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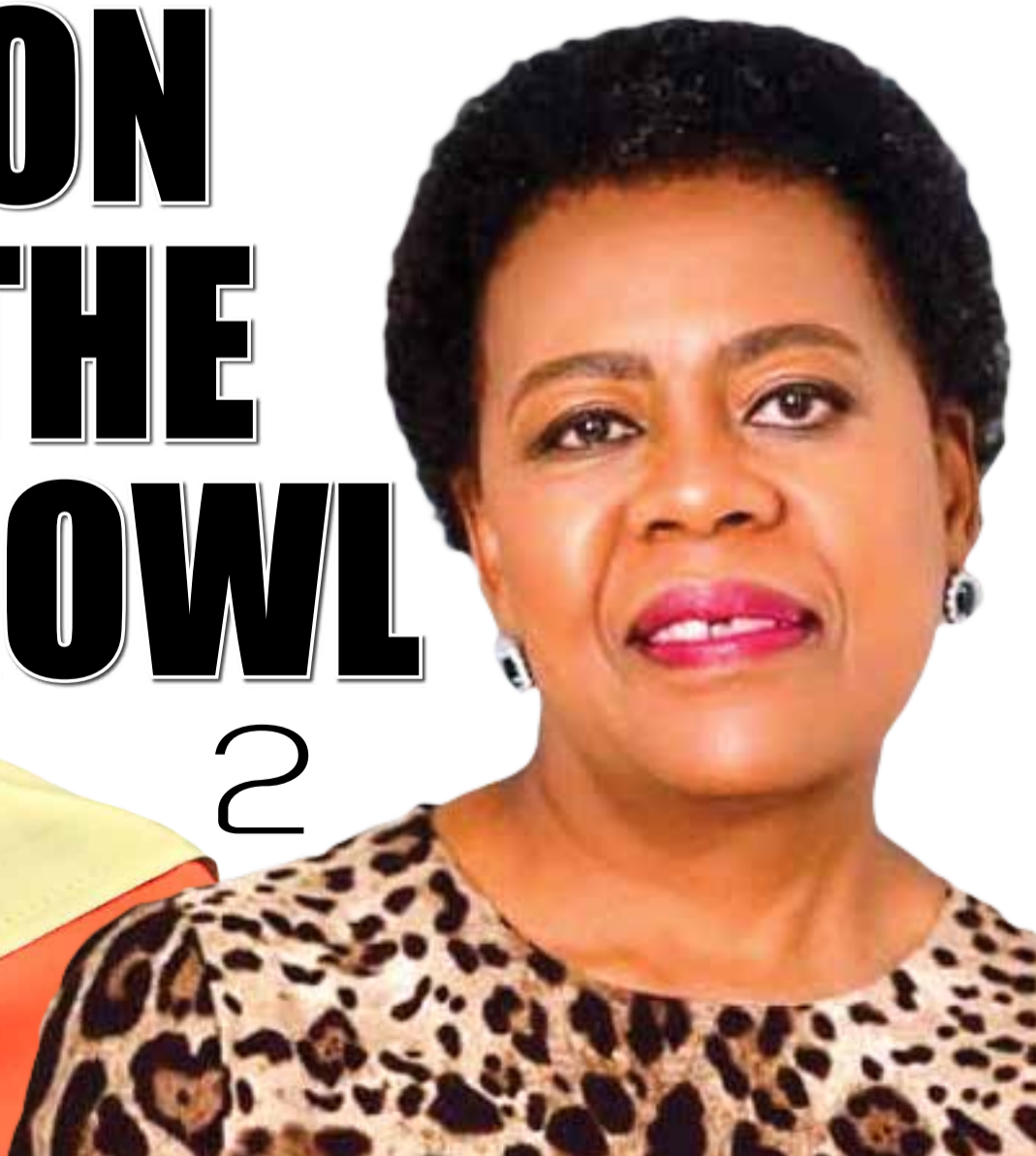
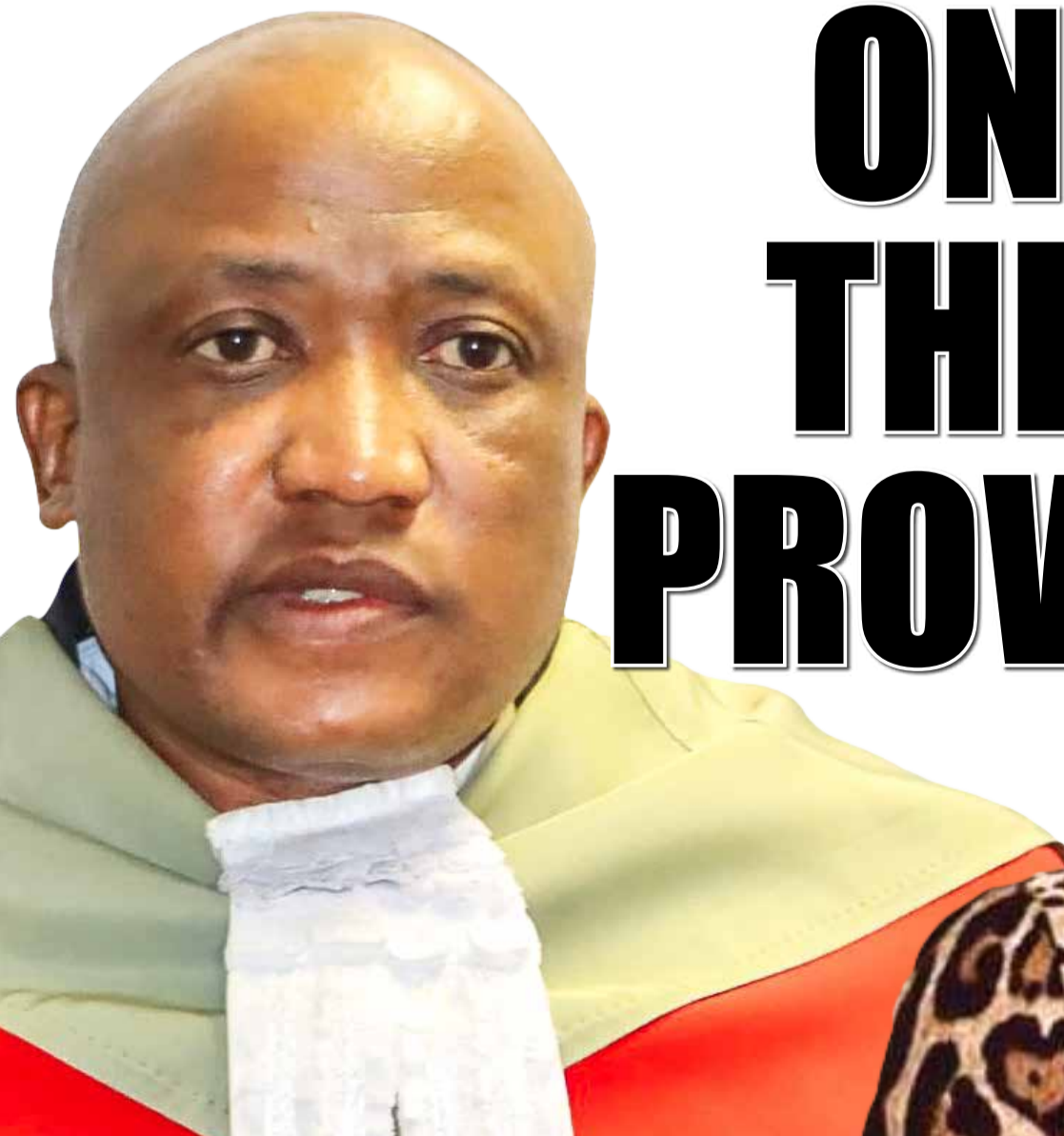


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**GLOBAL SCAMMERS  
ON  
THE  
PROWL  
2**



# National News

# Global scammers on the prowl



*The High Court of Lesotho*

An international business syndicate that has allegedly extorted aspirant small businesses in both Lesotho and South Africa of millions of maloti/rand has been cracked by the SA media.

The Star's investigation unit has obtained court papers filed in Lesotho last month where prominent South African businesswoman, Louisa Mojela is accusing Amanda Corporation, a large multi-national in the cannabis industry

based in Canada, of strategising to take over one of its subsidiaries, Bophelo Bioscience & Wellness (Pty) Ltd, in order to close it down and repatriate its cash abroad, destroying the livelihood and income of hundreds of Lesotho citizens and South Africans living around the Free State.

In an urgent liquidation application, Mojela successfully launched in the Lesotho High Court, Justice Moroke Mokhesi agreed that the matter was urgent and granted the application for the liquidation of Bophelo and appointed Mr Chavonnes Cooper as the liquidator to take over its affairs.

Mojela is

been affected.

Akanda, who is the ultimate holding company, and Virk, have since attempted to remove Mojela as a director and to strip her of powers, among others, to make payments.

Virk instructed her not to make any business decisions, to appoint him as a signatory to all the bank accounts of Bophelo, stop making payments, halt all capital projects of Bophelo and remit M8 million to Akanda. The authority of Virk to have issued these instructions is questionable.

Mojela, according to the court documents in our possession, personally put more than M13 million into the project.

Akanda raised, Mojela claims, M250 000 000 from investors abroad to fund the Lesotho operations but they are eyeing operations in Europe to fund, rather than in Africa, so a whistle-blower claims. To get their money out of Africa, they need Mojela out, but she is a very stubborn woman, the source said.

"Not true," Virk said through powerhouse UK media liaison company, Irvine and Partners. "We are going to oppose the unauthorised liquidation of Bophelo. We never said that the employees shouldn't be paid and we pay the local residents 2.7 times the average national wage. We remain committed to Bophelo and its employees for the long term and we will set our position out in our opposing papers".

In the meantime, Cooper has been instructed by the court to take control of the property and assets of Bophelo and to investigate its affairs and business operations.

Mojela said she wants this matter fully ventilated in court and if needs be, Virk must come and explain his conduct to the many people affected by it, in Lesotho.

"If my presence is requested in Lesotho, I will make every effort possible within the constraints of my heavy schedule," Virk responded. - 10L

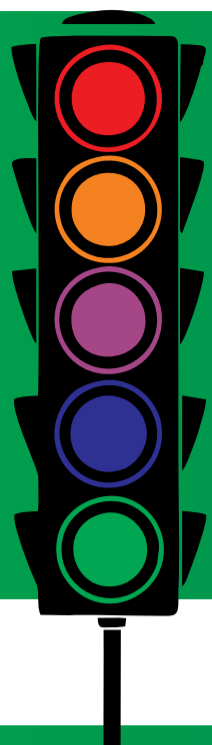


*South African businesswoman, Louisa Mojela*

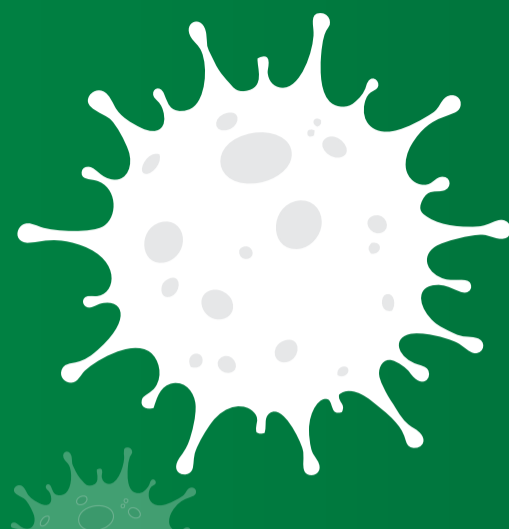
accusing Akanda and its chief executive, Tej Virk of attempting to take over the board of Bophelo in order to advance the interests of Akanda, but to the detriment of its shareholders, employees and the community around Bophelo's Lesotho-based operations.

Reports show that many small to medium sized enterprises have been hit by a similar syndicate.

In June, Mojela alleges in her application, Virk, who is not on the board of Bophelo, issued an instruction that the employees of Bophelo were not to get their salaries for that month. Mojela, who is a board member, ignored this and authorised the payment of the salaries. Had she not, 140 direct employees and more than 1 000 dependents would have



# GREEN STAGE



## PM opens up economy

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** - Cabinet has finally decided to remove all COVID-19 restrictions on Tuesday this week, marking an abrupt end to long-time economic challenges since 2019.

The decision by government means among others, the textile industry that has been through numerous rough patches due to forced retrenchments and other value chain challenges shall now be recovering as firms are allowed to operate in full capacity.

"Having considered COVID-19 infections and hospitalisations in the last few months, Cabinet has today decided that Lesotho shall move from blue to green under its COVID-19 Risk Determination Framework. This means that all COVID-19 restrictions are now removed as of midnight tonight," Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro said on Monday.

The mining and massive construction projects, tourism industry, cross border money transfers as well as international travel are also fully operational.

While it is evident that the economic activity is fully opening up, the premier recommended, however, that public gatherings such as funerals, be treated with utmost care and that people should continue putting on their masks to avoid any challenges.

He recommends that funerals should continue to be held in the early hours of the day as that reduces chances of contracting the disease.

"Government recommends that in cases where people are gathered in numbers, they should be free to put on their masks and also maintain hygiene and cleanliness at all times," Dr Majoro added.

Other sectors that have been struggling to sustain during the COVID-19 era such as the gambling industry, restaurants and fast foods, liquor stores and night clubs as well as the entertainment industry shall all be fully operational.

However, it remains to be seen as to how long it will take the sluggish economic activity that has resulted in high unemployment rate as well as a rise in inflation rate to fully recover.

While the unemployment rate remains high, particularly among the youth, the rate of inflation currently stands at 7.3 percent, according the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL).

The country's foreign direct investment, which plummeted six percent from \$118 million (M 1 727 579 000.00) in 2019 to \$102 million (M 1 493 331 000.00) in 2020 shall also recover and is likely to maintain an upward trajectory due to this relaxation.

This has been a major concern because international investment flows are vital for sustainable development in Lesotho.

Increasing investment to support a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic is now the country's policy priority.

This entails promoting investment in infrastructure and the energy transition, in resilience and in health care among others.

As a result, the private sector should take full advantage of investment opportunities that exist within the SACU region to boost trade investment flows thereby achieving economic gains, particularly now that economic activity is opening up.

Such opportunities should serve as enablers for private sector participation in various value chains leading to industrialisation in reflective countries.

Prime  
Minister Dr  
Moeketsi  
Majoro

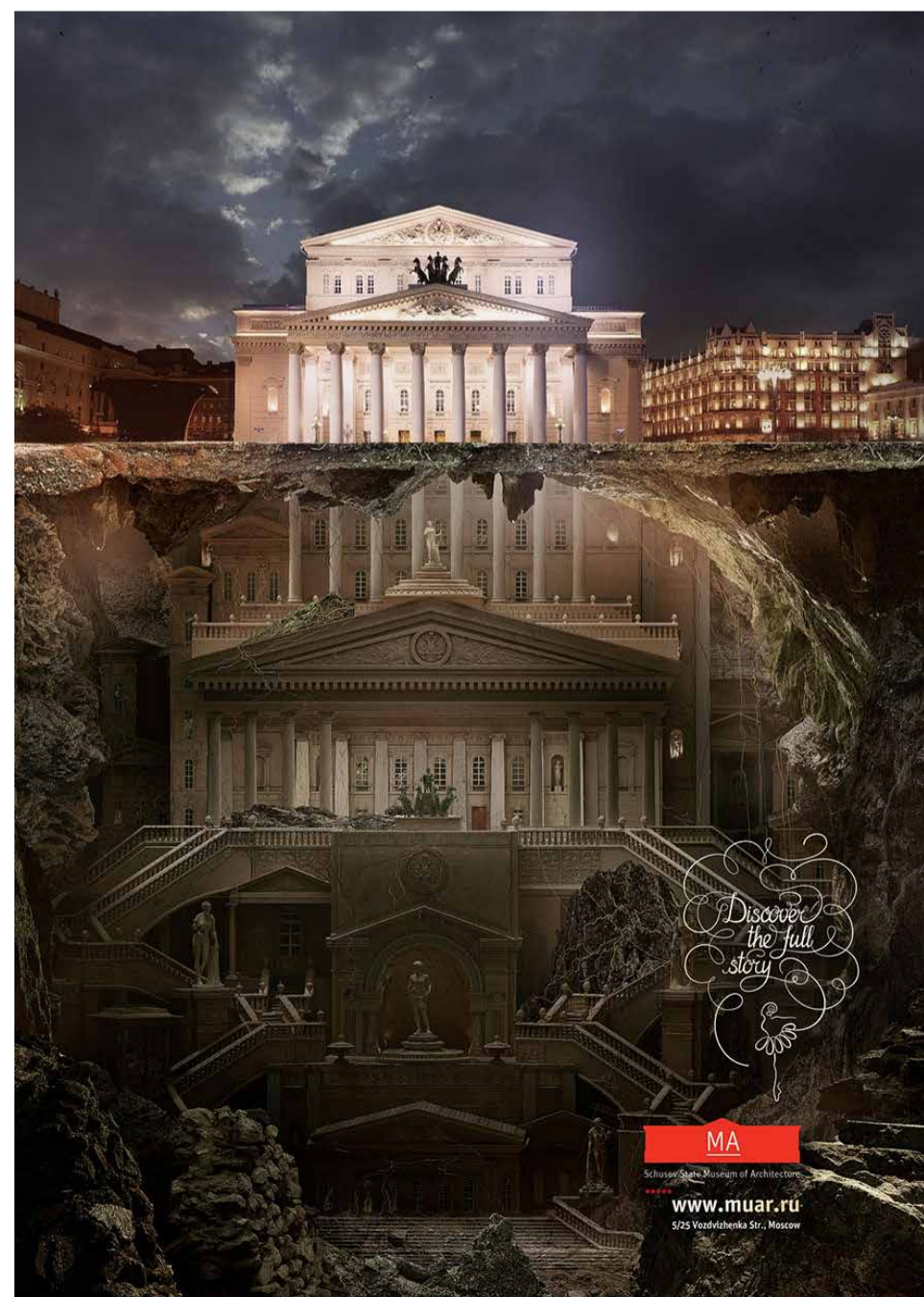


# National News

# Operations resume at Liqhobong



Firestone Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Paul Bosman



## NEO SENOKO

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**MASERU** - Liqhobong Diamond Mine, which is 75 percent owned by Firestone Diamonds last week resumed operations after it was temporarily closed to undergo care and maintenance.

The mine was forced to close shop in 2020 after facing challenges, some resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In April last year, the Ministry of Mining reported that the mine lost more than M800 million in revenue since closing operations.

Hundreds of employees were retrenched in the process.

The mine, however, opened its doors some time last year, paving way for the resumption of its operations which got underway last week.

The Minister of Mining, Serialong Qoo has confirmed the resumption of operations at the diamond mine located in Butha-Buthe.

Prior to last week, Liqhobong was among others requested to recall its previous employees before engaging new ones. This, after the retrenchments that took place at the mine caught the lime light, with many labelling them as unfair and unjust.

"The mine was re-opened last year, so now operations are resuming because the mine has gone through all the stages that include that of access roads as well as recalling retrenched employees. Now they are ready to start and produce. However, not all employees were recalled as some already found employment elsewhere," the Public Relations Officer in the Ministry of Mining, Makananelo Motseko said.

It remains to be seen as to how long the mine will take to recover from the revenue lost in the past months.

The pace of recovery will depend on the flexibility of the global diamond markets

which are also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The diamond industry, according to Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) suffered tremendously during the COVID-19 crises.

Across the value chain, revenue decreased by 15 percent to 33 percent in 2019. Operating margins followed, with a decline of 1 percentage point to 22 percentage points among others. Prices for rough and polished diamond, according to AWDC continued to feel pressure, with prices falling by 11 percent and 3 percent.

AWDC reported further that recovery and a return to a historic growth trajectory should not be expected between 2022 and 2024.

Three factors, epidemiology, government policy response and consumer response will impact the pace and shape of the recovery, according to AWDC.

These statistics paint a clear picture that Liqhobong will have to put even more effort in order to recover and be on par with its competitors.

For the quarter ended December 31, 2020 Firestone announced that 43 269 carats were sold, realising revenue of US\$3.6 million at an average value of US\$84 per carat.

Care and maintenance costs during the quarter of US\$1.2 million were in line with the budget.

Firestone Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Paul Bosman revealed that during that quarter, it was encouraging to see that the mine received better than expected results for the special stones sold in November 2020.

Lesotho is one of Africa's significant diamond producers, hosting the Letšeng Diamond which is run by Gem Diamonds, the Kao Mine, run by Namakwa Diamonds as well as Mothae Mine which is operated by Lucapa Diamonds Mine.

# SADC mulls solutions to Lesotho challenges



SADC leaders at the 42nd SADC Ordinary summit

The challenge of political instability faced by some countries in the region including Lesotho took the centre stage at the SADC summit in Kinshasa this week and the need to urgently resolve some of those problems was highlighted.

The summit was attended by the heads of state and government and/or their representatives of Lesotho, Eswatini, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Angola and Madagascar. President Ramaphosa of South Africa, who is also the SADC facilitator to Lesotho, delivered a progress report on the implementation of SADC decisions in the kingdom.

While noting the progress made, the summit urged the government to expedite the completion of the reforms, and continue the peace, transitional justice and reconciliation process to engender national unity, and bring about national healing and cohesion, the summit heard.

The SADC on more than one occasion, has had to intervene militarily in member states. Among others, troops have been sent to the DRC and, more recently, Mozambique, to deal with an extremist insurgency in the Cabo Delgado region.

In 2014, political instability in Lesotho led to the military becoming involved. It surrounded the prime minister's residence and police headquarters, and shut down radio stations. The then Prime Minister, Motsoahae Thabane fled to South Africa.

Katharine Bebington, who is a programme officer in the Research Department at Accord, said recently that the SADC intervention in Lesotho, while having prevented the situation from deteriorating, was unable to bring about lasting political stability.

She said the intervention showed the bloc's willingness and ability to deploy political and military interventions to prevent and manage conflict. While the circumstances of the SADC intervention in Lesotho were not the same as the unrest in Eswatini, parallels and lessons could be drawn, said Bebington.

At this week's summit, the delegates approved the establishment of an oversight committee made up of the SADC Panel of Elders and the Mediation Reference Group to ensure continuity and oversight of the implementation of reforms in Lesotho.

The summit also received updates on the security situation in Cabo Delgado province, in the northern part of Mozambique, and

approved the extension of the SADC Mission in Mozambique and its related processes.

The summit commended SAMIM Personnel Contributing Countries for their solidarity and sacrifice in supporting the mission, and expressed condolences to the governments and families of the nine personnel who died in the operations.

DRC President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo was elected as SADC chairperson. Namibian President Hage Geingob was elected as chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation. The outgoing chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation, President Cyril Ramaphosa, gave his report to delegates, on developments. Delegates commended Ramaphosa for his leadership and efforts to address peace and security threats during the year, including the Covid-19 challenges.

The summit expressed concern about the latest security developments in eastern DRC, and mandated the chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ, supported by the Organ Troika FIB Troop Contributing Countries, to engage the UN Secretary General on the margins of the UN General Assembly next month, to explore avenues to support efforts towards

improving security.

The summit welcomed a report presented by the government of Eswatini, regarding the security situation in the country.

While condemning the violence, it mandated the chairperson of the organ to convene an extra-ordinary Summit of the Organ Troika plus Eswatini to find a lasting solution.

Ringisai Chikohomero, a researcher at the Institute for Security Studies, said the Eswatini crisis was descending into conflict, with the bombing of state institutions and attacks on security forces on the rise.

The summit welcomed the establishment of the SADC Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre in the United Republic of Tanzania, as an institution that co-ordinates counter-terrorism activities in the region. It urged member states to strengthen co-operation and information sharing on terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism.

Delegates applauded the successful general elections in Zambia in August last year, and the peaceful transition of power, and noted the readiness of the governments of Angola and Lesotho to hold their general and national assembly elections on August 24 and October 7, respectively.

The summit expressed its dissatisfaction that the continent was being targeted for unilateral and punitive measures through the Countering Malign Russian Activities in Africa Act that was recently adopted by the US House of Representatives.

The new US law seeking to punish states that back certain Russian actions could have implications for African countries. The summit reaffirmed its position of non-alignment to conflict outside Africa, and directed that the matter be included in the AU agenda.

The summit received reports on the status of the implementation of the Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap; and the socio-economic situation in the region including regional economic performance; regional food and nutrition security; regional food and nutrition security; gender and development; status of health in the region; and disaster risk management.

The summit endorsed a theme of the 42nd SADC summit of heads of state and government, titled "Promoting Industrialisation through, Agro-Processing, Mineral Beneficiation, and Regional Value Chains for Inclusive and Resilient Economic Growth".

The theme takes into account the urgent need to enhance the roll-out of SADC industrialisation and market integration programmes as contained in the RISDP (2020-2030).

The summit approved and signed the Agreement Amending the SADC Treaty on Transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a SADC Parliament; and the Agreement Amending the Protocol on Development of Tourism in SADC.

The SADC Council of Ministers met in Malawi in March, this year to review the implementation of programmes aimed at promoting and deepening regional integration, co-operation and economic development.

The summit adopted the memorandum of agreement among the SADC member states for the Establishment of the Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre.

The summit adopted and signed the Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, to provide a framework of co-operation between member states in combating trafficking in persons and associated transnational organised and cross-border crimes in the region.

In 2020, the bloc announced that it was finalising a legal instrument that would help intensify efforts to respond to the rising trafficking in persons, which is among the world's fastest growing organised crimes.

Elias Mpedi Magosi, the SADC executive secretary, was also in attendance, while Dr Vera Songwe, the secretary-general of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, delivered pre-recorded remarks.

Delegates approved the appointment of Angele Makombo N'Tumba, a DRC citizen, as the new SADC deputy executive secretary for regional integration. The summit commended outgoing SADC deputy executive secretary for regional integration, Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo, from South Africa, for having served the secretariat.

10L



# Africa News

# Zulu King Misuzulu ka Zwelithini crowned in SA



King Misuzulu ka Zwelithini of the Zulu kingdom

After a year-long family feud, Misuzulu ka Zwelithini has been crowned Zulu king in a traditional ceremony in South Africa.

The 48-year-old is the son of the previous king, but some royals had argued he was not the rightful heir and that the late king's will was in fact forged.

Thousands of people gathered at Saturday's traditional coronation at KwaKhangelamankengane Palace, where the king entered the sacred cattle kraal to invoke his ancestors before being announced to both the living and the dead as the new Zulu

monarch.

He was expected to wear the hide of the lion that he hunted for the royal event, a key feat in proving he is indeed the chosen one. More than 10 cows were slaughtered in preparation for the festivities.

Next month, he is to be hosted by the government for a state ceremony.

The throne has no formal political power, but a fifth of South Africa's population is Zulu and its monarchy remains hugely influential with a yearly taxpayer-funded budget of more than \$4.9m (£3.5m).

The Zulu kingdom has a proud

history. It is world-famous for defeating British troops during the 1879 battle of Isandlwana.

Its succession battles have always been fierce - and at times, bloody. The legendary King Shaka ka Senzangakhona killed his brother in 1816 in order to take the throne, then was himself assassinated in a plot masterminded by his nephew years later.

But this latest saga, following the death of King Goodwill Zwelithini ka Bhhekuzulu more than a year ago, has been an embarrassing public spectacle.

Various royal family factions continued to champion their preferred candidates through several legal challenges.

By the time he died last year, King Zwelithini had six wives and had ruled for more than half a century.

In his disputed will, he named his third wife Queen Mantfombi Dlamini Zulu as regent - a sort of caretaker role pending the appointment of a successor.

Queen Mantfombi held the highest status among the king's wives, because she came from royalty - her father was the late King Sobhuza

II and her brother was King Mswati III of Eswatini.

Her marriage to the Zulus came with the condition that her first-born son would be first in line for the throne on her husband's death.

So when she died a month after becoming regent, their son Misuzulu ka Zwelithini was seen as the obvious choice to take power. He had also been named as successor in his mother's will.

What's more, the fact that Prince Misuzulu was the only person to inherit the traditional weapons of his grandfather King Cyprian Bhhekuzulu ka Solomon was seen as an endorsement that he would eventually take over from his father.

However, two more of the late king's sons have been staking their claim to the throne.

The royal family has split into three factions, each backing their preferred prince - Misuzulu ka Zwelithini, Simakade ka Zwelithini and Buzabazi ka Zwelithini.

Back in March, South Africa's president formally recognised Misuzulu ka Zwelithini as the new Zulu king, but a legal challenge was mounted by Misuzulu's brother, Mbonisi Zulu, who asked the court to halt the coronation.

However, the court dismissed his application and allowed coronation proceedings to continue.

Exactly a week before King-to-be Misuzulu's traditional coronation, his half-brother Prince Simakade was announced as the new monarch by a handful of supporters within the royal family.

His backers say he is the obvious choice as the late king's first-born son, but traditional Prime Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi has described this as a "foolish provocation".

Meanwhile, three of King Zwelithini's brothers called a news conference on Thursday to announce Prince Buzabazi as their choice, claiming he of all sons had the closest relationship with his father.

Even on the day of the crowning ceremony, the new king's half-sisters filed an urgent motion at the high court in Pietermaritzburg to try to stop the coronation. Princesses Ntandoyenkosi and Ntombizosuthu said their late father's will may have been forged. The challenge was dismissed by the court.

Misuzulu has received strong support from other family members, who argue that customs dictate he is the rightful heir.

Some believe tribalism could be at the heart of this battle. King-to-be Misuzulu's maternal heritage is from Eswatini, meaning he is not 100% Zulu and that's why some in the royal family never fully embraced his mother as the Great Wife.

While the battle rages on for now, many believe the throne will find a way of cleansing itself and that the rightful king will be officially installed at a public coronation on September 24 - a public holiday in South Africa - ending the long-running feud.

A fitting choice, because the holiday was previously known as Shaka's Day - a time when thousands of Zulus would visit his grave to honour him for uniting the Zulu nation.

Misuzulu ka Zwelithini was born on September 23, 1974 in Kwahlabisa, he was educated privately at St Charles College in Pietermaritzburg. He studied at Jacksonville University in the US, where he lived for several years. He is married to two wives, with three sons. - BBC News

# Donald Trump sues justice department over Mar-a-Lago search

Former US President Donald Trump has asked a judge to freeze the justice department's investigation of files seized from his Mar-a-Lago home.

In a lawsuit, his legal team asked that an independent lawyer be appointed to oversee the documents that FBI agents took earlier this month.

Eleven sets of classified files were taken from Trump's Florida estate on August 8, according to the FBI.

Trump is being investigated for potentially mishandling documents.

US presidents must transfer all of their documents and emails to a government agency called the National Archive - and the FBI is investigating whether Trump improperly handled records by taking them from the White House to Mar-a-Lago after he left office in January 2021.

He has denied any wrongdoing and said the items were declassified.

In the 27-page document filed in a Florida court, Trump's legal team accuses the justice department's search as "simply wanting the camel's nose under the tent so they could rummage for either politically helpful documents or support efforts to thwart President Trump from running again".

"President Donald J Trump is the clear frontrunner in the 2024 Republican Presidential Primary and in the 2024 General Election, should he decide to run," it says.

"Law enforcement is a shield that protects Americans," it continues. "It cannot be used as a weapon for political purposes."

The "shockingly aggressive move" on Mar-a-Lago by about two dozen FBI agents took place "with no understanding of the distress that it would cause most Americans", said Trump's lawyers.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) said in a brief statement that prosecutors were aware of Trump's lawsuit, and would respond in court.

The "search warrant at Mar-a-Lago was authorised by a federal court upon the required finding of probable cause", said spokesman Anthony Coley.

It comes as the New York Times reported on Monday that agents had so far recovered over 300 documents with classified markings from Trump, including material from the CIA, the National Security Agency and the FBI.

Trump's legal action was filed in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Monday, before a judge that Trump nominated to the bench in 2020.

Trump is suing for a more detailed list of exactly what was taken from his estate and is asking for the government to return any item which was not in the scope of the search warrant.

His lawyers have also asked that a "neutral" third-party attorney - known as a special master - be brought in to determine whether the seized files are covered by executive privilege, which allows presidents to keep certain communications under wraps.

Special masters are normally appointed in criminal cases where there are concerns that some evidence may be protected under attorney-client privilege, or other protections that could make it inadmissible in court.

The court filing argues that Trump had been co-operating with agents before the FBI turned up unannounced at his home.

His lawyers say the warrant was overly broad and the search violated the Fourth Amendment to the US Constitution, which protects Americans against unreasonable search and seizure.

His legal team also accuse the government of leaking "ever-changing, and inaccurate,



Former US President Donald Trump

'justifications'" for the search to favoured media outlets.

Trump's legal team says that three days after the search they contacted an FBI agent that had visited Mar-a-Lago in June to ask for his help in passing along a personal message from the former president to Attorney General Merrick Garland.

The brief message recorded in Monday's lawsuit said Trump had heard "from people around the country about the raid".

"If there was one word to describe their mood, it is 'angry'," the message from Trump continued.

"The heat is building up. The pressure is building up. Whatever I can do to take the heat down, to bring the pressure down, just let us know."

The judge who approved the warrant - an unprecedented criminal investigation of a former US president's home - is still determining whether to release the affidavit, the sworn evidence that was presented as a justification for the FBI search.

On Monday, Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart said proposed government redactions to the affidavit were so extensive as to make it "meaningless" if disclosed, though he said he still believed it should not remain completely sealed given public interest in the case.

Trump has previously maintained he had done nothing wrong, arguing that all of documents he took from the White House when he left office in January 2021 had already been declassified by himself. — BBC News



## EDITOR'S NOTE

# Majoro fails to contain the pandemic

## But lifts all COVID-19 restrictions anyway

Although economic activity has just been declared as fully functional this week, some undertakings including initiation school activities, tourism functions and certain segments of entertainment were already operating in full swing. What Cabinet did was merely declare them open, officially.

Scores of Basotho, especially young men have in the past months been undergoing the cultural initiation process, disregarding the COVID-19 protocols that were in place.

In the streets of the capital Maseru and other urban districts, revelers were enjoying the night life that our country has to offer, that also goes for the night ladies whose trade never ceased even at the height of the pandemic that has so far consumed millions of lives across the globe.

The point driven at here is that the Majoro administration failed dismally to arrest the

bedlam caused by the pandemic, thus leaving a colossal question mark with regards to its abilities in dealing with any hostile situation.

Perhaps the argument would be that in recent times, few if no cases at all were being recorded or reported. But the issue is, the government should have remained true to its commitment in its strive to eliminate the virus among the population.

That would definitely have sent a strong but clear message to the general public and the local business community that government was not taking any chances towards combatting the pandemic.

But to add salt to injury, the government permitted political parties to hold massive rallies in preparation for the upcoming general elections billed for October 7.

This untoward move on the part of government

paints a bleak picture and divulges the true colours of those entrusted to lead our country.

Majoro confidently noted on Monday night that in spite of all the reckless behavior portrayed in the past months, the country was ready to lift all COVID-19 restrictions.

A decision, he without doubt arrived at through the counsel he received in Parliament.

But what remains true is his government has not done enough to rid the country of the deadly virus and his decision was way too premature.

The textile and apparel industry has been one of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in thousands of workers, particularly women, losing their jobs. The sector was also affected by disruptions in international value chains, which later resulted in a number of big firms being forced to shut down.

This was indeed a major miscarriage in our economic development efforts, taking into account how much the sector contributes towards the country's GDP and job creation.

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

## Great opportunities for healing

Taking cue from the Semmelweis story, I believe that we are now aware that we can all not know somethings even in our own professions; that it may take some experience, sometimes unpleasant experiences, to learn new things. All it says is that we need to be open to learning new things if we want to grow and perform better in life. Many of us would have not known about how long-term repression damages our brains and limits our minds. Now we are aware. Yet, it may still take a lot of effort to actually open up to new leaning, open up to being assisted in order to experience improved life conditions and quality of life.

Today we have to build the courage and humility to accept and acknowledge that we have been unknowingly colluding with the coloniser and colonising or neo-colonising our own selves. Until we begin to learn how to and get to know how to decolonise ourselves and humanise ourselves and heal of the colonisation and dehumanization mental dis-eases our conditions will only continue to deteriorate.

It is, thus, important to note that just as there may still be some rare occurrences of left handedness or left footedness, there can be some (rare) occurrences of people born with the use of their long love and life-supportive brain pathways – narrow gate that leads to life (Mat. 7: 13-14) – as their default response, who I call love-brain pathed. That is, it is possible to still see some transformations like Singapore or Rwanda, even if it is (still) largely at the physical level. In this column, we are saying that it is possible to create more of such because, like the phoenix, they were created out of their own ashes.

From the story of my former classmate, we would have gleaned that it is possible for huge proportions of society to inherit traits that society may take for granted, even when some may be limiting. Using only

one foot or only one hand is limiting, even if we may consider it natural. The story shows us that it is possible to transform our own minds – relax and harmonise our own hearts, rewire our own brains, and heal, change our own behaviours, and transform. But, it requires initiative, courage, humility, commitment, and persistence. The story shows us how difficult it may be for people with limitations to seek to address them, even when they are not happy with their prevailing situations. What with the pervasive lack of agency, that sense of victimhood

to respond to our life challenges via the limiting, self-destructive short fear-brain pathway that is propagated through long-term repression – colonization, apartheid, or other abuses. The default mode of self-protection, not trusting, blaming, reveling in vengeance, fearing the unknown, fearing to act in our own best interests, rejecting new evidence and knowledge, resisting change.

How many of us actually see the limitation with using only one hand or only one foot? Even if we do, or we have, many of us, like me in the case of the hand, would have resigned to it. How many opportunities would the ability to use both our limbs proficiently open for us, or would have opened for us. And to indoctrinate whole societies they are named “right hand”, “right foot”, “left hand”, and “left foot” so that we can have a sense of one side being “correct” and the other being “wrong”. The same indoctrination has happened, and continues to happen, with the use of our response mechanisms to life challenges – that we should perceive every life challenge as threatening and seek to protect ourselves than to explore it for learning and growth; that we should always see others as threatening to us and seek to protect ourselves from them, and display macho, than to seek to cooperate and collaborate with them to mutually add value to our lives.

Healing and recovering from the adverse legacy of long-term repression needs to be approached from every angle because of its impact on the lives of individuals and whole societies. Healing and recovering from the legacy of long-term repression of brain damage and constraining the mind may also be likened to healing and recovering from stroke. Next week we shall discuss the impact of long-term repression on the human brain together with the impact of stroke on the human brain and their recovery processes.

### SUSTAINING QUALITY

### PEACE & RESILIENCE

By Mafole Sematlane



and apathy from long-term repression that reinforces the perception that individuals are not able to influence their environments? What with the associated lack of awareness of one's own mental health symptoms or inaccurate perceptions about one's self that cause victims to want to stick with one way of thinking, way of behaving, the same rules, and resisting change? What with difficulties with higher order functions like reasoning, problem solving, and judgment, problems with maintaining attention or concentration, decrease in motivation, or mood swings that come with the lack of self-awareness or inaccurate perception of our own selves?

The default mode or preference to use the right foot or right hand is similar to the default mode or preference

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# Metro



# Corruption would not thrive if companies are banned – as the UK did with Bain

The UK says it raised concerns around the “grave reputational damages” committed and that the ban was the result of Bain’s “despicable” role in South Africa’s biggest post-apartheid corruption scandal.

According to Jacob Rees-Mogg, UK Cabinet Minister responsible for Brexit Opportunities and Government Efficiency, “After reviewing Bain’s role in alleged state capture and corruption by the former government of South Africa, taking account of the evidence and conclusions of the South African Government Commission, the Minister for Government Efficiency considered Bain to be guilty of grave professional misconduct. We have consequently excluded them from competing for Cabinet Office contracts for a period of three years.

“This decision has been taken in light of Bain’s responsibility as a global brand for its South Africa division and the company’s failure to clarify the facts and circumstances of its involvement.”

Bain & Company, which took out adverts in the South African media to apologise for its actions, featured prominently in the State Capture Commission report because it committed a series of irregularities at the South African Revenue Services (SARS). The ban was implemented amid the repayment of the fees to SARS, where they are alleged to have wreaked financial havoc over the restructuring process.

Former British MP Lord Peter Hain has said that the fight to ostracise the giant consultancy group would now proceed to the United States who will be requested to implement similar sanctions.

Big corporates often attempt to pay penalties and move on. Conversely, if the wrongdoing had not been detected the wrongfulness, knowingly, would continue without any reduction in intensity or strength.

For example, in South Africa it was not long ago that the Department of Water and Sanitation entered into a settlement agreement with System Application Products (SAP). In this case SAP would repay the department an amount of R413-million of the R1,036-billion contract value pursuant to the 2015 and 2016 software licence and support contracts.

The parties apparently agreed to a settlement agreement upon realising that the proceedings would bring protracted litigation with little prospects, if any, of recovery.

The Department, for its part, boldly sent a message that it would discipline its own officials who had been implicated.

But disciplining implicated officials is not sufficient. Stern action must be taken especially where intent is established. The legislation should also be tightened.

Settlement agreements, by their nature, result in less punitive measures. Once caught, the implicated person may likely raise a settlement agreement as a remedy, if successful, that’s the end of the litigation process.

This is why the courts in South Africa have a duty not to adopt a mechanical approach to granting an order by agreement between the parties. They must ensure that such orders are legally competent and proper and relate directly or indirectly to the issues between the parties.

This approach was confirmed in the Constitutional Court ruling on the matter between the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality v ASLA Construction (Pty) Ltd where the Court held [at paragraph 25] that:

“There are sound reasons why a Court should carefully scrutinise a settlement agreement before making it an order of Court. Once a settlement agreement is made an order of Court, it is interpreted in the same way as any judgment or order and affects parties’ rights in the same way.”

The Court further cautioned parties against courts being approached to make a settlement agreement an order of court without being in a position to pronounce on its legality [at paragraph 31].

A court can only make an order that is competent and proper and in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

Settlement agreements need careful scrutiny before



Jacob Rees-Mogg, UK Cabinet Minister responsible for Brexit Opportunities and Government Efficiency

being made an order of the court.

The Special Tribunal followed the Constitutional Court’s approach in the case concerning a declaratory order brought before it by SIU against Aventino Group (Pty) Ltd. The SIU’s founding affidavit alleged that Aventino fraudulently made misrepresentations to the National Housing Development Agency and obtained a R15-million contract to build shacks in Talana, Limpopo.

the terms of the agreement were reached and that the SIU had correctly applied its mind to those terms. The settlement agreement is still to come before the Special Tribunal to be made an order of court.

One lesson from state capture is that it’s clear that consequence management needs to be strengthened and applied against erratic public servants, especially those involved in awarding these contracts.

Annually, the Public Service Commission and the Auditor General release reports of officials who do business with the State. But one wonders about the impact this has on these wayward officials as they can simply resign upon being caught out and the irregularity ends there.

Some avoid liability by registering companies using their families’ details as proxies to earn state contracts.

It is therefore encouraging to see the legal trend where the pensions are being frozen and, in the event that the outcome of an investigation confirms the irregularity, the money is declared forfeit to the State. More such actions are required for South Africa to be on the right trajectory in the fight against State corruption. DM/MC

MY

TAKE

By Selby Makgotho



The SIU agreed to the settlement agreement proposed by Aventino.

The Special Tribunal directed the SIU to depose an affidavit setting out the factual and legal basis on which

## CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	21.34
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	17.02
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.00
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.48
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.12
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.07

## COMMODITIES

### STOCKS

S&P500	4,255.20
NASDAQ100	13,685.68
Nikkei225	28,945.26
Dow Jones30	34,248.00
FTSE 100	7,125.12
JSE	69,757.00
Hang Seng	20,204.97

### PRECIOUS METALS (Rates in US Dollars)

Gold p/ounce	1,723.69
Platinum p/ounce	902.84
Silver p/ounce	11.05
Copper p/ounce	0.22
Brent Oil p/barrel	91.57

### EQUITIES

Bonds	18.44
Treasury Bills	3.67
Interest Rates	91

# Economists say Wednesday nationwide strike likely to damage economy further

# SAFTU wants govt to avail R1 trillion to meet its demands ahead of strike

# Metro BUSINESS

## 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	M22.20
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M22.65
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M23.20
Paraffin p/litre	M17.80
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

# Flour Mills meets farmers halfway

...as the miller buys local wheat and maize



Lesotho Flour Mills Chief Executive Officer, Joan Goncalves

**MASERU** - In a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted all economic activities over a long period of time, local farmers shall slightly recover from the downfall, thanks to the recent initiative by the Lesotho Flour Mills that calls for the supply of wheat and maize grain in exchange of quick payments from the milling company.

The company recently invited Basotho farmers, big and small to supply it with wheat and maize grains in a move to play a key innovative role in giving impetus

to local economic development.

"We buy local and trade local to stimulate the local economy. We have the right quality and quantity of wheat and maize in Lesotho so by buying and producing it locally, the money goes straight back into the pockets of the community, boosting local economic growth," Lesotho Flour Mills Chief Executive Officer, Joan Goncalves said.

All grades of wheat and maize from Basotho farmers are accepted by the company.

Payments are processed as quickly as seven days after acceptance. The purchase price of these commodities is made in compliance with the South African Futures Exchange (SAFEX), the agricultural trade price use for purchasing from South African commodity traders.

SAFEX keeps prices standard and ensures that farmers do not get underpaid for their produce. Lesotho Flour Mills offers a purchase price based on SAFEX.

Agricultural development is one of the most powerful tools

to end extreme poverty, boost shared prosperity and feed people.

In Lesotho, a large majority of the population in rural areas is engaged in subsistence farming and the cultivation of nutritious foods is key in an uncertain climate changing world.

Lesotho Flour Mills wants to create awareness of this local economic stimulation cycle, meaning the seller (farmer), the manufacturer (the mill) and the consumer (households) all work together to bring prosperity and

increase the standards of living for communities and ultimately, their quality of life.

The initiative supports both the farmer and the mill, which in turn stimulates the consumer's purchasing power and directly contributes to making better conditions for economic growth and employment generation.

Reaching out to farmers is ultimately improving the country's economic future and is mutually beneficial, making better lives for farmers and their communities.

# Economists say Wednesday nationwide strike likely to damage economy further

...as unions state the nationwide strike planned for Wednesday will include stay-aways and rallies, which are expected to take place across the country



COSATU National Strike 2019

**JOHANNESBURG** - Economists have weighed in on calls by Cosatu and Saftu for South Africans to push back against the government and the private sector's inaction in tackling the country's paralysing economic outlook.

The unions said the nationwide strike planned for Wednesday would include stay-aways and rallies, which are expected to take place across the country.

The unions are looking to voice their anger and frustration over the rising cost of living, relentless power cuts, high fuel prices and unemployment.

While Cosatu and Saftu say bringing the economy to a halt is the only way to make the government act with urgency, experts say this could sink the economy even further.

South Africa's biggest trade union federations are calling for major investment to boost economic growth and create jobs.

This is as the economy tries to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, last year's July unrest, and the April floods.

Economist Isaac Matshego said that by taking to the streets, the very economy the unions were trying to safeguard could destabilise the country even further.

"Staying away from work, particularly for one day, will not really achieve any objective.

## SAFTU wants govt to avail R1 trillion to meet its demands ahead of strike

**JOHANNESBURG** - Trade union federation Saftu wants government to avail a trillion rand to meet the demands it has made ahead of its national shutdown.

The union will host a march on Wednesday in seven provinces, raising the plight of the unemployed, electricity tariffs and the petrol price.

Saftu insists that government has the ability to redirect funds in order to address more pressing issues such as unemployment.

"The government, which has a monetary sovereign system

like South Africa, where the central bank of South Africa, the South African Reserve Bank, is the currency issuer, can never have constraints in as far as expenditure is concerned. The only constraints it would have, of course, will be considering the inflation pressure which more money may have," said spokesperson Trevor Shaku.

The union is also calling for a heftier tax on the wealthy.

"And because they are using a neoliberal fiscal policy framework be able then to ensure that on the basis of the taxation, they are

able to finance some of the needs which we are putting forward and some of the needs which we arise," Shaku said.

Saftu said the quarter two jobs data will reflect South Africa's unemployment crisis. - EWN



I'm not justifying a longer stay away because that would be more damaging," Masango said. Meanwhile, economist Dale

McKinley said that withholding labour might have

Saftu Deputy President Zwelinzima Vavi

little impact, but it did convey a crucial message to those in power.

"Where I think the weakness of this particular tactic lies is in the lack of impact that it has because right now, the unions are at their weakest. You will probably see a section of certain industries or certain urban

areas where they will probably be quite a bit of impact, but I think the other side of it, which is often times underplayed, workers are upset".

Both unions said that all workers would strike, and invited all South Africans to join. - EWN

# Agriculture

## LENAFU welcomes govt subsidy ...as farmers prepare for this year's summer cropping

STAFF REPORTER

**MASERU** - A subsidy of farming inputs for this year's summer cropping from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has heightened the spirits of members the Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU), which had been bogged down by the heavy recent rains.

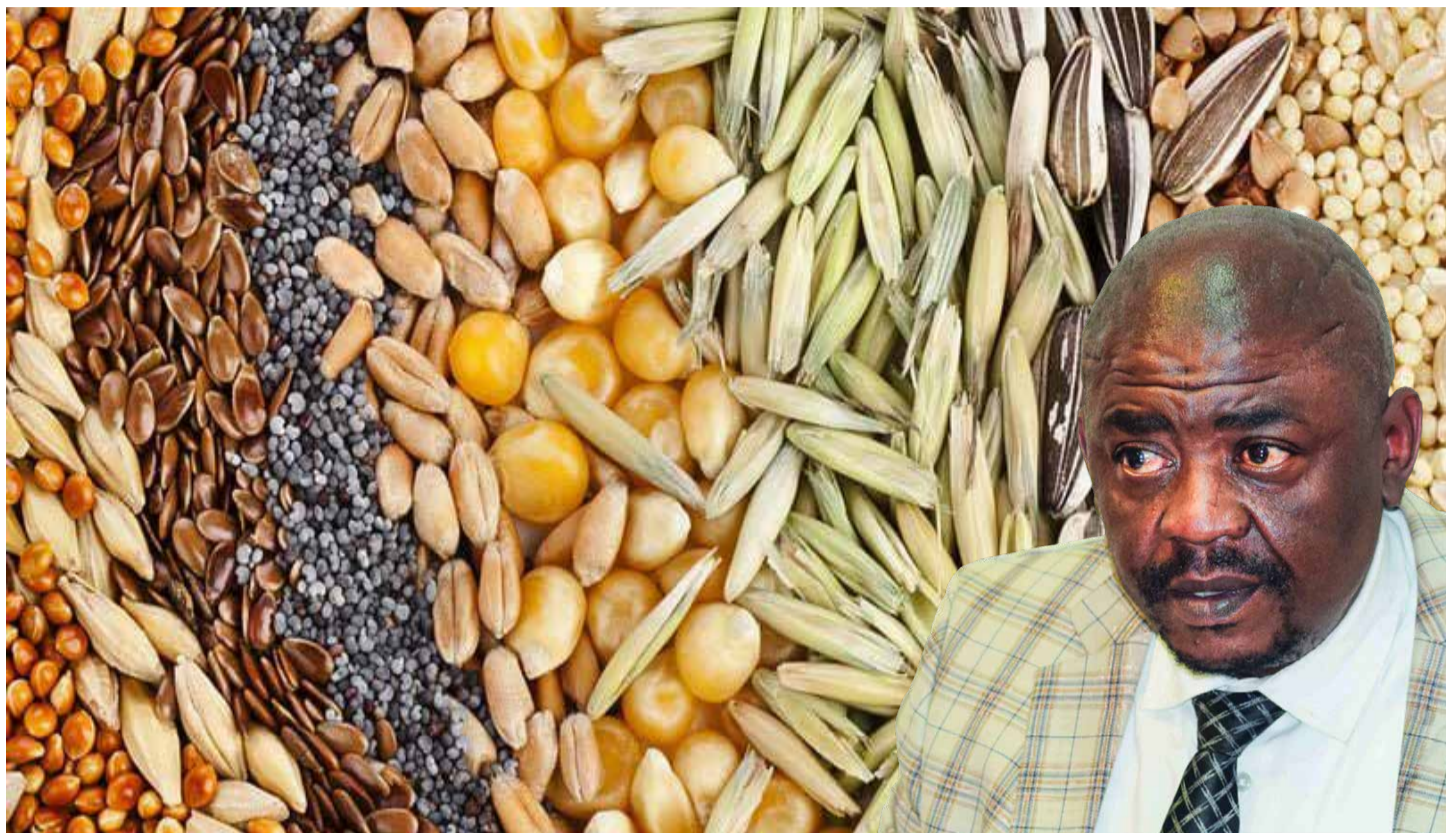
“

*The government should always engage us so that we in turn could help sensitise the farmers at all levels on what the government is offering*

The subsidy entails seeds to be used in the fields, gardens and weed killers which will be sold at a 70 percent discount while the price of fertilizers will see an 80 percent cut.

The subsidy will, however, not cover ploughing costs.

LENAFU programmes manager, Khotso Lepheana said the financial aid would enable farmers to kick start their planting activities with ease as the farming inputs



Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Keketso Sello

would be available at affordable costs.

He, however, advised the ministry to closely collaborate with LENAFU in order to ensure that essential information filters through to the farmers on time.

“The government should always

engage us so that we in turn could help sensitise the farmers at all levels on what the government is offering,” Mr Lepheana said, adding: “We have been relegated to the receiving end.”

“That way, they government will have decentralised the availability of farming inputs to cut transport costs for those who will be buying and later selling to the farmers.”

Because there is no subsidy on transport costs, traders who buy and sell farming inputs to farmers are likely to incur more expenses, he said.

This, he said could possibly take the farmers back to the 60% subsidy not the intended 80%.

“At the moment, we are not even sure how many inputs have been distributed to the districts so that we could inform the farmers,” he said.

For his part, the Minister of Agriculture, Keketso Sello said the government has made good progress in collecting seeds and fertilizers for the summer cropping season to commence.

Seeds, he said, would be readily available countrywide at the ministry's district offices while garden seeds and weed killers would be sold at the main warehouse in Ha Foso, Berea.

Mr Sello said the on-going war between Russia and Ukraine had escalated the price of agricultural equipment, hence, funds allocated to the ministry this year were relatively insufficient to buy all the necessary items.

“The ministry was therefore unable to enter any agreements with our regular suppliers like we did in the previous years. We are obliged to share the

little that we have so that all could benefit,” he said.

In the midst of all these challenges, the minister asked for cooperation from all local farmers.

He appealed to farmers who own planting equipment to stick to stipulated prices, urging all to work hard for the betterment of farming in Lesotho.

Due to the heavy rains that the country experienced throughout last summer, the previous harvest was tremendously poor.

“Weeding was unsuccessful owing to the heavy rains, hence the past yield was poor. Crops produced were yellowish in colour and stunted.”

Chairperson of the Leribe Farmers Association, Daniel Chakela said most of the beans that were produced were destroyed by the heavy water.

“This is something we did not have much control over, the climate change is playing rude tricks on us,” he said.

Mr Chakela said after investing so much in the past season, their returns were awfully low.

“I personally lost everything after planting beans on a

40-acre land,” he said.

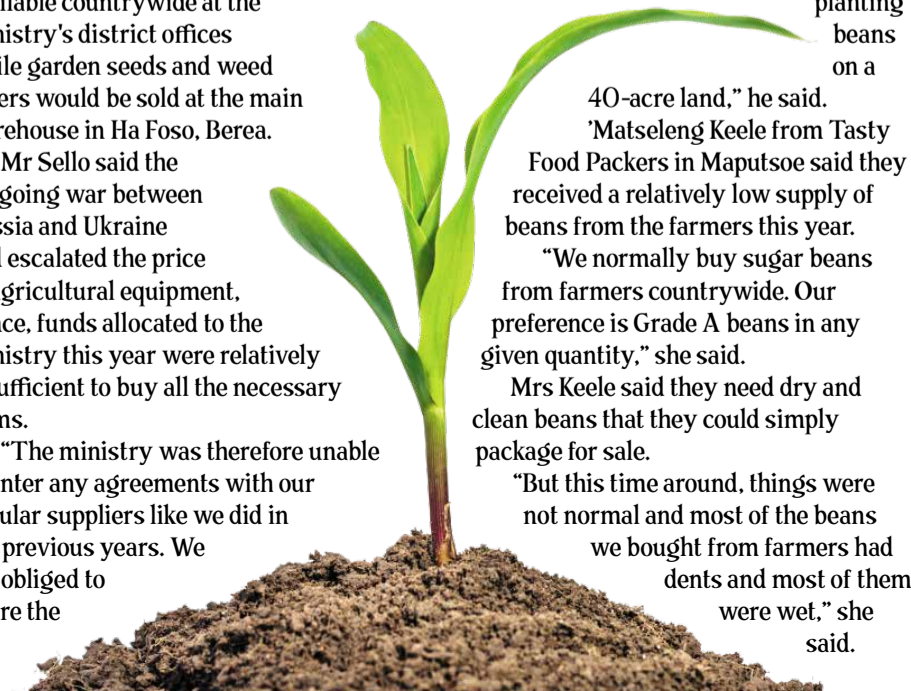
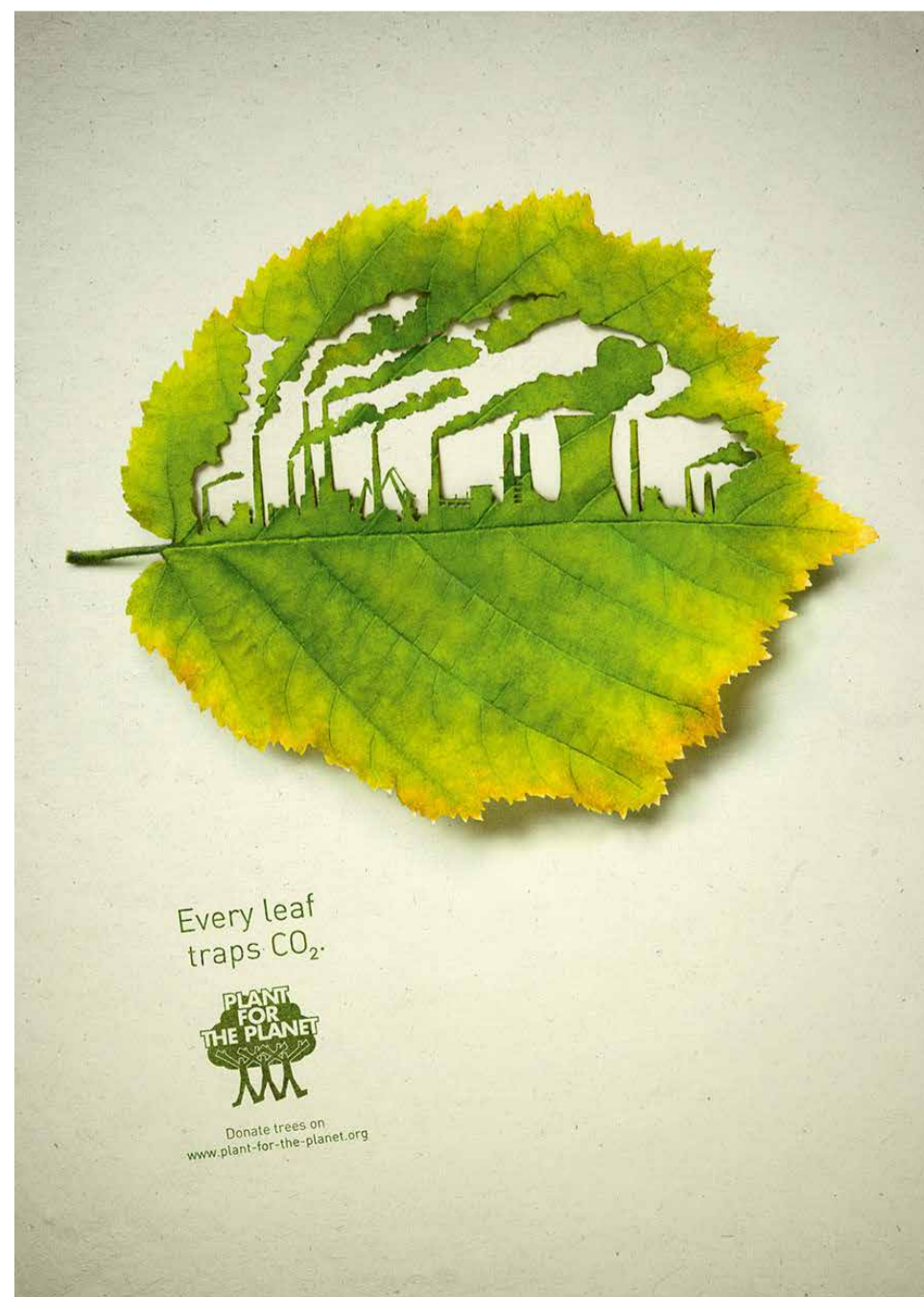
‘Matseleng Keele from Tasty Food Packers in Maputsoe said they received a relatively low supply of beans from the farmers this year.

“We normally buy sugar beans from farmers countrywide. Our preference is Grade A beans in any given quantity,” she said.

Mrs Keele said they need dry and clean beans that they could simply package for sale.

“But this time around, things were not normal and most of the beans

we bought from farmers had dents and most of them were wet,” she said.





Ministry of Health Headquarters

## Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative starts implementation in Lesotho

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, has commenced the in-country implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in Lesotho to accelerate the COVID-19 vaccination.

The vaccination drive is coming at a time when the country only has 55% of the adult population fully vaccinated.

In this current support, the

Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative and the Ministry of Health have planned a target to strengthen 22 COVID-19 vaccination centres and vaccinating more than 270 000 people within 12 months in the selected sites.

In his launching address, the Minister of Health, Semano Sekatle thanked the Africa CDC and its Implementing Partners for the successful kick-off as it marked a turning point in demand generation for COVID-19 vaccination uptake. He said that came at a time when the confidence in COVID-19 vaccination, and thus its demand, had declined.

Mr Sekatle (*pictured*) called on the Africa CDC and the Implementing Partners to work together in order to achieve the collectively desired objectives.

He concluded by declaring the launching of the Saving Lives and

Livelihoods programme Implementation in Lesotho.

For his part, the Coordinator of the Africa CDC Southern Africa Regional Coordinating Centre, Dr Lul Pout Riek said the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative would include a strong focus on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) to enable Lesotho citizens, particularly young people and rural populations, to understand the safety and benefits of vaccination.

"Africa CDC is very honoured today to launch the country implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, to support the Government of Lesotho in vaccinating its population. COVID-19 vaccines remain a critical tool in reducing transmission and ultimately returning the economies of Africa to normal. We recognising that the only way to end the pandemic and safeguard lives and livelihoods on the continent is to immunise a critical mass of the African population rapidly," he said.

He further stated that RCCE would play a crucial role in creating demand for uptake

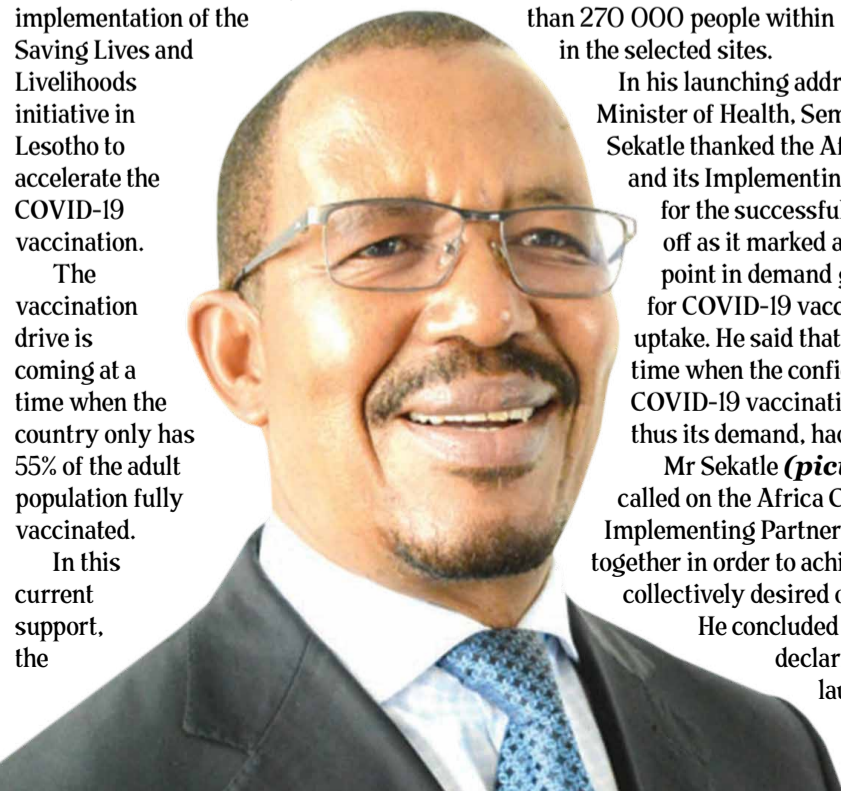
of COVID-19 vaccinations and supporting other non-pharmaceutical efforts to break the transmission chain and mitigate the pandemic's impact.

The Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative is a \$1.5bn partnership with the Mastercard Foundation and launched in June 2021 to purchase COVID-19 vaccines for at least 65 million people and support the delivery to millions across the continent.

A total of \$807,067 of the fund has been provided to kickstart the first year of implementation in Lesotho.

The initiative will synergize the efforts of the Government, Africa CDC, and other partners in increasing COVID-19 vaccine uptake. The implementation of the programme will focus on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and vaccine capacity to enable Lesotho to reach its COVID-19 vaccination target.

The ultimate goal of Africa CDC through the Saving Lives and Livelihoods programme is to accelerate 70% vaccine coverage of the African population by the end of 2022. - Africa CDC



## Health

# Benefits of vaccines still far outweigh risks

Health experts say after J&J-related death

**JOHANNESBURG** - The benefits of vaccines still far outweigh the risks, experts say following a recently reported death in South Africa linked to Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine.

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (Sahpra) announced two weeks ago that the individual developed Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) after receiving the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine. It is the first death in the country that has been causally linked to a Covid-19 vaccine.

Since the announcement, some groups opposing vaccines have taken to Twitter and other social media platforms using this extremely rare adverse event following immunisation as confirmation of their stance that vaccines are not safe. Local health experts have raised concerns that these groups may negatively affect vaccine uptake.

More than 38 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered in South Africa, of which more than nine million were the J&J vaccine.

According to Sahpra, GBS is a rare condition affecting the body's immune system. Symptoms of GBS can vary from mild to severe, and include muscle weakness, muscle pain, numbness and tingling. In many

cases, GBS gets better with no serious after-effects but in some cases, GBS can become serious and cause paralysis and other serious or life-threatening problems. In the case of GBS-associated paralysis, an extended hospital stay and intensive care with ventilatory support might be necessary, which can subsequently be complicated by infection, which can be life-threatening.

Last year, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) revised its fact sheets for the J&J vaccine. In a press statement dated 31 July 2021, the FDA said it had included information pertaining to an observed increased risk of GBS following vaccination.

The 2021 statement said there were about 100 preliminary reports of GBS in the US related to 12.5 million doses of the J&J vaccine. Of these, 95 were serious and required hospital admission. There was one reported death. The Australian government, in a vaccine safety report, said two deaths were linked to GBS following administration of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, which is not used in South Africa.

Professor Charles Wiysonge, senior director at the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), says, "The one death in



the 9,135,189 doses of J&J vaccine delivered in South Africa has to be seen in context. The risk of fatality from a J&J vaccine is one in over nine million – which is very, very rare, and while any death is unfortunate, the rare risk of fatality talks to the success of vaccines."

He says the adverse event also needs to be seen in the context of the number of people who have died from Covid-19. "At the SAMRC we estimate that there have been more than 300,000 excess deaths [in South Africa] which are attributable either directly or indirectly to Covid-19."

Findings from the Sisonke J&J study published in the Lancet in March show the benefit of the vaccine, with 83% protection against death, 75% protection against critical intensive care admissions, and 67% against hospitalisation. The study was conducted at the time the Beta variant was circulating, the variant having had an effect on the efficacy of the vaccine.

"The rigorous monitoring and safety of all health products is one of Sahpra's priorities, and checks and balances are in place," said Wiysonge.

In a process called causality assessment, the National Immunisation Safety Expert Committee (Nisec) specifically reviews and assesses severe adverse events reported after immunisation and establishes whether they are associated with the use of a vaccine.

Sahpra works closely with both the National Department of Health and Nisec to ensure that all reported severe adverse events are first investigated by the

provinces and thereafter assessed for causality by Nisec. Causality assessment of the reported case was conducted by Nisec using the World Health Organization methodology, which is a systematic step-wise process.

Nisec committee member Professor Hannelie Meyer explained the process as follows: The first step is to confirm the diagnosis of the reported event, which in this case was GBS.

The benefits of approved Covid-19 vaccines still far outweigh the risks, experts say following a recently reported death in South Africa linked to Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine. (Photo: Gallo Images / Brenton Geach)

Next is to determine if the event occurred within a plausible time risk window after vaccination, which is based on reported literature. Thereafter, evidence against a causal association is considered, which means that there must be strong evidence to rule out any other causes for GBS such as a bacterial or viral infection.

"In this case, no other cause of the GBS could be identified at the time of the illness. Following this, the vaccine administration process and storage conditions are considered to rule out any programmatic errors that could have caused a particular event," she said.

Thereafter, the published literature and the product information are reviewed to determine whether the event is a known adverse event linked to the particular vaccine. "In this case, GBS is listed as a very rare adverse effect of the J&J vaccine,"

she said.

The person's medical history, based on medical records, is then reviewed to determine whether there are any other qualifying factors such as underlying chronic conditions or medication that could also have caused the particular event.

The final step is to consider all evidence available and classify the case as either causally linked to the vaccine, coincidental to vaccination, indeterminate when there is some evidence, but not sufficient definite evidence, to confirm causality, or unclassifiable if the information available about the case is insufficient.

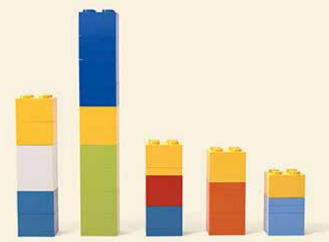
Vaccine hesitancy has been attributed to concerns about vaccine safety, perceptions of high vaccine risks, and low disease risk and consequences. Even when the public believes vaccines are important for protection, many still have concerns about vaccine safety.

Wiysonge says decision-making about vaccines is influenced by heuristics or cognitive biases, which are mental shortcuts that allow people to solve problems and make judgments quickly and efficiently when faced with uncertainties and risk.

He says, for example, "Risks that are common or familiar are more acceptable to people than risks that are uncommon or unknown.

"The chances of dying in a motor vehicle accident are far greater than the risk associated with a vaccine, and yet people are more willing to accept the risks of motor vehicle accidents." DM/MC

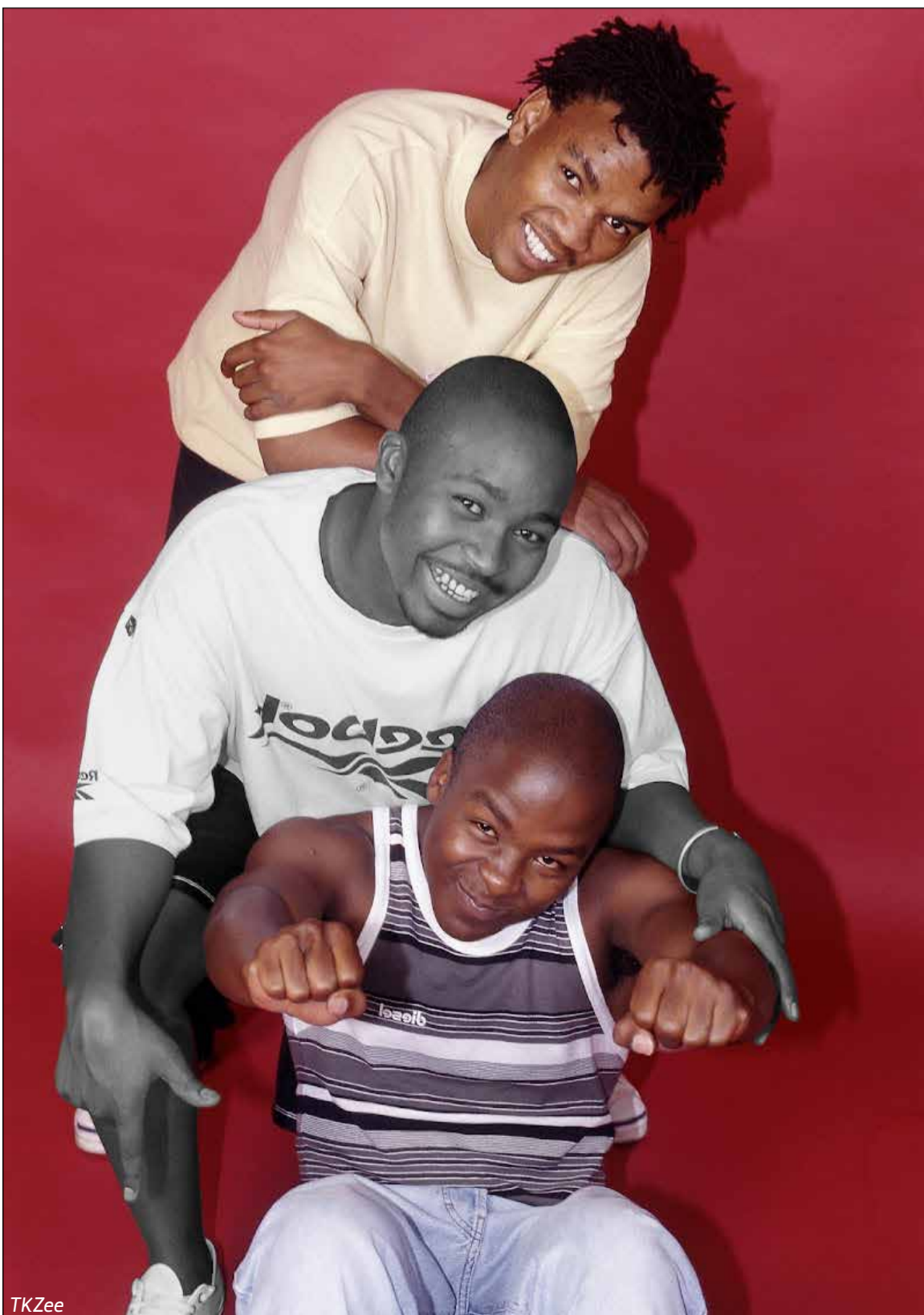




# Magesh laid to rest



The late Tokollo 'Magesh' Tshabalala



TKZee

*The funeral service for kwaito legend Tokollo 'Magesh' Tshabalala was held at the Rhema Bible Church in Johannesburg on Friday morning*

**JOHANNESBURG** - Friends, family, industry colleagues, and other prominent figures gathered to pay tribute to the TKZee musician, who died from an epileptic seizure on Monday.

His bandmate, Kabelo 'Bouga Luv' Mabalane delivered an emotional tribute to his long-time friend.

"Magesh, we changed the world; we toured the world, we got arrested we fought, we cried, we drove over 200km/h on the highway. We won big and we lost big. We've lived five lifetimes in the 30 years that I have known you. Rest in peace. See you when I get there."

Zwai Bala rendered a musical tribute, singing the Frank Sinatra song 'I did it my way'. Tshabalala, Mabalane, and Bala rose to fame in the 1990s after forming the iconic TKZee. The group released its first album, Halloween, in 1998.

Mfana, we changed the world and impacted a generation. You've left an indelible mark. We are laying

you to rest today. We've lived easily five lifetimes in the thirty years I've known you. What a ride it's been my nigga. See you when I get there.

Magesh, who is also the son of Orlando Pirates Football Club director Stanley 'Screamer' Tshabalala, was remembered by his sister Kutloano as a brother who was always available to his three siblings.

"You can't describe Tokollo, you just had to experience him. He was just an experience... Tokollo took his job as brother very seriously; he loved everyone and wanted everyone to feel loved."

She described her late brother as a 'character' that was weird and exciting. She said her brother was her shield.

"Standing here in front of you knowing that my shield isn't going to be here, my own piece of armour, is daunting. But I know that he's always with me."

Tshabalala was laid to rest at the West Park cemetery. - SowetanLive

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## Comrades Marathon returns with a bang

...as Sello prepares to join the big guys

**MASERU** - Lesotho's Teboho Sello is expected to be part of a contingent of runners from 70 nations around the world that will descend on Pietermaritzburg, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa on Sunday to participate in the 95th edition of the world-famous Comrades Marathon, a 'Down Run'.

This, after a two-year Corona-Virus-forced hiatus.

Sello finished seventh in the 2018 edition of marathon, clocking in 5:42:21.

The defending champion Edward Mthibi of South Africa will be looking to defend the title he picked up in 2019. Mthibi's victory denied Bongmusa Mthembu a third consecutive title (which would have been his fourth overall) and the three time champion will be looking to get back to winning ways in 2022

Besides SA, the UK, Zimbabwe, and India are the most represented nations with over 200 runners from each country.

The Pietermaritzburg City Hall will host the start of the race which will commence 12 hours later at Durban's Moses Mabhida Stadium.

The official race distance of this year's Comrades Marathon Down Run is 89.885km which means that Comrades runners will effectively run 299m shorter than they did in the 2018 Down Run, mainly as a result of the current roadworks.

Unfortunately though, not everyone will reach the Moses Mabhida stadium as many runners will fail to reach each of the six cut-off points in time to continue their pursuit of the finish line.

With defending women's champion Gerda Steyn absent from the 2022 edition, the likes of Russia's Alexandra Morozova and South Africa's Ann Ashworth (the

2018 champion) will start the race as favourites for the women's title.

Others who will be clinging to the hopes of being crowned champion are the likes of Charne Bosman (2016 winner), Adele Broodryk, Jenna Challenor, Dominika Stelmach, Camille Herron (2017 champion), Tanith Maxwell, Yolande Maclean, Danette Walley, as well as Charlene Archer.

Nkosinathi Mhlakwana is the runner who has most excited pundits this season and his runner-up finish at the Two Oceans Marathon underlined his credentials for the Comrades title.

Although he will be making his Comrades debut, Ethiopia's Edndale Belachew has emerged as the greatest foreign threat having won the Two Oceans Marathon in 2022. Other international challenges will come from the likes of Zimbabwe's Marko Mambo, Finland's Henri Ansio and Kenya's Justin Cheshire while some of the other local like Joseph Manyedi, Gaolatlhe Gordon Lesetedi, Siyabulela Mqambeli, Jonas Makhele, Ntsindiso Mphakathi, Msawenkosi Mthlale as well as 2016 champion David Getebe will be looking to make their mark on the race.

Once the professionals have crossed the line attention turns to the 'everyday' men and women who have chosen to take on the challenge of the Ultimate Human Race.

There is nothing ordinary about these ladies and gentlemen though and their strength, resilience and determination will be on full show for everyone to behold.

Many of the runners have overcome great personal injury, unspeakable tragedy and carry the burden of some extraordinary causes. — Metro/SowetanLive



Mens winners (L-R) Waryanyane Lebopo, Lungile Gongqa and Teboho Sello during the 2017 Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon 56km awards ceremony on April 15, 2017 in Cape Town

Top Lesotho marathoner, Teboho Sello