.7 per cent in February 2023. The rise was mainly due to increases in both Net Foreign Assets (NFA) and Net Domestic Assets (NDA). This was at the back of significant increases in commercial bank's (sic) foreign assets following the transfers related to the Polihali project and a draw down in government deposits held at both CBL and com-

mercial banks," said Mr Letete.

He added private sector credit rose due to increases in credit extended to both businesses and households. Having considered the Net International Reserves (NIR) developments and outlook, regional inflation and interest rates outlook, domestic economic conditions, and the global economic outlook, the MPC had decided to revise the NIR target floor to USD 690

million, the governor said. At this level, the NIR target will be sufficient to maintain a one-to-one exchange rate peg between the Loti and the rand.

"The committee will continue to closely assess the global economic developments and their impact on the domestic economy especially the NIR and respond accordingly," he said.



**Lesotho Highlands Development Authority**  
P.O. Box 7332, Maseru 100, Lesotho. Telephone: 22246000 Fax: 22310632

**CONTRACT LHDA NO. 2200  
DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND  
COMMISSIONING OF THE 'MUELA OPERATIONS  
POTABLE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) invites tenders from **competent contractors to tender for the design, supply, installation and commissioning of the 'Muela Operations potable water treatment plant.**

Tender documents are available for collection, for a non-refundable fee of M1,000.00, at Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, Procurement Offices, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, LHDA Tower Building, Kingsway Maseru, or can be downloaded at **NO COST** from LHDA website, <https://www.lhda.org.ls/lhdaweb/procurement/currenttenders>

Compulsory site visit will be **on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2023**, at 10H00, at 'Muela Hydropower Plant in Butha-Buthe.



**Lesotho Highlands Development Authority**  
P.O. Box 7332, Maseru 100, Lesotho. Telephone: 22246000 Fax: 22310632

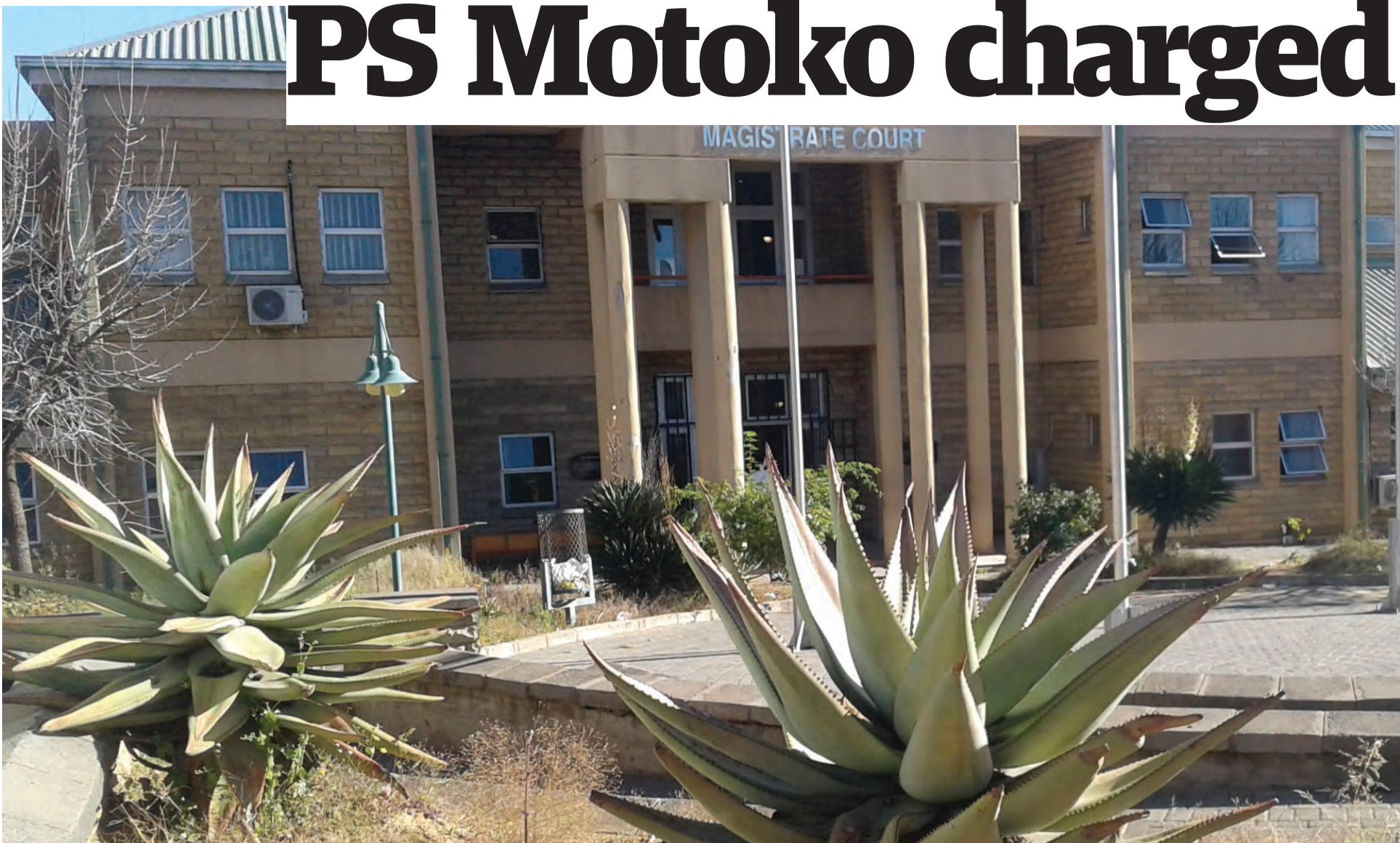
**CONTRACT LHDA NO. 2208  
DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF  
REPLACEMENT FIRE DETECTION AND ALARM SYSTEM AT  
'MUELA HYDROPOWER STATION**

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) invites tenders from **competent contractors to tender for the Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Replacement Fire Detection and Alarm System at 'Muela Hydropower Station.**

Tender documents are available for collection, for a non-refundable fee of M1,000.00, at Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, Procurement Offices, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, LHDA Tower Building, Kingsway Maseru, or can be downloaded at **NO COST** from LHDA website, <https://www.lhda.org.ls/lhdaweb/procurement/currenttenders>

Compulsory site visit will be **on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023**, at 10H00, at 'Muela Hydropower Plant in Butha-Buthe. Sealed tenders clearly marked "Tender For The Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Replacement Fire Detection and Alarm System at 'Muela Hydropower Station", 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 12H00 on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

# PS Motoko charged



## Mohalenyane Phakela

**F**OREIGN Affairs principal secretary (PS), Thabo Motoko, was eventually charged for fraud, money laundering, bribery, and corruption before the Maseru Magistrates Court on Thursday after almost three months of trying to avoid prosecution.

Mr Motoko was charged by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) for allegedly partaking in the embezzlement of state funds to the tune of M39 959 159.30. This after Senior Resident Magistrate Peter Murenzi dismissed Mr Motoko's March 2023 application for the quashing of charges against him (Motoko).

He was (Motoko) joined to his co-accused being former tourism and local government PSs, Nonkululeko Zaly and Lefu Manyokole respectively, Disaster Management Authority (DMA) chief executive officer 'Makhotso Caroline Mahosi and six businesspeople whom they allegedly awarded tenders corruptly.

Mr Motoko had argued that the DCEO case against him was a mere 'witch-hunt' because his alleged involvement in the corruption, fraud and bribery scandals was without evidence.

His lawyer, Christopher Lephuthing, argued on 27 March 2023 that Mr Motoko could not be charged on the evidence of one Ratalane, whom he said was an assassin and unreliable witness.

Crown counsel, Mamongonyo Baasi, successfully counter-argued that Mr Motoko should have raised the issue before the Constitutional Court and not before Magistrate Murenzi. She said suspects could not be allowed to interrogate charges because that would open floodgates to all and sundry to avoid prosecution.

And on Thursday Magistrate Murenzi upheld the Crown's contention and ruled that Mr Motoko should prove his innocence before the trial court.

"I find that the applicant (Motoko) is being calculative and manipulative to avoid being charged for reasons not protected by the law," Magistrate Murenzi ruled.

"Fairness of the trial is an issue to be decided based on facts of each

case, therefore prejudice that might be suffered by the accused must be trial related and not speculative. He is thus far making bare allegations .....Nothing has been exchanged between the prosecutor and the defence and how the applicant knows who implicated him for charges to hold at this point remains a mystery to the court since the criminal docket is still a closed envelope.....

"The fourth accused (Motoko) must be jointly charged with other accused persons and prove his innocence considering that there is no established prejudice at this stage should he be charged. Once charged he shall be seized with other available pretrial rights and exemptions. On the balance of probabilities, he failed to discharge the burden of proof that, should he be joined to the charges, he will be prejudiced. The application is dismissed."

Mr Motoko had also wanted Magistrate Murenzi to order that a preparatory examination (PE) be conducted which he had argued would prove his innocence even before wasting his time with a trial. However, Magistrate Murenzi ruled that the PE was the discretion of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Hlalefang Motinyane who empowered the DCEO to prosecute Mr Motoko and others.

"The applicant is under the misguided misconception that the DPP delegates her prosecutorial powers to the DCEO. The fact that the DPP did not file an opposing affidavit does not mean the prayers are unopposed. The Director General of the DCEO's answer to oppose all prayers even those directed at the DPP was enough. The DPP's role ended the minute she considered the docket and decided to consent to prosecution.

"The prosecution by the DCEO was triggered by the statutory consent

of the DPP that the DCEO, as a prosecuting authority, can proceed to charge and prosecute the accused. Thus, unlike the public prosecutor who exercises delegated powers of the DPP under section 6 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, the DCEO is not answerable to the DPP in discharging its mandate, either to investigate or to prosecute."

Mr Motoko, who was sitting in the public gallery when the judgement was read, had to move to the dock to join Ms Zaly and others. He then stood up while others were seated when he was read the charges against them.

After Advocate Baasi had read the charge sheet, Magistrate Murenzi asked Mr Motoko whether

he understood the charges and the answer was in the affirmative.

Adv Lephuthing immediately rose to seek Mr Motoko's release on bail on similar circumstances as his co-accused.

Messrs Motoko and Manyokole, Ms Zaly and Ms Mahosi stand accused of prejudicing the government of M39 959 159.30 during the state of emergency declared by former premier, Moeketsi Majoro, during the Covid-19 pandemic and the floods that ravaged the country in 2021.

They first appeared before Magistrate Murenzi on 10 March 2023, and were charged with eight counts of fraud, corruption, money laundering and bribery.

Mr Motoko was not charged that day as Adv Lephuthing objected to the charges. He was only charged

on Thursday when he lost the objection application.

Six other individuals and their companies are also being accused of embezzling funds meant to have been used by the DMA in the fight against Covid-19 after the state of emergency declaration. These are business persons Mooka Namoli, Setofolo Ramarou, Pule Thoahlane, Chipo Hulela, Keketso Makoko, Baba Ketso and companies; Gee M Construction, Kypros Engineering, Maru-a-pula Mining and Construction and Botselo Pty Ltd.

The business people were all released on M20 000 bail on conditions that they do not interfere with Crown witnesses, attend remands, do not interfere with police investigations and stand trial to finality.

Messrs Namoli, Ramarou and Thoahlane were on 20 March 2023 slapped with four additional charges of fraud, corruption, money laundering and bribery.

In December 2022, the DCEO obtained a search warrant from the Central Chief Magistrate 'Matankiso Nthunya, to raid Motoko, Zaly, Manyokole and Mahosi's homes.

The DCEO allegedly seized documents related to the questioned state of emergency tenders from Zaly's home, M500 000 from Mahosi's home, M100 000 from Manyokole's home. They found nothing at Mr Motoko's house.

Ms Zaly and Ms Mahosi had filed separate applications before the High Court in January challenging the veracity of the DCEO's December search warrant but were not successful.

The 10 have been ordered by Magistrate Murenzi to reappear before the same court on 15 June 2023.



THABO Motoko.

# Agric minister Mofosi outlines vision to eliminate hunger



THABO Mofosi.

Moroke Sekoboto

**M**INISTER of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Thabo Mofosi, says his ministry is determined to improve crop and livestock production to ensure food security and reduce malnutrition in Lesotho.

Speaking at the opening of the Non-Governmental Organisations' week at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre' earlier last week, Mr Mofosi promised that his ministry would empower farmers in their bid to increase productivity to eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

"The ministry is dedicated to helping farmers with subsidies in seedlings, fertilizers, and machinery to increase food production for adequate food supplies. It is our priority to reduce hunger and poverty in the country," Mr Mofosi said.

"We can achieve this by moving from subsistence farming to commercial farming hence the government will help increase the production of grains, high value crops, beef and dairy products" Mr Mofosi said.

"We will increase maize production from 27 900 tons to 120 000 tons, wheat from 5 700 tons to 16 200 tons under grains. Under crops potato seedlings will be increased from 3.6 tons to 15 tons, tomatoes from 1158 tons to 1344 tons," he said.

Mr Mofosi said the ministry would also engage in research to find means and ways of improving and maintaining the quality of agricultural soils.

"We are going to use reapers to conserve our soil and crops, manufacture our own seeds favorable to our land, increase the irrigational rate on crops, and reduce the abandoned farming land year by year," he

said.

Mr Mofosi went on to make the bold promise that under him, agricultural land will not be abandoned like has been the case in Lesotho for many years now, adding that cessation of agricultural activities "is now a thing of the past".

Furthermore, the agriculture minister said that he was committed to providing farmers with subsidies for fertilisers, pesticides, seedlings and machinery adding "we have already subsidized seeds by 70 percent and fertilizers by 80 percent".

"We will also subsidize machinery by 30 percent, we encourage farmers to take advantage of the opportunity as it will increase production. We have the initiative of identifying youth and female farmers to assist financially for them to grow and also help others to grow crops. We also have the contract farming and partnerships with different organisations," he said.

Mr Mofosi said the ministry had met with various stakeholders including financial institutions and insurance companies to explore how they could help improve commercial farming.

To show its commitment to improving agricultural production, Prime Minister Sam Matekane's government has already allocated a whopping M1.1 billion for the agriculture sector in the current 2023/24 budget, a significant increase from previous budgets.

Premier Matekane also launched the winter cropping season in style at Ha-Manama, Kolonyama, Leribe, on 10 May 2023 when he introduced a number of tractors to replace the traditional horses and cattle drawn ploughs.



KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY  
LESOTHO SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II  
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

<p><b>LOAN NO:</b> P165228 <b>CREDIT NO:</b> IDA -64220 -LS <b>ASSIGNMENT TITLE:</b> MATCHING GRANTS OFFICER <b>REFERENCE NO:</b> LS-MAFS- 362230-CS-CQS <b>DURATION:</b> THIRTY-SIX MONTHS <b>DUTY STATION:</b> PMU MASERU</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND</b> The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management unit (PMU) based in Maseru. The project has four components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Component 1. Promoting Climate Smart Agricultural Practices and Advisory Services.</b> This component aims at strengthening the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers to adjust and modify their production systems to minimize the potential future impacts from climate variability</li> <li>• <b>Component 2. Improving Agricultural Commercialization and Nutrition.</b> This component will build on Component 1 by addressing financial constraints in the agricultural sector so that the training and advisory services provided under Component 1 is complemented with much-needed financing to help the farming community undertake productive and profitable investments.</li> <li>• <b>Component 3. Project Management, Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation.</b> It is responsible for: implementation and coordination, financial management and procurement, communication, visibility and awareness programs, environmental management and safeguards, and monitoring and evaluation.</li> <li>• <b>Component 4. Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC).</b> This is a zero allocation to partially cover emergency response via implementation of key activities by the appropriate agencies to respond to the emergency.</li> </ul> <p><b>1. BACKGROUND OF THE ASSIGNMENT</b> The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management unit (PMU) based in Maseru. The project has four components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Component 1. 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Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC).</b> This is a zero allocation to partially cover emergency response via implementation of key activities by the appropriate agencies to respond to the emergency.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT</b> Under the supervision of the Matching Grants Specialist (MGS), the Matching Grants Officer will be MGP Secretariat and will also serve as Assistant Secretary to the MGC (Matching Grants Committee). He/she will be responsible for assisting the Matching Grants Specialists with the day-to-day operation of the Matching Grant Programme under the guidance of the MGS and the Project Manager, including organizing training and information activities, proposal processing and grant administration, monitoring grant implementation and organizing evaluations.</p> <p><b>3. TASKS, DELIVERABLES AND OUTPUTS</b> Working in close cooperation with PMU staff and under the overall guidance of the MGS and the MGC, the Matching Grants officer shall be responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As assistant of the MGS the Matching Grants Secretariat, assume responsibility for the coordination and performance of the unit, including the independent technical reviewers, Project Field Officers, and other potential consultants, who will be involved directly or indirectly in various activities of the MGP implementation.</li> <li>• Serve as a Secretary to the MGC and assist MGC's Chairperson in organization of the MGC meetings, formulation of the MGC's decisions and draw up the minutes of the MGC meetings.</li> <li>• Organize information and awareness campaigns to make the range of potential grant recipients and potential service providers aware of the MGP financing opportunities, the eligibility criteria, and the nature of the support available, the application procedures, partnership arrangements between grant recipients and their service providers, the implementation and reporting requirements.</li> <li>• Prepare and arrange for wide publication of the calls for proposals, receive and register applications, screen applications to ensure that they meet the terms and conditions as stipulated in the Programme Operational Manual, and check applications for compliance with budgetary and documentary requirements.</li> <li>• Arrange for an adequate independent technical review of screened applications and thereafter submit the highest ranged applications to the Matching Grants Committee for final evaluation and recommendation for support under MGP;</li> <li>• Arrange for the field verification of the applications recommended for support by the MGC and thereafter submit the list of proposed winning applications to the Project Manager.</li> <li>• Draft Grant Agreements for the approved grant applications including clarification of the budgetary items, definition and determination of the milestones and targets, and development of the procurement, disbursement, and reporting schedules.</li> <li>• Be responsible for supervision and monitoring of the grants agreements paying particular attention to milestones and targets, including review and approval of technical and financial progress reports submitted by grantees, field verification of the grant-projects implementation progress before disbursement of the next tranches, and preparation and submission to the finance unit of the payment requests for the next tranches for performing grant-projects;</li> <li>• Organize for exchange of information on the activities of the MGP, lessons learned</li> </ul>	<p>and the implications for replication and for developing market-based production in the programme districts, and elsewhere in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Project Manager, Project Accountant and Procurement Specialist to prepare the annual work plans and budget for operation of the CGP Secretariat; and</li> <li>• Undertake other activities as agreed with the Project Manager.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION</b> Contract duration is three years, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to commence by May/June 2023.</p> <p><b>5. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT</b> The client shall render the officer with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the officer to discharge his/her duties that is office space laptop/ computer, landline telephone and transport.</p> <p><b>6. DELIVERABLES AND FINAL OUTPUTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly, Quarterly and annual progress report</li> <li>• Internal and external audit response.</li> <li>• Work plan.</li> <li>• MGC Minutes.</li> <li>• Monitoring reports</li> <li>• Evaluation reports of technical reviewers</li> <li>• Grants Evaluation report</li> </ul> <p><b>7. QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University degree in business administration, marketing, economics or finance, or a related field.</li> <li>• Have 10 years working experience with at least 5 years in donor funded projects using competitive approaches, or similar operations, preferably linked to smallholder agriculture/rural business development projects;</li> <li>• 5 years of relevant experience at the international level in international development issues, both in the field and headquarters</li> <li>• Experience in agricultural marketing and agribusiness operations linked to the smallholder sector.</li> <li>• Demonstrated knowledge of financial management, accounting, monitoring and supervision of such programmes and skills in preparation of reports and other supporting material.</li> <li>• Experience with running workshops and similar processes and providing training would also be important.</li> <li>• Knowledge of the region and of Lesotho and the Lesotho agricultural and agribusiness sector would be an advantage.</li> </ul> <p><b>8. SKILLS AND ABILITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent analytical skills</li> <li>• Effective planning and organisational skills</li> <li>• Effective leadership, team building and problem-solving skills</li> <li>• Ability to work effectively under stress and with minimal supervision</li> <li>• Sensitivity to cultural and gender differences; and</li> <li>• Computer literacy (especially in Excel, Word and Outlook)</li> <li>• Effective inter-professional and inter-cultural communication skills, including verbal, listening and writing skills and the ability to set out a coherent argument in presenting and discussing issues at one-to-one and group interactions in fluent English and Sesotho</li> <li>• Proficiency in English and Sesotho</li> </ul> <p><b>9. CLIENT ASSIGNMENT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consultant is subject to an annual performance review. The performance evaluation shall be based on the work program/ plan prepared at the beginning of each rated period.</li> <li>• Project Director – SADP II is responsible for the coordination of activities acceptance and approval of the reports.</li> </ul> <p>The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their abilities. A pre-employment screening and background check will be done on all short-listed candidates. The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the projects' portfolio. He/she must be willing to work in a team, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of actions.</p> <p>The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III paragraph 3.14 to 3.17 of THE WORLD BANK'S Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, Fourth Edition, November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in Procurement Regulations.</p> <p><b>SUBMISSION</b> Expressions of interest accompanied by detailed CV must be delivered in a written form to the address below by email by 12:00hrs local time on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023 clearly marked " Expression of Interest for Matching Grants Officer"</p> <p>To: Project Director SADP Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Department of Livestock Services- Mosheshoe 11 P.O. Box 24 Maseru 100 Lesotho. Email: <a href="mailto:jobs@sadpii.org.ls">jobs@sadpii.org.ls</a> copied to <a href="mailto:mnhkethoa@sadpii.org.ls">mnhkethoa@sadpii.org.ls</a></p> <p>All applications should be submitted through email.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.</b></p>
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KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY  
LESOTHO SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II  
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

<p><b>LOAN NO:</b> P165228 <b>CREDIT NO:</b> IDA -64220 -LS <b>ASSIGNMENT TITLE:</b> DATA CLERK <b>REFERENCE NO:</b> LS-MAFS- 362312-CS-INDV <b>DURATION:</b> THIRTY-SIX MONTHS <b>DUTY STATION :</b> PMU MASERU</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND</b> The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management unit (PMU) based in Maseru. The project has four components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Component 1. Promoting Climate Smart Agricultural Practices and Advisory Services.</b> This component aims at strengthening the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers to adjust and modify their production systems to minimize the potential future impacts from climate variability</li> <li>• <b>Component 2. Improving Agricultural Commercialization and Nutrition.</b> This component will build on Component 1 by addressing financial constraints in the agricultural sector so that the training and advisory services provided under Component 1 is complemented with much-needed financing to help the farming community undertake productive and profitable investments.</li> <li>• <b>Component 3. Project Management, Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation.</b> It is responsible for: implementation and coordination, financial management and procurement, communication, visibility and awareness programs, environmental management and safeguards, and monitoring and evaluation.</li> <li>• <b>Component 4. Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC).</b> This is a zero allocation to partially cover emergency response via implementation of key activities by the appropriate agencies to respond to the emergency.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT</b> Reporting to the Monitoring and Evaluation specialist, the Data Entry Clerk will support the Monitoring and Evaluation Department by entering data into the available management information system. She/He will be expected to collect, prepare, enter, verify, and ensure accuracy of Project related data into the online database.</p> <p><b>3. RESPONSIBILITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection of data from various farmers and extensions agents in all the 10 districts.</li> <li>• Prepare, compile and sort documents (concept notes, proposals, and other documents available) for data entry.</li> <li>• Check source documents for accuracy before entry in the MIS</li> <li>• Verify data and correct data where necessary following recommended data correction guidelines Obtain further information for incomplete documents and engage relevant officers.</li> <li>• Enter data from source documents into the MIS</li> <li>• Check and verify the completed work in the system for accuracy.</li> <li>• Maintain logbooks or records of activities and tasks conducted.</li> <li>• Respond to requests for information and access relevant files as need be.</li> <li>• Comply with data integrity and security policies.</li> <li>• Any other tasks as assigned by the Monitoring and Evaluation specialist.</li> <li>• Undertake any other related duties assigned by the M&amp;E Specialist</li> </ul> <p><b>4. CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION</b> Contract duration is three years, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to commence by June/July 2023.</p> <p><b>5. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT</b> The Client shall render the Officer with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the Officer to discharge his/her duties that is office space, laptop/ computer, landline telephone, and transport related to the assignment delivery.</p> <p><b>6. SKILLS AND ABILITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be excellent with typing on a computer</li> <li>• Good knowledge of computer and application packages</li> <li>• Good planning and organization skills</li> <li>• Be proactive</li> <li>• Pay attention to details</li> <li>• Be Innovative and creative</li> <li>• Be Organized and able to multi-task</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have teamwork spirit</li> <li>• Openness</li> <li>• Problem solver Formal education and experience</li> </ul> <p><b>7. DELIVERABLES AND FINAL OUTPUTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare, compile and sort documents (concept notes, proposals, and other documents available) for data entry</li> <li>• Check source documents for accuracy before entry in the management information system</li> <li>• Verify data and correct data where necessary, following recommended data correction guidelines</li> <li>• Obtain further information for incomplete documents and engage relevant officers</li> <li>• Enter data from source documents into the management information system</li> <li>• Check and verify the completed work in the system for accuracy</li> <li>• Maintain logbooks or records of activities and tasks conducted</li> <li>• Respond to requests for information and access relevant files as need be</li> <li>• Comply with data integrity and security policies</li> </ul> <p><b>8. QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIRED EXPERIENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University degree in Statistics with One year experience working as Data clerk.</li> <li>• Proven Strong computer skills (able to use Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint). Formal computer training may be advantageous in progressing in this career;</li> <li>• Proven Strong written and verbal (English) communication skills;</li> <li>• Proven abilities to work effectively in team environment, and with minimum supervision;</li> <li>• Proven to work under pressure in fast-paced professional working environment;</li> </ul> <p><b>9. CLIENT ASSIGNMENT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS</b> The consultant is subject to an annual performance review. The performance evaluation shall be based on the work program/ plan prepared at the beginning of each rated period.</p> <p><b>10. CLIENT ASSIGNMENT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consultant is subject to an annual performance review. The performance evaluation shall be based on the work program/ plan prepared at the beginning of each rated period.</li> <li>• Project Director – SADP II is responsible for the coordination of activities acceptance and approval of the reports.</li> </ul> <p>The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their abilities. A pre-employment screening and background check will be done on all short-listed candidates. The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the projects' portfolio. He/she must be willing to work in a team, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of actions.</p> <p>The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III paragraph 3.14 to 3.17 of THE WORLD BANK'S Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, Fourth Edition, November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in Procurement Regulations.</p> <p><b>SUBMISSION</b> Expressions of interest accompanied by detailed CV must be delivered in a written form to the address below by email by 12:00hrs local time on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023 clearly marked " Expression of Interest for Data Clerk "</p> <p>To: Project Director SADP Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Department of Livestock Services- Mosheshoe 11 P.O. Box 24 Maseru 100 Lesotho. Email: <a href="mailto:jobs@sadpii.org.ls">jobs@sadpii.org.ls</a> copied to <a href="mailto:mnhkethoa@sadpii.org.ls">mnhkethoa@sadpii.org.ls</a></p> <p>All applications should be submitted through email.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.</b></p>
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## Comment

# Mofosi must get the right farmers

**T**HE undertaking by Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition Minister Thabo Mofosi, to transform the agricultural sector as a key driver of economic prosperity, is a noble one albeit one beset with many challenges. Many Basotho appear to have long lost interest in farming. They would rather neglect their fields in the rural areas in favour of doing odd jobs in the country's economic hubs like Maseru and Maputsoe. The fact that even such jobs are scarce does not deter them from migrating into urban centres.

Being an avid farmer himself, Mr Mofosi must know that despite government allocating a massive M1,1 billion to the sector for the 2023/24 fiscal period, Basotho have still lost interest in agriculture. And he should be a witness to how most of Lesotho's arable land has in the last two decades been lost as a result of owners selling their fields. Residential homes have now mushroomed on otherwise arable fields.

Most arable land throughout the country, land that once produced food for many a Basotho family, has now either become residential space or simply stands abandoned. Folks who do not understand the value and benefit of viable agriculture continue to sell their fields, primarily to keep the wolf at bay in a country where unemployment has become a major crisis. Speaking at the opening of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) Week last Monday, Mr Mofosi said his ministry would engage in research to find means and ways of improving and maintaining the quality of agricultural soils.

His ministry, he said, would guide farmers on using reapers to conserve soil and crops, manufacture their own seeds favourable to Lesotho's arable land, increase the irrigational rate on crops, and reduce the abandoned farming land year by year.

Mr Mofosi went on to make the bold promise that under him, agricultural land will not be abandoned like has been the case in Lesotho for many years now, adding that cessation of agricultural activities "is now a thing of the past".

He further committed to providing farmers with subsidies for fertilisers, pesticides, seedlings, and machinery adding that the government had already subsidized seeds by 70 percent and fertilizers by 80 percent as well as subsidizing machinery by 30 percent. Mr Mofosi also encouraged farmers to "take advantage of the opportunity as it will increase production", adding that his ministry had an initiative of identifying youth and female farmers to assist financially for them to grow and also help others to grow crops.

While we laud Mr Mofosi for his vision for a prosperous and food secure Lesotho, the question that comes to mind would be whether Basotho are amenable to all the things the minister is proposing. Basotho have become detached from agriculture. Only a handful still produce food from their own land for subsistence and not commercial purposes. There are many reasons why agriculture had been exited by many Basotho, not least the failure of previous coalitions to fully support the sector. Indeed M1,1 billion, in the current 2023/24 budget, is an important game changer. It is a substantial amount, more than doubling previous allocations for agriculture. It can potentially transform the sector and help Basotho produce their own food and do away with the scourge of being a market for South Africa, a country from which we import just about everything from milk, eggs, cabbage, and even simple toothpicks.

But where are the real farmers who can make the best of the resources Mr Mofosi and the government are lavishing? That is the elephant in the room.

Basotho are generally not entrepreneurial. Which is why we have failed for over two decades now, to exploit other opportunities offered by the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) besides the textile sector, which in recent years has been shedding thousands of jobs that used to scores of families. Under AGOA, besides textiles, there are also a range of other manufactured goods and processed mineral products and agricultural products that can be exported to America. Basotho have thus failed to think out of the box and explore other products that can be exported to the US to generate income and wealth, particularly in the agricultural segment, especially considering Lesotho's climate and abundant clean water. Commercial farming can be a game changer as Mr Mofosi has emphasised.

But the reality is we are still a long way off. The only aspect of agriculture that Lesotho seems to have done well in, is wool and mohair farming despite the failure to sort out a clear value chain that benefits the country in terms of marketing this product from within the country. Nevertheless, Mr Mofosi is right to try and push agriculture as a key sector to revive the country's economic fortunes. For his vision to succeed, he will have to identify and invest in the right kind of aspirational and dedicated farmers. Otherwise he will lavish investment in people who will not see the whole growing and harvest season through. After all, farming is a serious business and needs dedication. Citizens must play their part. Those who want to dabble into farming must have the passion. They must possess the work ethic and love to be on their land. They must meet the government halfway and become good partners who make good use of all the help the government is promising. Lesotho does not have a lot of arable land. If the right farmers can come to the fore and make the best of the land we have, the country's fortunes might just as well change for the better.



# Africa is not short on good ideas, but frequently fails to put them into practice

Steven Gruzd

## Steven Gruzd

**S**IXTY years after the Organisation of African Unity — the forerunner of the African Union — was founded, the AU's 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we want', the 50-year vision for the continent's development, remains aspirational rather than meaningfully realised.

When the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was founded 60 years ago on 25 May 1963, the world was in the grip of the Cold War. The British and French empires were tired and bankrupt, and London and Paris had begun granting independence to their former colonies, spurred on by nationalist movements.

In 1963, there were just 32 independent African states, most only recently decolonised. The overarching aim of the OAU was to see the rest of the continent liberated, but leaders had different conceptions of what this pan-African organisation should look like, which have been echoed in later generations.

The founding fathers (yes, they were all men) wanted a forum to discuss common challenges, exercise solidarity and increase Africa's presence on the international stage.

Today, Africa has 55 states (including the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, although its territory is mostly occupied by Morocco), and seeks ever-greater unity and integration through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Back in 1963, there were two main groups of states contending to shape the OAU, known as the Monrovia Bloc and the Casablanca Bloc. The Monrovia Bloc was mainly composed of moderate, Anglophone African countries, which preferred a gradual, incremental approach to achieving African unity. It took its name from a meeting held in the Liberian capital in 1961. This bloc sought economic unity before political unity, promoted non-interference in internal affairs, and advocated for close cooperation with former colonising states.

The Casablanca Bloc was named after the Moroccan city, and represented mostly Francophone states, which desired a more radical and centralised path to Africa's liberation. This group called for the immediate creation of a continental pan-African government and a unified African army. They were strongly supportive of liberation movements fighting for independence and advocated for the total eradication of racial discrimination, apartheid and domination of Africa by foreign powers.

Compromises were reached and elements of both blocs' ideas went into the OAU Charter. There was a gradualist approach to political unity, and strong support for liberation movements, especially in southern Africa, and the sanctity of sovereignty within colonial-era national boundaries.

The approaches of these two camps

were largely mirrored in the late 1990s and early 2000s when talks commenced on transforming the OAU into the African Union (AU).

### Establishment of the African Union

It was widely held that while the decolonisation aim had been accomplished, the OAU had a poor record on human rights and advancing the development of the continent. Libya's Muammar Gaddafi favoured declaring a "United States of Africa" immediately, while South Africa's Thabo Mbeki advocated a gradual transformation.

The Mbeki ideas won out, after vigorous debate. His thinking was fundamental in the establishment of several important AU institutions including its Peace and Security Council, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Pan-African Parliament. The AU was officially launched in Durban on 9 July 2002.

In recent years, the AU has embarked on a reform process, championed by Rwanda's president Paul Kagame. Leaders recognised that the AU was too dependent on European funding and that the proportion of African funding should increase. It was also decided to combine the AU's Political Affairs department with its Peace and Security department to ostensibly increase efficiency.

However, this merger has not gone smoothly, with job uncertainty, resignations and many senior posts vacant in the new department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

Despite Kagame's call for a leaner, more focused institution, the AU continues to have an extremely wide remit and carries a bloated bureaucracy, inherited from the OAU days.

The AU's theme for 2023 is "Accelerating implementation of the AfCFTA to bring greater prosperity to the continent." This broad trade agreement seeks to make the entire continent a prosperous single market, able to compete favourably in international trade.

The AfCFTA was ratified and brought into being in record time by a record number of states, illustrating their enthusiasm and political will for

transforming trade and the lives of millions. Negotiations are ongoing around the finer details of the agreement.

One of the biggest sticking points is the free movement of people, which is being resisted by many states. Without it, however, a truly integrated market like the European Union will remain illusory. And if the AfCFTA works, it's a game changer.

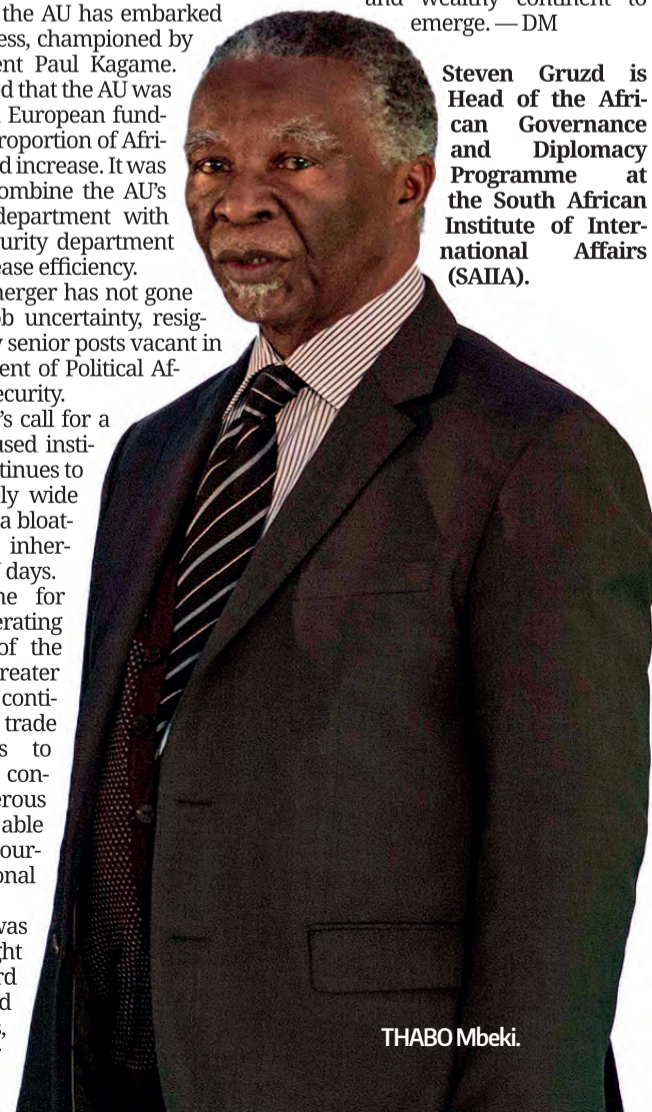
The AU theme also reflects a reality: Africa is not short on good ideas, but frequently fails to put them into practice.

The African Peer Review Mechanism measures its members' adherence to nearly 100 standards and codes. While ratification and adoption levels vary vastly from country to country, there is a common pattern of policy non-implementation across countries.

The AU's Agenda 2063: The Africa we want — the 50-year vision for the continent's development — remains aspirational rather than meaningfully realised. The noble but naive aim to "Silence the Guns" in Africa by 2020 was pushed back a decade.

At this time of reflection, citizens need more from their leaders for a healthy and wealthy continent to emerge. — DM

Steven Gruzd is Head of the African Governance and Diplomacy Programme at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).



THABO Mbeki.

# Sunday Express

No. 12282-235, Lancers Road, Maseru West, Maseru Lesotho  
Tel: +266 2231 5356, +266 5250 0600

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



Danny Bradlow

# South Africa's role as host of the BRICS summit is fraught with dangers

● a guide to who is in the group, and why it exists ...

**S**OUTH Africa will host the BRICS summit in August 2023. The event could offer the country an opportunity to exercise leadership in the BRICS' efforts to reform the arrangements for global economic governance and in supporting sustainable and inclusive development in Africa and the Global South. However, the opportunity has morphed into an international challenge because Russia's President Vladimir Putin, who has been indicted by the International Criminal Court, has indicated that he will attend. South Africa could face the wrath of its BRICS partners if it fulfils its international obligation and arrests him. On the other hand, if it does not arrest him, it could face sanctions from those countries that want to see Putin tried for war crimes.

Hosting the 2023 BRICS summit is therefore fraught with dangers. The international environment is complicated, dynamic and unpredictable. South Africa can avoid embarrassment and capitalise on the opportunities presented by the summit only if it is able to skilfully manoeuvre in these choppy waters.

Trying to understand South Africa's dilemma raises a number of questions: Who are the BRICS? What has the grouping achieved?

## Who are the BRICS?

In 2001, the global investment bank Goldman Sachs stated that it expected Brazil, Russia, India and China to become leading actors in the global economy. It collectively named the four countries "BRICs".

These countries decided that Goldman Sachs had a point and that they could enhance their global influence if they cooperated. They first met at a ministerial level in 2006 and at a leaders' summit in 2009. In 2010 they invited South Africa to join the group. The group became known as "BRICS".

A primary objective of the group is to reform global economic governance so that it is more responsive to the concerns and interests of the Global South. For example, the BRICS have called for a new global currency that can challenge the dominant role of the US dollar in the international monetary system. It has also pushed for a greater voice — and

more votes — for developing countries in key international economic organisations like the IMF and the World Bank.

The group has also sought, through groups like its business forum, to promote greater economic cooperation between the participating countries.

## What has the BRICS grouping achieved?

The BRICS record of achievements is mixed.

In 2016, the group established two new international economic entities.

The first was the New Development Bank. They contend that it is a "new" multilateral development bank which offers its members an alternative to institutions like the World Bank. It claims that its governance is fairer than the World Bank because its five original members all have equal votes. At the World Bank, shares (and therefore votes) are unevenly distributed among member states.

The development bank also strives to provide financing more quickly than the World Bank, and in a way that is more respectful of the laws in its member states.

However, to date, the New Development Bank has been less transparent and accountable than other multilateral development banks.

It has provided US\$32.8 billion to 96 projects in the 5 BRICS countries and it has begun looking to expand the scope of its operations. Since 2021 it has approved membership for Bangladesh, Egypt, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. It is expected to add new members in the coming years.

The second new entity was the Contingent Reserve Arrangement. This established a series of swap arrangements between the BRICS central banks. These arrangements allow each central bank, when its country is facing a balance of payments crisis, to exchange its local currency for hard currencies, like the US dollar, with its counterparts in the BRICS.

Pursuant to the terms of the arrangement, a central bank can only draw on a fraction of the available financing without also having to enter into a financing arrangement with the IMF. Thus, the conditions that are attached to the IMF's finances also become applicable to the funds made available through the Contingent Reserve

Arrangement.

To date, no BRICS central bank has used the arrangement.

According to their communiqués, the BRICS leaders have agreed to create other entities, such as a vaccine centre and a new credit rating agency. However, they have not yet implemented these agreements.

They have not been successful either in reforming the existing institutions and arrangements for global economic governance, such as the IMF. One reason for this failure is the strong opposition to reform from states, primarily those in Europe, which currently have dominant voices in the IMF and would lose them in the case of true reform.

But another important reason is that the BRICS are not unified in their demands for reform. For example, while Brazil, India and South Africa support reforming the UN Security Council to include more permanent members and to eliminate the veto power of the existing permanent members, China and Russia, as sitting permanent members, don't.

Similarly, not all the other BRICS have supported South Africa's call for a third African seat on the IMF's board of directors.

## Are there any downsides to BRICS membership?

The global political and economic situation has changed dramatically since 2010. These changes have created both opportunities and challenges for the BRICS.

One opportunity arises from the fact that approximately 19 countries in the Global South, including Argentina, Cuba, Iran and Saudi Arabia, have expressed an interest in joining the BRICS. It is expected that the BRICS will consider the issue of membership at their upcoming August 2023 summit.

Another opportunity arises from the growing interest around the world in having an alternative currency to the US dollar as the basis for the international financial system. The BRICS have been vocal supporters of de-dollarisation. However, given the complex economic and political relations between the BRICS member states,

there is considerable scepticism about the feasibility of the BRICS developing a new global currency in the near term.

The primary challenges facing the BRICS arise from geopolitics. The war in Ukraine has created tensions within the BRICS. The participating states have been forced to balance their respect for such international law principles as self-determination, sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes with their friendly relations with Russia. In addition, the BRICS cannot escape the fallout from the growing economic and security tensions between China and the west, particularly the US.

Both these issues complicate the efforts of the other BRICS to maintain their formal non-aligned position. They also exacerbate existing tensions within the BRICS. The most important example of this is the complex and tense relationship between India and China. In recent years, they have had military skirmishes in disputed border areas. In addition, India has imposed economic constraints on Chinese companies operating in India. The two countries have refused to renew the visas of journalists from each country so that now there are almost no journalists from Chinese publications in India and vice versa.

## What hangs on the summit?

South Africa faces another opportunity that is fraught with danger when it hosts the G20 in 2025. The G20, which brings together the 20 leading economic powers in the world, has called itself the "premier forum" for global economic governance. South Africa is currently the only permanent African member of the G20 and 2025 will be the first time the group is hosted by an African country.

Planning for this G20 event must begin soon because in 2024 South Africa will join India, the current G20 host, and Brazil, the 2024 G20 host in the troika that manages the G20 process. If the country does not plan carefully and effectively for this G20 event, South Africa risks emerging with a diminished reputation and its credibility shredded.

— The Conversation

**Professor/Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria.**



CYRIL Ramaphosa.

VLADIMIR Putin.

# Yourstars

## Aries - March 21 - April 20

Find a quiet spot where you can work diligently and stay out of the way. Heed the advice given by family or old reliable friends. You may blow situations out of proportion when dealing with the one you love. Plan your day thoughtfully, but try not to rely on others.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

## Taurus - April 21 - May 20

Avoid getting involved with married individuals. You can expand your circle of friends if you get out and socialize. Look into career choices and courses being offered. Ease the anguish by offering assistance.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## Gemini - May 21 - June 21

Be discreet about your feelings, and hold back until you find out a little more about the person who's coming on to you. Don't let criticism upset you. Hassles will delay your plans. Your obviously unique way of doing things has caught the eye of someone in a higher position. It will do you some good.

Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

## Cancer - June 22 - July 22

Don't shy away from potential mates they want to introduce you to. Get help to finish a project if you need it. Property investments should payoff. Your personal life will be under the gun and you may want to avoid the questions your lover is going to want to ask you.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

## Leo - July 23 - August 22

Spend some time with the one you love. Pleasure trips will be satisfying. You will need a little competition this week. Get involved in activities that will stretch your stamina. You need to get out and be an observer. You're in the mood to spend money.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

## Virgo - August 23 - September 22

Your sensitivity toward those you love will capture their hearts. Your relationship appears to be stressed out and depleted. You can continue to make gains if you call a few people who can help you close an important deal. Try not to get upset or angry without having all the facts.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

## Libra - September 23 - October 22

You need time to think things through. Don't allow your personal problems to interfere with your professionalism. Try to bend but by no means should you give in completely. You'll find love and you'll get into tiptop shape at the same time.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## Scorpio - October 23 - November 21

Someone close to you will get upset easily if you are insensitive to their needs. Delays are evident. Avoid being intimately involved with clients or colleagues. Don't let the moods of those you live with get you down.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## Sagittarius - November 22 - December 20

Your need to put great detail into everything you do may cause you to miss the overall picture. Although it does look promising, be careful not to overextend yourself or you will lose in the long run. You may want to look into warm vacation spots. You must use discretion when talking to others. Gambling should not be an option.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

## Capricorn - December 21 - January 19

You need a day to rest and relax with the ones you love. New methods and innovative technology will make your job far easier than you anticipated. Don't make mountains out of molehills if you want to avoid conflict. You may be overreacting to personal problems.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## Aquarius - January 20 - February 18

Try to curb your tongue and let others at least get a word in. You can enjoy social events and meet new potential mates; however, avoid being lavish. Curb or cut out that bad habit you've been meaning to do something about. Someone may be trying to pull the wool over your eyes.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

## Pisces - February 19 - March 20

Your ability to do detailed work will dazzle those who are less creative. Don't let yourself get run-down. Too much work and no play will not only result in fatigue and frustration but also loneliness, too. Your need to obtain additional details will lead you into strange topics of conversation.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

# Mum outraged as neighbour's kids sneak into her garden and set up 'booby traps'



**T**HE mum stepped out into her garden to find a number of 'traps' that had been set up by her neighbour's kids after they snuck onto her property without permission.

If you and your neighbours both have children of similar ages, it's not unusual for you to share your outdoor space so that your kids can play together whenever they want to.

But one mum has had to ban her neighbour's kids from her front garden after they disrespected her boundaries and entered her property when she wasn't at home — and had even set up "booby traps" for the family to walk into.

The woman explained she and her neighbours share a pathway between their front gardens so it's easy for the kids to come and go as they please, although she's always told her children not to enter their neighbour's garden without asking.

However, the mum came home one day to find her kids' toys had been moved and the flowers in the garden had been picked, and said the only possible culprits were her neighbour's children.

In a post on Reddit, she said: "We share a path between our two front gardens. My garden is fairly flat, nicely kept, has flowers, and the kids are currently growing strawberries and tomatoes. It's not perfect but it's well loved and looked after."

"I put some of my kids' toys out the front a few weeks ago so they could play outside while I did the garden. That day we had to nip out and upon returning I found all their

## Stranger than Fiction

toys had been moved and the only people it would have been is the neighbour's kids. My flowers had also been picked too - that really upset me."

The mum thought the incident would be a one-off so let it slide, until the following morning when she opened her front door to find one of her children's toys completely blocking her from exiting her house.

And what's more, the neighbour's children had left bang snaps - which are also known as fun snaps or bangers - on the ground, which gave the mum a fright when she stepped on one and heard a loud pop.

She added: "Today, I opened the front door to find one of the ride-on toys right outside of it, I had to push the toy out of the way just to step out of the door. Then

I stood on a load of those things you throw on the floor that make a bang sound, all lined up outside of my front door, the kid had lined them up outside of my front door on purpose."

Furious, the mum has now told her neighbours their kids are banned from her front garden, and commenters have agreed with her stance as many said it was unacceptable for the kids to "booby trap" someone else's property.

One person wrote: "The neighbours should be keeping out of your yard and not booby-trapping your entryway. They're being disrespectful and the parents are not properly disciplining their kids."

While another said: "Parents need to control their kids and teach them to respect property and other people's things. I don't even like dogs walking on my lawn, much less kids tampering with my stuff. I'm a parent as well, and it is up to the parents to teach their kids proper manners."

Some commenters disagreed with the idea of bang snaps being "booby traps", but another pointed out that while they may be harmless to some, you never know how the person being "pranked" will react.

They posted: "I have PTSD and get freaked out easily. If I stepped out of my door, expecting to be safe, and instead got a shock like that I'd freak out. I also have a heart condition I'm working on diagnosing, this kind of shock could really hurt the wrong person. 'Pranks' like this just aren't funny, it's f\*\*\*ed up and the kids need to be taught that it isn't okay." — Mirror

# Will Emmerson Mnangagwa walk the talk and make Zimbabwe great again?

Phillip van Niekerk

**T**HE August elections are an opportunity that Mnangagwa should grasp to restore trust and confidence between the government and the international community, but compensation to unpaid investors, including farmers and miners, is key to re-engagement.

The potential restoration of Zimbabwe as a member of good standing in the international community could be the biggest game-changer in Africa this year — but Zanu-PF has to take the opportunity that is being offered.

The dialogue over debt resolution and arrears clearance championed by African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina and facilitated by former Mozambique president Joaquim Chissano appears to be moving towards some kind of resolution.

“We know what needs to be done,” Adesina told the meeting. “We must move more rapidly now into speedy implementation on the ground.”

The key indicator of how serious Harare is in its promise to restore the rule of law will be its ability to pull off a free and fair election.

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s announcement this week that elections are to be held on 23 August was met with dismay

in some quarters because the date was published before a series of electoral reforms could be enacted.

“This will have serious consequences not just for the credibility of the elections and for our political stability, but also for our economic development and international relations,” the legal think tank Veritas warned.

Adesina and Chissano’s outreach included a visit last month to Washington, which broadly supports their initiative. The view was expressed in Congress and by the US Treasury that “concrete and measurable steps” will trigger the lifting of sanctions.

Mnangagwa has tried to reassure sceptical

development partners and creditors by committing to the implementation of a package of reforms, including governance reforms, land tenure reforms, compensation of former farm owners and the resolution of bilateral investment protection agreements.

## But can Mnangagwa walk the talk?

The ruling Zanu-PF has dashed hopes before — remember the optimism in 2018 after Mnangagwa overthrew Robert Mugabe in a military coup?

Reform of the vast patronage machine that has ravaged the country’s economy, collapsed the health and education sectors and turned hundreds of thousands of Zimbabweans into refugees in neighbouring states, is going to take a lot more than sweet words.

What makes this time feel different is the passion and commitment of Adesina, whose stewardship of the African Development Bank has turned it into one of the most vibrant and effective institutions on the continent, and the diplomatic skills of Chissano, the former Frelimo fighter whose relationship with Zanu-PF goes back to the days of the liberation struggle.

Their engagement will make it harder for Zanu-PF to blame the former colonialists and bullying Americans if it fails to meet its promises.

Adesina insists that political reforms are an integral part of the debt restructuring package. “Success on the political and electoral reforms, and a free and fair election, are crucial to clear the pathway towards arrears clearance and debt resolution for Zimbabwe,” he said.

The ruling Zanu-PF party has a long history of abusing state institutions to muzzle and oppress the opposition. Two high-profile opposition leaders, Job Sikhala and Jacob Ngarhume, are currently jailed on what critics say are politically motivated charges, while the voters’ roll has yet to be opened for public inspection with fewer than three months to the elections.

Zimbabwe’s electoral management body, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), remains one of the country’s least-trusted institutions, populated by former military officials who aren’t known for their impartiality.

With its privileged access to state resources, Zanu-PF is poised to win the upcoming general election, even without overt cheating.

If they choose to use violence and intimidation once again, they will prove that the political and electoral playing field is unchanged since the time of Mugabe.

Adesina has made it clear that there will be no deal if there is another bad election: “The people of Zimbabwe and the international community will be watching very closely. The full weight of re-engagement... will depend not just on the election, but the entire electoral process that guarantees a credible election.”

This is an opportunity that Mnangagwa should grasp to restore trust and confidence between the government and the international community, but compensation to unpaid investors, including farmers and miners, is key to re-engagement.

## Mountain of debt

Zimbabwe’s external debt is estimated at \$14.04-billion, comprising \$5.7-billion of bilateral debt, \$2.6-billion of multilateral debt, \$3.4-billion Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe debt and \$2.3-billion in blocked funds.

Accumulated arrears were estimated at \$6.3-billion at the end of September 2022 and are rising fast.

A deal on the arrears will enable Zimbabwe to access new lines of credit to surmount the catastrophic underperformance of what should be one of the best economies in Africa.

Adesina revealed that the bank has developed financial instruments to “fast-track and front-load” the promised \$3.5-billion compensation to the white farmers as part of the debt-clearance programme.

What has been conspicuously absent from the debt talks is any proposal to compensate mining investors, who are owed more than \$460-million by Harare after they won international arbitration cases arising from rights disputes.

The Zimbabwe Mining Development Company (ZMDC), which incurred exposures as a result of the cancellation of mining rights and the forceful removal, for instance, of Grandwell from the Marange diamond fields in 2016, is a 100 percent government-owned entity.

However, the state has been reluctant to assume ZMDC’s debts as it has done with other state-owned enterprises. Instead ZMDC has been involved in endless and costly litigation trying to overturn the arbitration awards.

Leaving out mining investors could hamper efforts to attract blue-chip investors rather than the bottom feeders and rogues that currently pollute the Zimbabwean economy.

The good news is that Zimbabwe’s ability to repay its debt and rebuild its economy has been enhanced by increased earnings from platinum and gold, while the country has also recently discovered extensive lithium deposits.

Some estimates indicate that Zimbabwe has the largest lithium reserves in Africa and the fifth-largest in the world, and Mnangagwa has signalled that mining and refining lithium ore is a focus of the Zimbabwe government.

The pieces are in place for a revival of Zimbabwe that would be a much-needed boost for the entire southern African region.

The choice now is Mnangagwa’s. Which legacy will he opt for? — DM

**Phillip van Niekerk is the editor of Africa Unscrambled, a newsletter covering the continent in a way you won’t read anywhere else. He is also the editorial director of Scrolla.Africa.**



EMMANUEL Mnangagwa.

## Zimbabwe outlaws criticism of government before August elections

**Z**IMBABWE’S parliament has outlawed criticism of the government before presidential and parliamentary elections in August, with violations of a new law punishable by up to 20 years in jail.

The criminal law code amendment bill, widely known as the “patriotic bill”, contains a clause that criminalises “wilfully damaging the sovereignty and national interest of Zimbabwe”.

Opposition activists say the law, which was passed late on Wednesday, is designed to punish citizens,

civil society organisations and political adversaries of the ruling Zanu-PF party.

It has raised fears that the government could launch a crackdown on dissent before the general election on 23 August, when the country’s president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, will be seeking a second term.

The 80-year-old’s main rival is Nelson Chamisa, 45, a lawyer and pastor who leads the newly formed Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC).

The CCC’s national spokesperson, Fadzayi Mahere, also a lawyer, said

the law was dangerous and intended to close the democratic space in the run-up to the elections.

“Zanu-PF has reduced our great nation into an outpost of tyranny,” she said.

“None of it will work because Zimbabweans go to the polls with one mission — to win Zimbabwe for change. No amount of panicky despotism by Zanu will stand in the way of change whose time has come.”

A Zanu-PF spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

— The Guardian

# BRICS countries show signs of division over potential for expanding membership



NALEDI Pandor (second from left) with foreign ministers and representatives from the BRICS countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China in Cape Town.

**D**ESPITE boasting about 20-odd countries wanting to join, the five BRICS member countries themselves don't all agree that expansion would be a good idea.

The expansion of BRICS has been the main issue at the meeting of the bloc's foreign ministers in Cape Town this week. The meeting included a Friends of BRICS component where 13 other nations joined the five BRICS member nations either in person or by video.

SA International Relations Minister Naledi Pandor characterised these as countries "which have indicated a strong interest in becoming a permanent part of BRICS." And other nations not present have also either applied formally to join BRICS or have informally shown an interest in doing so.

The problem is that the five BRICS members themselves are not united about the merits of expanding membership, let alone the criteria for accepting applicants. Official sources have told *Daily Maverick* that while China is enthusiastic about expanding membership and SA and Russia are keen, Brazil and especially India are "dead against."

A large part of the reason for their opposition is that expanding membership would dilute their relative importance in the bloc. But there are also concerns about the criteria for admitting new members. BRICS officials have said that one of these would be to establish common BRICS values. But what would those be? Already BRICS comprises three democracies — South Africa, India and Brazil, one quasi-democracy (at best) Russia and one unambiguous autocracy, China.

Some new applicants like Iran and possibly Venezuela, could present their own challenges to all members. There is a sense that expanding BRICS could in effect make it more of an anti-Western bloc which is not what Brazil and India necessarily want.

The divisions over the issue of expansion were visible at a press conference that the five BRICS foreign ministers gave after their meeting on Thursday. Chinese deputy foreign minister Qin Gang said China was "very happy" about the prospect of new members joining the "big family" of BRICS. Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov also welcomed the fact that BRICS was "evolving".

Indian Foreign Minister Sub-

rahmanyam Jaishankar and Brazilian Foreign Minister, Mauro Vieira did not comment.

But Pandor told media on Friday that the BRICS ministers had tasked their officials to refine their proposals for expanding membership and that the heads of state would discuss these proposals at the summit which is due to be held in Sandton in August. However, SA officials say they are exploring the possibility of moving the summit to China to avoid the problem of Russian president Vladimir Putin visiting South Africa, when SA would be obliged to arrest him on an International Criminal Court warrant.

The official sources said it was

proving difficult to resolve the differences over expanded membership. SA had proposed a possible compromise of admitting new countries not as full members but as part of a "BRICS-Outreach."

The countries which participated in the Friends of Brics session, either in person or virtually were the foreign ministers of Comoros, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Iran, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Argentina, Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi and Indonesia.

However, even though Pandor had said these were countries which had shown an interest in joining BRICS, she also noted that several of

them had participated as representatives of regional organisations such as the African Union.

## De-dollarisation

Another topic of discussion at the foreign ministers' meeting is the need for BRICS countries to conduct trade and financial transactions in their own currencies rather than the US dollar. Pandor said this would help reduce the vulnerability of countries to US sanctions.

There has also been a wider discussion about the BRICS countries establishing their own currency to further reduce their dependence on the dollar.

However SA's "sherpa" on BRICS

— the official in charge of this year's summit — insisted that "It's never been a topic amongst BRICS countries including amongst their finance ministers, we have never spoken about de-dollarisation. "What we have done, which is nothing new, we signed an agreement several years ago, an interbank agreement, paving the way to trade in our local currencies. So what we are saying is that we need to trade in our currencies."

"The NDB (BRICS New Development Bank) has taken a decision to say that 30 percent of its loans can be borrowed in local currency. So these are things we are saying; we want to promote greater trade, greater investments using local currencies." — DM

**U**KRAINE'S president has declared his country's military is ready to launch a long-awaited counteroffensive and hinted at concern about the possibility of Donald Trump retaking the White House.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, giving an interview to the Wall Street Journal, suggested that a significant attack could come soon and said he hoped a change in the US presidency would not impact military aid to Kyiv.

"We strongly believe that we will succeed," Zelenskyy told the Rupert Murdoch-owned newspaper, although he acknowledged he did not know how long the counter offensive would take or how well it would go.

"To be honest, it can go a variety of ways, completely different. But we are going to do it, and we are ready," Zelenskyy said, after months of troop training and significant arms donations from the west.

Ukraine has readied 12 brigades, an estimated 60,000 troops, to spearhead an attack it hopes to show it can force the Russian invaders, who total about 300,000, from its territory, some of which has been occupied since 2014.

Initial shaping operations, including long-range missile strikes on Russian military hubs, have already begun but the concern in Kyiv remains that many Ukrainian lives will be lost in an attack that is seen as politically and militarily necessary.

The president said he feared "a large number of soldiers will die" and that he still wanted more air defence systems to protect troops from the larger Russian air force, still largely intact 15 months after the Kremlin launched its full invasion.

However, echoing other western officials, the president said they had the equipment they needed for now, acknowledging "we can't wait for months" — pointing to the likelihood of a significant attack in coming weeks.

On Friday, John Kirby, a White House national security council spokesperson, said: "We're com-

## We will succeed – Zelenskyy

says Ukraine ready to launch counter offensive ...



VOLODYMYR Zelenskyy.

fortable that we have met Ukraine's needs to conduct their counteroffensive now," adding: "When I say 'we', I don't just mean the United States, I mean our allies and partners."

Ukraine has been promised \$37bn in military aid from the US, including Himars rocket launchers, making it the largest single western military supporter. Britain, the second largest contributor, has pledged £4.6bn and Germany €4.2bn.

There is considerable anxiety among Ukraine's leaders about what could happen in the event

that Joe Biden is defeated by Donald Trump or another Republican in the next US presidential election in late 2024.

Last month, Trump declined to say whether he wanted Ukraine to win, opting for an equivocal formulation. "Russians and Ukrainians, I want them to stop dying," he said. "And I'll have that done. I'll have that done in 24 hours."

That underlined the decision by Zelenskyy to speak to the right-wing Journal, in an attempt to persuade a wider Republican audience of the

necessity of supporting Ukraine, and ultimately pressurise the party's notoriously unpredictable leading candidate into following suit.

In the interview, Zelenskyy said a change in president could adversely affect the otherwise vital military support from the US. "In a situation like this, when there is support, you are afraid of changes," he said.

Choosing his words carefully, he added: "And to be honest, when you mention a change of administration, I feel the same way as any other person — you want changes for the better, but it can also be the other way around."

The Ukrainian leader also said he did not understand how Trump thought he could end the war in 24 hours, not least because he had not brought an end to the simmering conflict that followed Russia's seizure of Crimea and occupation by separatists of parts of the eastern Donbas in 2014.

Zelenskyy also said "there is no point" in him attending the next Nato summit in Vilnius, Lithuania in July, unless Ukraine is given a roadmap to membership of the military alliance after the conclusion of the war.

Earlier this week the French president, Emmanuel Macron, warned that alliance members may not be able to reach a consensus at the summit itself, and Zelenskyy's comments suggest he is willing to negotiate hard on the issue.

Missile attacks were relatively restrained overnight and Kyiv was not attacked for the first night in a week. One person was killed in shelling in the northern Ukrainian Sumy region, its military administration said.

— The Guardian

## Ways you can make more money amid the cost-of-living crisis

**W**ITH rising living costs, South Africans must find new ways to supplement their income, and the unemployed are desperate to make ends meet.

### Tutoring

Tutoring is the act of guiding students to become independent learners through individual attention and a structured approach to skills development. For this side hustle, you will require little to no money to get up and running, only your skills.

Have you recently matriculated with flying colours or graduated from a tertiary institution with equally impressive grades?

You can put your knowledge to use by tutoring those who are currently studying the same subjects/modules you did. You don't need any training as you already have lived experience.

All you need to do is advertise your service online, especially on social media. Similarly, you can approach the pupils or students you want to tutor and tell them how you can help them achieve more in their studies. As a tutor, you can charge R180 to R200 per hour.

### Tuckshop

A tuckshop is a small store that sells food. According to researcher Dr Jane Battersby, urban food security is a significant development challenge in Southern Africa.

However, the field is currently under-researched and under-theorised. If you live in an area where people have to travel to access food, this could be an opportunity to open a small tuckshop. However, you will first need to get a business licence from your municipality. These cost from R850 upwards and will need to be renewed annually. Make sure that your area is hygienic and clean



WHETHER you have a full-time job or are unemployed, it is always advantageous to come up with new ways to make money.

daily. Stock up with all the necessities and fruits and vegetables. Make sure that you have staples such as bread, milk and eggs, which people often buy several times a week. Spread the word around your neighbourhood and your community will come flocking to grab a few items.

### Editing people's writing

An editor improves a draft of a document by correcting errors and making words and sentences clearer, more precise, and as effective as possible. Do you have a love for language and a keen eye for grammar and spelling? Editing might be the perfect side job for you! All you have to do is advertise your services.

As your own boss, you can decide your rates. Editors typically charge per word.

### Dog walking

Dog walkers walk dogs for clients and follow agreed-upon routes and schedules. They also give the dogs food and water and dispose of waste. You don't need any formal training or qualifications to become a dog walker. With this side hustle, you can turn your love of man's best friend into a source of income.

For example, Poochy Co, a dog-walking service in Cape Town, charges up to R2 000 a month for 45 — 60 walks. As an independent dog walker, you can set your rates ac-

ording to your schedule and availability.

### e-Hailing services

e-hailing is the process of ordering a car, taxi, or motorcycle pick-up via virtual devices: a computer or mobile device. If you have a car, this could be a great way for you to make money after work and on weekends. There are various e-hailing services companies you can sign up with, such as Uber, Bolt or DiDi.

Each company has different ways of screening potential drivers, so you might have to wait for a response. South African Uber drivers typically make more than R700 a day.

— IOL Business

## Ways to implement a performance improvement plan for an under-working employee

It is never easy to have a discussion with an underperforming staff member. The discussion around performance and productivity can be uncomfortable.

If done incorrectly it can make an employee feel as if they are being shown the way out.

In these harsh economic times, we must adjust our approach to employees who are not performing according to the company standards. It might be time to introduce revised performance improvement plans.

### Understanding performance improvement plans

When an employer observes the lack of productivity in a staff member,

they might decide to take a decision to draw up a performance improvement plan to help the team member become more productive.

A performance improvement plan is used to guide an employee on performance goals that need to be met within a specific time-frame. As an employee, receiving a performance improvement plan might be anxiety provoking.

From an employee's point of view, this might seem as the last step taken by the company before the termination of the employment contract.

The reality is that managers usually use this as a tool with HR to fix the issues with an employee's performance.

A performance improvement plan might seem intimidating for an employee but the truth is that a plan of this nature is designed to give an employee an opportunity to turn things around.

As a business issuing a performance improvement plan is a useful way of managing staff turnover. It also demonstrates a positive attitude towards staff improvement. At the same time, it also aids the employer to avoid any issues if they choose to end an employee's contract.

Let's look at three ways to implement a performance improvement plan that will show development from an employee towards their goals and objectives.

The first step to creating a performance improvement plan that works is to ensure that it is clearly communicated.

The discussion needs to be one that will demonstrate a conversation between management and the employee.

The manager needs to take the time to explain what is expected from the team member during the period of the performance improvement plan.

The discussion needs to explain what reasons have led to the staff member being put on a performance improvement plan.

To get the most out of the plan for the employee and the employer, the plan needs to be communicated by a manager who is determined to give the employee an opportunity to improve.

### Be open to employee engagement

When drawing up a plan to improve an employee's performance, we need to be mindful of their recognition of their own capabilities.

This means being open to discussion and conversations around what

works and what does not. If an employee feels the time-frame measuring their performance plan is unrealistic, be open to re-evaluation.

This will be beneficial for management and the employee, as this will show their seriousness in the plan and their determination to produce results.

Listen to them on their own challenges and when possible, offer assistance. Perhaps there is a need for training or skills development, this can also form part of the plan.

### Follow ups need to be done regularly

If you have given an employee three

months to improve their key responsibility areas, you should not wait for the timeline to close in to check up on them.

Try to conduct regular check-ups to ensure that the performance improvement plan is working.

If we see the results in the first few weeks or if we see the need to adjust the plan,

we can go about doing this provided we have been getting feedback on the plan.

Try sitting with the employee every week to get a feel on the plan that has been drawn up for them.

Regular follow ups can also help us gauge if a plan like this would work on other team members.

Performance improvement plans are not meant to work out employees.

If done correctly, they can go a long way to retain and improve an employee's journey in the workplace.

— IOL

### NOTICE OF LOST LEASE

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply for a certified copy of a registered **Title Deed/ Lease** to immovable property registered Under No. 19223-887 on the 11 /8/2016 in favour of **LEHLOHONOLO RICHARD QENEHELO HLONGWANE** in respect of Every right or interest on and to the building(s) and other developments express or implied in certain **Plot No. 19223-887** situated at **HA RAMONAHENG TEYATEYANENG URBAN AREA** on **Plot No. 19223** As held by Chief Surveyor.

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

**ADDRESS:**  
Land Registrar  
Land Administration Authority  
LEROETHOLI ROAD  
P.O Box 11856  
Maseru 100

**APPLICANT'S NAMES AND ADDRESS**  
LEHLOHONOLO HLONGWANE  
TEYATEYANENG 200  
BEREA  
HA RAMONAHENG  
CONTACT NUMBERS: 59160666



DRAW up a performance improvement plan to help the team member become more productive.

# Gündogan double wins FA Cup

**S**URELY not again? Ilkay Gündogan had already hit one volley and what a volley it was, 13 seconds in, the ball flying into the Manchester United net to make him the fastest ever FA Cup final scorer.

Now, early in the second half, the Manchester City midfielder set himself again on the edge of the United box, Kevin De Bruyne having pulled back a free-kick into his sphere of influence. United were level at that point thanks to a Bruno Fernandes penalty — following a real letter-of-the-law handball decision against Jack Grealish on the half hour.

Gündogan's opener had been with his right foot. This time, he allowed the ball to run across him before making the connection with his left and it was certainly not as true. It bounced once, rearing up over Raphaël Varane's leg and then again before it reached the corner of the net via David de Gea's outstretched hand. The United goalkeeper had seen it late and he got across slowly.

City were back in the ascendancy and they were not likely to let it slip again, even if United did muster what passed for a late push. Varane smuggled a stoppage-time effort onto the crossbar and the substitute, Scott McTominay, headed the rebound over.

And so, as the wild celebrations gripped in the sky blue half of the stadium at full-time, City could reflect on completing part two of the treble, the ultimate one of the league, FA Cup and Champions League, which only United's class of 99 have previously achieved.

That was what stung United the most. In the first ever all-Manchester FA Cup final, they had been cast as protectors of Ferguson's greatest legacy but they will now be relying on Internazionale to beat City in next Saturday's Champions League final in Istanbul.

Grealish had said a few weeks ago that, at this time of the season, Gündogan turns into "prime Zidane" and here was the latest evi-

● as treble moves closer ...



MAN CITY'S Ilkay Gündogan celebrates his goal during the FA Cup against Man United.

dence. It was the German's double on the final day of last season's Premier League that drove City to the title and he has been decisive on many other occasions. Surely, he cannot be allowed to leave on a free transfer?

The opening to the game had been extraordinary, Gündogan central, taking the kick-off. In almost the blink of an eye, he had sent a searing volley into the top corner from outside the area. There had been a punt forward from Stefan Ortega — preferred in goal to Ederon — a flick on, a clearing header from Victor Lindelöf and then there was Gündogan, moving smoothly onto the dropping ball, to sculpt a masterpiece. Cue pandemonium in the City end.

All of United's pre-match worries, especially those of their fans, seemed to crystallise in that hammer blow. In the absence of the injured Antony and Anthony Martial, Erik ten Hag had started Fernandes on the right and Fred as the extra midfielder.

It felt like a plan to contain. Which was all United could do until the penalty, which came like a bolt out of the sky blue. City had flickered before it, confidence in their veins. Rodri headed just wide and there were a couple of Erling Haaland moments, the first when he slid to meet a fine Gündogan cross; he could not muster power in the first-time prod.

The penalty was a jaw-dropper in many ways. It was unexpected

because United had barely entered the final third and also because nobody really saw anything amiss in real time after Aaron Wan-Bissaka had risen to head Fernandes's diagonal back inside.

City got the sinking feeling when the referee, Paul Tierney, was advised to go over to the pitch-side monitor. Once there, he saw that Wan-Bissaka's header had gone into Grealish's hand at point-blank range as the City winger jumped to contest the ball, using his arm as leverage. It was harsh.

Fernandes did not care. The hop, the eyes, the late decision once Ortega had committed to the dive. Fernandes's knee slide in front of the City support was not a great idea, though. Lindelöf appeared to be hit

by something as he joined his celebrating teammates.

The camera panned to a grinning Sir Alex Ferguson in the stands. United were back and it was a contest for the remainder of the first half; City looking a little rattled, Ten Hag's team starting to play.

The passions simmered, Guardiola and Ten Hag exchanging views after Grealish had left something on Casemiro. Moments earlier, City had wanted a penalty after Fred got himself in front of De Bruyne. For United, Varane volleyed wide after a corner.

City shook their heads clear at half-time. They told themselves that if they stuck to their game-plan, which involved John Stones stepping into midfield from central defence, the usual movements and understandings, they would reassert themselves.

City pushed United back from the restart, De Bruyne to the fore, Casemiro and Fred looking like auxiliary centre-halves, at times. Even so, there was an element of fortune about the goal for 2-1 because, if there was placement about Gündogan's second volley, there was little power. In the moment, it felt as though De Gea, albeit unsighted, had to do better. It was confirmed by each replay.

City continued to push. De Gea was rooted — and not for the first time — when a De Bruyne shot deflected and went past his post. De Bruyne would also draw a save out of the United keeper after dropping a shoulder on Varane. United had to do something, to find a burst from somewhere because it was all City.

Ten Hag introduced Alejandro Garnacho and he made a difference, bending one shot on 73 minutes inches past the far post.

Gündogan was denied a hat-trick when he shot home from an offside position and, when Varane and McTominay would not capitalise at the very end, City stepped to the brink of history. — The Guardian

Sam Dalling

**A**SK anyone what they enjoy about attending professional women's football and the answers will be similar: they are reeled in not only by the quality but the atmosphere, friendliness and inclusivity. With the women's game growing, the toxicity around men's football, especially for travelling supporters, is an even more glaring contrast. As the season ends, *the Guardian* spoke to fans of clubs across the Premier League and EFL who reported offensive chants, language, behaviour and sexual assaults. For women, families, black, Asian and minority ethnic and LGBTQ+ fans, following their team on the road can be difficult and uncomfortable.

One female supporter spoke of experiencing sexual assaults regularly when following her team and going to other games with friends. "I've normalised it," she said. "You'd think I'd turn around and call them out, but I didn't. Last time, it was only [when] walking back to the car I said to my husband: 'Oh yeah, that's happened again.' I should have been more horrified, but it happens all the time, particularly at away games where people have been drinking all day. They think that's acceptable. I don't accept that."

Other supporters say physical threats are the exception rather than the rule. "You can absolutely have a horrible experience and feel massively uncomfortable but at no point feel that your personal safety is under threat. They are two very different things," says a female supporter of a Premier League club.

But she adds: "The number of times women are expected to 'put up and shut up' in an uncomfortable scenario, or get told: 'Don't be soft, you need to harden up — this is football.' 'If you want to come to football, you've got to grow a pair.' What? You must be kidding?"

The link between away games and unac-

## Why toxicity of men's football makes many fans feel unsafe

ceptable behaviour is striking. A fan of a northern club said that whereas she loves to go to away games with her father, she would not do so alone. Another said that solo home games are fine but she would not consider an away fixture without a companion. The Women of Watford group is designed to address this by allowing like-minded fans to travel and sit together. The club works alongside them to ensure this happens.

Many away fans travel by coach, whether unofficial or laid on by clubs. An LGBTQ+ supporter of a north-west team said she and her partner would never take their children on either. "You see tweets like: 'We're going hounding', which basically means to pick up women," she said. She is almost self-critical when adding that in all other areas of life she stands up to homophobic discrimination but accepts it at football.

Some fixtures — usually derbies — are designated as "bubble games", with police dictating that away fans must use designated transport methods. A female supporter who recently took a mandatory coach to one such match spoke of feeling extremely uncomfortable at men urinating in bottles and the casual use of racist and homophobic language. At the same derby, away fans with disabilities were housed directly beneath home fans.

The longer the expectation-cum-acceptance of unhealthy norms in fan behaviour remains unchallenged, the deeper rooted they become. But the next generation of fans can bring about change. Obtaining a ticket for an away game can be tricky, though. Football historically rewards supporter loyalty, a prac-

tice that reflects the wider business world but acts as a barrier to entry. How can one accrue credit without opportunity?

The female fan who travels with her dad relies on his friend not using his booking reference. Given the high demand for away tickets she will, without change, never be eligible of her own accord.

Manchester City addressed this a few seasons ago. Five percent of away tickets are reserved for supporters aged between 18 and 25, and loyalty points are no longer awarded for purchasing away tickets. Further, a randomly selected set of fans must collect their ticket on the day from the away club. The aim here was to close the "buy-to-sell" market. All simple steps but ones that can make a real difference.

Most clubs have posters in stadiums encouraging supporters to text a helpline if they hear foul and abusive language or discrimination. However, the way this is dealt with remains problematic. A fan ambassador at one Premier League club has received complaints that the stewards would openly ask the complainant to identify the perpetrator. A similar story was told about a lower-league club. That instantly removes the cloak of anonymity, discouraging people from coming forward.

Another top-flight club promises zero tolerance on foul and abusive language. But one away supporter said that after reporting a home fan who spent an hour screaming obscenities at away fans, the stewards did not initially remove the offender. Only when pushed on the club's zero-tolerance approach was the individual ejected. This behaviour is

typical of those buying tickets at the barrier between home and away supporters.

Steward inertia can be problematic. "When they say zero tolerance, it isn't zero tolerance," says another female supporter. "Anything that crosses the line — violence, potentially something like racism — they'll do something about that. But it's not zero tolerance against aggressive language. It's almost like it's expected."

No one suggested a blanket ban on offensive language at football, but when the primary aim of attending is to scream abuse, surely that crosses the line?

Several contributors also believed that clubs who receive pushback from banned fans do not want the hassle of resisting, or do not investigate actively enough. A supporter at a Championship club reported a fan for racially abusing a player. Despite several witnesses being present, that fan is still allowed to attend matches. Then there are the songs. At their best, football chants can be witty, heart-filling cries. But at their worst, they are hate crimes. Post-pandemic, the trivialisation of sex offences is commonplace. Homophobia and racism, too.

The difficulty, clubs say, is in how hard to approach these issues: active cease-and-desist requests can have the opposite effect. Take, for example, a black player who asked his supporters not to sing about his genitals. Instead, his own fans sang louder. For parents, such chants can lead to difficult questions and conversations.

Clubs can only do so much. Everyone attending men's football must play their part. But easy wins are not being recognised, initiatives such as those run by Manchester City or supported by Watford that other clubs could follow. Clubs could ensure zero tolerance really does mean zero tolerance. The men's game is lagging behind and must catch up.

— The Guardian

Leemisa Thuseho

# FAL names a team for Botswana athletics relays competition

**T**HE Federation of Athletics Lesotho (FAL) has named a strong team for the international athletics relays competition in Botswana next weekend.

The competition, organised by Botswana's Lefika Athletics Club - is scheduled for 10 June 2023 at the Botswana National Stadium in Gaborone.

In preparation for the event, FAL has named a team of 13 athletes who will compete in different categories which include mixed medley relay (100m,200m, 800m and 1500m), 100m× 4 mixed relay, males 100m× 4 relay, and 400m× 4 mixed relays.

The mixed medley relay quartet consists of Maliea Nalane (female) who will run the 100m distance, Samuel Petlo (male) who is going for 200m, 'Manqabang Tsibela (female) who will compete in the 800m while Karabo Lephhallo (male) will run the 1500m distance.

The males' 100m× 4 relay team is made up of Lebesa Sekepe, Mojela Koneshe, Mokheseng Kente and Morapeli Mokole.

Nalane (female), Sekepe (male), Koneshe (male) along with Rethabile Koetle (female) will also form the team to battle in the mixed 100m× 4 relay category.

In the mixed 400m× 4 Lesotho will be represented by Samuel Khalane (male), Pinki Monyobo (female), Relebohile Mokoatleng (male) and Mphotleng Koeshe (female).

FAL public relations officer Nkuebe Makhalemele confirmed the team to the *Sunday Express* on Friday.

He said they selected the athletes based on their respective performances especially in the recent National Seniors Championships that were held at Setsoto Stadium on 21 May 2023.

"The athletes were selected into the team based on their perfor-



'MANQABANG Tsibela.

mance and most of them performed well in the recent national championships," Makhalemele said.

Makhalemele said he was confident that the team would do its best and make the country proud.

For a long time, Lesotho hasn't been competing in relay competitions regionally and even on the

international level due to a lack of relay teams.

However, Makhalemele said it came to their realization that they needed to increase the number of events they competed in, in the hope of increasing their chances of qualifying for major international events.

"For a long time, we have been without relay teams, so with these groups we are trying to build our teams.

These are totally new teams and competitions like the one we are going for in Botswana will help us test their combinations," Makhalemele said.

"We are aware that most of them lack experience of relays especially at international level, but we will help them, and we hope for the best."

The countries expected to compete in the Botswana competition are South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia.

# Tennis team off to Rwanda

Leemisa Thuseho

**T**HE lawn tennis women's national team has jetted off to Rwanda for the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup-Africa Group IV competition.

This highly anticipated regional tournament will be held in that nation's capital, Kigali, from 5 to 11 June 2023.

Lesotho's team is made up of five top players in the country. It is headlined by experienced player coach Seapei Nkuatsana. It also includes Kamohelo Khabele, Ntsoaki Mokhele, Kekeletso Moseme and 'Manyama Maisa. Thooko Makoe is the team's manager.

The competition in Rwanda is organised under the auspices of the International Tennis Federation (ITF). It will also act as the Africa zonal qualifier competition for the 2023 Billie Jean King Women's World Cup finals to be held in Seville, Spain from 7 to 12 November this year.

Speaking to the *Sunday Express* on Friday, Lesotho Lawn Tennis Association (LLTA) President, Ntsie Maphathe, said they were happy they had managed to send a team to the competition because "it is one of high ranked events in the continent".

He said even if they did not qualify for the world cup, the tournament would be a good platform for their players to earn ITF ranking points and gain international exposure.

He said the trip was sponsored by the ITF

"This is one of the biggest competitions organised under the auspices of ITF in the continent and we are happy that we will be represented. We are going there to compete but even if we do not make it, the athletes would have gained international exposure and above all gain some ranking points," Maphathe told the *Sunday Express*.

He said the players in the team were currently the top five best players in Lesotho as per national rankings. Thus, he believes the team will do well. "Since last year we have been staging national championships at which athletes were gaining national ranking points and these are our current top five players, therefore I think this is our best team," Maphathe said.

A total of 11 African countries have confirmed their participation at the Billie Jean King Cup 2023 in Rwanda. They include Angola, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania and the hosts Rwanda.



SEAPEI Nkuatsana.



# Makatsi, Ramakongoana set new national records



MOKULUBETE Makatsi.



TEBELLO Ramakongoana.

## Leemisa Thuseho

**T**OP marathoners, Mokulubete Makatsi and Tebello Ramakongoana, yesterday set new national records at the 2023 Nelson Mandela Bay Half Marathon race in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Makatsi who was competing in the female category finished at position six clocking a time of 1:09:44 which became a new Lesotho record in the female's half marathon. It breaks the record of 1:09:57 set by Olympian 'Neheng Khatala during the same race at the same venue on 4 June last year.

In yesterday's race Khatala settled for eighth position clocking 1:10:13. The race

was won by Betty Chepkemoi of Kenya with 1:08:33 while Glenrose Xaba of South Africa finished second in a time of 1:08:36. On third position was Bekelech Wariyo of Ethiopia who completed the race in 1:09:03 time.

A happy Makatsi told the *Sunday Express* after the race her new record was the result of her hard work.

She said breaking the national record had been her long-time dream.

"I cannot say I had good preparations before the race, but I worked hard during the race and I am happy with the results," Makatsi said.

"Breaking a national record had been my dream and having achieved that means I am on the right track. However, I still want to im-

prove."

She thanked her coach, Martin Ngwenya, the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) and Federation of Athletics Lesotho (FAL) for their support.

Meanwhile, Ramakongoana also pulled an impressive performance to finish on second position in the males' competition crossing the finish line in 1:00:35 time. He finished behind South Africa's Thabang Masiako who clocked 1:00:29.

Another South African Precious Mashele finished third with 1:00:43.

The time made by Ramakongoana also became Lesotho's national record in the males' half marathon. He shattered the previous record of 1:01:01 which was held by Namakoe

Nkhasi. Nkhasi made that time when he won the last year's Nelson Mandela Half Marathon.

Nkhasi was there yesterday to defend his title. However, things did not unfold as planned, as he clocked in at position 31 with 1:04:33. This was Nkhasi's first race since July last year as all along he had been nursing a shin splints injury.

Ramakongoana also told the *Sunday Express* after the race, he had enjoyed the marathon and that the results "are a reflection that I was prepared for the competition".

"To be honest I had a very nice race, I enjoyed myself and am happy for the time I made. I think these are results of the good preparations I had before the race."