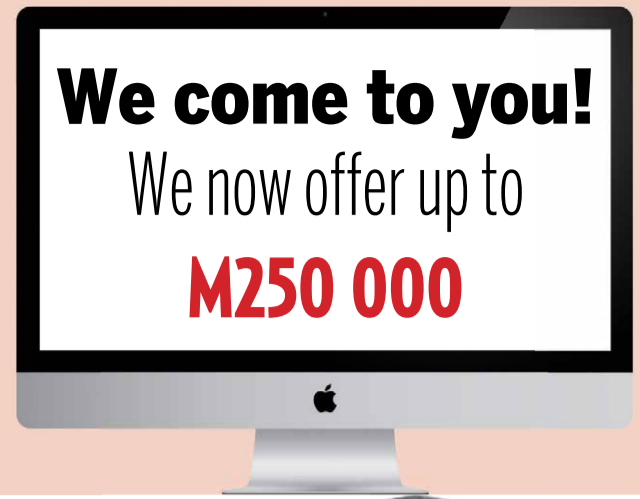


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- Lesotho receives over 300 000 doses of COVID vaccines
- Soldiers attempt to kick out prosecutors flops
- LCS, Likhopo players fail to test for COVID



## BORN ON THIS DAY July 29

- 1945 - Benito Amilcare Andrea Mussolini an Italian politician and journalist
- 1166 - Henry II of Champagne
- 1590 - Gilles Hayne, Flemish composer
- 1605 - Simon Dach, Prussian-German poet, born in Memel
- 1620 - Nicolaas Heinsius, Dutch philologist/diplomat
- 1646 - Johann Theile, German composer (Adam & Eve)
- 1723 - Christleib Siegmund Binder, composer
- 1755 - Franz Gotz, Bohemian composer, born in Strašice
- 1758 - Antonius van Gils, Dutch RC theologian (opposed Enlightenment)
- 1778 - Carl Borromaus Neuner, German composer, born in Munich, Bavaria

# NewsBriefs

## Mohale Dam murder trial to commence

THE 10 soldiers who allegedly strangled three men and dumped their bodies in the Mohale Dam in 2017 will finally have their day in court next week Wednesday when the High Court sets hearing dates for their trial. The case is one of several high profile trials against soldiers, police officers and politicians for which the government has engaged foreign judges, for fear of prejudice and bias.

The matter was postponed on a number of occasions for various reasons, with some of the accused among others pleading jurisdiction after the charges were read against them. The accused also face charges of unlawful detention and issuing superior orders to unlawful detention. Pitso Ramoepana, Lekhooa Moepi, Mahlehle Moeletsi and Mahlomola Khoali argued that Justice Onkemetse Tshosa from Botswana was not qualified to hear the case. Justice Tshosa has since resigned from the bench. Nthathakane Motanyane and Tseho Tukiso contended that there was a pending matter which challenged the powers of Justice Tshosa to preside over the trial. Other accused, in particular Motsoane Machae and Nemase Faso objected to additional charges laid against them. Liphapang Sefako declined to plead, saying he had not yet discussed additional statements with his lawyer. Rapele Mphaki demanded time to give instructions to his lawyer about witness statements that were exchanged. The 10 members of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) are accused of strangling Lekhoele Noko, Khothatso Makibinyane and Molise Pakela at the army camp in Setibing, Maseru on May 16, 2017.

The deceased's bodies were later fished out of the Mohale Dam by members of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) with the assistance of their South African counterparts.

## Taxi operators take arms against COVID-19

As different sectors pull out all the stops to intensify the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maseru Region Taxi Operators (MRTO) have also taken a leading role in ensuring the safety of their passengers.

This after Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro announced that effective from Saturday, the country has moved from blue colour code to the purple one due to the escalating infection rates and COVID-19 related deaths.

MRTO Spokesperson, Lebohlang Moea said they will among others ensure that their taxis only carry the stipulated number of passengers.

"This is in adherence to government and other development partners' call to always observe COVID-19 protocols."

Drivers and conductors, he said will ensure that no passengers board their taxis without wearing facial masks, adding that the passengers will also be sanitised before entering public vehicles.

Latest COVID-19 statistics show that out of 1 476 new tests conducted, 108 are positive with no recoveries and no related deaths recorded. Overall tests conducted since the first case was reported are 129 830 with 12 787 positive cases, 6 621 recoveries and 357 deaths.

During the purple colour code, taxis, buses and 4+1 cabs are expected to operate at full capacity with no standing passengers in both taxis and buses.

## Schools to open as planned

All local schools from pre-schools to tertiary institutions are expected to open doors for classes on August 2 after breaking for the winter vacation.

Classes in both primary and high schools will operate on a rotational basis like it was the case before the schools closed for the mid-year holidays.

All schools according to the Minister of Education and Training, Mamookho Phiri are expected to comply with the National COVID-19 Secretariat (NACOSEC) safety protocols. To ensure that the schools follow the set regulations to the letter, officials from the Ministries of Education and that of Health will work in collaboration with the District Education Management Offices.

"The Ministry of Education also has its own guidelines, before the schools re-open, boarding schools are expected to comply with those guidelines together with NACOSEC safety protocols," Mrs Phiri said. Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro announced last week that the country has moved from the blue colour code to the purple due to increasing COVID-19 infection rates. According to the purple colour code, school bus drivers must operate at 50 percent capacity, disinfect, sanitise the learners and ensure that they wear facemasks at all times. According to a report from NACOSEC dated July 24, a total of 93 new COVID-19 positive cases has been recorded, thus bringing the total number of positive cases to 12 880. It shows that there are no recoveries, hence the total number of recoveries still remains at 6 621 while six new deaths were recorded, bringing the total number to 363. The country has to date conducted 130 765 COVID-19 tests. LeNA

## Sick ex-miners to get respite

Former Basotho miners who contracted Silicosis and other respiratory illness in the South African gold mines will finally get compensated after years of struggle. Hope to their efforts came through the intervention of the Tshiamiso Trust, the Secretary General of the Lesotho Ex-Miners Association, Rantsie Mantsi has shown.

The association is currently working with a medical outfit called - Global Med Health Care to establish the health history of the former miners.

"The involvement of the Trust fund which will lead to the compensation of Basotho ex-miners diagnosed with the respiratory condition is going to play a major role in changing the lives of the beneficiaries, especially now that Lesotho is facing high rates of unemployment," Mr Mantsi said.

A member of the association who is based in South Africa, Jabu Xaba has promised not to rest until all affected Basotho ex-miners get paid.

"It will be much easier for Basotho to get their dues if the government of Lesotho could get involved in the matter," Mr Xaba said. According to the association, out of 16 000 Basotho ex-miners who have registered with the body, only 20 were reportedly eligible for compensation. The outfit, however, plans to fight for more Basotho to get compensated through the involvement of Tshiamiso Trust and Global Med Health Care.

The group of former miners targeted by this initiative includes those who worked in the SA gold mines from March 1965 to December 2019.

## FastFACTS

### Canada has nine percent of the world's forests

Our neighbours to the north boast 396.9-million hectares of forests, or nine percent of all of the forest area in the entire world, according to Natural Resources Canada.

## On This Day in History

### 1958

#### July 29



### NASA created

The U.S. Congress passes legislation establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), a civilian agency responsible for coordinating America's activities in space, on July 29, 1958. NASA has since sponsored space expeditions, both human and mechanical, that have yielded vital information about the solar system and universe. It has also launched numerous earth-orbiting satellites that have been instrumental in everything from weather forecasting to navigation to global communications.

NASA was created in response to the Soviet Union's October 4, 1957 launch of its first satellite, Sputnik I. The 183-pound, basketball-sized satellite orbited the earth in 98 minutes. The Sputnik launch caught Americans by surprise and sparked fears that the Soviets might also be capable of sending missiles with nuclear weapons from Europe to America. The United States prided itself on being at the forefront of technology, and, embarrassed, immediately began developing a response, signalling the start of the U.S.-Soviet space race.

On November 3, 1957, the Soviets launched Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika. In December, America attempted to launch a satellite of its own, called Vanguard, but it exploded shortly after takeoff. On January 31, 1958, things went better with Explorer I, the first U.S. satellite to successfully orbit the earth.

## ALL JOKES ASIDE

### Three women who went for interview

One day three women went for a job interview. The man interviewing them posed all three the same question. What would you do if you found an extra M500 in your paycheque that you shouldn't have received? The first one said, "I'd give it back as it wasn't mine and I wasn't entitled to it." When he asked the second one she replied, "I'd give it to Charity." When he asked the third one, she was more honest and she said, "I'd keep it for myself and go out for a drink." Which one of the three women got the job? The one with the biggest tits!

## Quotes & Quips!

*"On a daily basis, about 6 000 containers move in and out of South Africa, of which about 4 200 move out of the Port of Durban. There are a couple of containers moving now, but nowhere near these sort of figures,"*

Said Gavin Kelly, chief executive of the Road Freight Association, a week after a mysterious cyberattack crippled Transnet's cargo moving technology, leaving dozens of ships stranded at South Africa's normally bustling ports.



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# Give us

# NEWS TIPS

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## CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	23.22
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	14.81
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.48
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.28
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.13
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.49
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	10.90
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.90
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	10.89
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.04
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.02
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.33
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.94
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.20
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SR)	3.94
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.54
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.86
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.20
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.03
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.41

## Bogus firms threaten miners pay

4



## Unions, factory seal deal

5

# Metro BUSINESS

### COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS	
S&P500	4,395.50
NASDAQ100	14,959.25
Nikkei225	27,581.66
Dow Jones30	34,902.00
FTSE 100	7,000.17
JSE	67,815.00
Hang Seng	25,338.95

PRECIOUS METALS	
Gold p/ounce	1,800.48
Platinum p/ounce	1,055.00
Silver p/ounce	24.81
Copper p/ounce	0.22
Brent Oil p/barrel	73.80

EQUITIES	
Bonds	18.44
Treasury Bills	3.67
Interest Rates	91

### AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Maize Meal p/kg	M7.00
Wheat Meal p/kg	M10.00
Cabbage p/kg	M14.00
Potatoes p/kg	M10.50
Brown Bread p/loaf	M10.00
White Bread p/loaf	M11.00
Sorghum Meal p/kg	M25.00
Brown Beans p/kg	M30.00
Tomato p/kg	M15.00

Eggs p/tray	M45.00
Milk (fresh) p/litre	M16.00
Milk (sour) p/litre	M20.00
Rice p/kg	M30.00
White Sugar p/kg	M22.00
Brown Sugar p/kg	M25.00
Beef p/kg	M85.00
Mutton p/kg	M90.00

### ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Petrol Unleaded 93 p/litre	M14.35
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M14.25
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M14.25
Paraffin p/litre	M9.90
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

# Economy grows by 5.5 percent

## ...as inflation rate drops

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** - Improved economic activity and a significant drop in inflation rate were the biggest highlights of the 90th statement of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) has shown.

Announcing the MPC statement on Tuesday, the Governor of CBL, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane said the economic activity improved by 5.5 percent in May, in comparison with the 3.3 percent growth recorded in the preceding month.

This was mainly due to the loosening of COVID-19 induced restrictions during the period under review.

Dr Matlanyane said the domestic economic recovery, however, remains largely conditional on developments related to potentially stronger and prolonged rise in virus infections, COVID-19 containment measures and the rollout of vaccines.

Continued spikes in infection rates could also bode negatively for growth and general economic recovery in the short to medium term.

The rate of inflation, as measured by the year on year percentage change in consumer price index (CPI), was 6.0

percent in June, compared to 6.9 percent in May.

"The largest contributors to the June inflation rate included food, electricity, gas and other fuels as well as transport subcomponents," Dr Matlanyane also said.

She further announced that private sector credit extended by banks increased by 1.8 percent in June, compared to a moderate decline of 0.1 percent in the quarter ending March. Loans and advances extended to business enterprises increased

by a marginal 0.2 percent in the quarter under review, relative to a 1.1 percent growth in the preceding quarter.

Similarly, total credit granted to households rose by 2.3 percent in the quarter ending June, relative to a 0.5 percent in the quarter ending March.

The current account, on the other hand, recorded a surplus equivalent to 1.1 percent of GDP in the first quarter, from a deficit of 1.8 percent in the preceding quarter.

The improvement in the current account was driven mainly by the performance of the trade and income accounts.

Consequently, the gross international reserves, as measured in months of import cover, rose to 4.5 months in the first quarter compared

to 4.3 months in the previous quarter.

The government budgetary operations recorded a fiscal deficit equivalent to 9.0 percent of GDP during the first quarter of 2021, as opposed to a revised fiscal surplus of 12.9 percent in the last quarter of 2020.

"Having considered the Net International Reserve (NIR) developments and outlook, regional inflation and interest rate outlook, domestic economic conditions and the global economic outlook, the MPC decided to decrease the NIR target floor from US\$800 million to US\$780 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 MPC further decided to maintain the CBL rate at 3.50 percent per annum," Dr Matlanyane also said.

The rate, set at this level, will ensure that the domestic cost of funds remains aligned with the rest of the region.

"The committee will continue to monitor the global developments and their likely impact on domestic macroeconomic conditions, especially the CBL's NIR with the aim of taking corrective action when needed," the governor further showed.

The Governor of CBL, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane

# Business

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** – South African company, Global Med Health Services has been mandated to test former Basotho gold miners for Tuberculosis (TB) and Silicosis in a bid to establish their eligibility for compensation from the mines.

The outfit is the only company given the approval by the Ex-Miners Association of Lesotho and the government of Lesotho to provide the service.

According to the association, any other company that is undertaking similar services is illegally operating and therefore its data cannot be considered.

The declaration comes after a class action lawsuit on behalf of miners against 32 gold mining companies was certified by the South African High Court in 2016.

Following the lawsuit, a settlement was reached on May 3, 2018, after three years of extensive negotiations between the companies and the claimants' attorneys.

On July 26, 2019, the South Gauteng High Court approved the historic M5 billion settlement agreement, but with only six of the 32 gold mining companies, namely, the African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Goldfields, Harmony Gold and Sibanye-Stillwater.

The six gold mining companies agreed to settle out of court. The other 26 refused to settle and their case will continue.

The Tshiamiso Trust was subsequently established in South Africa to carry out the terms of the settlement agreement reached between the six mining companies.

It is responsible for ensuring that all eligible ex-miners across southern Africa are compensated.

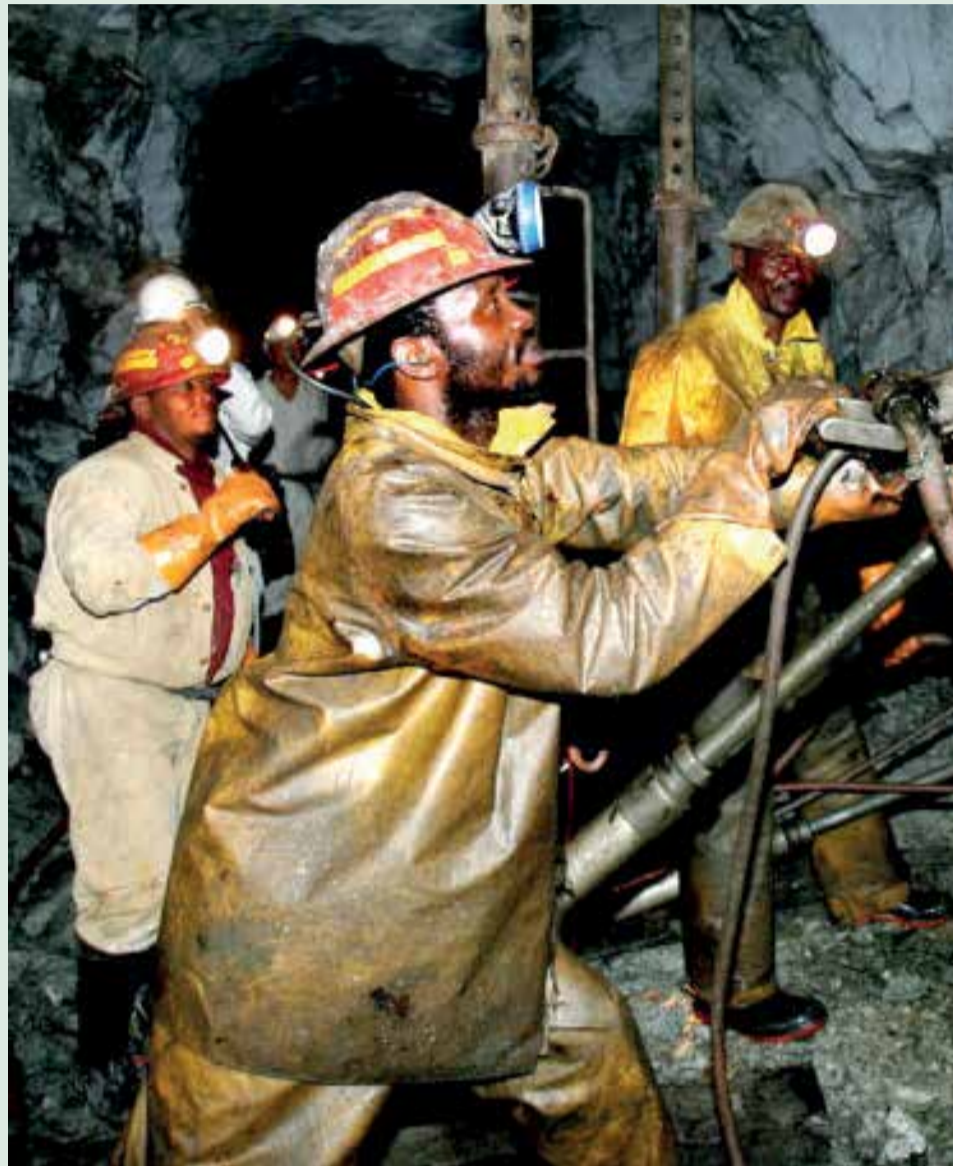
The settlement agreement which is regarded as one of the most complex multi-party class action settlement ever concluded will see beneficiaries receiving between M100 000 and M500 000, depending on the degree of the disease.

Compensation for claimants who contracted tuberculosis will start from M110 000 with silicosis' beginning at M200 000.

However, not all ex-miners are eligible for compensation, as only those who contracted the two diseases will be entitled.

To qualify for compensation, each miner will be medically assessed in order to confirm eligibility for recompense. Dependents of those that have died will have to produce

# Bogus firms threaten ex-miners pay



**HARD AT WORK:** Lesotho mine workers at a South African gold mine

proper documentation that links the deceased person to the two identified ailments.

As the journey towards compensation begins through testing of the ex-miners, there are two illegal companies that are bringing confusion, unlawfully testing people

under the pretext that they have been given authority to do so.

"The companies, Wits Health Consortium and Basotho International Consultancy are not authorised to undertake the said duties of testing people for the two diseases," the

association told Metro in an interview on Tuesday.

"We are currently working towards ensuring that people start receiving compensation through the Tshiamiso Trust. People should know that these companies came into the country illegally and therefore are not allowed to perform any testing duties. We are working together with the government of Lesotho to ensure that these companies are dealt with accordingly," the association's treasurer, Mamohlomi Letlailana said.

The companies, she said are working together with the mines which lost the case in order to confuse people as well as give few of them access to the funds.

"The mines in question are not happy that they lost the case and now they have to pay people. So they are conniving with these two companies to intentionally limit the number of people who are eligible for compensation so that they do not get to spend all the money that has been allocated," Mrs Letlailana added.

The two companies began testing the ex-miners in March and reports show that out of 16 000, tested, only 20 are eligible for compensation.

These statistics, Mrs Letlailana said are shocking considering that many Basotho ex-miners are ill while thousands others have since died due to the two respiratory conditions.

"Global Med Health Services has been in Lesotho since July 23 and so far, 127 people have been found to have succumbed to silicosis while 417 were discovered to have contracted TB while working at the mines. Testing will continue until all the ex-miners who are still alive are able to undergo the tests to establish whether or not they qualify," she said.

The former miners are therefore urged to report at the TEBA Maseru office for testing. Those that have to travel more than 90 kilometers to Maseru are advised to remain in their respective villages as testing will be made available to them.

For generations, Basotho have been migrating to the neighbouring South Africa to work in the diamond, gold and platinum mines.

But a shift towards less labour intensive forms of mining, higher production costs, the global economic meltdown and the strength of the South African rand against the US dollar have resulted in many migrant mine workers being retrenched in recent years.

From a peak of about 125 000 Basotho men working in the SA mines in the late 1980s, only 35 000 were still employed in the sector by 2010 according to reports from TEBA.

The loss of remittances from mine workers has had a major impact on the economy of Lesotho.

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**Seats & Benches:** 2x Leather Seats, 2x Seats with Steel Feet, 3x Wooden Stools, 12x Rectangular Display Benches / Coffee Table  
**Display Units:** 8x Display Towers Wood with Red/White Paint Finish, Window Display Unit, 7x Perspex Display Tray, Kiddies Display Cabinet with Mirror, Bubble Gummers Display Panel, 92x Slide Display Perspex, 85x Single Step Display, 88x Double Step Z-Display, 230x Z-Display on Wall Panels, 45x Perspex Display Tray, 4x Wall Panel Display Wooden Panel, 57x Glass Display with Aluminum Connectors, Accessory Display Panel, Thong & Light Accessory Display Panel, 36x Price/Promotion Point Stand, 132x Price Points Display & 125x Price Points Display  
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**Miscellaneous:** 3x Sliding Mirrors, 6x Sliding Trays with Wheels (1,2m x 0,4m), Blue Perspex & Spacers, 48x Shoe Brackets with Nuts, 32x Shelve Brackets, 87x Shelve Poles, Timber Door with Mirror, Wall Board, Timber Sheets (Storeroom), 25x Osram Energy Saver Globes, Tagging & Labelling Gundi with Tags, 2x Net gear Wi-Fi Modem, 11x Lights with Motor & 2x Till Receipt Printer

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**Auction 2: Eagle Mountain Spur Closure  
Closing 30 July from 12:00**

**Furniture:** 26x Chairs, 23x Benches, 10x Tables, Granite Tops Counters, Tiles Granite Wood Cash Desk, 4x Filing Cabinets, Steel Shelf Rack, 2x Double Shelf Stainless Steel Rack, 7x Stainless Steel Splash Back Table, Splash back Table 1.7m, 2x Stainless Steel Splash Back Sink, 2x Stainless Steel Racks, TV Stand, 3x Lockers & 2x Wooden Menu Display Stand with Mats  
**Decor:** Teepee Down Lighters & Fluorescent Lights, Light Boxes Signage, Steel L.E.D. Indian Heads, Skin Boxes Totems Shields, Bow, Quiver, Axe's Décor, 12x Window Frames with Glass, 8x Window Frames with Glass  
**Catering Appliances:** 4x Glass Fridge Doors, 2x Underbar Fridges with Motors, 17x Plastic Fridge Shelves, 5x Beverage Coolers Freezers, Commercial Fridges, 2x 10 Burner Gas Grills, Chip Dump Warmer, Chip Fryer, 5 Burner Gas Flattop Fryer, Oven Bake Master, Ice Machine, 2x Single Phase Plate Warmer, Egg Fryer, Queen Coffee Warmer, Anvil Axis Waffle Maker, Anvil Axis Food Hot Pass Warmer, Dishwasher Machine  
**Catering Equipment:** 29x Parts - Extractor Chimney Shoots, 31x Parts - Extractor Vents & Filter Trays, 5x Stainless Steel, Dunnage Racks Cambro Shelving, 5x Steel Menu/Serviette Holder, 5x Shelf Tray Parts, 3x Stainless Steel Trolleys, 19x Bain Marie Trays, Inserts & Steel Lids, 15x Stainless Steel Baking Trays, Stainless Steel Espetada Stands, Assorted Utensils, Plastic Containers, Steel Sieve Jug, Onion Slicer, Cake Stand, Pilot P.O.S. Server Black Box, F.S.1 Pc, All-In-One Pc Cash Desk, CPU's

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# Unions, factory seal deal to end GBV

STAFF REPORTER  
news@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** - Trade Unions have joined forces with a local textile firm, Hippo Knitting factory to eradicate Gender Based Violence (GBV) and harassment at that firm.

The two parties together with the Ministry of Labour and Employment on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at reforming the work environment at the factory.

Rise Africa, a local consultancy outfit will be responsible for the oversight implementation of the agreement.

The noble initiative was triggered by a plethora of media reports on GBV and harassment at the textile firm located in Ha Hoooho, Maseru.

The parties have among others agreed to work together and have a corrective plan to deal with workers' rights and unfair discrimination of



CONTENT: NACTWU Secretary General, Samuel Mokhele

employees.

They have also agreed to have a sustainable plan aimed at addressing all concerns constructively and ensuring that GBV as well as unfair discrimination incidents do not occur any more.

The pact will among others also ensure that workers' rights are always respected and protected.

During the signature of the deal which was held in Maseru, the Managing Director of Hippo Knitting, To Chan said he had not been aware of the widespread GBV and harassment cases at his factory until they were reported in the local media.

He said he was legally obliged to rectify the mistakes taking place at the factory to ensure that every worker feels at home.

"The work environment has to be user-friendly at all times so that productivity soars for the betterment of the economic.

"If these problems are not solved urgently, that would not only impact negatively on the factory but on Lesotho as a whole," Mr Chan said.

He added: "The investors would start looking at Lesotho as a lawless country that is not good for business. I have great confidence in the success of the programme owing to the external monitoring by Rise Africa."

Media reports had earlier shown that supervisors and human resources personnel at the firm sometimes sexually molest their colleagues in return for work related favours.

In the endorsed MoU, the factory has pledged to advocate for the safety of all its workers, condemning any acts of violence against them.

For his part, the Secretary General

of the National Clothing Textile and Allied Workers Union (NACTWU), Samuel Mokhele said joining hands will help eradicate all the problems encountered.

"The programme is going to change the lives of the workers who are frustrated by the inhumane treatment they suffer at the hands of their colleagues," he said, adding that similar indecent acts have been reported in other factories across the country.

Owing to the agreement, Mr Mokhele is assertive that Lesotho is going to regain investors' confidence.

While some of the abuse cases are already been investigated by the police, he however believes that it would be relatively easier to deal with others internally. Advocate 'Mareabetsoe Mohlatsane, an organiser from the Independent Democratic Union of Lesotho (IDUL) expressed her profound gratitude at Rise Africa for boldly taking up the matter. The programme, she said was successful at other local factories including Nien Hsing factory.

Lulu Naidoo from Rise Africa said the programme seeks to break social norms like patriarchy, gender stereotypes and challenging power dynamics to achieve gender equality.

Under the pact, the parties agreed to participate in bi-monthly meetings set to discuss the implementation of the MoU.

The responsibility of overseeing the bimonthly meetings will fall squarely on Africa Rise.

Following this MoU, there should be bold leadership and strengthened accountability across government ministries and the rest of the society, responding strategically to GBV with clear messaging as well as adequate technical and financial resources.

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# Comments & Letters

## If you don't support the media, you don't support your own future

FRAN BEIGHTON

To the big business big-wigs: Your continued operation was made possible by the media. You would be wise to remember that. Four years ago, two whistleblowers risked everything by leaking the #GuptaLeaks to Daily Maverick, which, in turn, immediately shared them with amaBhungane and, later, News24. The publication of the first #GuptaLeaks story on 1 June 2017 was a key moment in the long media battle to hold those in power to account. The best journalists in our nation came together and mined these emails, building piece by piece a picture that filled in the detail of much of the Guptas' looting of the state, in hand with powerful officials and a patronage network. Our state had been captured, almost entirely.

Journalism with a commitment to unveiling the truth is one of the pillars of democracy, and South Africa's case shows just how deep the corruption can go – corruption that gets covered up unless brave journalists,

and the still uncorrupted institutions of the state, bring it into the light of day. The report on State Capture by the then public protector, Thuli Madonsela, was filled with references to work done by investigative journalists such as amaBhungane. Her report led to the Zondo Commission now unpacking the corruption first sniffed out by journalists.

Without such work, one can imagine a South Africa in which Jacob Zuma is not in prison. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma is president. There is no Commission of Inquiry into State Capture. The Guptas are living large in Saxonwold, continuing to plunder what's left of the state coffers. State security is used against civil society. The humanitarian crisis that unfolded as the result of last week's unrest is our nation's norm.

It's difficult to calculate or even fathom the cost of State Capture. Some estimates say it cut at least 4% of GDP growth since 2015 – that's R280-billion per year. The match to this particular poverty tinderbox? Our current level of youth unemployment: 70%.

For anyone who has asked over the past week, "What are we going to do?", who has tried to regulate emotions as they oscillate between anger and despondency, for everyone who has felt helpless, our suggestion: employ someone, contribute to someone's education and support the media. The only reason Daily Maverick still exists is because of the support of a handful of readers who have become members, and the few businesses brave enough to advertise with us. Corporates all over this country swing their big bank balances around, caring more about the bottom line than the poverty line. Sadly, the big bank balance doesn't translate into any show of corporate courage. So many of these businesses that we have approached have declined to support Daily Maverick through advertising because we're "too political". Our response? Imagine if we weren't.

To the big business big-wigs: Your continued operation was made possible by the media. You would be wise to remember that.

Stop hiding behind the excuse that it's too political. In South Africa, everything is political, all the time. It's time to show that your commitment to South Africa is as big as your bank balance. Buy an ad in DMI68, donate to your investigative unit of choice, become a member of Maverick Insider.

At this stage, there is only one side to take. One would expect by now everyone would understand, but let me spell it out for you: by not supporting the media, you are not supporting your own future. DMI68

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

### EDITOR'S NOTE

#### Trade unions fight tooth and nail for the end of the historic GBV

The existence of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the workplace is a problem that goes a long way back in the history of workmanship. For generations, women have been marginalised and molested by their male colleagues and bosses, for merely being there to provide their services as well as skills at work. GBV and violence against women are two terms often used interchangeably as most violence against women is inflicted by men for gender-based reasons, while GBV affects women disproportionately. Studies show that one of the main causes of violence against women is the perpetrator himself.

This inhumane treatment of females has been going for a long time without any serious steps being taken to uproot it from our society. There is no doubt that violence against women and girls is one of the most disturbing human rights violations in history. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), GBV affects one in three women worldwide.

The health body shows that more than 600 women live in countries where domestic violence is not considered a crime.

Other studies show that more than half of all women murdered globally are slain by their male partners or a family member.

"While not necessarily fatal, domestic abuse can also lead to debilitating health outcomes, such as addiction, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder – for women and their children," another study shows. This week in Lesotho, trade unions that have seen enough of this distressing and humiliating treatment of women at work joined forces with Hippo Knitting Factory in a bid to bring an end to the widespread GBV and harassment at the textile firm. This, after media reports had shown that supervisors and HR personnel at the factory located in Ha Hoothlo, Maseru usually sleep willy-nilly with their female colleagues, in exchange for work related favours. The two parties consequently signed a deal aimed at improving work environment at the firm with the factory's boss pledging full support and safety of all his employees at all times. The signature of the deal to end the incessant harassment of women at the factory could signal the turning point in the history of female employment in the country. The parties that signed the contract, including the Ministry of Labour and Employment, among others agreed to work together to formulate a remedial plan that would address all injustices done to women at the factory. The implementation of the pact that will be overseen by a local rights body, Rise Africa could have an impact in the overall treatment of female workers in all factories across the country.

But the Managing Director of Hippo Knitting, To Chan, proclaimed his ignorance to the wrong-doing, claiming he had not been aware of the ill-treatment of his female workers until the incidents were reported in the media.

Condemning the abuse that occurred under his watch, Chan said the inhumane acts need to stop urgently if Lesotho were to regain investors' confidence. For their part, the unions have welcomed the signature of the deal, saying it stands to change the lives of the oppressed female factory workers in Lesotho.

## Instancing the holocaust on the back of corruption

Under the heading 'QUO VADIS AFRICA' we observed that as a result of neo-colonialistic isometric corruption inroads into African continent, in contradiction to CAADP and AfCFTA protocols that seek to keep Africa united, among other African Union-related protocols, we have still not set our parliaments focused on continental image and integrity, including developmental counterpoise.

Are our parliaments irrelevant against hunger-stricken masses of Africa? If so, whose fault is it?

We need to exercise self-introspection. Africans are driven out of their continent by hunger and poverty, all because we are failing to develop our own agricultural resources towards productivity; instead we let neo-colonialists to feed us out of our own resources. Our people are drowning like flies in the Mediterranean Sea-Off the coast of Libya, which has become our main cemetery. Some of us have lost count over the recent past. Africans are prepared to risk their lives and perish in the sea over home turf starvation and hunger, to eke out a living in Europe. Na hase eona holocaust ee?

Mona Lesotho re bona Basotho ba khetha ho nkoa ke noka ea Mohokare. Ho neng? Lebaka ke tlala ea `ma-boomo. Ha motho a sa sebetse o hloka chelete ea ho reka lijo. Empa eona mesebetsi e ka tlisoa ke ho lokisetsa maraka ea

lijo.

LENAFU has to become an effective platform for efficacious dialogue around agro-industrial value-chain. We have enunciated CAADP protocol pillars of thematic areas:

Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water management systems.

Improving rural infrastructure and trade related capacities for improved market access.

Increasing food supply, reducing hunger, and improving responses to food emergency.

Improving agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption.

Over and above the four pillars we have to dialogue around my suggested extra pillar within LENAFU.

Installing resolute remedialisation of cross-cutting

corruption-concatenation against development-resource use through regulatory framework.

I sincerely believe that African countries must review the thematic pillars, functionalise them through the above suggested addition in order to curb ongoing holocaust and intra-Africa destabilising emigration from one country to the next. Le kajeno ke lumela hore "Sera sa motho ke bobolu, eseng tlala". Tlala ke semela sa leshokhoa le bitsoang bobolu.

### CORRUPTION WATCH

MR TSELISO TSENOLI



### CONTACT US

#### GIVE US NEWS

If you have any News Tip you would like to share with us, send an email with your contact details and phone number to: editor@maserumetro.com.

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# MEET THE LRA

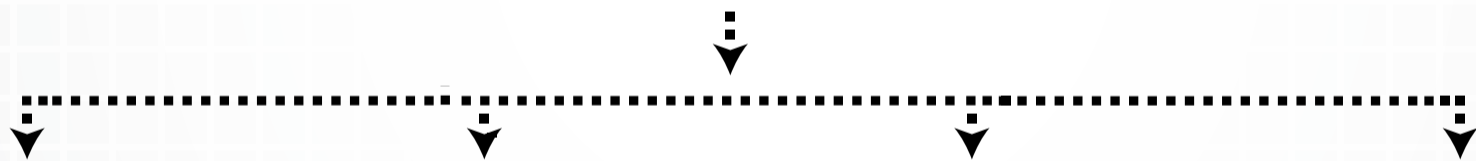
## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

LRA Clients and the public at large are informed of the redeployment of the Commissioners effective 19th July 2021.

This change is intended to enable Commissioners as senior leaders, to have a holistic strategic view of the organisation, and it is also aimed at deepening collaborative leadership as envisioned in the strategy.



**Mr Thabo Khasipe**  
Commissioner General



**Mr Obed Nete**  
Commissioner  
Core Operations



**Ms Mathabo Mokoko**  
Commissioner  
Client Services



**Mr N. Mosuo Mapetla**  
Commissioner  
Operations Support



**Ms Manneheng Mopeli**  
Commissioner  
Business Enablement

**The Commissioner is responsible for the following functions:**

- Returns and Refunds Processing
- Registration and Licensing
- Customs Clearance
- Debt Management and Recovery
- Tax Audit
- Compliance Risk Management
- Revenue Accounting

**The Commissioner is responsible for the following functions:**

- Frontier Client Service
- Priority Client Service
- General Client Service
- Client Service Centers
- Cashiering Service

**The Commissioner is responsible for the following functions:**

- Technical Advisory Services
- Information Technology
- Client Education
- Records Management
- Investigations
- Anti Smuggling

**The Commissioner is responsible for the following functions:**

- Human Capital Management
- Finance
- Legal
- Corporate Services

# Metro HEALTH

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LINEO MABEKEBEKE

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**MASERU** - The HIV Epidemic Response (HER) Voice Fund, implemented by the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV supports Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) to have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect their health.

The Programmes Director of the Disabled and HIV/AIDS Organisation Lesotho, Thabo Mothibeli has pledged support to other organisations and all key stakeholders including Members of Parliament and local authorities on issues affecting AGYW.

He said they also want to influence policies to include the views of the AGYW.

The 'HER Voice Fund project' is aimed at supporting the AGYW in all their health issues and the second term of the project is expected to run for nine months, from July - February 2022.

Adolescents and young people need to know how to protect themselves from HIV infection and must also have the means to do so.

This includes being able to obtain access to HIV prevention interventions such as voluntary medical male circumcision,

## Rights body capacitates others on health issues

condoms and pre-exposure prophylaxis, better access to HIV testing and counseling, as well as stronger links to HIV treatment services for those who test HIV positive.

Many factors according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) have an impact on the well-being and mental health of adolescents. Violence, poverty, stigma, exclusion and living in humanitarian along with fragile settings can increase the risk of developing mental health problems.

The consequences of not addressing adolescent mental health conditions extend to adulthood, impairing both physical and mental health as well as limiting opportunities to lead fulfilling lives as adults.

Again, WHO says building socio-emotional skills in children and adolescents and providing them with psychosocial support in schools and other community settings can help promote good mental

health. Programmes to help strengthen the ties between adolescents and their families and improve quality of home environments are also important.

"If problems arise, they should be detected and timely managed by competent and caring health workers," WHO says.

The first term of the project, according to Mr Mothibeli was a success even though they were interrupted by COVID-19 restrictions.

"We were able to get endorsements from the Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports & Recreation as well as the Ministry of Health," he said.

The HER Voice Fund offers small grants to organisations in 13 priority countries where the Global Fund is investing to contribute to the reduction of HIV incidence among AGYW. The grants are intended to amplify the voices and priorities of AGYW in order to inform the decisions that affect their lives.



Thabo Mothibeli, Programmes Director of the Disabled and HIV/AIDS Organisation Lesotho

## J&J COVID vaccines to be distributed regionally

and above as well as the health workers and the village health workers who were not vaccinated in the first phase of the vaccine roll out.

She said the other groups that will be vaccinated include members of the security agencies, factory workers along with people working and studying lawfully in South Africa.

Dr Ranyali said the remaining six districts including Mafeteng, Mochale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek and Mokhotlong are expecting about 260 000 doses of Sinopharm which she said is administered in two doses.

"The vaccine which will arrive in two weeks' time is expected to cover about 130 000 people," she said, adding that they also expect another batch of J&J vaccines from the African Union (AU) soon.

The target, she said is anyone aged 18 and above, adding that they will start with people who are at a higher risk of contracting the virus. LeNA

**MASERU** - The over 300 000 doses of the recently received, Johnson and Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines will be distributed in Maseru, Berea, Leribe and Butha-Buthe where the target will be the most vulnerable groups in the communities, the Director of Family Health, Dr 'Makhoase Ranyali has said.

The Ministry of Health, she noted will ensure that the 302 400 doses of the vaccine that were received by the government of Lesotho on Friday from the United States of America will be distributed to all the eligible people in the four districts.

Dr Ranyali said they have targeted people aged 60 years





# VISIT MASERU MALL



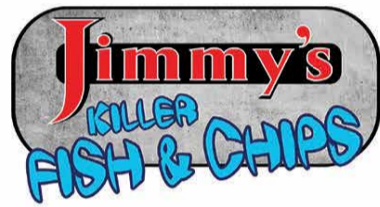
MASERU  
—MALL—

# SHOPRITE

# game



# goldrush



# The Cleaning Brothers

Dry Clean & Laundry



# Edgars



# ACKERMANS

# LEGIT



# TORGA OPTICAL



# Jet

# Standard Lesotho Bank

# LIBERTY

# MERGENCE

# DSTV

# ALO CaNN

A Lesotho Origin CaNNabis

# METROPOLITAN LESOTHO

# The world in 10 minutes

## KENYA

### Late teachers locked out of school on purpose

A headteacher at a primary school in western Kenya decided to teach his colleagues a lesson when they arrived late for the first day of term - by locking them out of the school.

The teachers said they had to sneak in through a fence while pupils at Sichekhe primary school watched and laughed.

"I'm also a parent and had to prepare my children [for school] before reporting to work," one of the teachers told NTV news.

Headmaster George Bwire insisted it was unprofessional for teachers to report late to work as they had lesson preparations to do.

But the teachers said there were better ways to discuss such matters instead of humiliating them.



## MALAWI

### Ex-president refuses to face tax fraud questioning

Malawi's former president, Peter Mutharika, has refused to allow the national anti-corruption body to question him about allegations of tax fraud.

Under Malawian law presidents are entitled to import goods without paying tax, but eyebrows were raised when \$6.6m worth of cement was purchased tax-free in 2019 using President Mutharika's exemption code.

It later transpired that some aides of the former president were using the president's tax exemption code to import goods.

The latest statement from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) says it intends to interview the former president, but he released his own statement saying he had a right to remain silent.

In his statement, Mr Mutharika claimed he had already been questioned by police over the matter last August. In it he also accuses ACB of pre-emptively freezing his bank account as part of "a sustained political witch hunt" that is "intended to humiliate and taunt me psychologically".



## ALGERIA

### Hotel becomes a hospital in Algeria's Covid chaos

A hotel in Algiers has been converted into a hospital for coronavirus patients as case numbers continue to climb to record highs and overwhelm hospitals.

Despite government efforts including extended curfew measures, citizens have despaired over oxygen shortages and a vaccination programme branded "chaotic" by the TSA news website.

Prime Minister Aymen Benabderrahmane inspected facilities at the Mazafran Hotel in the capital, several days after announcing that a "large hotel" in each province affected by the pandemic would be turned into Covid-19 facilities.

State TV broadcast Mr Benabderrahmane's visit, reporting that the hotel would provide 712 beds in 446 rooms for patients requiring breathing assistance after receiving initial treatment in hospital.



## AUSTRALIA

### Australian man ties bedsheets together to escape quarantine on 4th floor of hotel

A man in the Australian city of Perth escaped mandatory quarantine in a hotel by scaling down a rope made of tied together bedsheets from a fourth-floor window, police have said.

After arriving in the West Coast city on an interstate flight from Brisbane, the man had his application for entry refused under the state's tough border entry rules intended to stop the virus entering from elsewhere in the country.

The man was told to leave the state within 48 hours and taken to a hotel for temporary quarantine, but just before 1:00 a.m. on Tuesday "he climbed out a window of the fourth floor room using a rope made of bed sheets and fled the area". Western Australia Police said in a Facebook post.

They also posted photos of the makeshift rope hanging from a window on the brick building's top floor down to the street.

Police arrested the man across town about 8 hours later, and charged him with failing to comply with a direction and providing "false/misleading information". They did not disclose the man's identity except to say that he was aged 39 and tested negative to the virus, nor did they give a reason for his alleged actions.



## SOUTH AFRICA

### 'Pablo', the R70k blue sofa looted during the unrest in Durban, has been found

"PABLO", the R70 000 blue couch taken when an upmarket furniture store in Springfield was looted two weeks ago, has been recovered.

According to a police source, the couch was recovered from an informal settlement in Quarry Road, just metres from the location of the store.

He said the couch was recovered at the weekend and has been partly damaged.

The San Pablo Corner Sofa made headlines during after images of it placed outside what appeared to be an informal settlement, went viral on social media.

Mzansi detectives were hot on the case and according to reports, there were sightings of the sofa.

The police source said no arrests have been made and contrary to social media sleuths, the couch has not been booked for destruction just yet.

According to the Leather Gallery website, San Pablo is a L-Sectional 5 seater, full genuine leather, 35% density foam sofa.



## RUSSIA

### Russia shows off bribery accused cop's gaudy mansion, complete with gilded toilet

Russia said it had caught a criminal gang led by a traffic policeman that extorted huge bribes, airing footage of his mansion containing palatial tsarist-style rooms, gaudy decorations and a gilded toilet.

The Investigative Committee that styles itself as Russia's FBI said a traffic police colonel in the southern region of Stavropol had been arrested along with six other people on suspicion of taking large bribes.

The group, it said, had for years issued permits to grain cargo transporters in the region in exchange for payments allowing permit holders to ignore regional administrative laws even when crossing traffic police checkpoints.

The group received bribes worth a total of 19 million roubles (\$255,000), the agency said. The other members of the gang included a former senior traffic policeman in Stavropol, a traffic inspector and four civilians who were not identified.

He and the Investigative Committee aired images of piles of seized cash, and a mansion said to belong to the police colonel containing extravagantly decorated rooms, a billiard hall, gilded columns and toilet.

Police officers carried out raids at 80 properties in the case, seizing large amounts of cash, expensive cars and other documents, the Investigative Committee said.

# SA musicians remember the late 'Village Pope'

**KABELO MASOABI**

**MASERU** – Dignitaries along with music gurus and friends across South Africa last week Thursday came together to pay tribute to the memory and legacy of Tšepo Tshola – a clear pointer to the enormous impact the late Afro jazz maestro had on the people of Africa.

Scores of speakers hailed the legendary singer and music composer as a true Pan Africanist.

His memorial ceremony was held at the Joburg Theater.

The service that was broadcast live on SABC 1 and YouTube had a lineup of dignities and artistes sending their deepest condolences to the family, friends and fans of the late Afro jazz and gospel icon.

Tshola also widely known as "The Village Pope" was described by many as a hugely inspiring figure whose impact, beyond his music, generated waves of vibration across diverse populations around the globe.

"His deep roots and extensive connections with the continent of Africa were unshaken. Through his songs, he fought for freedom, justice and peace, including racism, with unreserved energy and full determination. He supported the fight against Apartheid in SA," said the South African Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa.

Moses Seyokane, who sang with Tshola in the legendary Lesotho band, Sankomota recalled how the former SA President Nelson Mandela pushed for the group to campaign for the African National Congress (ANC), after he watched them perform in London, Britain in the 1990's.

"Tshola then led in the song titled "Stop the War" which played a big role in pioneering the end to the war that raged between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

For his part, the Master of Ceremony, Baba Ndlovu, called

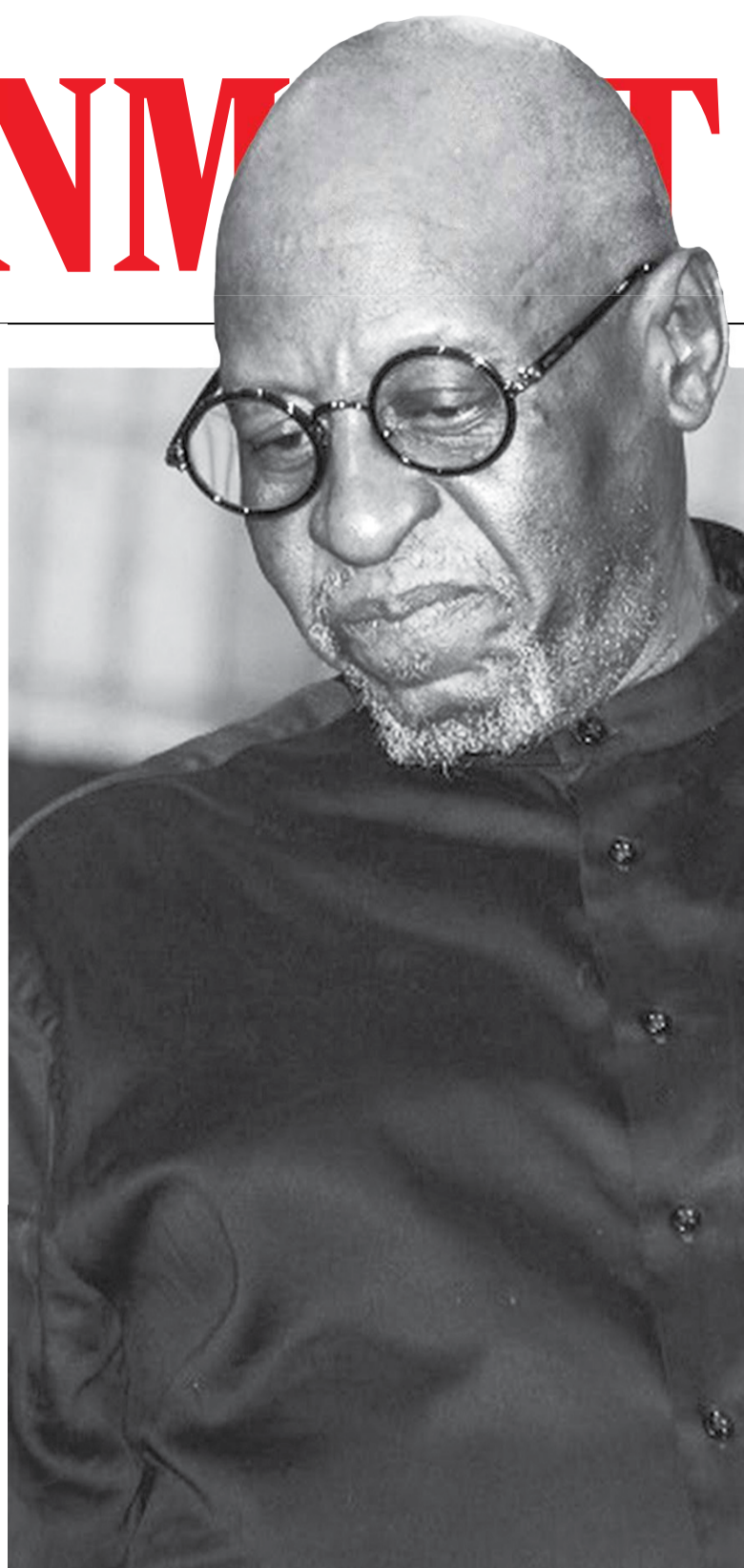
Tshola the "Great Golden Son of Africa" who via his music, paid numerous visits to countries and met with different leaders on the African continent.

"I'm thankful that the Lesotho government has found him equally an asset as we do in SA - his second home. We have learnt that he will be buried among heroes in Lesotho."

Among others who paid tribute to the late artiste was fellow musician and Tshola's personal friend, Caphius Semenya who is now in his 80's. He said: "I know Bra T, did not mean to go now, but let's be comfortable with that. I'm saying this because he has left in a way that is sad. For us who knew him well, it is devastating. Go well my friend and one day we shall meet again".

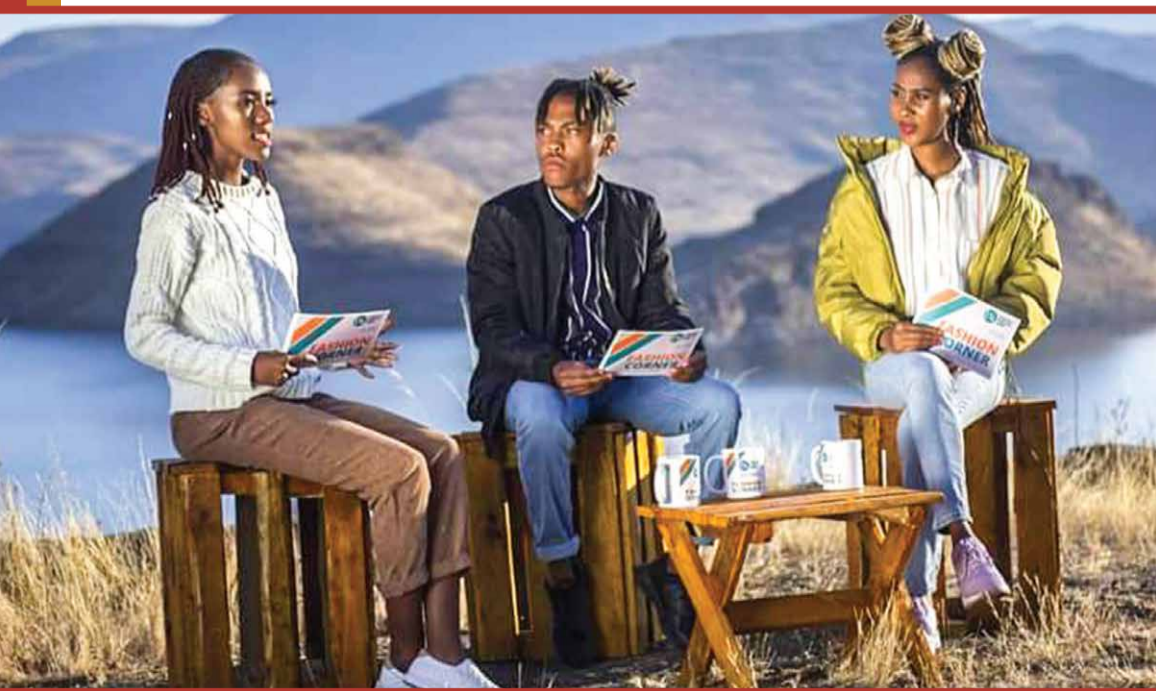
Tshola died on Thursday, June 15, aged 68, from COVID-19 related complications.

His final send-off will be held in Thaba-Bosiu, at the Heroes' Acre on Friday, July 30.



The late Tšepo Tshola will be laid to rest in Thaba-Bosiu on Friday

## Fashion Corner takes street style to Mohale Dam



Local models during a Fashion Corner session in Mohale

**KABELO MASOABI**

**LERIBE** - Street style fashion has been around for decades and many people have their own understanding of what it is all about, but the most commonly held

view is that there are no rules to it.

Simply put, it is a form of art and self-expression, offering style variety to lovers of all things fashionable.

That is what Lesotho Fashion Week is all about. Now in its second

episode titled the, Fashion Corner Gallery, this time around the crew decided to take the capturing of fashion moments to the mountainous sides of the country, away from the shopping malls.

Supported by Jet fashion

stores, models from all corners of Lesotho exhibit a range of clothing through photography and video shooting and broadcast via live streaming on YouTube social network.

The latest session was held at the Mohale Dam towards the end of June, whereby a film crew including young local models started off with a series of outdoor adventures. They embarked on a road trip through the highlands of Lesotho to the Mohale Dam which is part of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

"The boat ride allowed us to experience a trip over Lesotho's fresh and cleanest waters with spectacular views of the landscape and mountain passes. For us, this show is all about fashion and cultural tourism," explains the team's management.

Evolving in its purest form, street style fashion still represents youth culture from 2012 to date.

It entails bold prints, lots of colour, masks, high heels swapped for sneakers, with the likes of Vans making their mark in the fashion world.

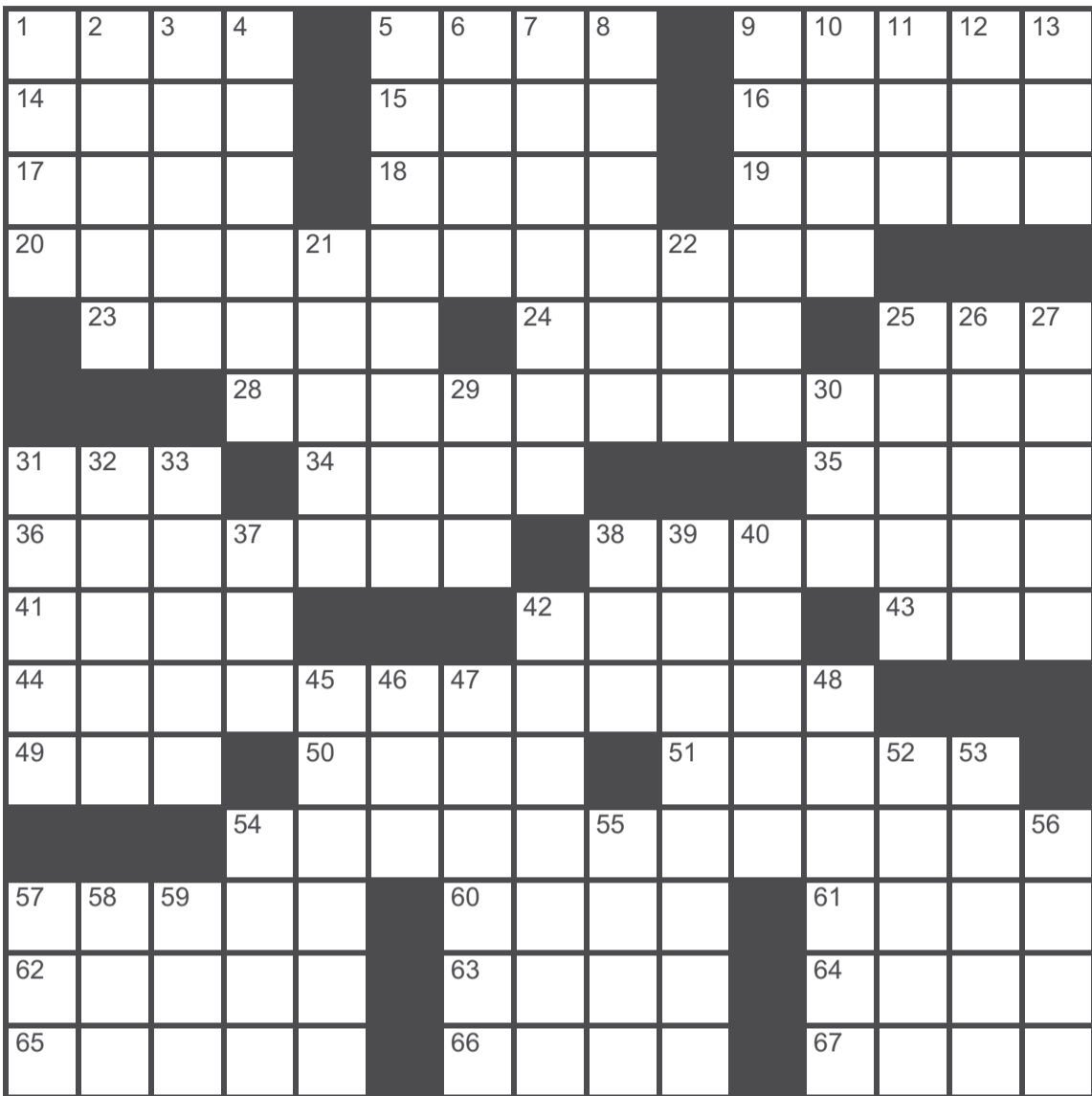
Celebrities like South African musician and dancer, ShoMajosi and K.O. have become the hallmark of street fashion with much influence in Lesotho.

Entering the 21st century, mini skirts were still all very much alive. Also hitting the streets back on trend were animal prints – from snake, leopard to zebras roaming the streets. Leather and shades of beige were also dominating.

However, in the last quarter of 2020, we saw street style going to a whole new level. Bold prints and dazzling colours against solid backdrops still made for beautiful shots.

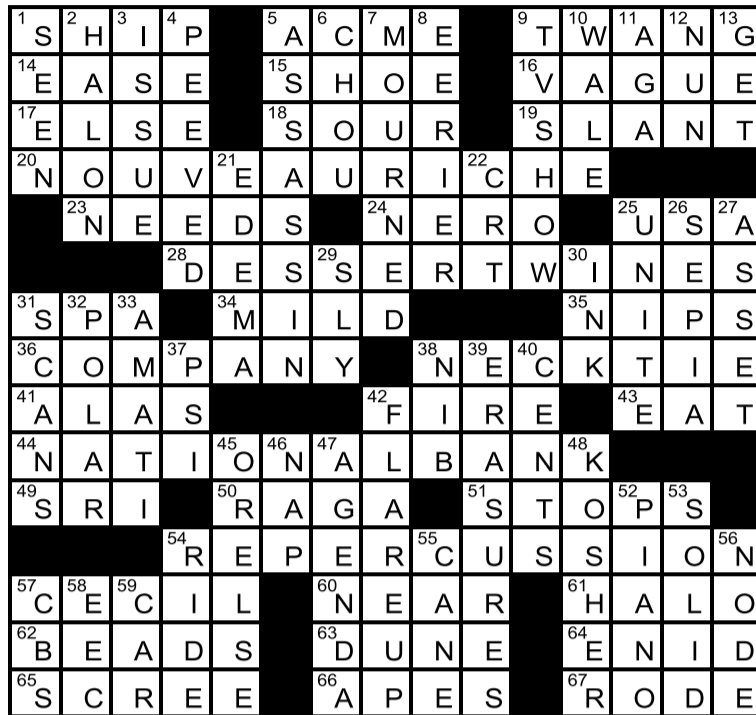
"Though we don't see eager photographers out and about in search of interestingly assembled fashion pieces in the streets outside fashion shows like we used to, they are still finding creative ways to capture stunning street fashion, but the COVID-19 pandemic has been most challenging for capturing fashion moments," notes Thato Sebela, a professional photographer who graduated from the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology.

## General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. Falling out
  - 5. Alternative to plastic
  - 9. "We're #1!" e.g.
  - 14. Like some chatter
  - 15. A chorus line
  - 16. "Farewell, mon ami"
  - 17. Musical kingdom
  - 18. Litigant
  - 19. Madison Avenue worker
  - 20. Of sound mind
  - 23. Part of MGM
  - 24. Hammer's end
  - 25. It's a free country
  - 28. Spies
  - 31. "\_\_\_\_ De-Lovely"
  - 34. Related (to)
  - 35. Knights
  - 36. No-goodnik
  - 38. Short dog, for short
  - 41. Kind of job
  - 42. Mimic
  - 43. "Mangia!"
  - 44. Broadly selected
  - 49. Not just "a"
  - 50. Easy to move
  - 51. Lolls around
  - 54. Supporting
  - 57. Wrist joint
  - 60. Rejections
  - 61. Comprehend
  - 62. Literally, "for this"
  - 63. Fails to be
  - 64. Mysterious: Var.
  - 65. Blessings
  - 66. British tax
- Down**
- 1. Reduced instruction set
  - 2. Expression
  - 3. Heartthrob
  - 4. Charms
  - 5. Vestments
  - 6. Reunion attendee
  - 7. Possible landslide effect
  - 8. Stinger
  - 9. Bleating
  - 10. Bookie's quote
  - 11. Set one's sights
  - 12. Mermaid's home
  - 13. 252 wine gallons
  - 21. Companion of Artemis
  - 22. It may be high in the

## Last Week's Solution



- 25. Join forces
- 26. Banding
- 27. Money in the bank, say
- 29. \_\_\_\_\_ Grande
- 30. "C'\_\_\_\_\_ la vie!"
- 31. \_\_\_\_\_ of Langerhans
- 32. Have an impact on
- 33. Expensive fur
- 37. Inheritable
- 38. Resort
- 39. String quartet member
- 40. Wrinkle-resistant fabric
- 42. Needle-shaped
- 45. Faultfinders
- 46. Smidgen
- 47. Conciliatory
- 48. Bronx Bomber
- 52. Penalized
- 53. Sound asleep?
- 54. "Once \_\_\_\_\_ a time..."
- 55. Writes
- 56. Celtic deity
- 57. Subway alternative
- 58. "Much \_\_\_\_\_ About Nothing" Fraternity letter

## So You Think You are Genius

### Question (Answer next week)

Take a normal piece of paper, exactly 0.1mm thick. Fold it in half, and then in half again, and again, and again. Do this a total of 50 times. How thick would the final paper be?

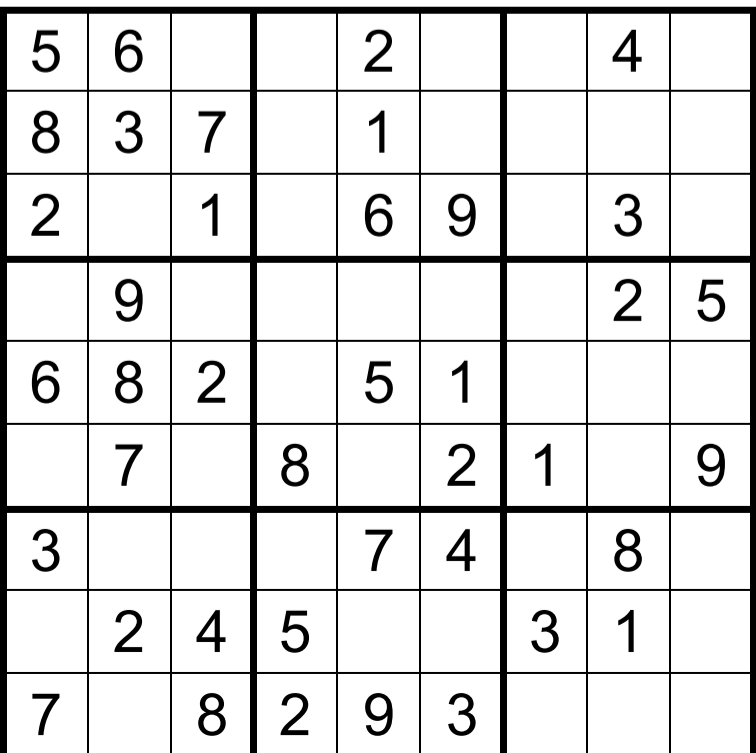


### Last Week's Answer



Simply move the bottom coin on top of the middle one.

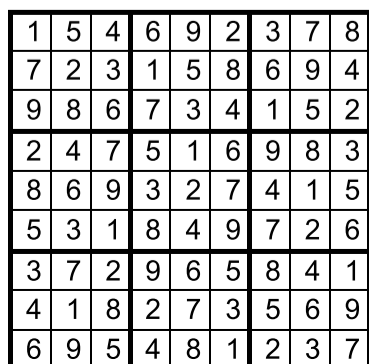
## Sudoku Puzzle



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



# Metro Motoring

For everything Car in Lesotho

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## Be Car-Smart

### Distinguish Yourself

James Bond had an Aston Martin DB5. Steve McQueen, a 1968 Mustang. You have - a used Kia? Your salvation: a classic sports car, says Joe Lorio of Automobile magazine. "It looks really cool, and nobody knows you paid the same as somebody who bought a new Ford Explorer."

There is every chance that your car looks like the next car across the road. With more people going mobile, increasingly more vehicles look the same. The law does not permit you to casually make a

change to your car. However, there are a few tips you can consider to differentiate your car from the others.

The car wrapping technology is certainly a cool addition to the market. This product is ideal for those who want an upgrade of their car looks. It saves you all the time and stress of going for a total repaint of your car. There are a lot of cool designs to select from. The choices are just endless. For those who wish to advertise their product on the go, this is one way to do it

with custom stickers. Wrapping is much easier and can be done at home with the right tools. It is, however, important that the professionals do the job. Most car designers rely on monotonous colours for their finished brands. The most common paint colours are white, grey, black and silver. One thing you can do to make your car stand out is by repainting. Use less common paint to make your car shine in the crowd. When investing in car paint, ensure to go for high quality. Engage the services of a professional to get a nicely finished work. Repainting a car can be very tricky because when it's not properly done, what you will get is ugly car exterior. Quality car paints can last long and adds to the beauty

of your car. It is also the best way to give yourself that customized look you really want.

Car sticker is one easy way to recognize your car in the crowd. There are a lot of designs and colours out there to choose from, with both reflective car stickers and custom car stickers.

The reflective car sticker, as the name implies, is designed to reflect light, which makes it easy to spot out your car even in the dark night. While its main aim is for safety in case of an emergency, it is also a good way to save you the time of strolling through the pile of cars to find your own. The custom car stickers, on the other hand, are designed to the owner's like. This kind of sticker

is mostly adopted by companies to advertise their products or even to display contact information on the windshield. When selecting a sticker, it is important to keep it simple and neat. Ensure the sticker does not obstruct the view in any way while driving. Brightly coloured stickers are more ideal choices.

Apart from the above three tips that change the car itself to stand out, a customized car shelter can distinguish your car at a distance even without the troublesome work. Even in the cluster of cars, yours will stand out among the rest. For example, If you run a business, you can print the business logo or contact information on the car shelter to make it known to more people.

## Hino takes a giant leap with its 2022 Dakar Rally contender

Dakar Rally, which will take place in Saudi Arabia from January 2-14, 2022. The development and test programme are already well advanced as Hino prepares for its 31st Dakar Rally.

"Up until now our hybrid truck has been built and developed by a well-qualified and experienced team of engineers and technicians, under a cloak of secrecy and will only debut on the 2022 Dakar Rally," explained Teruhito Sugawara who has competed in the past 22 Dakar Rallies. He has only finished out of the top 15 overall twice in the 17 years he has been a driver, after previously navigating a Hino driven by his father. Hino has already won the truck category in the Dakar Rally outright, but this was way back in 1997 when the 8 015 km route in Africa went from Dakar, in Senegal, to Agadez, in Niger, and then back to the finish in Dakar. Three Hino 500-Series took first, second and third places overall in this event, a feat that was only equalled by Kamaz in 2011 and repeated by the same Russian truck in 2013. At least one Hino has finished every Dakar the brand has contested since 1991, building up an amazing 30-year record for durability and reliability in the process. Hino is still the only Japanese truck manufacturer to tackle the Dakar Rally on a regular basis, always facing a strong field of Western and European trucks.

The 2022 Dakar Rally will mark the 44th edition of this gruelling cross-country endurance event, and it will be the third time it will take place in Saudi Arabia. The organisers say that 80% of the route will be different from previous events in this country. The Dakar will start in Ha'il on January 2 and finish in Jeddah on January 14, with a rest day in Riyadh on January 8.



Hino Motors, a regular competitor in the gruelling Dakar Rally since 1991, made a dramatic announcement recently in that it intends to race a diesel-electric hybrid truck in the 2022 event. This means that will be challenging the so-called "monster trucks," with engines of more than

10-litre capacity, for outright victory in the category with a truck fitted with a hybrid power unit producing 794 kW (1 065 bhp).

This is a big leap from the 550 kW (738 bhp) that was available from the 9-litre turbocharged diesel engine fitted to the Hino 500-Series

4x4 for the 2020 Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia. The hybrid power train has been fitted to the bonneted version of the Hino 600-Series, known as the Hino 600-Series and sold only in the United States. One of these models took part in the 2020 Dakar Rally with a regular

diesel engine but had to retire with a damaged roll-over bar after a crash.

The high-tech 2022 project is being driven by long-time Dakar entrant, Hino Team Sugawara, with its leader, Teruhito Sugawara, being the person who will be behind the wheel of the hybrid truck in the

# Metro SPORTS



Olympics

Football

**Ntsibolane  
clears confusion  
about flag at  
Olympics**

**LeFA  
suspends  
all  
competitions**

15

15



Lesotho in action against Uganda at the 2019 African Netball Championships in South Africa

## Lesotho select best team for African Netball Cup

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**MASERU** – After successful trials for the senior national team, the Lesotho Netball Association (LNA) has selected the best 18-woman squad to represent Lesotho at the African Netball Cup to be held in Namibia in October.

The players include Makoae Rethabile, Moerane Moliehi, Masia Litšoanelo, Matsepe 'Malesenyehlo, Phokojoe Nthabiseng, Mokilane Matšelisio, Mohlouoa 'Mamokete, Maino Matšelisio,

Molise 'Malesaoana, Thaane Nthabiseng, Morai 'Mampiti, Mahao 'Mamonehela, Tšotetsi 'Makhothalang, Maetso 'Makhotso, Sekoati Thandokazi, Makepe Limpho, Lekhooana Thato and Mahao Nthomeng.

The team is led by Coach Mohai Mosheoa who is assisted by 'Marethabile Sepiriti with 'Matšepo Mohau as the team manager.

LNA publicist Telang Machela said the coaches are yet to select the best 12 players who will form the final team to represent the country at the annual championship.

LNA through the office of the Director of Development Shanduka Munyaradzi, first called the players for trials at the Ratjomose netball courts on July 4.

The selected players were drawn from City Eagles, Leqeke High School, Focus and LCS among others.

The last time Lesotho competed at the African Netball Cup was in 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa where the squad lost dismally.

Lesotho were beaten 116-10 by South Africa on the opening day of the competition before going down 98-24 to the She Cranes of Uganda.



Likuena midfielder, Luciano Matsoso

## Luciano Matsoso assessed by KZN club

**MASERU** – Lesotho international star, Luciano Matsoso is expected to move to KwaZulu-Natal after a successful COSAFA Cup in Port Elizabeth.

News reaching the Siya crew is that the midfielder is close to completing a deal with GladAfrica Championship side Uthongathi FC, with a move to KZN on the cards after an impressive display in the annual tournament.

The 26-year-old had previously been on the books of Black Leopards and Bloemfontein Celtic's MDC side.

The attacker has since attracted the interest of the Cane Cutters as they look to replace key players lost to the DSTV Premiership.

According to insiders, Matsoso has impressed coach Papi Zothwane and a deal is close to being concluded.

Sources have indicated that teams are bolstering their sides, hoping to be ready in time for the KZN Premier's Cup. Soccer Laduma

# Ntsibolane clears confusion about flag at Olympics



Team Lesotho Chef de Mission for the Tokyo Olympic Games in Japan, Letsatsi Ntsibolane

**MASERU** – Team Lesotho Chef de Mission for the Tokyo Olympic Games in Japan, Letsatsi Ntsibolane has cleared the misunderstanding surrounding the issue of a Japanese national who was seen hoisting the Lesotho national flag during the opening ceremony of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games on Friday. He said the Japanese man had to raise the Lesotho flag as there were no Basotho athletes present during the opening ceremony.

Ntsibolane said this was due to the fact that Lesotho is going to be represented by two marathoners, Seutloali Khoarahlana and his wife, 'Neheng Khatala Khoarahlane who will only leave the country on Tuesday as they will be competing at a later stage.

He said the athletes' coaches had suggested that they leave for Japan on Tuesday since weather conditions are extremely hot in that Asian country.

"Arriving early will affect them negatively even though the International Olympic Committee (IOC) had no problem if they stayed till their events take off on August 7 and 8," he said. Ntsibolane said the IOC instructed them to give the Lesotho flag to any volunteer who just happened to be the Japanese athlete.

A section of the nation was not happy to see the Japanese athlete carrying the national flag and had raised concern about it on local radio stations and various social media platforms.

LeNA

## LeFA suspends all competitions



LeFA Secretary General, Mokhosi Mohapi

**MASERU** – Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) has suspended with immediate effect all competitions which fall under its auspices, after Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro imposed new restrictions based on the recent high number of COVID-19 cases recorded in the country.

The prime minister announced last week Thursday that only non-contact sports, with no spectators, played outdoors with a limited number of players should go ahead.

He prohibited all full-contact sports as the country moves from the blue colour code to purple.

LeFA Secretary General, Mokhosi Mohapi said the restrictions are aimed at reducing the escalating COVID-19 infections seen in the past few days.

"The National Executive Committee of the Lesotho

Football Association pursuant to its support to the government's efforts to fight the spread of the corona virus and save lives has in its virtual meeting shortly after the announcement by the Right the Prime Minister resolved to indefinitely suspend all competitions under the auspices of LeFA until further information is released by the Association upon the advice of the Government," he said.

Mohapi therefore ordered the clubs to suspend all group trainings until further notice.

He said the LeFA President, King's Counsel Salemane Phafane and the Executive Committee wish all of clubs good health in these trying times, urging the entire football fraternity to practice all COVID-19 mitigation protocols.

For his part, the Public Relations Officer of the Premier League Management Committee (PLMC), Qamako Mahao

confirmed that all Vodacom Premier League games have been halted indefinitely.

"Before the Prime Minister's announcement on Thursday night, the PLMC was also on the verge of suspending its competitions owing to the number of players who have tested positive of the COVID-19 in the past days," he said, adding that over five players have so far tested positive of the deadly virus.

He further noted that since the second round of the Vodacom Premier League resumed recently, only 55 percent of the matches have been played.

All sporting activities including the Vodacom Premier League have been disrupted on a number of occasions due to the state of coronavirus in the country since January when the second wave of the coronavirus hit Lesotho.

LeNA

## The audacious gospel, afro-soul artiste, Tšitso Chalatsi aka Tshitso



Basotho. He is currently working on a single, titled "Botle Ba Hao" which will be out on the shelves on August 1.

In his music journey, he collaborated with and featured the likes of Budhaza Mapefane, Selimo Thabane, Juvy oa Lepempara, Thabo Mlangeni as well as Ringo, among others.

Tšitso targets the international market and is currently taking it step by step towards achieving that goal.

In the two genres that he is pushing, he contends that afro-soul is receiving the most appreciation.

"Support is good in afro-soul but it is not 100 percent here in Lesotho because Basotho prefer international artistes to their own," he laments.

He says home-brewed artistes are not being well promoted by their own media as most local radio stations do not have music compilers.

"In Lesotho, presenters just play music of their choice. They are not mandated to play local music. They do not copy good things from foreign radio stations including Leseli FM, which plays strictly 90 percent South African music," he says.

His worst moment as a performing artiste was in June 2013, when he was supposed to perform at a concert but his band disappeared on him.

"I had to secure the services of another band on the eleventh hour and was forced to change my playlist because we did not get a chance to rehearse," he recalls.

He regards performing on stage as some of his best moments ever. He would like to work with the likes of Leomile Motsetsela on some of his future projects.

He is married to 'Mamakhanya Chalatsi and the couple is blessed with a girl. Apart from singing, Tšitso enjoys watching soccer.

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**MASERU** – He did not just venture into the music industry out of the blue, but he possesses an inherent talent that has turned him into a highly acclaimed brand as a great Afro Soul vocalist in Lesotho.

His music is already a big hit among the younger and older generations, depicting one of the finest artistes to come out of the Mountain Kingdom.

Tšitso Chalatsi aka "Tshitso" does not only sing to seek fame, but he is so passionate about his music that he studied Business Management at the National University of Lesotho (NUL)'s Institute of Extra Mural Studies (IEMS) to gain skills that would help him manage and promote his music accordingly.

Born on April 6, 1990, Tšitso Chalatsi is the first born in a family of three boys to 'Matšitso and the late Teboho Chalatsi of Ha Matala, Maseru.

He did his primary education at Tšepo Christian School before he proceeded to Sefika High School where he obtained his Junior

Certificate (JC) in 2008 and his Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC) in 2010. He graduated with a Diploma in Business Management from NUL in 2016. Tšitso started singing at his father's church choir at an early age.

"My late father was a pastor and after I graduated from his choir, I joined a community choir. That was when I realised that I had talent in music," he recalls.

He focused fulltime on his music in 2013 when he switched to both afro soul and afro gospel, although he was unable to record his music. Since he debuted in the industry over a decade ago,

Tšitso has released several albums including his 2016 album, "Jesu Ke Pheko".

He thereafter released two afro soul singles, "Ke Cha Mpa Le Seatla" in 2019 and "Lerato La Ka" in 2020.

"Even though I could not record my music in 2013 as earlier anticipated, I pushed hard and recorded my maiden gospel album in 2016, which was well welcomed by members of the public," he says.

His debut afro-soul single released in 2019 received a great support and appreciation from

