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THURSDAY February 3-9, 2022

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**ENERGY PRICES PUSH INFLATION**

*... as CBL raises repo rate to 4 percent* 3



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- Witness claims detained soldiers were tortured
- Kabi wins ABC leadership race
- Top cop sexual offence case postponed



## BORN ON THIS DAY

- February 3**
- 1989 – Zosias Mamet, American actress
  - 1979 – Shakira Ripoll, Columbian singer, dancer and songwriter
  - 1978 – Rich Sommer, American actor best known for his portrayal of Harry Crane on the AMC drama series Mad Men.
  - 1973 – Ben Mize, American musician
  - 1972 – Jennifer Westfeldt, American actress, screen writer, director and producer
  - 1956 – Christie Brinkley, American model
  - 1951 – Brent Spinner, Comedian, actor and singer
  - 1950 – Ina Garten, Celebrity chef and host of the Food Network programme, Barefoot Contessa
  - 1948 – Howard Bellamy of the Bellamy Brothers, Country musician
  - 1938 – Tom Smothers, American comedian

## NewsBriefs

### Former ABC cadres form new party



EMF's secretary general Futho Hoohlo and interim leader, Katiso Phasumane

**MASERU** - A group of former members of the ruling All Basotho Convection (ABC) has formed a new party called the Empowerment Movement for Basotho (EMB).

The party is led by Katiso Phasumane as the interim leader and chairperson as well as Futho Hoohlo who is the secretary general. The new kid on the block's slogan is "Sechaba Falimehang" – loosely translated to warn the nation to be vigilant.

Speaking during the launch of the party in Maseru on Monday, Mr Phasumane said as part of their policy, they will focus on youth empowerment through business establishment and expansion. He said they did not want to be a dictatorship party but wished to create a consultative platform that would open its doors to every Mosotho to discuss issues of small business empowerment.

This, he said was after they realised that some of the institutions that were intended to assist youth were in fact financially inaccessible.

"Agriculture is one of the most important aspects of

Lesotho's economy that could help create jobs but it is neglected and the Government fails to meet the people who are willing to make it profitable half way," he said.

Apart from that, he said they wished to see professionalised service delivery through all the Government sectors.

The party's interim committee consists of members who are from other political parties and they claim to have joined the EMB because it speaks their language.

Phasumane and Hoohlo are from the ABC, Phaea Sebeso, Mammelela Sekonyela, Nkopane Rangoako and Tšekelo Lekhoana are from the Basotho National Party (BNP), Chaba Gwele is from the RCL while Ramaqele Sello is also from the ABC.

The symbol of the party is a hand with middle and ring fingers folded and thumb, pinky and index fingers are pointing upward and its colours include turquoise blue, gold and black.

LeNA

### Majoro remains PM despite defeat

**MASERU** – The recent election of Nkaku Kabi as the new leader of the All Basotho Convention (ABC) will not affect Dr Moeketsi Majoro as the Prime Minister (PM) of Lesotho, political analyst, Professor Kopano Makoa has said.

He was responding to speculations that Dr Majoro might have to set down as the PM after losing the party leadership race to Kabi over the weekend.

The former Cabinet Minister won the race by 723 votes to Dr Majoro's 609.

Prof Makoa said only Members of Parliament (MP) have the right to challenge the Prime Minister's position.

"Removing him from office is unlikely because it will be a long process, the ABC cannot remove the PM as a party," he said.

He showed that Kabi could only become the premier in the event Dr Majoro resigned adding that the ABC

was not the only ruling party in the current coalition government.

He also said he did not believe MPs could propose a motion of no confidence against the PM as Lesotho was currently working tirelessly to complete the reforms process.

"There are still conflicts within the ABC so this will also make it difficult for the new leader to become the PM," he said.

For his part, ABC Public Relations Officer, Montoeli Masoetsa also refuted allegations that the party had written a letter proposing the removal of Dr Majoro as the PM.

Kabi was the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security at the time Dr Majoro kicked him out.

He previously also held positions as both the Minister of Water Affairs and the Minister of Health. LeNA

## FastFACTS



**In Hawaii, you can experience sunny beaches and snowy mountains on the same island**

This is one of the more fascinating facts about the world – best for last!

Hawaii only has two seasons – Summer and Winter but it actually has eight of the world's 13 climates! At sea level, the temperate rarely rises above 32°C or drops below 16°C but in the mountains of Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa and Haleakala, it snows pretty often!

## On This Day in History

### 1990



### February 3

#### The day the apartheid president broke political deadlock

On February 2, 1990, then President FW de Klerk addressed the opening of Parliament, changing the course of history. He unbanned exile political movements, the ANC, the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) and the South African Communist Party (SACP). FW de Klerk also announced that Nelson Mandela would be released after 27 years in jail. Mandela was released nine days later. FW de Klerk also announced a moratorium on the death penalty, the end of the state of emergency – which had been in place for five years. The speech would lay the ground for the country's first democratic elections, which took place four years later in April 1994.

## ALL JOKES ASIDE

### Drinking

A couple were dining out one evening, when the wife noticed a familiar face at the restaurant's bar.

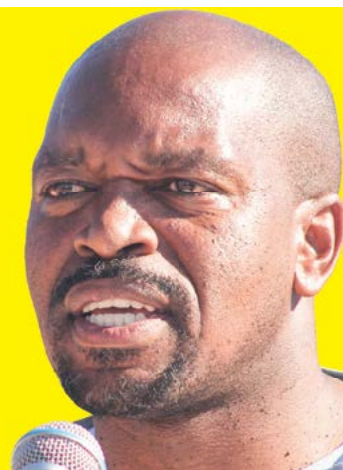
"Honey," she said as she pointed the guy out, "I know that guy at the bar and he has been drinking like that since I left him seven years ago!"

Her husband quickly replied, "That's silly, no one celebrates that long?"

## Quotes & Quips!

*"The journey to the top seat was not easy at all. Going forward, the internal fighting within the party's NEC will stop, ours is to fight to ensure that we win the upcoming general elections,"*

says Nkaku Kabi upon his election as the new leader of the All Basotho Convention (ABC).



**If it matters to you, it matters to us.**



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## Letšeng pays govt M60m dividends

4

# Metro BUSINESS

## CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	21.53
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	15.37
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.36
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.40
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.13
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.85

## STOCKS

S&P500	4,562.79
NASDAQ100	15,066.67
Nikkei225	27,533.60
Dow Jones30	35,405.96
FTSE 100	7,591.74
JSE	75,191.00
Hang Seng	23,802.26

## COMMODITIES (Rates in Us Dollars)

Gold p/ounce	1,808.76
Platinum p/ounce	1,049.20
Silver p/ounce	22.72
Copper p/ounce	4.47
Brent Oil p/barrel	89.83

## EQUITIES

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	M16.35
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M16.55
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M16.65
Paraffin p/litre	M12.00
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

# Energy prices push inflation

- CBL raises repo rate to 4 percent
- Job losses take toll

## NEO SENOKO

[business@maserumetro.com](mailto:business@maserumetro.com)

**MASERU** - The domestic inflation rate, as measured by the year on year percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), closed the year at 6.8 percent. Acting Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), Lehlomela Mohapi said during the Monetary Policy Committee Statement this week on Tuesday.

He said contrary to the previous inflationary phases that were driven by food prices, the current phase is driven by energy and transport costs, with food prices somehow moderating the acceleration.

Mr Mohapi said the inflation rate was expected to average 5.2 percent over the medium term.

"However, the possible adverse effect of recent heavy rains on food production and elevated prices of petroleum products present upward pressure to the inflation outlook," he said.

He said the central bank had also increased the repo rate at which it lends money to the commercial banks from 3.75 to 4.00 percent per annum.

At this rate, it will ensure that the domestic cost of borrowing money is aligned with the rest of the region. Last week, the South African Reserve Bank

also increased its repo rate by the same margin. At home, the increase comes at a time when loans to families grew by 3.2 percent while loans to businesses declined by 5.4 percent.

Mr Mohapi said credit to the private sector grew during the last quarter of 2021, albeit at a slower pace compared to the preceding quarter.

He said credit to households grew due to an increase in both personal loans and mortgages.

On the other hand, domestic economic activity, as measured by the Monthly Indicator of Economic Activity (MIEA), was estimated to have improved by 12.2 percent between October and November 2021, following five consecutive months of negative growth. This was mainly due to improvements in both demand and production sides of the economy.

Going forward, domestic economic growth is estimated to average 3.3 percent over the medium term.

The major drivers of economic activity will be construction and the services industry.

During the third quarter of 2021, the current account registered a deficit equivalent to 7.4 percent of GDP, following a larger deficit of 10.2 percent observed in the second quarter.

"This was driven mainly by



Acting CBL Governor, Lehlomela Mohapi

improvements in the goods account driven by increased exports of diamonds, clothing and textiles, water and some agricultural products," Mr Mohapi said.

"However, poor performance of the services account, as well as the income accounts, dampened this improvement."

The Government budgetary operations recorded a surplus equivalent to 5.0 percent of GDP during the last quarter of 2021 compared to a deficit of 11.7 percent of GDP in the previous quarter.

Mr Mohapi said the committee further

decided to revise upwards the current Net International Reserves (NIR) target floor of US\$ 760 million to US\$ 790 million.

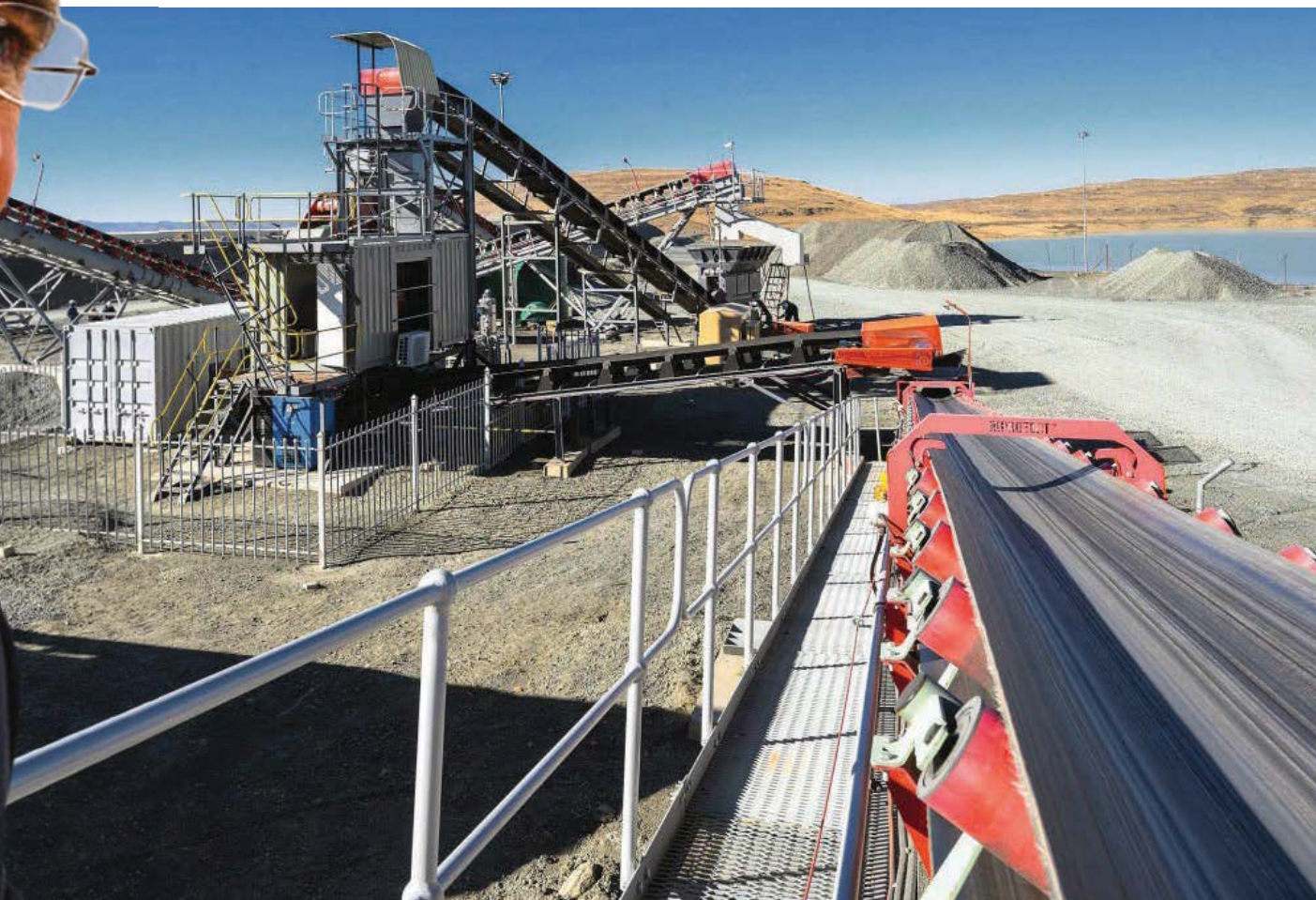
"At this level, the NIR target will remain consistent with the maintenance of the exchange rate peg between the loti and the South African rand," he said.

"While the domestic labour market conditions displayed mixed signals during the third quarter of 2021, the majority of the sectors recorded job losses. This was largely due to low external demand coupled with supply side disruptions."





# Letšeng pays govt M60m dividends



Gem Diamonds CEO, Clifford Elphick

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Save yourself, save your loved ones.

## NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** - Gem Diamonds Limited, a company that owns 70 percent of the Letšeng Diamond Mine has declared payment of US\$ 3.9 million (M59, 56 million) dividends to the Government of Lesotho.

The company announced on Tuesday that strong prices achieved in the December tender for the Letšeng's high value diamonds reflected a continued recovery of the global diamond market, which was supported by strong consumer demand.

In its fourth quarter trading update, the company said this trend had continued in the current year.

Among others, three diamonds greater than 100 carats were recovered to bring the total for the year to six.

During the period under review, Letšeng declared a dividend of US\$ 13.0 million resulting in a net cash flow of US\$ 8.6 million to Gem Diamonds and a cash outflow from the Group for withholding taxes of US\$ 0.5 million and payment of the government of Lesotho's share of dividend of US\$ 3.9 million.

Gem Diamonds Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Clifford Elphick said all operational and cost metrics for financial year 2021 were achieved.

"It is pleasing to report that all operational and cost metrics for the financial year 2021 were within, or better than, guidance and we have delivered our four year US\$100 million business transformation target," he said.

During the quarter, Mr Elphick said prices achieved for Letšeng goods;

averaging over \$2 000 per carat were strong, reflecting the continued good demand for Letšeng production - especially for the larger higher quality diamonds.

Five diamonds were sold for more than US\$1.0 million each, generating revenue of US\$ 16.3 million during the period, bringing the total number of diamonds sold for greater than US\$ 1.0 million to 21 for the year to date, generating revenue of US\$ 62.5 million.

Letšeng's statement was corroborated by the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), which also reported on Tuesday that in the third quarter, the current account was driven mainly by improvement in the goods account driven by increased exports of diamonds, clothing and textiles among others.

The group ended the period with US\$31.1 million of cash on hand (US\$23.5 million attributable to Gem Diamonds) with utilised facilities of US\$ 10.2 million, resulting in a net cash position of US\$ 20.9 million compared to US\$ 11.7 million net debt in the third quarter.

The Group-wide debt refinancing was successfully concluded during the period. An additional lender joined the lender group, bringing the total number of lenders to three, and the Group's revolving credit facilities were increased from US\$ 61.3 million to secured facilities of US\$ 77.0 million, in dollar equivalent.

US\$ 32.3 million of the facilities are sustainability linked loans where the margin and resultant interest rate will decrease subject to the Group meeting certain carbon reduction and water conservation Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are aligned with the Group's sustainability strategy.



# Business sector calls for support

## ...The Covid relief money is long overdue

**NEO SENOKO**  
business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** - The performance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years so that some of the businesses have had to close down and many people lost their jobs.

The businesses have since learnt a lot of lessons and many are changing ways of rendering services and offering products.

Project manager at the Private Sector Competitiveness and Economic Diversification Project (PSCEDP), Chaba Mokuku says supporting these small businesses is critical and new strategies need to be applied to change policies and adapt institutions for small businesses to continue contributing meaningfully post the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Several strategic measures can power a stronger recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic due to their innovative and opportunity seeking nature, but they need more support," he said.

Mr Mokuku said: "Such support, however, should perhaps be aligned with the priorities of the post-COVID-19 social and economic recovery."

He added that part of the plan was to accelerate investment climate reforms and ensured success.



Head of the Prime Minister Delivery Unit (PMDU), Chaba Mokuku

"The MSME sector needs all the support needed in order to recover from the pandemic," he said. "MSME sector should be supported in order to strengthen the entire ecosystem of entrepreneurs."

He said there was going to be an incubation rollout that would

ensure more businesses had access to resources.

"However, all the measures will also depend on the management of the pandemic by the country," Mr Mokuku also said.

"If we manage the pandemic in such a manner that we do not go back

to the lockdown periods, it means we have to comply with health protocols. We have to ensure that people are vaccinated because it is key towards lowering transmission and hospitalization."

Mr Mokuku is also head of the Prime Minister Delivery Unit (PMDU).

Despite the Government's private business efforts to help out, it seems some of the players in the small business sector are losing hope. Their capabilities and creativity due to lack of financial support as earlier promised by the Government are thinning out.

To date, thousands of street vendors are yet to receive their share of the COVID-19 Relief Fund, which was promised to them by Government in order to revive their businesses. Each vendor was promised at least M500 to remain in business. The relief fund was aimed at mitigating the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Just like other sectors, street vendors were forced to stay home during the tough lockdown periods since March 2020.

It resulted in increased poverty levels coupled with the collapse of businesses along the way.

On the other hand, The

Government launched an initiative to mitigate the adverse effect of the national lockdown through the establishment of the Private Sector COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Through the Lesotho Enterprise Assistance Programme (LEAP) within the Private Sector Competitiveness and Economic Diversification Project (PSCEDP), the fund was allocated a total of M50 million.

But many of the street vendors are yet to benefit from the fund, raising a lot of questions about the Government's willingness to support the sector towards its recovery.

Lately, officials from the ministry of small business have been slated for intentionally delaying to process the COVID-19 relief funds to thousands of street vendors across the country.

A representative of the street vendors' association, Tšolo Lebisa had earlier told the Maseru Metro that no progress had been made to date in line with the release of the funds, accusing officials from the ministry of intentional sabotage.

Government, on the other hand blamed the delay on the lack of availability of data from other districts that is necessary to initiate payments.

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# Comments & Letters

## How soon will the government repair our roads?

**The Editor,**  
When will the government ever repair destroyed roads and bridges? We acknowledge that Lesotho is experiencing heavy rains, some of which are abnormal, but the government really needs to do something because it should be expected that emergencies like these would happen every once in a while. Widespread damage has not only destroyed roads and bridges but livelihoods too.

Children cannot get to schools because bridges are no more. Businesses cannot offer their goods and services because transport has come to a halt.

Connection between districts and communities is a challenge and the

government needs to be seen to be doing something. People need essential services like healthcare, electricity and water supply. This infrastructure needs serious attention because it forms part of the most basic supply of necessities people need daily.

How soon will the government do something worthy?

We cannot even file a complaint because we know our leaders always promise but never deliver. We also know our pleas will be ignored instead.

Boitumelo Mosebo  
Ha Lori, Leribe

## Why do you vote?

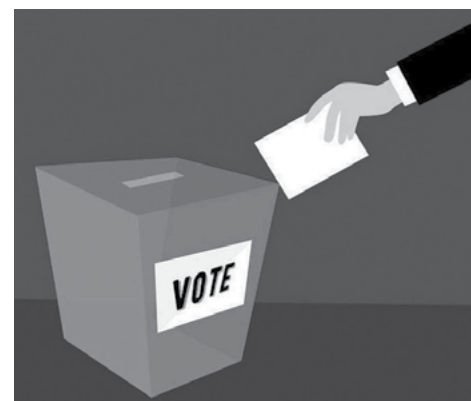
**The Editor,**

A lot goes on in a person's mind before they decide whether or not to vote. Some of it could be influenced by promises our political leaders make. But it is worrying when they promise stuff to change our lives for the better, like jobs, and yet they cannot live up to their word.

The whole voting business is an inconvenience to a lot of us, who live to see these empty promises. It never ends although it is time consuming and pointless at the same time.

On Election Day, many of us leave our commitments to stand in the long queues for nothing. Only a few benefit from our votes because it makes a difference in their lives such as better pay, good schools for their children and other political connections that come with along with voting.

Yes, some people may think their votes make a difference in their lives, but they are mistaken because their lives never change. They remain poor no matter how much statistics prove to the contrary.



Sometimes we vote because we want to please politicians or because they intimidate us. Oftentimes, we do it because of peer pressure brought about by friends, family and acquaintances. Better still, we vote because we feel special, valued and do it with the hope of getting recognition.

So, do you know why you vote?

lthabeleng Motsopa  
lhoahloeng, Mphahle's Hoek

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

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### A must for govt to relieve businesses

These are hard times coming from the COVID-19 distraction and destruction and small businesses need financial assistance like never before. It is appalling however, that government is not doing much to rescue the businesses except to pay lip service to one of the pillars of economic growth.

Elsewhere, political and business leaders are having sleepless nights figuring out how they will resuscitate fallen domestic businesses to their former glory. It is not business as usual and everybody is asking questions about the sort of relief appropriate to sustain business.

In Lesotho, traders are not asking for much, a mere M500, but the people accountable are not forthcoming.

It does not end there – the jobless figures are going up in a country that was already faced with a high unemployment rate. The cost of living is also unrelenting given the increasing prices of fuel, food and transport. Government leaders cannot perform miracles but, at least, they must prove a point why they were elected into office. Of course, we know the consequences of a nation that is operating at below full employment levels. We know it will lead to an increase in the crime rate with people stealing, not necessarily out of greed, but for survival. Each week, we hear reports of different incidents of crime, many brought about by hunger. Others caused by stress related to economic hardship of joblessness.

Economic growth does not mean much if it cannot be translated into the quality of life. Often, we fall into the trap of attractive figures of experts on the account of how much gains a country is making and yet many people suffer. Well, drivers of economic activity such as construction or temporary jobs are fine but for as long the majority of the population is unemployed, it does not make much of a sense. We need sustainable jobs that should make figures of employment or unemployment meaningful.

Politics is fine but if it does not bring economic solutions, it is inevitable that the politicians will face the wrath of the voters. It will be a slippery slope where every sort of failure would be blamed on the lawmakers. The people need food, jobs, healthcare, water and electricity and no amount of statistics will make them grateful than these basic necessities. So far, most people including the street hawkers and corner cafes, are not asking for luxuries but for a few hundred maloti to make a difference in their lives. You have no idea how much impact and difference it could make even though it sounds such paltry. Some, of course, are going to spend it all on food but it could be sufficient capital to many of the small businesses that have gone under. The nasty COVID-19 pandemic has been a curse to all of us but life has to go on and it begins with small steps such as the M500 that was earmarked for relief.

It is a deserving case and no one should bear responsibility more than the Government.

## Soaring energy prices could cripple the economy

Leave it to the current generation of central bankers with their abundance of God complexes to believe that they can shape anything but the very shortest end of the yield curve. While they set overnight interest rates and the nominal supply of money by brazen open-market purchases of securities inflating their balance sheets, ultimately interest rates – the ones that count further down the yield curve – must always be a function of the real economy.

What is the supply of money from those who are saving and the demand from those who are borrowing?

Borrowing, or the demand for money, is easy to observe and measure as it is simply a function of banks' loan books. These show that, in the US at least, there has been consistent loan growth since the financial crisis underpinning a slow but steady economic expansion. It is a broadly similar picture in South Africa, where banks expanded their loan balances to businesses and households consistently up to 2020, following which (owing to either worsening credit quality or demand for borrowing) it has flat-lined.

Either way, it can be surmised that borrowing is more or less constant. Though it might increase one year more than others, massive fluctuations – the type that would have a major impact on the price of money, the interest rate – are extremely unusual.

The supply side, however, is far more interesting, if complicated. Household savings tend to be fairly consistent over the long term, even if they differ substantially across economies and countries. Much academic research has been done on this topic, but it remains unclear as to exactly what shapes an economy's predilection to save. For example, over the past 50 years, Americans have consistently spent more and saved less than Chinese, who save an extraordinary 40% of aggregate income.

One exception occurred last year when the Biden administration decided to send yet another round of cheques to every household in America. This had the instantaneous effect of increasing savings, and thus – regardless of anything the Fed happened to do – lowered the price of money.

When forecasting future interest rates, the critical question is: what will determine short-term saving rates? That is almost always largely a function of the cost of energy or, in the shorthand of traders, the oil price. This is simply a factor of the material importance across the economy of energy prices as a share of income spent; estimates vary but indicate that, in the US, about 10% of household incomes is spent on energy, and this increases to around 25% for lower-income households.

In emerging economies such as South Africa, the percentage is equally high at about a quarter of income. The only truly variable cost eating at savings is energy.

This is borne out by data: the long-term correlation between the oil price and the US benchmark 10-year treasury yield (with higher oil prices resulting in higher prices of money or interest rates) is extraordinarily consistent, especially in periods of oil price volatility.

Of course, when it comes to the oil price, we find ourselves in a fascinating if concerning situation. Oil prices hit a seven-year high

last week on bets that demand could outstrip supply later this year. Brent, the international benchmark, rose to a high of \$88 a barrel, the highest level since October 2014 and almost 30% higher in only two months.

Traders say that the market is caught in a perfect

storm of limited capacity for producers to increase supply after years of underinvestment in new projects, a very limited appetite for OPEC+ to lower prices, and a surge in post-pandemic lockdown demand for energy as the northern hemisphere enters the coldest spell of winter.

Spending on renewable energy has not helped as oil majors have prioritised green transformation above increasing the production of fossil fuels. Total spare capacity among Opec+ members was forecast to reach "historically low levels" of about 1.2 million barrels per day by the summer, according to Goldman Sachs, which says that \$100 a barrel by the end of the year is entirely feasible. Therefore the question must be: what impact will this have on the global economy and markets? If oil continues to go up, consuming savings and household incomes, it will pull up yields and exacerbate cost-side inflationary pressures. This would result in higher prices, lower disposable incomes, a slowing economy, rising bond yields and higher interest rates. Quite simply, it could be a worst-case situation for valuations of risk assets such as equities, which are contingent on economic growth and lower discount rates for their valuations.

Net energy-importing developing economies such as South Africa are particularly exposed. It is far too early to say if this toxic mix of inflation, rising energy prices, slowing economic growth and rapidly rising yields will happen. But the reality is that, if yields become stubbornly high because of energy prices, the effects on risk assets such as equities and the economy could be profound. DM168

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# Cooperatives create jobs - Economist

- Cooperatives movement is an alternative tool which is important to reignite a struggling economy
- Creating jobs and enhancing production are not usually achieved by private enterprises alone



Maseru town

youth cooperatives," he said. "From a youth to an elderly people, everyone is eligible."

He said the cooperatives used to boost the country's economy many years ago, when Basotho preferred cooperatives to commercial banks such that most Basotho, who now join the cooperatives, are the elderly.

Admittedly, Mr Shale said the cooperatives were known as agricultural projects and were presumed as not fashionable by the youths.

"It is still the same even today," he said. "There are young people who are still beholden in the old idea that they cannot engage in farming. They believe agriculture is for the less fortunate."

With that belief in mind, Mr Shale said most cooperatives were taken over by the elderly, a common practice in Lesotho where pensioners go into agriculture when they retire.

"This is wrong," he said. "Doing so is not promoting agriculture to thrive. Demonstrations of agriculture are usually done with the elderly, a feat I strongly disapprove."

He said the youth should not watch from the terraces but join cooperatives to find their way out of poverty.

With 64 affiliates of Co-op Lesotho across the country, he said many cooperatives were still unregistered.

"Cooperatives can grow wealth," Mr Tjapela said. "This is the opportune time for the youth to shine a spotlight on the importance of cooperatives to help the jobless graduates out of poverty."

"A cooperative should have a name and objectives. It should also have a physical address," he said.

While this would help identify the cooperative amongst others, he said there were no age limitations to enter the cooperatives.

"So it is for this reason that there are also

Local economist and the CEO of the Phuthalichaba Savings and Credit Cooperatives Society Ltd, Tebello Tjapela

**STAFF REPORTER**

**MASERU** – Tebello Tjapela, a local economist and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Phuthalichaba Savings and Credit Cooperatives Society Ltd, says the youth should engage massively in cooperatives to navigate their way out of poverty.

"They should heed a call to start thinking of cooperatives to break through poverty clutches," he said.

Mr Tjapela's advice is that the youth should not be afraid to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty on the ground.

He told Maseru Metro that cooperatives movement was an alternative tool which was important to reigniting a struggling economy, especially after the COVID-19 devastation.

"What is essential now is more production," he said. "If there is more production, jobs could be created. People could then have an income that they could spend."

He said creating jobs and enhancing production were not usually achieved by private enterprises alone because there was usually a litany of obstacles they faced.

Usually a plethora of start-ups hit a brick-wall in the long run. In most cases, they remain as small businesses and never grow. But through cooperatives the financial resources are pooled together.

"This means every one could contribute his or her share towards a common goal," Mr Tjapela said. "When people with different skills come together, that builds a good combination to start a business."

He added that this could help to drive the country's economy.

Thabo Shale, the CEO of the Lesotho Cooperatives said cooperatives had always been there since time immemorial.

"And Basotho have been working with them for many years to enhance production," he said. "Basotho have always worked together to weed their fields, a typical example of cooperatives. Cooperatives simply mean working together for a common purpose."

Cooperatives are administered under the Cooperatives Societies Act no 6 of 2000 which was amended in 2014 and Mr Shale said the amendment of the Act had plugged a hole for financial misstatements and irregularities.

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**MITSUBISHI MOTORS**



# New Shoes, New You

Tekkie Town

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Lapis La Zuli

Sneaker Planet

Ellen Bee

Studio 88

The Hanger



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## Initiation schools get a reprieve

...Initiates are proper, fit and good to go



Mr Rampai said he acknowledged that the COVID-19 was a crisis but he maintained that boys and girls should be allowed to become “real men and women of the culture”.

“We believe that once everything is settled down, boys who are interested will climb the

mountains and enter the bush with pride,” he said.

“It must be noted that the previous restrictions also applied to female initiations where in some parts of the country, women and girls still undergo initiation rituals.”

In his national address

recently, Dr Majoro emphasised that traditional or initiation schools would be permitted subject to the adherence of the COVID-19 guidelines.

He said he had suspended all initiation schools to avoid putting the lives of initiates and communities at risk.

Initiates at a initiation school and their instructor

### LINEO MABEKEBEKE

health@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** – Under the COVID-19 regime, initiations schools got a reprieve recently as they were called to reopen after the relaxation of the lockdown restrictions by Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro.

Initiation school teachers are working hard to catch up on the lost time, with the expected start to a long-held tradition that is still considered an integral part of Basotho culture.

Chairman of the Traditional Association of Leribe, Mokete Rampai, says initiation schools are ready to comply and adhere to the COVID-19 protocols including social distancing whenever

possible.

However, he said only a few initiates would be allowed into one hut, while water and soap would also be used liberally.

“Committees and traditional leaders have met and discussed ways on how best to implement safety measures in place during the coming initiation season,” Mr Rampai said.

“The suspension of initiation schools was a great blow and a disruption to our cultural practice. We really missed the ceremonies and basic life skills, which are the foundations of rites of passage. It would be impossible to maintain social distancing between initiates but COVID-19 and other medical tests are necessary to ensure that everybody is fit and proper.”





**Invest in a Neti Pot**

Plagued with sinus problems? Rinse your nasal passages twice a day to flush out pollen and other irritants. Put saline solution (a ¼ teaspoon salt and 1 cup warm water) in a plastic squirt bottle or a nasal irrigator, a spouted container that allows you to pour water directly into your nose. The solution should fill your nasal cavity and spill out the other nostril. Gently blow your nose afterward.

**Leg-Length and Diabetes**

Are shorter people at greater risk of diabetes? It may depend on their overall body shape, according to some studies. In general, bigger bellies put us at greater risk of diabetes. But people with longer legs can afford somewhat larger bellies

than shorter-legged people without an additional diabetes risk.

One study of about 460 patients with type-2 diabetes risks like obesity and high blood pressure found that those with shorter legs were less sensitive

to insulin than those with longer legs. The researchers suggested this could be caused by poor nutrition during childhood. Similar studies in China and Brazil have affirmed the association between shorter legs and a greater diabetes risk.



AHD donates food to a needy member of the community

# Lesotho aims for HIV free generation

- A lot needs to be done to find ways to prevent and implement preventative measures to new infections in young women

**MASERU** – Over the past 18 years, Lesotho is reported to have made a massive progress in the distribution and administration of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART).

This emerged at the stakeholders' validation meeting piloted by the National AIDS Commission (NAC) in Maseru on Thursday last week.

While outlining the HIV and AIDS epidemiology, HIV/AIDS Manager at the Ministry of Health, Dr Tapiwa Tarumbiswa said the country had been able to reach the 90 90 90 target which focuses on the 90 percent of the population knowing their HIV status, 90 percent of the people living with HIV should be on ARTs and the 90 percent of the people living with HIV and are on ART should have their viral load suppressed.

He said the country's focus on health would make the sector sustainable and identify areas of need to scale up targeted HIV testing services.

Dr Tarumbiswa said this would include the establishment of men's corners aimed at motivating men to go to health centres, amongst others.

The HIV prevalence amongst young adults from the age of 15 and above is 22.7 percent of the country's population with young women the most infected.

"It shows there is a lot of work that needs to

be done to find ways to prevent and implement preventative measures to new infections in young women," Dr Tarumbiswa said.

Social Development Principal Secretary (PS), 'Mantšhenki Mphalane said Lesotho was committed to ending AIDS by 2030 based on the National HIV and AIDS strategic plan 2018/19-2022/23 developed to guide the country towards this goal.

She said the Mid Term Review took place just in time simultaneously with the new Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 that sets the response for HIV/AIDS.

Across the world, the strategy has been approved and puts Lesotho in a good position to be responsive and relevant towards the creation of an HIV free generation. Mrs Mphalane said it was an opportunity to make changes nationally and globally and commit to ending AIDS by 2030. Meanwhile, the Cooperative Services Manager, National AIDS Commission, Mamello Letsie said consultations to validate the Mid Term Review draft of the National HIV and AIDS strategic Plan 2018-19/ 2022-23 were important.

She said the consultations outlined amongst others the current HIV/TB status in Lesotho and globally, and shared information.

The National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2018/19-2022/23 was developed through consultative processes in 2018.



# Healthy partnership to reduce deaths



WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

A pregnant teenager

## LINEO MABEKEBEKE

**MASERU** - A joint programme on Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (MNCAAH) of the United Nations (UN), UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and World Health Organisation (WHO) has kicked off to work together towards the reduction of preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths.

Some of the health problems affecting adolescents include barriers to accessing information on sexual and reproductive health, which result in the lack of knowledge and skills to prevent unwanted pregnancies and HIV infection.

They also experience sexual and gender based violence including harmful cultural practices such as early and forced child marriage.

The programme brings together the wealth of expertise located within the governments and partners and makes use of the lessons learned during the implementation of the first round of the MNCAAH programme.

Since May 2020, WHO has supported countries to raise their profile and commitment to MNCAAH through an initiative on mitigating the indirect impacts of

COVID-19 on MNCAAH services.

In a report released by WHO this week, the goal is to ensure that during the response to COVID-19, actions would be taken to mitigate indirect effects on MNCAAH due to disruptions to service provision and use.

The initiative brought together teams across headquarters, regional and country office teams of WHO to support member countries.

The goal is to work in close collaboration with national COVID-19 response structures and discuss MNCAAH particular needs during the pandemic.

Regional and country teams work together and in some cases to establish and engage in national MNCAAH technical groups to strengthen country level governance and coordination.

These groups are led by the ministries of health and often include other national implementing partners. It was expected that by 2020, the UN joint programme would benefit countries with maternal mortality burden to gain increased use of integrated, quality reproductive MNCAAH, HIV and gender based violence services to contribute to the reduction of maternal and newborn mortality.

**MAJANTJA FC PRESENTS**

**Back to School**

**(FUNDRAISING EVENT)**

**GUEST : BAHLA KOANA LEHASA (LTV)**

**LINE UP** .....

**STLOFA - TSHEPZA DJ - BHOGZELA**  
**BLACKONIX - CUTTER**  
**PHILMON - DEEP TAAC - THUL-QUEST**  
**TSHEPO V DRUMZ - MC : CURA & MAVELE**

**05<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**VENUE: BUZY CORNER**  
**M40 DAMAGE**  
**M50 AT THE GATE**

UNDER COVID-19 PROTOCOLS



# The world in 10 minutes

## ROME

### You caught me: Pope congratulates reporter who saw him at record shop

Pope Francis has congratulated the reporter who caught him visiting old friends who run a Rome record shop recently, joking that it was his "bad luck" that the news got out.

The visit was to have remained secret but Javier Martinez-Brocal of the Rome Reports television news agency was in the area in central Rome by chance. He filmed it with his smart phone, posted it on Twitter, and it went viral.

In a letter sent to Martinez-Brocal, Francis, 85, congratulated him on his work and lamented his own misfortune.

"You can't deny that it was a case of bad luck ... that after taking all the precautions, there was a reporter there at the taxi rank," Francis said in the letter Martinez-Brocal shared with colleagues.

"One should not lose one's sense of humour," Francis said. "Thanks for doing your job, even if it did put the pope in difficulty."



## USA

### Remembering faces and names can be improved during sleep

New research has documented the effect reactivating memory during sleep has on face-name learning. The researchers found that people's name recall improved significantly when memories of newly learned face-name associations were reactivated while they were napping. Key to this improvement was uninterrupted deep sleep.

For those who rarely forget a face, but struggle with names, the remedy for boosting learning may be as near as your pillow.

New research by Northwestern University is the first to document the effect reactivating memory during sleep has on face-name learning.

"It's a new and exciting finding about sleep, because it tells us that the way information is reactivated during sleep to improve memory storage is linked with high-quality sleep," said lead author Nathan Whitmore, a Ph.D. candidate in the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program at Northwestern.



## MOZAMBIQUE

### Study in Mozambique finds hippos talk through sounds

Scientists say hippos can communicate with each other and tell the difference between the honking sounds of their friends, neighbours and strangers.

Until now, the function of the loudest and most common hippo calls, known as "wheeze honks", has been a mystery.

French researchers recorded hippo sounds at a nature reserve in Mozambique and broadcast the recordings through loud speakers over lakes.

They found hippos responded differently to friend and foe, suggesting they could tell each other apart.

The lead scientist Nicolas Mathevon says the knowledge could help in the conservation of hippos, which are not yet endangered, but whose numbers are falling fast.



## MALAWI

### Malawi president fires cabinet amid graft concerns

Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera has sacked his entire cabinet over corruption concerns.

In a televised address to the nation on Monday, the president vowed to "confront all forms of lawless conduct by public officials".

He said a new cabinet would be announced in two days.

Three ministers are facing charges including the minister of lands who was arrested last month in a bribery case.

The labour minister has been accused of diverting Covid funds and the energy minister of meddling with fuel deals. All have denied the allegations.

Mr Chakwera was elected in 2020 promising to fight corruption.

Last week two powerful church groups told him he was not doing enough to tackle the problem.



## NEW YORK

### African countries lagging in education targets – UN

The world will miss the goal of quality education for all by 2030 with sub-Saharan Africa faring the worst of all, according a new study by the UN's education organisation, Unesco.

In the region, millions of children will continue to miss out on school and high-quality learning, the study found.

In sub-Saharan Africa 8% of children of primary school age are predicted to be out of school by the 2030 deadline. This is an improvement on the current figure of 19%.

No region is on track to achieve the goal of universal completion of secondary education by 2030.

If it can be said that an education system is as good as its teachers, then the report is a wake-up call for leaders in Africa.

Despite the region's best efforts, over a quarter of pre-primary teachers will remain untrained.

However, the percentage of trained teachers globally is expected to increase between 2015 and 2030 to over 90% at each level of education. The fastest growth is expected at the pre-primary education level, from 70% to 94%.



## JAPAN

### Tasty TV: Japanese professor creates flavourful screen

Your days of wondering what the delicious food on cooking channels tastes like may well be over.

A Japanese professor has developed a prototype of a lickable TV screen, that allows for the flavour profiles of food to be created. With this device, all one needs to do to taste the food on the display is lick the screen.

The device is called Taste the TV (TTTV) and involves 10 flavour canisters spraying a combination of flavours onto a plastic film that's layered onto a flat-screen TV, in an attempt to recreate the taste of a food item.

"The goal is to make it possible for people to have the experience of something like eating at a restaurant on the other side of the world, even while staying at home," Meiji University professor Homei Miyashita told Reuters.

"I'm thinking of making a platform where tastes from all over the world can be distributed as 'taste content.' It's the same as watching a movie or listening to a song that you like," Miyashita added. "I hope people can, in the future, download and enjoy the flavours of the food from the restaurants they fancy, regardless of where they are based in the future."



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## Be Car-Smart

# 10 Basic Car Care And Maintenance Tips

OCTOBER 9, 2014 / BY FIRST

A car is an important personal investment, but owning one, whether it is a new car or a used car, takes a lot of hard work. It has to be well taken care of to ensure its reliability and prevent breakdowns. Used cars especially need extra attention as they are more difficult and more expensive to maintain than new cars.

Following a regular maintenance routine will help extend the life of your car as well as keep your car's performance at its peak. It will also save you a lot of money in repairs. Here are 10 basic car care and maintenance tips to follow.

### Park in the shade

Parking your car in the shade prevents interior damage by UV rays and protects your car's paint job. If a shaded area is not available, use a car shade to

minimize the sun's impact.

### Change engine oil and filter regularly

Many car owner's manual today recommend increasing the interval between oil changes. But frequent oil change is still necessary especially if you are maintaining a used car. Frequent oil changes flush abrasive dirt and metal particles out of the engine, thus prolonging its life. Change the oil filters because the old filters contain buildup of oil and dirt particles that will otherwise remain and mix with the new, clean oil.

### Take care of your tyres

Check your tyre pressure at regular intervals and keep them inflated to the recommended pressure specified in your user manual. Another thing to look out for is uneven wear. If you have properly maintained the tyre pressure, then uneven wear might suggest that it is time for wheel realignment.

Uneven wear also suggests worn-out brakes or shock absorbers, a bent wheel or internal tyre damage.

Also have your wheel alignment checked every 50,000 km. Improper wheel alignment shortens the life of your tyres as well as causes steering problems. See if your steering is stiffer than usual or if your car pulls to one side. If it does, you need to have your wheel alignment checked.

### Clean your car engine

Wash your engine at least every year. A clean engine runs cooler than a dirty one. A clean engine also enables you to easily spot leaks and service its components. You may have your engine professionally steam cleaned or you may opt to do it yourself. In this case, make sure you protect sensitive engine components including the air intake, distributor and electrical parts with plastic bags before getting started. You may use a grease-cutting detergent and a bristle brush to scrub the engine. Make sure to rinse thoroughly once done.

### Change spark plugs

Many manufacturers recommend changing spark plugs every 50,000 km. This ensures good fuel mileage and high engine performance.

### Maintain your car battery

It does not matter if the manufacturer claims that the battery is maintenance-free, you still have to

regularly check your car battery to extend its life. Start by keeping your battery terminals clean. You may wipe it with a damp rag with some detergent if needed. Also check the battery case for any sign of damage. Cracks or bulges are signs that your car battery needs to be replaced.

### Select a reliable car insurer

No matter how careful you are, accidents or damages are inevitable. In this case, you need to have a car insurer you can trust. Choose a car insurer who replaces damaged parts only with original parts from the manufacturer and who can give you guarantees on repairs.



# Toyota Hilux Raider - Jack of all Trades



In the latter part of 2020 the Toyota Hilux underwent a significant model update, bringing with it sharpened exterior styling, specification upgrades, a rationalised line-up and new flagship Legend grade. The SRX grade of old (which catered to customers requiring a blend of utility and comfort) has thus needed to make way for the reimagined Raider nameplate.

### Why rebadge the SRX as a Raider?

The simple answer is that as the 'bakkie' market has evolved, customers have come to expect more from even utility-biased derivatives. This in turn meant that the mid-tier SRX grade moved closer-and-closer into traditional Raider territory, somewhat blurring the lines between the mid-grade and top-grade models.

What has changed between SRX and the new Raider?

With the introduction of the new high-end Legend model, this provided the opportunity to optimise the model-line up and offer customers more across the board. The 'new Raider' offers the perfect blend of style and utility.

### What about the engine line-up?

Visually the new Raider inherits the latest Hilux 'face', featuring sculpted headlamps, a larger trapezoidal grille, integrated bumper guard and boomerang-shaped fog-lamp surrounds. Unique to Raider is the chrome treatment of the front grille frame - creating a signature look for the model.

The 18-inch wheels have been swapped out for graphite-coloured 17" versions - creating a tough yet stylish look. These are shod with 265-65-R17 tyres.

Previously the SRX models were paired with the 2.4 GD-6 engine delivering 110kw and 400Nm, while the Raider variants were paired exclusively with the 2.8 GD-6 engine. With the merging of the two grades, we now offer both 2.4 and 2.8 GD-6 Raider models.

Raider models also benefit from the upgraded IGD engine (2.8 GD-6) producing 150kw and 500 Nm in automatic transmission guise. Manual models boast the same 150kw with 420Nm of torque, while the 2.4 GD-6 outputs remain unchanged.

### Is the new Raider just a de-specced version of the old one then?

Quite the contrary. In recognition of the increased dual-purpose usage the new Raider models have received some notable upgrades - particularly on the safety front. Park Distance Control (PDC) has been added while the Airbag tally has increased with the addition of side and curtain airbags (SRX models previously only had driver and passenger airbags).

The fog lamps have been upgraded to LED-spec on 2.4 models, while 2.8 versions now feature full LED headlamps and taillights.

A Variable-Flow Control (VFC) power-steering pump has been added - not only does this improve fuel economy, it also provides a more natural driving feel that varies depending on the driving conditions. A high level of assistance is offered at low speeds (parking manoeuvres) while offering lower levels of assistance at higher cruising speeds in order to improve steering feel. In terms of drivetrain, an Auto Limited Slip Diff (LSD) has also been specified for Raider models, aiding traction in low-grip situations.

The SRX offered a choice of 4x2 or 4x4 and an auto transmission option; is this still the case?

Yes, there are multiple Raider models to choose from depending on body-style. In single and double-cab format, the 2.4 GD-6 is available in both Raised Body (4x2) and 4x4 configuration, with a choice of either a 6-speed manual or 6-speed automatic transmission. The 2.8 GD-6 is available as either Raised Body or 4x4 and coupled with the 6-speed 'auto'. The Xtra cab variants feature a simplified two model line-up (in-line with market trends).

### Are the spec upgrades reserved for the exterior only?

No, as part of the model update the interior too has received some attention. A new 'floating' infotainment system with 8-inch screen and rotary-knob control occupies the centre of the fascia.

Apple CarPlay and Android Auto functionality are now embedded within the system. This allows users to mirror applications off their mobile phone - for seamless connectivity. Navigation applications such as Google Maps and Waze are natively included and occupants can also access their music libraries and streaming accounts via apps like Apple Music, JOOX, Spotify and SoundCloud. Wireless telephony is supported via Bluetooth with a USB input for additional media options.

An enlarged Multi-Information Display (MID) and new instrument cluster design, also forms part of the package. These are over and above the existing standard specification items such as: air-conditioning (automatic climate control on 2.8 GD-6 versions), cruise control, reverse camera, air-conditioned glovebox, 12- and 220-volt accessory connectors, tilt-and-telescopic adjustable leather steering wheel and steering switches.

### Is Toyota Connect part of the deal?

Yes, all Hilux models are also equipped with the Toyota Connect telematics system which includes an in-car Wi-Fi hotspot and complimentary

15Gb data. Once linked to their profile, customers can manage their vehicle via the My Toyota App. This intuitive app allows on-demand service bookings, vehicle information and history, tracking data as well as Toyota Connect data recharge services and much more - latterly even including the ability to renew your vehicle license online.

### What are the warranty and maintenance terms?

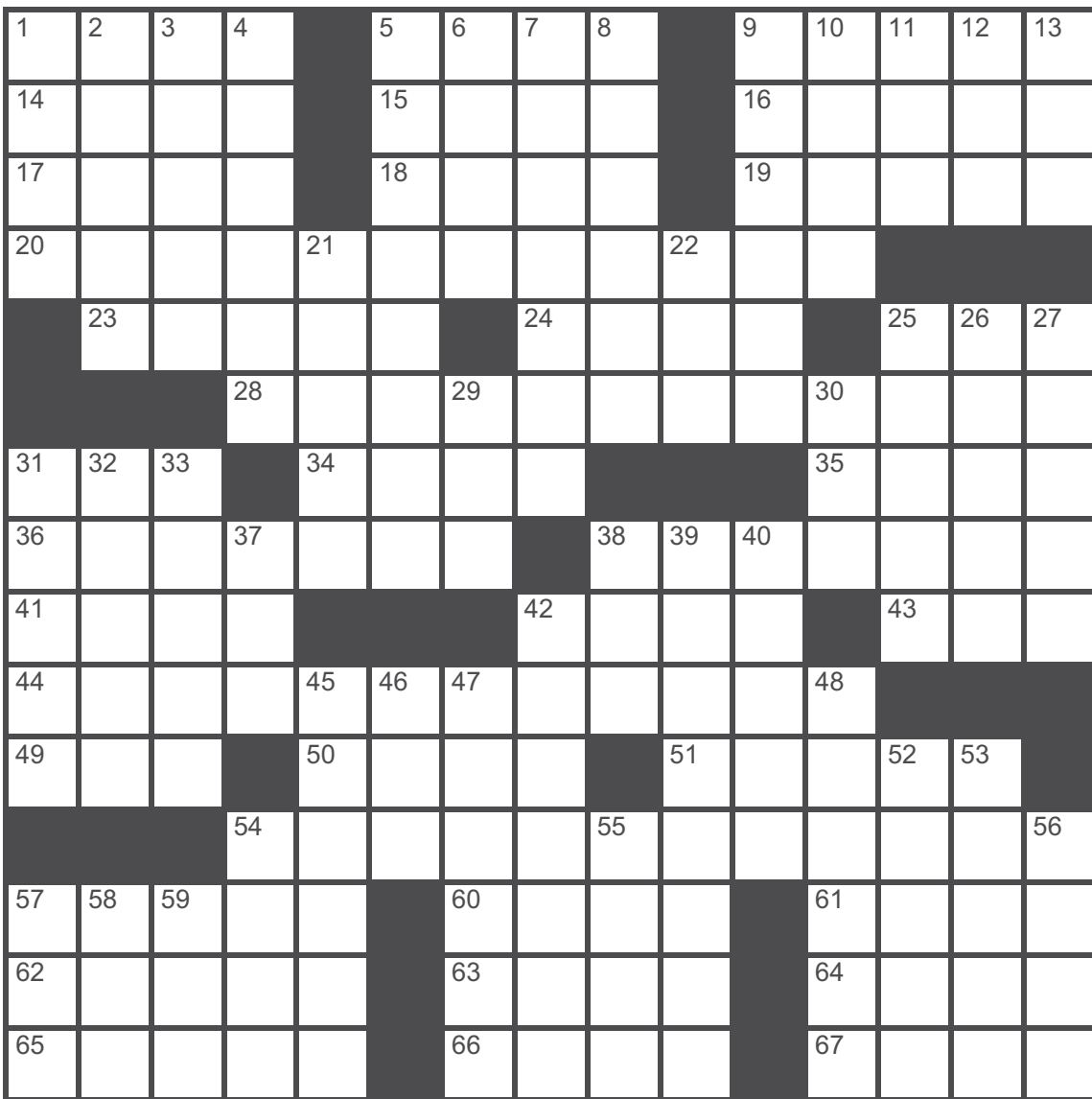
All Hilux models come with a 3-year/100 000 km warranty. A 9-services/90 000 km service plan is standard on all models. Customers can also purchase extended service plans and warranty packages via their Toyota dealer.

### Model line-up and Pricing

**SINGLE CAB**  
HILUX SC 2.4 GD-6 RB RAIDER 6MT R 459,000  
HILUX SC 2.4 GD-6 RB RAIDER 6AT R 477,800  
HILUX SC 2.4 GD-6 4X4 RAIDER 6MT R 531,100  
HILUX SC 2.4 GD-6 4X4 RAIDER 6AT R 551,700  
HILUX SC 2.8 GD-6 RB RAIDER 6AT R 545,600  
HILUX SC 2.8 GD-6 4X4 RAIDER 6AT R 614,400  
**XTRA CAB**  
HILUX XC 2.4 GD-6 RB RAIDER 6MT R 471,500  
HILUX XC 2.4 GD-6 RB RAIDER 6AT R 490,200  
**DOUBLE CAB**  
HILUX DC 2.4 GD-6 RB RAIDER MT R 515,300  
HILUX DC 2.4 GD-6 RB RAIDER AT R 531,600  
HILUX DC 2.4 GD-6 4X4 RAIDER MT R 595,400  
HILUX DC 2.4 GD-6 4X4 RAIDER AT R 621,700  
Hilux DC 2.8 GD-6 RB RAIDER AT R 644,500  
Hilux DC 2.8 GD-6 4X4 RAIDER AT R 720,500

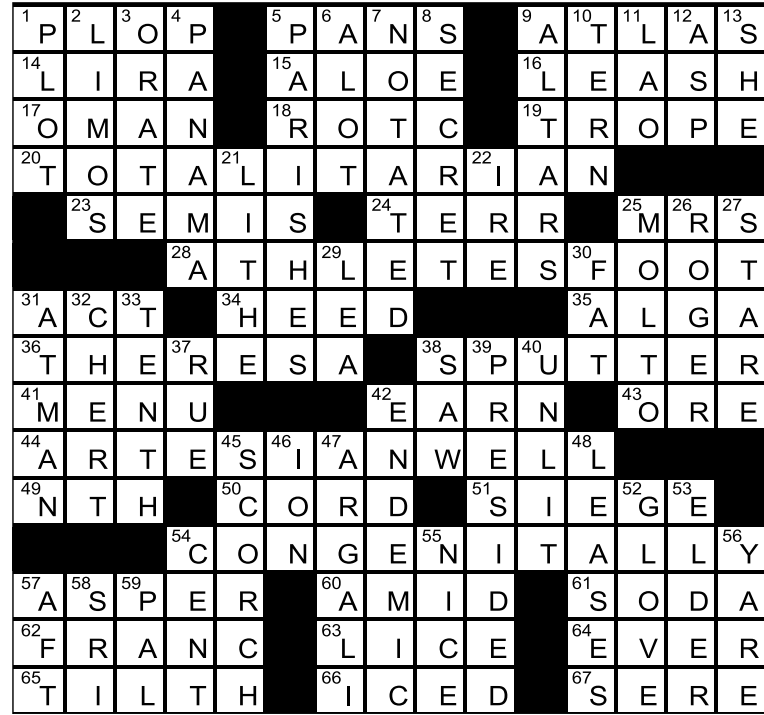


## General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. Doing nothing
  - 5. Mystery writer John Dickson
  - 9. Pesto base
  - 14. Mountain goat's perch
  - 15. Cruising
  - 16. Gladden
  - 17. Shipping hazard
  - 18. Con
  - 19. Search for water
  - 20. Compass attraction
  - 23. Opportunities, so to speak
  - 24. Big brass
  - 25. Govt. property org.
  - 28. Chills
  - 31. Econ. indicator
  - 34. Pair
  - 35. Klutz's cry
  - 36. Lack of worldliness
  - 38. Textile
  - 41. Opposing
  - 42. Field of work
  - 43. Took a load off
  - 44. Formulate regular order
  - 49. Informal greeting
  - 50. Pizazz
  - 51. Tearful
  - 54. Pushing a dangerous situation
  - 57. Bit of parsley
  - 60. Trot or canter
  - 61. Charade
  - 62. Pass over
  - 63. Make eyes at
  - 64. Done with
  - 65. Beverage
  - 66. Gardener's spring
- Down**
- 1. Part of a nuclear arsenal, for short
  - 2. Apprehension
  - 3. Florida's Key \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. Seasonal serving
  - 5. Discards
  - 6. Fungal spore sacs
  - 7. Responded
  - 8. Build
  - 9. Mass confusion
  - 10. Burn balm
  - 11. Observed
  - 12. "\_\_\_\_\_ show time!"
  - 13. Attorney F. \_\_\_\_\_ Bailey
  - 21. Wear away
  - 22. \_\_\_\_\_ -Wan Kenobi
  - 45. purchase
  - 67. Parched

## Last Week's Solution

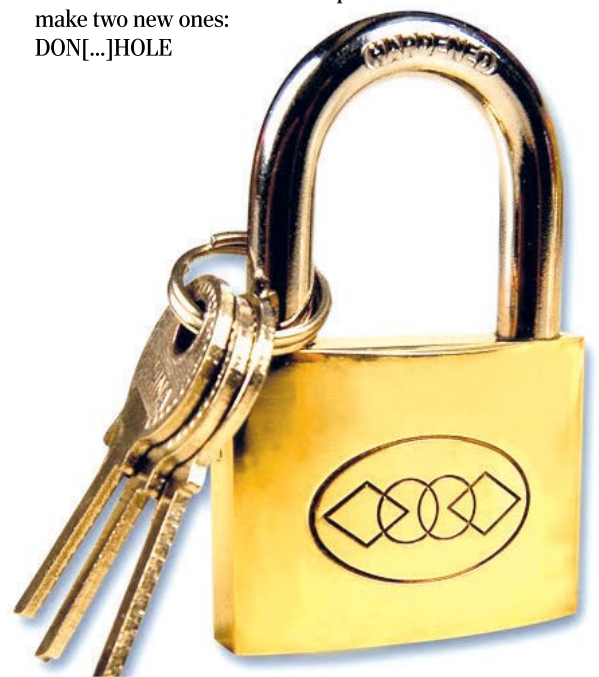


- 25. Lip polish
- 26. Nasal dividers
- 27. It's a plus
- 29. Utter
- 30. Luau fare
- 31. Grind, as teeth
- 32. "Eraser head" star Jack
- 33. Terse
- 37. Go for the gold
- 38. Show \_\_\_\_\_
- 39. Bouncy
- 40. Part of some joints
- 42. Connection
- 45. Amalgamation
- 46. Muhammad \_\_\_\_\_
- 47. Dances to "Hernando's Hideaway"
- 48. Gadgets
- 52. Slice
- 53. Race official
- 54. Wait
- 55. Eight furlongs
- 56. French father
- 57. "Wait a !"
- 58. Layer
- 59. Relieve

## So You Think You are Genius

### Question (Answer next week)

Which three letter word can be placed between the two following words to make two new ones:  
DON[...]HOLE

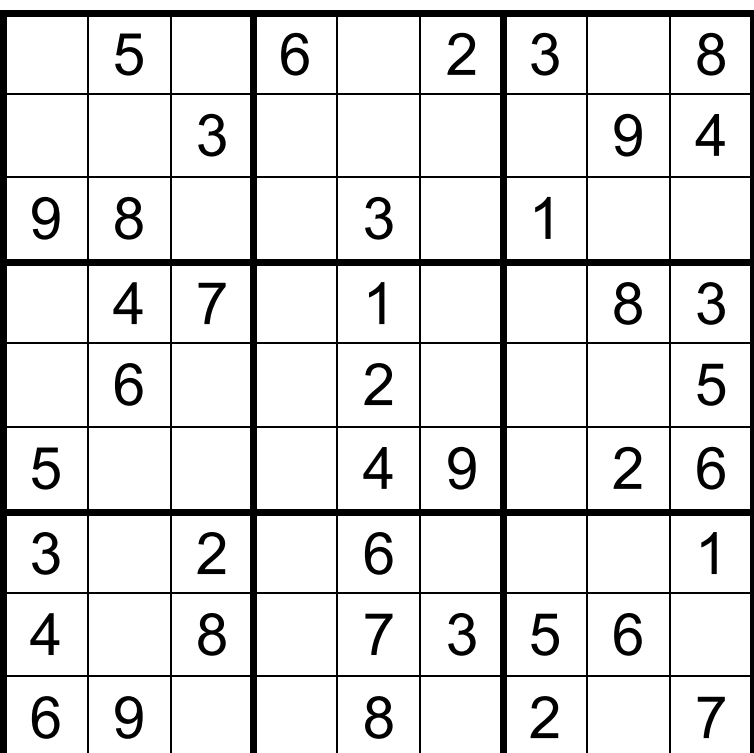


### Last Week's Answer



16842.

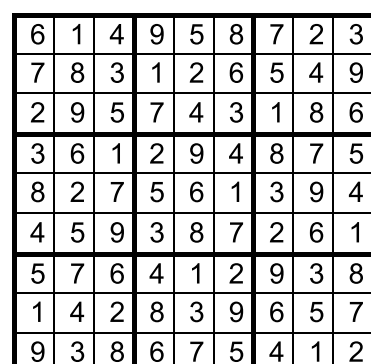
## Sudoku Puzzle



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







## Likuena coaching job attracts 90 applicants

- Six local mentors have also applied for the job
- The position was left vacant by Thabo Senong who resigned last year

**MASERU** – The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) has announced that almost 90 coaches from across the globe have applied for the vacant Likuena coaching position.

The football mother body last month announced the search for a new coach to take over the reins after Thabo Senong resigned last year.

LeFA said by January 31, it had received as many as 90 applications, adding that six of them were from Basotho coaches while the majority was from their eastern European counterparts.

“Today, Monday 31st January, marks the deadline for receiving applications for the vacant position of the Lesotho men’s national team,” the statement issued by LeFA Secretary General, Mokhosi Mohapi said.

“At the close of the business

today, around ninety (90) coaches had tendered their applications. Out of the 90 applications, six Basotho coaches have applied and around 84 foreign coaches. The coaches are mostly from Eastern Europe, England, Holland, Italy, Spain, France as well as countries like Argentina, Ghana, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa.”

According to reports in the local publications, former Likuena head coaches including Moses Maliehe, Seephephe “Mochine” Matete and Motheo “Six to Six” Mohapi are among the local tacticians, who have applied for the job.

Halemakale Mahlaha, who has worked as the Likuena assistant coach and also coached the Lesotho junior team, is one of the local coaches who is said to have applied for the position.

One of the major requirements

for the job is that interested parties should be in possession of a CAF A License coaching qualification.

Such a coach, LeFA further showed should have coached at club level or the national team in continental competitions.

The LeFA statement further explained that the process of short-listing the applicants would commence on Tuesday to be followed by the interview processes before a recommendation is presented to the Association’s Executive Committee for a final decision.

Likuena are currently being overseen by LeFA Technical Director, Leslie Notsi, working as the interim coach until the new coach has been appointed.

The team is preparing for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations preliminary round qualifiers and



LeFA Secretary General, Mokhosi Mohapi

was a fortnight ago drawn against Seychelles.

The two countries will face each other in back-to-back matches with the winner guaranteed a place in the group stage for the continental

tournament to be staged in Ivory Coast.

LeFA said the new coach could be installed by mid-February should all the processes be completed on time.

## Sera finalises reunion with Seema at Arrows

- Arrows reportedly sealed the deal on Monday
- Sera struggled for game time and loss of form after Seema left Celtic to take over at Chippa United



Likuena forward, Motebang Sera

**MASERU** – South African DSTV Premiership side, Golden Arrows have announced the signing of Likuena striker, Motebang Sera, who reunites with his countryman, Coach Lehlohonolo Seema at the KwaZulu- Natal based outfit.

The deal was confirmed by the club as the two compatriots reunite again having worked successfully together at Bloemfontein Celtic.

Arrows reportedly finalised the deal on the deadline day on Monday.

Arrows become Sera’s third South African side since moving to SA in 2019 after spells with Celtic, where he made 45 appearances in all competitions as well as Royal AM with just three appearances.

“There is a new Sthende in town. Sthende nation please

join us as we welcome our new addition, Motebang Sera,” Arrows said in their social media platforms.

Seema, who replaced Mandla Ncikazi as the new Abafana Besthende coach before the start of the 2021/22 season, was influential in bringing Sera to the South African Premier League in 2019 while he was still in charge of Celtic.

Sera did not disappoint in his first season at Celtic scoring seven goals in 20 appearances in all competitions, including the much-publicised brace against Kaizer Chiefs.

In his second season in the South African DSTV Premiership, the 26-year-old former Matlama forward made 25 appearances, but managed to score only two goals.

However, the Likuena top goal-scorer struggled for game time and loss of form after Seema left Celtic to take over at Chippa United, where he was later sacked before he joined Black Leopards.

Things went from bad to worse for the striker in the current campaign as he only registered 48 minutes in three games over a total of 17 matches after Celtic sold their status to Royal AM, which also saw him leaving the Bloemfontein-based side.

Chippa United were at one stage the front runners for Sera’s signature, but this publication was reliably informed that the Lesotho’s striker and his representatives chose Arrows over the Chillii Boys as the marksman was keen to reunite with his former mentor, Seema.





# Football is my life - Mofihli 'Chepa' Makoele



## KABELO MASOABI

**MASERU** - Arguably one of the best local football players and coaches, Mofihli "Chepa" Makoele, says his career in the sport is far from ending, regardless of his age.

When many would have thought the 57-year-old veteran had retired a long time ago, Chepa or 'Chipa', as he is affectionately known, has now switched to coaching.

He is currently coaching the First-Division team called Ace Maseru.

Over his footballing career that developed from a tender age and influenced by his father – a former footballer himself, Makoele has mentored big teams such as Matlama, Rovers (now called Sky Battalions), Lerotholi Polytechnic (Fokothi), Ambassadors (formerly known as School Boys) and The Birds, amongst others.

Also formerly the acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission (LSRC) and Development Manager, Makoele's illustrious career began while

playing bare-footed in the dusty streets of Butha-Butha.

From starting out as a young boy playing in the streets to joining his home club Fast Eleven, which was established in 1978, he later played for the all-conquering Rovers of the 1980s and early 1990s.

"My father gave me a good start in football, the values that have driven me to believe in myself," he says.

"I also happened to have a teacher who inspired me at school and I became a top soccer player

because of the influence he had on me. I also ended up as a good mathematics teacher because of him."

Makoele also talks about the late coach Monaheng 'Doc' Monyane, an instructor of note, who is the only local coach to have led the national squad, Likuena to the COSAFA Cup Finals in 2000.

"I met some of the most amazing people during my playing days," he adds. "My coaches encouraged me to never give up. My teammates, who became my friends, were also always there for me."

Although he hails from the northern district of Butha-Butha, Makoele did his primary schooling in Mafeteng, where his father worked.

He attended Mathebe and St Paul Primary Schools before he proceeded to Christ the King (CK) High School in Roma.

He was amongst the few youngest shining soccer players of that time when he arrived at CK and he immediately became a household name.

He says CK quickly shaped his soccer identity for the better, making him more sociable, a leader, and open-minded about diversity.

"People loved the way I played and that's when great clubs in the country began to spot me for my outstanding performance," he recalls.

"It's worth mentioning that all my three male siblings followed in my footsteps and played soccer throughout the time of their studies."

A graduate of the National University of Lesotho, who also studied in the United States of America (USA), Makoele says his heart has always remained with the lower division teams, despite also having played for big guns like Matlama.

"It was fun playing for teams in the lower divisions because there was no pressure to win matches but it was a place where coaches scouted skilled players," he says.

Later when he became famous, Makoele says he never regarded himself as a celebrity.

"In our time, we didn't have celebrities," he recalls. "In fact, sports personalities are not recognised as celebrities in this

country. For me, playing soccer was form of a rehabilitation and exercise.

"It is necessary in Lesotho for athletes not to abandon school - no matter how famous they become - because sports don't guarantee a sustainable career."

He therefore advises young athletes to learn to plan their time, prioritize school while they also play sports and engage in other mural activities.

"Soccer is a strenuous game that demands a lot of energy and hard work," he says.

"I think playing at more competitive levels helped me become a well-rounded student. I love soccer and I hope to continue being part of it for the rest of my life."

He describes football as fun though it requires skill as well as mental and physical strength.

"I still go to gym and if by any stroke of luck I am picked to play for the national squad, I would definitely accept," he jokingly says.

At the helm of Rovers, he won the Lesotho Parent-Planning Association (LPPA) tournament as the club's coach.

Unfortunately, he hung up his boots in 1995 following a string of injuries. However, he remained in the team's committee as its secretary and assistant coach, which was followed by a series of coaching courses.

Commenting on how he got his nickname Chepa, Makoele says: "There was a man called Mofihli Chepa who worked in the South African mines and I was named me after him because we shared the name, Mofihli.

"It didn't have anything to do with my playing soccer. People pronounced the nickname as Chipa instead of Chepa".

He says one of the most important life lessons that football taught him is hard work.

"Anyone can be a skillful player but they still require the guidance of a knowledgeable and experienced coach," Makoele says.

"I have learnt short players can outdo the tall ones if they applied themselves to the game," he says. "Just have a look at the sharp, swift turns that the famous Argentinian footballer and multi-award winner, Lionel Messi does on the field."

