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...as the private sector credit increases

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- Metsing, Mochoboroane case drawing to a close



BORN ON THIS DAY

- September 30**
- 1992 - Marina CAK Windsor, granddaughter of English prince Edward
 - 1987 - Aida Garifullina, Russian soprano (Operalia 2013), born in Kazan, Russia
 - 1986 - Ben Lovett, British folk-rock musician and producer (Mumford & Sons), born in UK
 - 1982 - Ryan Stout, American comedian
 - 1983 - Andreea Raducan, Romanian gymnast, born in Bărlad, Romania
 - 1984 - T-Pain {Faheem Rasheed Najm}, American rapper/singer (Epiphany), born in Florida
 - 1981 - Brandon Watson, American baseball
 - 1980 - Virgil Abloh, American designer (Louis Vuitton menswear), 1st African American artistic director at a French fashion house
 - 1979 - Vince Chong, Malaysian-Chinese singer-songwriter and actor, born in Malaysia
 - 1977 - Sun Jihai, Chinese footballer

NewsBriefs

LEC to increase tariffs by 10%



LEC MD, Mohato Seleke

MASERU – Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA), an electricity and water sector regulating body that regulates electricity, urban water and sewerage services has approved the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC)'s 10 percent

tariff increment application.

The approved tariffs are effective from October 1. This emerged during a press conference that was held by LEWA on Tuesday.

Relebohile Mosito, Chairperson of the LEWA Board, said following a board meeting that was held earlier that day, the LEWA board resolved that the electricity company be allowed a revenue requirement of M1.07 billion instead of M1.24 billion it had requested.

He said based on facts and evidence presented to the authority by both the company and the public, including the prevailing social, economic and financial environment due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was concluded by the board that the justification advanced by LEC for M1.241 billion was inadequate.

Mr Mosito said the decisions that included the tariff increment of about 10 percent instead of 30 percent were approved in accordance with the existing legal provisions for the financial year 2021/2022.

For his part, Mohato Seleke, the Managing Director of LEC said the company is pleased with the approval since it has been almost three years since the last tariff increase.

This, he said will ease the work of the company in offering public services such as connections, wiring re-testing, survey, re-survey, licensing for writing, metre testing and house extension.

The current charges for connections, wiring re-testing, survey, re-survey, licensing for writing, metre testing and house extension are expected to remain the same.

LeNA

Accused soldiers in quarantine

MASERU – The nine soldiers who are charged with the murder of former army commander, Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Maaparankoe Mahao have to wait four more weeks before their case could be heard again.

This is because some of them are currently in quarantine after testing positive for COVID-19 earlier last week. Justice Charles Hungwe on Monday postponed the trial to November 12 in order to give the accused time to recuperate.

The accused are former Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) chief, Lt Gen Tlali Kamoli along with subordinate officers including Motsamai Fako, Motsoane Machae, Tšitso Ramoholi, Litekanyo Nyakane, Haleo Makara, Lekhoaa Moepi, Marasi 'Moleli and Mohlalefi Seitlheko.

They face multiple charges comprising attempted murder, theft, obstruction of justice, damage to property, aggravated assault and risk of injury or death.

Most of these crimes allegedly occurred in Ha Lekete

and Ha Ratjomose in Maseru on June 25, 2015, the day on which Mahao was allegedly executed. Earlier, the case had been rescheduled to last week because the lead prosecutor, Senior Counsel Shaun Abrahams was not around to proceed with the prosecution.

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Advocate Hlalefang Motinyane had told the High Court that SC Abrahams who had previously withdrawn from the matter had been re-engaged. But due to unforeseen circumstances and bureaucratic issues, Abrahams could not make it to court last week, she said.

Abrahams is a South African lawyer and the former National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) at the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

Prior to his appointment in 2015 when SC Mxolisi Nxasana stepped down as NDPP, Abrahams had been a senior state advocate in the Priority Crimes Litigation Unit. LeNA/Metro

FastFACTS

North Korea and Cuba are the only places you can't buy Coca-Cola

No matter where you go, it's comforting to know you can always enjoy a Coca-Cola. Well, almost anywhere. While this fizzy drink is sold practically everywhere, it still hasn't (officially) made its way to North Korea or Cuba, according to the BBC. That's because these countries are under long-term U.S. trade embargoes.

However, some folks say you might be able to snag a sip of the stuff if you try hard enough - although it'll typically be a lot more expensive than what you would pay in the states - and probably imported from a neighbouring country such as Mexico or China.

On This Day in History

1954

September 30

USS Nautilus - world's first nuclear submarine - is commissioned

The USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear submarine, is commissioned by the U.S. Navy.

The Nautilus was constructed under the direction of U.S. Navy Captain Hyman G. Rickover, a brilliant Russian-born engineer who joined the U.S. atomic program in 1946. In 1947, he was put in charge of the navy's nuclear-propulsion program and began work on an atomic submarine. Regarded as a fanatic by his detractors, Rickover succeeded in developing and delivering the world's first nuclear submarine years ahead of schedule. In 1952, the Nautilus' keel was laid by President Harry S. Truman, and on January 21, 1954, first lady Mamie Eisenhower broke a bottle of champagne across its bow as it was launched into the Thames River at Groton, Connecticut. Commissioned on September 30, 1954, it first ran under nuclear power on the morning of January 17, 1955.

Much larger than the diesel-electric submarines that preceded it, the Nautilus stretched 319 feet and displaced 3,180 tons. It could remain submerged for almost unlimited periods because its atomic engine needed no air and only a very small quantity of nuclear fuel. The uranium-powered nuclear reactor produced steam that drove propulsion turbines, allowing the Nautilus to travel underwater at speeds in excess of 20 knots.

ALL JOKES ASIDE

Warning to Men

Police are warning all men who frequent clubs, parties and local pubs to be alert and stay cautious when offered a drink from any woman.

Many females use a date rape drug on the market called "Beer". The drug is found in liquid form and available anywhere. It comes in bottles, cans, from taps and in large "kegs". "Beer" is used by female sexual predators at parties and bars to persuade their male victims to go home and have sex with them.

A woman needs only to get a guy to consume a few units of "Beer" and then simply ask him home for no strings attached sex. Men are rendered helpless against this approach.

After several Beers, men will often succumb to the desires to perform sexual acts on horrific looking women whom they would never normally be attracted. After drinking "Beer", men often awaken with only hazy memories of exactly what happened to them the night before, often with just a vague feeling that "something bad" occurred.

At other times these unfortunate men are swindled out of their life's savings, in a familiar scam known as "a relationship."

In extreme cases, the female may even be shrewd enough to entrap the unsuspecting male into a longer term form of servitude and punishment referred to as "marriage." Men are much more susceptible to this scam after "Beer" is administered and sex is offered by the predatory females.

Please! Pass this warning to every male you know. If you fall victim to this "Beer" and the women administering it.... there are male support groups where you can discuss the details of your shocking encounter with similarly affected like-minded guys.

For the support group nearest you, just look up "GOLF COURSES" in the phone book.

Quotes & Quips!

"He didn't mention Tesla once and praised GM and Ford for leading the EV Russian revolution. It's not the friendliest administration. It seems to be controlled by the unions,"

says Tesla Inc. CEO, Elon Musk, claiming U.S President Joe Biden and his administration are "biased" against his company, citing a recent White House event touting electric vehicles that excluded the automaker



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Majoro highlights significance of farming technology 4

Metro BUSINESS

CURRENCIES

(How Lesotho's Loti fared against world major currencies this week)

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	21.32
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	14.96
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.51
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.32
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.13
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.49
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	10.89
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.92
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	11.13
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.036
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.025
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.32
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.95
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.21
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	3.98
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.65
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.79
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.20
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.07
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.34

COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS		PRECIOUS METALS	
S&P500	4,443.11	Gold p/ounce	1,733.53
NASDAQ100	15,204.82	Platinum p/ounce	990.32
Nikkei225	30,183.96	Silver p/ounce	22.21
Dow Jones30	34,869.37	Copper p/ounce	4.28
FTSE 100	7,055.96	Brent Oil p/barrel	79.10
JSE	63,992.00	EQUITIES	
Hang Seng	24,520.80	Bonds	18.44
		Treasury Bills	3.67
		Interest Rates	91

AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Maize Meal p/kg	M7.00	Eggs p/tray	M45.00
Wheat Meal p/kg	M10.00	Milk (fresh) p/litre	M16.00
Cabbage p/kg	M14.00	Milk (sour) p/litre	M20.00
Potatoes p/kg	M10.50	Rice p/kg	M30.00
Brown Bread p/loaf	M10.00	White Sugar p/kg	M22.00
White Bread p/loaf	M11.00	Brown Sugar p/kg	M25.00
Sorghum Meal p/kg	M25.00	Beef p/kg	M85.00
Brown Beans p/kg	M30.00	Mutton p/kg	M90.00
Tomato p/kg	M15.00		

ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Petrol Unleaded 93 p/litre	M15.25
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M15.15
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M14.85
Paraffin p/litre	M10.50
Water (Domestic) p/litre	M5.53
Water (Industrial) p/litre	M15.03
Electricity (Domestic) p/unit	M1.38
Electricity (Industrial) p/unit	M0.26
Gas p/kg	M20.00

Economic activity slows down

...as the private sector credit increases



Governor of Central Bank of Lesotho, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane

NEO SENOKO
business@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, the Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), says local economic activity slowed down by 0.3 percent

in July compared with the 0.6 percent decline recorded in the preceding months.

This, she revealed on Tuesday as the bank announced the statement of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The MPC is committed to

conducting monetary policy to achieve and maintain price stability and thus overall macroeconomic stability.

"Economic activity slowed by 0.3 percent in July. This was mainly as a result of tighter COVID-19 induced restrictions in the review period. The domestic economic recovery remains largely conditional on development measures and the rollout of vaccines. Continued spikes in infection rates could bode negatively for growth and general economic recovery in the short to medium-term," Dr Matlanyane said during MPC's 91st meeting.

In the second quarter of 2021, she said domestic labour market conditions remained weak in all three sectors that are monitored by the bank. This was primarily on account of the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

The rate of inflation, as measured by the year-on-year percentage change in the consumer price index (CPI), was 5.2 percent in August, compared to 5.5 percent in July.

The largest contributors to the August inflation rate included food, electricity, gas and other fuels as well as transport subcomponents.

The current account recorded a deficit equivalent to 11.3 percent of GDP in the second quarter of 2021, relevant to a surplus of 1.3 percent of GDP in the preceding quarter.

"The deterioration in the current account was driven mainly by a decline in the secondary income account surplus, together with the increased deficit on the goods account," Dr Matlanyane also said.

Consequently, the gross international

reserves, as measured in the months of import cover, fell to 4.2 months in the second quarter of 2021, compared to 4.5 months in the previous quarter.

The broad measure of money supply (M2) declined by 2.7 percent between June and July. The decrease was due to a contraction of 27.0 percent in Net Foreign Assets, which was moderated by a 3.4 percent rise in Net Domestic Assets.

Private sector credit extended by banks increased by 0.5 percent in July compared to a 0.2 percent decline in June.

"Loans and advances extended to business enterprises declined by 1.8 percent in July, relative to a 4.5 per cent decline in the preceding month. Similarly, total credit granted to households rose by 1.3 per cent in July, following a rise in both personal loans and mortgages by 1.4 and 1.2 per cent in June respectively," Dr Matlanyane said. As a result, she said the bank decided to decrease the Net International Reserve (NIR) target floor from US\$780 million to US\$760 million. At this level, the NIR target remains consistent with the maintenance of the exchange rate peg between the loti and the South African rand.

The bank has further maintained the CBL rate at a rate of 3.50 percent per annum. The rate, set at this level, will ensure that the domestic cost of funds remains aligned with the rest of the region.



Prime Minister Dr Mōeketsi Majoro

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Majoro highlights significance of farming technology

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Prime Minister Dr Mōeketsi Majoro has said recapitalising agriculture as well as transforming farming technology will go a long way towards strengthening Lesotho's food systems.

He made these remarks in his address during the United Nations (UN) Food Systems Summit held in New York, USA recently.

The summit was focused on setting the stage for global food systems transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda for SDGs, approved in September 2015 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, establishes a transformative vision towards the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the 193 UN Member States, including Lesotho that adopted it. The summit also aims to provide a platform for ambitious new actions, innovative solutions, and plans to transform food systems and leverage these shifts to deliver progress across all of the SDGs.

"For its part, the government has prioritised agriculture and nutrition in its development plans and actions. But to strengthen Lesotho's food systems, it is important to address simultaneously the elements of the food security value chains in their entirety.

"This includes recapitalising agriculture, transferring farming technology including widespread use of digital technology, commercialising the agriculture sector, adopting climate smart and sensitive operations, promoting food safety including through plant protection services," the Prime

Minister also said. Goal one of the SDGs aims to eradicate extreme poverty for all people while goal two also seeks to end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

It remains to be seen if the country will be able to meet some of these targets, particularly with the status of hunger and poverty currently escalating, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A report on food systems in southern Africa by the World Food Program (WFP), the food-assistance branch of the United Nations (UN) and the world largest humanitarian organisation focused on food hunger and food security and the largest provider of school meals, reveals that 6.2 percent of Lesotho's population cannot afford energy sufficient diet.

The report further shows that 47.6 percent of the population cannot afford nutrient adequate diet, while 76.2 percent cannot afford healthy diet.

Dr Majoro also underscored the importance of providing trained personnel into the sector, investing in agriculture and food research as well as protecting the land resource, deploying early warning systems and raising the capacity to manage climate disasters together with deploying effective extension services.

He also touched on the importance of the involvement of private sector and civil societies in policy formulation and implementation.

He said Lesotho is committed in transforming its food systems into sustainable systems that could deliver food security and nutrition for all, in a manner that takes cognizance of economic, social and environmental impacts during production, distribution and consumption.

MMB opposes proposed Sin Tax

...as the government stands to lose M800 million in revenue



Maluti Premium Lager produced by MMB

MASERU - Maluti Mountain Brewery (MMB), one of the SAMiller Africa's companies and Lesotho's only brewer, says the Government stands to lose over M800million in revenue in the next three years if it introduces

the proposed Tobacco and Alcohol Products Levy Bill, 2020.

The Government intends to use the bill as an instrument to influence acceptable or normal consumption of tobacco and alcohol products in the country,

This emerged in MMB's submission on Monday before the Portfolio Committee on the Economic and Development cluster that was tabled before the National Assembly by the Chief Whip, Tlokotsi Manyoko.

In its report, the MMB which is against the proposed levy argues that it was not consulted during the drafting of the bill.

It says the bill should not be introduced in order to secure Government total product taxes from the brewer, preserve jobs and to keep the company sustainable for many years to come.

"The proposed levy would not achieve its intended results, instead the Government will lose M800 million in revenue in the next three years which is almost double the income projected to be collected from the total levy over the next two years from MMB alone," the MMB said in its submission.

It also highlights that the 2020 budget statement indicated that Government's projected revenue from the total levy

on alcohol and tobacco will be M200million annually, adding that the loss of revenue from MMB alone will be double the anticipated incremental revenue from the levy and will therefore result in a net negative impact for the country from revenue perspective. Instead, the brewing company insists that the Government must implement the Alcohol and Tobacco Act of 1998 before it can increase the levy.

It says licensed liquor and tobacco dealers will be forced to close their businesses due to high prices, adding that this will enable illegal dealers to benefit.

It further shows that introducing a levy on tobacco products will just make illegitimate stakeholders and illicit companies more active in the market because increasing levy will not necessarily stop people from smoking nor reduce consumption among consumers.

"Raising a levy will be tax upon a tax," the company says.

It notes that that studies have shown that only 20 percent of local liquor traders are operating

legally, therefore, introducing a levy will only worsen the problem of illegal trading.

"The levy will not only affect the sales of registered companies but will also result in the loss of many jobs," it further says.

Similar sentiments were shared by other stakeholders including the British American Tobacco (BAT), Lesotho Liquor and Restaurants Owners Association (LLROA), Private Sector Foundation Lesotho (PSFL), Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and South African Alcohol Policy Alliance Lesotho (SAAPA).

The Portfolio Committee on Economic and Development cluster has recommended that the Ministry of Trade and Industry must enforce the registration of the 80 percent illegal traders who evade tax, adding that the tobacco and alcohol levy should be increased gradually in five years to reach the 15 percent and 30 percent target respectively, subject to economic performance.

It also recommended that local products have to be empowered and favoured by the industry over their foreign products.

MMB's report is yet to be debated and adopted by the House.

LeNA

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during lockdown.



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PROUDLY LESOTHO



BLUE RIBBON
CLASSIC BROWN BREAD
700 g

mmm Yum Taste!

Comments & Letters

Men should fight for women who are victims of abuse

The Editor,
Each and every day, we hear about reports of women who have been abused or killed by their partners, leaving their children behind.

Many children are being orphaned because of silly men who have turned murder into a habit.

Men must understand that all are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.

As a society, we must mentor and teach our young boys to always value and respect young girls and women. We also need more men who can stand up and make a difference.

Our men should be prepared to fight for the rights of their women if the Government fails to protect us.

Changing behaviour and ingrained attitudes will not be easy, but men must take the lead in this drive. It is time for men to join the fight, and become the vanguards of our common struggle to end violence and abuse against women and children.

Moipone Qhoai
Pitseng, Leribe

Let us team up and support homeless children

The Editor,
Not all children who are homeless end up living in the open on the streets. Many end up sleeping in very inappropriate but out of sight places, such as on the floors of friends, relatives or strangers, in temporary accommodation.

Therefore, not all children who can be described as 'street children' are necessarily homeless. They may work, play or spend their time on the streets, but they may go back to sleep with their families, friends or neighbours.

Street children are children who depend on the streets for their survival, whether they live or work on the streets, but at the end of the day, they need our support.

With the COVID-19 pandemic which has disrupted many lives, leaving a lot of people without jobs, the number of street children has consequently increased.

The pandemic has also affected these homeless children because they are unable to make as much money as they used before the advent of the virus.

Sipho Lepheana
Khubetsoana, Maseru

Initiation schools disrupt the focus on COVID-19

The Editor,
Initiation schools, which are components of rites of passage, are registered cultural institutions for both men and women. They are long-standing traditions of Africans and serve as institutions where young people are indigenously educated and prepared for adulthood. The coronavirus has forced initiation schools for boys and girls in Lesotho to suspend this old age tradition. It is the second consecutive year in which the practice of passage to adulthood has been suspended.

With COVID-19, schools in general are rapidly changing the basic way they do their work. Others have tried to recreate the school setting through the use of online platforms and digital tools like Zoom.

Government's move to a relaxed purple stage, has scuppered the hopes of many boys and men across the country who are waiting to undergo circumcision procedures (initiation school).

Boys and girls who want to undergo the traditional circumcision procedure, either for cultural or medical reasons, or a combination of the two, will have to wait as the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Lisebo Nkoe
Malimong, Berea

Speak OUT! Your opinions matter. This page is dedicated to those who wish to express their views.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Tariff increase welcome

The 10 percent tariff increase by the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) may have come at a wrong time, but the reality of the matter is that the utility company has been cash-strapped for quite some time and therefore needs a little boost to cover its operational costs.

The company announced this week that the Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA) has resolved that the LEC's tariffs be increased by 10.3727 percent for both energy and maximum demand for all customer categories for the financial year 2021/22. The announcement further went on to reveal that there will be a two-level block increasing tariff with lifeline tariff for domestic customers.

The first block is for consumers using between 0-30kwh, which is priced at M0.7947/kwh. The second block is for consumers using above 30kwh, which is set at M1.6235/kwh. So, looking into the fact that the company is struggling to operate and run its affairs and meet the demand of the nation, it is only fair that tariffs are increased. As the population, we shall then wait and see if there are any improvements going forward on the customer service front.

Of course the increase comes at a back of tough economic conditions currently exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. However, with the rate at which the LEC is operating, coupled with poor service delivery, it is fair that the company gets a financial boost to try and improve. Our understanding is that if tariffs are not improved, in line with the economic conditions of course, service at the company may keep on deteriorating, leading to its eventual collapse. It would then mean even more damage than what we are already dealing with at the moment. On the other hand, LEWA should also be applauded for its decision because initially, LEC requested a 30.9 percent increase in order to cushion its operations, citing among other things that prices for its key inputs have increased.

The company had highlighted before LEWA that it will need a minimum of M1, 24 billion to finance its operations.

But LEWA, with its own analysis has only been able to allow for a 10 percent increase for the first time since the 2019 financial year. In the past two financial years, the company was not allowed to increase tariffs.

The only advice one may give to LEC management is for them to appreciate the increase and prioritise key areas of improvement for the betterment of the company's operations.

Half a loaf is better than no bread at all.

Artificial intelligence and journalism: ...Ready or not, here it comes

In a world where hundreds of thousands of people from different backgrounds, locations and socioeconomic circumstances visit the homepage of a news site daily, we can use artificial intelligence to help us recommend and prioritise the important and relevant journalism that is likely to serve their needs and our goals. The journalism fraternity is barely managing to make it out of the great disruption – digital publishing – when artificial intelligence (AI) is already being mooted as the follow-up wave that is about to hit. For many, this will trigger the human survival instinct to fill the void of uncertainty with the worst possible outcome. Fears generally revolve around job losses in an already ravaged industry and the loss of editorial decision-making at the hands of journalists and editors. As with all innovation, a clear strategy and a focus on the potential benefits can help navigate this inevitable next chapter that is about to be written. There are, of course, other professions that are further down the AI line, which we can look towards for inspiration. Pilots, for example, can flick the auto-pilot switch once the more technically demanding aspects of taking off and landing have occurred. This feature allows for more rest on long-haul flights and fresher, sharper pilots who can fly passengers to safety. Investment professionals use AI to scour the investment universe, ploughing through more balance sheets than humanly possible and presenting a filtered list to managers so that they can decide on suitable targets. In the same way, we can apply machine learning and the power of AI to the way we create, distribute and analyse journalism.

With big data comes big fraud, reams of contracts and paperwork that are approved by lawyers and accountants. Systems already exist where entities (people, places and things) that are common in different sets of documents and datasets, can be linked together and analysed. It joins the dots to make analysis easier and, in some cases, possible. DocumentCloud and Google's Pinpoint are examples of systems that enable journalists to do that entity analysis on large and varied document sets. The Associated Press has, for many years, used a template to turn company earnings statements into written reports. As a result, many smaller companies are covered than would be possible if humans did the work. New jobs have also been created where these reports are checked for accuracy before publishing.

A/B testing is becoming an increasingly used tool in journalism to help improve chances of success. An independent analyst found that roughly 30% of New York Times headlines on their homepage had more than one headline, and some had up to eight variations. (An A/B test is where two or more headlines are pitted against each other within a time period and the best-performing one becomes the assigned headline.)

Although some were minor, some were pretty dramatic, and undoubtedly training an algorithm that will offer improvements to the production team as

they seek to extract maximum impact from the more than 200 stories per day they publish. Articles with tested headlines were 80% more likely to feature in the most-read lists – and along with it came the risk that the process might be misused.

For years, publishers have been at the mercy of algorithms of social media. Some media businesses were built and destroyed in no time off these black boxes. It makes sense that the best chance of success against a machine is

another machine. We can scratch our heads, hoping that our social media posts will be sent out with enough time between each post, that they don't contain too many words on images or any myriad reasons to be penalised. Or we can pay a service provider with smart machines that have analysed terabytes of data to do that for us. And, of course, there are personalised recommendations. If you've ever let your kids loose on your Spotify or Netflix account, you'll know why there's a sudden flood of JoJo Siwa and PAW Patrol recommendations. (That's my story and I'm sticking to it.)

Based on past behaviour and audience segmentation, content is being recommended to us by machines that know us better than we know ourselves. The trick is to design and train a feed that understands our needs and not just our wants (insert any one of many Facebook disasters here). In a world where hundreds of thousands of people from different backgrounds, locations and socioeconomic circumstances visit the homepage of a news site daily, we can use AI to help us recommend and prioritise the important and relevant journalism that is likely to serve their needs and our goals.

Some publishers, like the Globe and Mail in Canada, relieve editors of the constant burden of updating the homepage by allocating the three most important slots and letting the machines do a more productive and efficient job – while never sleeping. Propensity modelling allows them to identify the readers who are most likely to get a subscription, and design a dynamic paywall strategy and/or show the readers who are unlikely to subscribe to a different offer. As with any powerful tool, there are risks and benefits. But as I've described, these can be harnessed in ways that can make journalism and the product of journalism a better service than it would be without it. The gap between big publishers and smaller ones is being widened by their data-science budgets and their ability to leverage AI. Whether we like it or not, the use of AI will soon be table stakes at the high-stakes table of journalism. We should rather define our own strategy than let the AI tail wag the dog. DM168

MY
TAKE
STYLI CHARALAMBOUS



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GIVE US NEWS

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Florida Industrial Park, 5 minutes drive from Maseru border.

Ha Hoohlo, P.O. Box 14129, Maseru 100
Tel: 266 22 325494
E-mail: circulation@maserumetro.com
SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Website:

www.maserumetro.com
ADVERTISING SALES
E-mail: sales@maserumetro.com

Editorial Team

Business Reporter: - Mr Neo Senoko (business@maserumetro.com)
Health Reporter: - Ms Lineo Mabekebeke (health@maserumetro.com)
Football Reporter: - Mr Teboho Jafeta (sports@maserumetro.com)
Chief Sub-Editor: - Mr Leboela Motopi (news@maserumetro.com)

Graphics Director: - Mr Mthobi Malope (graphics.d@thabure.com)
Graphic Designer: - Ms Ellen Ramangoela (graphics1@thabure.com)

Circulation Director: - Mr Zacharia Liporo (logistics@thabure.com)

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Majoro laments shocking Covid impacts on economies

...as Lesotho needs stimulus to restart post-Covid economy



Prime Minister Dr Majoro

Motsoahae Thabane as the Prime Minister of Lesotho on May 20, 2020 was attending the seven-day assembly for the first time as Head of the Lesotho Government.

He said locking down the economies is no longer an option as many countries can operation without the lockdowns.

"As world leaders, we must come together to guarantee simultaneous access to vaccines by all countries.

"My delegation expresses sincere appreciation for all initiatives recently taken thorough Convax to address the needs of developing countries . especially in the development, production and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines," he said.

He applauded the world leaders and their efforts towards the fight against the global pandemic, saying the UN General Secretary, Antonio Guterres has shown that the world is in great danger, warning of the consequences of the failure to work together.

"2020 was a year of death, disaster and despair," he said, calling for bold action to overcome the devastation in 2020 that resulted from the pandemic.

He said this year's befitting theme "building resilience through hope - to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainability, responding to needs of the planet, respect the rights, and revitalise the United Nations" is a call to the world leaders to demonstrate their continued commitment in support of national efforts.

He said they recall that the COVID-19 resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2020 underscored the needs to tackle the health inequalities and within and among countries through political commitment, policies and international operation.

He said the World health Organisation (WHO) recently promulgated an unpleasant warning that unless nations act urgently to slow the spread of the coronavirus, the world could log another 100 million infections in the course of this year.

Dr Majoro said apart from posing significant threat to health, the pandemic is also a serious impediment to development, as it disrupts the functioning of domestic economies, global travel, tourism and trade.

LeNA/Metro

MASERU – Least developed countries like Lesotho are struggling to meet sustainable development goals and targets as the situation has been exacerbated by the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which expended the financial balance sheets on coping with the pandemic in the past two years, Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro has said.

According to the United Nations (UN), least developed countries (LDCs) are low-income countries facing severe structural setbacks to sustainable development. LDCs have low levels of human assets and are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks.

Every three years, the Committee for Development (CDP) reviews the list of LDCs and assesses the three criteria: human assets, economic vulnerability and gross national income per capita. There are currently 47 LDC countries in the world.

Lesotho and other LDCs, Dr Majoro said now require financial stimulus to restart their post-COVID-19 economies and to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, approved in September 2015 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, establishes a transformative vision towards the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the 193 UN Member States, including Lesotho that adopted it.

Dr Majoro made these remarks on Monday when addressing the 76th session of the UN General Assembly that was held in New York, USA from September 21.

Dr Majoro who replaced Dr

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Lesotho approves J&J vaccine for emergency use

... EMA says the vaccine has a 66% efficacy rate

MASERU – Lesotho is part of 40 global countries that have approved the use of the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) vaccine for COVID-19 related emergencies after the vaccine was temporarily suspended due to records of deaths and rare blood clotting incidents associated with it in some countries.

According to J&J, the vaccine "is a single-dose vaccine that is adenovirus-based. Adenovirus is a live, yet weakened pathogen and this vaccine is a viral vector type that uses this pathogen and its way of getting the COVID-19 vaccine. A vector is a way of delivering the COVID-19 recombinant vaccine. Such recombinant vaccines require genetic material from the virus, in a small portion, for there to be an immune response."

About a month ago, the Minister of Health, Semano Sekatle presented a preliminary report that confirmed that the use of vaccine was not in any way related to the five deaths that had occurred in that district earlier.

He said the deaths in questions were thoroughly investigated by two teams of both home and international health experts.

According to their findings, Mr Sekatle said three of the deaths were caused by a combination of complications including COVID-19, heart attack, high blood pressure, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB).

"The fourth death was mainly caused by anesthesia shock which is rare and happens once in a million times, while the fifth one was due to a combination of complications including heart attack, high blood pressure and failure by the patient to adhere to anti-retro virus (ART) medication," the Minister had said.

This week, the European Medicines Agency (EMA), a European Union (EU) agency in charge of evaluation and supervision of medicinal products issued an emergency and conditional authorisation for then J&J vaccine for individuals aged 18 years and older and the vaccine has been approved for emergency use in 40 countries including Lesotho.

In its report, the EMA said like most COVID-19 vaccines, the J&J also has its own side effects. For its part, the World Health Organisation (WHO), a United Nations (UN) agency that connects nations, partners and people to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable says while it continues to monitor the safety responses from other agencies, the J&J vaccine is safe and effective against severe risks of COVID-19.

The United States Food Drug Administration (FDA), a federal agency of the Department of Health and Human Services responsible for protecting public health had previously recommended a pause in



Minister of Health, Semano Sekatle



the use of the vaccine.

This was a precautionary measure following a small number of rare blood clot incidents, at the same time: J&J delayed the distribution of the vaccine in Europe while the EMA conducted its own review. On April 20, J&J announced it would resume distribution of the vaccine in the EU area but with safety warning, after the EMA concluded that the vaccine's benefits continue to outweigh its risks.

The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was launched on February 27, 2021. It became the third vaccine against the coronavirus to get emergency use authorisation from the FDA.

J&J says it was confirmed from the clinical trials that its vaccine is 66% efficient as a single COVID-19 vaccine dose.

After suspending the vaccine in the United States a few weeks ago, the FDA recently recommended the resumption of its use. EMA and FDA reports on the J&J vaccine reveal that the vaccine has a 66% efficacy rate, while this is lower than the efficacy rate of other vaccines, adding that it should be noted that the clinical trials of the J&J vaccine took place in different contexts, globally in regions where variants were more prevalent and in the U.S during a period of significant increase in COVID-19.

Lena/Metro

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with WHITENING
Micro-Cooling Beads
MIND-BLOWING LONG LASTING FRESHNESS

The world in 10 minutes

OREGON - USA

Oregon dog's 12-inch ears earn Guinness World Record

An Oregon woman's black and tan coonhound earned a Guinness World Record when each of her ears was measured at 12.38 inches long.

Guinness said Lou, a 3-year-old canine belonging to Paige Olsen, officially has the longest ears on a dog (living). Olsen said she always knew Lou's ears were "extravagantly long," but she only decided to measure them while sheltering in place during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"All black and tan coonhounds have beautiful long ears, some are just longer than others," Olsen, a veterinary technician, told Guinness.



RWANDA

Kagame praises 'much alive' Arsenal

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame has praised Arsenal's 3-1 win against north London rivals Spurs in the English Premier League match on Sunday. He tweeted the team was "much alive", saying the manager and players deserved credit. His comments are remarkably different from his critical reaction last month when the Gunners lost their first game of the season to newly promoted Brentford.

"We just must NOT excuse or accept mediocrity. A team has to be built with purpose to win win win," he tweeted after the game.

At the time he demanded "a plan that really works" and lamented that "fans don't deserve to kind of get used to this".

On Sunday, he said the win was "brilliant".

Since 2018, the Rwandan government has had a controversial sponsorship deal worth more than £30m (\$42m), which involves a "Visit Rwanda" logo displayed on Arsenal shirt sleeves. Critics have said it is an example of an authoritarian leader of a poor, African country subsidising a wealthy football club. But the Rwandan government says the sponsorship more than pays for itself over in tourism revenue.

NORTH CAROLINA - USA

'Funeral home' sponsors advert urging people not to get vaccinated

A van urging people 'Don't get vaccinated' has been spotted driving around the streets of a town in North Carolina.

At first glance, it seems like some anti-vaxxers have bought a billboard and are trying to convert more people to put their lives at risk.

But in smaller writing underneath, you can see that it is supposedly sponsored by 'Wilmore Funeral Home'.

To some, this might be even worse as it is mocking people who may die from coronavirus.

But there is yet another twist in the tale, as if you google the name of the funeral home, you get taken to the website - It is a simple black and white design with the message: 'Get vaccinated now. If not, see you soon.'

If you click to enter the website and find out more about this organisation, you are taken instead to an information page about vaccination. The link directs you to the website of local private healthcare centre StarMed, which offers the jobs.



LIBERIA

Liberian leader's birthday billboards line streets

Billboards with large portraits of Liberian President George Weah are being lined up on the streets of the capital Monrovia, ahead of his 55th birthday on 1 October.

The billboards being erected by the Monrovia City Council are currently all over central Monrovia and other parts of the city.

It's an ongoing exercise - and each billboard is carrying the same message.

"All leaders should be you, because you're an epitome of excellence. Happy birthday, sir. We wish you the fulfilment of all the wishes lurking in the corners of your heart," reads the message.

Ruling party supporters say the president deserves this and are excited to see their leader's portraits all over the place.

THAILAND

Thai taxi drivers idled by Covid-19 lockdowns turn car roofs into gardens

Taxi fleets in Thailand are giving new meaning to the term "rooftop garden," as they utilize the roofs of cabs idled by the coronavirus crisis to serve as small vegetable plots. Workers from two taxi cooperatives assembled the miniature gardens this week using black plastic garbage bags stretched across bamboo frames. On top, they added soil in which a variety of crops, including tomatoes, cucumbers and string beans, were planted.

The result looks more like an eye-grabbing art installation than a car park, and that's partly the point: to draw attention to the plight of taxi drivers and operators who have been badly hit by coronavirus lockdown measures.

The Ratchapruk and Bovorn Taxi cooperatives now have just 500 cars left plying Bangkok's streets, with 2,500 sitting idle at a number of city sites, according to 54-year-old executive Thapakorn Assawalertkul.

With the capital's streets deathly quiet until recently, there's been too much competition for too few fares, resulting in a fall in drivers' incomes. Many now can't afford the daily payments on the vehicles, even after the charge was halved to 300 baht (\$9.09), Thapakorn said. So they have walked away, leaving the cars in long, silent rows.

Some drivers surrendered their cars and returned to their homes in rural areas when the pandemic first hit last year because they were so scared, he said. More gave up and returned their cars during the second wave.



EGYPT

Mixed reaction over Egypt's plan to tax YouTubers

A plan to tax online content creators in Egypt has sparked mixed reactions. The country's tax authority asked YouTubers and bloggers to register and declare their annual income.

The government is targeting those earning more than 500,000 Egyptian pounds (\$32,000; £23,000) annually.

Some people on social media have been supporting the new taxation:

"Poor vegetable sellers are taxed, so we can also tax the rich," an Egyptian wrote on Twitter, the AFP news agency reports.

Others are opposed to the move citing high internet costs, with a tweeter writing: "If the government wants to tax YouTubers then it must at least give us better internet and scrap the whole limited gigabytes packages".

"Anyone who makes a profit in Egypt must be fairly taxed whatever their field of work is", the AFP quoted Mohamed al-Gayyar, a senior tax authority official, as saying.



Jam-packed weekend for Tourism Month

KABELO MASOABI

MASERU - As the country prepares to close the Tourism Month with a high notch; several tourist attraction places are ready to provide revelers and visitors with a weekend of entertainment.

Burn Sounds, a local music recording company has lined up a star-studded cast for a party that promises to bring the Blue Point Cafe near Litaleng in Maseru to a standstill.

Some of Lesotho's finest entertainers, Tribez, Megs, Locco, Beatz and Leeber Donny B, along with a

host of local rap artistes – are billed to perform at the event expected to start at 11am to 8pm.

Again in Maseru, DJ Tseko **(pictured)** of the Kuna Sounds Establishment is set to celebrate his birthday on Saturday at Victoria Hotel poolside. Guest artistes expected at the 'mother-of-all-parties' include South African Amapiano music duo kings - Kabza De Small and Maphorisa.

The line-up of local disc jockeys (DJs) includes DJ Peipi, Sir Sechaba, DJ Lelo, Slatz, Sabby De DJ and his former partners DJs Alex and Counter Force.

"There will be a classified sitting area for the audience with Very Very Important Persons (VVIP), Very Important Persons (VIP) and the General sections," explains DJ Tseko, born Tseko Mamonyane.

The section terms differ with spending power, treatment received and distinguished people with high requirements.

The veteran disc jockey is the founder of the Basotho Night inaugural event meant to provide a prelude to the Moshoeshoe Day which is celebrated on March 11 annually.

During the event, patrons dress up in traditional regalia and traditional food and drinks are served.

On Saturday, The View Garden, located in Mosenekeng, Sehlabeng sa Thuathe in Berea will offer a completely free of charge music event, titled "Spring Jump", with DJ Beekay, DJ Bamboo, DJ Felix and DJ Sexy on the decks. The show starts at 10am until late.

Other events include the Sunday Chillaz at the 'Mathata Dam in Maputsoe, near the Chinese Camp. This is also a free of charge event and attendants are invited to bring along their own camp chairs and cooler boxes.

"This is one place where you can relax on the grass and network with new faces while enjoying your favourite snacks and drinks," one of organisers, Sekila Molise says.

Last but not least - as spring unleashes a fun-packed season - car racing show has resumed in Mathokoane, Leribe. This is also a free-entrance occasion held on Sundays.

The Tourism Month was launched on September 9, by the Minister of Tourism Environment and Culture, Ntlhoi Motsamai in Maseru.

Hiking body boasts of thrilling adventure park, trails

MASERU - People's Republic of Quthing, a hiking outfit based in Quthing promises hikers a larger than life experience in what its members claim must have given birth to the very spirit of excitement as they take adventurers through heights, depths, temperatures, distances and sizes, better known as - Your frontiers of adventure.

Their adventure park commonly known to the members of the group as the "Leloaleng Gardens" is situated near Leloaleng Technical School outside the Quthing town.

Quthing is a semi-rural and mildly mountainous district located in the southern part of Lesotho.

According to the founding Director of the hikers' body, Peiso Moji, the wooded park offers a primal thrill of gentle pursuits while the serenity of the landscape positively lures one to walk or hike and even challenges every dreamer.

"We are a group as adventurous, stress free and physically fit individuals who come from a district with Lesotho's richest history in terms of tourism.

"The thin and cool air from the deep rivers works magic. Our activities are brain teasers and require lateral thinking and close teamwork," he says.



DARING: Hikers at the wooded Leloaleng Gardens

Khoisan's district name. These are ancient people who inhabited Lesotho and most of Southern Africa in prehistoric times. They were hunters and gatherers holed up in a nomadic lifestyle in the eighteenth century," Moji says.

He adds that no doubt, stories have been told and books written that Quthing is a scenic environment.

The revered Orange River (Senqu) starts and flows down from

Mokhotlong down Qacha's Nek into Quthing and through South Africa to the Atlantic Ocean in Namibia.

According to a document compiled by People's Republic of Quthing, there are historical records of battles that were fought on top of Mount Moorosi, a mountain fortress that belonged to the founder of Baphuthing people, Chief Moorosi who ruled Quthing during the era of King Moshoeshoe I, the founder of

the Basotho nation.

"The said battle field is accessible through only one pass and on top of that mountain, are bullet shells and remnants of Moorosi's village," Moji further shows.

"History has it that Chief Moorosi was decapitated by British troops and his head was taken to King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape by the then regime.

"Quthing is the only district

in Lesotho whose inhabitants are three different tribes, which speak three different languages, with three different cultural practices. There are the Tembus who use a dialect from the Cape, Phuthi a dialect used by the Baphuthi and the other is a mixture of Swati, Zulu and Southern Sotho dialects. Their language can only be spoken but not written," Moji further says.

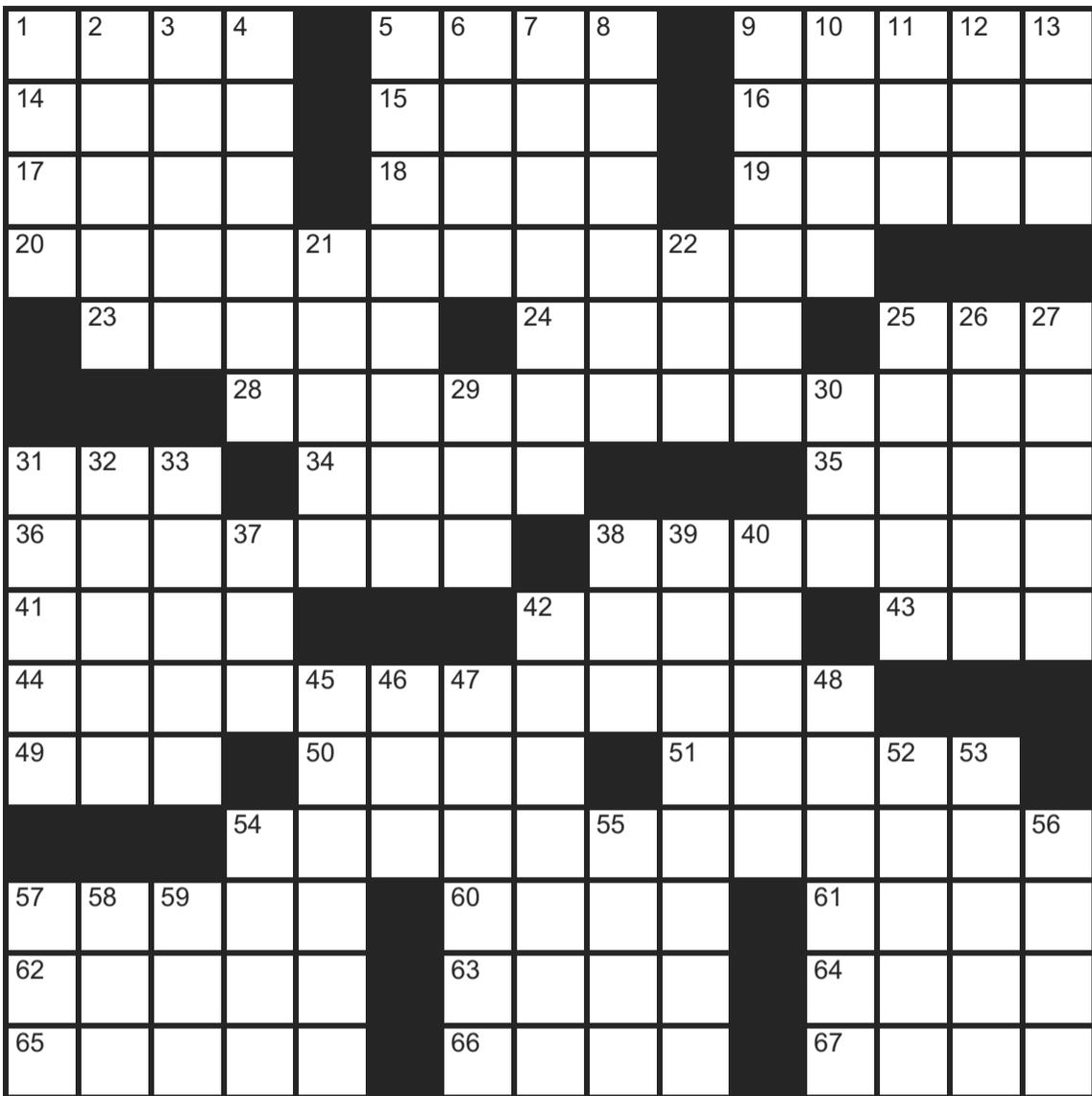
Forthartley, a British field hospital in Pokane, located approximately 15 kilometres out of the Quthing town was used as the British army hospital in 1879 during the skirmish between Chief Moorosi and British Cape government forces.

Some of the tourist attractions found in this district include San rock art or Bushmen paintings, which depict the lifestyle of the Khoisan/Khoikhoi people before the present day Lesotho was born or formed.

Apart from that, the district boasts of the Masitise historical cave, a unique rock formation which possesses an array of exotic instruments and python skin ammunitions dating back to the eighteenth century.

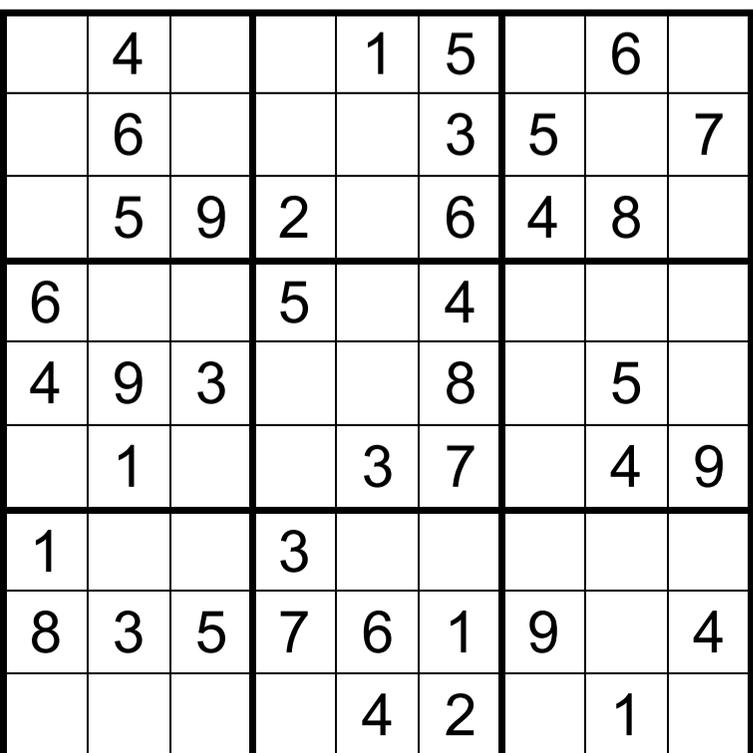
There is also a famous graveyard for cremated French missionaries who lived in the area and a museum built by the Paris Evangelical Mission Society.

General Crosswords



- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Across | 38. Marathoner's need | Down | 1. Tomcats |
| 1. Surround | 41. New York's _____ Canal | 2. Runs without moving | 2. Flinch, say |
| 5. Taj Mahal city | 42. Copter's forerunner | 3. Thorn apple | 3. Sung response |
| 9. Render defenseless | 43. Heavy-duty cleanser | 4. Bearded animal | 4. Use over |
| 14. It comes to mind | 44. Twisty stems | 5. Stellar | 5. Decrees |
| 15. Rejections | 49. Hook shape | 6. Adam's apple spot | 6. Colony member |
| 16. Nairobi's land | 50. Guns | 7. "The Catcher in the _____" | 7. Like some scientists |
| 17. Sheep's cry | 51. Wake Island, e.g. | 8. Odd-numbered page | 8. Intense anger |
| 18. Diplomacy | 54. Absolute government authority | 9. Rhodes of Rhodesia | 9. Showy flower |
| 19. Performed | 57. Swampy lake | | |
| 20. National threat | 60. Chip's cartoon chum | | |
| 23. _____ throat | 61. Comedian Carvey | | |
| 24. Kind of package | 62. Kind of artery | | |
| 25. PC "brain" | 63. Arab ruler | | |
| 28. Weak spot | 64. Jet black | | |
| 31. It keeps an eye on TV | 65. Final Commandment | | |
| 34. Bag | 66. Pampering places | | |
| 35. Representation | 67. Quite a while | | |
| 36. Deodorant dispensers | | | |

Sudoku Puzzle



Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each 3x3 square contain all the from 1-9

This is the Quick Sudoku for the solver in a hurr: target time, ten minutes.

Last Week's Solution

2	4	3	8	1	5	7	9	6
5	8	6	7	4	9	2	3	1
1	7	9	2	6	3	5	4	8
9	2	4	6	5	8	1	7	3
6	5	7	4	3	1	8	2	9
3	1	8	9	2	7	6	5	4
7	6	1	5	9	4	3	8	2
4	3	5	1	8	2	9	6	7
8	9	2	3	7	6	4	1	5

Last Week's Solution



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 27. Arm bones | 45. Stoop |
| 29. "_____ De-Lovely" | 46. Authorize |
| 30. That guy | 47. Shakes |
| 31. Brunch serving | 48. Vile |
| 32. Horror actor Karloff | 52. Tropical vine |
| 33. Mooring spots | 53. Gangly |
| 37. Attorney F. _____ Bailey | 54. Perfectly |
| 38. Break a Commandment | 55. Hip bones |
| 39. Halloween visitors trick-or-_____ | 56. Those opposed |
| 40. Blood line | 57. Took the bait |
| 42. Old time illumination | 58. A pint, maybe |
| | 59. Yang's counterpart |

So You Think You are Geneius

Question (Answer next week)

I once cashed a cheque at the bank. I had spent £1.20 before I realised the bank clerk had made a mistake. He had transposed the pounds with the pence. I now had exactly 7 times the value of the original cheque. What was the original cheque's value?



Last Week's Answer



A Dentist.

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Be Car-Smart

Ditch the SUV

They accelerate more slowly, they brake more slowly, and it takes them longer to clear intersections. (One study suggests they can create up to 20 percent more "lost time" at an intersection, and lost time is a huge factor in congestion.) SUVs also obstruct the view of drivers next to them and behind them, creating blind spots and causing other drivers to be more tentative.

A certain man says at first glance, a lot of people thought he was asking for money as he stood on the side of intersection Sunday afternoon. He was actually trying to sell his SUV.

"I put an ad for my Jeep and I put a sign on the Jeep and it just hasn't sold," the 30-year-old said.

That's when he decided to hold up his cardboard sign to passing motorists, in hopes that another driver would want to buy his vehicle.

"I see people advertising for their companies on the side of the road, so I figured I'd give it a shot," he said.

However, with SUV sales down globally, he may have an even tougher time than he thought.

"My Jeep probably gets 15 miles to the

gallon," he said. "People want 25 miles to the gallon."

Even with a steady job, the man says it's hard to keep the tank full.

"I'm spending about M1200.00 to fill it up," he said.

"The big shift has been in the last three to five months or even three to five weeks," said one auto dealer. "As gasoline prices ramped up significantly, there has been a huge shift to smaller, more economic cars."

It's a trend that automakers are noticing globally. Recently, General Motors announced plans to close four factories that produce trucks and SUVs. Ford also plans to decrease SUV production.

The auto dealer says that automakers in America report difficulty in selling SUVs; so much so, that he tells some SUV owners not to sell their vehicles right now if they want to

make any type of profit.

"If you have a vehicle like that and you need it... I recommend you keep that vehicle," he said.

Trade-in values for larger vehicles have decreased and the average value for a large SUV has fallen by as much as M50,000.

The blue book value for a car 1993 Jeep Grand Cherokee in excellent condition is M55,000. The auto dealer is trying to sell his for M45,000.

Passersby, like Paul Hufziger, like the pitch but are not interested in buying an SUV.

"Mainly because of gas," said Hufziger. "I have a family. With gasoline closing on M70 a gallon, it's crazy."

It has led the auto dealer to a realistic view that even the biggest auto dealers are facing.

"People don't want SUV's, I guess," he said.

Suzuki launches the new GSX-S1000 GT

... The New Suzuki GSX-S1000 GT to arrive on SA shores



and reliability. Laddering up to that, the NEW Suzuki GSX-S1000 GT now comes with an all-new Comprehensive electronics package and aggressive new styling.

The GSX-S1000 GT now hosts a benefit of features with the following electronics and upgrades: Suzuki Drive Mode Selector. (3 throttle response modes)

Bi-Directional Quick Shift System.

Cruise Control System

Suzuki Easy Start System.

Ride By Wire Electronic Throttle System.

Low RPM Assist.

Five Mode Suzuki Traction Control System.

Full LCD Instrument Panel.

LED Headlights and Position lights.

Led Taillight and Turn Signals.

The new GT is powered by a high-performance 999cm³ four-stroke DOHC liquid-cooled inline-four engine developed to realize the ideal a true grand touring riding experience. The engine underwent a thorough review and updates to increase power output and achieve an even better balance of overall performance, all while satisfying Euro 5 emissions standards. The new version delivers superbike-level performance while minimizing vibration to make riding more exciting, more comfortable and less tiring, whether travelling long distances on the highway or enjoying a ride around town. Its broad, smooth torque curve featuring greater cumulative torque production consistently delivers abundant power throughout the engine's operating range and makes this grand tourer equally adept at street riding as it is at high-speed long-distance touring, even under load when carrying gear and a passenger on the back.

Developed specifically as a large Multi-information display for use on motorcycles, the GT's new-generation TFT LCD panel features an anti-reflective coating for improved visibility in bright light and a scratch-resistant surface. Another standout feature is smartphone connectivity that lets you access a variety of apps and functions that bring greater convenience, functionality and fun to your riding experience.

In addition to day and night mode presentation schemes and adjustable brightness, the screen's custom display features butter-smooth tachometer movement and exclusive graphics. A brief custom animation that plays when the ignition key is turned on adds a unique playful touch.

The All-new GSX-S1000 GT is set to be a hit in the SA Market! Pricing and South African Launch details to follow soon.

Electronics Package.

Before we get into specifications and the finer details of this beauty! We'll take into consideration our stringent homologation laws in South Africa, and "hopefully expect our homologation to go through by the end of the 1st quarter of 2022, which means we can expect the first stock arrival

and official launch of the GSXS1000 GT in South Africa within the 2nd quarter of 2022" says Kuun. South African pricing is still to be released and will be released early 2022.

The previous GSX-S1000 A and F model did quite well in the South African market, customers just loved the power, smoothness

The excitement continues to grow around the world, more particularly in South Africa with the Worldwide launch of the new Suzuki GSX-S1000 GT which took place on the Suzuki SGMS on the 22 September 2021. Our Suzuki Customers are waiting in eager anticipation to see, touch and test ride this upgraded Motorcycle with all new



TEBOHO JAFETA

sports@maserumetro.com

No game time for Khutlang at Swallows

MASERU – Lesotho international and Swallows FC forward, Tumelo Khutlang has not yet featured in his team's DSTV Premiership matches since joining "The Dube Birds" on a two-year deal in August.

The team has so far played five matches and is placed at number 12 with five points on the 16-team DSTV Premiership log, having won a single match, drawing twice and losing two matches.

Swallows registered their second draw over the weekend when they held Cape Town City to a goalless draw on home soil at the Dobsonville Stadium in Soweto on Friday to collect a point.

Khutlang joined "The Birds" from Black Leopards, where he had been playing his football since 2018.

The talented forward landed at Swallows after an impressive showing with the national team Likuena at the past COSAFA Cup held in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape in July.

His fellow Lesotho national and Lamontville Golden Arrows head coach, Lehlohonolo Seema is doing quite well at his new side.

His charges managed a 2-2 stalemate against Amazulu on Wednesday before registering another draw against former Likuena head coach, Thabo Senong-mentored Sekhukhune United on Saturday.

Seema has so far won one match, registered three draws and lost once in the DSTV Premiership while his side is placed eighth with six points on the log.

He joined Abafana Bes'thende at the beginning of the 2021/22 season from Black Leopards.

He has also previously coached Chippa United and Bloemfontein Celtic.



IDLING: Top Likuena and Moroka Swallows FC striker, Tumelo Khutlang

Local female referees on busy foreign duty

MASERU – Two local female referees will have a busy schedule in October, officiating at the regional Council of Southern Africa Football Association (COSAFA) women's championship and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Women's Africa Cup of Nations as well as the Women's Under-20 world Cup qualifiers.

Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) Media Officer, Mikia Kalati said both Polotso Maapara and Puleng Mahomo left the country last week for the Women's (COSAFA) tournament scheduled for September 28- October 9 in Gqberha, South Africa.

Upon completion of their COSAFA assignment, the duo along with

Nteboheleng Setoko, will head for Francistown in Botswana to officiate the Women's U-20 World Cup qualifier between Botswana and Angola as the first assistant referee, second assistant referee and fourth official respectively.

Kalati said Maapara and Mahomo will conclude their busy schedule in October with the Women's Africa Cup of Nations qualifier between Eswatini and Zimbabwe in Manzini, Eswatini.

Setoko will be the fourth official at the match between Namibia and Tanzania to be played later in October. LeNA



LeFA female referee, Puleng Mahomo

Seema hails impact of charges in defeat



PROUD: Lamontville Golden Arrows head coach, *Lehlohonolo Seema*

LEHLOHONOLO Seema, Lesotho-born head coach of South Africa's Lamontville Golden Arrows praised the performance of his younger players in the second half of their 3-0 MTN8 semifinal, second leg loss to Mamelodi Sundowns on Tuesday.

Golden Arrows trailed 2-0 at halftime and were being comprehensively outplayed by The Brazilians, before Seema introduced Simo Mbhele, Sbonelo Cele and Siyabonga Khumalo early in the second period.

This he later said was a move that gave his side more of a foothold in the match and was pleased for the trio, who are all 22 years old or younger.

"We started with a team where we thought experience will put us through but we couldn't compete," Seema said.

"First half we couldn't even connect three or four passes. That's why at halftime we had to make subs. And I said the subs that we'll make will be inexperienced players, so that we can say the players that came in got minutes.

"And I'm happy with how the game went, especially the second-

half, these youngsters that came in, took over from what the guys did in the first-half, even if we were struggling.

"But second-half was a little bit better and we broke here and there, and even had a shot at goal.

"I think it's encouraging, especially for the guys that are playing for the first time. When you're coming against the quality of Mamelodi Sundowns with their bench, already we could see we did not have enough arsenal. But I must say the youngsters that came in changed the game for us.

"We are still trying to give them as much game time as we can because the league is a marathon and it is going to be a difficult one."

Golden Arrows are next in action at home to Marumo Gallants in the DSTV Premiership on Sunday and are sweating over the fitness of centre-back Nkosinathi Sibisi.

"Sunday we have a difficult one again, we have few players that have played, we will see how it goes. Hopefully the injury of Sibisi is not that bad, but we will see after a day or two."

MTN8 News

Mahlakapese treats Olympians to weekend retreat

TEBOHO JAFETA
sports@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Mahlakapese Guesthouse, a privately-owned lodge nestled outside Hlotse on the way to the Katse Dam in Leribe treated power marathon couple, 'Neheng Khatala and her husband Khoarahlane Seutloali to a weekend retreat as part of appreciating the two Olympians' performance at the Tokyo, Japan Summer Olympic Games that ended in August.

The guesthouse had pledged M5 000 worth of accommodation for the couple as it traveled to the northern part of the country.

The two-day retreat ended on Sunday.

The running family was supposed to have spent a whole week at the guesthouse as per the sponsorship, but its tight training schedule forced it to leave earlier than anticipated.

Khatala appeared 20th out of 88 athletes in the women's 42.2 kilometre-marathon while her husband, Seutloali was position 67 among 106 athletes in the men's division, recording his seasonal best of 2:25:03.

Eight other local businesses also came on board to give the marathon duo various sponsorships as appreciation for its hard work.

Diverse Logistics Pty Ltd in August pledged M1 000 to the Seutloalis, further promising to import their goods from South Africa for the next six months, free of charge.

Tichere Pule Van Rentals drove the couple to Mahlakapese Guesthouse for free.

Prominent lawyer and businessman, Attorney Khotso Nthontho through his transport company, Trojan Logistics provided the athletes with refreshments during their tour. Mosh Financial Services gave each cash worth M500 while Moliehi F Nkalai supplied each of them with M150 worth of airtime.

Thesbo Nails Studio provided Khatala with free pedicure and manicure treatments before she traveled to Mahlakapese.

Tourism company, Likila Tour Operators based in Butha Buthe pledged to give the

couple a one-day Ski Rental package if it visits the Afriski Mountain Resort before the end of August while Dyke Letshoba promised to bake a huge cake for the couple.

The duo also received a sum of M100 000

from the Ministry of Sports through Minister Likeleli Tampane.

The two marathoners are the only athletes that represented Lesotho at the international multi-sport event that was held from July 23

to August 2021 in Tokyo, Japan where a total of 11 656 athletes from 206 countries competed in 50 disciplines. The power couple is already preparing for the next Summer Olympics scheduled for Paris, France in 2024.

2 OCTOBER

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Distinguished sports supervisor, coach, Naleli Tšilo

TEBOHO JAFETA
 sports@maserumetro.com

MASERU – One of the world's greatest athletes and a former world heavyweight boxing champion, the late Muhammad Ali once said: "Sportsmanship for me is when a guy walks off the court and you really can't tell whether he won or lost when he carries himself with pride either way."
 Similar sentiments are shared by former Rovers, defender, Naleli Tšilo, who is today a devoted coach of the A Division, Lerotholi Polytechnic FC commonly known as Lihale.
 Naleli also played for the now defunct Arsenal and Ambassadors football clubs which were both based in Maseru.
 The 53-year old sports manager has over the years shown great commitment to the development of sports, first as an active footballer and later as sports administrator.
 His extensive sports management experience has earned him great respect both at home and on the international front as football coach.
 He won the 2006/07 season Buddie Premier League Top 4 Cup as LMPS FC head coach. The following season he won the

Imperial Fleet Services Top 8 Cup with the same police side and was honoured with a Commissioner of Police Award for Excellence in 2008 as the team coach.
 He was also awarded a Trophy for Best Coach of the Imperial Top-8 Tournament during the 2007/08 season.
 Later that year, he joined Lihale and his side became the A-Division Top 8 Tournament Runners up.
 He mentored the Lesotho men's football team at the 2012 Confederation of Universities and Colleges Sports Associations (CUCSA) Games held in Namibia.
 He won the 2017 Campaign for Education Forum - Lesotho Universities and Colleges Sports Association (LUCSA) Soccer Tournament with Lerotholi Polytechnic before leading the Lesotho men's football team to the 2018 CUCSA Games in Gaborone, Botswana.
 The following year, he won the LUCSA Soccer Tournament trophy with Lerotholi Polytechnic.
 His sports qualifications include the Federation Internationale De Volleyball (FIVB) Level 1 Certificate obtained in Maseru in 2000 and a Certificate for Football and Education in Sports Science obtained in

2003.
 The same year (2003), he obtained the German Football Association (DFB) A License and the National Olympic Committee for Germany Certificate on Advanced Level Football.
 In 2007, he underwent training with the English Football Association (FA) and obtained an International Coaching License. He obtained an FA Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Football the following year.
 In 2009, he obtained a Certificate for high level coaches "Win in Africa with Africa," a Programme Under the Auspices of FIFA and accomplished the Confederation of African Football (CAF) B-Diploma in 2013.
 The following year, he obtained the Specialist Certificate of Periodisation in Football with the World Football Academy, under the endorsement of South African Football Association (SAFA) and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) A-Diploma in 2016.
 He has extensive football coaching experience merged with his academic qualifications. Earlier this year, he underwent a "Coaches' Instructor" course under the auspices of CAF.

Tšilo holds a Diploma of Science in Education obtained from the National University of Lesotho (NUL) in 1990 and a Bachelor of Science in Education from the same institution obtained in 1997. In 2003, he obtained a Football and Education in Sports Science Certificate from the Leipzig University in Germany before obtaining a NMMU/FIFA/CIES Post Graduate Certificate in Sports Management from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in 2011.
 As a coach, he registered several achievements under his belt.
 He won the 1993 Coca-Cola Maluti Mountain Brewery (MMB) High Schools Championship with the Masianokeng High School football team.
 He was also part of the squad that won the Nathanael Lepota Cup with the same team in 2006.
 Born on January, 16, 1968, Naleli Tšilo is the son of 'Maphoka and the late Mahooana Tšilo of Ha Mphoto, Mazenod on the outskirts of Maseru.
 He is the last born in the family of four children, three boys and a girl, bred in Ha Mphoto.
 After he completed his primary education at Leqetsoana Primary in Ha Mphoto in 1981, he went to study at Masianokeng High School where he completed in 1986.
 He was an active footballer in high school and represented his school in the Lesotho Institutions Sports Association (LISA) Games.
 In 1987, he attended a Lesotho Science Pre-Entry Course (LESPEC) which was located on the Lerotholi Polytechnic campus.
 As a no-nonsense defender, he started at the C-Division side Mphoto Naughty Boys in 1980 until 1984 when he joined 'The Gunners'.
 In 1987, he joined Rovers FC when entered NUL where he remained until 1991. The following year he joined Ambassadors where he spent two seasons before he returned to his old club, Rovers.
 He officially hung his soccer boots at the NUL team in 1997.
 His career as a teacher began at his old school, Masianokeng where he taught Mathematics.
 He later joined the Examinations Council of Lesotho (ECOL) and worked part-timely as Examiner.
 He is currently the Lerotholi Polytechnic Sports Coordinator and the senior football team head coach.
 Some of the people who contributed towards grooming him into the quality player he became include his former high school coach Tefo Mabote, his former coach at Arsenal, the late Styles Phumo, his former coaches at Rovers, Mafole Sematlane and the late Monaheng "Dog" Monyane, fellow teammate at Ambassadors, Tšeliso "Frisco" Khomari and former LMPS co-coach, the late Mafa "Ribbo" Ramakau.
 As a young upcoming player, he was inspired by Likotsi "Volks" Letsoela, former Mazenod High School and Swallows FC player and Khomari.
 Describing him, Khomari says Tšilo was a very disciplined and devoted player. Khomari who owned and played for Ambassadors said: "He would fully camp before a match without being pushed. He was a talented player but owing to his amazing discipline, he outshone even some of the most gifted players in the team."
 Tšilo is married to Koena Moeketsi now 'Makabelo Tšilo and the couple is blessed with two children - a girl and a boy.
 His other hobbies include exercising and reading.