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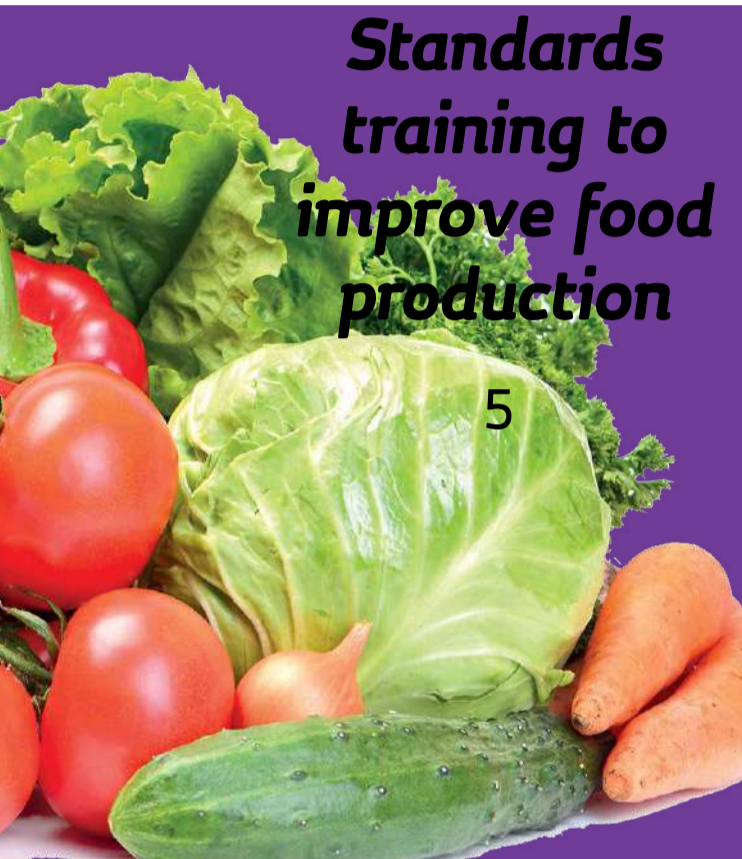
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BORN ON THIS DAY

September 22

- 1984 - Laura Vandervoort, Canadian actress (Haven, Smallville), born in Toronto, Ontario
- 1984 - Thiago Emiliano da Silva, Brazilian football player (Paris Saint-Germain)
- 1985 - Faris Haroun, Belgian footballer, born in Brussels, Belgium
- 1985 - Tatiana Maslany, Canadian actress (Orphan Black), born in Regina, Saskatchewan
- 1986 - Lido Pimienta, Colombian-Canadian Latin-synth-pop musician, singer, and songwriter
- 1987 - Tom Felton, English Actor (Draco Malfoy in Harry Potter films), born in Epsom
- 1988 - Bethany Dillon, American Christian musician, born in Bellefontaine, Ohio
- 1995 - Juliette Goglia, American actress (That's So Raven), born in Los Angeles, California
- 2007 - Albert Windsor, English son of Lord Nicholas Windsor

Quotes & Quips!

"What I'm concerned about is he becomes collateral damage as part of a bigger fight between the Trump Organisation and the district attorney's office,"

says Attorney Bryn Skarlatos, former President Donald Trump's Chief Financial Officer, Allen Weisselberg's lawyer, arguing that his client risks becoming "collateral damage" in what is a "still-growing" tax-fraud prosecution that is likely to see additional defendants.



NewsBriefs

Diplomat demands unpaid salary

MASERU – Former Lesotho ambassador to Italy, Bothata Tsikoane has filed an application in the High Court seeking an order for payment of his salary by the Government of Lesotho.

He wants the government to be instructed to pay his emoluments accrued prior to his return to Lesotho, including his salary for August 2021.

Mr Tsikoane has cited as respondents the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations and the Attorney General.

He has further asked the court to declare as unlawful the respondents' act of withholding his salary.

The former envoy was posted to the Lesotho embassy in Italy on January 15, 2020 and spent 36 months at the mission.

In his court papers, he shows that when his term ended, he was unable to return home immediately due to challenges such as lack of sufficient funds to appoint his replacement.

He says he spent a month in Italy without a salary, allowances or privileges, adding that there was no communication to his fate.

Reports show that the extended contract for the applicant in the office of the ambassador of Lesotho in Italy ended on July 31, 2021, but due



to reasons beyond the control of the embassy, arrangements for his return to Lesotho were not made on time. As a result, he continued with his duties until a solution could be found to facilitate his return, hence the request for payment of salary for August 2021.

Former Minister of Small Business Development, Cooperatives and Marketing, Chief Thesele Maseribane has replaced Mr Tsikoane as Lesotho's ambassador to Italy.

LeNA

Mapesela wants court intervention

MASERU – Tefo Mapesela, Leader of Basotho Patriotic Party (BPP) says the Speaker of Parliament, Sefhiri Motanyane is violating the rights of members of the House by refusing to allow them to vote in secret in a bid to unseat Prime Minister, Moeketsi Majoro. The Mokhotlong legislator has filed an application in the Constitution Court seeking its intervention on the matter. He is supported by Kose Mako, Alliance of Democrats (AD)'s backbencher and chairperson of the party's parliamentary caucus.

This, after the two on August 25 filed a motion of no confidence against Dr Majoro's led-coalition government before filing another motion last week for a secret ballot. The latest motion was shot down, with Motanyane showing that it will be on open vote on grounds that MPs and the PM are public functionaries; hence things should be done

openly. In their papers in court, the applicants argue that Motanyane's decision prevents MPs from exercising their free will and conscience.

This, they contend is because of threats being made by some political parties against legislators who support the motion. They also want the court to declare that section 75 (1) of the Constitution of Lesotho permits a motion of no confidence in the Government to be decided by a secret ballot under special circumstances.

They therefore asked the court to issue an order declaring the Speaker's decision to vote openly as unconstitutional, null and void.

They state that ordinarily, the House and the Speaker should be free to regulate and determine the motion, but in exceptional circumstances, the court would interfere to prevent the violation of the Constitution and rule of law. LeNA

FastFACTS

Dentistry is the oldest profession in the world

Dentistry goes all way back to when humans first had teeth... well not quite that long. However, one study found evidence of teeth being drilled in skulls that dates from 7,500 to 9,000 years ago. The holes were likely made using a prehistoric bow-drill. Could that be the work of the first dentist? Other biting research conducted by the University of Bologna, Italy on a 14,000-year-old skull found that "one rotten tooth in the jaw had been deliberately scoured and scraped with a tool," according to the BBC. That makes dentistry one of the oldest recorded professions and is definitely a reason to smile.

On This Day in History

1828

September 22

Shaka Zulu assassinated

Shaka, founder of the Zulu Kingdom of southern Africa, is murdered by his two half-brothers, Dingane and Mhlangana, after Shaka's mental illness threatened to destroy the Zulu tribe.

When Shaka became chief of the Zulus in 1816, the tribe numbered fewer than 1,500 and was among the smaller of the hundreds of other tribes in southern Africa. However, Shaka proved a brilliant military organizer, forming well-commanded regiments and arming his warriors with assegais, a new type of long-bladed, short spear that was easy to wield and deadly. The Zulus rapidly conquered neighboring tribes, incorporating the survivors into their ranks. By 1823, Shaka was in control of all of present-day Natal. The Zulu conquests greatly destabilized the region and resulted in a great wave of migrations by uprooted tribes.

In 1827, Shaka's mother, Nandi, died, and the Zulu leader lost his mind. In his grief, Shaka had hundreds of Zulus killed, and he outlawed the planting of crops and the use of milk for a year. All women found pregnant were murdered along with their husbands. He sent his army on an extensive military operation, and when they returned exhausted he immediately ordered them out again. It was the last straw for the lesser Zulu chiefs: On September 22, 1828, his half-brothers murdered Shaka. Dingane, one of the brothers, then became king of the Zulus.

ALL JOKES ASIDE

Be strong honey!

A man escapes from prison where he has been for 15 years. He breaks into a house to look for money and guns, and finds a young couple in bed. He orders the guy out of bed and ties him to a chair.

He ties the girl to the bed and he gets on top of her, kisses her neck, and then gets up and goes into the bathroom.

While he's in there, the husband tells his wife, "Listen, this guy is an escaped convict, look at his clothes! He probably spent lots of time in jail and hasn't seen a woman in years. I saw how he kissed your neck. If he wants sex, don't resist, don't complain, do whatever he tells you. Satisfy him no matter how much he nauseates you. This guy is probably very dangerous. If he gets angry, he'll kill us. Be strong, honey. I love you."

His wife responds, "He wasn't kissing my neck. He was whispering in my ear. He told me he was gay, thought you were cute, and asked me if we had any Vaseline. I told him it was in the bathroom. Be strong honey. I love you, too!"

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Metro BUSINESS

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	20.98
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	14.74
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.30
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.28
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.13
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.16
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	10.72
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.89
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	10.90
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.036
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.024
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.32
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.94
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.20
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	3.92
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.59
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.76
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.20
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.01
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.35

COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS		PRECIOUS METALS	
S&P500	4,357.73	Gold p/ounce	1,764.00
NASDAQ100	15,012.19	Platinum p/ounce	931.44
Nikkei225	29,839.71	Silver p/ounce	22.52
Dow Jones30	33,970.47	Copper p/ounce	4.17
FTSE 100	6,976.58	Brent Oil p/barrel	74.15
JSE	62,319.00	EQUITIES	
Hang Seng	24,250.75	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

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Exactly a year after suspending its "Doing Business report", the World Bank Group has taken a bold move by putting a permanent stop on the publication of the document.

The perpetual obliteration will be detrimental towards Lesotho's efforts of attracting foreign direct investment which would otherwise ensure economic emancipation in the long run.

This is according to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Private Sector Foundation of Lesotho (PSFL), Thabo Qhesi.

PSFL, a business association registered in Lesotho is aimed at promoting long-term development of the private sector in the country and sustained dialogue between the government and the private sector.

"This is going to have a huge impact because that report was able to force the government to act on certain areas of the economy. For instance, the previous report helped the country to put more effort and improve its position on access to finance.

"The country was behind all the other members in the SADC region when it comes to issues of access to finance. But the report was able to influence decisions that would be in line with improving on that aspect," Mr Qhesi told Metro in an interview on Tuesday.

The absence of the report, he said also means that policy makers will not be in a position to make decisions with regard to prioritising key areas to allocate resources.

The report has considerable influence over business regulations in Lesotho, helping the country to gain recognition across the world, as well as providing information that investors are looking at when they think of economic indicators for countries.

"The biggest challenge is that economies will not be able to track progress in the development of building

Ending of doing business report glooms Lesotho's investment prospects

...Lesotho behind other regional countries in terms of access to finance

blocks of a good business environment, which is crucial towards increased opportunities for the country," Mr Qhesi further showed.

The report and rankings are grounded on the notion that smarter business regulation promotes economic growth.

This means an effective regulatory environment in Lesotho as well as a sound financial market infrastructure, and straight forward business registration procedures will no longer be well monitored with this abolition, thus affecting potential investor movement.

After data irregularities on "Doing Business" 2018 and 2020 were reported internally in June 2020, the World Bank management paused the

next "Doing Business" report and initiated a series of reviews and audits of the report and its methodology.

In addition, because the internal reports raised ethical matters, including the conduct of former board officials as well as current and former bank staff, management reported the allegations to the bank's appropriate internal accountability measures.

"After reviewing all the information available to date on Doing Business, including the findings of past reviews, audits and the report, the World Bank Group management has taken the decision to discontinue the Doing Business report.

"The World Bank Group remains firmly

committed to advancing the role of the private sector in development and providing support to governments to design the regulatory environment that supports this," the bank said in a statement.

Going forward, the bank stated that it will be working on a new approach to assessing the business and investment climate.

In September last year, the World Bank made a rather shocking announcement, suspending the "Doing Business" report, pending investigations into data irregularities.

"Trust in the research of the World Bank Group is vital. The World Bank Group research informs the actions of policymakers, helps countries make better informed decisions and allows stakeholders to measure economic and social improvements more accurately. Such research has also been a valuable tool for the private sector, civil society, academia, journalists and others, broadening understanding of global issues," the bank added.

The PSFL is not entirely pleased with the decision, raising concerns that Lesotho may struggle to attract more foreign investment, mainly because the report was used as a benchmark towards which areas of the economy needed to be developed.

This report would collect data on indicators that create a conducive environment for private sector development and attract Foreign Direct Investment into a country.

Over the 17 years of its existence, the Doing Business report has been a valued tool for countries seeking to measure costs of doing business. Doing Business indicators and methodology are designed with no single country in mind, but rather to help to improve the overall business climate.

In the latest statistics of 2020, Lesotho ranked 122 out of 190 countries with good overall business climate at 59.4 points while Swaziland appeared on position 121 with 59.5 points. Rwanda was the highest ranked African country at position 39 with 76.5 points.



TROUBLED: Chief Executive Officer of PSFL, Thabo Qhesi

Business

Vodacom rollouts Mum and Baby healthcare initiative

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Vodacom Lesotho, a telecommunications connectivity, digital and financial services company, in partnership with Mondia, a private m-commerce company, has announced the rollout of the Mum and Baby maternal health service across the country.

Mondia, which claims to be a global leader in m-commerce providing access to over 1.5 billion consumers worldwide says it's dedicated to connecting, digitalising and monetising mobile consumers.

"Mum and Baby is our flagship health and wellness brand focusing on motherhood. We are proud of the way in which it contributes to our vision of building communities, bringing health solutions to more lives and promoting good health outcomes. We have seen this in Lesotho where the indomitable Basotho spirit has come to the fore, as people find creative ways to stay connected, support each other and express themselves. We see our digital services connecting the people of Lesotho to the world wherever they are via Lesotho's Blanket Network Coverage," said Tšepo Thabisi, Vodacom's EHOD: Consumer Business and Customer Value.

Mum and Baby is a freemium mobile health intervention that provides Vodacom subscribers with maternal, neonatal and child health information designed to encourage good health practices amongst pregnant women, mothers, partners and caregivers.

On Tuesday, the leading telecommunications company announced that it has collaborated with Mondia to create Mum and Baby's tailored content, which includes videos, expert articles and information sharing SMS messages.

Mum and Baby also provides interactive tools including a due date calculator, an immunisation calendar, a medication reminder and medicine safety information. The service, which is available in both English and Sesotho, also includes a rewards component through which subscribers can earn vouchers, music and lullabies.

The Mum and Baby service further provides positive socio economic benefit in the geographies in which it operates.

In a KPMG survey conducted in order to understand the impact of the Mum and Baby service, Vodacom revealed that over 95 percent of respondents reported that they found the SMS messages received useful or very useful for learning new information about their children's health and wellbeing.

About 98 percent of respondents agreed that they had taken action to improve their child's health as a result of information provided through the Mum and Baby service.

Again, 98 percent of pregnant women and mothers surveyed agreed that they had taken action to improve their own health because of the information provided through the Mum and Baby service.

"The value of this partnership is now more critical than ever, with Lesotho's infant mortality rate, which is one of the highest in the world, having been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, resulting in people avoiding medical services for fear of exposure to the virus. As a result, initiatives that put the power of good health directly in people's hands remain immeasurably important. Mum and Baby provides a free, convenient way of accessing instant, expert advice where it is most needed," added the Chief Executive Officer of Mondia, Dr Amadeo Rahmann.

The Mum and Baby initiative was launched in South Africa in 2017 and had almost two million registered subscribers as of August 2021.



Vodacom's team from left, Tsepo Ntaopane, VCL Managing Director, Mohale Ralebitso and Tsepo Thabisi

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Standards training to improve food production

...About M29 580million has been invested in the programme

NEO SENOKO
business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - The Lesotho Supply Development Programme (LSDP), a four-partner programme, has engaged an international body, GLOBAL G.A.P. Academy to provide training and mentorship programme to 50 local farm assurers on horticulture and livestock value chains.

The aim of the one-year training is to eventually result in improved agriculture production and standards in Lesotho. Launched in March,

LSDP is a four-partner programme comprising Standard Lesotho Bank, Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), the UNDP as well as FinMark Trust. According to LSDP representative and a member of Standard Lesotho Bank, Eugenia Lekoroana, participants at the training programme will also be coached on measures that will allow them to easily access finances in future, among other things.

"The training shall include capacity building on business management as well as improved access to markets both locally and internationally. They will also be able to access finances in future because they will be trained on record keeping measures as well," Mr Lekoroana said on Friday, during a two-day farm assurers' workshop that ended on Saturday.

GLOBAL GAP is a trademark and a set of standards for good agricultural practices. It is a global organisation with a crucial objective towards safe and sustainable agriculture worldwide.

for the certification of agricultural products around the world. The four partner organisations initiated and commenced implementation of a programme that seeks to contribute to the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II) objectives for job creation and economic growth by focusing on capacitating the development productive sectors that include agriculture, among others.

Collaboration with government ministries is through

the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security's Department of Marketing and the Ministry of Trade and Industry through the Department of Standards.

Under the programme, the 50 farm assurers who have already been selected are scheduled for a training that will start before the end of this month.

Nearly USD 2 million (roughly M29 580million) has been invested in the programme.

"We engaged GLOBAL

GAP to provide training on production and compliance to international food standards. The GLOBAL GAP certification is one of the most recognised food standards globally," Mr Lekoroana added.

Their proposed capacity development plan is strongly aligned to the LSDP objectives in developing domestic capacity in agricultural standard development, management and certification.

Farm assurers, among others will be trained to support local farmers in the fruit and vegetable and livestock subsectors. Upon completion of the training, their main responsibility will be to train the farmers in the selected value chains and carry out inspections to ensure adherence to good agricultural practices such as setting up of the quality standards.

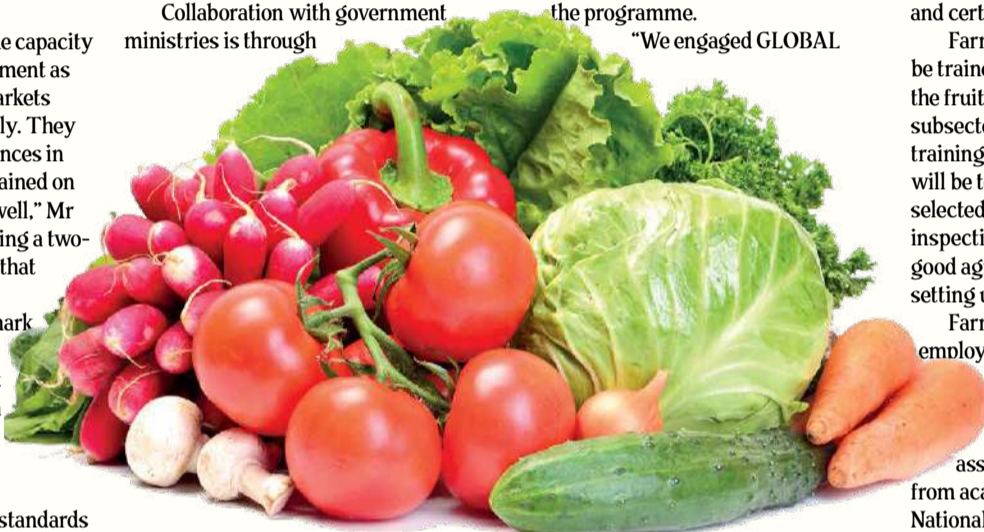
Farm assurer trainees will include employees from the Ministry of Agriculture, members of local farmers' associations, members of local business associations as well as personnel from academic institutions such as the National University of Lesotho (NUL)

and the Lesotho Agricultural College (LAC). Staff from the Fresh Produce Market Centre and those from the Lesotho Standards Institute will also form part of the training.

After the training, farm assurers will be expected to contribute towards the improvement of the local agriculture industry. Lack of access to finance remains one of the major impediments facing the business sector in the country. While there are about 41 percent of SMMEs with bank accounts, only 3 percent, according to the LSDP has access to credit.

Furthermore, the programme will enhance local competitiveness through exposure to global and international markets as well as introduction to quality standards. According to LSDP, the local private sector currently has low competitiveness and severely lacks business sophistication. As such, the LSDP says there is a need to improve capacity and quality of locally produced products.

Lack of products standardisation facilities also makes it difficult for the local private sector to access formal markets.



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TRUSTED QUALITY
PROUDLY LESOTHO



CLASSIC BROWN BREAD
700 g

Comments & Letters

Government continues to do well in vaccination against COVID-19

The Editor,

Lesotho appears among African countries with 10% of their people fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 343 888 people have accessed the injection, meaning that 17.4% of the population has been vaccinated in our country.

In his recent national address, the Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro said the target is to ensure that they administer the vaccine to 1.6 million eligible Basotho and the plan is to reach this target by end of November.

As citizens, we would also like to thank the government, donors, the health care system and the private sector for working hard to see that everybody in Lesotho gets their jab.

Liteboho Lenka
Ha Tšiu, Maseru

Let us take care of people with dementia

The Editor,

Caring for a loved one with dementia poses many challenges for families and caregivers. People with dementia from conditions such as Alzheimer's and other related diseases have a progressive biological brain disorder that makes it difficult for them to remember things, think clearly, communicate with others and take care of themselves.

It is very challenging to look after a relative or a friend who has dementia.

It is important for people to look after their own health, but it is equally important to take care of our ill relatives, friends and neighbours.

The problem with memory loss is that it takes a while to detect it in another person and sometimes it can be mistaken for other illnesses or conditions.

As the World celebrates Dementia Day every year on September 21, we should all remember to give support to people out there who are struggling to remember things as well as they did before. The aim of the commemoration is to raise awareness around, educate, encourage support and demystify dementia.

Mamota Libe
Tšakholo, Mafeteng

Basotho have a right to service delivery

The Editor,

The general elections are just around the corner and people will soon be casting their votes to elect their leaders.

But the sorry fact is the same people who expect to be re-elected into power fail to deliver when the nation is so desperate for services.

The list of our needs as citizens is endless. After all, we have a right to live here and expect to be served.

But the question is, why can't our leaders make a little difference and make us happy by addressing especially our basic needs?

The nation is thirsty, despite the volumes of water that are even exported to South Africa.

The sorry state of our roads is mind-boggling when motorists are paying hefty tariffs to keep their vehicles on public roads.

As Basotho, we demand service delivery because it is our right.

Tieang 'Noko
Lekhalong Ha Tšosane, Maseru

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Absence of World Bank's 'Doing Business' report promises dreadful economic aftermaths

The World Bank Group's decision to cancel its 'Doing Business' report will definitely put Lesotho on a dark mode.

Already, the country is struggling to attract foreign investment due to a series of bottlenecks that include but not limited to an unfavourable political climate, lack of access to finance as well as poor service delivery.

Recently, and just a year after suspending the report, the World Bank has decided to put a permanent stop to the publication of the document, citing data irregularities from as far back as 2018.

In spite of the fact that we are an impoverished nation and equally one of the smallest countries in the world, our consistent participation in that report had its own positives, depending on our positioning on its economic indicators.

The outcomes of the report were able to influence some crucial decisions made in the country just so that our overall economic climate became relatively acceptable across the world.

This abolition will therefore, and without any doubt have a huge impact in our quest to push for more foreign investment.

It also means more tussles for a country that has arguably only performed well in the textile and apparel industry in the last decade.

The move by the World Bank paints a gloomy picture to our already little know status on the global front.

That basically means that those who know little or nothing at all about our tiny mountain kingdom are likely to remain in that space for keeps.

On the flip side of the coin, that section with limited knowledge about us and our country has now been denied the opportunity to further monitor and expand that information going forward.

Expanding that knowledge could have in turn sparked more interest on their part and perhaps influence investment decisions.

The imminent struggles are therefore likely to result in a further downward trajectory in unemployment statistics in the country as well as a knock in the hunger and poverty situation.

This is now particularly more relevant than ever before, with the coronavirus pandemic already threatening the existing foreign direct investment in the country.

Scores of factory workers have as we speak lost their jobs as companies try to minimise costs while some business owners are threatening to return to their native homes with the hope of starting all over again if possible.

Several sectors of the economy, and not only the textile and apparel, are working assiduously but most of the time in vain to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

However, if the "Doing Business" report were still active, other potential investors would be in a better place to look into Lesotho's positioning and jump onto the opportunity to invest in the country.

Lesson to learn:

...Questions on transformation can be prejudice disguised as intellectual debate

Every now and again, I get requests from schools to speak on transformation. This has been more prevalent since the global Black Lives Matter reckoning of 2020, which sparked a localised iteration on our shores, Black Student Lives Matter, against elite private schools.

Not too long ago I received such a request to speak at a private school. The theme that was provided was "Why is transformation necessary?" I could have suggested my own theme to the school, as I sensed their openness, but I decided I wanted to respond to the theme as it was presented. My first question was: Who is asking why transformation is necessary? Is it the school management or the parents? What is the colour of the voice? Is it an individual or communal voice asking the question? Is it a voice assuming responsibility and accountability? Or is it an obfuscatory voice? Can the person who has to ask the question be trusted to undertake a self-directed course of change? What values are reflected in the question asked? And, more concerningly, what impact would the question have on the listeners, especially the black children attending the school?

The question I was asked to respond to reminded me of a lunchtime lecture I attended when I was a student at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, in the United States. A very white school in a very white town in a very white state. The theme of the lecture was "What is the virtue of diversity?" This question was being asked in connection with a case that was going to be heard by the US Supreme Court of Appeal on affirmative action, which in the United States is largely underpinned by diversity.

In this case, the voice asking the question was white, Federalist and Republican. And the majority of the listeners venturing an answer to the question were white. I was one of two black people in the room and upon hearing the question and the ensuing dialogue, I was saddened to tears. The thought that struck me was that if they are arguing against the virtue of diversity, they are in fact

arguing for separate but (un)equal. Personally, I felt that if diversity has no virtue, then by consequence the presence of me and those like me had no value.

To me, the question was antagonising because it

was prejudice disguised as intellectual debate. Contrary to the white voice that asked the question, I do not think, and most African-Americans do not believe, that

affirmative action is justified by diversity. From the black perspective, affirmative action is about "the compelling interest in remedying past discrimination and/or in addressing the present social condition of unsustainable inequality" – not about diversity. And certain rationales for diversity and inclusion can serve white interests in the manner in which they can enable change in small and palatable doses.

As with affirmative action, we need to always historicise transformation. If one is steeped in history then the question answers itself. The reason the question "Why is transformation necessary?" is problematic is that it fails to question how these schools were complicit in contributing to the inequality that haunts our country.

The more interesting question is what history parents and schools are passing on to their children. Transformation is necessary because we made a constitutional pact to rebuild our country with a more ethical imagination underpinned by the African value of ubuntu.

The question I left my attentive audience with is: What future do you want to live in? If we grow in the questions we ask, then in what direction is your school growing? And are you dedicated to creating a world your children will applaud? DM168

MY
TAKE
LWANDO XASO



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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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LTDC re-organises tourism operators

STAFF REPORTER

news@maserumetro.com

MASERU – The Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC), a state agency responsible for promotion of tourism, says it is in a mission to bring together stakeholders in the tourism sector to start working together.

Mamello Morojele, Head of Project Product Development and Investment Promotion at the LTDC said the corporation noticed that role players have been operating “without any coordination between them and this has been happening over time”.

She said coordination would translate to a situation where a tourist who came for sightseeing could also visit handicrafts, different destinations and therefore when a tourist was hoping to spend two days in one cluster, they would end up spending more.

Ms Morojele said all the players had to ensure that they benefit when they have tourists in their respective clusters, as they would know what other players are offering so that tourists know what they should expect in a particular cluster.

She said the idea of bringing the role players together and instilling the understanding of working in concert came after the institution realised that the players in the industry worked in silos and did not consult each other so that they could achieve their desired goals.

She said the need for coordination resulted in sourcing some funding so that they could train the players in the industry.

As a pilot project the work has started in five tourism clusters including Makhoarane, which covers both Morija and Matsieng, Quthing, Semonkong, Maseru and brought together two districts of Leribe and Butha-Buthe as one cluster.

This is because the two districts are closer to one another and often share the same tourism destinations in the northern region according to Ms Morojele.

The project she said would be for two years and they would roll it out to other districts after reviewing how successful it worked in the piloted areas.

She said they would move into the second phase of the project knowing very well the strengths and weaknesses that they experienced in the first phase so that they could build on them.

She said: “It is our ultimate goal as the institution to see every district having its own tourism clusters in order to be able to market and grow their areas collectively.”

Apart from encouraging role players to coordinate, Ms Morojele said they also need training to be equipped with skills.

“There is need for capacity building in the industry. Players have to be people who are conversant with what they are doing. They also need branding so that each in their own can be able to stand out from the crowd,” she also said.

One of the tourism operators, Thabang Kokome who owns Qiloane Tours in Makhoarane, said the initiative by LTDC was welcome and it was a shed of light that made them realise they have been sitting on diamond since he had been working as the tour operator from 1999.

“It is the first time the LTDC comes up with a model such as this one and we know it has been working in other countries. The model will help everybody to have a share in the industry. Some among us do not understand how tourism operates at all,” he said.

Ms Morojele however lamented the fact that tourism got a knock while the borders were closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic as no tourists visited the country.



She said as a result, most tourists' destinations in the country suffered and financially bled owing to the lack of business.

Ms Morojele said they were also encouraging tourism players to motivate domestic tourism as it can also help generate income and sustain their businesses in the

absence of international tourists – a plus when the country is opened for global visitors.

According to the LTDC statistics in its 2018 Tourism Arrivals & Accommodation Statistics Report released in May 2019, Lesotho welcomed 1172 648 visitors during the year, exceeding its target of increasing

international tourism arrivals from approximately 422 000 to 800 000 by 2019.

An additional 35 482 visitors were recorded in 2018, reflecting an increase of 3.1 percent. Under normal circumstances, tourism contributes 2.5 percent of Lesotho's gross domestic product.

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JIMMY'S KILLER
FISH & CHIPS

KFC DRIVE THRU

NADA RESTAURANT

ROMAN'S PIZZA

THE MARKET



MASERU
—MALL—



Raising faith in COVID-19 vaccines in Lesotho

...Govt provides training on life-saving facts on COVID-19

MASERU – Myths and misinformation around COVID-19 vaccines are rife in Lesotho, where over 85 percent of nearly 500 health workers surveyed recently report widespread misconceptions.

A rapid survey, conducted in July by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other partners covering five of Lesotho's 10 districts showed conspiracy theories may be driving up fear, confusion and reluctance to get vaccinated in this highly religious society.

"My biggest fear was to be dragged into some cult and get the mark of the beast, so I watched and waited for others to get vaccinated to observe their health and behaviours," says Mamookho Masamane, a church leader in the northern region of Leribe.

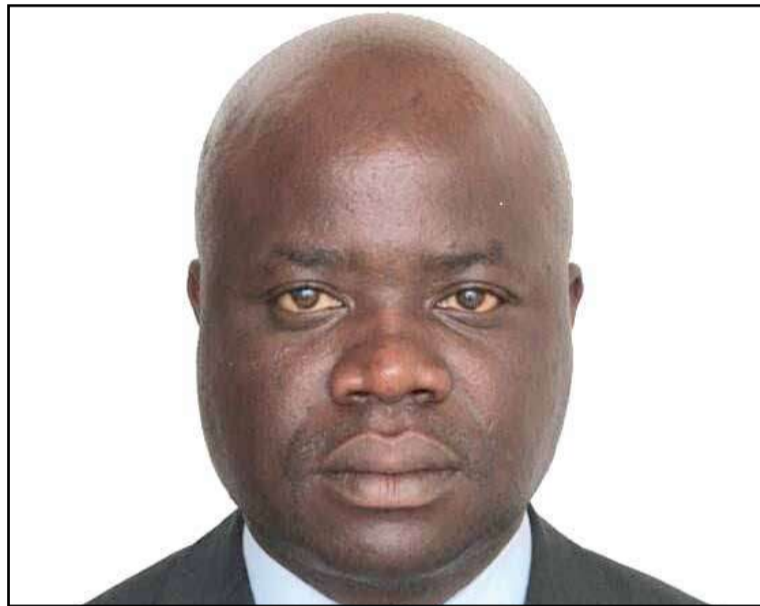
It is estimated that over 90% of people in Lesotho are Christian, and religious leaders are loved, respected

and followed. The church provides over 40% of Lesotho's health services through a network of hospitals, health centres and nursing colleges.

"We understand our calling is not just church-based, but it is also community-based. We are trusted by people and what we communicate can influence their decisions," says Mapoloko Mabena, Secretary of the Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL) in the northern town of Butha-Buthe.

With support from WHO and CCL, the Ministry of Health is training religious leaders to spread life-saving facts on COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

"Prior to each training, participants are asked how much they know about COVID-19 vaccines. Most say they have very limited information, while some say they have no information at all, so we are working to build up this knowledge," says WHO Immunisation Officer, Selloane Maepe.



Dr Richard Banda WHO rep in Lesotho

Six training sessions for 50 religious leaders have taken place in five of Lesotho's 10 districts so far,

starting with the northern districts of Berea, Leribe, and Butha-Buthe, as well as Mafeteng and the capital,

Maseru, which have all been hit hard by COVID-19.

"I never believed in this vaccine. I never wanted to take it myself or to encourage others to get it, but through this teaching I realised that a lack of information is actually a sin and getting vaccinated is important. I will share what I learned with everyone in my village, with friends and my church-mates," says Mrs Masamane at a training session in Leribe.

With a population of 2.1 million, Lesotho has recorded over 14 000 cases of COVID-19 and over 400 deaths. Nearly 10% of the population has received a first COVID-19 vaccine dose.

"The ability of religious leaders to effectively participate in responding to outbreaks depends on their understanding of them," says Dr Richard Banda, WHO Representative in Lesotho.

"These workshops aim to impart knowledge to religious leaders as they play a crucial role in community mobilisation, raising awareness, dispelling myths and misconceptions, boosting vaccine acceptance and bringing compromises where public health measures are considered to be discordant with religious values."

The Ministry of Health, WHO and partners have five further workshops planned with religious and community leaders in five districts in the next month. WHO

Govt implements more Covid adjustments

MASERU – The Government has resolved to move the country from a strict purple colour code to a more relaxed purple as scores of people have access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro made this announcement last week in his national address, showing that the adjustments will be implemented effective from September 18.

He said the government opted for this change owing to the decreased COVID-19 infection rate from nine percent to five percent.

Dr Majoro said this is because the nation continues to observe COVID-19 protocols.

He said in spite of the adjustments made, the nation should keep observing the stipulated health regulations such as regular washing of hands with soap and running water, sanitising and observing social distancing among others.

The PM was quick to note that currently, a total of 343 888 people have accessed

the injection, adding that this comprises 17.4 percent of people who have to be vaccinated against the virus.

The target, he said is to ensure that they administer the vaccine to 1.6 million eligible Basotho, adding that their plan is to reach this target by the end of November.

Dr Majoro highlighted that the pandemic has led to 593 deaths, 1 760 new infections and a total of 11 061 recoveries.

The country recently received 528 000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine including 428 000 doses of Johnson & Johnson and 100 000 doses of Sinopharm.

Dr Majoro said the government has made positive strides that include equipping three hospitals in Berea, Leribe and Mafeteng with Medical Oxygen Generating Plants which will assist those in need of medical oxygen.

He said before this change, the country had 35 percent oxygen, adding that the figure has since increased to 65 percent.

He informed the public that

new regulations under the new level include extension of the curfew which is now between 11pm and 4am while also opening borders for everyone.

He said for social gatherings, funerals and entertainment, any number of people can gather while still observing COVID-19 regulations, adding however that no alcohol consumption is allowed at such gatherings.

Sports activities, he said are allowed without spectators, while gymnasiums can operate with 15 percent capacity indoors or 50 percent outside.

Political rallies are allowed at the local branches with a capacity of 100 people.

Dr Majoro said liquor stores are allowed to sell takeaways from Monday to Sunday from 8am to 8pm while restaurants and fast foods will open from 6am to 9pm.

Initiation schools, night clubs, public parks and protests are still prohibited.

The Premier said if the nation continues to observe the stipulated regulations, all other



Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro

activities will soon be opened to allow economic growth.

The country is still waiting for 130 000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, which includes 100

000 doses from South Africa and 30 000 doses from the Sesiu sa Letšoele le beta poho, a fund established by Lesotho business community. LeNA

The world in 10 minutes

SOUTH AFRICA

Bees kill over 60 endangered South Africa penguins

Sixty-three endangered African penguins have been killed by a swarm of bees in a rare occurrence near Cape Town, bird conservationists in South Africa say.

The protected birds, from a colony in Simonstown, were found on a beach with multiple bee stings but no other injuries.

An official from the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds lamented the penguins' deaths, noting the species is already in danger of extinction.

Cape honeybees are also part of the local ecosystem which features several conservation areas.

African penguins feature on the red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambicans sell food donations to build houses

Some survivors of jihadist attacks in Mozambique are selling some of the donations they get including food to raise money to build houses.

The displaced people in Marokani settlement in the northern Cabo Delgado province have complained of not receiving enough support to construct houses.

Most of the people there are living in makeshift tents covered in tarpaulins that are distributed by the government and humanitarian organisations.

Only 55 of the about 950 families in Marokani are living in improved houses that they have built on their own, only getting roofing material from the government, according to media reports.

"Since I arrived in Marokani, I have never received support in construction material, nor zinc, rafters and sticks, I have not received anything but a tarpaulin, where I live with my three granddaughters. Who will help an old woman like me?" complained Latifa Sumail, an 80-year-old widow.

Adamo Anlauri, a 65-year-old displaced who fled Ulo village in Mocimboa da Praia district with his wife, children and grandchildren said:

"I am old and cannot cut and transport sticks and bamboo, much less build. I had to divert part of the donation I receive to build my house."

The lack of proper cover for some of the completed houses is worrying the displaced people, who are anticipating problems in the coming rainy season.

Even some of the few families who have benefited from building material donations are facing difficulties as they have no money to pay for labour.



ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe asks state employees to take a job or quit

The government in Zimbabwe is asking its employees to get vaccinated against Covid-19 or resign.

It says the move is aimed at reducing the risk of spreading the virus. In an interview with a local radio station, Justice Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi says that employees who think they have a right to choose whether or not they can be vaccinated have it all wrong.

The government previously introduced a new regulation for churches and restaurants to only allow people with a vaccination card inside their premises. The aim is to tackle vaccine hesitancy within the population. The southern African country has been able to fully vaccinate 1.7 million people, about 12% of its population. About 3% of the people in Africa have been fully vaccinated.

No country in Africa has introduced legislation to make a Covid vaccine mandatory to the population.

However, some experts are of the opinion that a case can be made for such policies to be introduced as a way of tackling the pandemic and its threat to public health.



USA

People baffled after discovering Americans don't have kettles in their kitchens

Some people can't believe their friends across the pond don't use kettles regularly – but there's a good reason for their decision to keep heating water on the stove. For many of us in the UK and other parts of the world, having an electric kettle plugged in the kitchen is a part of everyday life.

But for people in America, it's unusual to make use of a kettle – and the cultural difference has left many people baffled.

Love Island Australia host Sophie Monk recently sparked a debate when she detailed her experience with living in the US, as she said she was shocked when several shop assistants were confused by her request to buy a kettle.

Sophie lived in America for 10 years before returning to her native Australia, and couldn't believe her eyes when she saw people boiling their water on the stove.

She told Yahoo Lifestyle Australia: "I was looking for a kettle, and they're like (imitates a US accent), 'Kettle?' They don't know what a kettle is!"

"They don't use them. They must heat water up on their stove. Yeah, no one has a kettle, which is crazy."

Although the concept of not using a kettle is more than a little strange to us Brits, there's actually a pretty simple explanation for the decision.

In America, homes only have a voltage of 100-127, while in the UK and other countries, the voltage in a house is around 230.

This means electric kettles in the US actually heat water more slowly than they do in the UK, so Americans haven't bothered to invest in the appliances – choosing instead to boil on the stove or in the microwave.

The debate surrounding the use of kettles in America has been discussed for years, with Reddit posts in the past arguing that another reason Americans don't use the appliance is because they don't have the culture for tea drinking that we do, and many US families instead buy coffee machines.

Back in January, an Australian TikTok user expressed her shock at discovering the little known fact, and said it was "confusing" to her.

Many commenters at the time agreed with the woman, with some branding it "weird" and "strange".



AUSTRALIA

Australia media can be sued for social media comments, court rules

Australian news outlets can be held liable for defamatory comments posted by readers on their social media posts, the nation's top court has found. The landmark ruling could have wide implications for how Australian news firms and others use social media.

It comes after a former teenage prisoner sued media companies over Facebook comments posted below articles about his mistreatment in detention. News Corp Australia and Nine Entertainment could face damages.

Experts say the ruling could have consequences for anyone with a large online following, not just news publishers.

The world-first judgement could also influence defamation cases globally.

UNITED KINGDOM

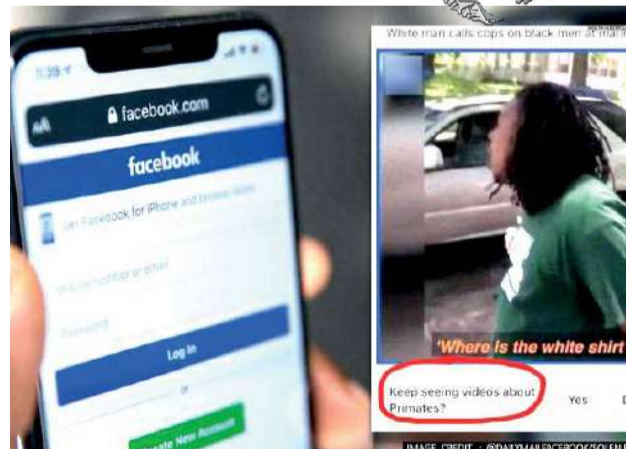
Facebook apologizes after its AI labels Black men as 'Primates'

U.S. District Judge Paul Maloney ruled that David Werking's parents had no right to throw out the collection of films, magazines and other items.

A judge has ordered a western Michigan couple to pay M436,000 to their son for getting rid of his pornography collection. U.S.

District Judge Paul Maloney's decision last week came eight months after David Werking, 43, won a lawsuit against his parents. He said they had no right to throw out his collection of films, magazines and other items. Werking had lived at their Grand Haven home for 10 months after a divorce before moving to Muncie, Indiana. The judge followed the value set by an expert, MLive.com reported. Werking's parents also must pay M208,000 to their son's attorney.

After moving to Indiana, Werking learned that his possessions were missing.



High Tea episode on the cards

KABELO MASOABI

LERIBE – Not only is high tea an inexpensive way to entertain, but it is also a great approach to build business relationships in a relaxed atmosphere.

It is a centuries-old art form that is still upheld by countless hotels and restaurants across the globe and the Mahlakapese River Resort, located in Ha Setene, on the way to Pitseng in Leribe is no exception.

The lodge is gearing up to host a High Tea episode on October 2, from 10am to 5pm with a floral theme for attire.

"The phrase 'high tea' refers to a working-class meal served at a high table and high back dining chairs at the end of a long working day. The tea would be accompanied by a hot meal. This could be some

meat or fish dish or baked food or vegetables," explains Chef Thapelo Khobatha who has gained enormous cooking experience working at the Mahlakapese Guest Lodge in Hlotse, Leribe.

History states that the British tradition of 'high tea' began in the mid 1700s as an afternoon meal usually served between 3pm and 4pm. Initially, it was a meal for the working man, taken standing up or sitting on tall stools, thus 'high'.

Tea with cakes, scones, even cheese on toast would be served. The guest speaker at the classy event to be held at the resort is none other than successful South African entrepreneur, Violet Lupuwana, who is passionate about education, skills and entrepreneurship activation in townships and rural areas. She

is also promotes job creation programmes.

"I am a female who loves entertaining others and empowering them to be the best that I believe they were created for. I love focusing on our female and youth," she notes.

Lupuwana started Chumile Transport Services, a division of transport business, Chumile Holdings, in 2012 and has been on the proverbial road to success ever since.

"Violet is a woman who knows where she's going and just what it's going to take to get there," says a fan, Lucy Mokemane from Maseru.

Top local stand-up comedian, Lilalaphala is expected to leave the audience in stitches as the master of ceremonies at the



South African businesswoman, Violet Lupuwana

occasion.

Lilalaphala, real names Bofihla 'Neko is expanding his horizons, having launched an online television channel called Lilalaphala TV on September 17.

Lilalaphala, who professes his undying love for Lesotho and its people, says while other countries produce their own celebrities, Lesotho on the other hand does

not offer its citizens much opportunities.

"We are going to set the house on fire at the Mahlakapese River Resort, come the 2nd of October," he says, adding that music will be provided by Lereko Mohale famously known as DJ Alex. More details about the occasion can be followed at Lilalaphala Social Page on Facebook.

KABELO MASOABI

MASERU – With the lockdown being eased gradually, party life is going back to normal. But how long until nightlife – a big driver of tourism in urban districts – goes back to normal?

Disc Jockeys working as residents and freelancers across party hotspots are worried a lot as they have no answer to this question.

The government has since closed nightclubs as they are perceived super spreaders of the COVID-19 infections, said to be much fueled by consumption of alcohol at such places.

However, Local DJ Luzit is of the view that entertainment and booze should go together for a dance gig to be successful. But this is in contrast with the set up stipulated by the government via its National COVID-19 Secretariat (NACOSEC), which allowed usage of alcohol only at family settings, as of Friday, September 17.

"Even if we forget about nightlife and perhaps shift our focus to day

No booze, no fun - DJ Luzit



DJ Luzit doing what he does best

events, it would still be impossible to gain profits because most people attend our gigs basically for booze and music. Alcohol makes people happy and via its sales we benefit too. We get paid.

"We were hoping the government

would this time around be considerate of these life challenging factors on our side, but alas!" says DJ Luzit.

Nightclubs have been closed from the time restrictions were imposed in the entertainment industry. Also initiation schools and parks

remain closed while only allowed performances are to be staged on weekends and before 7pm with usage of alcohol prohibited.

"We do not deny the fact that the COVID-19 is real and kills but contend that it would be best for

people to be allowed to learn to live with it," DJ Luzit also says.

From being busy six days a week to no work at all, the capital Maseru's booming nightlife came to a halt in mid-March 2020 and DJs haven't worked since then. Most of them were unprepared for this.

DJ Darling K adds: "I've been deejaying since I was 19. I've worked as a DJ for almost two decades, but now I'm starting to feel the pinch. I can imagine how the newcomers must be managing."

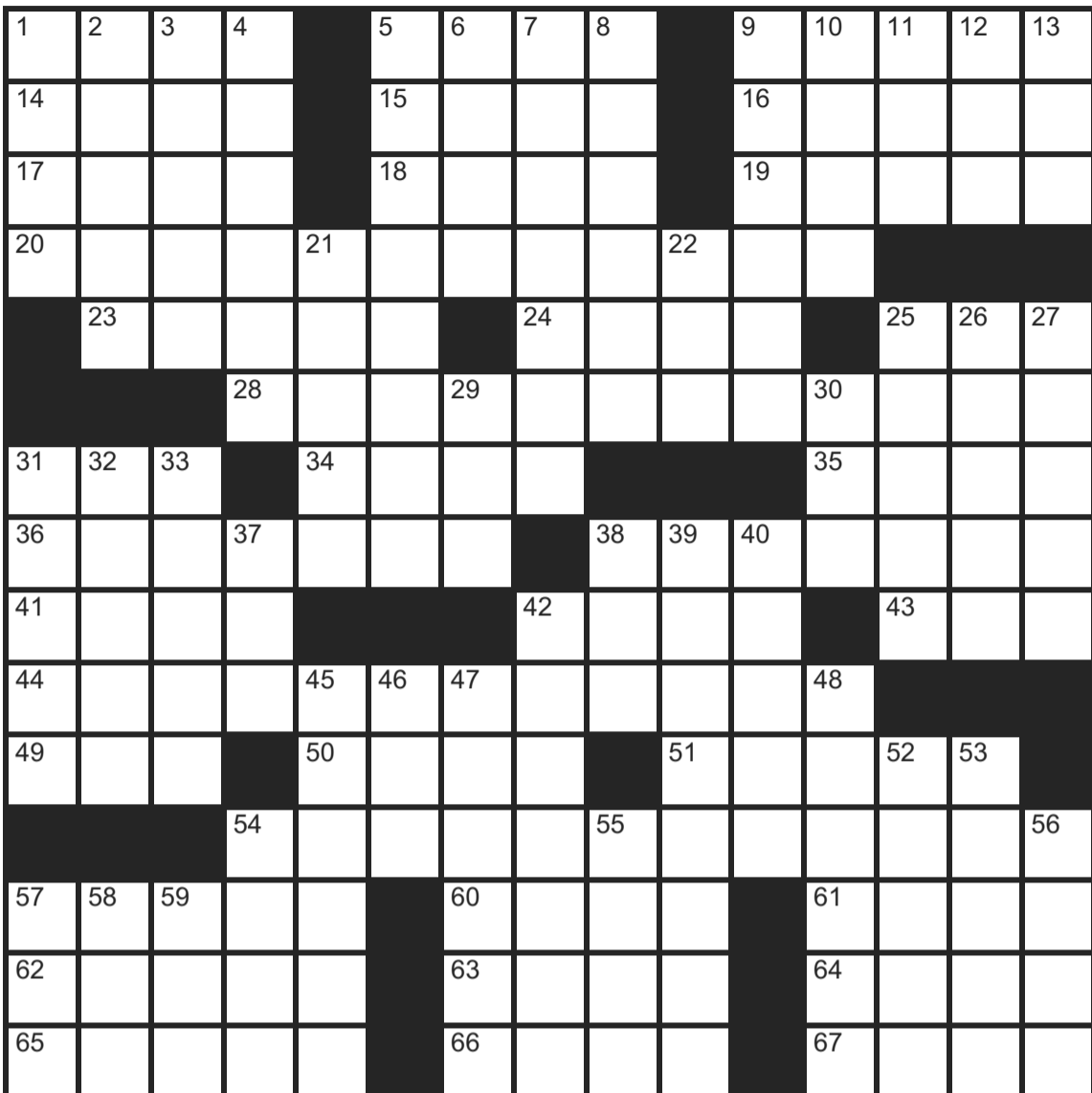
Not just freelance artistes, even resident DJs have started feeling the heat. DJ Timber, who works as a resident DJ at a party spot in Hlotse, Leribe says, "Right now I am really worried as I don't have a secondary income."

DJ Tsepza, resident DJ at a popular nightclub in Mohale's Hoek, adds, "In the past, I would perform four five times a week, but the lockdown has put a complete stop to all that. The lockdown was absolutely necessary, but I hope nightlife could function too."

SKIN UNDER CONSTRUCTION



General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. Thanksgiving dish
 - 5. Burn a bit
 - 9. Canoe
 - 14. Fencing sword
 - 15. "Where the heart is"
 - 16. Cover story?
 - 17. Running behind
 - 18. Brilliantly colored fish
 - 19. Fair-sized musical group
 - 20. News announcement
 - 23. Characteristic
 - 24. Ball
 - 25. Can
 - 28. Public health and housing programs, etc.
 - 31. _____ Lanka
 - 34. Microbe
 - 35. _____ Major
- (constellation)
- 36. Sink
 - 38. Groups coming together
 - 41. Double-reed woodwind
 - 42. Flatten, in a way
 - 43. "Mangia!"
 - 44. Spoken by hob-nobs of England
 - 49. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
 - 50. "_____ go bragh!"
 - 51. Elite group
 - 54. Conjoined
 - 57. "_____ well"
 - 60. Dinghy or dory
 - 61. Swing around
 - 62. Kingdom
 - 63. A deadly sin
 - 64. Island of Napoleon's exile
 - 65. Carpet fasteners
- Down**
- 1. Canine cry
 - 2. Not together
 - 3. Taxi feature
 - 4. It has its ups and downs
 - 5. Laughed softly
 - 6. Desire
 - 7. Mixture
 - 8. Try again
 - 9. "Dust in the Wind" group
 - 10. _____ vera
 - 11. Yang's counterpart
 - 12. Honest one
 - 13. Do-it-yourselfer's purchase
 - 21. Military blockade
 - 22. A pint, maybe

Sudoku Puzzle

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

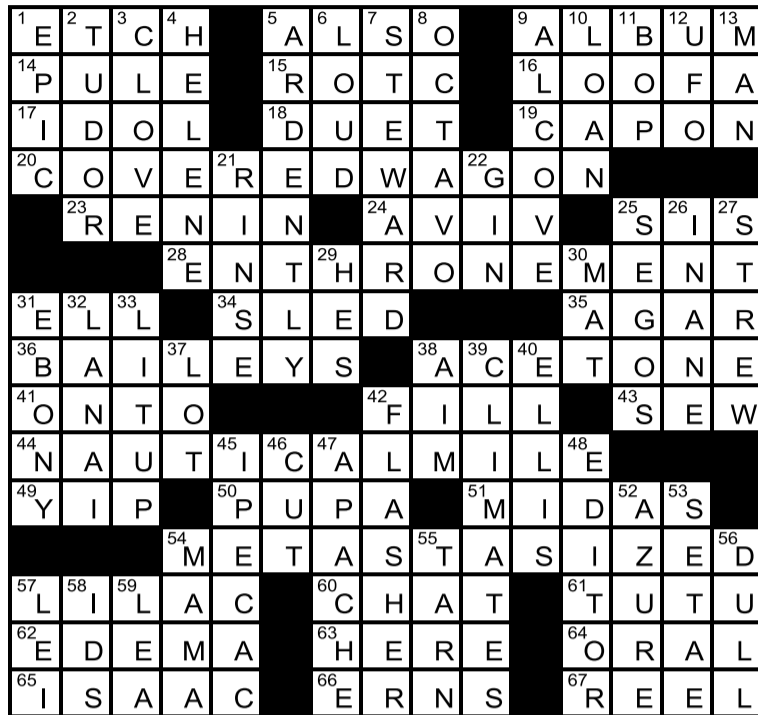
Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each 3x3 square contain all the from 1-9

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

Last Week's Solution

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

Last Week's Solution



- 25. One of the Osmonds
- 26. In a fog
- 27. Bakery supply
- 29. One way to swing
- 30. Egyptian boy king
- 31. Feed, as a fire
- 32. Batman's sidekick
- 33. Wrinkle removers
- 37. Dowel
- 38. Dot-com's address
- 39. Small piece of meat
- 40. Atlas enlargement
- 42. Fiery
- 45. Earthquakes
- 46. Historic period
- 47. Light-footed
- 48. Nautical rope
- 52. Charles de Gaulle's birthplace
- 53. High-hats
- 54. Scarf material
- 55. Back talk
- 56. Airplane assignment
- 57. Gallery display
- 58. Grassland
- 59. Fond du __, Wis.

So You Think You are Geneius

Question (Answer next week)

I dig out tiny caves, and store gold and silver in them. I also build bridges of silver and make crowns of gold. They are the smallest you could imagine. Sooner or later everybody needs my help yet many people are afraid to let me help them. Who am I?



Last Week's Answer

Very thick indeed! The paper doubles in thickness with each fold. If we could fold it 50 times, it would be around 70 million miles thick!

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Be Car-Smart

Preach Steady Driving

When behind the wheel, speed and direction should never change abruptly. In other words, drivers shouldn't accelerate quickly, slow down in a hurry, or turn on a dime. If your kid sees an exit but can't get over, for example, remind him or her to wait for the next one.

You can boost the overall fuel-efficiency of your car as much as 30% by simple vehicle maintenance and attention to your style of driving.

Avoid Aggressive Driving

"Jack-rabbit" starts and hard braking can increase fuel consumption by as much as 40%. Tests show that "jackrabbit" starts and

hard braking reduces travel time by only four percent, while toxic emissions were more than five times higher. The proper way is to accelerate slowly and smoothly, then get into high gear as quickly as possible. In city driving, nearly 50% of the energy needed to power your car goes to acceleration.

Deceleration also affects fuel efficiency. Instead of breaking to stop your car, anticipate traffic flow as much as possible and coast to decelerate. In fuel-injection vehicles, removing your foot from the accelerator automatically stops the flow of fuel to the engine until the engine speed drops to idle - when it starts

again to ensure your car doesn't stall. Coasting to decelerate also saves wear and tear on your brakes.

Drive Steadily at Posted Speed Limits

Maintaining a steady speed helps your engine perform efficiently. In one study conducted in Japan, small variations in speed were shown to increase fuel consumption by as much as 20-48%. Instead of allowing small dips in speed followed by bursts of acceleration, maintain a steady speed. When traveling in hilly terrain and where traffic permits, allow your car to slow down naturally when traveling uphill and to speed up again when going downhill.

Avoid Speeding

Increasing your highway cruising speed from 55mph (90km/h) to 75mph (120km/h) can raise fuel consumption as much as 20%. You can improve your gas mileage 10 - 15% by driving at 55mph rather than 65mph (104km/h).

Natural Resources Canada puts the "sweet spot" for most cars, trucks, and SUVs even lower, between 30 mph (50 km/h) and 50 mph (80 km/h).

Note how quickly efficiency drops after 60 mph.

Avoid Idling Your Vehicle in Both Summer and Winter

Idling wastes fuel, gets you nowhere, and produces unnecessary greenhouse gases. If you're going to stop for more than 30 seconds, except in traffic, turn off the engine. In winter, don't idle a cold engine for more than 30 seconds before driving away. Older vehicles, however, may need more idling time when first started. In cold, wintery conditions, all vehicles may need more idling time to warm up and ensure the windshield is fully defogged. Be sure your vehicle is warmed enough to prevent stalling when you pull out..

Signalling the first all-new Land Cruiser in 14 years, the Land Cruiser 300 has made a bold debut on local soil. Fusing the core Land Cruiser attributes the marque is renowned for, with an all-new design and Toyota's acclaimed TNGA architecture - the 'LC300' represents the new age of Land Cruiser.

On the design front, the '300' features a dramatically different profile to its '200' predecessor. While the design is unmistakably angular in execution, it creates a cohesive form that offers far greater dynamic presence with a sense of agility. In profile the newcomer bears a passing resemblance to the much-loved 80-series of the '90's - keeping the classic two-box look.

The front façade features a large and prominent radiator grille with sculpted rectangular headlamps on each side, that blend seamlessly into the grille. U-shaped radiator openings underpin a strong design while the bonnet features the signature Land Cruiser 'channel' down the centre. The rear features large trapezoidal taillamps with stylised light guides which are complemented by large Land Cruiser lettering and the Toyota Insignia.

An all-new engine line-up propels the newcomer: buyers have the choice of a 3.5-litre V6 Twin Turbo petrol engine or 3.3-litre V6 Turbodiesel. Both powerplants focus on delivering increased efficiency, improved torque output and elevated levels of refinement versus the outgoing V8-variants.

In order to accomplish this the diesel engine uses a host of technologies including a new dual-stage turbocharging system - which offers both low-speed response and high-rpm power. An electronically controlled bypass valve directs all exhaust gasses to the primary turbocharger (which also employs a variable nozzle design) at low engine speeds - aiding spool-up of the turbocharger. At mid-to-high rpm, the valve opens to direct exhaust gasses to both turbines, contributing to increased power and a broad, flat torque curve. This helps the 3.3 V6 Diesel punch out 225 kW @ 4000 rpm with a 'stump-pulling' 700 Nm available between 1600 and 2600 rpm.

The petrol V6 offers 305 kW @ 5200 rpm with a stout 650 Nm available from 2000 rpm. This engine utilises Toyota's acclaimed D-4ST injection system (a combination of port and direct injection), quick-response Dual VVT-i system and low-inertia turbochargers to achieve an ultra-smooth power delivery. Top speed is pegged at 210 km/h for both variants. The new engines are mated to a new slick-shifting 10-speed automatic transmission with low-range and diff-lock functionality.

Fuel consumption figures are listed as 12.1l/100 km for the Petrol and 8.9l/100 km for the diesel - with CO2 emissions checking in at 291 and 238 respectively. The Land Cruiser 300 also introduces a new grade line-up, namely GX-R, ZX and GR-S. GX-R remains the utility-focussed model and serves as the entry point to the range, while the ZX serves as the

Land Cruiser 300 – The Master of Africa



luxury model.

For the first time on Land Cruiser, a GR Sport (aka GR-S) grade will be offered which serves as the off-road performance model. As such the GR-S features bespoke exterior styling and trim, rugged 18" alloy wheels, while adopting an off-road-biased specification list - without skimping on any comfort or convenience. This model joins the other Gazoo Racing (GR) products, and expands the GR brand into Land Cruiser territory for the first time.

The ZX model in turn takes on a more 'image-focused' persona, with unique 20" alloy wheels, chrome detailing and luxury-oriented interior trim. The Land Cruiser 300 range thus offers three distinct

character profiles to choose from - Utility, Luxury and Off-road performance.

Model Line-up

Land Cruiser 300 GX-R 3.3D - R 1283 200

Land Cruiser 300 ZX 3.3D - R 1765 500

Land Cruiser 300 ZX 3.5T - R 1797 100

Land Cruiser 300 GR-S 3.3D - R 1811 900

Land Cruiser 300 GR-S 3.5T - R 1842 900

* Petrol ZX models will go on sale early August with the diesel and GR-S derivatives following shortly thereafter.

Peace of Mind

All LC300 models are sold with a 9-services / 90 000 km service plan with service intervals set

at 12-months or 10 000 km (whichever occurs first). A 3-year/100 000 km Warranty is included across the board. Customers can also purchase service, maintenance plan and warranty extensions from their nearest Toyota dealer.

Toyota Connect

All Land Cruiser 300 models are equipped with Toyota Connect, which provides customers with telematics and vehicle-health information at their fingertips via the My Toyota App. The Connect suite also includes a Wi-Fi module which is pre-loaded with a complimentary 15Gb of data and customers can top-up their data with special data-bundle deals via the My Toyota App.

Metro SPORTS



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Lesotho cricket team heads for World Cup qualifiers

MASERU – Lesotho men's national cricket team will head for Rwanda for the 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Sub-Regional Qualifier tournament set for October 14 until 23.

Lesotho Cricket Association Media Liaison Officer, Clifford Molefe told Metro that the team commenced its preparation in 2019 as the tournament was initially scheduled for 2020 but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have a provisional team of 20 people, which will later on be cut down to 16, being 14 players and two officials. The team is led by Mahloane Theko as the Head Coach while Bongane Mosiuoa is the Team Manager," he said.

Molefe added that the final squad should comprise 16 people as per the International Cricket Council (ICC) requirement.

The ICC is the main sponsor of the trip it told all the member associations that it will only afford to sponsor 16 people per team.

"The ICC mentioned that if any member association needs to have more people on the trip, they should sponsor those extra people with everything, so in our case, we cannot afford to sponsor extra people because of a tight budget," he noted.

He said they keep approaching potential sponsors for assistance



Members of the men's national cricket team during a match

but their efforts have so far been unsuccessful with most companies blaming the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tournament comprises

two groups and Lesotho is in Group A alongside hosts Rwanda, Malawi, Seychelles, Uganda, Ghana and Eswatini while Botswana, Cameroon, Tanzania, Mozambique,

Saint Helena, Sierra Leone are in Group B.

The Group B tournament commences on October 31 until November 8.

Two top teams from each group will proceed to the Africa Regional Final to compete against Kenya and Nigeria on November 21 still in Rwanda.

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*Germs that cause plaque, gingivitis and bad breath

LeFA teams up with English FA

MASERU – King's Counsel Salemane Phafane, President of the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA), the local soccer governing body, has announced a game-changing bilateral partnership with their English counterparts, FA that is expected to give football in the Mountain Kingdom a massive facelift.

He told a press briefing on Tuesday that LeFA has already purchased grassroots equipment worth M500 000 for its District Football Association (DIFAs) from the first batch of the bilateral support from FA through the UEFA Assist Program.

UEFA, the Union of European Football Associations is the administrative body for football, futsal and beach soccer in Europe.

"I know people have been asking if we have bilateral agreements and we said, we have them with several nations and football bodies," Phafane said.

"One of them like I said, is the English FA and by extension UEFA. When we were in talks with the FA, they extended our partnership beyond them by engaging UEFA," he further showed.

The LeFA President revealed that the association is also in negotiations

with the Moroccan FA over a similar collaboration.

"The expectation is that we will soon begin to reap fruits from these bilateral relations. We will begin to have exchange programmes with the Moroccan Football Association and by the same token, we are in the process of establishing a bilateral agreement with Belgium.

"Our hope is that if all goes well, we will recruit coaching staff from Belgium or trainers for our coaches. You will remember that we had agreements of this nature with a few nations such as the Germans and we recruited a coach from Germany but, the move did not give us good results.

"We are now looking to Belgium and the Secretary General is hard at work towards securing the agreement," he said.

Phafane was re-elected as LeFA President for a fourth term on September 11.

He retained his position at the helm of the association following a landslide victory over the DIFA Maseru boss, Lijane Nthunya.

He secured 42 votes out of 49 delegates, while his challenger only collected the remaining seven.

Howel contests at 10th Lesotho Sky race



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MASERU - South African born rider and Lesotho Sky event co-founder, Darol Howel who is now based in Switzerland is competing in his first ever Lesotho Sky Event during the 10th edition of the race which kicked off on Monday in Malealea, Mafeteng.

This, after he spent the previous years as the director of this big cycling competition in Lesotho.

One of the event organisers, Chris Schmidt of Sky Events told Metro that they were given the go ahead by the Ministry of Health to host the race, adding that due to a confirmed COVID-19 case in the timing crew this week, the organisers resolved that this year's edition would proceed as a non-competitive event behind closed doors with a small field of 20 local and international riders expected at the start on Monday in

Malealea.

In a statement released last week Tuesday, Schmidt said the majority of international riders has postponed to next year due to travel restrictions. He also said the six-day event will run until Saturday, with Alliance Insurance being the main sponsor.

"Pick n Pay Maseru is the Waterpoint sponsor while Malealea Lodge and Semonkong Lodge are our accommodation partners.

"The event comprises a total of 30 participants inclusive of the crew from hosts Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of Amerika (USA), Germany and Switzerland. The total route is 246 km long with 7500m of vertical climbing and broken down into five stages such that the riders will start with the 49.5 km loop from Malealea to Matelile for two days until Tuesday, followed by a 53.2km loop from Malealea to Ribaneng on

Wednesday, before taking the 44.7 km route from Semonkong to Eastern on Friday then finish with the 39.4 km route from Semonkong to 'Maletsunyane on Saturday," Schmidt noted.

He further highlighted that this year's edition would mark the shortest route ever for the event, adding it is however much tougher due a higher amount of technically demanding trails and less gravel road.

"A photographer and videographer will accompany the event and we will share daily updates on social media and a professional masseuse will offer massaging and stretching therapy while the mechanical support will be offered for the first time by Lesotho Bike Hangar managed by Lesotho's first female bicycle mechanic, Nthati Letsie. Any profits of

the event will go towards re-opening of Sky Cycling League as soon as COVID-19 regulations allow.

The race features several prominent riders such as Lesotho's Phethetso Monese **(pictured)** who is the winner of the Lesotho Sky 2019 race and the only rider in the world to compete in all 10 Lesotho Sky editions.

Tebello 'Mofa, one of the only two female Basotho cyclists to ever complete the Lesotho Sky Event is also in the race, making this her second appearance at the event after completing successfully in 2017.

Two other prominent cyclists, Marcel Frei from Switzerland and South Africa's Petruschka Constancon also made their debut at this year's edition of the competition.

Masupha, Molikoe represent Lesotho at IOA Youth Session

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MASERU - Two local youth in sports circles, Fako Masupha and Lisebo Molikoe are representing Lesotho at the ongoing two-week virtual International Olympic Academy (IOA) Young Participants session which commenced on Monday, September 13 and runs until Wednesday 22.

The annual event, traditionally held in June or July was initially scheduled for Greece but had to be switched to online due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

The 61st session is designed as an introduction to Olympism and the Olympic Movement, with the IOA bringing together a large international group of young people who are primarily students, Olympic athletes, people active in sport and the ones teaching in their respective National Olympic Committees.

Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) Head of Programmes, Pulumo Nchakha told Metro that participants are learning about Olympism.

"The International Olympic Academy (IOA)'s intention is to teach people about the Olympic movement so that they know more about the history of the Olympic movement, Olympic Games and why these games are held," he said.

Nchakha noted that the fortnight training covers the culture component in which participants are expected to showcase their cultural demonstration.

"Our two participants will share their cultural experiences through sending their videos making lithoko, litolobonya or any Basotho cultural activities in their traditional attire at the beginning of the session to show the world how we celebrate our independence and how we celebrate when we are happy," he said.

The session he showed is also inclusive of the art exhibition whereby participants are expected to do some demonstrations like drawing a picture portraying excellence, respect or friendship as the three Olympic values.

Masupha is LNOC's Programmes Coordinator and holds a degree in BA Urban and Regional Planning from the National University of Lesotho (NUL). He is a former basketball coach, president and player. He is also a former handball, football and volleyball player.

Molikoe is a Lesotho Olympic Academy member, an Olympic Values Education Programmes Trainer who has been involved in multiple youth programmes including coaching front ball. She is also a holder of Bachelor's degree in Accounting from NUL and a former basketball player. She attended the first African Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) Train the Trainers course in 2018.

The aim of the IOA is to educate, but more importantly, to motivate young people to use their experiences and knowledge gained from the session productively in promoting the Olympic ideals and educating others in their own countries.



LNOC's Fako Masupha and Lisebo Molikoe



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MASERU - Having previously served in two prominent sports administration boards, Sebajoa Sebajoa, a former high school sports master at Fobane High School in Leribe has garnered a wealth of experience that makes him one of the most revered sports administrators in Lesotho.

He is the former President of the Lesotho Cricket Association (LCA) after losing to Mhlooua Sepolo during the association's elective annual general meeting on Saturday, September 18.

Sebajoa, 51, a high school teacher by profession is also a qualified sports manager who holds Sports Administration Level One and Two certificates obtained from the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) in 2001 and 2003, respectively.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education obtained from the National University of Lesotho (NUL) in 1992.

As a sports administrator, the no-nonsense teacher represented Lesotho at a Strategic Planning workshop held in Seychelles from October 15-17, 2018.

The conference was a follow-up to the resolutions made during a meeting in Kenya earlier that year, which he also attended.

As LCA boss, he secured a car sponsorship, a Nissan Note worth M37 000 from Auto Group Motor Dealers, which was handed over to the association earlier this month.

The car is meant to be used for the cricket body's operational and logistical affairs.

Sebajoa also facilitated the implementation of the International Cricket Council (ICC) pilot project, which among others establishes hubs in Africa as a way of developing the sport from the grassroots level.

Lesotho will be the first country on the continent to benefit from the project through the establishment of hubs in Maseru, Buthe-Buthe, Mhale's Hoek, Leribe and Berea.

Born on September 10, 1970, Sebajoa Sebajoa is the son of the late Tsantsabane and Masebajoa Sebajoa of Likotopong, Bela-Bela, in Berea.

He is a first born in the family of five children, four boys and a girl bred in the rural village of Bela-Bela.

After he completed his primary education at Bela-Bela Primary School, he studied at Holy Names High School where he completed in 1987.

He was a strong volleyball player during high school days and a regular in the school senior team in the Lesotho Institutes Sport Association (LISA) Games.

His teaching career which spans about three decades began at St Philomena Secondary

Persevering cricket boss, long-serving teacher, Sebajoa Sebajoa



School in Leribe from 1992 to 1993.

In 1994, he moved to Paul VI High School in Mhale's Hoek where he remained until February 2007. He also served as a Sports Master at the school.

Additionally, he served as the teachers' representative in the school board. He taught English Literature and Development Studies (DS) during his three-year stay at the school.

In March, 2007, he moved to Cana High School in Berea where he taught DS. He also became Head of Department of Social and Commercial Studies. He further

served as the teachers' representative at the school during that time.

He left in 2013 and joined Fobane High School the following year. He still teaches DS and serves as Head of Department of Languages and Social Studies. He also serves as the teachers' representative in the school board.

Between 2000 and 2001, he was the Secretary General of the Southern Zone B of LISA before being elected as LISA Vice President the same year, a position he held until 2006.

Later that year, he became LISA President and served until 2009. He was also elected as Assistant

Secretary of LCA in 2006 before he became Secretary General from 2007 until 2009.

He was elected as LCA President in 2010 and served until 2012 before he was re-elected to the same position in 2017 until September this year.

"I developed an interest in cricket in 1996 after attending an introductory course in Mhale's Hoek.

"Growing up in a rural village, I did not know about role models. But I was inspired by my late father who believed in me and later by my former high school teacher, the late

Dr Lehlohonolo Phafoli. I cannot forget my childhood neighbour and friend, Setho Moremoholo who has always been there for me," Sebajoa recalls.

When the senior women cricket team was barred from participating at the 2018 Africa Qualifiers held in Zimbabwe, his pride took a serious knock.

The ICC criterion stipulates that in order to qualify for participation, a country must have at least 10 senior teams in the domestic league and at the time, Lesotho had only eight. As a result, the team's non-participation affected the country's standing in Africa.

Sebajoa cherishes hosting the Confederation of Schools Sports Associations for Southern Africa (COSSASA) Ball Games in Lesotho in 2007.

"LCA organised the best event ever in the history of the games in those days and I received an award from COSSASA for a job well done," he says.

His former colleague from LISA, Makhaola Serake describes him as a straightforward, principled, democratic and liberal person.

"We started working together at LISA in 2001 when he was the Secretary General. He listens to people and respects their opinions. He also respects majority decisions," he adds.

Another former colleague, from LCA, Gregory Ramaketekete describes him as a dedicated and highly determined gentleman.

"He had a good and clear vision for LCA. He is an opinionated person with great leadership skills and can be an asset to the country," he says.

Sebajoa is married with five children, three boys and two girls. Apart from cricket, he enjoys reading, researching and rambling (hiking).

