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**'GOVT UNDER PRESSURE FROM IMF'** 7

*...as the international body insists on imposing tobacco, alcohol levy in Lesotho*

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- Govt deserves more shares in local diamond mines
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## BORN ON THIS DAY

- October 21**
- 1980 - Kimberly Noel Kardashian, Reality TV Star, Model, Socialite born Los Angeles
  - 1927 - Nadine Judd [Nadia Moore/Nerina], South African/British ballerina
  - 1940 - Julie Parrish, Middlesboro Ky, actress (Good Morning World, Capitol)
  - 1941 - Steve Cropper, American rock and soul guitarist, songwriter, and producer
  - 1945 - Nikita Mikhalkov, director (Dark Eyes, Slave of Love)
  - 1948 - Moses J "Moss" Mayekiso, South African union/SACP-leader
  - 1973 - Lera Auerbach, Russian-American pianist, composer, and poet, born in Russia
  - 1975 - Henrique Hilário, Portuguese footballer
  - 1976 - Mélanie Turgeon, French Canadian alpine skier
  - 1984 - Anouk Leblanc-Boucher, French Canadian short track speed skater

# NewsBriefs

## Suspect demands M1million for torture

### Claims police assaulted him until he could no longer walk

**MASERU** – Lejone Mepha, a resident of Ha Ramohai, Fobane in Leribe who was arrested by the Peka police and allegedly tortured while in detention is suing the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) for M1million in damages.

He is asking the High Court to order the Commissioner of Police, Holomo Molibeli to pay him M200 000 for unlawful arrest and detention, M200 000 for torture and assault while in detention, M200 000 for pain and suffering, M200 000 for being disrespected as well as M200 000 for past, present and future medical expenses.

Mepha is asking for interest on the said amounts at the rate of 18.5 percent per annum from issue of the summons to the date of payment.

According to the papers filed in court this week, sometime in June, Mepha was asked to report himself to the 'Mamathe police post where he was interrogated about some missing cattle belonging to Lejone Ramoema who is cited as the third defendant in the matter.

In spite of proclaiming his innocence, police however threatened to extract the truth about the missing animals from him by force.

In his court papers, he says he was later brutally assaulted and tortured until he could no longer walk unaided.

He says he was forced to implicate himself that not only did he steal the missing animals but that he



The Commissioner of Police, Holomo Molibeli

also owned an unlicensed firearm.

He says he was transferred from Ha 'Mamathe to the Berea Police Station where he was detained for a while in a holding cell.

The following day he was taken to the Peka police post where the beating continued.

Owing to the "merciless beating" he suffered at the hands of the Peka police, he says he ended up agreeing to know the whereabouts of the missing cattle.

He told the court that his arrest and detention were unlawful, adding that they violated his constitutional rights.

LeNA

## FNB M4million theft trial continues

A part heard case in which two men including a former employee of the First National Bank (FNB) Lesotho are accused of the 2008 theft of M4million from the bank is expected to proceed in the High Court this week.

The accused who allegedly stole the money on October 26, 2008 are Lehlohonolo 'Mote and Lehlohonolo 'Tsikinyane who was a teller at the bank at the time. Justice Tseliso Monaphathi is this week expected to hear more evidence from the prosecution after which King's Counsel Motiea Teele and Advocate

Monaheng Rasekoai who represent the accused will present the defence's case.

'Mote and Tsikinyane were initially charged together with Lisema Ramokhoabane and Seemane Qhoai, but the two have since passed on.

They were also charged along with Sekhonyana Nihlhabo and his son Monaheng, but the Crown represented by Adv Motsei Tlali has since dropped charges against them after they turned state witnesses.

LeNA

## FastFACTS

### Japan is the world's most earthquake-prone country

Earthquakes can range from minor tremors that are barely noticeable to building-toppling ground-shakers that cause massive destruction. But it's an inevitable part of life for those who live in countries such as China, Indonesia, Iran, and Turkey, which are some of the most earthquake-prone places on the planet. However, according to the USGS, Japan records the most earthquakes in the world.

## On This Day in History

### 1805

October 21

### Battle of Trafalgar

In one of the most decisive naval battles in history, a British fleet under Admiral Lord Nelson defeats a combined French and Spanish fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar, fought off the coast of Spain.

At sea, Lord Nelson and the Royal Navy consistently thwarted Napoleon Bonaparte, who led France to pre-eminence on the European mainland. Nelson's last and greatest victory against the French was the Battle of Trafalgar, which began after Nelson caught sight of a Franco-Spanish force of 33 ships. Preparing to engage the enemy force on October 21, Nelson divided his 27 ships into two divisions and signalled a famous message from the flagship Victory: "England expects that every man will do his duty."

In five hours of fighting, the British devastated the enemy fleet, destroying 19 enemy ships. No British ships were lost, but 1,500 British seamen were killed or wounded in the heavy fighting. The battle raged at its fiercest around the Victory, and a French sniper shot Nelson in the shoulder and chest. The admiral was taken below and died about 30 minutes before the end of the battle. Nelson's last words, after being informed that victory was imminent, were "Now I am satisfied. Thank God I have done my duty."

Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar ensured that Napoleon would never invade Britain. Nelson, hailed as the saviour of his nation, was given a magnificent funeral in St. Paul's Cathedral in London. A column was erected to his memory in the newly named Trafalgar Square, and numerous streets were renamed in his honour.

## ALL JOKES ASIDE

### Wilson's Nails advert

Wilson runs a nail factory and decides his business needs a bit of advertising.

He has a chat with a friend who works in marketing, and he offers to make a television ad for Wilson's Nails. "Give me a week," says the friend, "and I'll be back with a tape."

A week goes by and the marketing executive comes to see Wilson. He puts a cassette in the video and presses play. A Roman soldier is busy nailing Jesus to the cross. He turns to face the camera and says with a grin, "Use Wilson's Nails, they'll hold anything."

Wilson goes mad, shouting, "What is the matter with you? They'll never show that on television. Give it another try, but no more Romans crucifying Jesus!"

Another week goes by and the marketing man comes back to see Wilson with another tape. He puts it in the machine and hits play. This time the camera pans out from a Roman standing with his arms folded to show Jesus on the cross. The Roman looks up at him and says, "Wilson's Nails, they'll hold anything."

Wilson is beside himself. "You don't understand. I don't want anything with Jesus on the cross! Now listen, I'll give you one last chance. Come back in a week with an advertisement that I can broadcast."

A week passes and Wilson waits impatiently. The marketing executive arrives and puts on the new video. A naked man with long hair, gasping for breath, is running across a field. About a dozen Roman soldiers come over the hill, hot on his trail. One of them turns to the camera and says, "If only we had used Wilson's Nails!"

## Quotes & Quips!

*"Parole conditions are between the parolee and the Department of Correctional Services (DCS); we never disclose them to the public. What we can confirm is that Mr Jacob Zuma made a request to leave his residence to be in another town and this was approved by his monitoring official,"*

says DCS spokesperson, Singabakho Nxumalo after former SA President Zuma was seen in public for the first time since his controversial medical parole leaving Sibaya Casino in Durban alongside his supporters.



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# Govt under pressure from IMF

7

## CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	21.08
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	14.57
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	16.97
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.28
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.13
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.09
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	10.88
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.87
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	10.83
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.035
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.024
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.31
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.92
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.21
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	3.88
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.53
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.63
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.19
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	3.97
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.33

# Metro BUSINESS

### COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS	
S&P500	4,519.63
NASDAQ100	15,410.72
Nikkei225	29,255.55
Dow Jones30	35,457.31
FTSE 100	7,220.72
JSE	66,547.00
Hang Seng	26,076.97

PRECIOUS METALS	
Gold p/ounce	1,787.67
Platinum p/ounce	1,051.05
Silver p/ounce	24.16
Copper p/ounce	4.66
Brent Oil p/barrel	83.60

EQUITIES	
Bonds	18.44
Treasury Bills	3.67
Interest Rates	91

### AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

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

### ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Petrol Unleaded 93 p/litre	M15.35
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M15.50
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M15.25
Paraffin p/litre	M11.00
Water (Domestic) p/litre	M5.53
Water (Industrial) p/litre	M15.03
Electricity (Domestic) p/unit	M1.38
Electricity (Industrial) p/unit	M0.26
Gas p/kg	M20.00

#### NEO SENOKO

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

**MASERU** – Lesotho Government has paid a total of M8 million to local wool and mohair farmers whose payments were still lagging behind since the 2018/19 fiscal year.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Nkaku Kabi revealed during a media briefing on Tuesday that out of the M10 million put aside by the Government earlier this year, a total of M8 million has been paid to the farmers while only M1.9 million is yet to be delivered.

Farmers who have not yet been paid, he said are those that do not have proper bank accounts while some accounts are reportedly unavailable altogether.

"Some people have still not been paid and we are going to make efforts in partnership with the Ministry of Small Business Development, Cooperatives and Marketing as well as the Ministry of Defence to take the remaining M1.9 million and go straight to places where these farmers can be found and pay them.

"Upon my arrival in this ministry earlier, I was told that the money is still there but the problem has been identifying some farmers who are eligible for payment," Mr Kabi said.

Arrangements, he further showed will be made with

## Govt pays M8 million to wool, mohair farmers

relevant stakeholders to ensure that all farmers are paid at the end of the day.

Earlier this year, the Government promised to put aside M10, 530, 766 which was needed to pay farmers owed by the Chinese businessman Stone Shi, who runs the Thaba-Bosiu Wool Centre.

That is the amount that was approved by Cabinet on April 6, towards payment of wool and mohair farmers.

The farmers were between 2018 and 2019 forced by the Government to take their fibre to the Thaba-Bosiu Wool Centre, thereby creating a monopoly in the local industry.

This came following regulations which were imposed by the Government, prohibiting the farmers from trading outside the country.

However, the regulations were later amended in 2019 allowing the farmers to once again trade from anywhere they want, following a huge outcry from players in the industry who accused Mr Shi of among others, lack of honesty and poor financial returns from their fibre.

Earlier this year, the Government announced that payment of the farmers would be made, while Mr Shi would be dealt with at a later stage.

The then Minister of Small Business Development, Chief Thesele Maseribane had shown that Mr Shi had acknowledged and signed the agreement in order for the payment vouchers to be



Chinese businessman, Stone Shi and Agriculture Minister, Nkaku Kabi

processed at the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Kabi on Tuesday said that preparations are under way to level the

playing field that would allow for the payment of the remaining wool and mohair farmers.





CEO of Phuthalichaba Savings & Credit Corp Society, Tebello Tjapela

# Phuthalichaba focuses on more revenue streams

*...Society reaches greatest milestone in M1million savings*

**NEO SENOKO**

business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** - Phuthalichaba Savings and Credit Corporative Society Ltd, a local credit cooperative has decided to put effort on creating more investment opportunities to increase revenue streams while at the same time moving towards aligning with good corporate governance in its second financial year in operation.

Dubbed "The Engine of Economic Growth".

Phuthalichaba was founded in 2019 and aims to contribute towards GDP growth through expansion of exports base and creating jobs among other things.

The society is under the incubation of the National

University of Lesotho (NUL) innovation hub.

In its second financial year, Phuthalichaba has been able to reach one of the greatest milestones, reaching M1million in savings.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Phuthalichaba, Tebello Tjapela told Metro in an interview on Wednesday that the M1million achievement is commendable, adding however, that there is still more work to be done, particularly in line with good corporate governance and increased revenue streams.

"In the first year, the objective was to structure and build strong foundation and internal controls. And now that we have passed the first stage, the focus is going to be on trying to align with the guidelines of good corporate governance. As a financial institution, we highly believe in

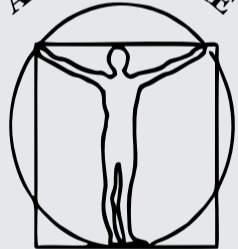
good corporate governance and we are going to make sure that we also achieve greatly in that regard going forward," he said.

Mr Tjapela added that the institution will further focus on creating more investment opportunities in order to increase revenue streams.

This, he said will pave way for members to start receiving dividends within a short period of time among other things.

"Currently we have three companies that we have established. They include the Phuthalichaba Investment Pty Ltd, the Phuthalichaba Financial Services as well as the Lebelo Pty Ltd. The latter, however is only 70 percent owned by us with the remaining 30 percent owned by a company called Syntax Pty Ltd. The other two companies are fully owned by Phuthalichaba," the CEO further.

AUDE SAPERE



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DARE TO KNOW



# IMF staff completes virtual mission to Lesotho

LESOTHO has been struggling with the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and a sharp decline in revenues from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). Authorities in Lesotho and the mission team from the

International Monetary Fund (IMF), an organisation of 190 countries working to foster global monetary cooperation and facilitate international trade made significant progress in their discussions on policies that could be supported by the IMF under a financial arrangement.

A team from the IMF, led by Aqib Aslam, conducted a series of virtual missions, most recently from September 7 to October 15, to discuss the authorities' economic and financial programme and their request for IMF financial support.

The authorities and the mission team had productive discussions on policies that could be supported by the IMF under a financial arrangement. The programme under discussion would aim to support a durable post-pandemic recovery, restore fiscal

sustainability, strengthen public financial management, and ensure the protection of the most vulnerable. Other key structural reforms to be implemented include strengthening governance and fostering private sector investment to spur inclusive growth and employment over the medium term.

At the end of the visit, Mr Aslam issued the following statement: "Lesotho has been experiencing twin economic shocks resulting from the pandemic and a decline in revenues from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) that have proved to be highly volatile. Public expenditures have been increasing while SACU revenues were buoyant but have not adapted to their decline and the limited growth in other revenue sources. At the same time, the economy has been in recession since 2017. The resulting fiscal and external imbalances, if left unaddressed, would continue to put pressure on international reserves and lead to government payment arrears.

"Discussions emphasised the need to support a robust and inclusive post-pandemic recovery. To this end, the mission discussed with the authorities a number of options for containing the fiscal deficit to a level that is sustainable and can be fully financed.

"The team noted that the adjustment should be focused on expenditure measures while boosting poverty-reducing social spending to protect the most vulnerable.

Complementary actions include efforts to broaden financial access and inclusion; strengthen financial supervision; modernise the legal frameworks for bank lending, business rescue, and restructuring, and digitalise payment systems.

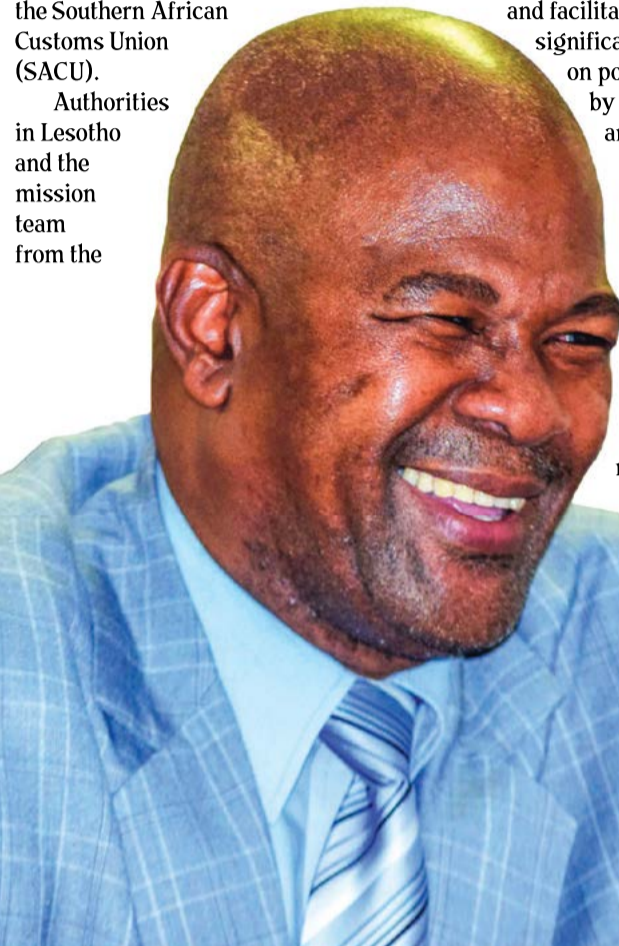
"On the fiscal front, efforts should focus on addressing the public sector wage bill, which is one of the largest in the world compared to the size of the economy; saving on public sector and official allowances; better targeting education loans; streamlining the capital budget and initiating gender-responsive budgeting. Discussions also considered measures to modernise tax policy and improve domestic revenue mobilisation. The mission noted the need to address long-standing PFM issues to ensure the provision of reliable fiscal data, the integrity of government systems, and the sound use of public resources.

"Significant progress was made during the visit, and discussions will continue in the coming weeks. If agreement is reached on policy measures in support of the reform program, an arrangement to support Lesotho's economic program would be proposed for the IMF Executive Board's consideration.

"The IMF team thanks the authorities for their hospitality and constructive discussions."

The IMF mission met Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro, Minister of Finance, Thabo Sophonea (pictured), the Central Bank of Lesotho Governor, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, and other senior government officials. The team also met representatives of the diplomatic community, private sector, civil society, and multilateral development partners.

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# Comments & Letters

## NMDS must give students their allowances

The Editor,

Students in some local institutions of higher learning are boycotting classes because the National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS) has not yet paid their stipends.

We desperately need the money and we therefore appeal to NMDS to give us the allowances as we need to pay rentals, buy food and most importantly our school materials.

Most of us come from poor backgrounds and our families cannot afford to feed us or pay our accommodation bills while the secretariat sorts its affairs out.

If we do not get the stipends before the end of this month, only God knows what will become of us.

The ministers responsible also have to intervene because students are suffering.

B.T  
Maseru

## UNFPA should be applauded

The Editor,

With their programme called "Along the border" project, which is a HIV prevention initiative that targets the borders especially the most porous ones, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) together with partner, Lesotho Planned Parenthood Association (LPPA) are doing a great job to help the Government in the fight against HIV.

Long distance truck drivers are part of the mobile population that is easily forgotten because they are always away from home.

Owing to the nature of their work, they are at the most risk of being infected as they are always crossing borders where they encounter many sex workers.

They do not always have easy access to health services unless they are specifically targeted.

Reports show that HIV prevalence is disproportionately high among sex workers and long distance truck drivers compared to the general population.

This situation leaves behind key priority populations, and if not addressed, will continue to be a source of HIV transmission and pose challenges to case detection, retention in care and management of both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Thabo Moloi  
Ha Hoooho, Maseru

## Basotho can invest in agriculture

The Editor,

Lesotho is a small land-locked country, completely surrounded by South Africa. It has a population of about 2.1 million and is classified as a low-income country.

Climate change, including rising temperatures and a greater frequency of droughts and extreme rain events, negatively affect local communities living in rural parts of the country.

Despite the overall economic growth, opportunities to earn income remain limited. They are generally confined to urban areas and wage employment in the industrial sector. The rural economy and agricultural development will therefore continue to play a major role in Lesotho's development strategy for the foreseeable future.

Increased productivity is a key to achieving these aims and reducing poverty in rural areas. IFAD programmes and projects encourage rural people's participation in planning and developing income-generating activities, including microenterprises.

Poverty is concentrated in the rural parts of the country, being greatest in the mountains.

Lemohang Sootho  
Mazenod, Maseru

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

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### Both Government and MMB must reach common ground to avoid running the brewer out of business

The Government should work hand in hand with the Maluti Mountain Brewery (MMB) before imposing the proposed 15 percent levy on alcoholic products.

Cooperation between the two institutions will go a long way towards reaching a common ground on how best to deal with the arguments involved.

For its part, the Government contends that the introduction of the tax will reduce the high consumption of alcoholic products to acceptable levels. It further argues that the prevailing excessive use or abuse of the said products without doubt contributes to numerous socio-economic perils, which mostly affect public health in adversarial ways.

Its further contention is that imposing the obviously undesirable levy will also standardise the prices of alcoholic drinks sold in towns along the borders of Lesotho and its only neighbour, South Africa.

While the proposed levy is projected to generate revenue of M200 million annually, the MMB on the other hand is of the mind that the Government stands to lose M800million in revenue in the next three years in the event the levy is introduced. The country's largest brewer further suggests that the Government is under extreme pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to introduce the levy, not only on alcohol but also a 30 percent tax on tobacco products. While the IMF remains a financier of many low-income countries including Lesotho, the Government should not keep a blind eye on real issues on the ground by imposing a levy that would in the end see the brewing company struggle to make ends meet.

In a move to push for stronger collaboration, the brewing company has outlined a series of solutions that might possibly assist the Lesotho Government increase revenue, other than impose a levy that would only generate a measly M200 million on an annual basis.

The brewer has proposed more lucrative deals with the Government that are likely to generate revenue of over M1.6 billion in two years in the event the levy is not introduced.

But if the levy is forcefully implemented, the same Government might not even be able to realise the projected M200 million because the MMB business would definitely decline, the brewer suggests.

That means the company would have to find alternative means to stay in business like retrenching its staff and perhaps even compromising the quality of its products among others. It goes without saying that a compromise has to be reached by both parties in order to avoid a situation that might end up bringing one of the country's cash cows to its knees if the issue of the sin tax persists.

## Press freedom in democratic South Africa is a fragile concept

The riots, looting, wanton damage to property, and the murders in Phoenix associated with the "attempted insurrection" of July stemming from internal fallout within the ANC have raised speculation about how close South Africa is to becoming "another Zimbabwe" – a failed, lawless state.

The question was reinforced after Defence Minister Thandi Modise, her deputy, Thabang Makwetla, and Mondli Gungubele, the Minister in the Presidency, were held hostage for three hours by 56 disgruntled ANC military veterans on 14 October.

What next? Perhaps an announcement on SABC: "The Guptas, from Dubai, have been reinstated as the rulers of South Africa and remain as committed as ever to Radical Economic Transformation. Their local pawn will be reappointed as leader as soon as his medical parole and prison record have been expunged... President Cyril Ramaphosa and his Cabinet have been deposed and banished to their new Robben Island abode in a bloodless coup."

The independent judiciary, which is under increasing pressure from the beneficiaries of corruption, and the free news media, which plays a critical role in exposing this venal elite, are the difference between South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Under apartheid, with a few courageous exceptions, the media was reduced to being a handmaiden of the ruling National Party. Those who did not comply faced the full force of the ruthless apartheid security apparatus.

On 19 October 1977, *The World* and *Weekend World* newspapers were banned. The editor of *The World*, Percy Qoboza, who became the editor of *City Press* in 1984, was taken into detention and held for five months under section 10 of the Internal Security Act in Modderbee Prison. Further, the apartheid regime declared illegal 19 Black Consciousness organisations and detained scores of activists. That day is now commemorated in South Africa as "Black Wednesday" and is also marked as National Press Freedom Day" (South African History Online: Home).

In democratic South Africa press freedom is guaranteed in the Constitution. However, all is not well and there have been threats against the media from within the ruling ANC government, as well as other politicians.

The government wanted the media to be less critical, and more "patriotic", and this was emphasised by Jacob Zuma at the ANC's Bloemfontein conference in July 2008 when he said:

"Newspapers have by now had almost 15 years to inform the public. Their actions do not reflect their words.

"Our observation is that they do not inform on progress in the country. If you look at the columns and pages, it is

sensational and it is not balanced. When you read what the clever media people write, you wonder whether they are describing the organisation you belong to.

"Newspapers twist the truth in

their headlines. It causes damage. It is unfair reporting. Why should the ANC not start a newspaper to inform our citizens?"

We now know that there was no need for the government to proceed further because the Gupta-managed (and government-funded from cash-strapped SOEs) media, *The New Age* and the ANN7 TV channel, filled the breach as HMV (his master's voice).

Jane Duncan, professor of journalism, argued that, "There's a non-transparent channelling of government advertising to prop up a media outlet that is now very clearly acting as a propaganda arm for the Guptas and the support for the Presidency and in return, the Presidency's support for the Guptas."

In a candid assessment in 2020, *Reporters sans frontières* (RSF), or *Reporters Without Borders*, an independent NGO, with consultative status with the United Nations agency Unesco (which has an explicit decree to promote "the free flow of ideas by word and image"), concluded that "press freedom [was] guaranteed but fragile" in South Africa.

According to RSF: "An investigative journalism culture is well established, but apartheid-era legislation and terrorism laws are used to limit coverage of governments institutions when 'national interest' is supposedly at stake.

"The State Security Agency spies on some journalists and taps their phones. Others are harassed and subjected to intimidation campaigns if they try to cover certain subjects involving the ruling African National Congress (ANC), government finances, the redistribution of land to the black population or corruption."

DM

MY  
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# Govt under pressure from IMF

...as the international body insists on imposing tobacco, alcohol levy in Lesotho

**NEO SENOKO**

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**MASERU** - The International Monetary Fund (IMF), an organisation working to foster global monetary cooperation and facilitate international trade, has put the Government of Lesotho under pressure to impose a levy on alcohol and tobacco, the Maluti Mountain Brewery (MMB), the country's largest brewing company has said.

The Government is pushing for a 30 percent levy on tobacco products and 15 percent on alcohol products.

Understanding on the side of the Government is that tax on these products will reduce the consumption to acceptable levels, citing that the prevailing excessive use and abuse of the products contribute to several socio-economic hazards, which largely affect public health in adverse manners.

"It will also normalise the price differentials that exist between Lesotho towns and those in the neighbouring South Africa, thereby putting Lesotho's economy on an equal competitive footing. The levy is charged on the consideration for the products exclusive of Value Added Tax (VAT). The person who bears the burden is the final consumer of these products," the Government report on the tobacco and alcohol products levy bill of 2020 shows.

The levy is projected to generate a total of M200million in revenue for the Government.

But the MMB is against the introduction of the levy, arguing that in fact, the Government is under pressure from the IMF to introduce the tax.

"IMF pressure is that countries must diversify their source of revenue. That is the main thing. So they are rushing it because they are under pressure from the IMF to do it. But I don't think they have applied their minds into how really this thing is going to work.

"As the industry, it's not like we are difficult. But we want to work with the Government and look into the impacts. Forget what the IMF is telling you, you are here on the ground, understand your operating environment. It is not ideal for taxes like these," MMB Managing Director (MD), Sesupo Wagamang said in an exclusive interview with Metro recently.

He said the MMB wants to be part of the economic recovery with the brewing company currently contributing almost three percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

"So if we are part of the recovery, I'm sure we will get the economy to recover quicker and also boost the investor confidence in the sense that if the policies are supportive, we



Maluti Mountain Brewery Managing Director, Sesupo Wagamang

will invest more money," the MD further showed.

In 2018, the IMF stated that when it came to why taxes on alcohol and tobacco

had not advanced as quickly as they might have, it was partly because there were a lot of economic arguments made about the harmful economic effects of the

said taxes.

Part of these arguments included job losses as well as the projected increase in illicit trade in the products.

The poor are also likely to be hit the hardest if the levy is introduced.

But on the other hand, the IMF believes that when consumers do not buy the products, they spend money on other goods and services that create jobs in other sectors of the economy. It argues that the Government spends the new revenues on more labour intensive activities which in turn mean an increase in employment.

On the issue of illicit trade, the IMF believes that it is largely false argument.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) responsible for international health has also for a long time consistently been pushing for the tax increase on alcohol and tobacco as a policy measure that has dual benefits.

This, WHO argues will increase state revenues and protect human health as an increase in price of cigarettes and tobacco is proven to be very effective in lowering the consumption of the products.



# SUMMER SHOPPING AT MASERU MALL

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Legit

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Studio 88

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## LINEO MABEKEBEKE

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**MASERU** – Lebeoana Kholokholo, the Project Youth Officer at the Lesotho Planned Parenthood Association (LPPA) says owing to a high HIV prevalence among female sex workers along Lesotho borders, they are trying to encourage an amplified use of condoms and behavioural change in a bid to lower the HIV transmission rate.

The LPPA, a local body that offers family planning and management of sexually transmitted infections services is through the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a UN agency aimed at improving reproduction and maternal health worldwide running a comprehensive HIV prevention programme called Along the borders.

The programme according to Mr Kholokholo focuses on preventing HIV transmission and improved access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and services along Lesotho's three porous borders of Maseru, Maputsoe and Mafeteng.

"Through UNFPA support, we are able to play a role in trying to contain the prevalence of HIV/AIDS," he said.

He showed that there is high HIV prevalence among women, adding that LPPA serves three groups of people along the borders, including long distance drivers, sex workers and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ+).

"In order to lower HIV statistics, we are currently running three programmes along the three borders, which are Condom Programming, ensuring that our clients make use of condoms, behavioural change where we engage clients to see a change in behaviour that would lead to lowering HIV, and the referrals on the integrated services, in which our peer educators refer the clients to the LPPA clinic," he also said.

He was quick to note that since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have not been able to reach the targeted number of clients, especially when the long distance drivers due to the restricted movement across the borders with the neighbouring South Africa.

"However, this year there has been a significant change,

# LPPA promotes intensified condom use

## ...as HIV transmission escalates along the borders



UNFPA Representative to Lesotho, Dr Marc Derveew

in terms of the target reached, we are able to distribute condoms and pamphlets giving out information to the drivers," he said.

"The UNFPA in collaboration with LPPA initiated a project on preventing HIV transmission and improving access to (SRHR) information and services along Lesotho's three borders of

Maputsoe, Maseru and Mafeteng," Mr Kholokholo added.

These are the busiest borders which are deemed highly porous and catalytic to transmission of new HIV infections, hence the project is targeting migrants, long distance truck drivers, youth and key populations along those borders.

This is done in a bid to intensify efforts towards preventing HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) amongst risk populations such as key populations, migrants and youth.

Thapelo Maja, a peer educator working on the project, said through the condom programming initiative, they managed to organise

condom campaigns, making people aware of the correct consistent use of condoms.

What they usually encourage to the key populations which include long distance truck drivers, sex workers and LGBTIQ+, she said is to give them an opportunity to have integrated services from LPPA.

"I guess they prefer LPPA because of the services they get there. Nobody gets judged at our clinics and the clients get all the services under one roof because ours is a one-stop shop," Ms Maja also said.

The Lesotho Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (LePHIA 2020) report shows that Lesotho is doing well on the overall programming, and that the HIV programme reaches HIV infected people quite successfully.

For his part, the UNFPA Country Representative, Dr Marc Derveew said he is quite worried about what is going to happen with young people in future.

He said a lot of young people get infected with HIV, which is a major concern to LPPA.

"There are still many new infections, youth escaping Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), not knowing or being aware of how to protect themselves and not having access to condoms," Dr Derveew said, adding that there are many girls out there who do not know their HIV statuses even now.

He further expressed his disquiet at the high cost of Anti-retrovirals, adding that the prevention agenda has been reduced to PrEP and male circumcision, with extremely little attention given to behaviour change.

"The reason we want to partner with LPPA is because we want to increase the attention going to the prevention methods by reaching the risk groups," he said.

LPPA and UNFPA toured the Maseru border post on Saturday to find out the challenges the peer educators meet in their line of duty.



LPPA Project Youth Officer, Lebeoana Kholokholo



# The world in 10 minutes

## LONDON

### London YouTuber claims to have been abducted by aliens

Sick of men on Earth, London actress Abbie Bela says that she hopes to "normalize" interspecies dating.

To find her soulmate, London actress Abbie Bela looked to the skies. She claims that she fell for an alien after it swept her into its UFO - and right off her feet. Bored by the pandemic and unimpressed by the offerings on Earth, Bela explained that she "joked online about wanting an alien to abduct me."

Before long, she began to have dreams of a "white light." And then, on May 31, Bela says she heard a voice in her dream. It commanded her to: "Wait in the usual spot."

Bela had never heard the voice before. And yet, she says, she knew what it meant. "The next evening, I sat next to my open window," Bela said. She waited. And as she began to fall asleep around 12:15 a.m., a flying saucer swept into view. Before Bela knew it, she wasn't in her bedroom any longer. "There was a bright green beam which transported me to the UFO."

Most might be alarmed by such a turn of events. But not Bela. "I'm one of those people who all my life had weird encounters," she explained on her YouTube channel.



## LIBERIA

### Liberian leader rewards teen who returned M750,000

Liberia's President George Weah has honoured an 18-year-old motorcycle taxi rider who found and returned \$50,000 (M750,000) to a businesswoman who had lost the cash in the north-eastern Nimba region. President Weah met Emmanuel Tolué at a ceremony in the capital, Monrovia and offered him cash and an educational scholarship. The motorcycle rider has become a national hero in recent days for his action. He found the money wrapped in a plastic bag and returned it after the owner, Musu Yancy, appealed on public radio for anyone finding the money to return it. Ms Yancy appreciated the young man's honesty with cash and goods valued at about \$1,500 (M22,500).

The president hailed Mr Tuloé's "exceptional sense of morality and good citizenship" as an inspiration for the youth. The Liberian leader promised to recognise and award the young man with one of Liberia's highest honours - the order of distinction - for his honesty.

In addition, the president gave him \$10,000 (M150,000) as well as two new motorcycles "for you to improve your circumstances and sustain yourself financially". Mr Tolué, who dropped from seventh grade in school to go into motorcycling business, will also benefit from a fully-funded scholarship up to university level.



## SOUTH AFRICA

### Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic: Uganda coach found guilty of sexual assault

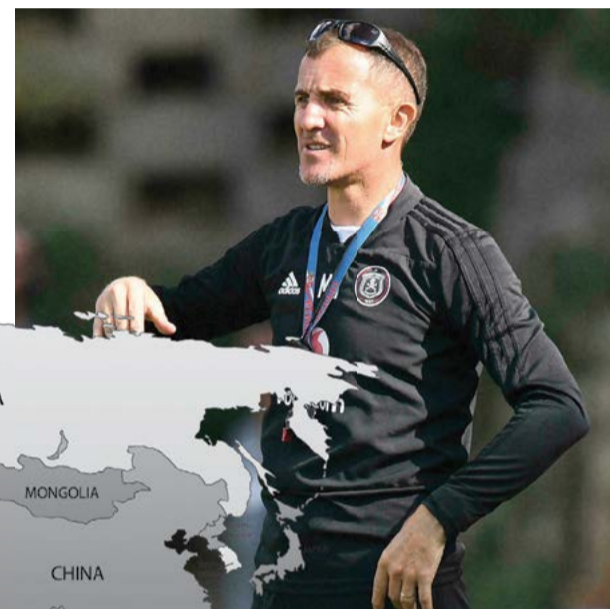
Uganda's national football coach Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic has been convicted on two counts of sexual assault in South Africa.

The Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) Regional Court sentenced him to two separate three-year jail terms, both of which have been suspended for five years. The Serbian coach has immediately appealed the ruling.

A short statement by Uganda's football federation (Fufa) indicates that the 52-year-old will carry on his duties with the Cranes despite the findings.

The incidents happened in December 2020 while he was coach of the Zambian national team and was in South Africa to watch the regional Cosafa Under-20 Cup. "On 07 December 2020 during the Cosafa Games in Gqeberha, a 39-year-old woman was delivering coffee at the Wolfson Stadium when she asked Sredojevic if he would need sugar with his coffee," a statement from the court read. "He said no and added that he needed another type of sugar, pointing at her private parts. She complained about his conduct to her boss who in turn warned Sredojevic not to do it again.

"Later on that day, the lady again went to deliver coffee at the same stadium and this time Sredojevic touched her in an inappropriate manner."



## SOUTH AFRICA

### South Africa wary of Sputnik vaccine over HIV fears

South Africa's health products regulator, Sahpra, has withheld approval for Russia's Sputnik V Covid vaccine over concerns that it could increase the risk of HIV infection among men.

The decision was based on two earlier studies that tested the safety of a modified form of adenovirus contained in the Russian jab.

The Gamaleya Institute, which developed Sputnik V, said it would produce information to show that Sahpra's concerns were completely unfounded.

The country has the highest HIV burden in Africa. It has about 7.8 million cases of HIV among its population of over 60 million people, according to UNAids. About 13.5% of men aged between 15 and 49 are infected.

Sahpra said its concerns followed consultations with local and international experts.



## EGYPT

### Egypt to bar unvaccinated civil servants from work

Egypt will bar unvaccinated public service workers from entering government buildings from mid-next month.

A cabinet notice on Sunday said workers would have to be vaccinated or take a weekly Covid test to be allowed into government buildings from November 15.

The cabinet also allowed the opening up of bathrooms in mosques from Wednesday. The bathrooms were closed in March last year as part of measures to contain the spread of coronavirus.



## NIGERIA

### The Nigerians who want Israel to accept them as Jews

Rocking back and forth, Shlomo Ben Yaakov reads from a Torah scroll at a synagogue on the outskirts of Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

Most do not fully understand the language, but this small Nigerian community claims Jewish ancestry dating back hundreds of years - and they are left frustrated by a lack of recognition by Israel.

"I consider myself a Jew," says Mr Yaakov.

He is an Igbo - one of Nigeria's three dominant ethnic groups which originates in the south-east of the country. His given Igbo name is Nnaemezu Maduako.

Many Igbos believe they have Jewish heritage as one of the so-called 10 lost tribes of Israel, though most are not practising Jews like Mr Yaakov. They comprise less than 0.1% of the estimated 35 million Igbos.

These tribes were said to have disappeared after being taken into captivity when the northern Israelite kingdom was conquered in the 8th Century BC - and the Ethiopian Jewish community, for example, is recognised as one of them.





Miss Teen Lesotho, Keneuce Talanyane

## Miss Teen Lesotho 2021 has many talents ...the 19-year-old NUL student is also a veteran ballroom dancer

**KABELO MASOABI**

**MASERU** – The recently crowned Miss Teen Lesotho 2021, Keneuce Talanyane is a lady of many talents as she also happens to be a seasoned ballroom and Latin dancer.

The stunning 19-year-old beauty walked away with the coveted crown on October 9, at Victoria Hotel in Maseru against 10 other beauties.

The crowd went wild with revelry as Talanyane strutted her way to victory down the hotel's catwalk.

It later emerged that the new queen is also a talented dancer who is key member of the National University of Lesotho (NUL) Ballroom and Latin Dance Club.

Born and bred in Khubetsoana, Maseru, Talanyane, popularly known as Nelly scooped a gold medal at the 2016 Open Queen's Cup Dancesport Championship held at the Lehakoe Recreation Centre in

Maseru.

"I have been a determined fanatic of ballroom and Latin dance since my high school days at Saule (Lesotho High School). But I have never able to participate in as many competitions as I would have loved to due to school commitments and having to juggle between dancing and competing in beauty contests," Talanyane says.

The second-year NUL Public Administration and Political Science student adds: "On a professional note, I aspire to become a multinational entrepreneur."

The annual Miss Teen Lesotho beauty pageant which celebrates local teenagers who have a purpose in life is open for young ladies aged between 13 and 19.

Talanyane confidently outsmarted Liteboho Khasipe who was crowned first princess and the second princess, Bohlokoa Lekeno in the finals of the 2021 edition of the Miss Teen Lesotho competition.

The panel of judges in the event included the 2021 Face of Lesotho title holder, Naleli Sephaphathi who served as the head judge. Sephaphathi was backed by among others, media personality and Face of Lesotho Fashion Week model, Charlene McPherson along with Mopeli Mohale who is a local male model and Mr Tertiary 2019.

The Miss Teen Lesotho beauty contest was officially launched in December 2011 and is organised by local promotions companies including the Exquisite Marketing and St George Fashion. It is described as a stepping stone for talented teenagers.

Talanyane was the first princess in the 2018 Miss Saule (Lesotho High School) beauty contest and the Miss Independence 2018 after winning the Best Personality title.

She is currently vying for a title or top spot in the ongoing Mr & Miss Culture Lesotho 2022 competition.

## Mafeteng businesswoman to launch beauty brand

**KABELO MASOABI**

**MASERU** - Byu-ti by Popz, a brand of beauty products founded by Nthabi Mokitimi-Dlamini will be launched in Maseru on October 31.

The event to be hosted at the Black Swan Guest House, will be graced by various guests, make-up artists, local entertainers and businesswomen, according to Mokitimi-Dlamini who comes from Mafeteng district and based in South Africa.

The businesswoman said she wanted the new make-up brand to be proudly African, inspired by her home country of Lesotho. The make-up products are also meant to uplift and empower African women.

"The Byu-ti by Popz brand is much more than a range of products, it's also about giving back and leaving a legacy of positive social impact.

Byu-ti by Popz, an African beauty product start-up, has launched a range of locally infused make-up and beauty products that is uplifting women and helping them to build new careers, and new lives," explains the self-made entrepreneur.

The products is said to contain

extracts from the blue agave, aloe vera and prickly pear plants from Lesotho and include a range of foundations, setting spray, removers and primers, with more products to follow. These products use locally manufactured - and some such as mink lashes, gel liners and lip products are imported.

"I am really excited about the launch of Byu-ti by Popz because we don't have enough homegrown African make-up brands that are made specifically with the African woman in mind. My family roots are in Matelile, Mafeteng district in Lesotho and I was raised by my grandparents in Maseru. My grandmother, whilst a renowned academic, was also an entrepreneur at heart. Although most of our products are made in South Africa, it is Lesotho that gave me my start in life, and Byu-ti by Popz is my way of honouring my beautiful home country," says Mokitimi-Dlamini.

More than just make-up, she continues to indicate that women empowerment is the driving force behind the Byu-ti by Popz brand. It is explained the company is actively involved in two outreach programmes that are creating

employment for women coming out of abusive relationships.

In partnership with the Women's Law Clinic in Lesotho and the Alexandra Centre for Abused Women in South Africa, Byu-ti by Popz trains these women to become beauty therapists and equips them with marketing and business skills to become financially independent.

"Many women remain in an abusive relationship for financial security. If we can shift paradigms and help these women to believe in themselves by building confidence in their abilities, then they can chart their course independently," says Mokitimi-Dlamini.

It is Mokitimi-Dlamini's hope that Byu-ti by Popz will inspire women to enhance, rather than mask, their natural beauty.

"Although our products serve working-class women, our products are for any woman with dreams and aspirations. This includes our youth who need fewer barriers to participate in the beauty industry. One of the barriers tackled with our locally-made goods is price. Producing cost-effective goods without sacrificing quality will create opportunities for many



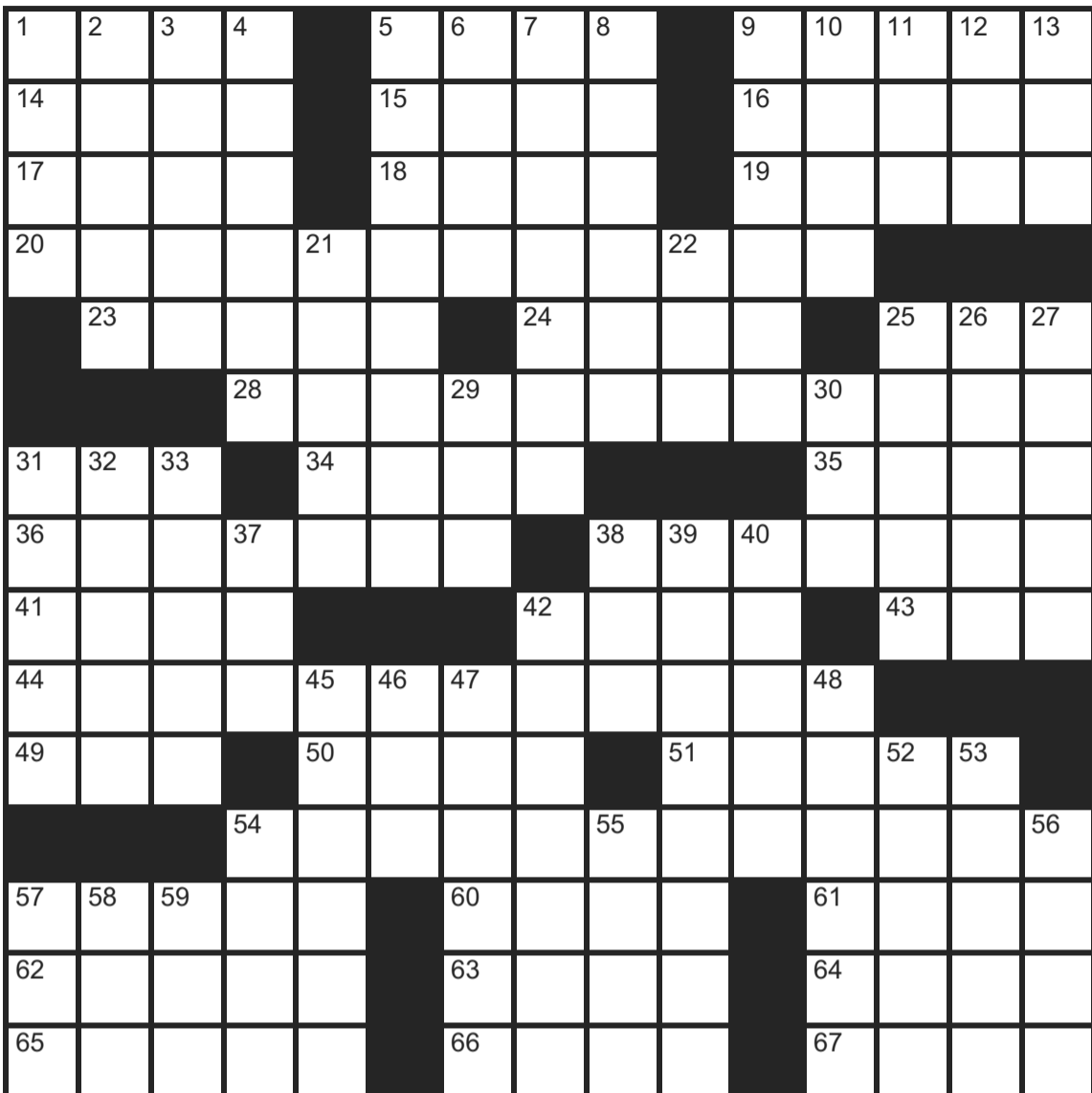
women," says Mokitimi-Dlamini.

Byu-ti by Popz is a South African based high-end make-up, beauty and

image consultancy. It has tailor-made products and services designed to enable women to feel beautiful.

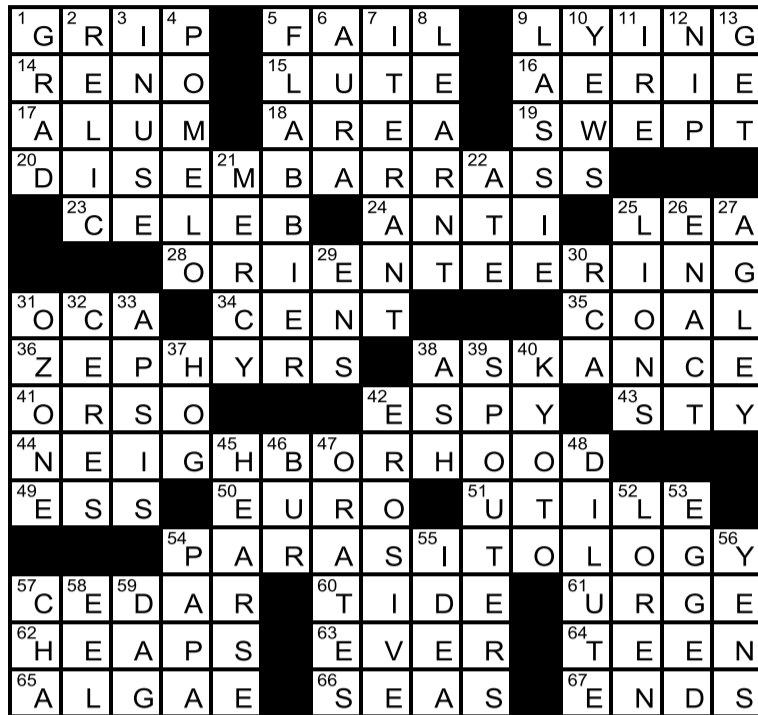


## General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. Practice in the ring
  - 5. Fleshy fruit
  - 9. Small porch
  - 14. Weak, as an excuse
  - 15. Archaeological site
  - 16. Civilian clothes
  - 17. Milky-white gem
  - 18. Kuwaiti, e.g.
  - 19. Like draft beer
  - 20. Goal oriented
  - 23. Fancy tie
  - 24. Oliver's request
  - 25. \_\_\_\_\_ generis (unique)
  - 28. Unscrupulousness
  - 31. One of the Ewings on "Dallas"
  - 34. Husk
  - 35. Kind of agreement
  - 36. Shrink
  - 38. Trace
  - 41. Kind of terrier
  - 42. Teamster's rig
  - 43. Fishing equipment
  - 44. Sparring exercise
  - 49. Feminine suffix
  - 51. Kind of trip
  - 54. Caller sign in
  - 57. Salk's conquest
  - 60. Red giant in the constellation Cetus
  - 61. Cousin of a mandolin
  - 62. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
  - 63. Call to attention
  - 64. Fencing sword
  - 65. Primp
  - 66. Loafer, e.g.
  - 67. Cousin of a gull
- Down**
- 1. Neatnik's opposite
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_ New Guinea
  - 3. Accumulate
  - 4. Geological remnant
  - 5. Roman magistrates
  - 6. Yours and mine
  - 7. Vaporous
  - 8. As a whole
  - 9. Preserved, in a way
  - 10. Ditty
  - 11. Frequently, in verse

## Last Week's Solution



- short
- 12. Lulu
  - 21. "Forget it!"
  - 22. Intense anger
  - 25. Small finch
  - 26. Grammarian's concern
  - 27. Speck in the ocean
  - 29. In shape
  - 30. "Just the opposite!"
  - 31. Old-fashioned
  - 32. Egyptian symbols of life
  - 33. Yucatán natives
  - 37. Chaired
  - 38. Torment
  - 39. Move to a new country
  - 40. Hole in the head
  - 42. Drunken
  - 45. Buckeye
  - 46. Is no longer
  - 47. Small airships
  - 48. Gravy ingredient
  - 52. Jeweler's glass
  - 53. Schlepper
  - 54. Tarzan's transport
  - 55. Give or take
  - 56. Eager
  - 57. Bruin legend Bobby
  - 58. Attorney F. \_\_\_\_\_ Bailey
  - 59. Nobelism Hammaraskjold

## So You Think You are Geneius

### Question (Answer next week)

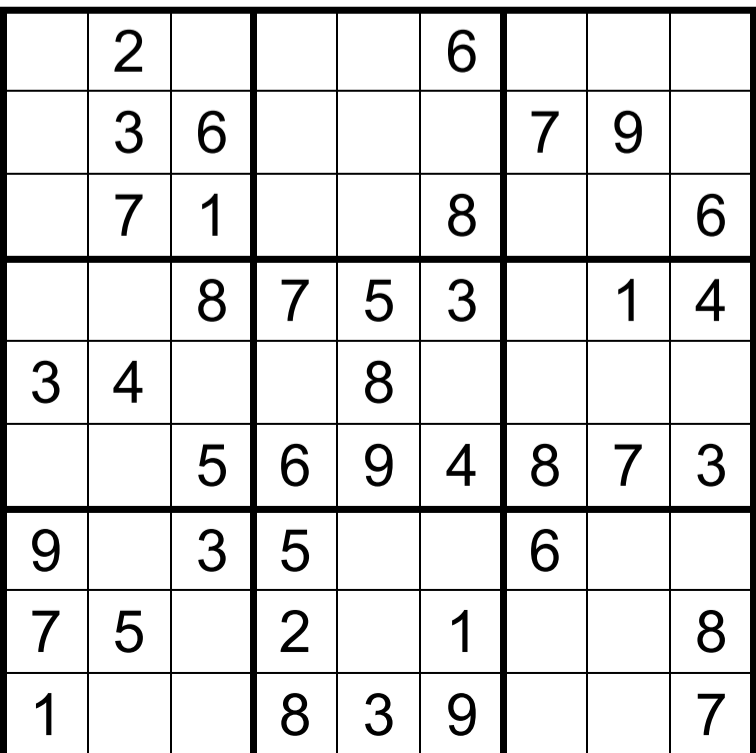
My bath has two taps and a plug hole. The cold tap on its own fills the bath in 12 minutes, the hot one in 5 minutes. The plug hole can drain the bath in 30 minutes with the taps off. How long will the bath take to fill if I leave both taps on with the plug left out?



### Last Week's Answer

2 buttons: 10 minus the length of the word.

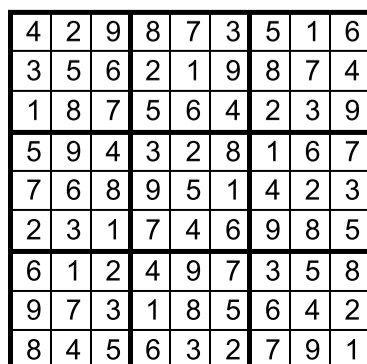
## Sudoku Puzzle



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





# Metro Motoring

For everything Car in Lesotho

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## Be Car-Smart

### Buckle Your Seat Belt

*... as the flagship SUV aims to provide an exceptional driving experience and expand our customers' diverse life experiences*

As the second model of the next generation of Lexus following the NX, Lexus held the world premiere of the new LX today in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The official reveal video is available online.

The new LX, which embodies the brand's commitment to meeting the diversifying needs and lifestyles of customers, is scheduled to go on sale in South Africa in the first quarter of 2022.

Since its establishment in 1989, Lexus has always been committed to the spirit of innovation and has continued to take up the challenge of providing new technologies and value to its customers. Since its launch in 1996, the LX has been well received as Lexus' flagship SUV due to its high-quality, ride comfort, and driving performance that can withstand all kinds of roads around the world. This has been achieved by refining the founding concepts of

the LX: "reliability", "durability", and "rough-road driving performance". The LX has sold a cumulative total of approximately 500,000 units in more than 50 countries and regions as of the end of August 2021. It's worth mentioning that in South Africa, the LX does considerably well in the market too.

The new LX is designed to provide vehicle occupants with exceptional comfort and enrich their life experiences. While maintaining a traditional body-on-frame structure to ensure reliability, durability, and driving performance, it renews its characteristics by adopting the new GA-F platform, realising a weight reduction of approximately 200 kg, and achieving a digitally-developed high-rigidity body.

The new LX will be available with a high-output, high-torque 3.5-liter V6 twin-turbo petrol engine and a powerful

3.3-litre V6 diesel twin-turbo engine.

Electronically controlled brakes (ECB) and an electric power steering system (EPS) are also adopted to ensure customers will be able to enjoy Lexus-unique driving performance to the fullest, both on-road and off-road. These innovations, plus the adoption of two new available powertrains, will also contribute to improved environmental performance, reducing annual CO2 emissions when the vehicle is in use by approximately 20 percent on a global cumulative basis compared to the previous model, thus contributing to the realisation of a carbon-neutral society.

In harsh off-road environments, to promote a safer and more comfortable driving experience, the instrument panel features Lexus' first dual display with a 12.3-inch upper screen and 7-inch lower screen, as well as Back Underfloor View, which displays the area beneath the rear part of the vehicle as a world first.

The new LX is more personalised, with the newly added VIP grade, which is specially designed with four independent seats for elegant and safe travel on all kinds of roads, and the F SPORT grade, which allows customers to enjoy sporty driving on winding roads. Lexus South Africa will confirm the local spec packages at launch timing.

New 22-inch forged alloy wheels employ the high contrast of black and machined brilliance to emphasise that they are the largest ever offered by Lexus.

#### STYLING

In terms of styling, while pursuing a design that

contributes to athletic performance and function (a design perspective that began with the new NX), ideal proportions are expressed through a blending of sophistication, power, and presence befitting a flagship SUV. Among other featured technologies, Lexus' first fingerprint-authentication push-start switch contributes to reducing the risk of theft.

From a branding perspective and following the NX, the Lexus brand badge placed in the centre of the rear has been renewed from the conventional L-shaped logo to the new "LEXUS" logo to symbolise the next generation of Lexus. For the rear combination lamps, tail lamps have been adopted that combine an L-shape and a continuous axial flow from the front to the shoulders and then to the rear silhouette. The styling emphasises the new LX's lively and sharp design and expresses Lexus consistency.



## All new Lexus LX premieres as the 2nd model of Lexus' next generation

*... as the flagship SUV aims to provide an exceptional driving experience and expand our customers' diverse life experiences*



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# Metro SPORTS



## Bereng gives counsel to Sera, Khutlang



Tumelo Khutlang (L), Tshwarelo Bereng (M) and Motebang Sera (R)



Sport can give new life to children.

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**MASERU** - Likuena star midfielder, Tshwarelo Bereng has called on his compatriots Motebang Sera and Tumelo Khutlang not to despair following a frustrating start to the 2021/2022 season in South Africa.

The two, who were impressive for the national squad during the July COSAFA Cup in Port Elizabeth, South Africa have not played even a single match at Royal AM and Swallows FC respectively, in the DSTV Premiership.

Khutlang made the big move to Moroka Swallows in the off-season after parting ways with the relegated Black Leopards but has not even made the bench since his new campaign started. Sera on the other hand has managed to make the match day squad for three matches in a row but was an unused substitute. However, the Likuena top goal-scorer with six goals in the history of the COSAFA Cup did not make the match squad for his club in the last three matches against TS Galaxy, Maritzburg United and Marumo Gallants.

Bereng himself is still in search of a club and knows the frustration quite well having been in and out of clubs over the last few years.

"Patience and prayer always give out the best results. Football here in SA is full of politics," the Likuena midfielder said.

"In life you always see the best of situations even when they seem dark. That helps you to always be true to yourself and never doubt your abilities as a player.

"Football is not fair, we just have to make sure we do not lose ourselves," he added.

Their countryman, Tumelo Makha playing in the Glad-Africa Championship for TTM has enjoyed better fortunes featuring in the last four games for his club since making the move to South Africa.

The talented midfielder admitted that it has not been an easy journey since joining TTM, but has embraced the challenge of playing away from home.

"I have been getting game time, but it has not been smooth sailing and I know that I have to work hard to succeed here," the midfielder stated.

"Playing professional football comes with a lot of challenges and one must be prepared to fight on and off the field," he said.



# Local riders lose bikes at Lisbon UCI pump track race

*The bikers forced to compete using borrowed mountain bikes*



Khothalang Leuta left-Mosito Mohapi after the race in Lisbon, Portugal

bicycles along with the rest of their luggage on the plane to Portugal. Lesotho's Mosito Mohapi and Khothalang Leuta were dealt a low blow when they were forced to compete in the Red Bull International Cycling Union (UCI) Pump Track World Championships held in Lisbon, Portugal over the weekend using borrowed bikes.

"All our luggage including BMX bikes went missing at the airport in Lisbon and we had to borrow mountain bikes to join the race. We only found the missing luggage after the race," Mohapi told Metro on Monday.

After struggling to get acclimated to the borrowed bike, Mohapi finished last in the race, clocking in 34 seconds among 33 elite riders from 17 countries.

His fellow rider, Leuta who also used a borrowed mountain bike appeared in position 31 among 34 top female riders, clocking in 38 seconds.

Federation of Cycling Lesotho (FCL) on Tuesday welcomed the two riders at Moshoeshoe I International Airport from Portugal.

FCL Public Relations Officer (PRO), Malefane Morie later told Metro that the borrowed mountain bikes were not suitable for the kind of race the two competed in.

"The race requires a BMX, mountain bikes are not appropriate because they have shock absorbers and are for a different terrain. The winner in the men's category finished the race in 19 seconds while the rider who finished on position 32, ahead of Mohapi clocked in 24 seconds," he said.

Morie said the two local riders were fully sponsored by Red Bull. The rest of the team including the team manager, mechanic and coach were expected to join the duo later but were unable to due to financial constraints.

"The COVID-19 pandemic was another blow that disturbed our plans, and we could not manage to get funding from the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) as we did not even put forth the request for the officials to join the duo in Portugal. LNOC only provided the athletes with pocket money for the trip," he said.

## New LNOC president opens up ...as he describes his predecessor as a great visionary

**MASERU** – The newly elected Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) President, Tlali Rampoona says it is not going to be easy to fill the shoes of his predecessor, 'Matlohang Moiloa-Ramoqopo who he described as a great leader and visionary.

This, after his landslide victory over his challenger, Khiba Mohoanyane at the XXI LNOC Annual Elective Conference that was held in Maseru on Sunday.

Rampoona (**pictured**) who served the committee for the past 16 years as Vice President garnered a total of 37 votes against Mohoanyane's 13.

He said working under Moiloa-Ramoqopo was a blessing as he learned a lot from her, describing her as a hard worker who always put the interests of Basotho over hers.

"She is dedicated to serving her country and always goes all out to achieve her set goals," he said.



He promised to always rely on her counsel in future even though he would do things a bit differently from her.

The new LNOC President said the road now leads to Paris in France at the next Olympic Games in 2024.

"We used to have an eight-year strategic plan which was, however disrupted by the COVID-19 outbreak. But we need to immediately meet and map the way forward, where we will have to double our efforts in order to realise our goals," he said.

The new committee he said consists of dedicated people who will push all the committee's mandates and projects forward.

"The elections were conducted in an organised manner which shows that Basotho now understand that elections are only a platform where people express different views on who to lead them," he said

The other members of the new committee include Letsatsi Ntsibolane as Vice President Administration after beating Advocate Bothobile Shebe by 32 votes to 18, Vice President Finance is Dr Lebohlang Khomari who defeated her challengers Moholo Lekomoa and Lehlohonolo Snyman after getting 27 votes to their 12 and 11 votes respectively.

Thabo Tikoe won the position of Treasurer uncontested while Fetang Selialia is the new Public Relations Officer (PRO) after collecting 35 votes against Phomolo Lebotsa's 15 votes.

Members of the committee include 'Makutloano Kheola who collected 42 votes, 'Mabokang Mdandalaza who obtained 36 votes and 'Mamotšabi Lekhabunyane who garnered 35 votes.

The LNOC's annual elective conference is held every four years. LeNA

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**MASERU** – After losing their personal BMX







# Overcoming gender stereotypes in football, Teboho Letseka

**MASERU** - Since joining the local soccer governing body, Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) as the Maseru District Football Administrator in 2011, the 33-year old female sports manager, Teboho Letseka has not looked back and continues growing from strength to strength in the male dominated industry.

Her hard work soon started paying off and just two years down the line, she was promoted to the senior position of Competitions and Administration Officer.

More opportunities followed and today the single mother of one is the Head of the Competitions Department and Club Licensing Manager.

She is also responsible for the FIFA Connect Registration. Her other duties include assisting the A Division Management Committee (ADMACO) as well as the Player's Status Committee as the Coordinator.

"My duties include coordination of ADMACO and Player Status affairs, giving assistance to the LeFA Secretary General on general operations of the association, registration of clubs, players and officials in the FIFA connect system under close supervision of SG. I also oversee the LeFA club licensing operations and being part of the association's event management operation," she highlights.

The holder of a Diploma in Office Administration and Management from the Lerotholi Polytechnic (Fokothi) obtained in 2009, has over the years proven to be a force to be reckoned with in football administration affairs.

The vastly experienced administrator also holds the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) Sports Administration Level I, Level



2 and the LNOC Advanced Sports Administration certificates. She also holds the FIFA MA Sports Administration certificate.

Her job took her to a number of countries in Africa where she attended several trainings to sharpen her administrative prowess.

In 2015, she attended the FIFA Connect workshop held in Gaborone, Botswana and the CAF Club Licensing Workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa later that year.

The following year, she attended the CAF Club Licensing workshop in Kenya and a Club Licensing conference held in Egypt in 2018 before attending another CAF Club Licensing workshop in Uganda in 2019.

As LeFA Head of Competitions and Club Licensing Manager, she trained all local football clubs on the new players and officials online registration system called the FIFA Connect. All the Lesotho elite teams including the Women Super

League teams are operating under the club licensing system under her supervision. Born on July 6, 1988, Teboho Letseka is the daughter of the late Mathabo and Sello Letseka of Lithabaneng, Teyateyaneng in Berea. She is the first born in a family of three girls.

She did her primary education at Teyateyaneng LEC Primary where she completed in 2001 then she went to St Agnes High School where she obtained her Junior Certificate in 2004 and her Cambridge Overseas

School Certificate (COSC) in 2006.

Her journey in football began during her high school days at St Agnes, where she used to play as a defender. She continued playing in tertiary and after she graduated from Fokothi.

According to Letseka, there are a lot of opportunities in football, although she is worried about the shortage of qualified female coaches, referees and administrators.

"I wish to use this platform to appeal to all females, who are passionate about football to always look out for opportunities as LeFA keeps training people throughout the country in all departments of football. I believe with hard work, determination and knowledge in one's chosen field, anything is possible. I'm grateful to LeFA for giving me the opportunity to grow as a female administrator and believing in my abilities. I have collected a lot of knowledge and skills throughout the years working in the football industry.

"For me, there are no worst moments in football, I call them challenges which I really like to face and overcome. Working in a male dominated environment has never been easy having to deal with men of different characters and backgrounds. But the trick is to accommodate all of them. Some challenges come through matters of the heart while others come in the form of intimidations.

"Having a difficult boss in LeFA Secretary General, Mr Mokhosi Mohapi is another challenge that I had to overcome. But today I thank him for building in me a strong-willed woman who knows how to stand her ground," she says.

She looks up to Mohapi who took her under his wing when he realised her great potential.

"He gave me a chance to grow and become a better person and today football is my language," she says.

She adds: "I look up to the Vice-President of the Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission (LSRC), Moipone Mashale who is a prominent female administrator. She has shown that progress starts with awareness that females can be successful and accomplish great things like men in leadership roles and male dominated industries. I also admire Malitsietsi Zwakala, who is part of the LSRC secretariat. She has grown in leaps and bounds as a young female administrator working in this difficult industry."

Letseka also enjoys travelling, watching soccer and spending time with friends and family during her leisure time.

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