

Sunday Express

Best Sunday in Lesotho



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Fresh headache for Matekane

● ..as RFP MP Tayob lambasts the gvt's "skewed" fertilizer distribution system.

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Moselinyane constituency legislator, Tommy Tayob



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Fresh headache for Matekane

SAM Matekane.

● as RFP MP Tayob lambasts the gvt's "skewed" fertilizer distribution system...

Mohloai Mpesi

FRESH turmoil has erupted within Prime Minister Sam Matekane's Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) over allegations of malpractices in the distribution of fertilizers.

The party's Moselinyane constituency legislator, Tommy Tayob, claims the governing party is selectively supplying fertilizers to a specific group of RFP MPs while he and others are being left in the lurch.

As a result, he claims his business has suffered significantly since he entered politics.

Mr Tayob claims that where he used to harvest 800 bags of beans, before joining politics under the RFP banner, he now makes only 10.

He claims that he has, in the past two years, only collected dried stalks (lithaka) where he used to produce at least 30 tons of maize.

Mr Tayob claims this is a result of fertilizer distribution by the government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, being skewed in favour of some RFP legislators "while closing the door on others".

Mr Tayob's complaints are contained in a WhatsApp voice note, from an RFP legislators' group, which was leaked to the **Sunday Express**.

He adds to the number of RFP MPs who have complained about governance issues, including Peka MP, Mohopoli Monokoane, and Pelatsoeu lawmaker, Mope Khati. The two have especially been vocal about their grievances with Prime Minister Sam Matekane's governance and reluctance to address issues immediately. However, Mr Monokoane has since met with the premier to discuss his concerns.

Contacted for comment, Mr Tayob acknowledged the voice clip. He could, however, not immediately discuss its contents. This because he said he already has a scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Sam Matekane and Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Thabo Mofosi, to discuss his grievances. He was willing to discuss the content of the voice note only after the meeting.

On the other hand, the agriculture ministry's Chief Information Officer, Lereko Masopha, dismissed Mr Tayob's complaints as "politi-

TOMMY Tayob.

cally motivated talk" and urged the MP to "take off his politically tinted spectacles."

In the voice clip, a seemingly frustrated Mr Tayob expressed his dissatisfaction over the unavailability of fertilizers "when other constituencies shine in agriculture". He did not specify which constituencies he was referring to.

Mr Tayob's outburst comes right when the planting season has just started, with good rainfalls anticipated, signalling that farmers should start gearing up for the planting period. The past few weeks have seen good rains watering the land. Unfortunately, the farmers are unable to proceed with their farming activities in the absence of fertilizers.

Mr Tayob lamented that he used to be a successful farmer before joining politics. He said it was regrettable that under the RFP government, Basotho still complained about lack of fertilizers and accruing hunger across the country.

"I don't know what to say to you, it is very wrong that under our government, we still complain about hunger and that until now, we have not received fertilizers," Mr Tayob said.

"I have been a farmer for a long time. But since becoming an MP under the RFP banner, I am not happy. That's because my business of being a farmer stopped when I was elected MP for Moselinyane constituency. I used to harvest about 800 bags of beans, but now I hardly make 10 bags. For maize, I used to make about 30 tons, but this is my second year as an MP, and I have only harvested dried maize stalks. I wonder why it is like this."

An irate Mr Tayob said only when agriculture minister, Mr Mofosi, begins working transparently with RFP lawmakers, would Lesotho prosper.

"Unless we stand firm and force Minister Thabo Mofosi to liaise with MPs and work well with them, I don't think Lesotho will go anywhere," Mr Tayob said.

He continued that while other constituencies were already successful in agriculture, there seemingly was no hope for fertilizers reaching storerooms of the 'shunned' constituencies.

"It is difficult as MPs because we see constituencies of other MPs shining, planting and doing very well. I wonder whether it is by sheer luck or something else.

"As MP for Moselinyane, I doubt that we will even be able to plant this year. Even if we do, I don't think we will succeed. People living in the rural areas have already sown. There is a woman who shared how she has always relied on pre-harvest (soft) maize (lehoetla). I wonder whether that maize will be there. I still can't

believe that with such beautiful drops of rain, we can't start ploughing."

He said MPs from "favoured constituencies" were beating their chests, boasting about their success.

"I am disappointed that there are constituencies doing very well. They can beat their chests.

I don't know whether that can be attributed to luck or something else because, my understanding is that as MPs, we work hand in hand so that our government prevails," Mr Tayob said.

He said he was disappointed that other constituencies had the doors shut on them while only a few were treated as a priority.

"It is not only two or three people who won constituencies. At the end of the day, I feel ashamed when some of us are shunned. We can't get the fertilizers; it is a problem. I don't know what to say. I am disappointed."

When contacted for further comment by the **Sunday Express**, Mr Tayob insisted he did not want to comment before meeting with Prime Minister Matekane and Minister Mofosi. He said he had already written to the Prime Minister to share his concerns with him. Only after his meeting with Messrs Matekane and Mofosi, could he freely "discuss these issues with the **Sunday Express**."

"Yes, it is true that I have tried to bring the Prime Minister's attention to these issues. So, I will have a meeting with him and Minister of Agriculture to table my concerns," he said.

In response to Mr Tayob's complaints, Mr Masopha said Mr Tayob was only politicising the matter. Mr Masopha said the ministry had first supplied fertilizers to Lesotho's rural areas and foothills because their planting season started in August.

"No, he is wearing political lenses. He is looking at it from a political point of view. What happened is that we bought a lot of fertilizers for the winter cropping season, so there were remaining seeds and fertilizers.

"We received complaints from the public last year (2023) and the year before, 2022, over delays in getting fertilizers and inputs to the highlands and foothills, when their ploughing season starts in August. Those remaining fertilizers and seeds were, therefore, distributed

ed to the districts, to reach Basotho in the rural areas and foothills. So, he is referring to those places, not necessarily constituencies."

He said the new stock of fertilizers and inputs was already in Lesotho, being registered in the ministry's system before being released to districts.

"Fertilizers are still coming into the country as we speak, although they are not all in. We are planning to start selling the available fertilizers. We are still capturing the available stock in the system so that we can release it. The price list will also be released once the fertilizers are registered in the system.

"Since last week, fertilizers have been coming in. They are coming in phases. These fertilizers that are gradually arriving, will be distributed to urban areas because our planting season prolongs to December."

THABO Mofosi.



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MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REQUEST FOR CURRICULUM VITAE

NATIONAL WASH ADVISOR ON RURAL WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT Metsi-A-Lesotho Funded by the European Union - Lesotho

I. Position Information

Project: Rural Water and Sanitation Project - Metsi a Lesotho
Title: National WASH Advisor
Contract Type: Government system
Duration: 3 years (with possibility of extension)
Duty station (City and Country): Maseru –Department of Rural Water Supply HQs
Expected starting date: 1 November 2024

National WASH Advisor to support the implementation of Rural WASH projects under the Metsi a Lesotho initiative. This role involves in providing high-level policy advice, strategic leadership, and technical guidance to ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of the Metsi a Lesotho project. The National WASH Advisor will work closely with the UNICEF WASH team, Government agencies, and external partners to ensure the successful delivery of WASH services in rural communities, schools, and healthcare facilities.

Job organizational context:

The National WASH Advisor will be working with officials from the Department of Rural Water Supply, focusing on the Rural WASH projects under the Metsi a Lesotho initiative. The incumbent will be based at the Department of Rural Water Supply Headquarters. The National WASH Advisor will be engaged by UNICEF and the Ministry of Natural Resources to provide high-quality advisory services and coordination support with various stakeholders, including government agencies, contractors, and community groups.

Purpose for the job:

The Metsi a Lesotho project, funded by the European Union (EU), aims to improve access to safe and sustainable water supply and sanitation services in rural areas of Lesotho. This project addresses critical challenges in the water and sanitation sector, including inadequate infrastructure, limited access to clean water, and poor sanitation practices. The project will tackle these issues by delivering inclusive WASH facilities in rural schools, healthcare facilities, and communities and by establishing and implementing a conducive decentralized framework for rural WASH. This includes capacitating local, district, and national departments responsible for water supply, school WASH, WASH in Health Care Facilities, and promotion of sanitation and hygiene education, with a focus on empowering women and persons with disabilities.

Additionally, the project supports and equips the Department of Rural Water Supply (DRWS), Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), Environmental Health Division (EHD) in Ministry of Health (MoH), District Council WASH teams, and Water Service Authorities (WSAs) to effectively use monitoring and evaluation frameworks, GIS data, and planning tools to ensure accountability, transparency, and timely reporting of physical and financial progress for WASH in communities and institutions. By enhancing water supply and sanitation services, the project contributes to better health outcomes, poverty reduction, and overall socio-economic development in rural communities.

The Government of Lesotho, with support from the EU, is committed to ensuring that all citizens, particularly those in rural areas, have access to essential water and sanitation services. The project aligns with national development goals and international commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The National WASH Advisor will play a crucial role in providing high-level policy advice, strategic leadership, and technical guidance to ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of the Metsi a Lesotho project.

Key responsibilities:

The National WASH Advisor will be responsible for the following key functions:

1. Policy and Strategy Development

- **Water and Sanitation Policy Analysis:** Conduct comprehensive analysis of water and sanitation policies, frameworks, and regulations, guidelines to inform and advise on project implementation. Identify gaps and provide recommendations for areas of improvement.
- **Reformatory framework:** Provide technical support to develop/finalize the regulatory framework and by-laws related to rural WASH.
- **Strategic Planning:** Provide strategic direction for the development and implementation of project activities, ensuring alignment with national policies and EU funding requirements.

2. Project Management

- **Annual planning support:** Provide support in the development of national rural WASH annual planning procedures, including setting priorities, allocating resources, and establishing timelines to ensure the successful achievement of project goals covering the integrated planning for WASH communities, WASH in Schools, and WASH in HCFs and other institutions in rural communities.
- **Coordination and Implementation:** Oversee the coordination and execution of project activities, in particular integrated planning between DRWS, MoET and MoH-EHD, ensuring timely and efficient delivery of outputs and outcomes for the Rural WASH activities in the Metsi a Lesotho project and generally improved planning and delivery of all rural WASH actions. Coordination of the Rural WASH activities with other EU supported activities such as ReNoka and sector capacity building.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Review existing DRWS reporting formats and M&E tools and develop and implement robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress, assess impacts, and ensure accountability generally in rural WASH delivery.

3. Technical Advisory

- **Infrastructure Development:** Provide technical guidance on the design, construction, and maintenance of water supply and sanitation infrastructure and facilitate the development of common updated national guidelines and tools, standard designs and specifications for Rural WASH delivery in communities and institutions.
- **Capacity Building:** Support capacity-building initiatives in collaboration with DRWS, MoET, MoH-EHD, MoLG, and District Councils for both national and local

stakeholders, including government and local government officials, community leaders, and private sector and NGO service providers, to enhance their skills and knowledge in water and sanitation implementation and management. Support the change management process in the national WASH departments as part of the devolution of WASH responsibilities to Councils. In addition, provide capacity building to DRWS and District Councils WASH offices to operationalize the Project Life Cycle and the use of planning, survey, and design tools, GIS data, M&E, data and reporting mechanisms.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Foster strong relationships with key stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, community organizations, and international partners, to ensure coordinated and integrated project implementation.
- **Community Mobilization:** promote, provide guidance and facilitate government, local government, and private sector and NGO implementation partner engagement with rural communities to promote participation, ownership, and sustainability of water and sanitation services.

5. Resource Mobilization

- **Funding and Budget Management:** support the management in the rural WASH sector institutions to identify and secure additional funding opportunities to support project activities and ensure effective budget management in line with EU requirements.
- **Reporting and Documentation:** Prepare detailed reports, briefs, and documentation for stakeholders, highlighting project achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. Support the management in the rural WASH sector institutions to improve integrated progress reporting.

Education:

Minimum master's degree in water resources management, Water and Environmental Engineering, Environmental Health, Public Health, or any other related field.

Experience:

- Minimum of 10 years of relevant work experience in the water and sanitation sector, project management, and provision of policy advice.
- Extensive experience working in or with government at a senior level.
- Experience in capacity building and institutional development in decentralization processes
- In-depth understanding of Lesotho's water and sanitation sector.
- Proven leadership skills and ability to manage complex stakeholder environments.
- Strong policy development and strategic planning capabilities.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong analytical skills and attention to detail.
- Proven ability to address complex problems and manage conflicting priorities effectively.

Language Requirements:

Fluency in English is required and knowledge of a local language.

Interested candidates should submit their written applications together with certified copies of their educational certificates, and copy of National Identity Document to Human Resources Office, Ministry of Natural Resources, Bokamoso Business Suite, 2nd floor, Orpen Road, opposite Centre for Accounting Studies, Maseru Lesotho on or before 07 October, 2024 at 16:30 PM.

NB: Public is requested to note that Ministry of Natural Resources through its department, Rural Water Supply, deleted the following information to the above mentioned advertisement:

Contract Type: TA/Consultant

Proposed level: NOC/P3

How can you make a difference?

The fundamental mission of UNICEF is to promote the rights of every child, everywhere, in everything the organization does – in programs, in advocacy and in operations. The equity strategy, emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children and families, translates this commitment to children's rights into action. For UNICEF, equity means that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias or favoritism. To the degree that any child has an unequal chance in life – in its social, political, economic, civic and cultural dimensions – her or his rights are violated. There is growing evidence that investing in the health, education and protection of a society's most disadvantaged citizens – addressing inequity – not only will give all children the opportunity to fulfill their potential but also will lead to sustained growth and stability of countries. This is why the focus on equity is so vital. It accelerates progress towards realizing the human rights of all children, which is the universal mandate of UNICEF, as outlined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, while also supporting the equitable development of nations.

Remarks:

The appointment is subject to medical clearance. Appointment may also be subject to inoculation (vaccination) requirements, including against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID). Government employees that are considered for employment with UNICEF are normally required to resign from their government before taking up an assignment with UNICEF. UNICEF reserves the right to withdraw an offer of appointment, without compensation, if a medical clearance is not obtained, or necessary inoculation requirements are not met, within a reasonable period for any reason.

Mafisa's contract expires

Mohloai Mpesi

DIRECTOR General of the National Security Service (NSS) Lebohlang Mafisa's contract expires today.

It is not yet clear whether the government intends to extend it again, make him substantive or appoint someone else.

Mr Mafisa was appointed to this role following the retirement of former Director General Pheello Ralenkoane earlier this year.

Initially, he was brought in to oversee the agency for three months, starting on 1 April 2024, while the government searched for a suitable candidate to lead the institution. His initial three-month term concluded on 30 June 2024. It was extended for another three months, set to end today.

During a press briefing at State House last month, Prime Minister Sam Matekane was questioned about his confidence in Mr Mafisa and whether he would consider appointing him as the substantive director general.

However, the Prime Minister did not address this question directly. Instead, he responded to a separate question regarding 16 controversial transfers that Mr Mafisa was meant to have executed last month. The PM said he was awaiting a report on the situation at the spy agency before considering any necessary interventions.

The planned transfers were halted by Limpho Tau, the Minister in the Prime Minister's office. The transfers had been meant to consolidate Mr Mafisa's control of the spy agency.

Attempts to contact Mr Tau for comments on

the government's intentions regarding Mr Mafisa's contract – whether to extend it, appoint him substantively, or choose another candidate – were unsuccessful, as his phone rang unanswered.

Mr Matekane's press attaché, Thapelo Mabote, was also unable to provide a definitive answer when reached for comment yesterday. He said this reporter would be informed once a decision had been made regarding Mr Mafisa's contract.

Previous press reports claimed that Mr Mafisa had effectively run the NSS into the ground since he took over in April 2024.

He was allegedly more focused on consolidating his power – in anticipation that he will be confirmed as DG – by surrounding himself with sycophants at the expense of ensuring the effectiveness of the NSS.

As a result, the NSS had largely been a bystander as crime took root in the country. The spy agency has failed to infiltrate criminal gangs and help stop rampaging famo gangs responsible for violent murders.

Mr Mafisa's decision to re-arrange the 16 expert officers, some to positions which are not core to their expertise, was seen as part of his grand strategy to consolidate his power.

As a result, morale had been drastically diminished in the spy agency with officers reporting for work to twiddle their fingers while the country burns from crime.

The **Sunday Express** has since learnt that crucial equipment belonging to the NSS has mysteriously gone missing. Efforts to get Mr Mafisa for comment, at the time of going to print, failed.



LEBOHANG Mafisa.

Spotlight on dubious foreign deployments

● As 11 officers set to be deployed without following the law...

Mohloai Mpesi

THE parliamentary committee on the Prime Minister's Cluster has raised concerns over questionable deployments to international missions by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations.

During a recent meeting, Acting Director of Human Resources at the foreign ministry, Mosele Majoro, revealed that 11 individuals were soon to be deployed to foreign missions without adhering to proper procedures.

Ms Majoro was summoned before the committee to clarify whether these deployments were being conducted in line with established rules and regulations.

The committee, chaired by Democratic Congress (DC) lawmaker for Lithoteng constituency, Rethabile Letlailana, who recently defected from the ruling Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) party, included several prominent members like ABC Women's League President Malelaka Lehohla Malakane, DC legislators Thabiso Lekitla (Mekaling) and Kelane Peiso Jacob (Maletsunyane), Alliance for Democrats MP Maboiketlo Maliehe, RFP MP for Stadium Area Mampho Tjabane, and DC MP for Tsoelike, Nkoefoshe Tseliso.

Ms Majoro informed the committee that while 18 people were slated for deployment to different foreign missions, 11 of them had not undergone the legal recruitment process. Preparations for their deployment are in the final stages.

Representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were Principal Secretary (PS) Thabang Lekhema, Ms Majoro, and Public Service Commission Secretary Tseleng Mokhehle.

During the session, Mr Letlailana inquired about the number of positions advertised by the ministry since October 2022. Ms Majoro, who started her second stint at the ministry in March this year, could not recall the exact number of foreign deployments since the RFP-led coalition came into power in October 2022. However, she confirmed that no foreign mission positions had been advertised, and people had been deployed without following due process since that time.

"We are currently preparing 18 people for deployment, and the Public Service Commission has already processed them. They are ready to leave," Ms Majoro said.

Ms Majoro explained that only one position – Deputy High Commissioner to Pretoria, held by Mathapelo Kanono – was filled through



THABANG Lekhema.

proper channels.

However, Ms Majoro acknowledged that she had been directed by the PS, Mr Lekhema, to prepare a list of people for deployment, despite their appointments not following due process.

"Yes, it is true that a group of 11 people were deployed without following the required pro-

cedures," Ms Majoro admitted. "I received a list from the PS, and we did not go through the merit-based process for these contracts."

She further elaborated that the deployment of foreign affairs personnel sometimes involves a transfer process under clause 32 of the Public Service Regulations. Clause 32(1) permits a principal secretary to transfer pub-

lic officers with the concurrence of the minister and the receiving department's head.

In addition, six officers were put on special assignment, while the 11 officers were deployed on contract under clause 9 of the regulations.

Ms Majoro noted that none of the deployed individuals possessed specialised expertise for foreign missions.

"I was given the list of people believed to have qualities that are needed, to put them into the positions. None of them had those special needs, all of them had a minimum qualification of a degree that everyone had," she said.

Mr Lekitla raised questions about specific individuals, including Moipone Piti and former deputy leader of the Socialist Revolutionaries, Mamarama Matela. However, Mr Letlailana halted the discussion, indicating that they would address the merits of these cases later.

There are two types of employment in foreign missions: one under grade F, and another involving general recruitment as per the law.

Mr Lekhema clarified that no specific law governs foreign mission deployments, relying instead on individuals' skills. He emphasised that Lesotho follows the Public Service Act, not a foreign service-specific act.

Mr Lekhema, who has over 30 years of experience in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, explained that foreign service appointments were typically the prerogative of the sitting government. He added that there have been discussions on reforming the foreign service deployments to introduce a career-based foreign service, which is included in the Omnibus Bill.

Although the law mandates that vacancies should be advertised, Mr Lekhema admitted this is not a common practice. He noted that under the current regime, there had been some progress in moving towards a more transparent recruitment process, but the journey is ongoing.

Diplomacy, he said, often involves a dual mandate, with political priorities sometimes taking precedence over public service mandates.

"The government of the day typically recruits politically, not through the ministry's administration," he said, acknowledging that this practice is not supported by law.

Ms Majoro concluded by highlighting a pending court case where ministry officers have sued over the issue of foreign mission deployments, hoping the High Court would bring clarity to the situation.

BonoloMeds: a game changer in Lesotho's healthcare system



Hopolang Mokhopi

THE Minister of Health, Selibe Mochoboroane, has marked a major milestone in improving access to essential medicines and advancing healthcare in Lesotho through the launch of the BonoloMeds programme.

BonoloMeds is designed to revolutionise healthcare in the country through a decentralised drug distribution system.

With this system, patients from public health facilities can access vital medications at convenient locations such as e-lockers, bypassing the traditional, time-consuming collection processes.

This initiative leverages innovative technology to enhance epidemic control and provide better healthcare services.

During a Thursday tour of BonoloMeds implementation sites in Maseru, Mr Mochoboroane, alongside USAID and UNAIDS representatives, the Ministry of Health officials, and Right To Care Lesotho, witnessed the program in action.

The tour aimed to highlight the program's efficiency and demonstrate its processes.

Mr Mochoboroane said BonoloMeds is poised to be a transformative force in Lesotho's healthcare system, making medication collection faster and more efficient for thousands of Basotho.

He described BonoloMeds as a significant step towards the Ministry of Health's mission to provide equitable and convenient healthcare services for all Basotho. He underscored the program's importance in ensuring that patients can receive their medications at their convenience.

The tour began at Qoaling Filter Clinic, the first point for patient enrolment into the BonoloMeds program, where the Minister himself played the role of a mock patient. The delegation then visited the Central Dispensing Unit

(CDU), where medications are packaged and dispatched to patients' chosen pick-up points. Finally, the group proceeded to the Maseru Mall BonoloMeds e-locker, where Mr Mochoboroane demonstrated how one can collect medication.

Minister Mochoboroane urged residents of Maseru, Mafeteng, and Mochale's Hoek, where the program is currently being implemented, to join BonoloMeds at their nearest public health facilities. He also announced plans to expand the program to Thaba-Tseka in the near future.

"The BonoloMeds program delivers medications for chronic conditions such as antiretroviral therapy (ART), hypertension, diabetes, psychiatric disorders, family planning, and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)," Mr Mochoboroane said.

He expressed gratitude to PEPFAR/USAID for their financial support and to Right To Care Lesotho for their role in implementing the program.

The minister further stated BonoloMeds aligned with the ministry's broader goals, contributing to Sustainable Development Goal #3: Good Health and Well-being, and the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets.

Tlai Tlai Sepetla from the Central Dispensing Unit explained that the programme's success starts at local health centres, where patients are introduced to BonoloMeds. He said once patients agree to participate, their prescriptions are scanned and sent directly to the CDU for processing.

"We currently work with 28 centres across Maseru, Mafeteng, and Mochale's Hoek," said Sepetla, highlighting the program's reach.

One of the program's beneficiaries, Motšelise Mohai, praised the Ministry of Health and its partners for the initiative. She said BonoloMeds saves patients from standing in long queues, allowing them to access their medications quickly without having to miss work.

SELIBE Mochoboroane demonstrates how one can collect medication.

PETROLEUM FUND.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Petroleum Fund is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, which was established through the Legal Notice No. 96 of 1997 under the Finance Order of 1988. The purpose of the Fund is to collect revenue that is utilised for ensuring that there is a security of supply of Petroleum Products in the country. The organisation is further delegated, under the Fuel and Services Control (Delegation Notice) Number 32 of 2021, the powers to set the price of Petroleum Products, and time at which they may be adjusted. It is managed by the Board of Directors while day-to-day activities are administered by the Secretariat, headed by the Chief Executive Officer, and its operations are guided by the Lesotho (Petroleum Fund) Regulations of 2021.

1. SUPPLY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES PF/RFP/2024/2025-05

Petroleum Fund invites proposals from reputable and eligible companies for supply of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Equipment and accessories namely: Laptops, Desktops, Software and Peripherals. Interested eligible individuals or companies may obtain the detailed Terms of Reference with equipment specifications upon payment of a non-refundable fee of M1,000.00 into the Fund's Bank Account:

Bank Name: Nedbank
Account Holder: Petroleum Fund
Account No: 021000028317
Branch: Kingsway

Bidders should present the confirmation/proof of payment to the Fund offices for the purchase of Bidding Documents. Documents will be available from Thursday the 19th of September from 08:00hrs to 16:30hrs.

Requests for clarification should be made in writing on or before Friday the 27th of September 2024, to the following e-mail address: supplier@petroleum.org.ls. The Proposals must be submitted in sealed packages clearly marked 'PF/RFP/2024/2025-05' containing the Technical Proposals and separately sealed Financial Proposals. The proposals must be submitted to the address below on Tuesday the 8th of October 2024 by 12:00hrs, to be followed by a public opening of Technical Proposals at 12:15hrs on the same day.

Delivery Address:
Petroleum Fund LCCI Building
Orpen Road, Old Europa
Maseru 100
Tel. (+266) 22312137

Online submissions may be made by sending encrypted Technical and Financial proposals to supplier@petroleum.org.ls by the set deadline.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED REPORTING TEMPLATE, DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FRAMEWORK AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK PF/RFP/2024/2025-06

Petroleum Fund invites proposals from reputable and technically qualified individuals or firms with extensive expertise in Corporate Governance to develop **Integrated Reporting Template, Delegation of Authority Framework and Governance Framework**. Interested eligible individuals or companies may obtain the detailed Terms of Reference with equipment specifications upon payment of a non-refundable fee of M1,000.00 into the Fund's Bank Account:

Bank Name: Nedbank
Account Holder: Petroleum Fund
Account No: 021000028317
Branch: Kingsway

Bidders should present the confirmation/proof of payment to the Fund offices for the purchase of Bidding Documents. Documents will be available from Thursday the 19th of September from 08:00hrs to 16:30hrs.

Requests for clarification should be made in writing on or before Monday the 7th of October 2024, to the following e-mail address: supplier@petroleum.org.ls. The Proposals must be submitted in sealed packages clearly marked 'PF/RFP/2024/2025-06' containing the Technical Proposals and separately sealed Financial Proposals. The proposals must be submitted to the address below on Thursday the 17th of October 2024 by 12:00hrs, to be followed by a public opening of Technical Proposals at 12:15hrs on the same day.

Delivery Address:
Petroleum Fund LCCI Building
Orpen Road, Old Europa
Maseru 100
Tel. (+266) 22312137

Online submissions may be made by sending encrypted Technical and Financial proposals to supplier@petroleum.org.ls by the set deadline.

His Majesty calls for resilience and unity

Moroke Sekoboto/Letsatsi Selikoe

HIS Majesty King Letsie III has urged Basotho to remain resilient, strive for peace, and work towards a brighter future.

He spoke as the country celebrated its bicentenary and 58th independence anniversaries with grand festivities at Setsoto Stadium.

The event maintained a traditional parade of horses escorting the King and a dignitary convoy arriving at the stadium.

The event was a colourful spectacle featuring various performances, including combat tactics by the army, martial arts displays by Chinese and Korean performers, and breathtaking aerial stunts by spitfire planes.

The celebration also showcased cultural performances, such as Ntlamo, Mohobelo, Mokhibo, and Sesotho songs.

Musicians Sannere and Phoka ea Boroa captivated the audience with their rich Sesotho raps and choruses, prompting stadium-wide sing-alongs and even encouraging foreign guests to dance along.

The celebratory atmosphere united diverse communities in a shared sense of pride and purpose.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Tanzanian Deputy President Deto Biteko, Zimbabwean Deputy President Norbert Mazungunye, and the Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry, among others.

The celebration capped off a week of activities, including a flag-hoisting ceremony led by Prime Minister Sam Matekane at Maseru Mall on Wednesday and a dazzling fireworks display at the Maseru Main Traffic Circle on Thursday night.

Addressing the country's challenges, His Majesty highlighted key issues such as unemployment, crime and abuse, urging unity in overcoming these difficulties.

He expressed gratitude to Lesotho's international partners, particularly South Africa, for their support during challenging times. He also called on farmers to take responsibility for feeding the nation, stressing the importance of self-reliance in overcoming hunger and poverty.

King Letsie III firmly asserted that no internal disagreement shall divide the nation again. His message of solidarity resonated deeply with the audience, reminding them of the collective strength of the Basotho people. He emphasized that while constitutional and security reforms were essential for national stability, deeper changes within the populace were equally crucial.

"We must change our wicked ways and adopt warm hearts, as it is high time for selflessness and a commitment to the welfare of Lesotho. I encourage every Mosotho to embrace compassion in their interactions and prioritize the collective interests of the nation," King Letsie III said.

He spoke of the pressing issues of hunger, unemployment, and poverty, describing them as some of the country's worst enemies. However, he conveyed a message of hope, asserting that these adversities could be overcome through collective initiative and lawful work.

"We can defeat these challenges. I urge everyone to take proactive steps towards a sustainable and prosperous future for Lesotho. I call upon leaders across the country to act with integrity and responsibility in their roles.

"It is essential for all leaders to prioritise the country's interests for Lesotho to become a home for all as they play a pivotal role in driving national progress.

"This independence must serve as a reminder of the resilience and spirit of the Basotho as they look forward to a future characterised by unity, peace, and prosperity. As Lesotho embarks on a new chapter in its history, let us convey messages of hope during this significant celebration to inspire action and transformation among citizens and leaders alike."

He said with hearts full of hope and determination, Basotho were ready to address the challenges ahead and build a brighter future for their nation.

Prime Minister Sam Matekane echoed the King's sentiments, calling for introspection among Basotho to remain committed to a better future.

"The progress made in reforms calls for continued unity in addressing national challenges. Meaningful change starts from within, with a shift in mindset and renewed commitment to the values of King Moshoeshoe I,"

● as Lesotho Marks 200 Years as a Nation and 58 Years of Independence ...



SCENES as Lesotho celebrates its bicentenary and 58th independence anniversaries with grand festivities at Setsoto Stadium on Friday.

he said.

Speaking on behalf of SADC Chair Emmerston Mnangagwa, Deputy President Mazungunye expressed gratitude to Lesotho for its unwavering support and dedication to the region.

"It is with a sense of privilege and deep honour that I stand before you today on behalf of Dr Emmerston Mnangagwa at this historic bicentennial anniversary and independence of Lesotho. I wish to express my profound gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality.

"On behalf of the people of Zimbabwe and the SADC community, I send my warmest congratulations on this significant milestone. Today, we gather not only to commemorate the rich and vibrant history of Lesotho but also to celebrate the remarkable journey of bravery, unity, and respect that has characterized this nation for the past 200 years.

"The journey of this nation is one of courage, hope, relentless peace, freedom, and dignity—not just for Lesotho but for the people in the region at large. In this spirit of solidarity and shared experience, we honour Sam Matekane for the recent SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in Harare. His presence and contribution at the summit confirm Lesotho's unwavering support and determination for the people in the region," Mr Mazungunye said.

For her part, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, praised Moshoeshoe I as a visionary leader who chose dialogue over confrontation. She noted that Moshoeshoe I was a wise leader who valued diplomacy, unity, and profound respect for human dignity.

"It is an honour and privilege to celebrate with you as we recognize that 200 years ago, the Basotho nation was founded by King Moshoeshoe I, a visionary leader with principles of diplomacy, unity, and profound respect for

human dignity.

"In times of conflict, displacement, and colonial expansion, King Moshoeshoe I chose a path of peace. His approach was to build a nation through dialogue and inclusion. His generosity and wisdom demonstrated profound peace-building and embraced diversity, welcoming refugees and contributing to a strong and resilient country.

"Since then, the evolution of the Basotho is a testament to the success of King Moshoeshoe I's vision. His wisdom and compassion resonate deeply with the values of the UN that aspire to guide us as we confront the global challenges of the 21st century, such as rising conflict, inequality, climate change, geopolitical divides, and erosion of trust. He chose dialogue over confrontation and embraced differences rather than fearing them," Ms Mohammed said.

Mr Ramaphosa expressed pride in the strong ties between Lesotho and South Africa, recalling how Basotho supported South African freedom fighters during the apartheid era.

"I commend Basotho for their shared culture and destiny and praise King Letsie III for his steadfast leadership," Mr Ramaphosa said.

The Basotho nation was founded in 1824 by the late King Moshoeshoe I, one of the most prominent leaders of Southern Africa in the 19th century who died in 1870 at the age of 84. King Moshoeshoe I exemplified contrasts, being renowned for his combination of aggressive military tactics and astute diplomacy.

King Moshoeshoe I played a significant role in uniting various tribes to form the Basotho nation. The Royal family, led by His Majesty King Letsie III, continues to be a pillar of strength and a symbol of unity for the nation.

Lesotho was originally inhabited by hunter-gatherer tribes known as the Khoisan.

Later, the Bantu tribes arrived, followed by the Sotho-Tswana peoples. In 1824, King Moshoeshoe I united the nation under one rule for the first time.

Lesotho, formerly known as Basutoland, was constituted as a native state under British protection by a treaty signed with Moshoeshoe I in 1843. It was annexed to the Cape Colony in 1871 but was restored to direct control by the Crown in 1884.

The Basutoland protectorate gained independence on October 4, 1966, with King Moshoeshoe II as its sovereign. By that time, the country had already held its first democratic elections in 1965, resulting in a victory for the Leabua Jonathan-led Basotho National Party (BNP). The BNP remained in power for 21 years, from 1965 to 1986. This was largely due to Premier Jonathan's rejection of the outcome of the subsequent 1970 elections, which the BNP lost to Ntsu Mokhehle's Basutoland Congress Party (BCP). Jonathan suspended the constitution and ruled by decree from 1970 to 1986.

In 1986, Jonathan's government was overthrown by the military, which held power until democracy was reintroduced in the 1993 elections. The 1993 elections were won by Mokhehle's BCP by a landslide, securing 64 constituencies compared to the BNP's single constituency. Since then, Lesotho has experienced changes in power alongside a chronic history of political turbulence due to contested elections.

One notable peak of political unrest occurred during the 1998 elections, which were rejected by the BNP and several smaller parties. This rejection brought Lesotho to the brink of chaos, resulting in widespread violence, including the near destruction of Maseru city, which compelled the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to intervene militarily.

Need for financial literacy for ex-miners

Mathatisi Sebusi

THE Ex-Miners Association is urging the government to support ex-miners and mine workers who receive compensation from the Tshiamiso Trust for tuberculosis (TB) and silicosis, contracted while working in South African mines, by providing financial literacy training.

In an interview with the *Sunday Express* yesterday, Ex-Miners Association Lesotho Director, Rantšo Mantsi, said many beneficiaries who received significant sums from Tshiamiso Trust were struggling financially.

This struggle is compounded not only by their previous financial hardships but also by a lack of financial literacy, which could have guided them in making better financial decisions, he said.

Mr Mantsi also said most ex-mine workers have not been employed for years due to being declared unfit for work because of TB and silicosis. After receiving their compensation, many take the entire amount at once and overspend on unnecessary items.

"We are talking about individuals who last handled large sums of money over a decade ago. Receiving amounts like M100 000 or M50 000 can be overwhelming, leading them to overspend on things they might not have prioritised if they had known better," Mr Mantsi said.

"Some even build or expand homes they couldn't afford while working. With proper guidance and training, they could manage their money effectively to sustain themselves for years."

While the association strives to support ex-miners, Mr Mantsi believes professional financial guidance is essential to ensure these individuals fully benefit from their compensation.

Lejone Mashoai, a 68-year-old ex-miner, received compensation from Tshiamiso Trust in 2022 but is already facing

financial difficulties. He was awarded M36 309.73 for silicosis contracted while working in a qualifying South African mine.

He told the *Sunday Express*, that the money lasted him only a month as it came at a time when he and his family were struggling with significant debts.

He expressed regret, stating that if he had received financial literacy training, he could have made more prudent financial decisions.

"Instead of spending my money all at once, I could have invested in a small business that would have sustained my family even after the compensation ran out.

"After receiving the money, I didn't think about investing or planning for the future. I believe this was due to my lack of knowledge. My focus was solely on buying essentials and paying off debts," Mr Mashoai said.

Mr Mashoai worked in South African mines from 1980 until 2013 when he was released by a doctor due to his diagnosis of silicosis, deeming him unfit for work. He served as a development team leader at UNISEL Gold Mine, managed by Harmony Gold Mining Company, and also worked at East Driefontein Gold Mine and Kloof Gold Mine.

Mineworkers who suffered permanent lung damage from work-related TB or silicosis are eligible for compensation, and Tshiamiso Trust is responsible for ensuring they receive it. Established to implement the settlement agreement reached between six mining companies and claimant attorneys in a historic silicosis and TB class action lawsuit, Tshiamiso Trust's funders include African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa,

AngloGold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater, and Gold Fields.

According to the Tshiamiso Trust Annual Report 2024, the trust has paid M1.752 billion to 18 973 claimants from South Africa, Lesotho, eSwatini, and Mozambique, with M741 438 032 disbursed to 8257 beneficiaries from Lesotho alone.



RANTŠO Mantsi.



HIS Majesty King Letsie III.

King Letsie III to officiate at NUL's 49th convocation

Letsatsi Selikoe

HIS Majesty King Letsie III, the Chancellor of the National University of Lesotho (NUL), will this week lead the 49th graduation convocation of the institution at its main campus in Roma, in the outskirts of Maseru.

The award of diplomas and degrees qualifications will commence on Tuesday and run till Saturday.

A statement released by the NUL on Thursday said the convocation activities will be held across multiple venues, including the Roma campus and the Institute of Extra-Mural Studies (IEMS) at the Maseru campus.

Each subsequent day will focus on specific faculties to avoid the congestion that used to occur previously when the graduation ceremony was held on one day in Roma.

The schedule for the ceremonies is as follows:

October 8: Faculty of Law and Faculty of Education

October 9: Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Humanities

October 10: Faculty of Science and Technology and Faculty of Agriculture

October 11: Faculty of Social Sciences

October 12: Extra-Mural Studies

This marks the third consecutive year that NUL has adopted a staggered graduation format, aimed at giving graduates a more personalised and celebratory experience compared to previous years when ceremonies were conducted in larger groups.

Each graduate will be allowed to bring a maximum of two guests to the event, ensuring an intimate atmosphere for the occasion.

For those unable to attend in person, the graduation ceremonies will be streamed live on the NUL YouTube channel and Facebook page, allowing friends, family, and supporters from around the world to witness the celebration of academic excellence.

Have your say

Sunday Express

October 6 - 12 2024

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

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Meditations: God dependence

(2 Timothy 3: 16; Joshua 1:8)

Bible messages and meditation

By Dr. Sunday Adache

LESOTHO Independence Day is celebrated on October 4th every year as the day the nation became a sovereign state from the British in 1966. This year the Government and People of the Kingdom of Lesotho celebrated the country's 58th Independence Anniversary on October 4, 2024.

The Cause For Celebration

Observers testify to the fact that this year's celebration was much more elegant than anyone in the past decade. As the day was marked with pomp and pageantry; the big cathedral cycle was packed full on the eve of the celebrations. Classic decorations with the Kingdom's colors of Blue, White and Green filled the square. Thanks to the good work of the Maseru City Council in lighting the entire city.

This is testimony to the fact that we have

enjoyed unequalled peace this year plus that the rain is here! We rejoice and joy in the goodness of the Lord to our beloved country and pray for more in the years ahead.

Across Africa, the month of October hosts the commemoration of the independence of seven countries, namely; Equatorial Guinea (12th); Guinea (2nd); Kenya (12th); Lesotho (4th) Nigeria (1st); Uganda (9th) and Zambia (24th).

Significance of Independence

Independence means liberation from the rule and control of colonization. The nations were subjugated by colonial and imperialist powers. The rule of man over other men often resulted in oppression even in democracy. Dominion of man over his fellow man has recorded cruel dictatorships such as Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler and the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin were the leading examples of such modern totalitarian dictatorships. This was the experience of Israel in Egypt in Biblical times. Hence, the struggle against imperialism was a fight for freedom and self-determination.

While the government of men has resulted in this negativity, the rule of God over man is definitely different in outcome. Dependence on God is rather the right way to live because of His creative ownership rights (..... the LORD he is God: It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture Ps. 100: 3). And His benevolence. James 1: 5, 17: says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraided not; and it shall be given him. every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights".

Dependence on God means knowing that we need Him, and understanding that without Him we are unable to accomplish anything of Kingdom significance. Reliance on Jesus is the door to faithful and fruitful living. It means we are transformed by what the Lord says; therefore, we can depend on Him for wisdom and insight. Hence dependency on God is not a negative, but rather beneficial and something we have to strive for in our Christian walks.

Necessity Of Dependence On God

The dreams of national development and improved standards of living have eluded most African nations. This by mismanagement, corruption and internal crises. There are sighs of regret here and there, resulting in people now asking if it could have been better without politi-

cal independence. This is exactly how independence of God results in regrets.

The Bible unequivocally demands man's dependent on God in total trust and obedience. Jesus says, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me," (John 14:6).

The Apostle to the gentiles noted "In Him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28) Meaning, from the beat of our heart to the breath in our lungs, EVERYTHING we have is because of God. All that we can see, smell, taste, touch and hear - all the things about life that we enjoy - are made possible through Him.

And Christ, as God son authoritatively documented this, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15: 5 NKJV)

The Blessings Of God Dependence

Review the life of King David, from childhood to old age, you see him ever dependent on God. He never ever depended on his own strength or ability when faced with challenges. When he attempted it failed woefully in the death of Uriah. No wonder he survived the enormous battles of his life. Enumerate them from lions, bears, Goliath, King Saul, Absalom, Philistines, Shiba amongst the ones recorded in the Bible. The secret of David's victory over Goliath, for instance, was his dependence on God. While King Saul and the army of Israel at that battle were relying on human strength and armory.

Read David's war declaration in 1 Samuel 17: 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you.

Men and women of dependence on God always record victory in battle, plus successful peaceful living. The space may fail us to discuss them here. We can mention instances like Daniel's survival of the lions' den, David's escape from King Sauls attacks, Mordechai and the Jews from Haman's plot, Paul and Silas release from prison etc.

Personal Practice Of God Dependence

The careful meditation on above points would lead us to no other conclusion than that it is wise to depend on God. The reliance on our ability, wisdom, human connection, magical power etc. cannot take us as far as dependence on God would do. We can record more victories and recover lost grounds if we turn to God from this day and begin to depend on Him by faith. This works through development of faith and confidence by meditation on the scriptures. As faith comes by hearing and meditation on the word of God.

Ponder this: in all of life's duties and responsibilities, which way is easier to success? Self-dependence or God dependence? And a word of caution, God dependence here does not mean practicing faith without works, but applying faith, godly principles while at the same time putting in your best efforts. It means asking God's guidance and direction every step and decision. It is not idle presumptuous laying low without the good fight of faith. It works regardless of who you are and what you do: student, businessman, preacher, employee, retiree, unemployed, etc. The dependence on God results in rest and peace of mind and escaping evil traps or professional risk exposures.

About the writer: Dr. Sunday Adache is a bi-vocational minister of the gospel. He could be reached via email: abejuh@gmail.com

SUNDAY Adache.

UN Deputy Secretary-General visits Polihali

Letsatsi Selikoe

THE Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) yesterday hosted the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Amina J. Mohammed, at the Polihali Dam site where Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project works are currently underway.

Ms Mohammed was accompanied by her delegation consisting of the UN Resident Coordinator in Lesotho, Amanda Mukwashi, and representatives from various UN agencies, as well as the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane.

The purpose was to familiarise Ms Mohammed and her delegation with the ongoing projects associated with the LHWP and to evaluate its contributions to the socio-economic development of Lesotho.

According to a statement released by the LHDA yesterday after the tour, the guests participated in a comprehensive tour of key infrastructural sites crucial to the LHWP's success.

They were welcomed by the LHDA Chief Executive, Tente Tente, who expressed gratitude for their commitment to understanding the progress of this transformative water project.

The LHWP is a multifaceted initiative designed to harness the immense water resources of the Lesotho Highlands and transfer them to South Africa while simultaneously addressing the developmental needs of Lesotho itself.

The itinerary featured a visit to the Polihali Dam construction site, an impressive engineering effort, that aims to bolster water security and provide sustainable benefits to the local communities.

During the tour, Ms Mohammed noted the significance of investing in infrastructure that not only addresses immediate water needs but also lays the groundwork for long-term economic growth and resilience.

Following this, the delegation inspected the Polihali Tunnel construction site, a critical



FROM left: Finance and Development Planning Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, LHDA Chief Executive Tente Tente, United Nations Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed and UN Resident Coordinator in Lesotho Amanda Mukwashi.

component of the project designed to transport water to the lower regions of Lesotho and beyond.

Here, engineers discussed the advanced technologies and local expertise being utilised, highlighting the project's role in promoting job creation and skills development among the surrounding communities.

A substantial aspect of the visit was dedicated to engaging with the local communities situated around the Polihali Operations area. These discussions were vital in understanding the impact of the LHWP on their daily lives.

Community members shared their experiences and voiced their hopes for continued collaboration and support from both the LHDA and the UN.

In its statement, the LHDA expressed its ap-

preciation for the visit, viewing it as a testament to the deepening partnership between Lesotho and the UN.

"Engagements at this level underline our mutual commitment to sustainable and equitable socio-economic development for all Basotho," the LHDA stated.

"The partnership aims to align with global mandates, ensuring that Lesotho does not fall behind in its development goals.

"The collaborative spirit shared between Lesotho and the UN exemplified a united front in tackling pressing challenges such as water scarcity, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic inequality.

"With the support of international partners, Lesotho stands at a pivotal moment in its development trajectory, particularly with the LHWP as a cornerstone for its growth

strategy."

Ms Mohammed arrived in the country on Thursday, attending the country's national bicentenary and 58th independence celebrations at Setsoto Stadium.

She later that day visited the soon-to-be-launched Multi-Purpose Centre for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence in Maseru, which is scheduled to open in December 2024.

Ms Mohammed will today meet with key political leaders, including His Majesty King Letsie III and Prime Minister Samuel Matekane. The meetings will cover Lesotho's progress towards Agenda 2030 and UN support in areas such as governance, social inclusion, and economic development. Thereafter she will have a press conference at Moshoeshoe I International Airport to share her experiences in Lesotho before she departs.

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Website: www.lndc.org.ls

Lesotho National Development Corporation
Invitation to Tender

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Printing & Photocopying Services

ITT#: LNDC-CS-2024152

The Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) invites sealed tenders from suitably qualified local suppliers for supply and installation of Managed Print Services.

Interested and eligible bidders may obtain the tender document by paying a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Maloti (M1,500.00)** in the Finance Office at LNDC Development House, Block A level 6.

Tenders must be deposited in the **tender box** situated at 1st floor LNDC Development House Block A, Reception Area.

The deadline for submissions is on or before **Thursday 31st of October 2024 at 10:00am**. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. Bids will be opened publicly immediately thereafter.

All bids must be accompanied by valid copies of traders' license, tax clearance, and proof of authorized signatory.

The LNDC reserves the right to cancel the tender, reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The corporation is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.



Lesotho Highlands Development Authority
P.O. Box 7332, Maseru 100, Lesotho.
Telephone: 311280 Fax: 00266- 22 310632

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS - THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ERAGROSTIS FODDER AT POLIHALI, MOKHOTLONG

THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LHDA) INVITES QUOTATIONS FROM COMPETENT, EXPERIENCED AND CAPABLE SUPPLIERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ERAGROSTIS FODDER AT POLIHALI, MOKHOTLONG.

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FOR A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF M 1000.00, AT LESOTHO HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, PROCUREMENT OFFICE, 7TH FLOOR, LHDA TOWER BUILDING, KINGSWAY; MASERU, OR CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT NO COST AT LHDA WEBSITE,

<https://www.lhda.org.ls/procurement/currentTenders>

SEALED QUOTATIONS CLEARLY MARKED 'THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ERAGROSTIS FODDER AT POLIHALI, MOKHOTLONG' BEARING NO NAME OF THE BIDDER SHOULD BE DEPOSITED AT LESOTHO HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, 7TH FLOOR, LHDA TOWER BUILDING, KINGSWAY; MASERU

NOT LATER THAN 12:00 HOURS ON FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2024.

'Expel Israeli ambassador to South Africa and close the embassy in Pretoria': Economic Freedom Fighters

AS tensions continue to escalate in the Middle East, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) has accused the South African government of inadequate intervention to send a clear message to Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu.

IOL reported on Thursday that the South African government has issued a media state-

ment, expressing "grave" concern over the continuing escalation of military action by the State of Israel on its neighbour, the State Palestine and the Lebanese Republic, as well as the subsequent response by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Dirco) in Pretoria said South Africa was calling on all parties to exercise the utmost restraint and avoid actions that would escalate tensions in a particularly fragile region.

In an interview with broadcaster Newzroom Afrika, former EFF secretary-general Godrich Gardee, said South Africa approaching the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to report Israel was an expensive route which was also "cosmetic".

Gardee insisted that Ambassador of Israel to South Africa, Eliav Belotsercovsky must be sent packing.

"The ANC has the blood of the people of Palestine on its hands. The ANC together with all of us in Parliament took a decision that the diplomatic offices of Israel should be removed from South Africa and diplomats of Israel should be declared persona non grata in South Africa. But that has not happened, notwithstanding that, it is a resolution of the National Assembly," said Gardee.

"It is just cosmetic this issue of (going

to) the International Court of Justice. The real action is here in South Africa, and not in the Hague. We must see the seriousness of the ANC by expelling the ambassador of Israel from South Africa just like Israel has been bold enough to say the Secretary General of the United Nations (António Guterres) is not welcome in Tel Aviv."

Gardee said South Africa "wasted" millions of taxpayers' money on the International Court of Justice mission.

In November last year, the African National Congress' then chief whip Pemmy Majodina and EFF leader Julius Malema said the conduct of Israel had pushed South Africa to cut ties with Tel Aviv, until there was a ceasefire in the Middle East.

This was after the majority of 248 Members of Parliament in South Africa voted in support of the motion to cut ties with Israel until it had agreed to a ceasefire. A total of 91 MPs voted against the motion at the time.

Majodina tabled an amendment to the motion that was initially tabled by Malema in which the ANC wanted Israel to also agree to UN-facilitated peace talks on Gaza.

At the time, the ANC said the Israeli embassy must be closed "until a ceasefire is agreed to by Israel and Israel commits to binding UN-facilitated negotiations whose outcome must be a just, sustainable, and lasting peace".

Malema said he welcomed the ANC's support of the motion to close

the Israeli embassy until there was an end to the conflict.

After that motion in South Africa's Parliament, Israel recalled its ambassador in South Africa "for consultations".

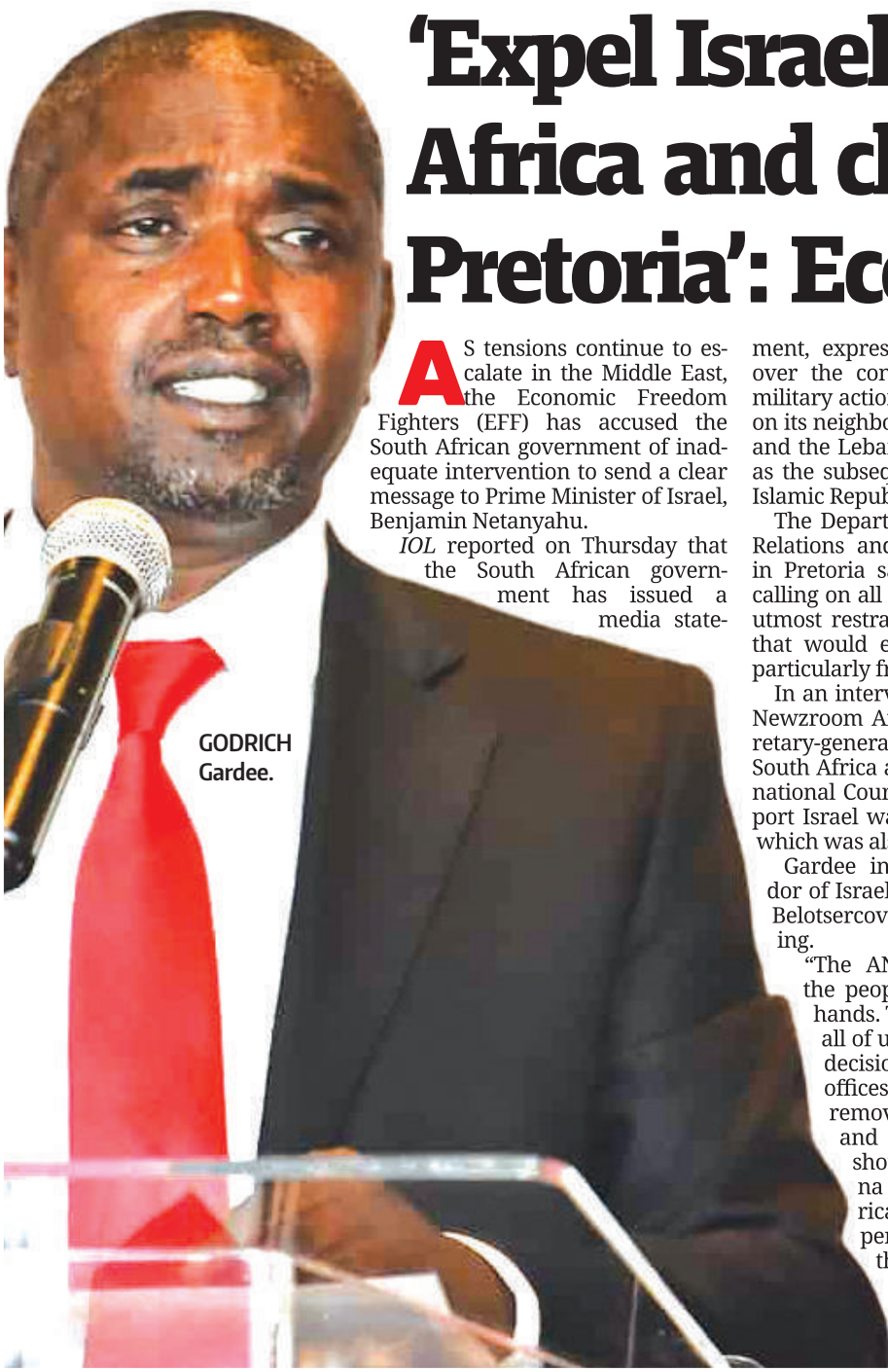
On Wednesday, ANC international relations sub-committee deputy chairperson, Obed Bapela said South Africa subscribes to a two-State solution where Israel and Palestine will co-exist in peace.

"There are about nine or 11 States in the world that have already closed the (Israeli) embassies, but the closing of the embassy does not end the carnage, the closing of the embassy does not end the massacre and genocide that has already claimed 44,000 lives.

"Even if we are to close it (the embassy), Israel was going to behave the way it is. What we need to do is go to the imperialist forces that continue to support by giving money and aid to Israel. The International Court of Justice was one means because it is a court of the United Nations and once that court can pronounce on Israel as a murderer and doing genocide, calling for a ceasefire, that would be a major victory," said Bapela.

He added that the ANC was party to the parliamentary resolution to close the Israeli embassy and he would be checking with current chief whip Mdumiseni Ntuli on what transpired.

"We were part of the resolution and we are not abandoning the resolution," said Bapela.— IOL



Zimbabwe shops impose limits amid panic-buying after huge official ZiG devaluation

SOME shops across Zimbabwe have imposed "one item per person" rules for products such as milk to fend off panic-buying triggered by a new loss of faith in the country's latest currency.

Last week, formal retailers warned the government they would go out of business if they were forced to continue selling at the artificially high official rate for Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) currency. Now retailers such as Pick n Pay, and OK Supermarket have warned they may have to close shops after the shock official devaluation of ZiG.

The latest approach to the currency supposedly backed by physical gold – which hit an all-time high price last week – has further confused consumers, and the broader market.

Last week the official value of ZiG was reduced by 43%. According to Zimpricecheck a retail sector watchdog, "this abrupt change contradicts recent government assurances about the ZiG's stability and its purported gold backing."

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's (RBZ) Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) blames the exchange rate volatility on illegal money changers.

More than 300 have so far been arraigned before the courts while their accounts were frozen.

One of the most prominent cases is that of Neville Mutsvangwa from one of Zimbabwe's political aristocratic families.

His mother is the Minister of Women Affairs Monica Mutsvangwa, and his father Christopher sits in the ruling Zanu PF party's central decision-making body, the politburo, and is also the party's spokesperson.

Neville faces charges of illegally trading in forex but his parents claim he's being sacrificed by political rivals within the ruling party.

There's no sign of flushing the foreign currency traders out of the streets. These are the go-to people despite numerous arrests.



BANKNOTES of the new national currency Zimbabwe Gold, ZiG for short, are presented at a press conference of the Central Bank of Zimbabwe.

"The same police that are sent to arrest us also need our assistance. Their salaries lost value last week and that has made them more interested in corruption for survival," said a forex trader on condition of anonymity.

No love for ZiG

Many argue that the government's new ZiG value is closer to the real rate at which it has long been used everywhere outside government-controlled transactions.h.

Tererai Chamu, a tuckshop owner, said if anyone wanted to know the true economic situation, they should go to the streets instead of listening to government spokespersons or reading the monetary policy.

"We are the true economists here and the government should ask us on the ground why the ZiG is failing," he said.

When the new central bank governor, John Mushayavanhu came into office early this year, he promised to do things differently

from his predecessor, John Mangudya. "But they are just on the same road," Chamu said.

He added that when Mangudya introduced the Zimbabwe bond note in 2016, he argued that it had equal value to the American dollar and urged people to use the two currencies alongside each other.

"The bond note drove away good money from the market. Imagine buying goods in American dollars and getting change in bond notes. Soon we started rejecting the bond notes," he said.

Then Mushayavanhu arrived and said it was a lie that the bond note had the backing of an Afreximbank loan to give it equal value to the American dollar as claimed by his predecessor, Mangudya.

"Then why should we believe the gold backing statement now?," interjected Sandra Mawire, another trader as she asked for an American dollar change from her counterpart.

Black market crossover

While formal shops are required to accept ZiG, tuck shops and informal vendors simply refuse. As a result, runners now intermediate between some in those two groups, with the informal traders effectively acting as outlets for their bigger peers.

Some retailers switch off their point-of-sale machines to avoid the electronic-only ZiG.

The upheaval has left many people a lot poorer, on paper.

Talent Ncube retired last month and has to wait for three months to get his pension.

When he signed off from work, the money was pegged at 13.9ZiG to the US dollar. Now he worries that the value of his pension could have been eroded by nearly half, but there is no clarity from the government on what will happen to people like him.

"I'm just too stressed to think about it. I might as well leave the country before the money comes. There's nothing to stay for," he said.

The Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (Artuz) said it was waiting for President Emmerson Mnangagwa's State of the Nation Address. They hope that he will "address the devaluation of civil servants' salaries through currency devaluation".

They want salaries to be paid hard currency. — News24

'He trained me and guided me,' Winnie Mashaba pays tribute to Solly Moholo

WINNIE
Mashaba.

GOSPEL star Winnie Mashaba is mourning the loss of her long time mentor Solly Moholo, who died on Wednesday at the age of 65.

In a moving tribute on social media, Mashaba reflected on the role Moholo played in her early career.

"I was very young and clueless about the music industry. My mom handed me over to Malome Solly Moholo, he trained me and guided me throughout. It's so painful to say Rest In Peace, Malome Solly. Until we meet again on the other side of the world."

Known for his electrifying performances and the signature 'mokhukhu jive,' Solly Moholo, whose real name was Solomon Molokoane, was a giant in the gospel world.

His most recent work included the single "Wubani o zo Pepeza," released in September 15.

However, during a pre-launch tour in Botswana, Moholo became ill and

was hospitalised shortly after.

His management team released a statement to inform the public about this death.

"Dear Solly Moholo Fans, it is with great sadness that we are informing you on behalf of the Molokoane family, that is Solly Moholo's family, that our beloved legend "Solly Moholo" has sadly passed on".

Among his many popular songs, "Banaka Nako Ea Me E Haufi" stood out for its heartfelt lyrics, reflecting on life's final moments and the afterlife:

Among his many popular songs, "Banaka Nako Ea Me E Haufi" ("My Children, My Time Is Near") stands out, and its lyrics have taken on new meaning since his passing.

In the song, Moholo contemplates his final days on earth and the transition to the afterlife.

Lines like "Ka letsatsi laka la bofelo geke tloga molefaseng" ("On my last days on earth") and "Mangeloi atla go ntsaya, go ntsaya ba mpitsa ko legodimong!" ("The angels will take me, calling me to heaven!") resonate deeply in light of his death.

The lyric "Morena ao mophel- egetse ka thabo le ka kgotso ke ya gae" ("Oh God, accompany me with happiness and peace, I am going home") offers a comforting message of peace and faith, symbolising Moholo's acceptance of the afterlife.

The family has requested privacy as they mourn and prepare for his burial. Details of the memorial and funeral will be shared in due course. — IOL



SOLLY Moholo.



WINNIE Mashaba.

Blasts shake Beirut's southern suburbs

A SERIES of explosions were heard over Beirut's southern suburbs early on Saturday after the Israeli military demanded evacuations for some areas while Hezbollah said it was engaged in continued clashes with Israeli troops in the Lebanon border area.

Israel said on Friday it had targeted the intelligence headquarters of Hezbollah in Beirut and was assessing the damage after a series of strikes on senior figures in the militant group that Iran's supreme leader condemned as counterproductive.

Media affiliated with Hamas, meanwhile, reported on Saturday that a leader of its armed wing was killed with three family members in an Israeli strike on a Palestinian refugee camp in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. It named the al-Qassam Brigades leader as Saeed Atallah. Israel did not immediately comment on the strike.

In Beirut's southern suburbs, a blast was heard and smoke seen early on Saturday, Reuters witnesses said, as the Israeli military issued three warnings for residents of the area to immediately

as Israeli military urges evacuations...



SMOKE rises after an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, southern Beirut, Lebanon, on Saturday amid clashes with Hezbollah forces.



AYATOLLAH Ali Khamenei.

diately evacuate. The first alert warned residents in a building in the Burj al-Barajneh neighbourhood and the second in a building in Choueifat district, while the third alert mentioned buildings in Haret Hreik as well as Burj al-Barajneh.

Iran-backed Hezbollah said the Israeli army was trying to infiltrate the southern Lebanese town of Odaiseh, where clashes continued.

Israel has been weighing options in its response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on Tuesday, which Iran had carried out in response to Israeli military action in Lebanon. Oil prices have risen on the possibility of an Israeli attack on Iran's oil facilities.

The air attack on Beirut, part of a wider assault that has driven more than 1.2 million Lebanese from their homes, was reported to have targeted the potential successor to Hezbollah's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, killed by Israel a week ago. Hashem Safieddine's fate was unclear immediately afterwards.

The US president, Joe Biden, said on Friday that if he were in Israel's shoes he would think about alter-

natives to striking Iranian oilfields, adding that he thought Israel had not yet concluded how to respond to Iran.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told a crowd in Tehran that Iran and its regional allies would not back down. Israel's adversaries in the region should "double your efforts and capabilities ... and resist the aggressive enemy", Khamenei said in a rare appearance leading Friday prayers, at which he mentioned Nasrallah and called Iran's attack on Israel legal and legitimate.

The semi-official Iranian news agency SNN quoted Revolutionary Guards deputy commander Ali Fadavi as saying on Friday that if Israel attacked, Iran would target Israeli energy and gas installations.

The UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon, known as Unifil, said on Saturday that it would not leave positions in the country's south despite what it said was an Israeli

request to relocate from some of them. "Peacekeepers remain in all positions and the UN flag continues to fly," it said.

Lebanon's government says more than 2,000 people have been killed there in the past year, with most in the past two weeks. A UN spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, called the toll on civilians "totally unacceptable".

The Israeli military said about 70 projectiles were launched from Lebanon into Israeli territory on Friday evening and were either intercepted or fell in open land.

The US state department said an American was killed in Lebanon this week and Washington was working to understand the circumstances. Kamel Ahmad Jawad, from Michigan, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on Tuesday, according to his daughter, a friend and the US congresswoman representing his district.

Hezbollah said early on Saturday it was engaged in clashes with Israeli troops in the Lebanon border area, after earlier saying it forced Israeli soldiers to retreat there.

"Israeli enemy soldiers renewed an attempt to advance towards the vicinity of the municipality in the village of Adaysseh" and Hezbollah fighters confronted the attempt "and clashes are continuing", the group said. Its fighters had forced Israeli troops to "retreat" in the same area, it said earlier.

Hezbollah also said it targeted troops in south Lebanon's Yarun area with a "rocket salvo", as well as soldiers in two points across the border with rockets.

Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging near-daily cross-border fire for almost a year, with the group saying it is acting in support of Palestinian ally Hamas over the Gaza war. Israel, saying it is targeting Hezbollah in order to make Israel's northern area safe for the return of displaced people, has intensified its bombardment and this week announced its troops had started ground raids into parts of southern Lebanon.

— The Guardian

JOE BIDEN had terse words at the White House on Friday for Benjamin Netanyahu, saying he didn't know whether the Israeli prime minister was holding up a peace deal in the Middle East — where Israel is at war with Hamas in Gaza and on a military offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon — in order to influence the outcome of the 2024 US presidential election.

"No administration has helped Israel more than I have. None. None, none. And I think Bibi should remember that," Biden said, using Netanyahu's nickname. He added: "And whether he's trying to influence the election, I don't know — but I'm not counting on that."

The US president made a surprise and rare appearance in the west wing briefing room and answered reporters' questions there for the first time in his presidency.

He was responding to comments made by one of his allies, Chris Murphy, a Democratic US senator of Connecticut, who said on CNN this week that he was concerned Netanyahu had little interest in a peace deal in part because of American politics.

The two leaders have long managed a complicated relationship, but they are running out of space to maneuver as their views on the Israel-Gaza war diverge and their political futures hang in the balance.

Biden has pushed for months for a ceasefire agreement in Gaza — and the president and his aides boosted the idea repeatedly that they were close to success — but a ceasefire has not materialized. Antony Blinken, the secretary of state, has engaged in shuttle diplomacy to Israel and to peace talks via intermediaries, but to no avail and, in some cases, Netanyahu has publicly resisted the prospect while US and Israeli officials continue to talk in private about eking out a deal.

Meanwhile, Israel has recently pressed forward on two fronts, pursuing a ground incursion into Lebanon against Hezbollah and conducting strikes in Gaza. And it has vowed to retaliate for Iran's ballistic missile attack this week, as the region braced for further escalation.

Biden said there had been no decision yet on

Biden issues terse words to Netanyahu over peace deal and election influence

what type of response there would be toward Iran, though there has been talk about Israel striking Iran's oilfields: "I think if I were in their shoes, I'd be thinking about other alternatives than striking oilfields."

Biden pushed back against the idea that he was seeking a meeting with Netanyahu to discuss the response to Iran. He wasn't, he said.

"I'm assuming when they make a decision on how they're going to respond, we will then have a discussion," he said.

Netanyahu has grown increasingly resistant to Biden's efforts. Biden has in turn publicly held up delivery of heavy bombs to Israel and increasingly voiced concerns over an all-out war in the Middle East and yet has never acquiesced to political calls at home or internationally for a halt on US arms sales to Israel.

"I don't believe there's going to be an all-out war," Biden said on Thursday evening. "I think we can avoid it. But there's a lot to do yet."

Biden has remained consistent in his support for Israel in the aftermath of the 7 October Hamas attacks in Israel. Since then, with few exceptions, Biden has supported ongoing and enhanced US arms transfers to Israel while merely cautioning the Israelis to be careful to avoid civilian casualties.

Biden has also ordered the US military to step up its profile in the region to protect Israel from attacks by Hamas, Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen and Iran itself. In April, and again earlier this week, the US was a leading player in shooting down missiles fired by Iran into Israel.

On Thursday, Biden said the US was

"discussing" with Israel the possibility of Israeli strikes on Iran's oil infrastructure.

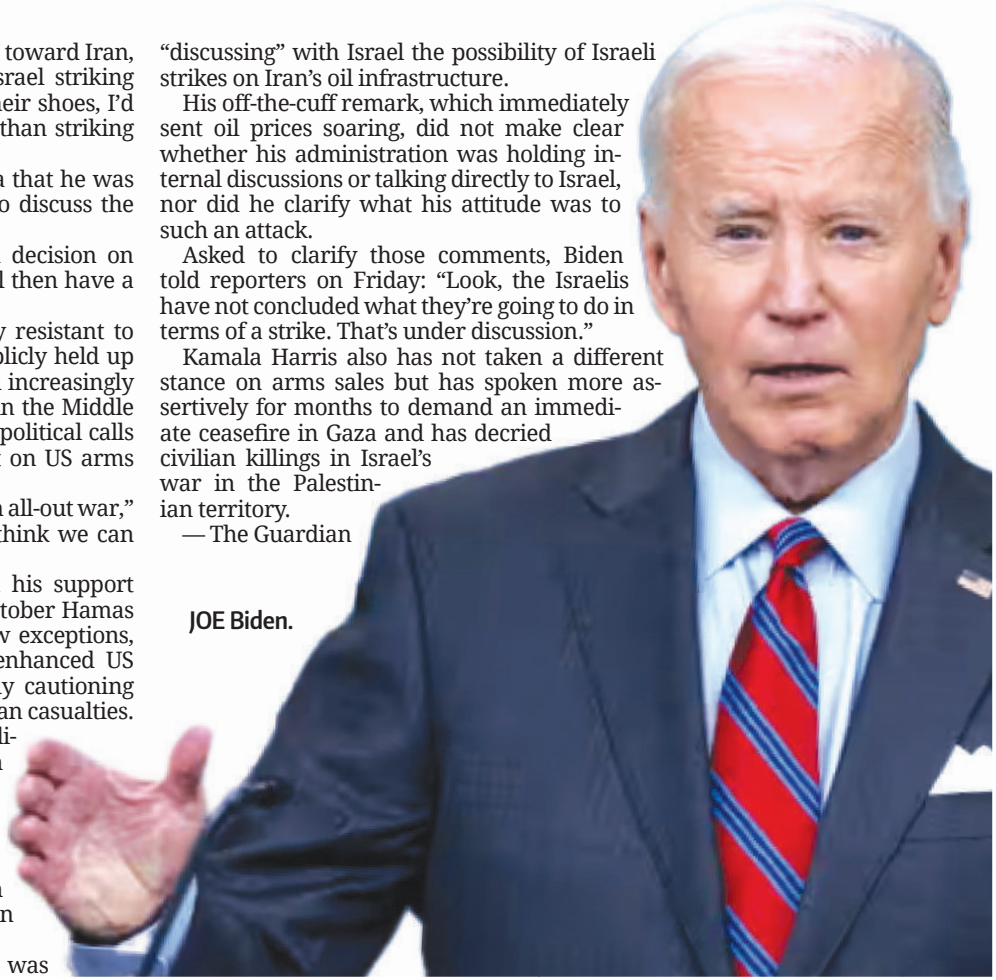
His off-the-cuff remark, which immediately sent oil prices soaring, did not make clear whether his administration was holding internal discussions or talking directly to Israel, nor did he clarify what his attitude was to such an attack.

Asked to clarify those comments, Biden told reporters on Friday: "Look, the Israelis have not concluded what they're going to do in terms of a strike. That's under discussion."

Kamala Harris also has not taken a different stance on arms sales but has spoken more assertively for months to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and has decried civilian killings in Israel's war in the Palestinian territory.

— The Guardian

JOE Biden.



Sunday Express
October 6 - 12 2024

Getting medical aid in your 20s is a smart move



A RELIABLE medical aid helps you protect your health and shields you from financial ruin due to unexpected medical expenses.

determine that, in certain circumstances, a person who wasn't a member of a medical scheme for 90 days or more before joining, can have a three-month general waiting period, a 12-month condition-specific waiting period and a late-joiner penalty.

- **Treatment costs:** Medical care is very expensive, especially hospital stays and specialised tests like computerised tomography (CT) scans. One event could leave you with debt the size of a home loan.

- **Treatment costs versus medical aid contribution:** The monthly contribution to medical aid is often a fraction of the cost of medical treatment.

- **Public versus private:** Compared to private healthcare, public healthcare in South Africa faces many serious challenges.

- **Medical aid cover and mortality:** A recent American study found that people without health insurance have a decreased chance of survival. Preventive care and early detection are vital for managing health over time, as many people without medical aid tend to skip regular screenings and tests.

- **Preventive healthcare:** Most medical aids pay for preventive services such as screenings, vaccines and psychological counselling.

- **Increase in lifestyle illnesses:** Lung and heart conditions, cancer and stroke are increasing due to our sedentary lifestyles — and are affecting more young people than before.

Here are some other considerations:

- **Peace of mind:** Having medical aid ensures you're covered in case of unexpected medical emergencies, giving you peace of mind.

- **Health maintenance:** Regular check-ups and early intervention can prevent more serious health issues down the line — making medical aid crucial for maintaining overall health.

- **Financial protection:** Medical aid protects you from the financial burden of unexpected medical costs and helps manage chronic conditions with chronic medicine

benefits as well as disease management programmes.

- **Access to better healthcare:** Medical aid members typically have access to a broad network of healthcare providers, including private hospitals and specialists, ensuring that you receive high-quality care when you need it most.

- **Comprehensive coverage:** Many medical aid plans offer comprehensive cover, including dental care, optometry and mental health services. This holistic approach ensures that

all aspects of your well-being are taken care of.

"It's normal to feel invincible in your 20s, but life is unpredictable. A reliable medical aid helps you protect your health and shields you from financial ruin due to unexpected medical expenses. Even if you start with a basic plan, at Medihelp we believe that medical aid should be a non-negotiable item on your monthly budget — one that will benefit your health and financial well-being now and in the long-run," adds Molekoa. — IOL



Kingdom of Lesotho

VACANCY!! VACANCY!! VACANCY!! DIRECTOR GENERAL – NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES (NSS)

Applications are invited from suitable and competent interested candidates for the position of Director General, tenable at the National Security Services (NSS). Reporting directly to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, successful candidate, in line with Section 7 (1) of the National Security Act (11) of 1998, is expected to undertake the following:

Main Duties

1. Subject to the directions of the Right Honourable Prime Minister and provisions of the said Act, the Director General shall exercise command, superintendence and control of the NSS.
2. The Director General may, subject to the directions of the Right Honourable Prime Minister and provisions of the Act. Make such rules and issue such directions as he may deem expedient for the efficient command, superintendence and control of the NSS.
3. The Director General shall as far as reasonably practicable, take steps to ensure that
 - a. National security intelligence, intelligence collection methods, sources information and identity of members are protected from unauthorised disclosure.
 - b. No action is carried out that could give rise to a suspicion that NSS is concerned in furthering, protecting or undermining the interests of section of the population or any political party or organisation.
 - c. The functions of the NSS are limited to what is necessary for the purposes of discharge of its functions.

Academic Qualifications and Experience

- A minimum first degree in Political Science and Public Administration or Security Studies with 20 years experience within National Security Services (NSS) of which 5 years should have been at Managerial position.
- Possession of a Masters Degree in relevant field shall be an added advantage.

Professional and Specialised Knowledge

- Knowledge of state security policy and planning
- Expertise in security analysis and threat assessment
- Expertise in strategic management
- Professionalism and adherence to good work ethics
- Organisational skills (forecasting, budgeting, time management)

Application submission and deadline

Interested and qualifying candidates from serving and retired NSS officers must hand deliver their applications with detailed curriculum vitae, citing at the minimum two referees, certified copies of transcripts and certificates, including certified copies of in-service training interventions attended, to

Human Resources Office
NSS Headquarters 30 Princess Margaret Road
Old Europa Maseru

on or before **Wednesday the 16th October 2024.**

Successful candidate shall be appointed to serve for a three years performance based contract.

Ms Mpho Marathane
Principal Secretary NSS



NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Sechaba se tsebisoa hore Lyma Consulting Engineers haesa sebelletsa Lakeside Hotel Offices Sebaboleng, Maseru. E se e sebelletsa **682 Fairview Avenue, Lower Thetsane Maseru.**

Tsebisiso ka Bookameli

Moment of madness helps Orlando Pirates beat Stellenbosch FC to MTN8 title

ORLANDO Pirates took advantage of a moment of madness as they edged Stellenbosch FC to win the MTN8 final 3-1 at Moses Mabhida Stadium on Saturday.

With the match seemingly headed to extra time with the score locked at 1-1 after 90 minutes, the Stellenbosch players switched off completely as they thought play had been stopped after a foul.

In a moment that will be debated for years to come, Pirates took advantage of the referee allowing a quick free-kick after a foul on Patrick Maswanganyi and Tshegofatso Mabasa was quick to react as he found space in the Stellies box before rifling the ball into the back of the net.

The referee though he blew his whistle to stop play, waved play-on for a quick free-kick as Pirates capitalised with Stellenbosch players stopping completely. However, Stellies can count themselves incredibly unlucky that they were on the receiving end of such a contentious decision which decided the title.

Bitter pill to swallow for Stellies

With Stellies desperately throwing all their players forward and leaving themselves exposed at the back, Pirates stole the ball of their opponents as Relebohile Mofokeng weaved his way into the box to score his side's third and make the scoreline seem emphatic.

It was Pirates' third MTN8 title in a row, a new record in the competition.

Pirates were the dominant team throughout the regulation 90 minutes although it was an extremely tightly-contested affair, with 57 percent possession and nine shots at goal with six of those on target.

Lehlohonolo Mojela scored a stunning goal to open the scoring in the 12th minute. With some sloppy Pirates defence allowing a long throw-in to bounce in their box, Mojela put in an acrobatic bicycle kick which rocketed into the back of the net to stun Pirates (1-0).



ORLANDO Pirates took advantage of the referee waving play-on after a foul to beat Stellenbosch FC in the MTN8 final at Moses Mabhida Stadium on Saturday.

Pirates took their time, producing a number of chances before finally Monnapule Saleng scoring the equaliser in the 43rd minute. From a free-kick outside the area, Deon Hotto fired in a shot which was blocked by Stellies keeper Sage Stephens only to see

Saleng power the ball into the back of the net (1-1). Devin Titus threatened on a number of occasions for Stellenbosch, but his best chance came with 10 minutes remaining. With the Pirates defence back-peddling, Titus received the ball in the area with acres

of space but showing a lack of composure he blasted the ball into the stands.

It set the stage for a denouement of epic proportions, and one which will leave a bitter taste in the mouths for Stellenbosch FC for the rest of their days. — IOL

Arsenal conjure stoppage-time double to thwart Leicester comeback

At least Mikel Arteta can always rely on Kai Havertz these days. The Arsenal striker scored for the seventh successive home game to match Robin van Persie's record and inspire a dramatic comeback after his side found themselves behind against struggling Southampton.

Still without a win seven matches into the new campaign after being promoted last season, Russell Martin must have been dreaming of causing a major upset when the substitute Cameron Archer silenced the home crowd early in the second half. Havertz had other ideas, however, and his equaliser three minutes later provided the impetus for Gabriel Martinelli to come off the bench and score before Bukayo Saka wrapped up the points on a day that was almost one to remember for Aaron Ramsdale against his former club.

Southampton had arrived in north London in hope rather than expectation, having never managed to win here in 24 previous attempts in the Premier League. Given Arsenal's hectic schedule since the last international break, it was no surprise to see Arteta rotate his squad and hand Raheem Sterling a first Premier League start since joining from Chelsea on loan. But while Martin Ødegaard confirmed in his programme notes that his recovery from an ankle injury is going "better than we were thinking", Ben White and Jurriën Timber's absences meant Thomas Partey had to fill in at right-back.

Ramsdale revealed this week that David Raya had been the first person to message him following his move to the south coast and insisted that he bears no grudges towards



BUKAYO Saka wheels away after scoring Arsenal's third and final goal against Southampton.

the man who replaced him as Arsenal's No 1. He looked set for a long afternoon when the hosts almost scored from a corner in the third minute before Southampton were able to scramble the ball away. Ramsdale must have momentarily forgotten which side he was playing for when he passed the ball straight to Sterling, who was clumsily bundled over by Jan Bednarek

inside the area. To Arteta's frustration, the referee, Tony Harrington, waved away their appeals for a penalty.

Yet besides another corner that was headed over by Havertz, Ramsdale didn't have much else to do until he confidently came to claim a free-kick whipped into the area by Saka. By then, the former Tottenham player Kyle Walker-Peters had

registered Southampton's first shot on target and the striker Ross Stewart had limped off to be replaced by Archer. Having been heavily criticised for their performance in a 3-1 defeat to Bournemouth last Monday, Martin's defence were standing up to the challenge.

The home crowd's frustration was becoming audible when Jorginho flashed a volley just past

Ramsdale's post after good work down the right flank by Saka five minutes before the break. Sterling almost found a way through when he was played through by Gabriel Jesus before Arsenal finally forced Ramsdale into a save when he pushed Partey's low drive around the post.

No doubt with Arteta's half-time team talk still ringing in their ears, Arsenal came out of the blocks quickly at the start of the second half as Jesus fired just wide from outside the area. But Southampton came within inches of breaking the deadlock following a great run from the 18-year-old Tyler Dibling that left Riccardo Calafiori for dead, with Mateus Fernandes firing just over with a flying volley. It was the Portuguese midfielder who was the architect of Archer's opener minutes later, with the England Under-21 striker showing great composure inside the area to beat Raya at his far post.

Their lead didn't last long. It had been a quiet afternoon by Havertz's recent standards but the German forward decided to take matters into his own hands when he curled the ball past Ramsdale off the post to equalise within three minutes of falling behind. Suddenly Arsenal had woken up and Southampton were hanging on for dear life. They were undone by a brilliant cross from Saka that picked out an unmarked Martinelli at the far post to apply the finish. Despite a nervous wait for VAR after it appeared Mikel Merino was offside but not affecting play, the goal was given.

Ramsdale did well to save at his near post from Saka as Arsenal attempted to kill the game off. But Raya was lucky to escape after turning Dibling's curler round the post when he flapped at the ensuing corner and Taylor Harwood-Bellis somehow struck the crossbar. It was left to Saka to round things off with a first-time finish past Ramsdale after Havertz had again won possession in midfield. — The Guardian

Mzamane coach remains hopeful despite poor start



LITEBOHO Ramantsoe.

Leemisa Thuseho

LESOTHO Premier League newcomers, Mzamane, have endured a tough start to their 2024/25 season campaign.

However, head coach Liteboho Ramantsoe remains optimistic, despite the team suffering two consecutive losses in their opening matches.

Ramantsoe attributes the slow start to the inexperience of his players, a temporary setback he believes will improve as the season progresses. He is confident that Mzamane can turn things around in the upcoming fixtures.

Mzamane are new in the topflight following their promotion from A Division League at the end of last season (2023/24).

In their first match, Mzamane, a Mokhotlong-based team, lost 1-0 to Manonyane at Maputsoe DiFA Ground on 29 September 2024. Their struggles continued with a 3-0 defeat to Bantu at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena in Maseru on Wednesday.

Speaking in a post-match interview after the Bantu loss, Ramantsoe urged patience, highlighting that the team is still adjusting to the rigors of Premier League football.

Ramantsoe said almost all of his players do not have premier league experience. They had only played at the A Division level.

"We are new to the Premier League and still adapting to the higher standards," said Ramantsoe.

"Most of our players lack top-tier experience, as many were with us in the A Division. We are developing them, and while they are inexperienced, I'm pleased with their progress."

Ramantsoe said one of the challenges was the lack of knowledge about their opponents. Based in Mokhotlong, far from Maseru where most matches are played, the team seldom has the opportunity to scout other teams.

"We only get to see how other teams play when they face us. But I can assure you, in two or three more games, there will be significant improvement."

For now, Mzamane's main goal is survival, he said.

"This season, we are focused on maintaining our Premier League status and avoiding relegation. Next season, we aim to compete for higher positions."

Mzamane's next match is against LDF at Maputsoe DiFA Ground on 13 October 2024.



REITUMETSE Mokoma

Eight young boxers set for IBA Youth World Championships

Leemisa Thuseho

THE Lesotho Boxing Association (LeBA) has selected a team of eight boxers to compete in the upcoming International Boxing Association (IBA) Youth World Championships.

The prestigious Youth (Under-19) Men and Women Championships will take place in Budva, Montenegro, from 22 October to 3 November 2024. LeBA has finalised a team consisting of four male and four female boxers. Representing the men's team are Keketso Maepe (48kg), Reabetsoe Mokhitli (54kg), Tefelo Khoarahla (57kg), and Leshoboro Lerotholi (71kg). The women's team includes Masentje Tjamela (50kg), Realeboha Segoete (57kg), Matšepo Mohato (63kg), and Reitumetse Mokoma (66kg).

The boxers will be accompanied by three coaches: Tieho Ntulo, Diamond Lengola, and Velaphi Snyman.

LeBA's public relations officer, Taole Letšasa, confirmed the selection to the Sunday Express on Friday.

"The team has already started its weekend training sessions at Setso Stadium since the boxers are in school during the week. They gather over the weekends to train together," Letšasa explained.

Letšasa expressed confidence in the team's preparations, noting that the coaches had selected the best athletes to represent Lesotho. He added that IBA was covering most of the travel expenses, including flights, but LeBA was responsible for securing the team's visas.

"IBA is handling almost everything, except the visas. We hope to have them sorted by next week and will finalise the team's departure date soon," Letšasa said.

IBA has reported a strong response from national federations, with 660 participants registered from across the globe for the tournament. This includes team Lesotho.

Local Paralympians, Olympians honoured

Leemisa Thuseho

THE Embassies of France and the US in Maseru held a special event to celebrate and honour Lesotho athletes and para-athletes who represented the country at the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Paris, France.

This special event was held at Alliance Française in Maseru on Thursday. At the Olympic Games held from 26 July to 11 August 2024, Lesotho was represented by two marathoners, Tebello Ramakongoana and Mokolubete Makatisi.

Ramakongoana was the best performer, he secured seventh position with Lesotho's new national record of 2:07:58 in 42.2km race. In the females category 42.2km race, Makatisi clocked a time of 2:30:20 and settled for position 31.

At the Paralympics, still held in Paris from 28 August to 8 September 2024, Lesotho had two para-athletes. The duo was shotput and discus sensation Litšitso Khotlele who competed in F64 class (class of the physically impaired in field events) as well as 400m runner, Khamoqane Zimesele who falls under T11 class (class of the visually impaired in track events).

The games saw Zimesele being disqualified in 400 heats after his



guide (Ralejoe Komane) crossed the finish line ahead of him (Zimesela). As per the rules, a guide is not allowed to cross the finish line ahead of the athlete.

In discus and shotput Khotlele threw 7.75 and finished 13th while in discus she threw 23.31 and finished 11th.

The special event on Thursday

had each of the athletes, para-athletes as well as the guide (Komane) getting a special blanket designed and created for Lesotho's bicentennial celebration. Despite not bring-

ing any medal home, Ambassador of France David Martinon said the athletes' hard work, dedication, patriotism shouldn't go unnoticed.

"With the ceremony, we wanted to pay tribute to the athletes, we are aware that before the games they had gone through years of training, hard work, sacrifices and dedication," Martinon said.

"They deserve recognition and word of thanks."

Martinon said he hoped to see them in the next Olympics and Paralympics. The next Olympics and Paralympics will be in Los Angeles in the USA in 2028.

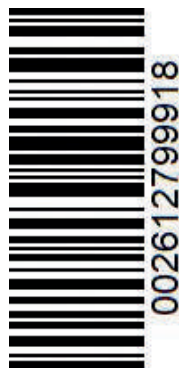
"If they carry on with the same dedication, hard work and sense of sacrifice we can only hope to see them come back in the next editions of the Paralympics and Olympics.

"With the support of Lesotho's people, we hope they will earn the country's first ever Olympics medal."

One of the athletes, Makatisi appreciated the recognition, saying it would motivate them.

"Even if some people may see this as a small thing, it is big for us. It means a lot to us and we are thankful," Makatisi said.

"We go through a lot, and these kinds of recognitions give us a reason to keep on pushing hard."



Lioli wins Maluti Mountain Charity Cup again



BANTU'S Litšepe Marabe (right) against Lioli's Mpho Hlephole at Leshoboro Stadium, Mafeteng, yesterday.

Leemisa Thuseho

LIOLI have been crowned the champions of the 2024 Maluti Mountain Charity Cup after defeating long-time rivals Bantu 1-0 in the final at Leshoboro Stadium, Mafeteng, yesterday.

A first-half goal by Teboho Masuoane sealed the victory for the Berea giants.

Bantu advanced to the final with a commanding 3-0 win over LMPS in the first semi-final, while Lioli earned their place by overcoming rivals Matlama 2-1 in the second semi-final.

For their triumph, Lioli took home M100 000, a trophy, and gold medals. Bantu, as runners-up, received M50 000 and silver medals. The semi-finalists, LMPS and Matlama, were

each consoled with M25 000.

The tournament, featuring the top four teams from the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) 2023/24 season, was organised by Maluti Mountain Cement (MMC).

This year's edition saw MMC sponsor the event with a significant M800 000 contribution.

In addition, MMC owner and Minister of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police, Lebona Lephema, provided an extra M25 000 to each of the four participating teams as a top-up for their winnings.

The Maluti Mountain Charity Cup is held annually to raise funds through gate takings, with proceeds directed toward helping street vendors in the hosting district. This year, vendors from Mafeteng will be the beneficiaries.

This is the second edition of the Maluti Mountain Charity Cup, which was inaugurated last year. Lioli also won that inaugural tournament.

Lioli didn't just win the latest tournament; they also produced the tournament's top scorer, Masuoane, who netted twice (once in the semi-final and once in the final), earning himself a M3000 reward.

Additionally, Lioli's coach, Motheo Mohapi, was named Coach of the Tournament and was awarded M2000. Lioli's goalkeeper, William Huni, claimed the goalkeeper of the tournament title and also pocketed M2000.

Halifele Moqolokola of Lioli was named the Player of the Tournament, a title that earned him M5000.

Speaking to the media after the win, Lioli

coach Mohapi expressed his satisfaction with the victory, acknowledging the difficulties of the matches.

"We are the champions, but it was not easy to play Matlama and Bantu in one day," Mohapi said in his post-match interview.

As the reigning Lesotho Premier League champions, Mohapi believes that this victory will boost his players' confidence and motivate them as they defend their league title.

"Winning a cup or performing well in a tournament like this will undoubtedly boost the players' confidence going forward. We also got the chance to test some of our new and young players, especially in the final, and they did very well. With these players, we are building a long-term project for the future of Lioli."