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SLB launches bursary fund for less privileged learners

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THURSDAY December 9 - 15, 2021

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FIRST PROPERTIES CO. LISTS ON MASERU SECURITIES MARKET

- Listing of shares offers potential investors an opportunity to buy shares on the regular market
- MSM is part of govt's initiatives meant to reform and liberate financial markets in the country




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- SA readies hospitals for Omicron variant
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BORN ON THIS DAY

- December 09**
- 1953 - John Malkovich, Actor born at Christopher, Illinois, United States
 - 1968 - Kurt Angle, Professional wrestler born at Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania, United States
 - 1941 - Beau Bridges, actor born at Los Angeles, California
 - 2001 - Addy Rae Tharp, TikTok star born in United States of America
 - 1986 - Louise Cliffe, Actor, Singer, Model born in Middleton
 - 1975 - Joshua Rudoy, American actor (Harry & Hendersons), born in Los Angeles, California
 - 1976 - Chris Booker, American baseball player, born in West Virginia
 - 1977 - Saskia Garel, Canadian actress, born in Kingston, Jamaica

NewsBriefs

Metsing evades court

...lawyer says he has no idea where his client disappeared to

LINEO MABEKEBEKE
health@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Mothetjoa Metsing, leader of the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) is a wanted man after he failed to appear in the High Court on Monday in a matter in which he is challenging to be joined in a case against five soldiers who are accused of among others, the murder of a police officer.

His co-accused, Selibe Mochoboroane who is leader of the Movement for Economic Change (MEC) showed up alone.

The High Court has as a result issued a warrant for Metsing's arrest.

His lawyer, King's Counsel (KC) Motiea Teele told the court that he had no idea where his client was, adding that he last communicated with him on Sunday night.

KC Teele said he was therefore leaving matters in the court's hands, confirming that Metsing was fully aware of Monday's appearance.

Metsing who also the former Deputy Prime Minister together and Mochoboroane who is the Minister of Development Planning have trying to secure immunity from prosecution but all their attempts have been in vain.

The two have had their joinder in the criminal trial delayed following a series of applications, some of which ended up in the Court of Appeal.

Recently, one of their appeals was dismissed by the Court of Appeal, while another one was struck-off the roll.

If joined, they will be accused alongside former army commander Lieutenant General Tlali Kamoli together with Captain Litekanyo Nyakane, Lance



LCD leader, Mothetjoa Metsing

Corporals Motloheloa Ntsane and Leutsoa Motsieloa.

The five soldiers are accused of the murder of Sub-Inspector Mokheseng Ramahlolo during an incident that occurred at the Police Headquarters in Maseru on August 30, 2014.

Mochoboroane charged alongside accused soldiers

...judge rules that charges against the two political leaders stand

MASERU – Selibe Mochoboroane, the Minister of Development Planning was on Monday joined in a case against five soldiers who are accused of among others, treason and the 2014 murder of Police Sub Inspector Mokheseng Ramahlolo.

The leader of the Movement for Economic Change (MEC) was expected to appear before Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane alongside his co-accused Mothetjoa Metsing, who has since disappeared.

But Mochoboroane came to court alone after the elusive Metsing failed to turn up.

Metsing who is leader of the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) and former Deputy Prime Minister is now a fugitive after the High Court on Monday issued a warrant of his arrest.

His lawyer, King's Counsel (KC) Motiea Teele told the court that he had no idea where his client was, adding that he last communicated with him on Sunday night.

KC Teele said he was therefore leaving matters in the court's hands, confirming that Metsing was fully aware of

Monday's court appearance.

Mochoboroane came to court after an application he and Metsing had earlier filed was dismissed in which they were challenging the decision of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) to summarily indict them.

The court had in the judgment ruled that the reasons for challenging the decision do not pass legal muster. It had also concluded that the decision to join them for summary trial in the criminal case against the five accused soldiers stands.

A charge sheet detailing 10 charges against Mochoboroane together with former army boss, Lieutenant General Tlali Kamoli and Captain Litekanyo Nyakane, Lance Corporals Motloheloa Ntsane and Leutsoa Motsieloa was read in court on Monday.

The accused face a battery of charges including treason, murder, attempted murder and aggravated assault which allegedly occurred sometime in August 2014 in Maseru.

LeNA/Metro

FastFACTS

Russia and China Touch 14 Countries Each

Looking at a map, it may seem Russia can swallow China whole. However, both countries border 14 countries.

Russia (including the region of Kaliningrad) borders Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, North Korea, Norway, Poland and the Ukraine.

China borders Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Vietnam.

On This Day in History

1979



December 09

Smallpox is officially declared eradicated

On December 9, 1979, a commission of scientists declare that smallpox has been eradicated. The disease, which carries around a 30 percent chance of death for those who contract it, is the only infectious disease afflicting humans that has officially been eradicated.

Something similar to smallpox had ravaged humanity for thousands of years, with the earliest known description appearing in Indian accounts from the 2 Century BCE. It was believed that the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses V died of smallpox in 1145 BCE; however, recent research indicates that the actual smallpox virus may have evolved as late as 1580 CE. A type of inoculation - introducing a small amount of the disease in order to bring on a mild case that results in immunity - was widespread in China by the 16th century.

There is no record of a smallpox-like illness in the Americas before European contact, and the fact that Europeans brought pox with them was a major factor in their conquest and near-eradication of many of the indigenous peoples of North, South and Central America. Smallpox was the leading cause of death in 18th century Europe, leading to many experiments with inoculation. In 1796 the English scientist Edward Jenner discovered a vaccine. Unlike other types of inoculation, Jenner's vaccine, made from a closely-related disease that affects cows, carried zero risk of transmission.

Many European countries and American states made the vaccination of infants mandatory, and incidents of smallpox declined over the 19th and early 20th centuries. Compared to other epidemic diseases, such as polio or malaria, smallpox eradication was relatively simple because the disease lives only in humans, making human vaccination highly effective at stopping its spread, and its symptoms appear quickly, making it easy to identify and isolate outbreaks.

ALL JOKES ASIDE

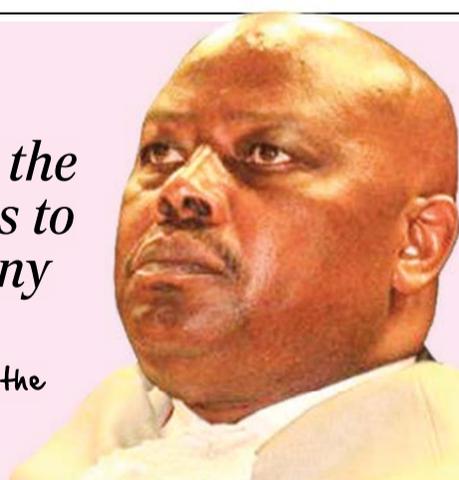
"I am Jesus Christ"

A drunk staggers out of a bar and runs into two priests. He goes over to the first priest and says, "Dude, I'm Jesus Christ!" And the priest says, "No son, you're not." So the drunk goes over to the second priest and says, "Man, I'm Jesus Christ!" Then the priest says, "No son, you're not." Finally, the drunk had enough and said, "Here, I'll prove it." He walks back into the bar with both priests and the bartender looks up and sees the drunk and says, "Jesus Christ, you're back AGAIN?"

Quotes & Quips!

"I was also not aware that preliminaries in the case had not yet been done. The court wants to proceed with this matter without wasting any more time,"

says Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane, taking a swipe at lawyers involved in the matter in which MEC leader, Selibe Mochoboroane faces treason charges, accusing them of failure to properly prepare for the trial



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LNIG in partnership with Hollard

4

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	22.47
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	15.94
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.94
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.50
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.14
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	21.12
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	11.32
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	2.04
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	11.66
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.038
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.028
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.33
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	1.01
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.21
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	4.25
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	5.05
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.80
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.21
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.34
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.37

Metro BUSINESS

COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS		PRECIOUS METALS	
S&P500	4,591.67	Gold p/ounce	1,782.30
NASDAQ100	15,846.16	Platinum p/ounce	968.31
Nikkei225	28,455.60	Silver p/ounce	22.41
Dow Jones30	35,227.03	Copper p/ounce	4.38
FTSE 100	7,319.31	Brent Oil p/barrel	75.17
JSE	72,542.00	EQUITIES	
Hang Seng	23,973.25	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	M16.60
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M16.80
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M16.60
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

First properties company lists on Maseru Securities Market

...Listing of shares offers potential investors an opportunity to buy shares on the regular market



Governor of CBL, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane

NEO SENOKO
business@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Five years since the launch of the Maseru Securities Market (MSM).

RNB Properties Limited, a local property company has become the first business to list its ordinary shares on the platform.

RNB Properties Limited is one of the leading companies in the property industry

in Lesotho with the main focus on property management, property consultancy and property developers.

The company was established in 2010 and has been operating for 11 the past years.

The listing of the company's ordinary shares on the main platform of MSM means all issued shares of the same class can now start trading on MSM, offering the existing investors the opportunity to sell their acquisition.

It will also offer potential investors the opportunity to buy shares on the regular market where the company valuation and the price of its shares will be driven by market fundamentals.

The listing marks an important and significant milestone in the development of capital markets in the country, more specifically the development of equity markets and the exchange.

"What we are witnessing here today as RNB Properties Limited comes to the platform is a giant step in the right direction. RNB Properties Limited has become the pioneer of this noble initiative that I believe will challenge many other entrepreneurs who have previously shied away from capital markets.

"Many entrepreneurs could have hesitated to come on board, probably because they did not want to be subjected to the probity and corporate governance standards that the Registrar of Companies and Registrar of Capital markets insist on before participating

in the capital markets. I am hopeful that after today, many will not only see it as a possibility but also as an opportunity to raise that much needed capital for their business expansions," the Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane said during the event on Monday.

She however, went on to confess that the task ahead is huge, challenging stakeholders to continue navigating their diverse roles to make capital markets work for domestic businesses and the economy.

"The journey will not be as smooth for various reasons but I strongly believe that if we can join hands, both the public and private sector, can eventually see a breakthrough for the benefit of our economy," Dr Matlanyane said.

MSM is part of many initiatives that the Government of Lesotho has undertaken to reform and liberate financial markets in the country and channel funds into productive sectors of the economy.

The MSM was established to assist companies to raise market based capital from the public market, facilitate the centralised trading of financial securities in the country and encourage the wider share ownership of previously privatised and majority of the companies in Lesotho and facilitate raising of medium to long term capital. The market was established by law in 2014 through the publication of Capital Markets Regulations of 2014. These regulations and other regulatory instruments provide for the operation of a market that is fair, orderly, secure, and transparent.

It provides for investor protection and the licensing of all market players. The fundamental objective of establishing this platform is to enable trading of financial securities in a secure environment that enhances confidence while on the other hand not too strict to suffocate market development.

Business

LNIG partners with Hollard

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Local insurer, Lesotho National Insurance Group (LNIG) has announced the official co-branding with the global insurance giant, Hollard Insurance as the majority shareholder alongside the Government of Lesotho and Molepe.

Now known as LNIG Hollard, the relationship is symbiotic in that expertise is exchanged between the companies while also having access to a vast menu of products and technical assistance from a solid network of professionals.

The co-branding which manifest itself as the LNIG Blue being sprinkled with the Hollard Purple, talks to the two great

companies leveraging off each other's strength to provide the best insurance solutions for Basotho.

LNIG Hollard is a hub of professionalism, innovation and is taking visible steps to being a prominent member of the digital age. Clients and partners have been urged to expect more insurance solutions which relate to their needs.

The SME space and agricultural sector, which are critical for growing local economy are some of the areas of focus as LNIG Hollard maps the future in an impactful manner.

The relationship was established when Regent exited the insurance market and Hollard acquired their stake and thereafter partnered with LNIG to fulfill its

investment opportunity in the country.

"We are already providing a broadband of services to the market, so the partnership enhances the profile of LNIG which will now be able to leverage upon the international reputation of Hollard, bringing with it added access to varied innovative products as well as technology," LNIG Managing Director, Mpho Vumbukani said on Wednesday.

In 2003, the St Paul Group of companies exited from some global markets including Lesotho. Their shares and those of African Life were bought by Regent from South Africa. This coincided with the time when the Government was implementing the privatisation programme.



LNIG MD, Mpho Vumbukani

In this journey of over 40 years, Mr Vumbukani said the LNIG gained growth, resilience but most importantly unshakable support.

"It has embraced systems and processes that enable it to deliver its services efficiently. We remain the leading insurer and our partnership with Hollard has been ongoing since 2017. Now, in line with our vision, we want to give our customers better services than before going forward," he said.

The partnership has also allowed LNIG to steadily expand its product range over the years, becoming more conscious of its responsibility towards all its stakeholders including its employees, customers and the community at large.

LNIG provided insurance to the emerging economy of Lesotho when no one else was around to do so. The company said most Government parastatals that now exist were developed and grew on the back of the insurance provided by the company.

"Also, businesses of all sizes from small sole proprietorship to industrial conglomerates and mining houses have all benefited to say nothing of individuals with their array of personal property. Secondly, the company contributes to Government coffers through taxation and most directly by payment of dividends," the MD further noted.

The company remains the leading insurer in terms of short-term insurance and its life business is working hard to improve its position.

Despite the devastating effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic on the entire financial sector, LNIG Hollard has continued to drive the objective of responsible corporate citizenship.

"Climate change is one of the key strategic challenges confronting the world now. We are keenly focused on shaping a better future for our stakeholders, and it therefore goes without saying that the climate change agenda and the broader ESG, (Environmental, Social and Governance) agenda will form the bedrock of how we purposefully impact our society," Mr Vumbukani also said.

With the aim of driving innovation and effective change in the community and within the organisation, LNIG Hollard has embarked on a digital transformation journey, which will ultimately enable it to become more client-centric and operationally efficient.

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SLB launches bursary fund for less privileged learners

...applicants have to be from less privileged families and not sponsored by another organisation

It is intended for academically gifted pupils from families with a combined monthly income of less than M3 000 per month, at any high school class until they finish their LGSCE examination.

"To be eligible and qualify for the programme, an applicant has to be a Mosotho learner at high school level with an average performance of 70 percent or higher. Such learners have to be from less privileged families and not sponsored by another organisation," said Maria Sefuba Jonase from SLB department of Technology and operations during the same event.

The fund further incorporates career guidance, mentorship and psycho-social support to recipients during the tenure of their sponsorship. It is free and open to qualifying Basotho nationals in

all the districts who meet entry requirements.

Among its main objectives, the programme is intended to decrease the numbers of pupils who drop out of school, especially at high school level due to financial constraints. The fund has been recognised by the bank as an initiative that has potential to address the plight of gifted but economically challenged Basotho children who lose out on the potential to be future leaders in the country.

It also responds to a gap in universal access to education, where the government currently provides free primary education and scholarships for tertiary education.

The fund is a pilot project for a period of three years and it will start with the first cohort of 50 learners for 2022.



Standard Lesotho Bank Acting Head of Brand and Marketing, Manyathela Kheleli

NEO SENOKO
business@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Standard Lesotho Bank (SLB), has invested a total of M650 000 into a newly launched bursary fund targeted at economically challenged high school learners.

Dubbed the Standard Lesotho Bank Bursary Fund, the programme is intended to support 50 academically gifted pupils from less privileged families to assist them in acquiring high school education.

"As a bank we look at ourselves as a corporate citizen and we have an obligation to give back to the community. The fund is also in line with the National Strategic Development Plan II of the government of Lesotho and the Sustainable Development Goal 4 of the United Nations towards ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all," Standard Lesotho Bank Acting Head of Brand and Marketing, Manyathela

Kheleli said during the launch last week.

The fund is further intended to promote academic excellence and shape the next generation of Basotho's talent in order to build national capacity and local human capital to make a meaningful contribution to the country.

The SLB Bursary Fund will commence in 2022 with the initial capital injection of M650 000 to cover all tuition fees and living expenses of qualifying learners.

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Comments & Letters

Be part of the orange movement

The Editor,

While pervasive, gender-based violence is not inevitable; it can and must be prevented.

I believe stopping this violence starts with believing survivors, adopting comprehensive and inclusive approaches that tackle the root causes, transform harmful social norms, and empower women and girls.

With survivor-centred essential services across policing, justice, health, and social sectors, and sufficient financing for the women's rights agenda, we can end gender-based violence.

To raise awareness, this year's theme is orange the world: end violence against women Now! Orange is our colour to represent a brighter future free of violence against women and girls. Be part of the orange movement!

Manthuseng Maruping
Phamong, Mophale's Hoek

Let us remember, it is that time of the year

The Editor,

It is that time of the year again. A time for holiday cheers, carols and gifts as well as lots of crime!

Criminals tend to strike more often during the holiday season because they know that many people are out holiday shopping.

There are more victims out there. The more cars there are, the easier it is for the criminals to blend in.

When you walk into any one of malls in Lesotho, before you step out of your car, put your car keys in your hand, think about where you parked your car, and put your cell phone away safely.

Experts have also warned citizens to expect increased crime in the coming weeks due to relaxed COVID-19 lockdown restrictions and a busy festive season.

The only way this can be combatted is through sophisticated intelligence, actionable strategies and coordination of all stakeholders.

Thieves are everywhere, and they always come out with new tactics.

Litabe Moiloa
Khubetsoana, Maseru

I wish all the games could be suspended

The Editor,

A decision has been made to withdraw Team South Africa from the AUSC Region 5 games in Maseru with immediate effect. This comes after an increase in the number of positive cases at the on-going games.

My fear is that many players even those not from the South African side may have been infected and in turn infected others.

It emerged that Team South Africa had some athletes who tested positive of the virus.

It is imperative to protect others who have not contracted the disease. There is no doubt that if proper precautionary measures are not taken now, by the time the games end in a few days, a lot of damage will have been done and many positive cases recorded.

I therefore wish to appeal to team managers to look into the matter closely and deal with it as soon as possible.

The games opened on December 3 and end on December 12.

Thabo Rakhibe
Naleli, Maseru

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

RNB Properties Ltd deserves a pad on the shoulder

RNB properties Limited should be lauded for being the first local company to list its ordinary shares on the Maseru Securities Market (MSM), roughly five years after the revered body was established.

On Monday this week, the Central Bank of Lesotho announced the property outfit's decision to be the first in listing its ordinary shares on the main platform of MSM, which simply translates into the fact that all issued shares of the same class can now start trading on MSM, thus offering the existing investors an opportunity to sell their acquisition and the potential ones an opportunity to buy shares on the regular market where the company valuation and the price of its shares will be driven by market fundamentals.

The listing marks an important and significant milestone in the development of capital markets in the country, more specifically the development of equity market and the exchange. This move is commendable because a lot of other companies in Lesotho are not particularly keen to follow the same direction for a number of reasons that include lack of willingness to be subjected to the corporate governance standards, among others.

With the stringent economic conditions in the country, dominated by lack of skills, industry related education and training as well as access to finance, listing could be a perfect platform for local companies to solve some of these problems.

Companies should see this as a perfect opportunity to raise the much-needed capital for their business expansion. In this way the struggling local private sector could also realise the much needed growth hence more opportunities and job reaction.

Of course the journey towards listing may be both vexing and tedious, but considering the benefits that come with it, companies should demonstrate passion and willingness to join the RNB Properties in doing the right thing. In many more years to come, the company will be remembered as the pioneer in this regard, opening doors for more investment opportunities in the long run.

On the other hand, staying private essentially means that a company's shares are not traded on the public stock market. Shares are held by the company founders, their families or some selected group investors. If you want to buy shares in such a firm, you have to make a request to the existing owners.

Staying private also avoids burdensome disclosure requirements from stock exchanges and some companies fear that a small slip up due to perhaps lack of diligence could lead to troublesome interest from regulators, or even expulsion from a stock exchange.

The ineffable sadness of the NPA as frustrated Hermione Cronje resigns

The overwhelming impression is that the NPA investigations head quit in frustration or desperation at being unable to do what is required to get on top of rampant serious corruption, the ravages of State Capture, the calumny of insurrection and 'covidpreneurism', all fueled by the kleptocrats of the Zuma

Arare and lengthy media conference was held by some in the leadership of the National Prosecuting Authority on Monday 6 December 2021. Conspicuously absent was Hermione Cronje, head of the Investigating Directorate set up by President Cyril Ramaphosa's proclamation in 2019 to plug the yawning gaps in the anti-corruption machinery of state he was shocked to find on taking office.

Cronje has resigned for many reasons, none of which were revealed or discussed in anything like the detail the media questions demanded during and before the conference.

A visit to the website (undertaken in a vain effort to find the time of the conference) of the NPA is as underwhelming as the content of the media briefing. There is not a word about it to be found; it hasn't been updated since October and the media statement of Shamila Batohi, National Director of Public Prosecutions, on its "quick links" section is dated February 2019.

Her statement then, marking her appointment, was upbeat and full of eager anticipation of the tasks ahead. Her performance on 6 December is markedly different. There are those who measure the efficiency and effectiveness of organisations by the state of their websites.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the uninspiring media conference is the failure of all participants to get to grips with the real issues. It is common cause that anti-corruption work is specialised, difficult and urgently needed if South Africa is to avoid falling into failed state status. The overwhelming impression is that Cronje quit in frustration or desperation at being unable to do what is required to get on top of rampant serious corruption, the ravages of State Capture, the calumny of insurrection and 'covidpreneurism', all fueled by the kleptocrats of the Zuma era and beyond.

Cronje's repeated refrain that her work was being undermined by saboteurs within the NPA, planted there to ensure ongoing impunity, was, for the first time, denied by Batohi who, contradictorily so, admitted to the existence of pending disciplinary matters involving disloyalty in her staff. She ducked giving details.

There are three fundamental issues that should have been and

still need to be addressed but weren't.

The relevant topics can be raised by parliamentarians when the minister of justice joins Batohi to explain the mess to them on Wednesday 8 December.

Less obfuscation and more focus can be extracted, if the right topics come up for discussion, which did not happen on 6 December.

The first of these topics is the decisions of the courts as they appertain to the corruption-busting responsibilities of the state via the criminal justice administration. These decisions set out, loudly and clearly, the binding requirements (known as the Stirs rules) of the law; they specify the criteria by which an anti-corruption entity is to be measured and they set the parameters of an effective and efficient structure whose operations are capable of discharging the treaty obligations of the country and its commitments to respect and protect the human rights of its population, especially those human rights that are expensive to deliver to the poor.

The loot of State Capture is diverted away from social grants, healthcare, housing, education and other human rights that are intended by the Constitution to create a better life for all. Corruption busters are meant to reverse the flow of the loot and hold the looters to account in court. These good outcomes are simply not happening in SA because a blind eye is being turned to the basic and binding requirements for success in corruption busting. The Glenister trilogy of cases, fought hard between 2008 and 2014, set out what is needed. They did not feature in the discussions of the NPA leadership at all. On the contrary, some revealed a mindset that harkens back to the dark days of the Zuma era during which the fragmentation and destruction of the corruption-busting capacity of the state was the order of the day.

The numbers are revealing: the Scorpions had over 500 members, the ID has about 120, many of whom will follow their leader into resignation unless urgent action is taken now to reassure them. The ID is not permanent, it serves at the pleasure of the president, Cabinet and Batohi; it lacks independence, resources, skills needed and freedom from political influence and interference in its work. It ought to have a reporting line directly to Parliament, but does not. DM

MY
TAKE
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Capital sources required to support financial capital – Khasipe



The Commissioner General of LRA, Thabo Khasipe

MASERU – Thabo Khasipe, the Commissioner General of the Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA), an organisation that is responsible for the assessment, collection and remittance to the Government of public revenues in Lesotho says innovations form part of the main priorities of LRA and in as much as they work with money, it is financial capital which needs to be supported with other sources of capital. He was speaking at the end of a three-day LRA Hackathon open platform for young innovators, which ended in Berea on Tuesday.

As part of the event, the LRA also held the Hackathon open platform competition for the innovators and Team Veteran walked away with the first prize, winning cash worth M30 000.

The competition was intended to strike strategic partnership with key stakeholders in order to invite innovative ideas and processes which can be implemented to address compliance issues.

Mr Khasipe said it is possible that the LRA is the first revenue authority in the region to host such an event, adding that if the innovators could design beautiful systems, they could sell such ideas to the rest of Africa because tax revenue systems are the same in most countries.

“We are overwhelmed by the support from our sponsors who included Vodacom Lesotho, ECONET and African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF),” he said.

Acknowledging all participants, the Commissioner General said they should be proud of themselves, congratulating the winners for their hard work and commitment as well as the judges for a job well done.

Bokang Thola of Team Veteran expressed his gratitude to the LRA on behalf of his teammates for pioneering such an august event.

“I also wish to applaud the sponsors for coming up with such an innovative project and we wish that other organisations and companies could embrace innovation in a similar manner. We have also learnt a lot, more especially about tax issues and other new technologies,” he said.

Mr Thola added: “Indeed we feel honoured to have been granted such an opportunity to be part of this big event and to eventually win the competition.”

Tumisang Liphoto, who was one of the judges in the competition, said some of the challenges they encountered included people who did not present their architectural systems.

He said most of the solutions which were proposed were taken for granted, adding that it is not easy to get access to data.

Mr Liphoto said most of the data was unstructured, adding that many presenters were not able to tell how and why they had selected a certain model.

However, he said most of the solutions presented by the participants were brilliant and worthy for the LRA to implement.

The runners up in the competition were Finhack Team and they pocketed a sum of M20 000 while Team Morogo appeared third collecting M10 000. LeNA



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MOHALE'S HOEK – WORLD Vision's Area Programme Coordinator, Tšepo Motsamai says access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) is an unprecedented initiative that brings together governments, scientists, businesses, civil societies, philanthropists and global health organisations to address this challenge and protect everyone from the virus.

He made these remarks on Saturday in Phamong, Mohale's Hoek where the World Vision through the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s technical and financial support held training for health centre committee members based in the southern region district.

The event was aimed at addressing the country's specific health systems' bottlenecks to enhance readiness for the delivery of COVID-19 tools.

Mr Motsamai who is based at the World Vision office in Mohale's Hoek said a global response to COVID-19 pandemic requires deployment of novel technologies everywhere they are needed.

The project, he said was aimed at contributing towards improved community access to relevant COVID-19 response interventions.

He said since the first COVID-19 case was recorded, different efforts were made to curb the spread of the fatal virus, adding that one of the key areas that make a gap from infection prevention to vaccines is education.

"There are a lot of misconceptions surrounding the safety of the vaccines, therefore we want to empower communities with COVID-19 preventive messages and mental health education during the pandemic, in order to curb the spread of the virus and the secondary impact," he said.

He said they have health centre committees built of members of the community who include a teacher, the area chief, youth and a traditional healer who support the clinic to run its daily operations.

"Besides supporting the clinic, the team also assists the initiatives at the height of the pandemic and it is our responsibility to investigate some of the social and health issues in the community," he said.

Working together with the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) teachers, Mr Motsamai said they came to realise that WASH plays an important part in the fight against the virus, adding that one of the key components in preventing the spread of the virus is consistent washing of hands.

"We work with WASH teachers to understand the type of messages about COVID-19 that need to be given to learners.

"The WASH teachers are also responsible for WASH related messages and to ensure that correct information is passed to the WASH Clubs," he also said.

The purpose of the ACT-A is to support the development and equitable distribution of diagnostics, treatments, vaccines and protective personal equipment to reduce mortality and severe disease, restoring full societal and economic activity globally.

WHO is a co-host of the ACT-A Facilitation Council that includes founding ACT-A members and donors, market

WHO, World Vision contribute towards improved access to COVID-19 response

shapers and regional cooperation groups.

It is also a secretariat member of all four ACT-A work pillars: vaccines, treatments, diagnostics and health systems connector (HS-C).

Thato Mxakaza from WHO said there is need for individuals to work hand in hand with both governments and non-governmental organisations in order to beat the virus.

"If we want to win the battle against the pandemic, it is everybody's responsibility to fight it and to deliver a better life for everybody," he said.

As a crisis multiplier, COVID-19 continues to exploit and deepen inequalities, disproportionately putting more lives in jeopardy in the world's toughest places. Devastating aftershocks pose immense, additional threats to physical and mental health, safety, food and security, and education.

The forcibly displaced, especially children, are some of the most affected by the pandemic's indirect impacts. Access to the vaccine is therefore paramount in preventing the immediate and long term aftershocks of COVID-19 on children, who are experiencing multiple levels of deprivations, with their health, education increasingly affected by the impact of COVID-19 on their parents and caregivers.

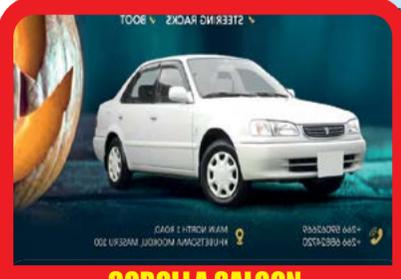




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VW GOLF 5



TOYOTA RUN - X



VW GOLF 4



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The world in 10 minutes

SOUTH AFRICA

Suspects caught selling peacock for drug money

Reaction Unit SA officers rescued a peacock in Verulam after being tipped-off about two men trying to sell the bird in Todd Street.

In a media release, the security company said it had received the call "after a passerby noticed the two men selling a peacock to the occupants of a white Golf GTI".

"Reaction officers responded to the call and on arrival, located the peacock on the back seat of the vehicle.

"It's legs were bound. According to the driver of the car, he had paid the two individuals R300. The suspects had removed the feathers from the bird which they intended selling separately.

"They (suspects) informed Reaction Officers that the proceeds of the sale were to be used to purchase heroin," said the statement.



INDIA

India wants to replace car hooters with sweet melodies

India has brought us yoga, chess, the concept of zero, the USB key and buttons. Now its transport minister Nitin Gadkari is about to make humanity's next big leap with a law replacing car horns with the sweet sound of the sitar, flute, tabla and violin.

"I am studying this and soon planning to make a law that the horns of all vehicles should be in Indian musical instruments so that it is pleasant to hear," Nitin Gadkari told local media recently.

The hooters could blast sounds made by the flute, tabla, violin, mouth organ or harmonium, he added.

Gadkari also said he wanted to replace the "irritating" sirens used by ambulances and police vehicles with soothing tunes.



USA

Donald Trump didn't want to build a golf course in Africa because he was 'too scared of lions'

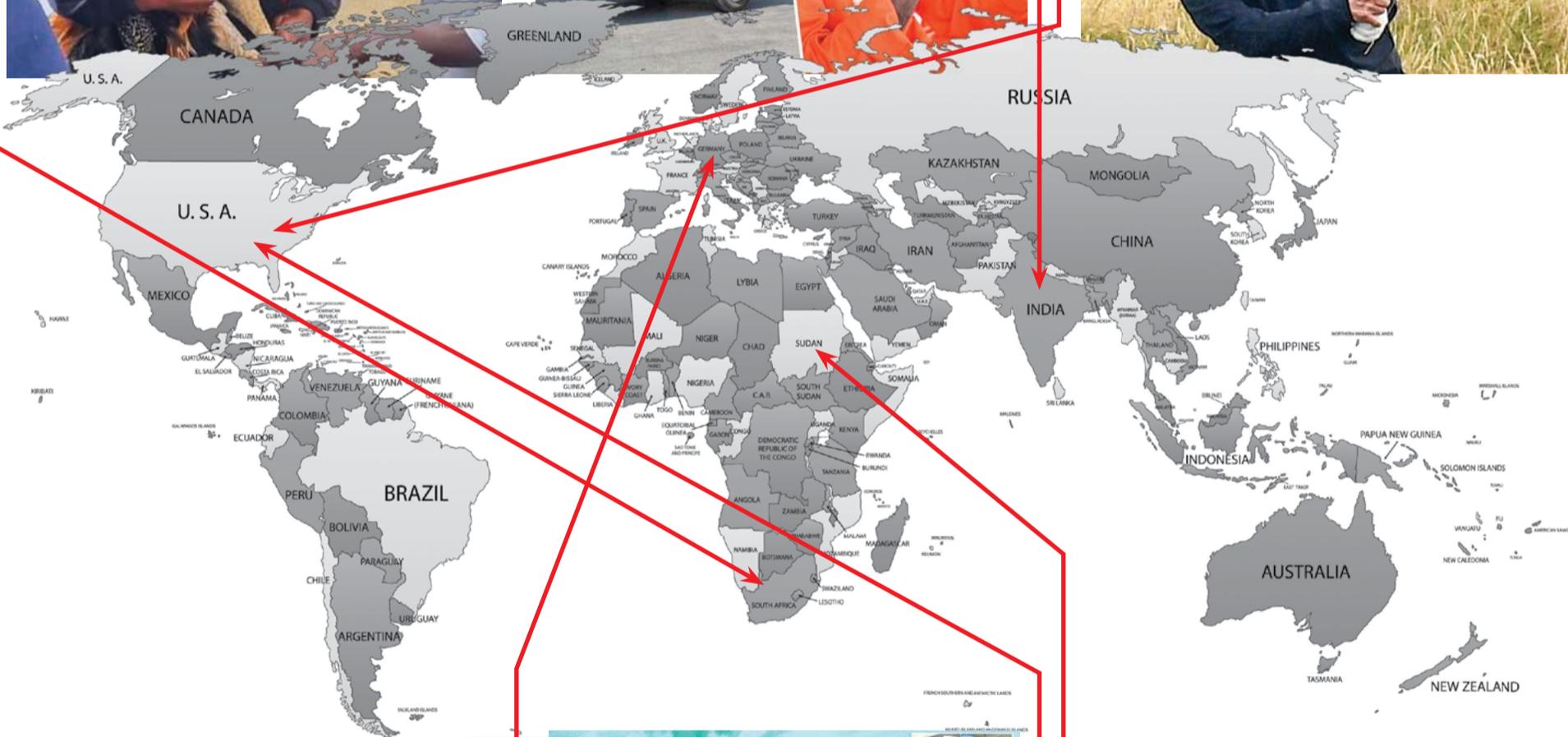
Being a "pretty thick guy", former US president Donald Trump did not want to build a golf course in Africa because he was too scared of lions, a new book claims.

Trump, who was surprised that lions couldn't jump over high fences, revealed his fear of lions during a round of golf with South African legend Gary Player, a nine-time Major champion, according to revelations in *Peril*, a book authored by Bob Woodward, an associate editor at *The Washington Post*, and Robert Costa.

The conversation took place as Player tried to help Trump with his swing and told the then president to use more "control", and said he should be "toning it down, swinging less extravagantly".

Trump is a keen golfer and began acquiring and constructing golf courses in 1999. By the time of his election as US president in 2016, he owned 17 golf courses.

Player then reportedly encouraged Trump to expand his golf and hotel empire to Africa. However, Trump was not impressed with the idea, the book claims.



GERMANY

Sausage vending machines booming in Germany

Some of the machines sell three or four varieties - alongside punnets of potato salad.

Hungry Germans craving a sausage in the dead of night are increasingly turning to vending machines for their bratwurst, bockwurst, and barbecue meats.

The machines are "booming" outside German cities where shops are less likely to stay open for long hours, according to a survey by the German.



USA

Woman addicted to eating her own hair has giant hairball 'with tail' removed from her stomach

A woman who was addicted to pulling out and eating her own hair had a giant hairball measuring 15 centimetres removed from her stomach, according to a medical journal.

The 38-year-old, who was suffering from nausea, vomiting and an extremely swollen abdomen when she arrived at hospital in the US, had suffered dramatic weight loss, losing 15 pounds over the previous eight months after she lost her appetite.

The unnamed woman was rushed into surgery, where a giant hairball was found lodged in her digestive tract, with a small "tail" of hair trailing into her intestines and a second four centimetre hairball nestled deeper in her bowel.

She was found to be suffering from the rare Rapunzel Syndrome, which has only ever been documented 88 times in medical literature.



SUDAN

Row over phone causes Darfur violence - officials

Officials in Sudan say nearly 50 people have been killed in ethnic clashes in the western region of Darfur.

They said the trouble in the town of Kreinik started with an argument about a mobile phone which spiralled into violence.

Fighting between Arab and non-Arab communities in Darfur has escalated in recent months.

Miss Culture Lesotho raises flag in South Africa



Miss Culture Lesotho, Reatile Molefe

KABELO MASOABI

MASERU - Reatile Molefe, the reigning Miss Culture Lesotho has raised the country's flag in South Africa (SA) where she was crowned the Second Princess in the Miss Culture International 2021 pageant.



The grand coronation was held live at The Lyric Theatre in Johannesburg, despite the widespread threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the recently discovered Omicron variant.

Samela Aubrey Godin, Miss Culture Philippines bagged the coveted crown while Miss Zimbabwe was crowned the First Princess.

The 20-year-old Molefe broke into tears as she was announced the Second Princess in the highly competitive contest, which had 14 contestants from 14 countries vying for the title.

She told Metro on Tuesday that she has never celebrated that way before, adding that she had the experience of a lifetime at the global show.

"I was so excited! Then I became so emotional when I heard and saw my sponsors from Aranda Textile (a major blanket retail outlet) who came to support me, singing praises in Sesotho. That made me cry even more.

"It was a great honour for Basotho to bestow so much trust on me by choosing me to represent their country. It also means a lot to other local models because I have now paved the way for them in order to get recognition for international pageants. We start small, by crawling and we will soon walk," she says, beaming with a huge smile.

Asked about the lessons she drew from the competition, Molefe was quick to highlight that age is nothing but a number.

"I have learnt that no matter how small or big, young or old, one can actually do what they set their minds on. I am saying this

because I was actually the youngest competitor but here I am. I did it too," she says.

For prizes she won, she has only received packages from 'Black Opal' (the main sponsor) while the rest of the goodies will be announced later on the Miss Culture International page.

"I would like to say thank you so much to all Basotho who supported me starting from the voting, and to those remembered me in their prayers until I brought victory home.

"I also give my special thanks to my two directors, Mr Aubrey Silinyana and Mr Rantsatsi Mokeki who were with me every step of the way, as well as the King Moshoeshoe film festival page that's been keeping people posted too. Together we can," she adds.

Molefe who hails from Maseru is the reigning Miss Culture Lesotho, a title she won in Leribe in 2018 as a Lesotho High School learner.

She is expected to finally hand over the crown at the much-awaited Mr and Miss Culture Lesotho pageant to be held in March, 2022 during the King Moshoeshoe Film Festival.



Drink sensibly over the festive season – nutritionist

...because individuals differ, specific effects of alcohol on them will also vary

KABELO MASOABI

LERIBE – During the Christmas and New Year season, several musical festivities, parties, family gatherings, work functions and barbecues are held.

Many people look forward to celebrations during the holidays, yet it is also a time when others drink beyond measure.

This week Metro chats with local nutritionist, Bennett Ketelo, (a food and beverages expert) on how to properly use alcohol during this season and throughout the year.

He says: "While it is a great time of the year, it can also be a time of excess, especially when it comes to alcohol. Some people will suffer adverse consequences that range from fights to car crashes. It is particularly important to take measures to protect ones' health and their loved ones."

Because individuals differ, he says specific effects of alcohol on them will also vary.

"But certain facts are clear, there's no way to make good decisions when you are intoxicated and there's no way to sober up faster," Ketelo warns, advising alcohol users not to underestimate the effects of alcohol.

"Do not believe you can beat them, or they may beat you. Think before you drink, and practice measures to limit your intake," he cautions.

For those who plan to host holiday gatherings, he says it is imperative to offer a variety of nonalcoholic drinks, including water, juices and sparkling sodas.

"Nonalcoholic drinks help counteract the dehydrating effects of alcohol. Also, other fluids may slow down the rate of alcohol absorption into the body and reduce the peak alcohol concentration in the blood. They also provide your guests with alternatives to alcohol," he further shows.

"Also provide a variety of healthy foods and snacks. Food slows down the absorption of alcohol and reduces the peak level of alcohol in the body by about one-third. Food can also minimise stomach irritation and gastrointestinal distress the following day," he says.

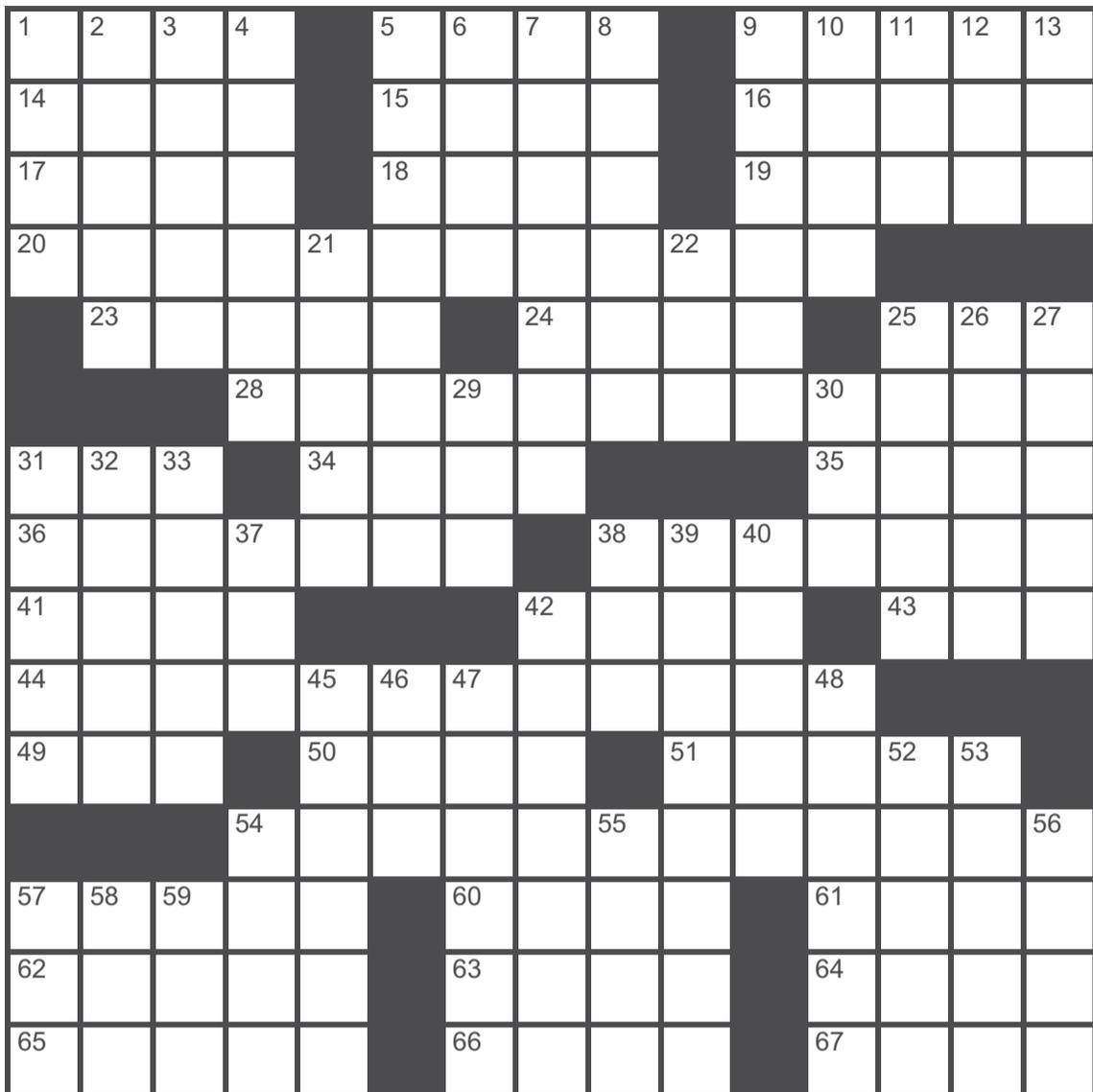
He adds: "After the party, help your guests get home safely - use designated drivers and taxis.

Anyone getting behind the wheel of a car should not have ingested any alcohol. If you are a parent, understand the underage drinking laws—and set a good example. Have a safe holiday season."

The fact is no one intends to be harmed when they celebrate during the holiday season, yet violence and traffic fatalities associated with alcohol misuse persist, and myths about drinking live on—even though scientific studies have documented how alcohol affects the brain and body.

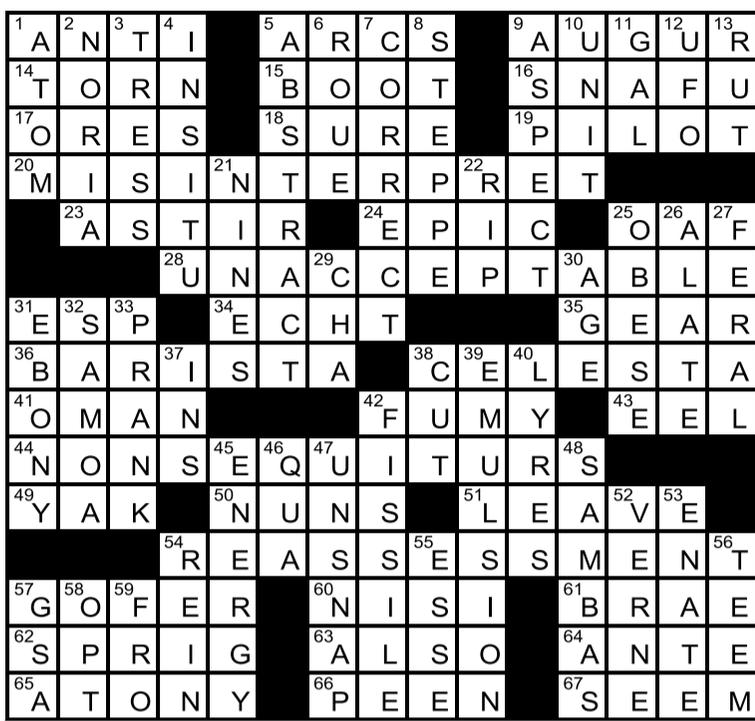
Studies by various centres for disease control and prevention around the world show that alcohol can also cause blackouts—which are gaps in a person's memory while they are intoxicated. These gaps are described to happen when a person drinks enough alcohol to temporarily block the transfer of memories from short-term to long-term storage—known as memory consolidation.

General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. Catch
 - 5. Periodicals
 - 9. In accordance with
 - 14. Old Icelandic literary work
 - 15. Continental currency
 - 16. Swampy lake
 - 17. Butcher's cut
 - 18. Unit of fat
 - 19. Loose talk?
 - 20. Dark greenish-blue color
 - 23. Like some talk
 - 24. Cherished
 - 25. _____ Lanka
 - 28. Generated on one's own
 - 31. Daddy-o
 - 34. Prefix with graph
 - 35. Essence
 - 36. Dusky
 - 38. Alternative
 - 41. "_____ Karenina"
 - 42. Kind of song
 - 43. Always, poetically
 - 44. Envelope knife
 - 49. "_____ Miniver"
 - 50. Made from Australasian palm sap
 - 51. Mountaineer's tool
 - 54. Makes tracks on ice
 - 57. Bit of parsley
 - 60. Three-handed card game
 - 61. Corn bread
 - 62. Stems used for thatching
 - 63. Ultimatum ender
 - 64. Form of ether
 - 65. Swelling
 - 66. Nostradamus, for one
- Down**
- 1. "S.O.S.!"
 - 2. Smells
 - 3. Hatred
 - 4. Part of the Louisiana Purchase
 - 5. Esther's scroll
 - 6. Heavenly glow
 - 7. Old-timer
 - 8. Melancholy
 - 9. Laughable
 - 10. Circular announcement
 - 11. Myanmar monetary unit
 - 12. Many, many moons
 - 13. Persian, e.g.
 - 21. Caught some Z's
 - 22. Indochinese language
 - 42. Twinkle
 - 45. Conundrum
 - 46. 18-wheeler
 - 47. Works
 - 48. Collected
 - 52. Make reparations
 - 53. Arc lamp gas
 - 54. Shoot
 - 55. Alleviate
 - 56. Be dependent
 - 57. Any car, affectionately
 - 58. Cushion
 - 59. Parisian way

Last Week's Solution

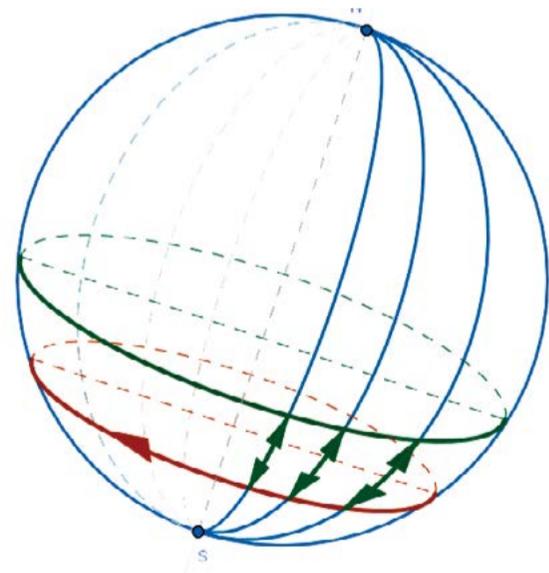


- 25. Harshly criticize
- 26. Recycle
- 27. Lazybones
- 29. Swelter
- 30. Not waste
- 31. Sacred hymn
- 32. Dog tag datum
- 33. Imitates a hot dog
- 37. Kind of race
- 38. Be in debt
- 39. It spirals down a spiral staircase
- 40. Sweater style
- 42. Twinkle
- 45. Conundrum
- 46. 18-wheeler
- 47. Works
- 48. Collected
- 52. Make reparations
- 53. Arc lamp gas
- 54. Shoot
- 55. Alleviate
- 56. Be dependent
- 57. Any car, affectionately
- 58. Cushion
- 59. Parisian way

So You Think You are Geneius

Question (Answer next week)

An explorer went wandering one day, one mile south, then one mile east, then one mile north, and he was back where he started - what colour was the bear which was eating his sandwiches?

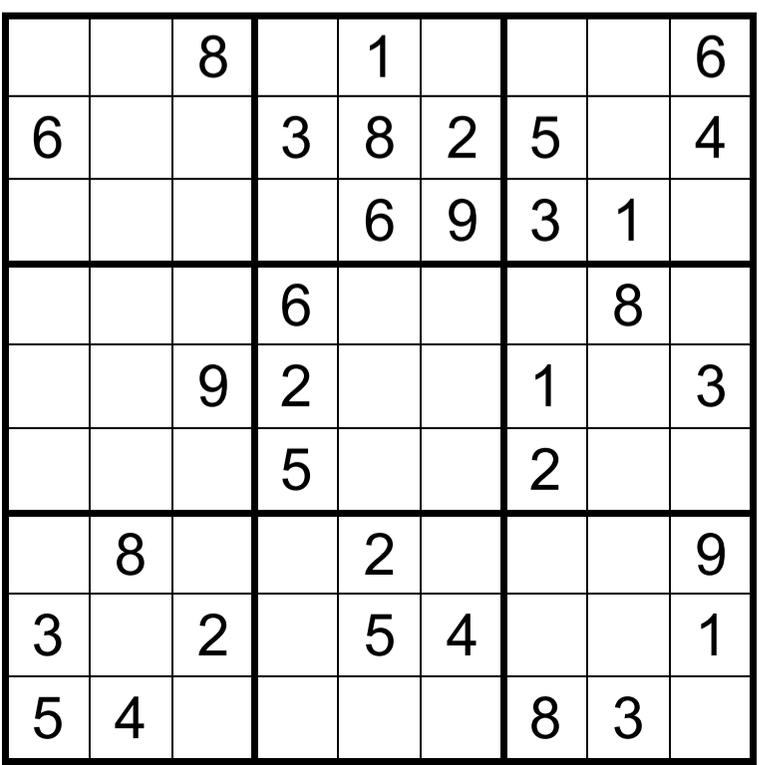


Last Week's Answer



I will be 35; I am currently 21.

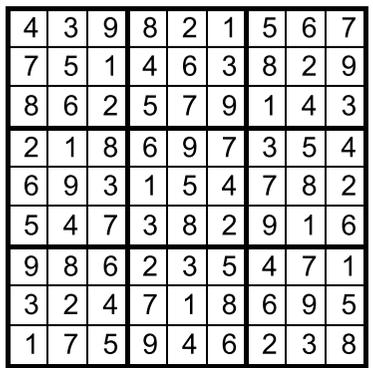
Sudoku Puzzle



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



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Be Car-Smart

Ready, steady, go on holiday with Liqui Moly

It is about now - the first week of December - when motorists think about the next phase of their year-end travel arrangements. This usually has to do with "getting there" and thus involves the all-important D to D phase - Driveway to Destination. Melicia Labuschagne from Liqui Moly points out that this is all about preparation.

"It is a bit of a stretch of the imagination to say that getting there is half the fun, but we do believe that the journey should be the start of the unwinding process, and that can only happen if the trip is trouble-free. This outcome requires attention to detail, and there is a Liqui Moly product to attend to every one of those details!"

Liqui Moly has a massive made-in-Germany

product range to look after all your equipment: whether it be a bakkie, car, SUV, boat, caravan or motorcycle. It doesn't matter if you're going on holiday or going to work; Liqui Moly has a solution that will take care of what takes care of you.

Ensuring the vehicle's primary mechanical systems - engine, gearbox/transmission, brakes and differential are running the correct fluids or lubricants in the appropriate volumes and that they have been refreshed in line with the service schedule is critical. If you're unsure, it is better to change these more, rather than less, frequently - especially if it is a workhorse and gets used for towing.

But what about the other things that matter? The

windscreen's ability to shrug off bug splatter, the cooling system's ability to cope with the additional workload? And if you're towing, are the electrical connections of the trailer's lights sound and is the grease in the wheel bearings able to cope with sustained 120 km/h travel?

As Melicia said: fortunately, there is a tried and tested Liqui Moly solution for each scenario. Here are some of the products she considers essential for trouble-free travel and can be easily stored in a boot bag or along with your emergency tools and wheel change hardware.

Motorists can also find out more about the Liqui Moly range on the brand's website: www.liqui-moly.co.za or, better still, download the fantastic Advantage app. Fix Clear Rain Repellent: This is designed to create an invisible shield that stops almost anything from sticking to your windscreen - or helmet visor. Water droplets bead instantly and roll away, while insects don't stick as they would normally - the result: better vision and more safety.

Windshield Super-concentrated Cleaner: Add it to your windscreen washer bottle in a ratio of 1:100, and it'll make your screen squeaky clean, without any smearing. It's phosphate-free and biodegradable, with a pleasant citrus aroma.

Pro Line Electronic Spray: For those trailer/caravan light fittings that inevitably need some coaxing to get them working and for the multi-pin trailer plug that has been left dangling in the rain. LM40 Multi-purpose Spray: a must-have - there are too many uses to list here! Radiator Stop Leak: a vehicle's cooling system is a pressurised, closed system so even a small leak can have a dramatic effect.

Suitable for aluminium and plastic radiators and compatible with all conventional coolant additives and antifreezes.

Rat-Ban Repellent Spray: Warm, quiet engine bays are a favourite hang-out for rats, and electrical wiring is a preferred nest-building material. When your car is parked at the campsite, don't let it be targeted! Rats hate the smell of Rat-Ban, and coating under-bonnet wiring will repel them.

"Not sweating the small stuff is a good life philosophy - but sometimes the small stuff does matter! The products listed above can each play an important role in making a journey a little less stressful and therefore safer while helping to keep your vehicle in perfect running condition for the return leg," concludes Labuschagne.

Volkswagen has announced the retail price of South Africa's second best-selling passenger car, the Polo. The front and rear ends of the new Polo have been given a sportier and fresh look. The headlights and taillights now come standard with LED technology across the range. The new Polo has a distinctive signature which includes a new LED light strip along the radiator grille in conjunction with IQ.LIGHT LED matrix headlights - which is a standard feature in the new Polo GTI.

The interior of the new Polo boasts a digital cockpit, a re-designed multi-function steering wheel, new-generation infotainment systems and wireless App-Connect (optional feature). Furthermore, for the first time, the new Polo will be offered with the optional IQ.DRIVE Travel Assist feature.

The new Polo model range has adopted Volkswagen's new naming convention. The new Polo will now be available in the Polo (base model), Polo Life (mid-level) and Polo R-Line (premium). The new Polo will also be available in a GTI derivative. When compared to the outgoing derivative, the entry-level Polo (70kW Manual) now comes standard with LED headlights and taillights, a new multi-function steering wheel and a digital dashboard display. App-Connect, which was an optional feature in the outgoing derivative, is now a standard feature in the new Polo.

The new Polo Life (70kW Manual) derivative is now offered with four additional standard features which were optional in the outgoing derivative. These are the digital dashboard display, Park Distance Control (front and rear), electric folding mirrors and lumbar support for the driver and front passenger are all standard features in the new Polo Life model.

In the Polo Life (85kW DSG®) derivative, the digital dashboard display, Park Distance Control (front and rear), electric folding mirrors, lumbar support for the driver and front passenger as well as a leather-wrapped multi-function steering wheel with shift paddles now come standard - these were optional features in the outgoing derivative. The Polo Life (85kW DSG®) also comes available with 15-inch Essex alloy wheels.

In the new Polo R-Line, the bumpers are distinguished from all other Polo versions by their striking R design. Standard features include the digital dashboard display, Park Distance Control (front and rear), electric folding mirrors, lumbar support for the driver and front passenger as well as a leather-wrapped multi-function steering wheel with shift paddles. The Polo R-Line also features 16-inch Valencia alloy wheels, Composition Media infotainment system with inductive mobile charging and the two-zone climatronic air-

Retail price of the new Volkswagen Polo announced

...as the Volkswagen Polo will go on sale in January 2022



conditioning system.

The new Polo GTI now comes standard with the premium IQ.Light LED matrix headlights which are also offered in the Golf 8 GTI. Other standard features in the new Polo GTI are the digital dashboard display, Park Distance Control, electric folding mirrors and Dynamic Chassis Control, dynamic front cornering lights and the two-zone climatronic system. The autonomous emergency braking with front assist, which was not available in the outgoing model, is now a standard feature in the new Polo GTI. The Polo GTI also comes standard with 17-inch Milton Keynes

alloy wheels and a Composition Media infotainment system with inductive mobile charging.

Recommended Retail Price (VAT and emissions tax included)

Polo 1.0 TSI 70kW Manual R311 800

Polo Life 1.0 TSI 70kW Manual R350 000

Polo GTI 2.0 TSI 147kW DSG® R489 400

The new Volkswagen Polo comes standard with a 3 year/120 000km warranty, 3 year/ 45 000km EasyDrive Service Plan and a 12-year anti-corrosion warranty. The service interval is 15 000km.

Customers have the option to extend EasyDrive

Maintenance and EasyDrive Service Plans up to 10 years/ 300 000km. The EasyDrive Maintenance Plan covers costs (parts and labour) associated with scheduled vehicle services, repairs of defective components and wear and tear items (excluding tyres) that need to be replaced as well as 24/7 Roadside Assistance. The EasyDrive Service Plan covers all manufacturer-specific scheduled service requirements, including parts and labour costs. The new Polo 70kW and GTI derivatives will retail from Volkswagen dealers in January 2022. The Polo 85kW derivatives will be available from March 2022.



AWOL players leave Bantu in defence crisis



Bantu FC head coach, Bob Mafoso

MASERU – Bantu FC head coach, Bob Mafoso has admitted to having a selection headache over his depleted squad after several of his charges were reported

to have gone AWOL as the club prepares to return to action this weekend.

The defending league champions will face LDF in a

catch-up match this weekend after the Vodacom Premier League recently made a return following the long layoff.

Players such as Bokang Sello,

Lekhooa Khoete and Keamogetse Wolf are reported to have gone absent without leave since the team returned to training over a month ago.

Bantu currently have no natural left-back in their squad having also parted ways with South African born Lebohang Shelling, who joined them after impressing during his time at Lioli.

“We are called a big team because of the resources that we have and anything that depletes our squad leaves us worried because we have little options,” Mafoso said.

“Our team used to boast about having an even left footed centre-back that gave us a good balance, but we are a big team and still have the quality to adapt to the current situation,” he said.

The Bantu mentor said his side will have to find ways to grind results without a natural left-back as they aim to defend their league title.

“Of course, it will be different without a natural left-back, but we have to find a way to play without it and still get the right balance in the team,” he said.

“It worries us a lot that we do not have a natural left back, but like I said, we are a big team, and we will have to make do with what we have now and get the best out of it.

“We were supposed to return

last weekend against Linare, but the match was postponed due to heavy rain and I think the team is ready to return to action now.

A Matšo Matebele are also still preparing for life without their last season top goal scorer, Litšepe Marabe, who left the country a few months ago for a new adventure with an Indian outfit, Royal Basco FC.

Marabe contributed hugely to Bantu’s successes since joining the club almost eight years ago after an unsuccessful spell with the now defunct South African side, Garankuwa United.

He was the league lead goal scorer last season as the Mafeteng-based outfit nearly went the whole season unbeaten, scoring 14 goals to walk away with the golden boot award.

The left-footed forward was again at the top of the goal scoring charts in the Vodacom Premier League when football activities were halted by the COVID-19 pandemic earlier this year.

Weekend’s matches will also see last season runners-up Matlama FC return to action with a clash against LCS at the LCS Ground while Swallows will host Lijabatho and Sefothafotha welcome LMPS at the Ratjomose Military Barracks.



Bantu football club



Taekwondo players in action

Lesotho taekwondo team loses to Eswatini in AUSC finals

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MASERU - After collecting three gold medals in the semifinals of the ongoing African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 Games on Monday, the Lesotho taekwondo team on Tuesday lost to their Eswatini counterparts in the finals to settle for silver medals.

The three gold medals came through Liteboho Motsosi in the women's bantam

weight division (46kg), Mpho Mofammere in the men's fin weight class (45kg) and Karabo Thokoa in the men's lightweight category (59kg).

Lesotho coach, Puseletso Lekanyane told Metro on Tuesday that his charges could have won numerous gold medals had they not put themselves under unnecessary pressure.

"My charges put themselves under pressure on Tuesday following the three gold medals they collected on Monday. They were desperate to win by all means.

"I had however, not expected the kind of performance they displayed. We started training for this competition during the COVID-19 lockdowns but we did not have enough time as we only trained a day and half per week. We camped towards November. My charges are all new to international competition. One of them was shortchanged and his points were given to an opponent. I have only three players who are still in the tournament and will be in the finals."

Monaheng Khebe failed to compete in

the men's 60kg semifinals on Tuesday after he weighed 61kg during the weighing-in on Monday.

The Lesotho Taekwondo Association (LTA) Public Relations Officer, Sek'hok'he Molikoe said the athlete lost the semifinal match as per the taekwondo regulations.

The AUSC Region 5 Maseru 2020 Games commenced on December 1 with the football competition while the other sporting codes followed some days later. The regional games end on December 12.

LeFA uses COSAFA legacy programmes to empower women footballers

...as the regional body starts its legacy programmes with a referee's course which included 15 match officials

MASERU - Lesotho Football Association (LeFA), a body responsible for the promotion of soccer in the country is using the regional Council of Southern Africa Football Association (COSAFA) programmes to empower local women in football.

Mikia Kalati, LeFA Media Officer said the soccer governing body is dedicating the COSAFA legacy programmes to empower women administrators and coaches who are participating in the week-long D License

Coaching and Administration courses which began last week Friday at the Kick4Life sports centre in Maseru and Thaba Bosiu respectively.

He said the D license coaching course has drawn a total of 20 participants, 14 females with six males.

"The administration course is also dominated by females who have taken 16 slots with only four going to their male counterparts," he said.

Kalati noted that the regional body kick-started its legacy programmes with a referee's course which included 15 local match officials, adding that three of them have been appointed to officiate at the ongoing 2020 AUSC Region 5 Games in Maseru.

He said on Saturday, COSAFA collaborated with LeFA to hold the COSAFA -15 girls' legacy tournament for the 10 districts at the Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena in Maseru. Both the semifinals and final were held on Sunday.

Kalati further showed that LeFA's female Assistant Referee, Polotso Maapara officiated the U-20 World Cup qualifier between Zambia and Ghana played at the Nkloma stadium in Lusaka Zambia over the weekend.

He said Maapara was the Second Assistant Referee working alongside South Africa duo of Akhona Makalima and Maneo Tau as the Central referee and First Assistant Referee respectively.

He said Joyce Seonyatseng from Botswana and Rusina Majo of Zimbabwe were the Fourth official and the Match Commissioner respectively. LeNA



LeFA Media Officer, Mikia Kalati



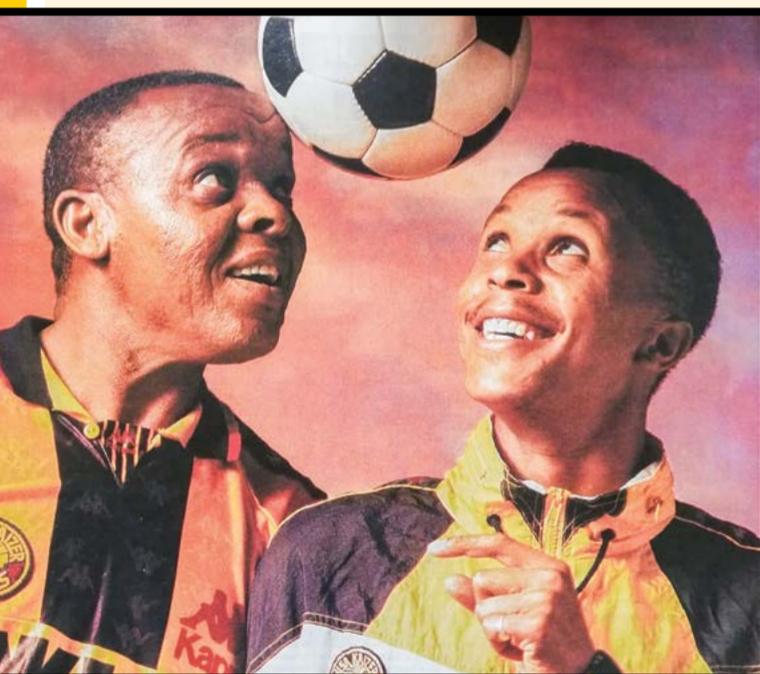
The versatile footballer, coach, actor - Doctor Khumalo



THEOPHILUS "16v" Doctorson Khumalo born June 26, 1967), also known as Doctor Khumalo, is a South African former soccer player. He is best known for being a star midfielder for Kaizer

Chiefs as well as the South African national team, the Bafana Bafana.

Having started playing soccer in 1984 with Swallows Reserves, Khumalo then went to Kaizer Chiefs, where he initially



Father and son share the ball

played for the junior team. His father, Eliakim Khumalo, a renowned player of the 1970s and early 1980s, served as his mentor. Khumalo was promoted to the senior team by Coach Ted Dumitri the following year, when he started a game against arch rivals Orlando Pirates.

Khumalo went on to become a star player for Kaizer Chiefs and did not play for any other South African soccer club, only leaving them for short overseas playing periods – he signed with FIFA agent Marcelo Houseman who first took him to Argentinian club Ferro Carril Oeste for six months in 1995, while in 1996 and 1997 he played for the Columbus Crew of the Major League Soccer.

The high-point of Khumalo's soccer career was the 1990s - he was part of the Kaizer Chiefs teams that won three South African league championship titles and five knockout trophies and was also voted South African Footballer of the Year in 1992. During his career at the club, he played in a total of 397 league and cup games, scoring 90 goals.

After the re-admission of South Africa to FIFA in 1992, Khumalo was selected to be a member of the South African squad for its first official international match in July of the same year, against Cameroon. South Africa won the match 1-0, due to a penalty scored by Khumalo. He was also a leading member of the winning South African national team at the 1996 African Nations Cup. He also represented South Africa in the 1998 Football World Cup. Throughout his whole international career, he played for South Africa 50 times (twice as captain), scoring nine goals, making him the 13th most capped South African footballer.

One of Khumalo's most memorable games was perhaps the 1996 Mandela Cup match, where South Africa (Bafana Bafana) played against Brazil. Phil Masinga scored the first goal from Doctor Khumalo's corner kick. Khumalo then scored the second goal to make the score 2-0 in favour of the South Africans. Unfortunately for Bafana, Brazil came back in the second half, scoring three goals, to win the encounter 3-2.

He retired in 2002 and then in 2004 as a player-coach. Although he was a winning co-coach (with Donald "Ace" Khuse) of Kaizer Chiefs in the 2002-2003 season (guiding the club to a 12-game unbeaten record and earning themselves a joint Coach



of the Month PSL award), Khumalo has stated that his aim is to become a soccer administrator. Since 2004, Khumalo served as a television soccer commentator and presenter, being named afterwards South African Under-17 national coach.

Khumalo was voted 62nd in the Top 100 Great South Africans in 2004. He is married to Namibian beauty queen Blanche Garises.

He has SAFA Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 coaching licenses, an English Football Association license which he obtained in 2005 and a UEFA B license through the German Football Federation in 2007. He previously worked as head coach for the Kaizer Chiefs Under-17 team and together with Khuse. He is the assistant coach for Kaizer Chief

Khumalo made his film acting debut with the German/South African production Themba. He plays

himself as the coach of the under 21s. The movie is about Themba, a young and ambitious football youth, who is faced with poverty, AIDS and violence, but eventually, makes his way on to the South African national team. The film is based on a novel by Lutz van Dijk and premiered at the Berlinale 2010. WIKIPEDIA



Region 5 Youth Games
MASERU 2020
 START FROM 3RD - 12TH
 DECEMBER 2021