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**Lehata slammed for utilising banned drug**

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**FNB LAUNCHES NEW BRAND CAMPAIGN**

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**Lesotho readies for PFIZER COVID Vaccine**

9



# Regulars

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- Lesotho applauded for reaching vaccination population target
- Arrows look to compound Gallants' woes
- UNFPA to capacitate media



## BORN ON THIS DAY

October 7

- 1809 - Prince Albert of Prussia, Prussian colonel general, born in Königsberg (d. 1872)
- 1868 - Marcelo Torcuato de Alvear, President of Argentina (1922-28), born in Argentina
- 1917 - Albert de Klerk, Dutch organist, composer, and conductor, born in Netherlands
- 1927 - Walter Bishop, Jr, American bebop jazz pianist, music theorist, and educator
- 1955 - Jorge Valdano, Argentine soccer forward and manager (23 caps; Real Madrid)
- 1988 - Melissa Benoist, American actress and singer (Glee, Supergirl), born in Colorado
- 1989 - Dakota Johnson, American actress and daughter of Melanie Griffith & Don Johnson
- 1989 - Lil Mama [Niatia Jessica Kirkland], American rapper (VYP: Voice of the Young People)
- 1989 - Kimmie Meissner, American figure skater (World C'ship gold singles 2006)

## Quotes & Quips!

*"It's difficult to see coverage that misrepresents our work and our motives. At the most basic level, I think most of us just don't recognise the false picture of the company that is being painted,"*

says Facebook Inc. CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, addressing a recent series of negative stories about the company for the first time by saying accusations that it puts profit over user safety are "just not true."



## NewsBriefs

### Foreigners nabbed en-route to Lesotho

**MASERU** - Four Bangladeshi men were on Friday arrested at the OR Tampo International Airport, in Gauteng as they attempted to board a flight to Lesotho using fraudulent travel documents.

This, after three Chinese nationals were apprehended at the Moshoeshoel International Airport over a week ago, trying to enter Lesotho using forged documents.

According to information from the Ministry of Home Affairs, it has become common practice for foreigners to forge letters inviting them into Lesotho in order to gain access into the country.

A statement from the ministry shows that Minister Motlalentoa Letsosa and his deputy, Maimane Maphathe, are working tirelessly to put in place robust controls to prevent unlawful entry of foreigners into Lesotho.

In an earlier interview, Mr Letsosa confirmed that the issue of foreigners entering the country on forged documents is so common that the ministry arrests between three and four foreigners a week.

"Since it takes time for cases to be heard in the courts of law, we have resorted to deporting these foreigners back to their native countries. Besides, even if we take them to court, they get bail and continue staying in the country illegally," he said.

He added: "Last year, we filed several cases in court against such people but to date the matters have not been heard."

Mr Letsosa said the ministry has suspended issuance of citizenship and indefinite residence permits because foreigners take such permits for their own reasons instead of what they are intended for.

"We also suspect that officials at the Moshoeshoel International Airport play a part in the



Home Affairs Minister, Motlalentoa Letsosa

crime by somehow helping these foreigners to access fraudulent travel documents. LeNA

### Majoro leads national Independence Day celebration

**MASERU** - Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro has reminded Basotho about the severity of soil erosion in Lesotho, saying it is befitting that when the country commemorates 55 years of independence, they should engage in developmental activities such as tree planting and rehabilitation of dongas.

The Prime Minister who was flanked the Minister of Home Affairs, Motlalentoa Letsosa and the Minister of Forestry, Motlohi Maliehe was speaking at the official celebration of Lesotho's 55th Independence Day held in Mahloenyeng, Matsieng on Monday.

As part of the commemoration, Dr Majoro joined scores of Basotho in planting willow trees as well as rehabilitating dongas in Molulaneng in the Mahloenyeng area.

"The effects of climate change are many including among others droughts floods, very high and cold

temperatures, late rainfalls which affect farming and rising sea levels which could submerge other countries," he said.

He was quick to note that donga rehabilitation and tree planting are some of the climate change mitigation efforts, adding that they also help restore wetlands as water is life.

"We see a huge difference here since the conservation project began in 2018 with the Head of State, His Majesty King Letsie III spearheading that day's activities," he said.

He therefore appealed to chiefs and local authorities to initiate developmental projects in their respective areas so that the government could assist them with expertise and relevant resources.

Lesotho gained independence from England on October 4, 1966. LeNA

## FastFACTS

The coldest temperature ever recorded was -144 degrees Fahrenheit

You might think you're accustomed to frigid air and blustery winds, but the average winter day has nothing on the coldest day ever recorded, which was -144 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature was recorded in Antarctica during a span of research between 2004 and 2016. Just a few breaths of air at that temperature would induce hemorrhaging in your lungs and kill you.

## On This Day in History

### 2001

October 07

#### U.S.-led attack on Afghanistan begins

On October 7, 2001, a U.S.-led coalition begins attacks on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan with an intense bombing campaign by American and British forces. Logistical support was provided by other nations including France, Germany, Australia and Canada and, later, troops were provided by the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance rebels. The invasion of Afghanistan was the opening salvo in the United States "war on terror" and a response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.

Dubbed "Operation Enduring Freedom" in U.S. military parlance, the invasion of Afghanistan was intended to target terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization, which was based in the country, as well as the extreme fundamentalist Taliban government that had ruled most of the country since 1996 and supported and protected al-Qaida. The Taliban, which had imposed its extremist version of Islam on the entire country, also perpetrated countless human rights abuses against its people, especially women, girls and ethnic Hazaras. During their rule, large numbers of Afghans lived in utter poverty, and as many as 4 million Afghans are thought to have suffered from starvation.

In the weeks prior to the invasion, both the United States and the U.N. Security Council had demanded that the Taliban turn over Osama bin Laden for prosecution. After deeming the Taliban's counteroffers unsatisfactory - among them to try bin Laden in an Islamic court - he invasion began with an aerial bombardment of Taliban and al-Qaida installations in Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Konduz and Mazar-e-Sharif. Other coalition planes flew in airdrops of humanitarian supplies for Afghan civilians. The Taliban called the actions "an attack on Islam." In a taped statement released to the Arabic al-Jazeera television network, Osama bin Laden called for a war against the entire non-Muslim world.

## ALL JOKES ASIDE

### Sermon about death and final judgment

During an impassioned sermon about death and final judgement, the pastor said forcefully, "Each member of this church is going to die and face judgement!"

Glancing down at the front pew, he noticed a man with a big smile on his face.

The minister repeated his point louder. "Each member of this church is going to die and face judgement!"

The man nodded and smiled even more.

This really got the preacher wound up. He pounded the pulpit emphatically when he came to the ultimatum: "Each member of this church is going to die and face judgement!!!"

Though everyone else in the congregation was looking somber, the man in front continued to smile.

Finally the preacher stepped off the platform, stood in front of the man and shouted, "I said each member of this church is going to die!"

The man grinned from ear to ear.

After the service was over, the preacher made a beeline for the man. "I don't get it," the preacher said in frustration. "Whenever I said, 'Each member of this church is going to die,' your smile got bigger. Why?"

"I'm not a member of this church," the man replied.

If it matters to you, it matters to us.



# Give us

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## Lesotho to participate in 27th ICSOE Meeting 5



# Metro BUSINESS

## CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	21.38
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	15.07
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.40
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.34
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.14
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.45
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	10.94
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.94
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	11.08
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.037
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.025
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.33
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.96
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.21
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	4.02
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.66
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.74
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.20
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.08
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.35

## COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS		PRECIOUS METALS	
S&P500	4,327.75	Gold p/ounce	1,758.27
NASDAQ100	14,677.82	Platinum p/ounce	980.00
Nikkei225	27,528.87	Silver p/ounce	22.42
Dow Jones30	34,107.44	Copper p/ounce	4.15
FTSE 100	7,002.22	Brent Oil p/barrel	81.18
JSE	63,914.00	EQUITIES	
Hang Seng	23,977.51	Bonds	18.44
		Treasury Bills	3.67
		Interest Rates	91

## AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

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

## ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

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

### NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** – Lekhema Ramaphiri, the Project Manager of the Migrant Workers Association of Lesotho (MWAL), a nonprofit making and non-governmental organization working end the plight of migrants and their welfare regardless of their status has cited hunger and poverty as some of the compelling factors towards human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Lesotho.

“Poor economic conditions in Lesotho have a huge impact towards human trafficking as more people become vulnerable due to hunger and poverty. As more and more people struggle to make ends meet, they wind up engaging in criminal activities like murder and body organ selling in order to earn money to feed their families,” Ramaphiri told Metro on Wednesday.

Around 24.1 percent of the population in Lesotho lives in extreme poverty with half of the population living below the national poverty line according to the Social Protection Program and Systems Review released by the World Bank Group.

Lesotho's national poverty rate is measured at the national poverty line of LSL 648.88 per adult equivalent per month. In absolute terms, this translates to 994 000 people living below the poverty line and 484 000 living in extreme poverty.

Those experiencing extreme poverty are especially vulnerable due to their circumstances and familial desperation. These high risk populations become trapped in the desire to obtain a better life for themselves and their families.

The poor are subsequently preyed upon by manipulative

# Poor economic conditions exacerbate human trafficking

traffickers offering false promises of employment and education opportunities, remuneration in addition to a better life condition. In reality, the trafficker does not follow through on any of the promises.

The victims are then forced to do other work such as prostitution or hard labour, sometimes receiving little to no pay at all.

To date, the MWAL says 17 cases of human trafficking, mostly women, have been reported

since the beginning of this year.

In order to address some of these challenges, the association, through the support from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has outlined a two-day awareness campaign on anti-trafficking, migrant smuggling and COVID-19 adaptation, scheduled for October 22-23.

“We work mostly with textile and domestic workers to create awareness on human

trafficking. Since 2016, following severe drought conditions, challenges of human trafficking have been increasing mainly due to hunger and poverty, but now the situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and that is why many people are so vulnerable to human trafficking in recent years,” Mr Ramaphiri added.

Recently, the country upgraded from a lower level, Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watchlist in this year's edition of Trafficking in Person Report.

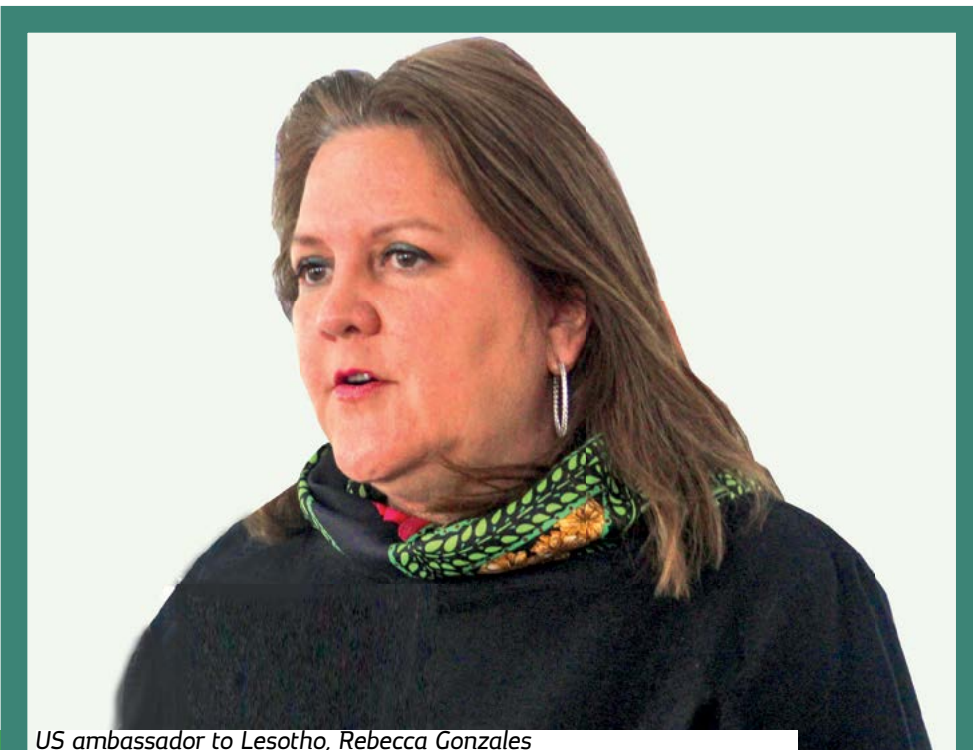
Lesotho will have to step up its efforts over the next year in order to remain eligible for further United States (U.S) development assistance.

Particularly, the country should focus on investigations into credible allegations of official complicity in human smuggling and human trafficking.

This was said by the U.S ambassador to Lesotho, Rebecca Gonzales in a statement marking the 245th Independence Day of the United States of America on July 4.

Failure to achieve these targets may result in the country, among others, losing out on further U.S development assistance such as the country's second Millennium Challenge Corporation compact which is necessary to increase economic growth, reduce poverty and create sustainable opportunities for Basotho.

An upgrade from Tier 3 according to the report means that the Government of Lesotho does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.



US ambassador to Lesotho, Rebecca Gonzales



# FNB launches new brand campaign



FNB Lesotho's Chief Executive Officer, Delekazi Mokebe

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** – First National Bank (FNB) Lesotho on Wednesday launched a new brand communication campaign, #TheChangeables, in a move that seeks to celebrate Basotho who take challenges in their stride as well as transform obstacles into opportunities while at the same time embracing change as way of building a better future for themselves and others.

The new campaign continues to deliver on the bank's well established brand purpose of helpfulness.

FNB's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Delekazi Mokebe said in her remarks during the official launch that the new campaign means they support people who embrace change, despite the notable impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is a big day today, and we are saying to our customers we should all embrace change if we want to see changes in our lives. COVID-19 impacted us negatively, but we kept going on and today's event is an indication that we support people who embrace change. We are the #TheChangeables and we support #TheChangeables," Mrs Mokebe said.

The year 2020, according to the bank, was an indication to everyone that there

really is no need to fear change, but, at the same time indicated that people should instead embrace it as a highly positive force in their lives.

The campaign, the bank said does not only celebrate the willingness and courage of change agents to do exactly that, but it also asserts FNB's total commitment to supporting all the agents of change through its platform based solutions as a trusted enabler of change and the preferred bank of #TheChangeables.

"FNB Lesotho believes that change is inevitable, and we believe in you as our customer and your potential to embrace change. We support all Basotho who are re-inventing themselves, from street vendors selling fruits to businesses that sell via their online platforms," FNBL Head of Marketing and Communications, Masakoane Marakabei said during the same event.

The company, she said believes small change can make a huge difference, adding that the COVID-19 pandemic challenged them in many ways.

"We have had to adopt and ensure that our solutions are tailored to our customers' context, and together with our customer-centric solutions, we can confidently say that we are the bank of #TheChangeables," Ms Marakabei said.

## Fresh produce market finally launched

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** – Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro has urged local fruits and vegetable farmers to take full advantage of the newly launched Maluti Fresh Produce Market and tackle market challenges that have been encountered for many years.

The primary objective of the Maluti Fresh Produce Market is to correct the structural deficiencies in the local fresh produce market. This, as part of the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC)'s mandate, will improve market access to aggregated vegetable production whilst enabling greater local participation in vegetable production and ultimately improving economic activity.

The LNDC is the main parastatal of the Government of Lesotho that is charged with the implementation of the country's industrial development policies.

The market centre will allow farmers to better market their fresh produce and receive prompt payment for their products.

"Farmers will now be in a better position to benefit from their produce through this market centre as they work hand in hand with buyers to establish the type of produce needed in the market. The market centre is open for both big and small producers equally in order to provide opportunity for growth of small producers," Dr Majoro said during the launch of the centre on Wednesday.

He said for a long time, Lesotho has been relying on food imports from South Africa, spending millions of maloti in the process.

But he said time has come for Lesotho to be able to produce enough for its people and for export purposes.

He said local farmers should however, be smart enough to establish the market first before thinking of producing.

This, he said will enable them to avoid any unnecessary costs as farmers will have a clear picture with regard to the quantity and quality that is needed in the market.

"We have to deal with this challenge of producing in large quantity without identification of the market first. The journey of production begins with market identification first," he said.

The market centre was developed by the Ministry of Trade and Industry through a grant from the International Trade Centre (ITC) under the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Project Phase II.

The ministry later handed the asset over to the LNDC to develop it for private investment and commercial operationalisation.

Prime Minister  
Dr Moeketsi  
Majoro



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innocent  
on the bright side



# Lesotho to participate in 27th ICSSOE meeting

...Assembly to be held in a hybrid format- virtual and physical

**MASERU** – Lesotho will on October 13-14 participate in the 27th Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts of Southern Africa (ICSSOE) meeting, a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) policy sub-organ of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

The Committee was established to provide a forum for engaging senior officials and experts of member states on policy and programme-related matters in each of the five sub regions of Africa – Central, Eastern, North, Southern and West.

The 27th ICSSOE meeting will be held in a hybrid format- virtual and physical, in capitals of member states of SRO-SA and in Blantyre, Malawi.

According to the Public Relations Manager of the Ministry of Finance, Keneue Mojaki, the main objectives of the meeting is to deliberate on statutory matters, including review economic and social conditions in southern Africa with focus on the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic responses.

The meeting, she said will also look into providing a high-level platform to reflect on the recommendations of the Ad-hoc

Expert Group Meeting (AEGM) on Agriculture value chains, linkages and transformation in southern Africa which will see opportunities from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for endorsement and to provide guidance on their implementation.

Ms Mojaki said the expected outcome from the meeting includes to enhance understanding and appreciation of the economic and social conditions in southern Africa in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the prospects for 2022.

She added that the meeting is also expected to lead into the improved understanding of progress, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the AfCFTA in southern Africa.

Also expected to participate in the meeting are high-level officials and experts from all 11 member states of Sub regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA), women and youth groups, professional associations, academic and research institutions, UN agencies and development partners.

The 26th ICSSOE meeting which was held in Lusaka, Zambia on October 29, 2020 elected Lesotho as the Chair, Malawi as Vice Chair and South Africa as Rapporteur to lead the Bureau.

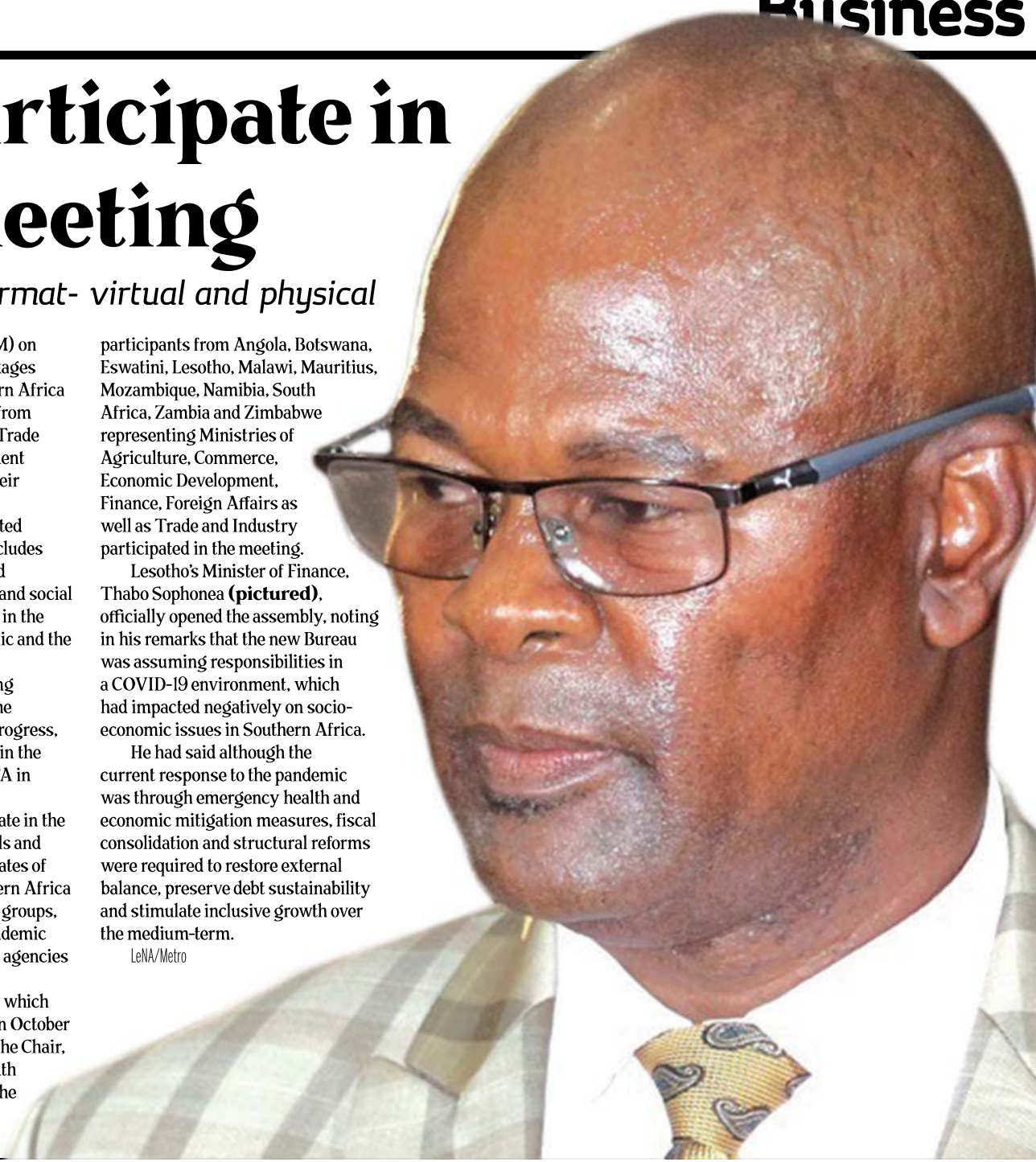
Delegates and

participants from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe representing Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce, Economic Development, Finance, Foreign Affairs as well as Trade and Industry participated in the meeting.

Lesotho's Minister of Finance, Thabo Sophonea (**pictured**), officially opened the assembly, noting in his remarks that the new Bureau was assuming responsibilities in a COVID-19 environment, which had impacted negatively on socio-economic issues in Southern Africa.

He had said although the current response to the pandemic was through emergency health and economic mitigation measures, fiscal consolidation and structural reforms were required to restore external balance, preserve debt sustainability and stimulate inclusive growth over the medium-term.

LeNA/Metro



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# Comments & Letters

## Potholes are destroying our cars

The Editor,

Potholes are commonplace throughout our country and are often the cause of hefty repair bills on vehicles. Not only can hitting a pothole seriously damage one's car, but it can also lead to fatal crashes. Sadly, as is the case with most service delivery issues, the government is often slow in remedying this situation.

For some districts such as the capital Maseru, the issue of potholes is an on-going battle and unfortunately potholes have become a fact of life for most road users.

Why is there so much delay in road repairs? One hole in the road, means many damages to several cars.

Most often than not, these potholes are the cause of many road accidents that are happening.

I therefore appeal to those who are responsible to make necessary road repairs and maintenance to make our lives easier.

Now that the rainy season is here, many roads and bridges are going to be washed away by heavy rains; hence, I urge immediate response.

David Motloang  
TV, Berea

## When we are busy battling COVID-19

The Editor,

HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is one of the world's most grave public health challenges. Even before the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, we still struggled to meet the global AIDS targets and the COVID-19 pandemic has now pushed us back even further.

COVID-19 related restrictions have hurt the most vulnerable, including marginalised and stigmatised communities and has disrupted access to HIV services.

Amid unprecedented global disruptions, we must act immediately to prevent a resurgent global AIDS pandemic and to quickly recover our progress toward ending AIDS. To get fully back on track on HIV, we absolutely have to get on top of the COVID-19. People who are affected by COVID-19 are part of the solution and must be supported. Governments must respect the human rights and dignity of people affected by COVID-19. The experiences learnt from the HIV pandemic can be applied to fight COVID-19. Like in the AIDS response, governments should work with communities to find local solutions. Key populations must not bear the brunt of increased stigma and discrimination as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lerato Balao  
Ha Toloane, Maseru

## Condoms are condoms

The Editor,

Condoms are easy to get and easy to use. They help prevent both unwanted pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) including HIV and AIDS. Either partners who are ready for sexual intercourse buy them or get them for free.

But the bottom line is, they still do their two major functions, to prevent both pregnancy and STDs. They must be used correctly and every time partners have sex.

Condoms are super easy to get from many different stores, community health centres, Planned Parenthood centres, and one does not need a tied prescription or ID to access them, and they are inexpensive and free most of the time.

Protection is important, but so is pleasure. Luckily, condoms offer both! Condoms come in lots of different styles, shapes, and textures that increase sensation for both partners.

Condom distribution is a cost-effective structural intervention that provides communities with resources needed to prevent the spread of HIV. Making condoms widely available through condom distribution programs is integral to successful HIV prevention.

Lintle Masupha  
Lithabane, Maseru

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

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### Fresh produce market centre opens new opportunities for farmers

The launch of the Maluti Fresh Produce Market Centre by Prime Minister Dr Mōeketsi Majoro on Wednesday comes as a great impetus to local farmers who have been crying foul for a long time with challenges of access to market.

The primary objective of the Maluti Fresh Produce Market is to rectify the structural deficiencies in the local fresh produce market. This, as part of LNDC's mandate, will improve market access to amassed vegetable production whilst enabling greater local participation in vegetable production and ultimately improving economic activity.

The market centre will allow individuals engaged in farming activities to properly market their fresh produce while also receiving prompt payments for their products.

For years, Lesotho farmers have been stressed by poor access to market for their produce, leading to scores of others deciding to quit the industry.

But now, with the market centre fully operational, farmers will be encouraged to produce in big quantities and perhaps that will go a long way towards reduction in hunger and poverty while at the same time improving the capacity of small businesses holders in the country.

At the same time, and now with the market available, farmers will have to commit to quality production and in large quantity so that consumers will also feel the need to visit the centre on a regular basis to purchase products.

Furthermore, large retail stores in the country will also feel entitled to visit the place only if the production capacity is of high standards and quantity. Anything below standards will result in potential buyers, choosing to go elsewhere, as far as South Africa to buy certain products.

That way, the market centre would not be serving its principal purpose and could end up falling apart like many other big government projects that have collapsed in the past. The market center was developed by the Ministry of Trade and Industry through a grant from the International Trade Centre (ITC) under the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Project Phase II. The Ministry of Trade and Industry handed the asset over to the LNDC, which was tasked with developing the market centre for private investment and commercial operationalisation.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security as well as that of Trade and Industry should also play a crucial role towards ensuring that the market centre remains in good condition and that only fruits and vegetables of the highest standards are supplied to the facility.

This is a guaranteed way to entice more buyers to the facility, including big retail stores.

## The right to internet access is a major part of the right to information...but Africa lags badly

A significant issue around access to information is access to the internet and access to spectrum and bandwidth. Internet access has been the ultimate source of technological 'leapfrogging' in Africa. This explains why, for example, there are places without running water where one can stream a music video or make a mobile payment. But Africa is still not nearly connected enough. To mark International Day for Universal Access to Information on 28 September 2021, the Information Regulator of South Africa hosted a webinar on "Effective access to information as a human right for vulnerable groups."

The webinar sought to promote access to information as a human right to enable the realisation of other rights, such as the right to vote, the rights of disabled people to information, the right to internet connectivity and how the participation and inclusion of vulnerable groups were facilitated during the Covid-19 pandemic.

International Day for Universal Access to Information is celebrated around the world to promote access to information either held by the state or public institutions which can enable citizens to exercise their other human rights – in South Africa these are contained in our Constitution. In the past, a judicial process would have to be instituted in order to realise this universally and internationally accepted right. We also know how information was kept secret in apartheid South Africa and how the denial of access to information was used to oppress, suppress and decimate African people, which makes the International Day for Universal Access to Information especially important for us.

For 20 years we have had the Promotion of Access to Information Act (Paia) – a law that promotes disclosure of information held by mostly public bodies, and also private bodies. Over the years Paia has been used by public civic organisations, NGOs and human rights organisations and institutions to fight for the right to disclosure of information held by the state and private bodies. While it is important that the state provides us with information, such as statistics on Covid-19 infections, recoveries and deaths, at the same time the protection of the personal information of individuals must be upheld, despite the lawful cause to collect COVID-19 data. This is also consistent with the Information Regulator of South Africa guidance note on COVID-19.

Another big issue around access to information is access to the internet and access to spectrum and bandwidth. Internet access has been the ultimate source of technological "leapfrogging" in Africa. This explains why, for example, there are places without

running water where one can stream a music video or make a mobile payment.

But Africa is still not nearly connected enough. It is still the continent with the lowest internet penetration rate at 39% of the population, compared with a global average of nearly 60%. What's

more, there are large differences in internet access between rural and urban areas, with smartphone usage in urban areas exceeding that of rural areas by almost 200% in some countries.

COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of connectivity. It is essential to share correct information, combat fake news and gather information from citizens (and internet users) on behaviour and movement. The pandemic has had us grasping for silver bullets and easy answers. And while there is no "one thing" that could solve this crisis, enabling greater connectivity should be number one on the to-do list. Why? Because connectivity is a solutions catalyst.

The use of the internet has now become a "must-have" and not a "nice to have". COVID-19 has illustrated the disparity between many people in rural areas (the have nots) who might have a normal old internet connection as opposed to the metropolitan areas where citizens are exposed to 4G and 5G internet connections. The development of technology in terms of access to the internet has been exponential, but coverage and access to the internet have been drawbacks in the realisation of the human right of access to information. The ability to access the internet is now an implied right of access to information. This is an interesting legal and social development. The Information Regulator has taken over the duties and responsibilities on Paia from the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and will now have an enforcement mechanism. The Information Regulator will be able to handle, consider and investigate complaints relating to access to information, and give pronouncements and decisions relating to access to information, and where necessary enforce this in terms of Section 77 A-77 K of Paia.

SA Parliament must be acknowledged for taking a step in the right direction with regard to the law relating to access to information and making it accessible to all people to get legal assistance in court. DM

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The circulation of Free Metro newspaper is 35 000 copies on Thursdays every week.



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# NUL student distils Lesotho's own brandy

**MASERU** - Mountain Spel Brandy, a locally distilled brandy is the newest creation by one of the National University of Lesotho (NUL)'s industrious students, Mohapi Pule.

Pule, a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition student says there is more to brandy than making the heart of a dying man rejoice.

"The healthy nutrients in fruits that make brandy, end up in you when you drink it," he says.

His brandy is produced by fermenting fruits into wine. The wine is then distilled into brandy. It carries the flavours and aroma of the original fruits.

The story of Pule's life starts in Mphaki, Quthing where he was born.

He is the son of a hardworking woman who supports her family by producing traditional beer.

"She started brewing her beer well before I was born. She is still producing it to this day," he says about his mother.

His unique passion for producing alcoholic drinks was probably ignited long before he was born.

"Mothers have a hidden way of passing not just their looks but their passions to their children," Pule say.

He recalls how as a young boy growing up in the dusty rural streets of Mphaki he became involved in his mother's beer making business from a tender age.

"Mostly, I was expected to fetch water for the brewing process. That, I still do to this day when I visit home," he says.

Fast-forward, he finds himself in the Roma Valley, studying BSc in Nutrition at the country's oldest and largest university.

"At some point, I found that I had lost a purpose in life. There was not a thing that I could say, I was passionate about," he sadly recalls.

That situation, of course, threw him into a soul-searching mode and eventually took him back to his roots.

"During that soul-searching period, I recalled that when I was young, I used to imagine myself helping my mom to package the beer she was producing and distribute it countrywide," he says.

From a young age, the issue of subsistence business did not hold water to him. But that early dream only came and passed. Now here he was, worried that he might not amount to anything in life.

Then, boom! an amazing idea comes!  
"What if I make an alcoholic drink?" he had wondered.

He could have thought about any other type of business but, instead, he thought about her mother's passion for producing alcohol.

One of the things he loves about alcoholic beverages is that they are popular.

"I haven't seen products as popular as alcoholic drinks."

He might not be particularly right in that belief of his but the reality is, the world finds great delight in alcohol, although some people over indulge in their drinks to their own detriment.

"Mabele khunoana ralithlaku thabisa lihoho. Mabele u tosa kae e le khale re u batla re sa u thole? Ueeena mabeeeee!"

Now came the hardest part. What specific beverage should he focus on and how would he do it?

He decided to focus on ciders. Not many people in Lesotho produce ciders. He started experimenting from home, and right away he realised that he could not get it right. There was no proper equipment.

"You get the lesson therein. If you want



**CREATIVE:** Producer of Mountain Spel Brandy, Mohapi Pule

to do something—start—just start. That is the secret of innovators," Pule says.

He changed the tune as he learnt about other forms of beverages: the spirits.

"Spirits are very high in alcohol content. Here we are talking the likes of whiskey, vodka and brandy," he says.

He was particularly interested in vodka. He therefore went into one NUL laboratory and, with necessary permission, he started testing a number of spirits and doing a lot of research about them.

He began saving some of his stipend from the National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS) in order to buy the required equipment.

"But saving money is not easy. The subsistence money is already not that much. Having to share it with a business is asking a little too much. I did it anyway. I managed to secure small equipment that I thought would allow me to produce vodka.

After buying the equipment, I only discovered that it was brandy equipment, not vodka's. Now I am forced to get into brandy by chance," he says.

But he is happy to realise that actually, few, if any, have tried a hand in brandy production in Lesotho.

Now that he had already spent his money on the business, he thought he might as well make it work.

He became absorbed in experiments, read several books and even enrolled for an online course on distillation.

In the end, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

"I'm beginning to feel a difference in the taste of my produce.

"I have shared my produce with my lecturers and they are over the moon!"

He says after his lecturers cheered him on, he packaged his brandy which he is now selling to family members and friends.

"Owing to small equipment, I can't produce too much. If I were to get bigger equipment, things would be much better."

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**MASERU** - Dr 'Makhoase Ranyali, Head of Family Health, under the Expanded Immunisation Programme in the Ministry of Health says the country is expecting another type of COVID-19 vaccine, the Pfizer vaccine, which can be administered to children from the age of 16 and older. The Pfizer's vaccine is the first on the market that consists of actual genetic information from a virus in the form of messenger RNA, or mRNA, a type of molecule whose usual job is to transport copies of genetic instructions around a cell to guide the assembly of proteins.

The MIT Technology Review shows that the new vaccine, delivered as a shot in the arm muscle, contains an RNA sequence taken from the virus itself.

It states that the vaccine causes cells to manufacture the big "spike" protein of the coronavirus, which the pathogen uses to glom onto a person's cells and gain entry.

The journal says on its own, without the rest of the virus, the spike is pretty harmless but the body still reacts to it, which leaves the body immunised and ready to repel the real virus if it turns up.

The Pfizer's vaccine, Dr Ranyali said needs to be kept at extremely cold temperatures and requires ultra-cold chain, consistent storage

## Lesotho readies for Pfizer Covid vaccine

*...Vaccine can be administered to children aged 16 and above*

at about minus 75 Degrees Celsius.

This, she said during a media briefing on COVID-19 and vaccination progress, which was held on Thursday in Maseru.

"This is the same vaccine which can vaccinate children from the ages of 16 and above," she said.

She further noted that like the AstraZeneca vaccine, the Pfizer is administered twice, adding that like any other vaccine, it also has minor side effects. She said as soon as the Ultra Cold Chain, a low temperature controlled supply chain, to maintain quality via desired low-temperature range logistics and planning is complete, the vaccine will arrive.

Dr Ranyali said the ministry is still expecting another vaccine, the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) from the African Union (AU) as well as another one from the Covax facility.

She said all the AstraZeneca vaccines that arrived in the country in March, were able to vaccinate people before they expired. She



said the J&J vaccine which came from America through the Covax facility expires on November 28 while another J&J batch which was bought from the AU expires on

December 1. These vaccines, she said are still being used, adding that a total of 363 047 Basotho have been fully vaccinated with the vaccine.

"The Sinopharm vaccine which expires on June 30 2023 has already vaccinated 700 people who have each received two jabs to date," she also said.

## Rollout for Sinopharm vaccine yet to begin

*...as vaccine expires in 2023*

**MASERU** - Dr 'Makhoase Ranyali, the Director Family Health in the Ministry of Health says although a total of 700 people have been vaccinated with the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine, it has however, not yet been rolled out to the districts.

She was addressing a weekly media briefing at the National COVID-19 Secretariat (NACOSEC) in Maseru on Thursday.

Dr Ranyali said the vaccine that expires in 2023 was administered only to people with certain conditions

or those that chose the vaccine, adding that 1 400 doses of the vaccine have been used as each person should get two doses.

The ministry, she said decided to continue vaccinating members of the public with the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) vaccine as its first batch expires on November 28 while the second one expires on December 1.

"The Sinopharm vaccine expires on June 30, 2023 therefore we will not roll it out as yet," she said.

To date, she said at least 363 047 people have been vaccinated with the J&J vaccine, adding that the vaccination still continues.

She further reminded members of the public that the country is still expecting other doses of the J&J vaccine as well as others from COVAX.

The country launched the COVID-19 vaccine in March at the Scott hospital in Morija and there are currently three types of vaccines used in Lesotho, including the J&J, Sinopharm and Astra Zeneca.

LeNA





# The world in 10 minutes

## INDIA

### Monkey wanders into airport VIP lounge in India

A wild monkey wandered into an airport's VIP lounge in India and managed to steal a drink of fruit juice before being ejected from the building.

Passengers at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi captured video when the monkey wandered into the lounge.

A video posted online shows the small simian stealing a drink of fruit juice from the bar counter.

Airport officials confirmed the monkey was safely removed from the building without any injuries to monkey or human.



## USA

### New York couple holds wedding at Canadian border so family can attend

A New York couple whose wedding plans were interrupted by border closings from the COVID-19 pandemic held a ceremony at the U.S.-Canada border so the bride's parents and grandmother could attend.

Karen Mahoney and Brian Ray, ski instructors who live in Cadyville, N.Y., said they were hoping the Canadian border would reopen in time for their wedding when they planned it for September, but they had to come up with a new plan when the date approached and crossings remained banned.

Mahoney, who met Ray 35 years ago when he taught her how to ski, said it was important to her that her parents and 96-year-old grandmother, who live in Quebec, attend her wedding.

"She's my only living grandparent, the only grandparent I've ever known, so it was very important for me for her to be there to watch the happiest day of my life," Mahoney told CNN. "The most important part of the day for us was the promises we told to each other, and we wanted my parents and grandmother to witness that."



## TURKEY

### Missing Turkish man found after unwittingly joining his own search party

A Turkish man reported missing after a night of drinking in the woods was found after he unknowingly joined his own search party.

Beyhan Mutlu, 50, from Inegol, said he was in Cayyaka for a construction job when he and his friends spent an evening drinking in the woods.

Mutlu said he went back to a friend's villa to sleep at about 2 a.m., but his friends thought he had drunkenly wandered off into the woods and reported him missing to the police.

The construction worker said he woke the next morning and encountered a search party who said they were seeking a missing person. Mutlu said he joined in the search and didn't realize he was the person they were looking for until other search party members started shouting out his name.

"They called my name, 'Beyhan Mutlu.' I said, 'Oh, that's me,'" he told the Daily Sabah.



## TANZANIA

### Tanzania urged calm during Facebook outage

Tanzania's government made an appeal for calm in the country during a six-hour outage of social media services Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram.

All three services are owned by Facebook and could not be accessed over the web or on smartphone apps.

The company said the cause was a faulty configuration change.

In a video posted on Twitter, Tanzania's government spokesman's office said the country's communications regulator had contacted the American tech giant to understand the cause of the outage.

"The government urges all Tanzanians to remain calm during the outage of these social media platforms. All other government services provided online are still available," a man in the video says.

It's unclear what could have prompted the announcement.

There is no known official data on social media users in the East African nation of over 61 million people.

## KENYA

### Pandora Papers boost transparency - Kenyatta

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta has said the Pandora Papers leaks - which showed that his family secretly owned a network of offshore companies for decades - will enhance financial transparency and openness required in his country and around the globe.

In a statement sent by his spokesperson, President Kenyatta said that the movement of illicit funds, proceeds of crime and corruption thrived in an environment of secrecy and darkness.

Mr Kenyatta added that the Pandora Papers and subsequent follow up audits would lift the veil for those who cannot explain their assets or wealth.

According to the leaks, the Kenyattas' offshore investments include a company with stocks and bonds worth \$30m (£22m), a foundation where his mother and the president are listed as beneficiaries, and an offshore company that could not be traced back to the Kenyatta family, which was used to buy an apartment in central London now valued at \$1.3m (£1m).

President Uhuru Kenyatta, who is out of the country, has promised a comprehensive response upon his return.



## NIGERIA

### 'Turn it down', noisy Lagos nightclubs told

Nigeria's Lagos state government is warning nightclubs and bars in the country's commercial hub to stop making too much noise, or face the consequences. Authorities said that elderly residents of the upmarket Lekki neighbourhood have inundated them with complaints about how noisy the area is, saying it is bad for their health.

A statement says the disruption happens "every night until the early hours of the next day". It said "raids" were carried out on some nightclubs in Lekki, with enforcement officers closing the Prest Jazz Club which was found to be using "giant speakers".

This is not the first time venues in Lagos have been closed for making too much noise. In November 2019 Lagos authorities closed some Mosques and Churches, because they were too rowdy, according to Nigeria's Vanguard news. The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources said all noise polluting clubs should stop before it is too late, warning that such establishments will be closed and in some cases the owners could face prosecution. Tunji Bello added that no venue would be spared.







## Morena Leraba gears for European tour

...Artist uses Sesotho lyrics and combines them with electro, afro house

be announced soon," the singer who is currently in Cologne, Germany said on Wednesday.

He made his debut appearance on international scenes in 2014 when he was featured in a song called "Do You Know Lesotho" by a Cape Town/German band, The Free Rangers.

His single "Bojete" followed shortly thereafter and caught the attention of Brooklyn-based producer, Kashaka, leading to collaboration in the song, "Lithebera.

Based in Johannesburg, South Africa, Morena Leraba is currently working with a live band that includes Thamsanqa Ngwenya (marimba and vocals), Bronwen Clacherty (percussions and vocals), Molaoa Resholofetse Mosola (drums), Molefi Makananise (bass), Lebogang Edgar Dichabe (guitar) and Steven Hogg (synthesisers).

Like most of his countrymen, Leraba spent much of his youth looking after animals in his home village of Ha Nchela), taking inspiration from the solitude that tending livestock brings.

"If you're from Lesotho, looking after animals is a common thing," he says.

"Growing up I was a shepherd, but I also went to school and later university. Still, the experience remains pivotal. Being alone in the mountains you create your own stories every day, and I developed an awesome

communication with nature and animals," he recalls.

Dubbed "The shepherd of Lesotho electronic music", Leraba is a communications and media studies graduate from the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology.

He has made appearances in several notable carnivals that include the Banlieues Bleues Jazz Festival – Paris, France (2017), Festival 2018 (Commonwealth Games) – Queensland, Australia; Festival Groningen – Netherlands (2019) and Cape Town Electronic Music Festival in South Africa (2019).

He also performed at the MTN Bushfire Festival in Mbabane, e-Swazini (2019), Sentebale AUDI Concert 2019 at Hampton Court Palace in London, United Kingdom and the Oslo World Festival 2019 in Oslo, Norway.

"During his teen years, I knew him as a lead member of a hip hop group called The Dungeon. They were young hardcore rappers from Mafeteng. To be honest, I didn't think Teboho would take it this far and become an acclaimed international artist. But we are proud of his achievements," says another local artist, Tumisang Leshobokho, who also does collaborations, live performances and single songs.

Lesotho song writer and rapper, Teboho Mochaoa aka Morena Leraba

### KABELO MASOABI

**LERIBE** – For the past seven years, Teboho Mochaoa has been the flag bearer of a remodeled Lesotho sound through an array of international performances.

Hailing from Ha Mojela in Mafeteng, Mochaoa, commonly known by his stage moniker, Morena Leraba is a Lesotho song writer and rapper.

He largely uses Sesotho lyrics and

combines them with electro, afro house and hip hop to create an entrancing sound that is still evolving.

With his lyrics deeply rooted in Lesotho's traditional music, poetry, and its sub-genre, famo, Morena Leraba is gearing up to soon take that unique sound of his to an even wider global audience in Europe in the cities of Paris and Dijon in France, Berlin in Germany and Vienna in Austria.

"Confirmed gigs and festivals will

## I've always had great passion for art - Budah

### KABELO MASOABI

**LERIBE** - As a realistic artist, Sebusiso Khohlokoane has won an upright place in the hearts of many art lovers in Lesotho and beyond its borders.

The 22-year-old artist discovered his drawing prowess at a tender age as a primary school pupil.

"Sometimes when our teacher gave us work to do in class, I would be busy drawing objects in my school book," he recalls.

Today, Budah, as he is affectionately known, is a student at the Centre for Accounting Studies (CAS), where he is in his second-year of study for the Certified Accounting Stage Certificate, does realistic art work for clients in his spare time.

The youthful artist who hails from Ha Tšekelo in Berea relocated to Maseru to pursue his studies.

"I've always had a passion for art but I never did any formal art training. It was only in May when this childhood hobby of mine transformed into a promising business. This was after a friend at school asked me to draw his portrait from a photograph. After that first project, other schoolmates brought their pictures to me and I started charging them," he says.

Most of his recent art work includes portraits of people.

Sharing his creative journey with Metro, the young enthusiastic artist says: "Every

art piece I complete is important, as time and energy are spent creating it. By far my biggest personal achievement is seeing my clients happy with the end products. However, clients need to learn to be patient as it takes time to perfect a project. Each photo has its own details that need to be noted and perfected, like colour and patterns. The size of a portrait also counts."

The most gratifying artwork he has done to date and by far his biggest personal achievement is the portrait of Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro, which is currently trending on Facebook.

Khohlokoane says the most challenging art work he has done is creating abstract art, in which he interprets a client's vision through his own.

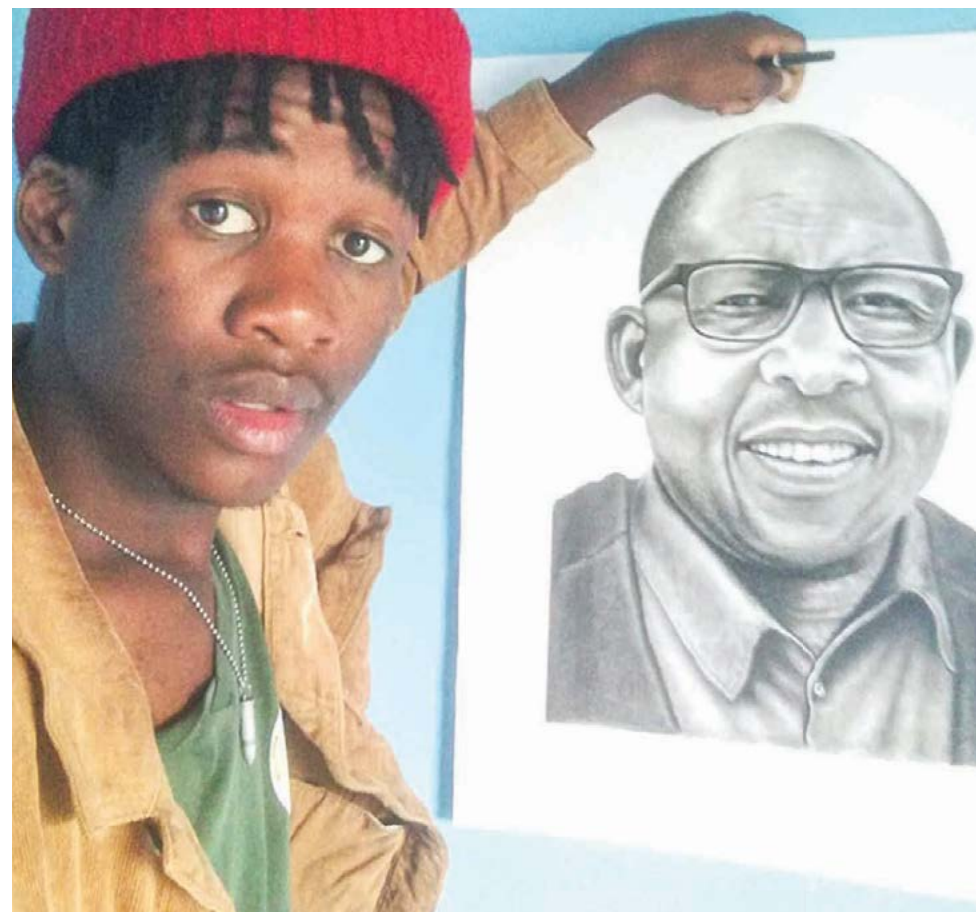
"Apart from using pens, pencils, charcoal, I would like to learn to work with lots of other artistic tools like paint," he adds.

His dream is to become a renowned artist whose influence is also felt beyond the country's borders.

He also wishes to expand the business side of his art work so that it becomes lucrative.

About lessons learnt from life, he says some people in Lesotho do not value art the way other nations appreciate it.

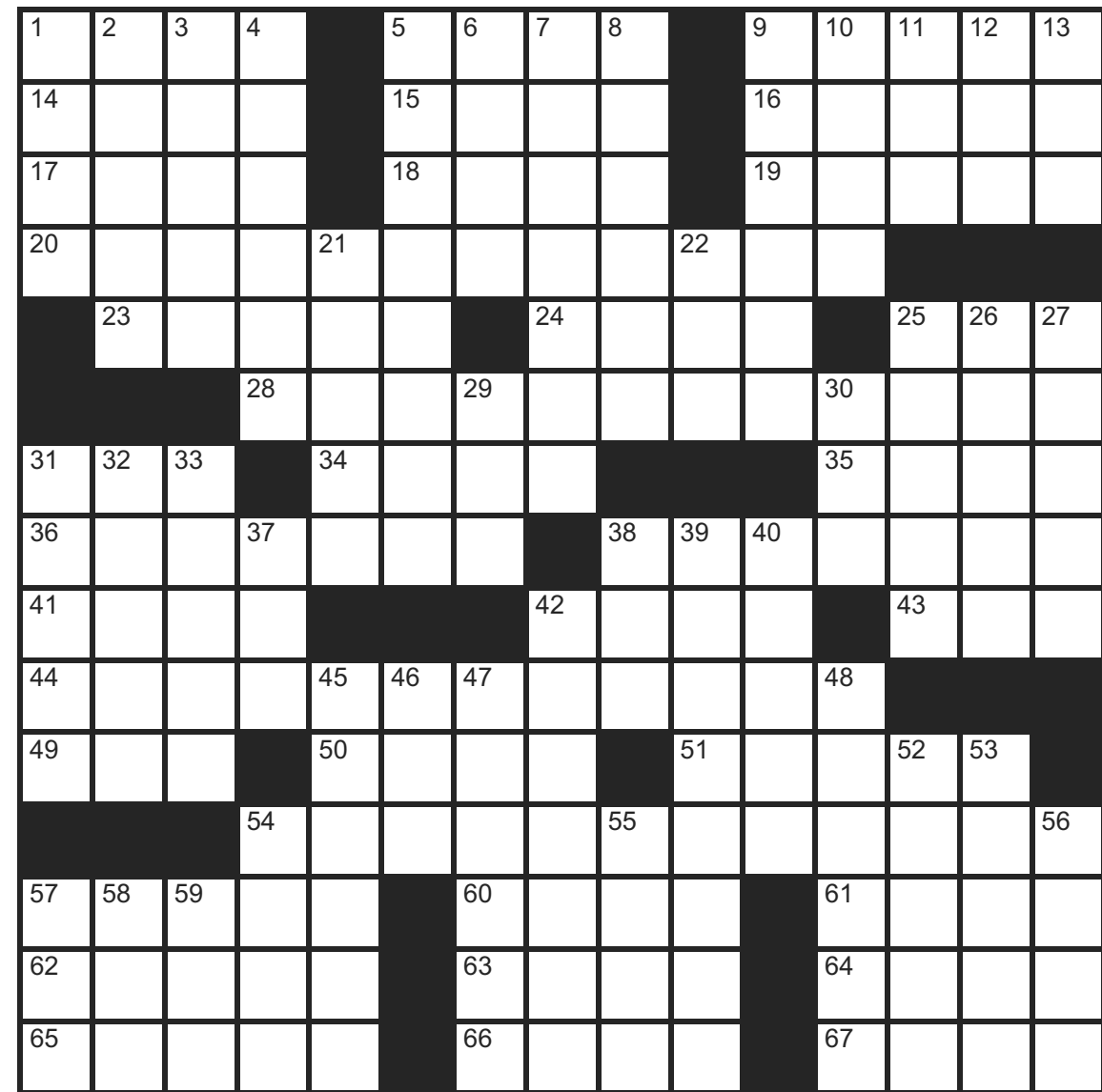
"People complain that art is expensive to buy. My price list for portraits ranges from M450 to M5 300 depending on among others size, colours and certain patterns of the drawing," he says.



Realistic artist, Sebusiso 'Budah' Khohlokoane with his portrait of Dr Moeketsi Majoro

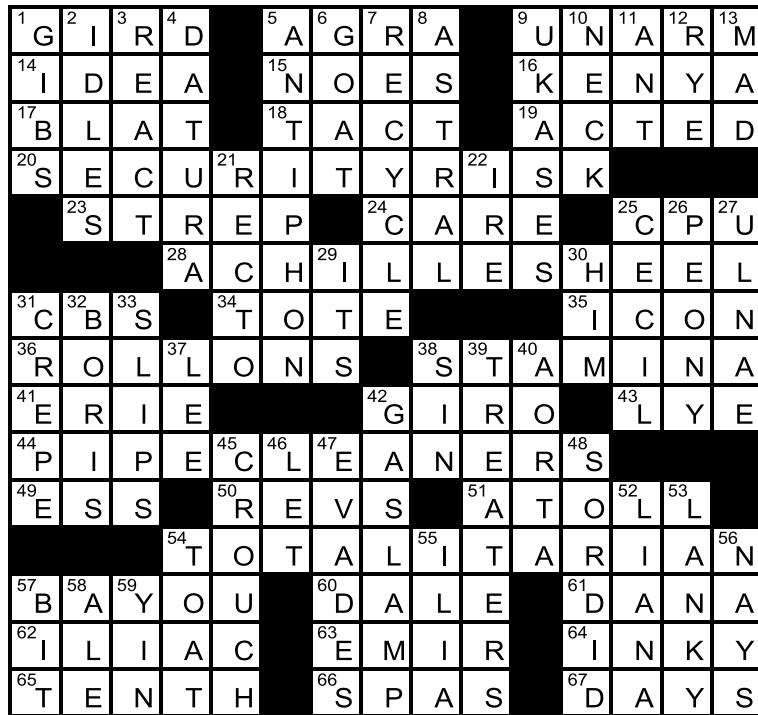


## General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. After curfew
  - 5. Reverberation
  - 9. Friendliness
  - 14. Some are pale
  - 15. Earthen pot
  - 16. Kentucky college
  - 17. Catchall category: Abbr.
  - 18. Without delay, for short
  - 19. Not promising
  - 20. Consuming adequate nutrients
  - 23. Fergie, formally
  - 24. MDs
  - 25. Store posting: Abbr.
  - 28. Artificial food processing
  - 31. Ghost's cry
  - 34. "\_\_\_\_\_go bragh!"
  - 35. Passionate about
  - 36. In one group
  - 38. Wash
  - 41. Bank holding
  - 42. Peddle
  - 43. Not waste
  - 44. Expert in symbolic logic
  - 49. Santa\_\_\_winds
  - 50. Defense acronym
  - 51. Indy entrant
  - 54. June 24 in England, Wales and Ireland
  - 57. Rundown
  - 60. Purse
  - 61. Continental currency
  - 62. Jabber
  - 63. Discounted by
  - 64. Tennis serving whiz
  - 65. Taxi ticker
  - 66. Worry
  - 67. \_\_\_\_\_mortals
- Down**
- 1. Follower of Mary
  - 2. Assumed name
  - 3. Electrical pioneer Nikola
  - 4. Protective embankment
  - 5. Illegal hunters
  - 6. Ultimatum word
  - 7. Genie's master
  - 8. Small canine
  - 9. "The Sound of Music" figure
  - 10. Change states, in a way
  - 11. Intense anger
  - 12. Oolong, for one
  - 13. Talk, talk, talk

## Last Week's Solution



- 21. Holes in the head
- 22. Rocks, to a bartender
- 25. Caste member
- 26. Repetitious memorizations
- 27. Sound asleep?
- 29. Game piece
- 30. Canterbury can
- 31. \_\_\_\_\_Vista, CA
- 32. Ring source
- 33. Alpha's opposite
- 37. Groove-billed \_\_\_\_\_
- 38. Floral necklace
- 39. Chicken Little, for one
- 40. Arm bones
- 42. Rover
- 45. Sharpshooter
- 46. Little 'un
- 47. All by \_\_\_\_\_
- 48. Laugh riot
- 52. Draw forth
- 53. Harder to find
- 54. Chess ending
- 55. Ponder
- 56. Bygone time
- 57. Engine speed, for short
- 58. Poet's palindromic preposition
- 59. Clawer

## So You Think You are Genius

### Question (Answer next week)

I have a drawer full of socks. There are 10 socks of each colour, red, green, brown and grey, evenly mixed. In the morning, when it is very dark, I need to pull out a pair of socks of the same colour. How many must I pull out of the drawer to ensure that I have at least one pair

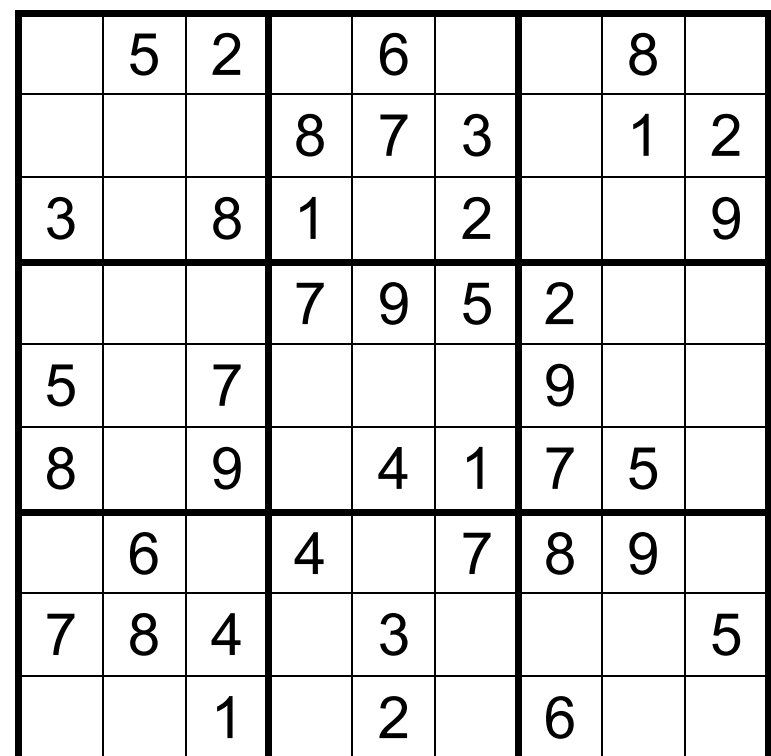


### Last Week's Answer



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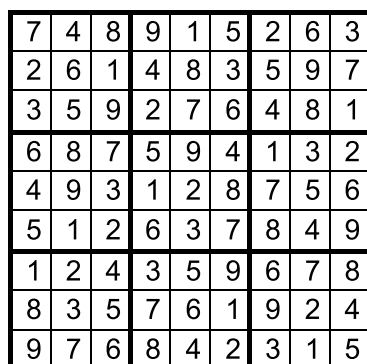
## Sudoku Puzzle



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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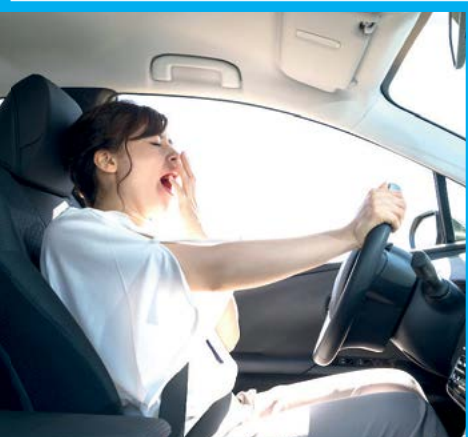
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## Be Car-Smart

### Take breaks while driving long distances



One long drives, take at least one 10-minute break every two hours. The combination of tight hamstrings and the pumping of your foot can stretch your sciatic nerve and lead to chronic pain. Muscles are meant to stretch - nerves aren't.

As tempting as it is on a road trip to stay behind the wheel for those extra few hours in order to get to your destination as quickly as possible, driving for long stretches of time without a break can be really dangerous.

Driving takes a lot of concentration, skill, and control that is difficult to maintain for hours on end, making frequent stops invaluable to maintaining a high quality of safe, efficient driving. As a general rule, it's best to take a break of at least 15 minutes every two hours, and to not drive for more than

eight hours in a day, to ensure you stay alert and avoid the associated risks of driving for too long without a rest. These risks include falling asleep at the wheel, running out of fuel, and reduced reaction times.

Although it sounds like a major delay to your journey, regular, short breaks are actually only likely to add an hour tops to your trip, and if you schedule them before you set off, it shouldn't be a hindrance at all.

Everyone is different and it's important to listen to your own body and respect the needs of your passengers to make the ride as pleasant and as safe as possible.

Our internal body clocks are naturally programmed to expect sleep during the night, so it's no secret that driving after sundown can be a lot trickier than cruising at midday.

Increased tiredness can, obviously, have really bad implications when it comes to driving, so expect to have to stop more frequently to ensure you stay alert enough to continue travelling.

Lots of breaks filled with cups of coffee and fresh air can help to keep you going, and 20-minute naps are a great quick-fix to give you a new burst of energy.

But remember: it's much better to admit defeat and book a hotel room for the night if you're feeling too sleepy to carry on - you can always make up the miles in the daylight once you've had a good rest.

If you're taking medication that can cause drowsiness, don't be fooled by the fact that you can buy them over the counter; even run-of-the-mill medications like hay-fever tablets and some painkillers can cause drowsiness that may affect your ability to drive.

Where drowsiness equals a loss of concentration, it's best to take more frequent stops to make sure you stay alert, or hand the driving over to someone else if you can to be extra safe.

Always check the precautions printed on the packet, which should let you know whether you're safe to drive and for how long.

## Top 3 market position for ever-growing Suzuki Auto South Africa



In a market held back by global vehicle shortages and lockdown restrictions, one vehicle brand and its dealer network are swimming against the tide.

Suzuki Auto South Africa just broke its month-old sales record. Not by a few units, but by more than 600 units in a single month. The company recorded a massive 3 134 new vehicle sales in September, notching up its best month ever and elevating it to a Top 3 position in overall vehicle sales.

"We are ecstatic about the national sales results," says Henno Havenga, manager for auto dealer sales at Suzuki Auto. "Virtually every vehicle we were able to deliver to a dealer found a new owner and dealers report many more customers queueing up for their Suzuki passenger vehicle, SUV or Super Carry commercial vehicle."

This is the first time that Suzuki has broken through the 3 000-unit mark in one month. To put it in perspective, Suzuki set a new record of 1 577 units in July 2019 and finally broke through the 2 000-unit barrier in October 2020 with a record of 2 032 units.

October's sales record did not last long. In February 2021, Suzuki hit a new record of 2 142 units and a month later, in March 2021, Suzuki sold 2 397 units. Less than 12 months after selling more than 2 000 units in one month, Suzuki shot up to over 3 000 units, despite the effects of a global pandemic and local sales disruptions.

"During all this time, we were facing significant challenges. Lockdown restrictions tightened again, there were severe disruptions and looting in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng and Transnet saw its ports shut down owing to cyber-attacks.

"We decided from the onset not to allow the challenges to rob us of our momentum or delay our deliveries to customers, and our dealers agreed. The result - a top 3 position in South Africa and more demand than we can satisfy every month," says Havenga.

With total sales of over 3 000 units, Suzuki now represents 7.2% of the South African market, the company's highest share to date. If one removes the 82 Super Carry units sold in September, then Suzuki represents 10.3% of the passenger vehicle market.

Equally impressive, was the fact that Suzuki sold over 1 200 new vehicles for rental and government fleets. This not only signifies the return of this important vehicle buying segment to the market, but it exceeds Suzuki's previous fleet sales record by over 50%.

Several Suzuki units contributed significantly to the overall sales record. Suzuki delivered close

to 1 000 new Swift models to customers (935 units) and 504 customers chose the S-Presso as their vehicle of choice in September. The Vitara Brezza, India's top-selling vehicle, found 455 new owners and the ever-popular Ertiga was delivered to 387 new homes.

Naamsa, the automotive industry council, reports that the industry has been recovering slowly, but surely since the lifting of the most

restrictive lockdown restrictions. In September, the industry sold 43 130 units, representing a local market growth of 15.8% over the previous year, when lockdown restrictions were stricter, and demand was low.

"We are extremely proud of our 75 dealer partners who have supported us throughout this period. We realise how extremely difficult it is to keep customers happy when you have trading

restrictions, limited stock and other COVID-related disruptions.

"All our dealers have gone out of their way to help customers, find vehicles, provide technical support and keep the doors open for customers at odd hours. We will carry this renewed focus on our customers forward, even when all the restrictions are lifted and trading can continue unabated," says Havenga.





# Lehata slammed for utilising banned drug

... as SAIDS charges the athlete with attempted tampering with doping control process



Top Lesotho sprinter (front), Mosito Lehata

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**MASERU** - Top Lesotho sprinter, Mosito Lehata has acknowledged the mistake he has been making for the past 14 years during which time he used a banned substance that led to his five-year suspension by the South African Institute for Drug Free Sport (SAIDS).

According to SAIDS, a South African outfit whose mission is to detect, deter and prevent the use of prohibited substances and methods in the SA and international sporting environment that are contrary to the principles of fair play and the health and well-being of athletes, Lehata, 32, tested positive for the presence of Salbutamol and was charged with attempted tampering with the doping control process.

SAIDS says the athlete has accordingly been sanctioned for five years following two anti-doping rule violations.

"Every action has a consequence. Either it was unintentionally or intentionally. I have been in athletics for 14 years and I am proud of everything I have accomplished. I made one mistake in 14 years and I have to pay for it.

"I took asthma medication and it got me in trouble. For those that I have disappointed, I apologise to you. To all the upcoming athletes, you don't have to make the same mistakes I made. Learn from my mistakes. Always be careful of what you take. Basotho, you have been so supportive for more than a decade. Thank you a million times." Lehata posted on his social media platforms on Tuesday.

He admitted to the charges and waived his right to a hearing. He entered into a 'Results Management Agreement' that resulted in a reduction in his sanction.

His period of ineligibility began on

June 9 from the date of Voluntary Acceptance of Provisional Suspension and will serve until June 8, 2026.

A prominent local cyclist, Malefetsane Sebastian Lesofe says in the cycling fraternity, if an athlete falls ill, they must be in possession of a certificate from the World Cycling Centre (WCC) that proves that they are permitted to utilise a certain drug.

Lesotho marathon Queen, 'Mamoroallo Tjoka and Sekeke Lesole were sanctioned for two years and stripped off the 2014 Mokhotlong High Altitude Summer marathon first and third position titles respectively after testing positive for banned performance enhancing drugs.

In 2018, SAIDS handed Tjoka an eight-year suspension from participating in any national and international competitions after she allegedly evaded a doping test earlier that year when the Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (RADO) and SAIDS representatives visited her home in Sekamaneng, Berea and she had requested the court to intervene.

Born in Lesotho on April 8, 1989 in

Maseru, Lehata is the current holder of the Lesotho national record for the 100-metre race at 10.11 seconds and has consistently won the national track championships on shorter tracks.

He was eliminated in the first round of the men's 200-metre event at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England. He found success in the 200-metre event at the 2013 World Athletics Championships in Moscow, Russia when he finished in the first round ahead of the world number one sprinter, Usain Bolt of Jamaica and

advanced to the semifinals.

He set a new national record in the 200-metre event at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, United Kingdom, finishing fourth.

At the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, he competed in the 100-metre and 200-metre races. He finished fourth in his heat for the 100-metre event with a time of 10.25 seconds and did not qualify for the semifinals.

He finished seventh in his heat for 200-metre race with a season best time of 20.65 seconds, but did not qualify for the semifinals.

“

*I took asthma medication and it got me in trouble.*

*For those that I have disappointed, I apologise to you. To all the upcoming athletes, you don't have to make the same mistakes I made. Learn from my mistakes. Always be careful of what you take. Basotho, you have been so supportive for more than a decade. Thank you a million times,*



# Preparations underway for soccer to return to action ... as PLMC proposes premature end of Premier League



PLMC's Qamako Mahao

**MASERU** – The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA), the local soccer governing body has informed the football fraternity that following a series of meetings with other stakeholders, the association has directed all the league bodies to start preparations that will eventually lead to the smooth resumption and subsequently the continuation of the 2020/2021 season.

The other stakeholders include the Premier League Management Committee (PLMC) and Chairpersons of the A, B as well as the C Division Management Committees.

LeFA Media Officer, Mikia Kalati said the PLMC has further been directed to re-schedule LDF and LMPS FC matches after they were not played on account of the two teams having three or more players in the senior national team, Likuena.

PLMC also rescinded its decision to dock points and or forfeit the two clubs' matches.

"The leagues are also requested to furnish the office of the Secretary General with their proposed schedule of events and activities that will lead to the full resumption of your respective leagues. The



Hlompho Kalake of Bantu (in black and gold) chased by Jonh Mohai of Matlama

schedules should reach the office of the Secretary General no later than 12noon on Wednesday, October 6," he said.

For his part, PLMC Communications and Marketing Manager (CMM), Qamako Mahao said the majority of Premier League teams had proposed a premature ending of the Premier League.

He said if the proposal was

granted, it would mean the sponsor would only give the teams prize money based on the number of games played thus far, adding that it would also mean that the new soccer season would resume now and end in May next year.

However, this shows that other stakeholders did not buy the proposal, hence plans for the resumption of the league.

In the previous soccer season, the 2019/20 soccer season was forced to prematurely end due to the threat posed by the rampant COVID-19 pandemic which ravaged the world, forcing businesses to come to a standstill as governments imposed hard lockdowns in a bid to combat the spread of the virus.

Similar situation occurred this season in January when

the third wave of the COVID-19 forced the Government to impose restrictions that included suspending sporting activities.

However, Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro has since eased some of the restrictions, allowing contact sports to resume but with no spectators, after it appeared the virus is under control.

LeNA

## Seema praise for players in Gallants win

... The victory was a first in seven games for the side

**LESOTHO** - born head coach of Lamontville Golden Arrows, Lehlohonolo Seema gave credit to his players following their 3-1 DStv Premiership victory over Marumo Gallants on Sunday.

The victory was a first in seven games for the side as they finally managed to hold onto a lead, something that has been a real issue for the team.

"Credit to the players, they worked hard, they grinded and they left everything on the field of play," Seema said. "What is more important is that we took a lead and we managed to defend it until

the last minute.

"That thing that we are thinking we can't do – to defend to the end of the game. This shows that we can. We know scoring goals is not going to be a problem, but our Achilles heel has been that we are not defending well.

"We came up against very difficult opponents and it was a difficult match."

The win is a second of the season for the team in the league and moves them up to fifth place. They are next in action at home to Mamelodi Sundowns on October 20. Premier League News



LAUDATORY: Lamontville Golden Arrows head coach, Lehlohonolo Seema





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# Proficient international tennis coach, Lebohang Tšasanyane

**MASERU** – Lebohang Tšasanyane's journey as a tennis player began when he was aged 11 and since then, he has never looked back.

Today he is a very successful lawn tennis coach who is also recognised internationally owing to his mentorship prowess.

He is also the owner of the New Era Tennis (NET) Coaching Academy, which is located in Sunward Park, Boksburg in South Africa, the club has two other branches in Benoni Lake and Impala, Kempton Park.

The academy offers coaching to all age groups from the age of three to adults and has employed more than 10 people.

During his playing days, in the 1990's and early 2000's, Tšasanyane, 38, represented his country in several international tournaments and toured many countries in Africa and Europe, including Spain and Greece among others.

The qualified tennis mentor holds three coaching certificates, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Level One certificate obtained in Swaziland in 2000 and the Spanish Level One certificate obtained in Barcelona, Spain at the Barcelona Tennis Academy in 2015 through a Spanish sponsorship and an ITF Level Two certificate also obtained in Spain.

He represented Lesotho at the 2003 All Africa Games in Abuja, Nigeria alongside Mokoali Eche, Ntsane Moeletsi and Sekhobe Moshoeshe. All the players competed in the men's singles tournament.

Team Lesotho had sent athletes in four disciplines including baseball, athletics, taekwondo and tennis. The taekwondo team collected six medals from the games and appeared 16th in the medals table.

Tšasanyane competed in the prestigious Davis Cup which was held in Nicosia, Cyprus in 2001 and was knocked out in the group's stage.

One of the prominent local coaches that he groomed is Khatebe Makhoane who later attended the ITF Level Two coaching course with him in Pretoria, South Africa.

Born on December 12, 1982, Lebohang

Tšasanyane is the son of Irene Tšasanyane of Ha Makhakhe, Matelile in Mafeteng.

He is from a great sporting family. His grandfather Ben Mafoko Tšasanyane was a national tennis champion. His mother is also a former tennis player.

Tšasanyane did his primary education at St James Primary before he proceeded to 'Mabathoana High School but he completed his high school education at Methodist High School in 1999.

After high school, he enrolled at the Pinnacle Business College in Johannesburg and obtained a Diploma in Public Relations before obtaining a Diploma in Cost and Management Accounting from the University of Johannesburg through a tennis bursary.

He started swinging a tennis racket as Form A learner at 'Mabathoana High at the age of 11.

"I first started playing peddle tennis on September 11, 1992 during the national teachers' strike. I would go to the National Tennis Courts everyday where I met the then national coach, Sekhobe Moshoeshe who grilled me for four months until January 1993 in lawn tennis.

He made his international debut the same year at the Under-14 Tournament in Botswana as a national team player. At the age of 16, he was earmarked to be Moshoeshe's assistant by the Lesotho Lawn Tennis Association (LLTA) and was among others in charge of the Under-14 team which he led to several international tournaments in Pretoria, South Africa.

He worked as LLTA administrator for two years before securing a tennis coaching job in South Africa.

Kal Davis, who was the Southern Africa Tennis Development Officer and his former mentor, Moshoeshe contributed a lot towards grooming him into a top coach.

During his varsity days at the University of Johannesburg, his impressive tennis profile landed him a fulltime coaching job which he held until he completed his studies.

He also worked at Hi-fi City before landing a tennis administrator job at LLTA which he only held for two years prior to the job in SA.



His tennis Point Situation presentation called 'Perform' which he made in Johannesburg impressed the proprietor of New Era Tennis (NET) Coaching Academy, Byron Schmidt who invited him for trials at his academy.

After he passed the trials, he joined the club as a fulltime coach. After three months at NET, his performance had improved even further and he was consequently elevated to the position of head coach.

"At the academy, I managed other coaches who were mostly Europeans, and set their training schedules on a daily basis. I employed several Basotho coaches including Pinki Montlha, Koleile Mokhitli, Charlie Bohloko, Mootsi Kakobe and Reitumetse Bohloko. The latter is the current head coach of the academy," he says.

Schmidt sold the academy to him after two years when he ventured into a different line of business.

His worst moment as a player was at the age of 19 in 2001 when he competed at the Davis Cup in Cyprus, where he was beaten by a 14-year opponent who was ranked 20 in the world. He was not familiar with the clay court and the level he was competing at.

"I had never played in front of a fully packed stadium like that before. I was so embarrassed after the match. I told myself that I would work hard to ensure that other upcoming athletes did not go through the same experience I went through," he adds.

His worst moment as a coach was during the French Junior open in France a few years ago.

"My player was leading and was supposed to win the match but he turned recklessly and twisted an ankle and could not continue with the game," he recalls.

His best moment as a player was winning junior tournaments in Lesotho. "I won all the local junior tournaments sponsored by Marotholi Beverages even though I faced tough times in international tournaments.

His best moments in coaching include watching his charges win matches during international juniors' championships.

Tšasanyane is married to Mpeoane 'Maletlotlo Tšasanyane and the couple has three children.

His other hobbies include playing pool and volleyball.

